

Stone Neighbourhood Plan **Basic Conditions Statement**

August 2018

Introduction

This is a 'Basic Conditions Statement', prepared to accompany the submission of the Stone Neighbourhood Plan. This plan is being submitted by Stone Town Council, the qualifying body.

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal contains policies relating to the use and development of land and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal states the period for which it is to have effect. This is a period until the end of 2033.

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal does not deal with excluded development (mineral extraction, waste development, nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal relates to the *Stone* Neighbourhood Area and to no other area. There are no other Neighbourhood Plans relating to that Neighbourhood Area.

The Neighbourhood Plan proposal meets the basic conditions set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This is covered in more detail in the next part of this statement.

The Basic Conditions

The Basic Conditions that Neighbourhood Plans must meet are as follows:

- They must have appropriate regard to national policy;
- They must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
- They must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area; and
- They must be compatible with EU obligations.

In order to consider the requirements to be compatible with EU obligations, two further basic conditions are set out in regulations. They are that a plan or order must not have a significant adverse effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site and where a Neighbourhood Development Order proposes certain types of development, an assessment of the effects of the order on the environment must be undertaken and its findings taken into account. These additional basic conditions do not apply to the Stone Neighbourhood Plan.

In addition, Neighbourhood Plans must be compatible with human rights law.

The outcome of the referendum on membership of the EU makes no immediate difference to the requirement on EU obligations, until such a time as Parliament passes relevant legislation.

Regard to National Policy

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) has been prepared against the context of national policy, in particular the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).

The central theme of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Sustainable development is described as having three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.

NPPF Policy Areas

The NPPF has recently been revised (July 2018), and contains a number of policy areas. The following table details the policy areas that are most relevant to the SNP, against the SNP aims and policies.

NPPF Policy Area	SNP Aims	SNP Policies
<p>Achieving sustainable development</p> <p>...achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives...</p> <p>...an economic objective...</p> <p>...a social objective...</p> <p>...an environmental objective...</p> <p>...these objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in this Framework...</p>	All aims apply.	The Plan has been developed to provide a vision, framework and policies to guide development in the town.
<p>Delivering a sufficient supply of homes</p> <p>...to support the Government’s objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes, it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land can come forward where it is needed...</p> <p>...that the needs of groups with specific housing requirements are addressed...</p>	Aim SA9	Policy H1 is designed to ensure that identified local housing needs are addressed, and Policy H2 is to ensure that new homes are built to high standards of design
<p>Building a strong, competitive economy</p>	Aim SA1	The Plan seeks to accommodate growth in a

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<p>...planning policies should...</p> <p>...set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth...</p>		<p>sensitive manner (Policies BE1 and BE2), address local housing needs across the Parish (Policy H1), while addressing local infrastructure and the local environment (Policies CAF1, CAF2, and CAF3).</p>
<p>Ensuring the vitality of town centres</p> <p>...planning policies and decisions should support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation...</p>	<p>Aims SA1, SA2 and SA8</p>	<p>The Plan seeks to focus investment in Stone Town Centre (Policy BE2).</p>
<p>Promoting healthy and safe communities</p> <p>...planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which...</p> <p>...promote social interaction...</p> <p>...are safe and accessible...</p> <p>...enable and support healthy lifestyles...</p>	<p>Aims SA3, SA6 and SA7</p>	<p>The plan seeks to improve a range of community and green infrastructure (Policies CAF1, CAF2 and CAF4).</p>
<p>Promoting sustainable transport</p> <p>...transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that...</p> <p>...the potential impacts of development on transport can be assessed...</p> <p>...opportunities from existing and proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised...</p> <p>...opportunities to promote walking, cycling, and public transport use are identified and pursued...</p>	<p>Aims SA4 and SA5</p>	<p>The Plan seeks to promote sustainable means of movement (Policies BE1 and CAF2).</p>

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<p>...the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account...</p> <p>...patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes...</p>		
<p>Making effective use of land</p> <p>...planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions...</p>	Aims SA1 and SA2	The Plan recognises the need to provide for growth in a sustainable manner (Policies H2, BE1, and BE2).
<p>Achieving well-designed places</p> <p>...plans should, at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations, so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable...</p> <p>...design policies should be developed with local communities so they reflect local aspirations, and are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of each area's defining characteristics...</p>	Aims SA2 and SA8	The Plan seeks to ensure that high standards of design are achieved that enhance the town's character (Policies H2, CAF2, and CAF3).
<p>Protecting Green Belt land</p> <p>...the Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open...</p>	Aims SA1 and SA2	The plan seeks to focus growth and investment in the urban area (Policy BE1 and BE2).
<p>Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</p> <p>...the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change...</p> <p>...it should help to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in</p>	Aims SA2, SA3, SA4 and SA5	Collectively, the policies cater for growth and encourage a balanced mix of uses. At the same time, they address character and environmental quality. In addition, they address connectivity, which is essential for both domestic and

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<p>greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience...</p> <p>...encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings, and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure...</p>		<p>employment users.</p>
<p>Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</p> <p>...planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment...</p>	<p>Aims SA3 and SA8</p>	<p>The plan seeks protect and enhance important local green infrastructure (Policy CAF2), and designates a range of Local Green Spaces (Policy CAF4).</p>
<p>Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</p> <p>...heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites...</p> <p>...plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets at risk through neglect, decay or other threats...</p>	<p>Aims SA1, SA2 and SA8</p>	<p>The plan seeks to conserve and enhance Stone's historic town centre (Policy CAF1), and protect important local views and vistas (Policy CAF3).</p>

Achievement of Sustainable Development

The National Planning Policy Framework incorporates a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Para. 7 states that “the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development”, and “at a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Para. 8 states that “achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways”. These three objectives are:

- An economic objective;
- A social objective; and
- An environmental objective.

Para. 9 states that “these objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in this Framework”, and that “planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions”.

Para. 10 states that “so that sustainable development is pursued in a positive way, at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development” which is described in para. 11.

Para. 13 states that “the application of the presumption has implications for the way communities engage in neighbourhood planning”, and that “neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies; and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies”.

Growth

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan delivers growth by:

- Focusing growth and investment towards Stone Town Centre (Policy BE2);
- Encouraging the growth of home based business (Policy BE1);
- Addressing identified local housing needs (Policy H1);
- Ensuring a high-quality, well designed environment, which is essential to attracting investment and population (Policies H2 and CAF3); and
- Protecting and enhancing the local environment (Policies CAF2, CAF3 and CAF4).

Sustainability

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan will address sustainability in various ways. The plan's growth strategy has three key aims:

Activity	Comment	Policy Ref.
Housing growth to cater for a growing and ageing population, whilst addressing local housing needs.	The supporting policy addresses the need for housing growth in a sustainable manner by addressing identified local needs.	Policies H1 and H2
Reinforcing Stone Town Centre's role as a place to visit, shop, and access high quality local services.	A range of town centre related issues are addressed.	Policies BE2, CAF1, and CAF3
Deliver new high quality green infrastructure, and preserve and enhance key local community and environmental assets.	A range of local environmental issues are addressed.	Policies CAF1, CAF2 and CAF4

General Conformity with Strategic Local Policy

The Neighbourhood Plan will be tested against adopted strategic local policies.

Strategic local policy is contained within:

- Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1 (June 2014); and
- Plan for Stafford Borough Part 2 (January 2017).

Strategic local policies relevant to the Stone Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1

- Spatial Principle 1 (SP1) – Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development;
- Spatial Principle 3 (SP3) – Stafford Borough Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy;
- Spatial Principle 4 (SP4) – Stafford Borough Housing Growth Distribution;
- Spatial Principle 5 (SP5) – Stafford Borough Employment Growth Distribution;
- Spatial Principle 7 (SP7) – Supporting the Location of New Development;
- Policy Stone 1 – Stone Town;
- Policy Stone 2 – West and South of Stone;
- Policy E1 – Local Economy;
- Policy E6 – Tourism;
- Policy E7 – Canal Facilities and New Marinas;
- Policy E8 – Town, Local and Other Centres;
- Policy T1 – Transport;
- Policy C1 – Dwelling Types and Sizes;
- Policy C2 – Affordable Housing;
- Policy C3 – Specialist Housing;
- Policy C4 – Housing Conversions and Subdivisions;
- Policy C7 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation;
- Policy N1 – Design;
- Policy N2 – Climate Change;
- Policy N3 – Low Carbon Sources and Renewable Energy;
- Policy N4 – the Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure;
- Policy N8 – Landscape Character;
- Policy N9 – Historic Environment;

Plan for Stafford Borough Part 2

Policies SP1, SP3, SP4 and SP7 of Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1 are all referenced in Plan for Stafford Borough Part 2.

Other policies from Plan for Stafford Borough Part 2 relevant to the Stone Neighbourhood Plan are:

- Policy SB1 – Settlement Boundaries;
- Policy SB2 – Protected Social and Community Facilities;
- Policy SB3 – Stafford and Stone Protected Employment Areas;

These policies are considered in detail below.

Plan for Stafford Borough Part 1

Spatial Principle 1 (SP1) – Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy SP1 by providing for new homes that address identified local needs (Policy H1), encouraging the improvement and enhancement of natural assets and the local environment (Policies CAF1, CAF2, CAF3 and CAF4), and encouraging high-quality design (Policy H2).

Spatial Principle 3 (SP3) – Stafford Borough Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy

Stone is identified as a Market Town in Policy SP3, and the Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to the policy by supporting growth and investment in the town centre (Policies BE1 and BE2).

Spatial Principle 4 (SP4) – Stafford Borough Housing Growth Distribution

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy SP4 by supporting growth and addressing identified local housing needs in a Market Town (Policies H1, BE1 and BE2).

Spatial Principle 5 (SP5) – Stafford Borough Employment Growth Distribution

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy SP5 by supporting growth and investment in a Market Town (Policies BE1 and BE2).

Spatial Principle 7 (SP7) – Supporting the Location of New Development

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy SP7 by supporting the provision of housing to address identified local needs in a Market Town (Policy H1), and encouraging growth and investment in Stone Town Centre (Policies BE1 and BE2).

Policy Stone 1 – Stone Town

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan in its entirety responds to Policy Stone 1.

Policy Stone 2 – West and South of Stone

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy Stone 2 by supporting the provision of housing to address identified local needs (Policy H1), and by encouraging high-quality design (Policy H2).

Policy E1 – Local Economy

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy E1 by encouraging the growth of home based businesses (Policy BE1), and by encouraging growth and investment in Stone Town Centre (Policy BE2).

Policy E6 - Tourism

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy E6 by encouraging growth and investment in Stone Town Centre (Policy BE2), and enhancements to access to open space, green infrastructure and the local environment (Policies BE2, CAF1, CAF2, CAF3 and CAF4).

Policy E7 – Canal Facilities and New Marinas

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy E7 by encouraging enhancements to the local green infrastructure network (Policy CAF2).

Policy E8 – Town, Local and Other Centres

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy E8 by supporting growth and investment in Stone Town Centre (Policy BE2).

Policy T1 – Transport

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy T1 by encouraging enhancements to access to open space, green infrastructure and upgrading footways (Policies CAF1 and CAF2), and encouraging home based businesses (Policy BE1).

Policy C1 – Dwelling Types and Sizes

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy C1 by requiring that planning applications for housing can demonstrate that dwelling types and sizes proposed are in line with identified local needs (Policy H1).

Policy C2 – Affordable Housing

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy C1 by requiring that planning applications for housing can demonstrate that dwelling types and sizes proposed are in line with identified local needs (Policy H1).

Policy C3 – Specialist Housing

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy C1 by requiring that planning applications for housing can demonstrate that dwelling types and sizes proposed are in line with identified local needs (Policy H1).

Policy C4 – Housing Conversions and Subdivision

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy C1 by requiring that planning applications for housing can demonstrate that dwelling types and sizes proposed are in line with identified local needs (Policy H1), and by requiring high-quality design (Policy H2)

Policy C7 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy C7 by encouraging improvements and enhancements to local facilities, and the local environment, and designating Local Green Spaces (Policies CAF1, CAF2, CAF3 and CAF4).

Policy N1 – Design

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy N1 by requiring high-quality design (Policy H2), and enhancing local character and environment (Policies CAF2 and CAF3).

Policy N2 – Climate Change

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy N2 by requiring high-quality design (Policy H2), and by improving and enhancing the local environment (Policies CAF1, CAF2, and CAF4).

Policy N3 – Low Carbon Sources and Renewable Energy

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy N3 by encouraging the enhancement of the town's green infrastructure, which includes the River Trent corridor (Policy CAF2).

Policy N4 – the Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy N4 by encouraging the improvement and enhancement of the natural environment (Policies CAF1, CAF2, CAF3 and CAF4).

Policy N8 – Landscape Character

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy N8 by requiring enhancements to the local natural environment (Policies CAF2, CAF3 and CAF4).

Policy N9 – Historic Environment

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy N9 by encouraging investment in Stone Town Centre (Policy BE2).

Plan for Stafford Borough Part 2***Policy SB1 – Settlement Boundaries***

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy SB1 by reaffirming the Stone Settlement Boundary.

Policy SB2 – Protected Social and Community Facilities

The Stone Neighbourhood Plan responds to Policy SB1 by reinforcing the role of Stone Town Centre (Policy BE2).

Compatible with EU Obligations

The Neighbourhood Plan was screened by Stafford Borough Council, and received a negative outcome, therefore Strategic Environmental Assessment was not required. An extract from the Screening Assessment can be found at Appendix 2.

There are no European sites within the Neighbourhood Area.

Human Rights

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is included at Appendix 1.

Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Legal Requirements

The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not. Protected characteristics are defined in the Equality Act as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

An Equalities Impact Assessment is a systematic analysis of a policy or policies in order to scrutinise the potential for an adverse impact on a particular group or community, in particularly those with a protected characteristic.

An assessment has been made on whether the Stone Neighbourhood Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics. If the impact is negative, this is given a high, medium or low assessment. The following table describes these:

Impact	Description
High	A significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.
Medium	Some potential impact exists; some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence.
Low	Almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation-led.

Stone – General Population Characteristics

By age, Stone’s population is not dissimilar to the wider Stafford Borough.

Age	Sto.	Staff.
0-15	18.1%	16.5%
16-24	9.3%	11.0%
25-44	26%	23.3%
45-64	27.5%	28.0%
65-84	16%	19.0%
85+	3%	2.2%

By ethnic origin, the following table compares Stone to the wider Stafford Borough.

	Sto.	Staff.
White British	95.7%	92.6%
Other White	1.6%	0.9%
Other Ethnic Groups	2.7%	6.5%

There are no statistics available on other protected characteristics.

Aims and Policies of the Stone Neighbourhood Plan

The aims of the Stone Neighbourhood Plan are:

- SA1: Improve the economic viability of the High Street and the town centre by encouraging and incentivising new businesses, enabling local businesses to thrive and providing a diverse range of shopping and other services;
- SA2: Preserve and enhance the special character of the town, including the heritage assets of Stone by supporting initiatives to repair, refurbish and re-use historic buildings and to improve the quality of the environment;
- SA3: Identify and designate important areas of local green space and develop a green infrastructure strategy to protect and improve those areas;
- SA4: Support initiatives for the review of the town's transport and traffic needs, and support relevant actions to address those needs;
- SA5: Improve pedestrian and cycle links and accessibility within Stone and to surrounding destinations, particularly the canal and river meadows;
- SA6: Protect and improve leisure, cultural and sports facilities and improve community access to those facilities;
- SA7: Support initiatives for the enhancement of essential local community facilities, including medical and educational facilities as appropriate, ensuring that they are sustainable and fit for purpose;
- SA8: Ensure that new developments in Stone preserve and enhance the town's historic character and improve the quality of the natural and built environment;
- SA9: Ensure that new housing caters for a growing and ageing population, whilst addressing local housing needs.

The policies are:

Policy H1: Housing Tenures and Types
 Policy H2: Housing Design
 Policy BE1: Small Home Based Business
 Policy BE2: Stone Town Centre and Local Retailing
 Policy CAF1: Local Play, Sports and Recreational Facilities
 Policy CAF2: Green Infrastructure
 Policy CAF3: Protected Views and Vistas
 Policy CAF4: Local Green Space

Impact on Protected Characteristics

Age

The plan seeks to accommodate housing need and growth (Policy H1). This will help to ensure that housing provision caters for all ages, including younger people seeking housing for the first time, and older people looking to downsize by requiring that housing proposals properly address identified local needs.

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Policy BE1 seeks to encourage the growth of home based businesses, which will help to create business and home-working opportunities for people of working age, and will help to create choice and opportunity for people who have restrictions on their mobility (including the young and the old) by improving access to home-based employment, to online goods and services and to facilities in walking distance.

Policy H2 requires good design, including for people of a range of mobilities.

The impact on all ages will be positive.

Disability

The needs of persons who are disabled or who have limited mobility are addressed in Policy H2, which seeks to create a well-designed and accessible environment.

Policy H1 requires new housing to meet local needs, Policies BE1 and BE2 will help to enable local employment, and Policies CAF1 and CAF2 will enable improvement to the local environment.

The impact on people with disabilities will be positive.

Maternity and Pregnancy

Key issues for women who are pregnant or who have young children are access to appropriate housing, flexible employment, and access to community facilities. Policies H1, BE1, and BE2 will all enable this.

The impact on pregnant women will be positive.

Race

Non-white ethnic groups are a very small proportion of the population of Stone.

For the most part, the plan will have an equal impact on the local population regardless of race. A public realm designed with safety in mind will minimise opportunities for hate crime (there is no evidence that this is a problem in Stone). Policy H2 seeks to create well designed development, which includes safety considerations.

The impact will be positive on people of all races.

Sex (Gender)

The Neighbourhood Plan contains no specific policies or proposals for any particular gender. The policies have been written to provide equal opportunity to both sexes in respect of the provision of development and access to facilities.

Neither sex is disadvantaged by any of the policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan. Both sexes will benefit equally from the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan. This includes men or women with prams or pushchairs.

The impact will be positive on both sexes.

Religion, Gender Re-assignment, Sexual orientation

Key issues for religious groups are discrimination relating to employment, housing and the provision of services, and their portrayal in the media.

Key issues for gender re-assigned people, gays and lesbians are personal relationships, transphobia and/or discrimination, and hate crime.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not and cannot directly address the social attitudes that are involved in these problems. However, it does seek to provide a built environment, that is open to all, with a safe public realm which all social groups can access and use equally.

The impact will be positive on all people, regardless of religion or LGBT plus status.

Conclusion

The Neighbourhood Plan provides a strategy for the development of the village, and a range of policies and proposals, which will result in positive benefits for many parts of the local community with protected characteristics: older people, young people and young children, disabled people and those with limited mobility, and maternity and pregnancy.

Whilst not explicitly addressing the needs of racial or religious groups, or transgender, gay or lesbian groups, or women, the Neighbourhood Plan does make equal provision for housing and seeks to provide community facilities which will benefit these groups equally. It also seeks to provide a safer environment, particularly a safer public realm.

Appendix 2 – SEA Screening Outcome

Extract from the Stone Neighbourhood Plan Screening Assessment, February 2018, Stafford Borough Council.

- 3.3. To decide whether the Plan might have significant environmental effects (stage 8), its potential scope should be assessed against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The criteria from Schedule 1 of the Regulations are set out below.

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to

- the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
- the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
- environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
- the cumulative nature of the effects,
- the transboundary nature of the effects,
- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
 - intensive land-use,
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

- 3.4. Appendix 1 and 2 apply the above criteria to measure any likely significance effects on the environment arising from the draft Stone NP.

SEA Screening Outcome

- 3.5. As a result of the assessment above, it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will occur from the implementation of the Stone NP that were not considered and dealt with by the Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan for Stafford Borough (PFSB). As such the Stone NP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

Contact



Urban Vision Enterprise CIC
Foxlowe Arts Centre (1st Floor)
Stockwell Street
Leek
Staffordshire
ST13 6AD

www.uvns.org

Contact: Dave Proudlove
Email: dave.proudlove@uvns.org
Telephone: 01538 386 221

