

Appendix E Screening Statement

On the determination of the need for a **Strategic Environmental Assessment** (SEA) in accordance with the *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004* and *European Directive 2001/42/EC* of the:

Finsbury Circus Conservation Area Draft Character Summary and Management Strategy SPD

June 2015



Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening for:

**Finsbury Circus Conservation Area
Draft Character Summary and Management Strategy SPD**

1 Purpose of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 1.1 The SEA Directive identifies the purpose of SEA as “ to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development” (Directive 2001/EC/42)
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is the process by which this Directive is applied to Local Plan documents. SA aims to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of plans.
- 1.3 The City’s Local Plan is subject to Sustainability Appraisal. However the 2008 Planning Act allows for Supplementary Planning Documents to be prepared without a full SA as long as they are screened to establish whether they will result in significant effects as defined by the SEA Directive.
- 1.4 The SEA Directive exempts plans and programmes from assessment “*When they determine the use of small areas at local level or are minor modifications to the above plans or programmes...*” and states that “ *....they should be assessed only where Member States determine that they are likely to have significant effects on the environment.*”
- 1.5 The criteria for determining the significance of effects are taken from schedule 1 (9 (2) (a) and 10 (4) (a) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and are defined in appendix 1. These can be split into the criteria related to (i) the scope and influence of the document (ii) the type of impact and area likely to be affected

2 Purpose of the Finsbury Circus Conservation Area Character Summary and Management Strategy SPD

- 2.1 The Finsbury Circus Conservation Area Character Summary and Management Strategy provides an understanding of the significance of the Conservation Area by identifying and analysing its principal characteristics. The Management Strategy sets out the Local Plan and London Plan policies which are particularly relevant to this Conservation Area.
- 2.2 This strategy is a Supplementary Planning Document which provides guidance regarding the City’s Local Plan policies for Design, Historic Environment and Protected Views.
- 2.3 This Character Summary and Management Strategy provides supplementary guidance regarding the local application of London Plan and Local Plan policies in this part of the City. The London Plan and City of London Local Plan have been evaluated through the SA and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) screening process, which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive, and have been found to be sound

3 SEA Screening Procedure

- 3.1 The Responsible Authority (the City of London Corporation) must determine whether the plan or program under assessment is likely to have significant environmental effects. This 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 Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.

3.2 Where the Responsible Authority determines that the plan or programme is unlikely to have significant environmental effects, and therefore does not need to be subject to full Strategic Environmental Assessment, it must prepare a statement showing the reasons for this determination.

3.3 Appendix 1 shows the results of this screening process for the Finsbury Circus Conservation Area Character Summary and Management Strategy SPD.

4 Screening and Consultation Outcome

4.1 This screening demonstrates that the Finsbury Circus Conservation Area Character Summary and Management Strategy SPD is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment. Therefore it will not be necessary to carry out a full SA/SEA on this document.

4.2 Each of the statutory consultees has been consulted on this initial screening statement and their responses are summarised below:

Consultee	Response
Environment Agency	No comment
Natural England	Natural England does not consider that the Foster Lane Conservation Area Strategy and Management Plan or the Finsbury Circus Conservation Area Strategy and Management Plan poses any likely risk or opportunity in relation to our statutory purpose, and so does not wish to comment on this consultation.
Historic England	Historic England welcomes these documents which we consider thorough and accurate, and in accordance with the requirement for local planning authorities to review conservation areas (Section 69 (2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the NPPF requirement to ensure Plans are kept up to date.

5 Determination: The Finsbury Circus Conservation Area Character Summary and Management Strategy SPD is unlikely to have significant effects on the wider environment since it provides guidance on the implementation of Local Plan policies which will have largely positive impacts. Therefore it will not be necessary to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment on this SPD

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

SEA Directive Criteria Schedule 1 Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Summary of significant effects
1. Characteristics of the Finsbury Circus SPD having particular regard to:	
(a) The degree to which the SPD sets out a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size or operating conditions or by allocating resources	The Finsbury Circus SPD will provide guidance to supplement the Local Plan which is the overarching framework for development in the City. It will not allocate resources but will provide additional guidance to assist in development management in the Finsbury Circus conservation area, making sure that the historic significance of the area is conserved
(b) The degree to which the SPD influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	This SPD should influence the implementation of individual schemes within the Finsbury Circus Conservation Area. However this will be in line with policy in the Local Plan which was subject to full sustainability appraisal.
(c) The relevance of the SPD for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The Finsbury Circus Conservation Area SPD is in line with Policy CS 12 of the Local Plan and the management strategy provides additional guidance on the issues of environmental enhancement, sustainability and climate change, transport, open spaces, trees, soft landscaping and archaeology, which support the Local Plan approach to these issues. The Planning Inspector's report of the Local Plan examination stated that the Local Plan has taken account of the sustainability appraisal which was adequate.
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the SPD	The Finsbury Circus Conservation Area SPD management strategy provides guidance on the implementation of the Local Plan's policies regarding sustainability and climate change identifying particular issues which affect the Finsbury Circus area.
(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)	The SPD will have a positive impact in line with Community legislation regarding climate change, energy, air quality, flood risk and biodiversity and will therefore contribute to local implementation of this legislation.

SEA Directive criteria Schedule 1 Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Summary of significant effects
2 Characteristics of the effects and area likely to be affected having particular regard to:	
(a)The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The aim of the Finsbury Circus Conservation Area SPD is to identify the historically important features of the area with a view to ensuring their conservation and enhancement in line with Policy CS12. Therefore any sustainability effects of this SPD are likely to be positive, in line with the findings of the SA of Policy CS12
(b)The cumulative nature of the effects of the SPD	The impact of this SPD is likely to be positive, affecting a small area at local level, therefore it is anticipated that any cumulative impacts will tend to be positive.
(c)The trans boundary nature of the effects of the SPD	This SPD will cover a relatively small area at local level therefore it is unlikely to have any trans boundary effects
(d)The risks to human health or the environment (eg due to accident)	There are no perceived risks to human health from this SPD.
(e)The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographic area and size of the population likely to be affected) by the SPD	This SPD covers a small area and will only have local impacts. The area has a low residential population but a significant number of people either work in the area or pass through it daily. The conservation of the historic environment in this area will not adversely affect these populations.
(f)The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by the SPD due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage • Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values • Intensive land use 	This SPD applies to the Finsbury Circus conservation area, the historic and cultural characteristics of which it aims to identify and enhance.
(g)The effects of the SPD on areas or landscapes which have recognised national Community or international protected status	No national, Community or international protected sites will be affected by this SPD since it covers a small area of the City which is a site of local importance for nature conservation rather than a nationally designated site. Implementation of this SPD will have positive impacts on nature conservation at Finsbury Circus. This SPD aims to conserve and enhance the historic landscape including protection of historic views.