

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Screening Statement on the determination of the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal for the Residential Extensions and Alterations Supplementary Planning Document.

Introduction

- 1 Section 19(5) of the Planning Act 2008 removes the requirement for a sustainability appraisal report to be prepared for all Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). Regulations 2(5) and (6) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 reflects this change. However the Government has made clear that Local Planning Authorities will still need to screen their SPDs to ensure that legal requirements for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) are met where there are impacts that have not been covered in the appraisal of the parent Development Plan Document (DPD) or where an assessment is required by the SEA Directive. In accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) and under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations), Councils must carry out a SEA of land-use and spatial plans. Clause (10) of the SEA Directive requires SEA for plans which “determine the use of small areas at a local level” or, which are, “minor modifications” to plans, only when these are determined to be likely to cause significant environmental effects. This is transposed in the Regulations. Where the Council can demonstrate that any land-use or spatial plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (Regulation 9(3)), or where the proposed development is less than 0.5 hectares in area, a SEA will not be required. Therefore this document screens the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD to establish if SEA or SA is required.
- 2 The first stage in the SEA process is for the Council to determine whether or not a plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The regulations advise that this is determined by a screening process, which should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations). The results of this process must be summarised in an SEA screening statement, which must be publicly available.
- 3 The Council will consult with the specified environmental organisations (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency) on this Screening Statement for five weeks. The SEA Screening Statement should provide sufficient information to demonstrate whether the SPD is likely to have significant environmental effects. In the situation whereby it is concluded that there are not to be significant environmental effects and therefore no need for SEA this statement will clearly indicate the reasons for such a decision.

Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD

- 4 This SPD is Supplementary to policy BP8 of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Policy BP8 “Protecting residential amenity” and BP11 “Urban Design” and policy H22 “Extensions and Alterations” of the Unitary Development Plan. It contains design advice which applicants must follow when applying for planning permission for residential extensions and alterations.
- 5 The preparation of the SPD will involve the local community in line with the Requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 and in line with the Council’s adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Requirement for Screening

- 6 The preliminary assessment of whether or not SEA is required led to the conclusion that screening is necessary for the following reasons.
 - The SPD is subject to preparation and adoption by a Local Authority
 - The SPD is required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions
 - The SPD is prepared for town planning
- 7 The screening process set out in Regulation 9 and Schedule 1 of the Regulations includes two sets of characteristics for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. These relate firstly to the characteristics of the SPD and secondly to the characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected. There are a number of criteria relating to each of these characteristics, the answers to which are set out below.

Characteristics of the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD

1.	Criterion	Is there an effect?	Is there a significant environmental effect?	Justification
(a)	The degree to which the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	No	No	This SPD sits at the lowest tier of the development plan system. It does not set a framework for other plans and strategies. It supplements policy BP8 "Protecting residential amenity" and policy BP11 "Urban Design" of the Pre-Submission Borough Wide Development Policies DPD which has been subject to SA incorporating SEA
(b)	The degree to which the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD influences other plans and programmes including those in the hierarchy.	No	No	This SPD sits at the lowest tier of the development plan system. It does not influence other plans and programme. It supplements policy BP8 "Protecting residential amenity" and policy BP11 "Urban Design" of the Pre-Submission Borough Wide Development Policies DPD which has been subject to SA incorporating SEA
(c)	The relevance of the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	No	No	This SPD contains design advice which applicants must follow when applying for planning permission for residential extensions and alterations. Moreover the SPD supplements planning policy therefore in itself it will not have a significant effect.
(d)	Environmental problems relevant to the Residential Extensions and	Yes	No	This SPD contains design advice which applicants must follow when applying for planning permission

	Alterations SPD.			for residential extensions and alterations. Moreover the SPD supplements planning policy therefore in itself it will not have a significant effect.
(e)	The relevance of the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD to the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	No	No	This SPD contains design advice which applicants must follow when applying for planning permission for residential extensions and alterations. Moreover the SPD supplements planning policy therefore in itself it will not have a significant effect.

Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected

2	Criterion	Is there a significant environmental effect?	Justification
(a)	The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects of the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD	No	This SPD contains design advice which applicants must follow when applying for planning permission for residential extensions and alterations. Moreover the SPD supplements planning policy therefore in itself it will not have a significant effect.
(b)	The cumulative nature of the effects of the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD	No	This SPD contains design advice which applicants must follow when applying for planning permission for residential extensions and alterations. Moreover the SPD supplements planning policy

			therefore in itself it will not have a significant effect.
(c)	The trans-boundary nature of the effects of the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD	No	This SPD contains design advice which applicants must follow when applying for planning permission for residential extensions and alterations. Moreover the SPD supplements planning policy therefore in itself it will not have a significant effect.
(d)	The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents) of the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD	No	This SPD contains design advice which applicants must follow when applying for planning permission for residential extensions and alterations. Moreover the SPD supplements planning policy therefore in itself it will not have a significant effect.
(e)	The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected) by the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD	No	This SPD contains design advice which applicants must follow when applying for planning permission for residential extensions and alterations. Moreover the SPD supplements planning policy therefore in itself it will not have a significant effect. This guidance applies across the borough and potentially is relevant to every household who owns their own home.
(f)	The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD due to:	No	This SPD contains design advice which applicants must follow when applying for planning permission for residential extensions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values or (iii) intensive land use 		<p>and alterations. Moreover the SPD supplements planning policy therefore in itself it will not have a significant effect.</p>
(g)	The effects of the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	No	<p>This SPD contains design advice which applicants must follow when applying for planning permission for residential extensions and alterations. Moreover the SPD supplements planning policy therefore in itself it will not have a significant effect.</p>

Guidance on the Requirement for Sustainability Appraisal

- 8 *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* (ODPM 2005) states at page 79 that where the authority has made a determination that the plan is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects (and is therefore exempt from the SEA Directive) it must consider whether there are likely to be any significant social or economic effects.
- 9 The Council considers that the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD is unlikely to have significant social or economic effects beyond those of the policy it supplements, and there is no statutory reason to undertake an SA of this document, or that any practical value could come from it.
- 10 In reviewing these criteria the Council has been mindful that the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD does not present policies or proposals and serves only to expand on existing policy within the pre-submission Borough Wide Development Policies, which has already been subject to SA incorporating SEA.
- 11 On the basis of these characteristics the Council concludes that the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD is unlikely to have significant social or economic effects (beyond those of the policy it supplements),

Conclusion

- 12 The Council considers that neither a Strategic Environmental Assessment or a Sustainability Appraisal is necessary for the Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD as it is not likely, by itself, to have any significant environmental, social or economic effects.