



East Cambridgeshire  
District Council

13 October 2023

**Strategic Environmental Assessment Determination Statement**

**Mepal Neighbourhood Plan**

**Purpose of this Determination Statement**

This Determination Statement has been produced by East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) as the “responsible authority”, to meet the requirements of Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It sets out ECDC’s main conclusions in respect of significant environmental effects likely to arise from implementation of the draft Mepal Neighbourhood Plan (MNP). To assist writing this this Statement, ECDC has received a copy of the draft MNP as received by ECDC in September 2023 and which, it is understood, will be the same Plan as to be formally submitted to the Council for examination.

This Determination Statement will form a Submission Document for the purposes of neighbourhood planning, as required by The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (reg. 15(1)(e)(ii)).

It is intended that this Determination Statement be read alongside the Mepal Neighbourhood Plan *SEA Screening Report* and *HRA Screening Report*, copies of which were used by the District Council to assist in reaching this Determination Statement and which will, we understand, also be submitted alongside wider Submission Documents.

**Screening Reports**

In June 2023, the Parish Council consulted the statutory bodies on the *SEA Screening Report* and *the HRA Screening Report*. Responses were received from *Environment Agency*, *Historic England* and *Natural England*. Those response have been added as appendices to those two Reports.

The two Screening Reports conclude, in summary, that the Mepal Neighbourhood Development Plan (MNP):

- Does not requires a full *Strategic Environmental Assessment* (SEA) (i.e. *screened out*); and
- Does not require a full *Habitats Regulations Assessment* (HRA) (i.e. *screened out*).

The statutory consultees did not suggest any alternative conclusions, and, in effect, therefore endorsed such conclusions.

**Determination**

Based on the assessment undertaken in the *SEA Screening Report* and *HRA Screening Report* and the responses received from statutory bodies, East Cambridgeshire District Council considers that it is not likely that significant environmental effects will arise from the implementation of the Mepal Neighbourhood Plan, and therefore Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Likewise, it is considered that a full *Habitats Regulations Assessment* will not be required.