

Date: 10 August 2018

Case ref: 251222

Your ref: Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1 Planning Strategy



Policy and Plans Team
New Forest District Council

BY EMAIL ONLY

localplan2016@nfdc.gov.uk

Dear Policy and Plans Team

Planning consultation: Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1 Planning Strategy – Proposed Submission Document

Location: New Forest District Council

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 29 June 2018 which was received by Natural England on 29 June 2018.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Local Plan review 2016-2036 Part One: Planning Strategy

On the basis of the additional comments below being incorporated into the local plan we would find the plan to be sound.

Paragraph 5.4

We welcome the addition of text in this paragraph to reflect our previous recommendation on seeking Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plans to achieve net gain in biodiversity.

Policy 10 (i)

The list of International Nature Conservation Sites under this section of the policy differ from the Informative listing them on page 32 under paragraph 5.4 but we feel under our interpretation of the document that the list should be the same, with the list under policy 10 (i) being the accurate one. Please correct as appropriate.

Policy 15

We feel that Policy 15 provides an opportunity to include policy support for the creation and maintenance of the current and future route of the National Trail/England Coast Path around the coast of England.

Paragraph 8.21

We welcome the presumption that pedestrian and cycle routes within or alongside site allocations will be retained and improved by the development.

Paragraph 9.27

We welcome inclusion of the SANG land within the indicative master plans for each allocation site. Natural England would welcome the opportunity to be involved in pre-application discussions with the developments as these sites come forward.

Strategic Site 4: The former Fawley Power Station

Natural England is concerned that the Master Planning Objectives and/or supporting text have not clearly specified the need to:

- Incorporate and facilitate appropriate measures for conserving and enhancing the landscape and scenic beauty of the neighbouring National Park.
- Secure, in perpetuity, all mitigation measures deemed necessary for avoiding any adverse impacts on the internationally designated sites.
- Promote and enhance public access to the countryside where appropriate.
- Provide a demonstrable net gain for biodiversity.

In our view the plan should make clear reference to the need to meet all the aforementioned objectives to the satisfaction of the local planning authority.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan

We welcome reference to the water resources issue as they relate to nature conservation implications throughout this plan.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

The HRA has been produced in an iterative way, including regular liaison with Natural England over various matters and as a result we have no comment to make on the HRA. We also note that the structure of the HRA reflects the recent Sweetman II judgement.

SEA/SA

We confirm that the SEA/SA has been undertaken and meets the requirements of the SEA Directive. The process has been undertaken in an iterative way alongside the preparation of the Local Plan. Natural England has been consulted at each stage of the Plan and we understand that our comments have been taken on board during the revision process

Additional Consultation on SPDs

Thanks for consultation on 3 additional and related SPDs which support the local plan part 1 strategy. We will provide a separate response to that consultation before the deadline of 30 September 2018.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries regarding this letter, for new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Alison Appleby

