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Our ref:

Your ref:

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Dear Clerk

## Chidham and Hambrook Neighbourhood Plan

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Opinion Screening Determination under Regulation 9 and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004**

This letter addresses whether an environmental assessment of the Chidham and Hambrook Neighbourhood Plan is required and as such whether it meets one of the basic conditions that a neighbourhood plan must meet in order to proceed to referendum: that it does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.

On the basis of the contents of the neighbourhood plan that was the subject of consultation with the relevant statutory agencies in accordance with Regulation 9(2) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the following determination can be made.

The screening determination is that **an environmental assessment of the Chidham and Hambrook Neighbourhood Plan is not required** due there being no adverse comments from the statutory bodies and for the reasons set out in the screening report which is attached to this letter.

As such it is the opinion of Chichester District Council that the Chidham and Hambrook Neighbourhood Plan is in accordance with the provisions of the European Directive 2001/42/EC as incorporated into UK law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

This decision has been based on the information provided. If the contents of the Plan are revised and/or there is a material change in the environmental characteristics in the locality (e.g. any additional nature conservation or other environmental designations), then the comments contained in this decision would need to be reconsidered in order to take account of the changes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew Frost'.

Andrew Frost  
Head of Planning Services

## Screening Report for the Chidham and Hambrook Neighbourhood Plan

### Criteria and response of screening

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of Regulations)	Relevance in context of this screening report
<b>The characteristics of plans and programmes</b>	
(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;	<p>The Chidham and Hambrook Neighbourhood Plan (NP) would, if adopted, form part of the Statutory Development Plan and as such will establish the development control framework for Chidham and Hambrook and the surrounding environs.</p> <p>The NP is prepared for town and country planning and land use planning purposes and sets out a framework for future development in Chidham and Hambrook. The nature of the NP includes housing, open space, infrastructure and employment development, which may fall under 10(a &amp; b) of Annex II of the EIA directive.</p> <p>Locally and internationally designated wildlife sites lie within the NP area. The NP seeks to protect open and green spaces and internationally designated sites and avoid or mitigate any cumulative impacts.</p>
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	<p>The NP is the lowest tier in the planning hierarchy and must conform to plans in the upper tiers, rather than influence them. The Chidham and Hambrook NP must conform to the Chichester Local Plan, the National Planning Policy Framework and European Directives.</p>
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	<p>Policy LP1 of the NP demonstrates willingness to incorporate sustainable development into all aspects of development.</p> <p>There are opportunities for integrating environmental considerations within Chidham and Hambrook. The Chidham and Hambrook NP contains policies which allocate open spaces in the parish as “local green spaces”, which are protected from development. Additionally, any development which results in the loss of biodiversity will not be permitted unless appropriate mitigation is provided.</p>

(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	<p>Key issues taken from the Scoping Report of the Chichester Local Plan and derived from the Chidham and Hambrook NP include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An increasing population in the Parish is putting a pressure on the infrastructure and resources available;</li> <li>2. A shortage of recreation space and facilities; and</li> <li>3. Creating a sense of community and involving all residents.</li> </ol>
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	<p>The NP is a land-use plan and sets the framework for future development consents within the Chidham and Hambrook NP area.</p> <p>The NP sets policies, including environmental policies, which planning applications within the Chidham and Hambrook NP area must adhere to.</p>
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected</b>	
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	No significant effects are anticipated on Biodiversity, Population, Human Health, Flora, Fauna, Soil, Air, Climatic Factors, Material Assets, Cultural Heritage and Landscape in Chidham and Hambrook Parish.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	Housing proposals are in keeping with the aspiration of the Chichester Local Plan and the proposals of the NP. No cumulative effects are expected as a result.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The majority of effects within the Parish will be localised. Due to the nationally important natural assets, effects on these features may occur beyond the area of the Parish.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	Chidham and Hambrook do not currently have any AQMAs. The NP may increase traffic levels but not to an extent that is anticipated to cause significant effects on human health.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	Hambrook is the largest settlement in the Parish. Due to the lack of employment opportunities within Chidham and Hambrook Parish, residents generally out-commute for work. Indirect effects of the plan, such as out-commuting, may extend beyond the immediate area of the plan but are not anticipated to cause significant effects.
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:	(i) Chidham and Hambrook Parish does not have a significant historic environment

<p>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</p> <p>(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or</p> <p>(iii) intensive land-use; and</p>	<p>that is likely to be harmed by adoption of the NP and proposed development.</p> <p>(ii) Recent infrastructure reinforcement projects over recent years have resulted in improved connectivity between their sources and water quality and waste water treatment is not thought to exceed environmental quality standards or limit values.</p> <p>(iii) The Chidham and Hambrook Parish has areas of high productivity agricultural land, with areas of grade 1, 2 and 3 land all situated within the Parish. The location of housing in Chidham and Hambrook Parish is concentrated within Hambrook and Nutbourne East. Development outside of existing residential areas could lead to a reduction in best and most versatile agricultural land.</p>
<p>(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>There are locally and internationally designated wildlife sites within the NP area. The NP seeks to protect open and green spaces and internationally designated sites and avoid or mitigate any cumulative impacts.</p> <p>The SAC, SPA, RAMSAR and SSSI in the Parish are important for the biodiversity in the area. Any developments should be planned so as to not cause a significant effect on the integrity of the Sites or the species which rely on them for survival. Policy RE7, RE8 and BE14 paragraph 49 in the Chichester Local Plan strive to protect statutory sites in the District.</p> <p>The Chidham and Hambrook NP Policies EM2 and EM3 state that any development proposals which would result in a loss of biodiversity will not normally be permitted unless appropriate mitigation can be provided.</p> <p>As it does not allocate housing sites, the Chidham and Hambrook NP is not anticipated to significantly affect the nearby Chichester Harbour AONB and South Downs National Park and is unlikely to adversely affect the character.</p>

