INTRODUCTION

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 Lambeth Local Plan 2015 SA which also incorporated SEA (published 2013) is relevant to the Skills and Employment SPD as the SPD provides further guidance of policies contained within the Lambeth Local Plan – these policies of which have already been subject to SA/SEA analysis.

2. Employment and Skills Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

2.1 The Employment and Skills Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) sets out an approach to securing appropriate measures through Section 106 agreements towards employment,
skills and training initiatives. The SPD has been developed to provide further guidance on implementing Local Plan objectives and policies: Strategic Objective B3 and Policy D4(a)(viii). The SPD also contributes towards delivering the aims of adopted Local Plan Policy ED14 (a) (b) and (c): Employment and Training, which addresses the Council’s expectations from major development in relation to employment and training. The adopted SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

3. **SEA Screening and this report**

3.1 This report is the Screening Statement on the final draft SPD. It sets out results of SEA screening to date; responses from consultation bodies; determination of significant effects and; reasons if an SEA is not required.

3.2 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.

3.3 In December 2016 Lambeth Council consulted the three statutory bodies on the initial SEA screening of the draft SPD. Historic England and the Environment Agency responded to this 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.

3.4 The Draft Employment and Skills SPD was published for a first stage of consultation from 12 December 2016 to 13 February 2017. A further round of consultation took place from 6 November to 4 December 2017 on a Revised Draft SPD. A total of 31 responses were received over the two rounds of consultation, including response from Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England on the draft SPD. None of these organisations sought changes to the SPD.

3.5 Changes made to the Draft SPD as a result of the first stage of consultation from others can be summarised as follows:

   a. A definition of a Lambeth resident has been provided, namely a person of working age living in the London Borough of Lambeth, and that this applies at the time they start employment (i.e. they are considered a Lambeth resident if they are living in Lambeth at the time they begin employment and this is not affected if they subsequently move out of the borough during the course of their employment).

   b. Clarification that the Council will have regard to evidence on employment densities of end-users (where the end-user is not known at the planning application stage) using standard employment density benchmarks for the planning use class being applied for.
c. Clarification that benchmarks relating to floorspace will be considered on the basis of Gross Internal Area (GIA)

d. References to “unemployed” residents replaced with “out-of-work” residents in paragraph 6.9 of the draft SPD to provide clarity for the reason the Council has included the particular cost of training and support for a resident to find a job which has been used in the draft SPD.

e. Amendment to wording in paragraph 6.8 to be clear that the monetary contributions sought in paragraph 6.8 are in addition to those obligations sought in paragraphs 6.1-6.7.

f. Amendment to wording in paragraph 6.9 to show that the example is not “fully worked” and is just an example.

No changes were made to the draft SPD as a result of the second round of consultation.

3.6 In early January 2018 the three statutory consultees were consulted on the draft Screening Statement on the draft final SPD. All consultees responded to this consultation and continued to agree that it would be unlikely the draft final SPD would have significant environmental effects, and therefore a full SEA is not required.

4. Determination

4.1 Appendix 1 shows the results of the council’s SEA screening for Lambeth’s draft final Employment and Skills SPD. This screening demonstrates that the SPD is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment.

CONCLUSION

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

5.1 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 draft final SPD does not set new policy; rather the SPD provides further guidance on how implementing policies on employment and skills contained in the Lambeth Local Plan 2015. The three statutory bodies have been consulted throughout the SEA screening process and SPD plan making process. In January 2018 all three statutory consultees were consulted on the draft screening statement on the draft final SPD and all three responded to the consultation (see Appendix 2). All were in agreement that the draft final SPD is unlikely to have significant effects and a full SEA is not required. This screening statement concludes that the draft final Employment and Skills 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004</th>
<th>Is there significant environmental effect?</th>
<th>London Borough of Lambeth response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Characteristics of the draft final Employment and Skills SPD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(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</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>The SPD sets out obligations which will be sought from developers at the construction and end user phases of development to contribute towards a range of employment and training measures to mitigate impact of development and to ensure that local people can better access job opportunities arising from new development. The SPD makes no provision for the allocation of resources but it will help make resources available to fund projects to achieve adopted policies on employment, skills and training. 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 2015) which have been subject to full SA and SEA. An SPD also has to be consistent with the development plan further up the hierarchy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) The degree to which the SPD influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) The relevance of the SPD for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>The substantive content of the SPD is not relevant to the integration of environmental considerations because it is only concerned with one very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting sustainable development</td>
<td>Specific aspect of ‘economic’ infrastructure.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(d) Environmental problems relevant to the SPD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not applicable. The SPD relates to economic issues not environmental problems.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>The SPD provides guidance on the implementation of Lambeth Local Plan policies on employment and skills. No environmental effects are anticipated to result from implementation of the SPD.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(b) The cumulative nature of the effects of the SPD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>The SPD will not have effects of a cumulative nature other than possibly economically.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects of the SPD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>The SPD does not have any transboundary effects other than possibly economic effects.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(d) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accident)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>There is no reason to believe the draft SPD would cause a risk to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accident).</th>
</tr>
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</table>

(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographic area and size of the population likely to be affected) by the SPD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>The SPD is applicable to developments located within Lambeth and is aimed to bring economic benefit to the borough.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by the SPD due to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not applicable. The SPD is only concerned with managing/directing the economic impact of development and growth.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
- Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
- Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;
- Intensive landuse.

(g) The effects of the SPD on areas or landscapes which have recognised national community or international protected status

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<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>There are none of these areas in Lambeth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 2: SEA Screening Statement statutory consultee responses

Date: 16 January 2018
Our ref: 235860
Your ref: Lambeth Employment & Skills SPD.

Ms V Rodgers
Senior Planner
Planning, Transport and Development
Neighbourhoods & Growth
London Borough of Lambeth

BY EMAIL ONLY
VRodgers@lambeth.gov.uk

Dear Ms Rodgers

Employment and Skills Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Thank you for your email on the above dated and received by Natural England on 10th January 2018 advising us of the changes made to the SPD to date and requesting any further comments from Natural England.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Our remit includes protected sites and landscapes, biodiversity, geodiversity, soils, protected species, landscape character, green infrastructure and access to and enjoyment of nature.

Whilst we welcome this opportunity to give our views, the topic of the Supplementary Planning Document does not appear to relate to our interests to any significant extent. We therefore have no further comments at this time.

Should the plan be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment, then, please consult Natural England again.

Please send all planning consultations electronically to the consultation hub at consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Jenkins
Consultations Team
Dear Vanessa

I confirm that Historic England agrees with the conclusion of the screening report that SEA is not required.

Regards

Katharine

Katharine Fletcher
Historic Environment Planning Adviser
Historic England, London Office
4th Floor, Cannon Bridge House
25 Dowgate Hill
London EC4R 2YA

Direct dial: 020 79733771

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Help us create a list of the 100 places which tell England's remarkable story and its impact on the world. A History of England in 100 Places sponsored by Ecclesiastical.
Thank you for your comments in January 2017 on the draft Lambeth Employment and Skills SPD, and its draft initial SEA Screening Assessment, in which you sought no changes to the draft SPD and had no reason to disagree with the conclusion that SEA is not required.

As a statutory consultee, please find attached the draft Screening Statement on the SPD proposed for adoption (also attached) for your comment. Para 3.5 of the draft Screening Statement provides a summary of the changes made to the draft SPD in response to the first round of consultation (January 2017). In November 2017 a second round of consultation took place but did not result in any change to the draft SPD.

Given you previously agreed a full SEA would not be required; it is hoped that Historic England will continue to agree that a full SEA is not required.

Please may we request your comments on the draft SEA Screening Statement (most notably its conclusion that full SEA is not required) by Friday 19th January 2018.

Kind regards
Vanessa.

Vanessa Rodgers  
Senior Planner  
Planning, Transport and Development  
Neighbourhoods & Growth  
London Borough of Lambeth  
Tel: 020 7926 1249  
Email: VRodgers@lambeth.gov.uk  
Web: www.lambeth.gov.uk

Phoenix House 1st Floor  
10 Wandsworth Road  
London SW8 2LL  
Lambeth - a co-operative council

From: Muriithi, Charles <charles.muriithi@environment-agency.gov.uk>  
Sent: 23 January 2018 14:15  
To: Rodgers, Vanessa  
Subject: RE: Lambeth Employment and Skills SPD proposed for adoption and associated draft SEA Screening Statement

Dear Vanessa,

We responded to the draft initial SEA Screening Assessment in January 2017. We note that a second round of consultation took place in November 2017 but did not result in any change to the draft SPD. We are therefore in agreement with the conclusion of the draft screening statement that the Employment and Skills SPD proposed for adoption is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and full SEA is not required.

Kind regards

Charles Muriithi MRTPI  
Planning Specialist

Environment Agency  
Kent and South London
Direct dial 0203 263 8077
Direct e-mail charles.muriithi@environment-agency.gov.uk

Environment Agency, 3rd Floor, Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

Team email address: kslplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk

Creating a better place for people and wildlife