



Surrey Heath Borough Council Local Plan 2011 – 2028

Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Screening Statement - Determination under Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004

September 2014

Introduction

- 1.1. This statement sets out the Council's screening assessment under Regulation 9 (1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 on whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required for a Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.2. Under the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive) and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) specific types of plans that set the framework for the future development consent of projects or which require Appropriate Assessment must be subject to an environmental assessment.
- 1.3. There are exceptions to this requirement for plans that determine the use of a small area at a local level and for minor modifications if it has been determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.4. In accordance with the provisions of the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) (Regulation 9 (1)), the Borough Council must determine if a plan requires an environmental assessment.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

- 1.5. Under separate legislation (the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and associated Regulations), the Council is required to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for all Development Plan Documents. This considers the social and economic impacts of a plan as well as the environmental impacts.
- 1.6. In accordance with current Regulations (Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012) SA is no longer required for lower level documents, including Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). However, despite this, it is still necessary to undertake a screening exercise on the need for an SEA.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

- 1.7. Habitats Regulations Assessment is required to determine whether a plan or project would have significant adverse effects upon the integrity of internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance or Natura 2000 sites. The need for HRA is set out within the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/ECC and transposed into British Law by Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
- 1.8. The Directive states that any plan or project not connected or necessary for a sites management, but likely to have significant effects thereon shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. As the Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm

Strategy SPD will not set the framework for future plans or projects there is no pathway (either direct or indirect) for significant effects to arise. As such, it is considered that Appropriate Assessment of the Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm Strategy SPD is not required. Moreover, it is for individual planning applications or plans that set the framework for those applications to undergo Habitats Regulations Assessment.

The SEA Screening Process

- 1.9 The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called screening. In order to screen, it is necessary to determine if a plan will have significant environmental effects using the criteria set out in Annex II of the Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations. A determination cannot be made until the three statutory consultation bodies have been consulted. These are the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage.
- 1.10 Within 28 days of making its determination, the Authority must publish a statement such as this one, setting out its decision. If it determines that an SEA is not required, the statement must include the reasons for this.

Background to the proposed SPD

- 1.11 Policy CP10 (Camberley Town Centre) of the Surrey Heath Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2011 – 2028 details the approach the Council will take in consolidating and enhancing the role of Camberley as a secondary regional town centre. Policies TC1 to TC 20 of the Camberley Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) 2014-2028 support Policy CP10 of the Core Strategy by setting out broad principles that development should address and by identifying opportunity areas and sites and their proposed uses. These Policies will be amplified in the Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm Strategy SPD; the SPD will provide further guidance in respect to the detailed design objectives for the public realm, opportunity areas and sites identified in the AAP.
- 1.12 The document will not introduce new policy, focusing instead upon implementation of Core Strategy Policy CP10 and Policies TC1-TC20 of the Camberley Town Centre AAP. The SPD is intended to be used by those seeking planning permission and planning staff at Surrey Heath Borough Council. Further SPD details are set out in Table 1-1 below.

Table 1-1: SPD Details

Responsible Authority	Surrey Heath Borough Council
Title of Plan or Programme	Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm Strategy SPD

Plan Purpose	To amplify Policies CP10 of the Surrey Heath Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2011 – 2028 and Polices TC1-TC20 of the Camberley Town Centre Area Action Plan 2014-2028.
Plan Period	Until superseded
Frequency of Update	On change of Local or National Policy
Plan Area	Camberley Town Centre.

Draft SEA Screening

- 1.11 This Draft Screening Report for consultation sets out the Council's initial determination under Regulation 9 (1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 on whether or not SEA is required for the Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm Strategy SPD.
- 1.12 Appendix 1 sets out the procedure for determining if the SPD will have significant environmental effects using the criteria set out in Annex II of the Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations.
- 1.13 On the basis of the Screening process it is the Council's opinion that the Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm Strategy SPD does not require an SEA under the SEA Directive and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004). This is because:-
- The SPD does not set the framework for future consents under the EIA Directive;
 - An Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive is not required;
 - There is no pathway or mechanism for significant environmental effects to arise as the document is for guidance purposes only, being an elaboration of existing policy.
- 1.14 This statement has been issued for consultation to the three statutory consultation bodies. These are the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage.

Appendix 1 – SEA screening for the Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm Strategy SPD

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of Regulations)	Surrey Heath Borough Council's Response
Characteristics of the plan or programme	
(a) 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 Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm Strategy SPD will supplement Policy CP10 of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2011 – 2028 and Policies TC1-TC20 of the Camberley Town Centre AAP 2014-2028 thereby providing further guidance on the requirements in respect of the detailed design objectives for the public realm, opportunity areas and sites. The SPD therefore supplements existing Policy rather than setting a framework in itself.
(b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	As noted above, the Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm Strategy SPD will supplement policy contained within the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2011 – 2028 and the Camberley Town centre AAP 2014-2028. As such it is influenced by other, higher level plans rather than influencing other plans itself.
(c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Some relevance. The Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm strategy will promote sustainable development by seeking improved pedestrian access and cycle facilities to and through the town centre.) It will not however deliver an environmental policy in its own right and will not therefore have a significant effect on environmental considerations.
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	None.
(e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community (EU) legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	None.
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected	
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	The Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm Strategy SPD will amplify policies contained within the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2011 – 2028 and the Camberley Town Centre AAP 2014-2028, providing further guidance on the detailed design objectives for the public realm, opportunity areas and sites. It will not in itself set out, guide or bring forward development plans or projects and does not relate to specific locations within the Borough. As such there is no mechanism for significant environmental effects to arise from the SPD itself. It is noted that

	individual projects may have potential to give rise to significant environmental impacts; however it will be for individual planning applications or plans that set the wider framework for those applications to address this matter.
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects	As noted above, there is no mechanism for significant environmental effects to arise from the SPD itself. It is therefore unlikely that any cumulative impacts will arise. Where cumulative effects are likely to arise, the Council will, through the determination of planning applications, ensure such issues are appropriately addressed.
(c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects	As noted above, there is no mechanism for significant environmental effects to arise from the SPD itself. It is therefore unlikely that any trans-boundary impacts will arise. Where trans-boundary effects are likely to arise, the Council will, through the determination of planning applications, ensure such issues are appropriately addressed.
(d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	None.
(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The SPD will cover Camberley Town Centre which has a population of circa 500. However as the SPD is only concerned with amplifying the approach of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2011 – 2028 and the Camberley Town Centre Area Action Plan policies by providing further guidance on the design requirements of the public realm, opportunity areas and sites. It is considered that the effects will be limited in magnitude.
(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.	Given the nature of the document: - i) None; ii) None; iii) None.
(g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have recognised national, Community or international protection status.	Avoidance of impacts upon the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area is dealt with in other guidance documents produced by the Borough Council and the Joint Delivery Framework. The Camberley Town Centre Masterplan/Public Realm Strategy SPD will not set the policy framework for individual projects or consents. As such no significant effects are considered to arise on the adoption of this SPD.