

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:

City Public Realm Supplementary Planning Document

November 2015



**Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening for:
City Public Realm Supplementary Planning Document (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 City Public Realm SPD

- 2.1 The Key objectives of this strategy are to provide over-arching advice for all those with an interest in the public realm. The City Public Realm SPD is to be used to co-ordinate and guide the management, design and improvement of the City’s streets. It is intended to be used by officers of the City Corporation, occupiers, external organisations, consultants, and developers who influence, or have an interest in the City’s streets
- 2.2 This strategy is a Supplementary Planning Document which provides guidance regarding the City’s Local Plan policies for the design and management of the spaces between buildings irrespective of ownership or management.
- 2.3 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. This document provides details of how the City will apply the London Plan and Local Plan policies associated with the design and management of the spaces between buildings.

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 City Public Realm SPD

4 Screening and Consultation Outcome

4.1 This screening demonstrates that the City Public Realm 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

Consultee
Environment Agency
Natural England
Historic England

5 Determination: The City Public Realm 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 City Public Realm 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	This SPD sets out the City's expectations for the spaces between buildings. It will not determine location, nature, size or operating conditions or allocate resources for individual public realm enhancement projects.
(b) The degree to which the SPD influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	This SPD will influence the design of individual environmental enhancement projects within the City in line with Local Plan policy. The Local Plan has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal and was found to be sound.
(c) The relevance of the SPD for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	Aim 6 of this SPD is "More sustainable streets and spaces" and Aim 7 is "Supporting and encouraging good health, well-being and healthy lifestyles" Both these aims will lead to the integration of environmental considerations such as climate change resilience, air quality improvement and effective waste management into the City's public realm.
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the SPD	The City of London is an air quality management area for nitrogen dioxides and fine particulates. It is vulnerable to the effects of climate change and the urban heat island effect including the impact of climate change on biodiversity and flood risk. Litter and waste management are also potential problems on the City's streets. This SPD will help to alleviate these problems through improved design of the public realm.
(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 guidance in this SPD will assist in implementing Community legislation in line with the City of London Local Plan.

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 implementation of this SPD will impact on the design of the City's Streets and spaces between buildings over the next 5-10 years as the City's street scene strategies are implemented. Impacts are likely to be positive however they would be reversible if necessary.
(b)The cumulative nature of the effects of the SPD	This SPD will be applied to works implemented through the City's Street Scene Strategies, the cumulative impact of which will be improved public spaces within the City.
(c)The trans boundary nature of the effects of the SPD	This SPD is unlikely to have any trans-boundary impacts.
(d)The risks to human health or the environment (eg due to accident)	The implementation of this SPD is likely to have positive impacts on human health and the local environment through its promotion of more sustainable streets and support for health improvement measures.
(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 the City of London geographic area which is approximately one square mile. It has a resident population of under 10K and a working population of over 370K who will be affected by the design of the City's streets. This SPD should result in positive impacts
(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 area includes 26 conservation areas and over 600 listed buildings which will be protected through application of Aim 5 "protecting heritage and ensuring continuity" The City is an air quality management area for nitrogen dioxide and fine particulates which will be addressed through Aim 6 "more sustainable streets and spaces" Land use in the City is very intensive – this SPD aims to improve the use and design of the spaces between the buildings.
(g)The effects of the SPD on areas or landscapes which have recognised national Community or international protected status	Views of nationally important landmarks in and near the City will continue to be protected through the implementation of this SPD.