

## **Southend-on-Sea Borough Council**

### **Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Southend Development Management DPD – Schedule of Modifications**

**December 2014**

This report forms the second Addendum to the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of the Development Management Submission Document.

The European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (the Habitats Directive) protects habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. The Habitats Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites designated for their ecological status. These are referred to as Natura 2000 sites or European Sites, and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Articles 6 (3) and 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive require Appropriate Assessment (AA) to be undertaken on proposed plans or projects which are not necessary for the management of the site but which are likely to have a significant effect on one or more Natura 2000 sites either individually, or in-combination with other plans and projects. This requirement is set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) 2010, which require the application of HRA to all land use plans. Government guidance also requires that Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats) and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention 1971) are included within HRA/AA.

The HRA Screening Report concluded that suggested policies in the Issues and Options version of the Development Management DPD (2010) will not have any significant impact on European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and strategies. The statutory bodies agreed with these conclusions. This position was further endorsed as part of the HRA Addendum 2014, which accompanied the Revised Proposed Submission Development Management DPD (March 2014).

The Schedule of Modifications does not propose any changes to planning policies within the Development Management DPD such that they would have potential to have 'a likely significant effect' on one or more nature conservation sites. As such there is no further statement to make in relation to these sites which is not already raised and concluded in the Addendum (2014).