



East Cambridgeshire
District Council

16 October 2023

Strategic Environmental Assessment Determination Statement

Review of Sutton Neighbourhood Plan

Purpose of this Determination Statement

This Determination Statement has been produced by East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) as the “responsible authority”, to meet the requirements of Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It sets out ECDC’s main conclusions in respect of significant environmental effects likely to arise from implementation of the pre-submission draft Sutton Neighbourhood Plan (SNP), June 2023. To assist writing this this Statement, ECDC has reviewed that draft SNP as consulted upon by Sutton Parish Council during June-July 2023.

This determination statement will remain valid unless the draft SNP is significantly amended from its June 2023 version prior to its formal submission to ECDC.

This Determination Statement will form a Submission Document for the purposes of neighbourhood planning, as required by The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (reg. 15(1)(e)(ii)).

It is intended that this Determination Statement be read alongside the Draft Sutton Neighbourhood Plan *Screening Report (August 2023, as updated October 2023)*. That Screening Report was prepared by ECDC on behalf of the Parish Council and was used by the District Council to assist in reaching conclusions in this Determination Statement. That Screening Report will, we understand, also be submitted alongside wider Submission Documents.

Screening Report

In August 2023, ECDC consulted the statutory bodies on the *Screening Report (August 2023)*. Responses were received from *Environment Agency* and *Natural England*. No response was received from *Historic England*. The responses have been added as appendices to the Report, in the *October 2023* update.

The Screening Report concludes, in summary, that the review of the Sutton Neighbourhood Development Plan:

- Does not require a full *Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)* (i.e. *screened out*); and
- Does not require a full *Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)* (i.e. *screened out*).

The statutory consultees did not suggest any alternative conclusions, and, in effect, therefore endorsed such conclusions.

Whilst no response was received from Historic England, ECDC has further reviewed matters under which Historic England would have most interest and finds no reason to amend the conclusions on the Screening Report.

Determination

Based on the assessment undertaken in the Screening Report and the responses received from statutory bodies, ECDC considers that it is not likely that significant environmental effects will arise from the implementation of the review of the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan, and therefore Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Likewise, it is considered that a full Habitats Regulations Assessment will not be required.