

Supporting Local Authorities:

Environmental Impact Assessment Training and Advice



Many Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are receiving an increasing number of planning applications that potentially require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). At the same time they are under pressure from the Government to reduce the burden on developers by only requesting EIA where it is required and, only asking for information on topics where significant effects may arise.

There is also pressure to ensure that procedures are properly followed to avoid the likelihood of decisions being successfully challenged and legislative considerations to be taken account of. Legislation is changing, with new regulations recently introduced on screening, and further legislative changes in the pipeline as a result of the recently revised European EIA Directive.

With all these factors to consider it is unsurprising that many LPA officers believe they would benefit from support in this area.

To meet this need our environmental experts offer a range of services including formal or bespoke workshops, technical advice, review of Scoping Reports and Environmental Statements, and preparation of screening and scoping opinions.

“We were very happy with the service provided as it gave us reassurance with regards to the quality of the Environmental Statement, which enabled us to then focus on the important aspects such as the mitigation proposed, details of the development and provide appropriate planning conditions.”

Ben Geering, Interim Head of Planning – Shepway District Council



EIA Support

Our experts are also able to provide a full range of environmental and planning support to LPAs in relation to EIA including:

- preparation of screening and scoping opinions
- auditing of ESS
- advice in technical areas, such as ecology, landscape, archaeology, air quality and noise
- liaison with applicants and their consultants in relation to the EIA.

EIA Training Workshop

Our workshop is delivered by two of our senior EIA practitioners, who have both planning and environmental backgrounds.

The workshop includes the following elements, but can be modified to meet the particular needs of individual LPAs:

- introduction to EIA – overview of the legislative background and processes followed in EIA
- EIA Screening – overview of the screening process, including recent changes to the legislation
- EIA Scoping - overview of the scoping process
- assessing Environmental Statements (ESs) – how to review ESs with particular consideration given to key areas such as significant effects, cumulative impacts and alternatives
- participatory exercise – delegates undertake a screening and scoping exercise using a project example.



We are Registrants' to IEMA's EIA Quality Mark which demonstrates that our EIA work meets high standards and enables us to be fully conversant with best practice in EIA.

Recommendations

David Dewart, Planning Manager at Swindon Borough Council, provided this feedback on our EIA Training Workshop:

'Swindon Borough Council invited WYG to run an Environmental Impact Assessment Workshop for our Planning Officers. We were impressed with the presenters' depth of knowledge and found their practical advice, which was based on recent case studies, to be very useful. Our Planning Officers now have a much greater confidence in managing the EIA process. We would not hesitate to recommend this workshop to other local authorities.'

Prices

EIA Workshop: £2,950 exc VAT (no limit on delegate numbers, assumes that training room and lunch/ refreshments are provided by the LPA)

EIA Support: Contact us to discuss your requirements. We will be happy to provide a bespoke proposal.

For further information please contact Adrian Rous (EIA Support) or Sarah Hawkins (EIA Training):

E: adrian.rous@wyg.com

T: **0116 234 8111**

E: sarah.hawkins@wyg.com

T: **0117 244 0523**

We have offices throughout the UK and so can tailor our support to provide national level expertise with local knowledge.