

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Screening Statement on the determination of the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal for the Barking Station Masterplan 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 Barking Station Masterplan 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.

Barking Station Masterplan SPD

- 4 This SPD is supplementary to site allocation BTCSSA3 of the adopted Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan. The purpose of the SPD is to provide more detail to the policies and principles established in the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan for this particular site. The SPD sets out the need to improve the grade II listed station, the surrounding public realm and presents a number of development opportunities, which build on the areas existing historic assets. This document supplements policies in the Local Development Framework.
- 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 Barking Station Masterplan SPD sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	Yes	No	This SPD sits at the lowest tier of the development plan system. The SPD provides more detail to the policies and principles established in the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan (BTCAAP), particularly site allocation BTCSSA3. Together with the BTCAAP, it sets a framework and context for the preparation of planning applications by developers in this area. Its higher level plans, the Core Strategy and the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan have been subject to SA incorporating SEA.
(b)	The degree to which the Barking Station Masterplan 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 plans and strategies. It supplements site allocation BTCSSA3 in the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan which has been subject to SA incorporating SEA.
(c)	The relevance of Barking Station Masterplan SPD for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	No	No	The purpose of the SPD is to provide more detail to the policies and principles established in the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan for this particular site. Design principles which establish environmental principles are set in the higher level

				plans the Core Strategy and the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan.
(d)	Environmental problems relevant to the Barking Station Masterplan SPD.	Yes	No	Together with the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan, this SPD provides a context and framework within which applicants must work when preparing planning applications. The SPD supplements adopted planning policy and will itself not have a significant effect.
(e)	The relevance of the Barking Station SPD to the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	No	No	Together with the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan, this SPD provides a context and framework within which applicants must work when preparing planning applications. The SPD supplements adopted planning policy and will itself 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 Barking Station Masterplan SPD	No	Together with the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan, this SPD provides a context and framework within which applicants must work when preparing planning applications. The SPD supplements adopted planning policy and will itself not have a significant effect.
(b)	The cumulative nature of the effects of the Barking Station Masterplan SPD	No	Together with the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan, this SPD provides a context and framework within which applicants must work

			when preparing planning applications. The SPD supplements adopted planning policy and will itself not have a significant effect.
(c)	The trans-boundary nature of the effects of the Barking Station Masterplan SPD	No	Together with the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan, this SPD provides a context and framework within which applicants must work when preparing planning applications. The SPD supplements adopted planning policy and will itself not have a significant effect.
(d)	The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents) of the Barking Station Masterplan SPD	No	Together with the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan, this SPD provides a context and framework within which applicants must work when preparing planning applications. The SPD supplements adopted planning policy and will itself 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	<p>Together with the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan, this SPD provides a context and framework within which applicants must work when preparing planning applications. The SPD supplements adopted planning policy and will itself not have a significant effect.</p> <p>This guidance applies across the Barking Station area, an area of 7.9 hectares. It is relevant to all occupiers within the station area itself and potentially relevant to households and business occupiers in the wider town centre area.</p>
(f)	The value and vulnerability of the area	No	Together with the Barking Town Centre Area

	<p>likely to be affected by the Barking Station SPD due to:</p> <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>Action Plan, this SPD provides a context and framework within which applicants must work when preparing planning applications. The SPD supplements adopted planning policy and will itself not have a significant effect.</p> <p>The Barking Station area includes the grade II listed station building, the grade II listed Baptist Tabernacle, the locally listed Barking Tap public house on Linton Road and the locally listed Spotted Dog public house on Longbridge Road. The locally listed Barclays Bank building at 2 Station Parade falls just outside the boundary of the Barking Station area. The Barking Station Masterplan area also includes part of the Abbey and Barking Town Centre Conservation Area. The Barking Station Masterplan area identifies three sites which are suitable for tall buildings. This is in line with the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan which specifies that the Barking Station area as a whole is suitable for tall buildings but that they will need to conserve or enhance the setting of the grade II listed Barking Station and the grade II listed Barking Baptist Tabernacle. The Barking Station Masterplan SPD does identify a development site which is currently used as a car park adjacent to the grade II listed Baptist Tabernacle. The site allocation is clear that the site is inappropriate for any tall building and the</p>
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			proposal will reinstate the historic street alignment of Cambridge Road by providing a new residential and small office development. This will improve the setting of the grade II listed Baptist Tabernacle considerably.
(g)	The effects of the Barking Station SPD on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	No	The Barking Station Masterplan area is not a landscape with a recognised national community or international protection status.

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 Barking Station Masterplan 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 Barking Station Masterplan SPD does not present policies or proposals and serves only to expand on existing policy within the adopted Core Strategy and Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan, which have already been subject to SA incorporating SEA.
- 11 On the basis of these characteristics the Council concludes that the Barking Station Masterplan 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 Barking Station Masterplan SPD as it is not likely, by itself, to have any significant environmental, social or economic effects.