

SEA Screening Statement – Lambeth Design Guide SPD (August 2023)

1. Legislative background and purpose of Strategic Environment Assessment and Sustainability Appraisals

- 1.1 The requirement for a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) is set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (commonly referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations), which implements the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC. Regulation 5 of the Directive sets out the types of plans that require an environmental assessment, which includes those that set the framework for future development consent. Regulation 5 (6) provides an exemption and states that an environmental assessment need not be carried out: (a) for a plan or programme which determines the use of a small area at local level; or (b) for a minor modification to a plan or programme, unless it has been determined that the plan, programme or modification, as the case may be, is likely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.2 Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local authorities to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. However the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 removes the automatic need for an SA of SPDs. This is because SPDs do not normally introduce new policies or proposals or modify planning documents which have already been subject to Sustainability Appraisal. National Planning Practice Guidance confirms that SPDs do not require a sustainability appraisal but may in exceptional circumstances require a strategic environmental assessment if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been assessed during the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 1.3 SEA/SAs are undertaken during preparation of plans or programmes and their purpose is to assess the sustainability of emerging plans or programmes. The EU Directive 2001/42/EC requires the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) of the *environmental* effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The SA extends the reach of the SEA to incorporate *economic* and *social* issues relevant to the plan or programme.
- 1.4 The SA prepared on the Draft Revised Lambeth Local Plan Proposed Submission Version January 2020 (DRLLP PSV 2020) which also incorporated SEA is relevant to the Lambeth Design Guide SPD as the SPD provides further guidance of policies contained within the Lambeth Local Plan 2021, these policies of which have already been subject to SA/SEA analysis.

2. Lambeth Local Plan

- 2.1 The current Lambeth Local Plan was adopted in 2021.

3. Lambeth Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

- 3.1 The role of the Lambeth Design Guide SPD will be to support the implementation of Lambeth Local Plan policies by providing additional guidance to developers, landowners, the public, and other stakeholders which seeks to ensure high quality design outcomes for all development. The adopted SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

4. SEA Screening and this report

- 4.1 This report is the Screening Statement on the SPD. It sets out results of SEA screening to date; responses from consultation bodies; determination of significant effects and; reasons that an SEA is not required.
- 4.2 The Responsible Authority (Lambeth Council) must determine whether a plan or programme under assessment is likely to have significant environmental effects. If the SPD is considered unlikely to have significant environmental effects through the screening process, then a SEA is not necessary. The assessment must be made taking account of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (see appendix 1), and in consultation with the Environmental Agency, Historic England and Natural England. If having consulted these bodies and undertaken this assessment the Council considers that the SPD is likely to have significant environmental effects, then a SEA would be required.
- 4.3 In May 2023 Lambeth Council consulted the three statutory bodies on the initial SEA screening of the draft SPD. Historic England and the Natural England responded to the consultation and agreed with the conclusion of the initial SEA screening that the draft SPD would not have significant environmental effects, and thus a full SEA is not required. The Environment Agency responded that although they are statutory consultees for this process, it is unlikely that they will comment on this SPD, and it is the Council's overall decision as to whether the SEA is necessary.
- 4.4 An initial draft of this SPD, at that time called the Draft Lambeth Design Code SPD, was published for consultation between 11 February and 7 April 2020. A further round of consultation of the Revised Draft Lambeth Design Guide SPD took place between 8 July and 2 September 2022. A total of fifty-one representations were received in response to consultation on the Draft Lambeth Design Guide SPD by the closing date of 2 September 2022. Of these, nine were from statutory consultees (Coal Authority, Greater London Authority, Historic England, Natural England, National Highways, Metropolitan Police Service, Ministry of Defence, Port of London Authority, The Marine Management Organisation).
- 4.5 Amongst the nine statutory consultees responses that related to the subject of the consultation, four made no comment or were supportive of the content of the Revised Draft Lambeth Design Guide SPD.

4.6 The other five responses from statutory consultees made comments about the content of the Revised Draft SPD. All comments were supportive and / or suggested minor additions or changes to its content.

4.5 In June 2023 the three statutory consultees were again consulted on the draft Screening Statement on the SPD proposed for adoption. Historic England and the Natural England agreed with the conclusion of the initial SEA screening that the draft SPD would not have significant environmental effects, and thus a full SEA is not required. All consultees responded to this consultation and agreed that a SEA is not required. The Environment Agency did not respond however in the initial consultation stated that although they are statutory consultees for this process, it is unlikely that they will comment on this SPD, and it is the Council's overall decision as to whether the SEA is necessary.

5. **Determination**

5.1 Appendix 1 shows the results of the council's SEA screening for Lambeth's Design Guide SPD. This screening demonstrates that the SPD is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment.

6. **Assessment of environmental effects and the reasons SEA is considered not required**

6.1 It is considered that the impact of the SPD, through responses to the SEA Directive Criteria (see Appendix 1), will not have significant environmental effects. The SPD does not set new policy; rather the SPD provides further guidance on how implementing policies contained in the Lambeth Local Plan 2021. The three statutory bodies were consulted on the initial SEA screening on the draft SPD and the draft Screening Statement on the SPD proposed for adoption. All three bodies responded to these consultations and agreed that the SPD is unlikely to have significant effects and a SEA is not required. This screening statement concludes that the Lambeth Design Guide SPD is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and full SEA is not required.

Appendix 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment

SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Is there significant environmental effect?	London Borough of Lambeth response
1. Characteristics of the Affordable Workspace SPD		
(a) The degree to which the SPD sets out a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	No	The Lambeth Design Guide SPD is intended to support implementation of Local Plan policies to ensure good design outcomes. It sets out the key principles for good quality architecture / urban design, giving designers clear advice on the design issues that need to be considered for each type of development. The SPD makes no provision for the allocation of resources. The SPD sits at the lowest tier of the development plan hierarchy and provides more detail to the policies established in upper tier plans (Lambeth Local Plan 2021) which has been subject to full SA and SEA. An SPD also has to be consistent with the development plan further up the hierarchy.
(b) The degree to which the SPD influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	Not applicable. The SPD does not influence other plans and programmes as it sits at the lowest tier in the hierarchy of Local Plan documents, of which have been subject to full SA and SEA.
(c) The relevance of the SPD for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	No	The substantive content of the SPD aims to secure high quality design outcomes in the built environment however it is relevant to the integration of environmental considerations to tackle the climate emergency. The SPD provides further guidance to support Local Plan on climate change mitigation and adaption

		in relation to existing and proposed development, urban greening and biodiversity.
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the SPD	No	Tackling the climate emergency by reducing emissions from buildings and making the built environment resilient to future climate change is a major challenge. The SPD provides further guidance to support Local Plan on climate change mitigation and adaptation in relation to existing and proposed development, urban greening and biodiversity.
(e) The relevance of the SPD for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (for example plans and programmes related to waste management or water protection)	No	The SPD will not impact on the implementation of community legislation on the environment. The SPD is not relevant to environmental legislation because the SPD does not control what is or is not built and where.
2. Characteristics of the effects and area likely to be affected having particular regards to:		
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	No	The SPD provides guidance on the implementation of primarily design policies within Lambeth Local Plan 2021. No environmental effects are anticipated to result from implementation of the SPD.
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects of the SPD	No	The SPD will not have effects of a cumulative nature.
(c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects of the SPD	No	The SPD does not have any transboundary effects.
(d) The risks to human health or the environment (eg due to accident)	No	There is no reason to believe the SPD would cause a risk to human health or the environment (eg due to accident).
(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographic area and size of the population likely to be affected) by the SPD	No	The SPD is applicable to developments located within Lambeth and is aimed to secure high quality design outcomes in the built environment.

<p>(f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by the SPD due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; • Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; • Intensive landuse. 	<p>No</p>	<p>Not applicable. The SPD is intended to support implementation of Local Plan policies to ensure good design outcomes. It sets out the key principles for good quality architecture / urban design, giving designers clear advice on the design issues that need to be considered for each type of development. The SPD sits at the lowest tier of the development plan hierarchy and provides more detail to the policies established in upper tier plans (Lambeth Local Plan 2021) which has been subject to full SA and SEA. An SPD also has to be consistent with the development plan further up the hierarchy.</p>
<p>(g) The effects of the SPD on areas or landscapes which have recognised national community or international protected status</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>There are none of these areas in Lambeth.</p>