

FINAL Strategic Environmental Assessment Joint Screening Statement

**Developer Contributions (Joint)
Affordable Housing (Joint)
Houses in Multiple Occupation (Worcester)
Water Management (Wychavon)
Local List (Malvern Hills)
Design Guide (Joint)**

Supplementary Planning Documents

January 2014

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This joint Screening Statement has been produced to consider whether a number of forthcoming Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which are to be produced across the South Worcestershire authorities are likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether Strategic Environmental Assessment is required to be carried out. Strategic Environmental Assessment is a requirement under the related European Directive 2001/42/EC which calls for an “assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”.
- 1.2. The Screening against the SEA criteria has been carried out jointly for the first set of SPDs that are to be produced to implement policies within the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) in the main. The three South Worcestershire Councils of Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District have a history of working collaboratively on planning matters, namely in the production of the SWDP. This relationship between the Councils will continue through the production of a number of further joint documents including SPDs which will implement policies in the SWDP. Whilst there is not a direct relationship between the subject matter of the SPDs, the results of the Screening have been combined into this single document to deliver efficiencies.

2. The requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.1. Strategic Environment Assessment is a requirement of the [European Union Directive 2001/42/EC](#) (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive). This Directive sets out the specific types of plans and programmes to which it applies, with Article 3(2) specifying that SEA is mandatory for plans and programmes which are prepared for town and country planning or land use and those which set the framework for future development consent. The Directive was transposed into law in England by the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 \(the SEA Regulations\)](#). Detailed guidance on these regulations can be found in the Government publication [A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#) (ODPM 2005).
- 2.2. The Councils, each as a Responsible Authority under the Directive and the associated Regulations, must carry out a screening process to determine whether plans or programmes are likely to have significant environmental effects, and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive. Where the Council determines that SEA is not required, Regulation 9(3) states that they must prepare a statement setting out the reasons for this determination. **This is the final version of that Statement as it proposes that the Councils have complied with Regulation 9(3), as it finds that SEA is not required for any of the six SPDs.**
- 2.3. Sustainability Appraisal is a separate requirement of the [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#)¹. Sustainability Appraisal considers the social, environmental and economic impacts of a plan The Act and the associated [Regulations](#) set out the

¹ PCPA 2004 Section 19 (5) Local development documents

requirement to carry out Sustainability Appraisal on all Development Plan Documents. Development Plan Documents are planning policy documents which set policies for the use of land or allocate sites for development. Following the [2008 Planning Act](#), Sustainability Appraisal is no longer required to be carried out for Supplementary Planning Documents, as they purely provide further detail on policies in an adopted development plan. They must therefore be consistent with adopted Development Plan Documents which will themselves have been the subject of Sustainability Appraisal. Despite this amendment in planning legislation, there is still a requirement to assess the need for a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

3. The forthcoming Supplementary Planning Documents

- 3.1. In order to implement policies in the South Worcestershire Development Plan, a number of SPDs are proposed. Many will be produced jointly, to present a shared approach to policy implementation across the planning authorities of Worcester City, Wychavon District and Malvern Hills District Councils. In order to make further resource efficiencies the first wave of SPDs are planned to be produced to the same timetable, for instance, to allow consultation periods to be held together.
- 3.2. One such efficiency is the production of this joint Screening Statement for six forthcoming SPDs. The following paragraphs provide a summary of the role of each of the planned SPDs.

Developer Contributions SPD (Joint)

- 3.3. The Developer Contributions SPD is being jointly produced for the South Worcestershire authorities of Worcester City Council, Malvern Hills District Council and Wychavon District Council is being introduced to support the policies in the South Worcestershire Development Plan, specifically **SWDP62: Implementation** which calls for the production of the SPD.
- 3.4. It will set out the likely level of contributions to be sought from planning applications through Section 106 agreements and Unilateral Undertakings. It will also detail how the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and planning obligations regime will work alongside each other, once the three Councils adopt CIL Charging Schedules as currently proposed.

Affordable Housing SPD (Joint)

- 3.5. An Affordable Housing SPD for the three South Worcestershire authorities will be produced. This will provide additional guidance to implement policy **SWDP15: Meeting Affordable Housing Needs**, which sets new targets for the delivery of affordable housing in the plan area and policy SWDP16: Rural Exception sites; and SWDP20: Housing to meet the Needs of Older People. The new SPD will replace existing Affordable Housing SPGs which are becoming out dated. It will set out how affordable housing will be delivered including how negotiations will be carried out and details on desired type and tenure of affordable units.

Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD (Worcester City Council)

- 3.6. This SPD will be used to assist the implementation of the Article 4 Direction being introduced by Worcester City Council which will remove permitted development rights so that planning permission is required for a change of use from Use Class C3 (dwelling house) to a C4 (House in Multiple Occupation). This is to address the over proliferation of shared houses and particularly student properties in certain parts of the city.
- 3.7. The Article 4 Direction will come into force on 1st July 2014. The SPD will sit alongside both the Article 4 Direction and the higher order policy on HMOs in the Worcester City Local Plan and Housing Mix in the SWDP to provide applicants with guidance on how the Council will assess applications for changes of use.

Water Management SPD (Wychavon District Council)

- 3.8. The Water Management SPD will replace Wychavon's existing guidance document from 2009 to reflect the new policy framework both at national and local level. It will provide the necessary guidance to all parties involved in the development process in terms of the management of water and the techniques involved to ensure sustainable development. It will cover all aspects of water management including:
- Fluvial and pluvial flooding
 - Water supply
 - Water disposal (surface and rainwater)
 - Water collection and recycling
 - Water usage

Local List SPD (Malvern Hills District Council)

- 3.9. The purpose of the Local List Supplementary Planning Document is to propose a process for producing a local list and a methodology for the assessment of heritage assets nominated for inclusion on such a list in Malvern Hills.

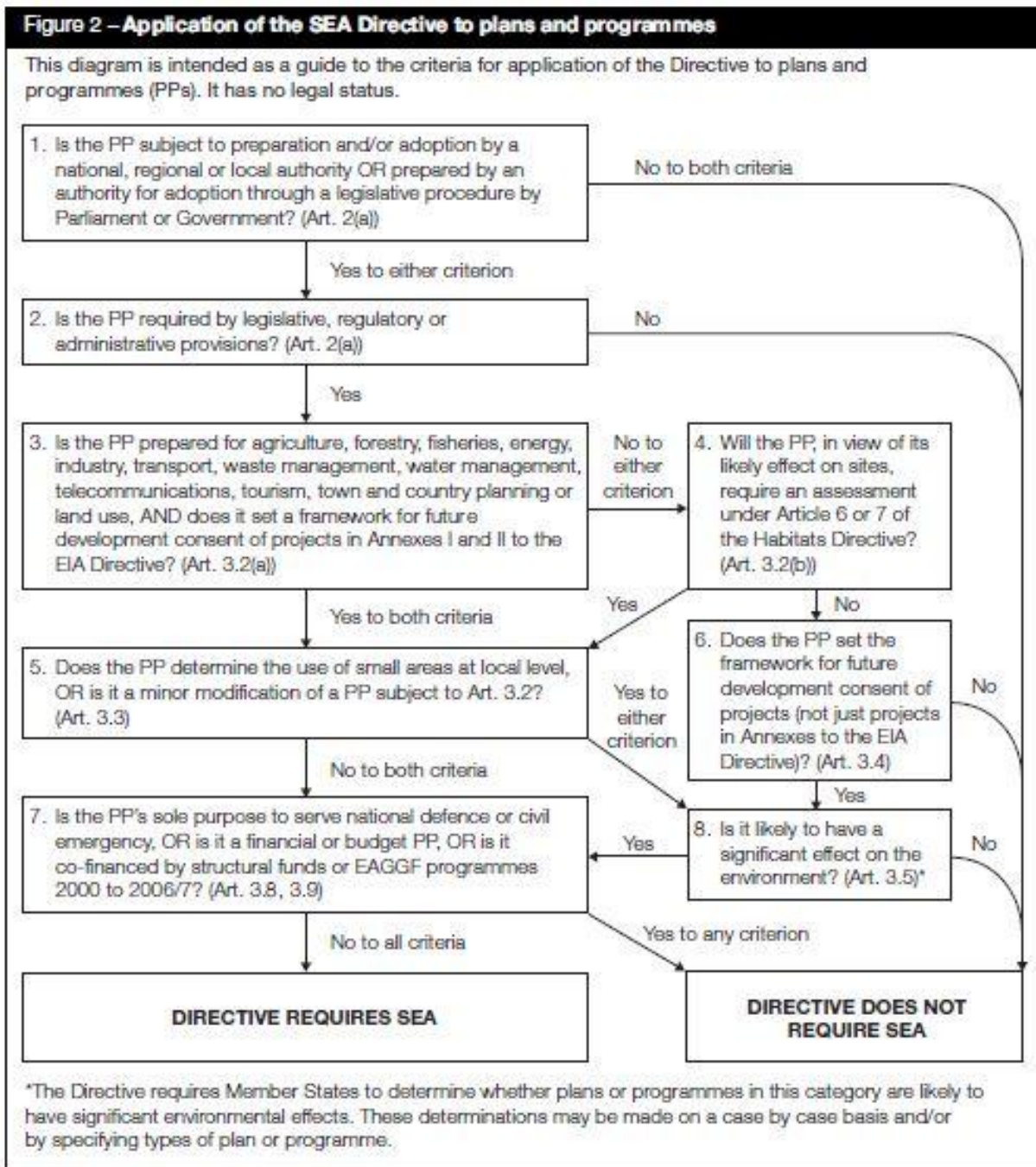
Design Guide SPD (Joint)

- 3.10. The Design Guide SPD for the three South Worcestershire authorities will provide a high-level design framework for new development that supports the diverse nature of good design. It will provide the necessary guidance to all those involved in the development process. It is intended that the Design Guide will include sections on:
- House extensions
 - Accessibility
 - Shopfronts
 - Lighting
 - Sustainable construction
 - Replacement dwellings in the countryside
 - Re-use of rural buildings

4. Applying the SEA Directive to plans and programmes

- 4.1. The diagram below illustrates where the Directive applies and can be used to ascertain whether a full SEA is required for a plan or programme. It is taken from the 2005

ODPM document: A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.



4.2. Table 1 below sets out the eight questions detailed in the diagram above and provides responses with regard to the six planned SPDs. In accordance with the flow diagram above, not all questions are answered for all of the SPDs.

Table 1: Establishing the need for SEA

Stage	Developer Contributions SPD (JOINT)			Affordable Housing SPD (JOINT)			Houses in Multiple Occupancy SPD (Worcester only)			Water Management SPD (Wychavon only)			Local List SPD (Malvern Hills only)			Design Guide SPD (JOINT)		
	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	Following public consultation the SPD will be adopted by the three South Worcs Councils.	Go to Q2	Yes	Following public consultation the SPD will be adopted by the three South Worcestershire Councils.	Go to Q2	Yes	Following public consultation the SPD will be adopted Worcester City Council.	Go to Q2	Yes	Following public consultation the SPD will be adopted Wychavon District Council.	Go to Q2	Yes	Following public consultation the SPD will be adopted by Malvern Hills District Council.	Go to Q2	Yes	Following public consultation the SPD will be adopted by the three South Worcestershire Councils.	Go to Q2
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	Emerging SWDP 4 refers to the need for a Developer Contributions SPD	Go to Q3	Yes	Emerging SWDP 15 refers to the need for an Affordable Housing SPD	Go to Q3	Yes	The City Council is introducing an Article 4 (1) Direction and the SPD is needed to support this.	Go to Q3	Yes	The SPD is required to update the current Wychavon Water Management SPD to reflect changes in national and local policy.	Go to Q3	Yes	Heritage assets including local listing is mentioned in Annex 2 of the NPPF. The protection of the built environment is consistent with the saved Local Plan. The need to sustain and enhance heritage assets is also detailed in emerging SWDP6: Historic Environment	Go to Q3	Yes	Emerging SWDP 21 refers to the need for a Design Guide SPD	Go to Q3
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Yes	The SPD will be for town and country planning purposes. It will set a framework for all types of development which may include that falling within Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive.	Go to Q5.	No	The SPD will be for town and country planning purposes. However it will not set a framework for future development falling within Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive.	Go to Q4	No	The SPD will be for town and country planning purposes. However it will not set a framework for future development falling within Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive.	Go to Q4	Yes	The SPD will be for town and country planning purposes. It will set a framework for all types of development which may include that falling within Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive.	Go to Q5.	No	The SPD will be for town and country planning purposes. However it will not set a framework for future development falling within Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive.	Go to Q4	No	The SPD will be for town and country planning purposes. However it will not set a framework for future development falling within Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive.	Go to Q4
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	-	-	-	No	The SPD concerns the delivery of affordable housing on sites within the planning system. If	Go to Q6.	No	The SPD concerns the control of HMOs in the urban area of Worcester. No Natura 2000 sites will be	Go to Q6.	-	-	-	No	The SPD concerns the designation and protection of locally important heritage assets. HRA of the SPD will not be	Go to Q6.	No	The SPD concerns the design of development in South Worcestershire. If required, Appropriate Assessment would	Go to Q6.

Stage	Developer Contributions SPD (JOINT)			Affordable Housing SPD (JOINT)			Houses in Multiple Occupancy SPD (Worcester only)			Water Management SPD (Wychavon only)			Local List SPD (Malvern Hills only)			Design Guide SPD (JOINT)		
	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step
					required, Appropriate Assessment would be carried out at the planning application stage. HRA of the SPD will not be required.			affected so HRA will not be required.						required.			be carried out at the planning application stage. HRA of the SPD will not be required.	
5. Does the PP Determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Yes	The SPD will determine the use of small areas at a local level, by setting the level of contributions/ on site infrastructure required.	Go to Q8.	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	The SPD will determine the use of small areas at a local level, by promoting design considerations which take water within new development into account.	Go to Q8.	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	-	-	-	Yes	The Affordable Housing SPD will set the framework for determining future residential planning applications where they meet the various thresholds.	Go to Q8.	Yes	The HMO SPD will set the framework for determining future change of use planning applications to HMOs.	Go to Q8.	-	-	-	Yes	The Local List SPD will set a methodology for the assessment of heritage assets nominated for inclusion on the list will be a material consideration in the determination of relevant planning applications. Identifying heritage assets to be locally listed will also inform Site Briefs and masterplanning work.	Go to Q8.	Yes	The Design Guide SPD will set the framework for determining a variety of types of planning applications. It will also inform Site Briefs and masterplanning work.	Go to Q8.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Stage	Developer Contributions SPD (JOINT)			Affordable Housing SPD (JOINT)			Houses in Multiple Occupancy SPD (Worcester only)			Water Management SPD (Wychavon only)			Local List SPD (Malvern Hills only)			Design Guide SPD (JOINT)		
	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step	Y/N	Reason	Next step
to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)																		
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	No	The Developer Contributions SPD will have a limited and largely positive effect on the environment. See Table 2 for detailed reasoning against the SEA criteria.	No SEA required	No	As the SPD concerns the delivery of affordable housing on sites assessed against higher level policy, it will not have a significant effect on the environment. See Table 2 for detailed reasoning against the SEA criteria.	No SEA required	No	The SPD will not have a significant effect of the environment. Any effects are likely to be positive. See Table 2 for detailed reasoning against the SEA criteria.	No SEA required	No	The Water Management SPD will have a positive effect on the environment by detailing ways to better deal with water in new development. See Table 2 for detailed reasoning against the SEA criteria.	No SEA required	No	It will have a limited and mainly positive effect on the environment. See Table 2 for detailed reasoning against the SEA criteria.	No SEA required	No	The SPD will have a limited and largely positive impact on the environment by promoting the principles of good design. See Table 2 for detailed reasoning against the SEA criteria.	No SEA required

5. SEA Screening of Likely Significant Effects

- 5.1. Table 2 sets out the Council's assessment against the Strategic Environmental Assessment criteria for the six forthcoming Supplementary Planning Documents to determine whether they will have a significant effect on the environment. This provides the reasoning behind the conclusions drawn in question 8 in Table 1 above. The criteria against which the screening is carried out are taken directly from Annex II of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (also known as the SEA Directive), as required by Article 3 (5).

Table 2: Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) (as taken from Annex II of the SEA Directive)

	Developer Contributions SPD (JOINT)	Affordable Housing SPD (JOINT)	Houses in Multiple Occupancy SPD (Worcester only)	Water Management SPD (Wychavon only)	Local List SPD (Malvern Hills only)	Design Guide SPD (JOINT)
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular to:						
a. The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,	The overarching framework is set by national guidance on the use of planning obligations within the National Planning Policy Framework and more specifically, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations 2010. The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) provides local policy guidance on collecting contributions. The SPD does not set a framework for other plans and strategies.	The overarching framework is set by national guidance on the delivery of affordable housing within the National Planning Policy Framework and more specifically through local policies in the SWDP. The SPD does not set a framework for other plans and strategies.	The overarching framework relating to the Use Classes Order and permitted changes of use are set out nationally in the Town and Country Planning [Use Classes] Order 1987 (as amended), supplemented locally by policy within the SWDP. The SPD will provide guidance on the implementation of the related Article 4 Direction. The SPD does not set a framework for other plans and strategies.	The overarching framework is set by national policy within the National Planning Policy Framework and in the associated Technical Guidance on flood risk. This is supplemented at the local level by policies on Flood Risk, Sustainable Drainage and Water Resources, Efficiency and Treatment in the SWDP. The SPD does not set a framework for other plans and strategies.	The overarching framework is set by national policy in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework, supplemented at local level by SWDP6: Historic Environment and SWDP24: Management of the Historic Environment and the saved Local Plan policies. The SPD does not set a framework for other plans and strategies	The overarching framework for good design is set out by national policy in Section 7 of the National Planning Policy Framework. This is supplemented at the local level by policy SWDP 21: Design. The SPD does not set a framework for other plans and strategies.
Is there a significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No	No
b. The degree to which the plans or programme influences other plan and programmes including those in a hierarchy,	The SPD will implement a higher level policy in the SWDP and provide guidance on the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedules. An SPD is the lowest formal tier of planning policy document so it does not influence other relevant plans. It will be used on a site-specific basis to deliver financial contributions and infrastructure.	The SPD will implement a higher level policy in the SWDP. An SPD is the lowest formal tier of planning policy document so it does not influence other relevant plans. It will be used on a site-specific basis to deliver affordable housing units.	The SPD will implement a higher level policy in the Worcester Local Plan and SWDP. An SPD is the lowest formal tier of planning policy document so it does not influence other relevant plans. It will be used on a site-specific basis when determining change of use planning applications.	The SPD will implement a higher level policy in the SWDP. An SPD is the lowest formal tier of planning policy document so it does not influence other relevant plans. It will be used on a site-specific basis when determining planning applications to ensure that schemes consider appropriate water management techniques.	The SPD will implement a higher level policy in the Malvern Local Plan and SWDP. An SPD is the lowest formal tier of planning policy document so it does not influence other relevant plans. It will be used on a site-specific basis when determining planning applications to sustain the significance of local heritage assets.	The SPD will implement a higher level policy in the SWDP. An SPD is the lowest formal tier of planning policy document so it does not influence other relevant plans. It will be used on a site-specific basis when determining planning applications to promote good design.
Is there a significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No	No
c. The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,	The Developer Contributions SPD will mitigate the impacts of development by securing contributions towards infrastructure. This will help to ensure that any negative impacts from development are addressed.	The Affordable Housing SPD's main aim is to maximise the provision of affordable housing on sites coming forward through the planning system. Provision of affordable housing will deliver accommodation for those in housing need in South Worcestershire, providing mixed and sustainable communities.	The Houses in Multiple Occupancy SPD for Worcester City Council will seek to address the over proliferation of HMOs in Worcester thus creating more mixed and balanced communities. It will seek to reduce the harm to the amenity and character of residential areas that is currently being experienced in certain areas of the city.	The Water Management SPD for Wychavon District Council will look at how water can best be managed in new developments. It will therefore assist in both reducing flood risk and in the more efficient use of water as a scarce resource.	The purpose of the Local List SPD is to establish a methodology and criteria for identifying local heritage assets. The adaptive re-use of buildings is inherently sustainable.	The Design Guide SPD for the South Worcestershire Councils will include a section on sustainable construction, which will look at how development can minimise its impact on the environment and be sustainable in the long term.
Is there a significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No	No
d. Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,	The SPD will seek to protect and enhance the environment by setting out a regime to collect contributions from development which, amongst other things, will be used to improve the environment in proximity to the development site.	There are no environmental problems relevant to the plan as it does not make provision for any additional development.	There are no significant environmental problems relevant to the plan. The HMO SPD will help to address problems in certain neighbourhoods of the city, such as pressures on on-street parking, litter and poor maintenance to housing stock/gardens.	The SPD will have a positive impact on the environment by proposing better management techniques minimising flood risk, dealing with surface water and integrating sustainable drainage techniques into new development, whilst ensuring that water is reused or recycled wherever possible.	There are no significant environmental problems relevant to the plan. The SPD will have a positive impact on the environment by identifying buildings and other structures and historic designed landscapes which are important to local communities.	There are no significant environmental problems relevant to the plan. The SPD will have a positive impact on the environment by promoting good design techniques for new development.
Is there a significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No	No
e. The relevance of the plan or	The Developer Contributions SPD is	The Affordable Housing SPD is not	The Houses in Multiple Occupation	The Water Management SPD is of	The Local List SPD is not relevant to	The Design Guide SPD is not

Table 2: Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) (as taken from Annex II of the SEA Directive)

	Developer Contributions SPD (JOINT)	Affordable Housing SPD (JOINT)	Houses in Multiple Occupancy SPD (Worcester only)	Water Management SPD (Wychavon only)	Local List SPD (Malvern Hills only)	Design Guide SPD (JOINT)
programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	not relevant to the implementation of European Community legislation on the environment.	relevant to the implementation of European Community legislation on the environment.	SPD is not relevant to the implementation of European Community legislation on the environment.	some relevance to the implementation of European Community legislation in the form of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). However the SWDP as the higher level policy already conforms to the WFD. It will be important that any development incorporating water management techniques adheres to the WFD.	the implementation of European Community legislation on the environment.	relevant to the implementation of European Community legislation on the environment.
Is there a significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No	No
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to						
a. the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,	Any effects of the SPD will be reversible. The decision to introduce a planning obligations regime has been made in a higher level policy in the SWDP which has been subject to SEA. The Infrastructure / improvements provided through planning obligations can be altered in the future, through the appropriate planning processes.	Any effects of the SPD will be reversible. The decision to introduce an affordable housing requirement has been made in a higher level policy in the SWDP which has been subject to SEA. Sites which include an element of affordable housing, can be altered in the future, through the appropriate planning processes.	Any effects of the will be reversible. Properties changed to C4 use can alter back to a C3 dwelling house use without the need for planning permission.	Any effects of the SPD will be reversible. The guidance in the SPD will promote positive steps to better manage water issues in new developments. If measures are found to be unsuccessful or to have a negative impact, alternative solutions can be investigated.	Any effects of the SPD will be reversible. Further alterations to the local list can be made in the future if new heritage assets come to light; there is also provision for removal of heritage assets from the local list if they no longer meet the criteria. Decisions on schemes in respect of heritage assets will be assessed against higher order policy.	Any effects of the SPD will be reversible. Further alterations to design can be made in the future if measures prove to be unsuccessful or do not have the desired effect.
Is there a significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No	No
b. the cumulative nature of the effects,	Whilst the SPD will work alongside the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedules and the Affordable Housing SPD in collecting financial and in-kind contributions from development, the cumulative effects alongside the other policies in the SWDP will be positive and of a limited scale.	Whilst the SPD will work alongside the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedules and the Developer Contributions SPD in collecting financial and in-kind contributions from development, the cumulative effects alongside the other policies in the SWDP will be positive and of a limited scale.	The SPD has no significant cumulative effects.	The SPD will have a positive effect on the environment and no significant cumulative effects.	The SPD will have a positive effect on the environment and no significant cumulative effects.	The SPD will have a positive effect on the environment and no significant cumulative effects.
Is there a significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No	No
c. the trans-boundary nature of the effects,	There are no trans-boundary effects of the SPD for South Worcestershire.	There are no trans-boundary effects of the SPD for South Worcestershire.	There are no trans-boundary effects of the SPD for Worcester.	There are no trans-boundary effects of the SPD for Wychavon.	There are no trans-boundary effects of the SPD for Malvern Hills.	There are no trans-boundary effects of the SPD for South Worcestershire.
Is there a significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No	No
d. the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),	None.	None.	None.	None.	None	None.
Is there a significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No	No
e. the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),	This SPD will cover the whole of the South Worcestershire area which has a population of approximately 290,000. It will be used in the determination of planning applications within this area, but does not set a framework for the scale or type of development.	This SPD will cover the whole of the South Worcestershire area which has a population of approximately 290,000. It will be used in the determination of planning applications within this area, but does not set a framework for the scale or type of development.	This SPD will cover the city of Worcester, which has a population of approximately 98,000. Specifically, the guidance in the SPD will be applied when a planning application for a change of use is made, and therefore the direct effects will be limited to the	This SPD will be limited to the district of Wychavon, which has a population of approximately 117,000. It will be used in the determination of planning applications in the district, but does not set a framework for the scale or type of development. As water	This SPD will be limited to the district of Malvern Hills, which has a population of approximately 75,000. It will be used in the determination of planning applications in the district, but does not set a framework for the scale or type of development. Effects will	This SPD will cover the whole of the South Worcestershire area which has a population of approximately 290,000. It will be used in the determination of planning applications within this area, but does not set a framework for the scale or type of development.

Table 2: Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) (as taken from Annex II of the SEA Directive)

	Developer Contributions SPD (JOINT)	Affordable Housing SPD (JOINT)	Houses in Multiple Occupancy SPD (Worcester only)	Water Management SPD (Wychavon only)	Local List SPD (Malvern Hills only)	Design Guide SPD (JOINT)
	Effects will not be felt beyond the South Worcestershire area.	Effects will not be felt beyond the South Worcestershire area.	application site and the area immediately surrounding it. Effects will not be felt beyond the city of Worcester.	catchment areas and flood plains are not limited to administrative boundaries, changes within the water cycle at a location within Wychavon may have an effect outside of the district.	not therefore be felt outside the district.	Effects will not be felt beyond the South Worcestershire area.
Is there a significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No	No
f. the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: i. special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, ii. exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, iii. intensive land-use, Is there a significant effect?	There are no significant effects on special nature conservation, cultural heritage, environmental quality standards or on the intensity of land-use. This is because the SPD itself will not generate additional development.	There are no significant effects on special nature conservation, cultural heritage, environmental quality standards or on the intensity of land-use. This is because the SPD itself will not generate additional development.	There are no significant effects on special nature conservation, cultural heritage, environmental quality standards or on the intensity of land-use. The SPD will provide guidance on the change of use of existing properties and does not affect the intensity at which the city is developed.	There are no significant effects on cultural heritage, environmental quality standards or on the intensity of land-use. There are unlikely to be any significant effects from the Water Management SPD on the Bredon Hill Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in the district as development in and close to the SAC is very carefully managed.	The Local List SPD will have a limited but positive effect on cultural heritage by identifying heritage assets within Malvern Hills but will have no significant effect on special nature conservation, environmental quality standards or on the intensity of land-use. This is because the SPD itself will not generate additional development.	There are no significant effects on special nature conservation, cultural heritage, environmental quality standards or on the intensity of land-use. This is because the SPD itself will not generate additional development.
Is there a significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No	No
g. the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status. Is there a significant effect?	None.	None.	None.	There are unlikely to be any significant effects from the Water Management SPD on the Bredon Hill Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in the district as development in and close to the SAC is very carefully managed.	The Local List SPD will have a limited but positive effect by identifying heritage assets within the Malvern Hills AONB.	None.
Is there a significant effect?	No	No	No	No	No	No

6. Consultation with statutory bodies

6.1. The three statutory consultation bodies for Strategic Environmental Assessment in England were consulted from 6th December – 20th December 2013. The Environment Agency requested a longer consultation period in which to consider the Screening Statement, and this was granted.

6.2. The following consultation responses were received:

Consultation Body	Consultee Response	Councils' Actions
English Heritage Response received 16/12/2013	English Heritage has no reason to challenge the conclusions of the screening exercise.	Noted.
Natural England Response received 19/12/2013	<p>The screening assessment that you have carried out says in row 1a of table 2, for every SPD, that it does not make new policies or set a framework for other plans and strategies. On this basis, and on the basis of the remainder of the assessment, we concur that no SEA appears to be required. In the case of the Water Management SPD for Wychavon, the Environment Agency's view would take precedence over ours.</p> <p>We note that in table 2, section (g), you reference the Bredon Hill Special Area of Conservation in relation to the Water Management SPD. We would expect to see Habitats Regulations Assessment screening for this SPD.</p> <p>Also in table 2, section g, you note that the Local List SPD is intended to identify heritage assets within the Malvern Hills AONB. We advise you to seek the advice of the AONB Partnership / AONB Conservation Board on the SPD. Their knowledge of the location and wider landscape setting of the proposed SPD should help to confirm whether or not it would impact significantly on the purposes of the AONB designation. They will also be able advise on whether the proposed SPD accords with the aims and policies set out in the AONB management plan.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Comments specific to Water Management and Local List SPDs noted and will be actioned when these SPDs are being produced.</p>
Environment Agency Response received 24/01/2014	<p>We have reviewed the document and concur with the approach and conclusions. We agree that the SPDs in question are all likely to have limited and largely positive environmental impacts and hence SEA of these documents can be screened out.</p> <p>Comments made in relation to the Water Management SPD. With regard to Table 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In row (a) we note it refers to the flood risk and SuDS policies in the SWDP. We also feel that policy SWDP 30 'Water Resources, Efficiency and Treatment' will be of relevance to this SPD. In row (e) it states that this SPD is not relevant to the implementation of European Community Legislation. We consider the SPD does have some relevance to European 	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Reference to policy SWDP 30 added to row (a) for the Water Management SPD.</p> <p>Points noted regarding the relationship between the Water Framework</p>

Consultation Body	Consultee Response	Councils' Actions
	<p>Legislation, namely the Water Framework Directive (WFD). However given that the overarching policy of the SWDP is the main driver for delivering water management policies in line with WFD objectives, and the SPD acts more as a guidance tool for developers to help identify the ways in which this will be done in more detail than the SWDP, we agree that the SPD is not directly relevant to the implementation of the WFD. Hence we concur with the conclusion that SEA is not needed. We only raise this as we feel it is important to acknowledge that the way in which water management occurs in development is relevant to the WFD. The SWDP itself, including the various water-related policies therein, does make this relationship clear, and we are supportive of this.</p>	<p>Directive (WFD), SWDP and forthcoming Water Management SPD. Reference to the WFD added to row (e) for consistency and to highlight linkages.</p>

6.3 As set out, the relevant comments have been actioned and the Screening Statement has been amended accordingly.

7. SEA Determination and Reasons for Determination

7.1. An assessment against the SEA criteria to determine the likely significant effects of introducing the six SPDs has been carried out. It finds that it is unlikely that significant effects² on the environment will arise as a result of the SPDs. Whilst some, mainly positive effects of introducing the SPDs are noted, it is not felt that any of the effects are significant. Thus the Councils determine that Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for any of the six SPDs which will be produced across South Worcestershire. This view is shared by the statutory environmental consultation bodies.

7.2. This determination is made on 28th January 2014.

8. Next steps

8.1. Draft versions of the SPDs will be produced in due course, culminating in public consultation on the draft Supplementary Planning Documents during 2014. Details of future planning policy documents to be produced and likely consultation dates can be found in the 2013 Local Development Schemes which are available via the planning policy pages on the Councils' respective websites and also on the [South Worcestershire Development Plan website](#). The authority's individual policy webpages will provide the most up to date information on current public consultations.

- Worcester City Council: <http://www.worcester.gov.uk/index.php?id=1105>
- Wychavon District Council: <http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/cms/planning/planning-policy.aspx>
- Malvern Hills District Council: <http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/cms/environment-and-planning/planning-services/development-plans.aspx>

² "Significant effects" in the context of the SEA Legislation and Regulations