

Ipswich Town Centre and Waterfront Public Realm Strategy SPD - Consultation Statement

In July 2018 the Council published a Call for Ideas, inviting views from statutory bodies on the draft Ipswich Town Centre and Waterfront Public Realm Strategy. The comments received are shown below together with the Council's response:

Section	Respondent	Comment	Council Response	Action
N/A	Environment Agency	No response	.	
N/A	Natural England	<p>"While we welcome this opportunity to give our views, the topic this Supplementary Planning Document covers is unlikely to have major impacts on the natural environment, We therefore do not wish to provide specific comments, but advise you to consider the following issues:</p> <p>Biodiversity enhancement</p> <p>This SPD could consider incorporating features which are beneficial to wildlife within development, in line with paragraph 175 of the updated National Planning Policy Framework. You may wish to consider providing guidance on measures to enhance biodiversity in the urban environment. An example of good practice includes the Exeter Residential Design Guide SPD.</p> <p>Landscape enhancement</p> <p>The SPD may provide opportunities to enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding natural and built environment; use natural resources more sustainably; and bring benefits for the local community, for example through green infrastructure provision and access</p>	Noted.	Enhanced advice given with regard to urban planting strategy.

		<p>to and contact with nature. Landscape characterisation and townscape assessments, and associated sensitivity and capacity assessments provide tools for planners and developers to consider how new development might make a positive contribution to the character and functions of the landscape through sensitive siting and good design and avoid unacceptable impacts. Protected species</p> <p>Natural England has produced Standing Advice to help local planning authorities assess the impact of particular developments on protected or priority species.</p> <p>Strategic Environmental Assessment/Habitats Regulations Assessment</p> <p>A SPD requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment only in exceptional circumstances as set out in the Planning Practice Guidance here. While SPDs are unlikely to give rise to likely significant effects on European Sites, they should be considered as a plan under the Habitats Regulations in the same way as any other plan or project. If your SPD requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment or Habitats Regulation Assessment, you are required to consult us at certain stages as set out in the Planning Practice Guidance.</p> <p>Should the plan be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment, then, please consult Natural England again."</p>		
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Section	Respondent	Comment	Council Response	Action
N/A	Historic England	<p>"Thank you for your email of 16 July 2018 regarding the above consultation. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process. Therefore we welcome this opportunity to review the Screening Report for the Ipswich Borough Council Draft Ipswich Town Centre and Waterfront Public Realm Strategy SPD.</p> <p>For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question, "Is it (the SPD) likely to have a significant effect on the historic environment?". Our comments are based on the information supplied with the Screening Opinion, which includes a Summary of the SPD.</p> <p>The Screening Report indicates that the Council considers that, owing to the fact it will only ""provide guiding principles for use in street and public space design projects"", the SPD will not have any significant effects on the historic environment.</p> <p>On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.</p>	Noted	No action required

		<p>The views of the other two statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for an SEA is made.</p> <p>I should be pleased if you can send a copy of the determination as required by REG 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.</p> <p>We should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by you with your correspondence dated 16 July 2018. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the SEA process and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the SPD) where we consider that, despite the SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.</p> <p>"</p>		