

## **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - Determination Statement for Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan**

**This determination statement has been produced by Fenland District Council, as “responsible authority”, to meet the requirements of Regulations 9 and 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The regulations implement European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.**

### SEA Screening Assessment of Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan

Parson Drove Parish Council is in the process of preparing a neighbourhood plan for the parish. A SEA Screening Assessment was undertaken for the 9 March 2018 draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan. The 9 March version of the plan was a working draft version, and the Parish Council made further minor revisions to the plan prior to undertaking regulation 14 consultation on the draft neighbourhood plan. The Parish Council were advised that should they make any amendments to the plan that are more significant, a further SEA screening exercise should be completed to assess whether the amendments are likely to result in any significant effects on the environment.

### Consultation of Statutory Bodies

A draft version of the SEA Screening Report detailing the results of Fenland District Council’s initial screening assessment of the plan and the preliminary conclusion that the plan is not likely to result in significant environmental effects, was circulated to the statutory bodies, namely the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The statutory bodies were invited to provide comments on the Screening Report, and specifically asked for their thoughts on the opinion that the neighbourhood plan is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. The bodies were asked to provide comments within a 6 week consultation period.

Responses were received from Historic England and Natural England. The Environment Agency did not provide a response.

Details of both Historic England’s and Natural England’s responses can be found in the final SEA Screening Report<sup>1</sup>. In summary:

- Historic England concurred with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.
- Natural England supported the conclusion of the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report that it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising as a result of the draft Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan.

### Conclusion

Based on the assessment undertaken in the SEA Screening Report and the responses received from the consultation bodies, the Council considers that it is unlikely that significant environmental effects will arise from implementation of the Parson Drove Neighbourhood Plan, and therefore Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

**Edward Dade, Shared Planning Officer**

Fenland District Council

04 September 2019

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<sup>1</sup> Available at: [https://www.fenland.gov.uk/media/15950/Parson-Drove-SEA-Screening-Report/pdf/Parson\\_Drove\\_SEA\\_Screening\\_Report.pdf](https://www.fenland.gov.uk/media/15950/Parson-Drove-SEA-Screening-Report/pdf/Parson_Drove_SEA_Screening_Report.pdf)