

SA/SEA ADOPTION STATEMENT: LOCAL PLAN PARTIAL REVIEW



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Date of adoption: 11 September 2019

Introduction

This statement has been prepared in compliance with the post adoption procedures of the Sustainability appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) processes as set out in Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

In accordance with European and national legislation, development plans must be subject to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) processes. A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) aims to predict and assess the economic, social and environmental effects that are likely to arise from implementing development plans.

In line with best practice, Kensington and Chelsea fulfilled the requirement of the SA and SEA processes by producing an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), which also considers health and equalities impacts. The IIA reports assess the likely significant effects of the LPPR (and alternative options) against identified sustainability objectives and sets out mitigation measures for any negative environmental impacts identified.

Local Plan Partial Review (LPPR) Adoption

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea adopted its Local Plan Partial Review (LPPR) Publication Policies on 11 September 2019. The LPPR, adoption statement and the associated Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) incorporating the Sustainability Appraisal can be viewed on the [planning policy pages](#) of the Council's website or at the Council's Offices (Kensington Town Hall, W8 7NX) during normal office hours.

Role of the IIA in the LPPR preparation

This statement presents the required information under the headings provided under Regulation 16(4) of the SEA Regulations,

(a) How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;

Issues and Options – A [Scoping Report](#) setting out the baseline information, scope of the assessment and methodology to be applied was published alongside an Issues and Options document for public consultation in December 2015. This report set out the key sustainability issues in the Borough. Statutory consultees such as Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency, and the public were invited to comment on the contents of the Scoping Report to help shape development of the IIA.

Draft Plan – An [Updated Scoping Report](#) was published reflecting comments received as part of the Issues and Options consultation from statutory consultees. A full [Interim IIA Report](#) was published alongside the Draft LPPR Policies assessing the sustainability impacts (including environmental impacts) of the objectives, policies, site allocations and identified reasonable alternatives. This report influenced the decision on the preferred policy approach. Early publication of this report allowed consultees to make representations on the

assessments and to suggest other reasonable alternatives for future consideration and assessment.

Publication and Submission - Further assessment against the identified sustainability objectives were carried out on the various iterations of the preferred options and reported in an update [IIA Submission Report](#). Where sustainability issues were identified, the mitigating effect of other policies was assessed and further mitigation measures were promoted where appropriate.

Examination – A number of [Proposed Modifications](#) (SUB 6) were proposed to the Submission Version of the LPPR during the examination hearing. Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017 the Council decided to end estate regeneration projects in the borough and propose further modifications. These modifications were set out in the [Further Proposed Modifications](#) (CED004) and [Further Proposed Modification 2](#) (CED009). All modifications arising before and after the examination hearings were screened and an assessment of any additional sustainability impacts was published in an [IIA Addendum Report](#) (July 2019). In assessing the LPPR the [Inspector's Report](#) noted:

“The IIA has assessed the likely environmental, social and economic effects of the Plan accurately, tested the plan, its allocations and policies against reasonable alternatives and it is evident that it has influenced the policies and mitigation measures”. (Inspector's Report, Para 159, p.41)

In relation to post hearing modifications, the report states:

“Following the examination hearings, the Council prepared a schedule of proposed MMs and carried out sustainability appraisal of them in the form of an Integrated Impact Assessment. The MMs schedule was subject to public consultation for eight weeks between 23 July and 17 September 2018. I have taken account of the consultation responses in coming to my conclusions in this report and I have made some amendments to the detailed wording of the MMs. None of the amendments significantly alters the content of the modifications as published for consultation or undermines the participatory processes and sustainability appraisal that have been undertaken. Where necessary I have highlighted these amendments in the report.” (Inspector's Report Para 6, p. 5)

(b) How the environmental report has been taken into account

The conclusions of the LPPR's preferred approach were broadly very positive in terms of the environmental, social and economic criteria as tested through the IIA Framework. This is especially true once the mitigating impact of other policies within the LPPR have been taken into account. This is of course a positive outcome and suggests that the Council's policy approach is also beneficial in terms of sustainability criteria. The [IIA Report - Submission Version](#), May 2017 (pp. 100-103, SUB 72,) outlines the policy recommendations arising from the IIA Report and the Council's response to those.

The assessment of the potential site allocations sets out comprehensive mitigation options in relation to the negative impacts outlined in the assessments. Some of these mitigation measures have already been undertaken given the fact that many sites have planning permission. Many mitigating measures outlined involve further assessment work to help mitigate potential negative effects identified. The Local Plan policies provide a broad high level planning policy framework. The mitigation measures identified are suited to more detailed actions, which can only be afforded at the planning application stage or through further planning guidance such as an SPD.

Full details of how the findings of each of the IIA reports were taken into account in the development of policy can be found in the [IIA Reports](#).

(c) How opinions expressed as a result of consultation have been taken into account

The Council's approach to consultation on the IIA process has been to publish IIA Reports as early in the plan making process as possible to allow stakeholders and statutory consultees the opportunity to comment and shape the iterative IIA process. The Council undertook extensive consultation with all stakeholders, including the statutory environmental consultees.

There were a number of responses relating to the IIA Reports at each stage of plan making process. These are set out in the [Consultation Statement \(May 2017\)](#) along with the Council response explaining how the comment was been taken into account in the development of the LPPR.

(d) Any trans-boundary consultations with other Member States

No trans-boundary consultations with other Member States were deemed necessary for this document.

(e) Reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with

The Policy Formulation Reports ([available here](#)) for each topic area of the LPPR alongside the [IIA Submission Report](#) demonstrate that all reasonable alternatives have been considered and assessed against the preferred policy option. Reasons are provided for the selection of each preferred policy option alongside reasons why reasonable alternatives were rejected (see relevant Policy Formulation Reports for details). The Council believes that the LPPR will shape development in a sustainable way over the plan period. This conclusion was supported by the Inspector in his final report following the examination process.

(f) Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme

The monitoring strategy for the Council's Local Plan is set out in the Monitoring Section of the LPPR. This chapter lays out a comprehensive set of monitoring indicators and data sources to monitor the environmental impacts of the LPPR. This will enable the significant effects (including negative effects) of implementing the Plan to be monitored. The Council's Monitoring Report sets out the performance of planning policies against various indicators including environmental factors on an annual basis.