

## **Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan Pre Submission (Regulation 14)**

### **Chichester District Council Planning Policy Response – May 2017**

Section 1.4 of the draft neighbourhood plan states no Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required as the plan has removed a housing allocation which triggered the need for SEA as part of the previous SEA determination (11 April 2016). This statement is inaccurate and the qualifying body cannot self-determine this matter. The previous SEA determination, issued by Chichester District Council (CDC) related to an earlier version of the draft Plan. No SEA request was made to CDC in relation to this amended draft neighbourhood plan prior to the pre submission consultation period. Consequently CDC, as the responsible authority, has not made any determination as to whether or not SEA may or may not be required for this revised version of the plan. The lack of screening for SEA in relation to this version of the Plan is contrary to the Basic Conditions in particular f. the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.

In addition, the relevant SEA determination needs to form part of the pre submission documentation and be available as part of the consultation process which it is not. Again, in this respect, the qualifying body is acting in breach of the procedures required when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

On the basis of the foregoing, and prior to any forthcoming SEA determination relating to this amended version of the pre submission Neighbourhood Plan, CDC is unable to provide any further response and can not currently support the Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Exercise of Delegated Authority - Head of Planning Services**

I hereby exercise my delegated power in accordance with Chichester District Council's Constitution:

'to make formal comments on a draft Neighbourhood Plan at Pre-Submission stage and Submission stage'

AND DETERMINE THAT, the above comments are the formal response made by Chichester District Council on the **pre submission stage** of the **Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan** in relation to comments made under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended by The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015).

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

**Head of Planning Services**

Date: 11 May 2017