

SA/SEA ADOPTION STATEMENT: NEW LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Date of adoption: 24 July 2024



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

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 Council 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 NLPR (and alternative options) against identified sustainability objectives and sets out mitigation measures for any negative environmental impacts identified.

New Local Plan Review (NLPR) Adoption

The Council adopted its New Local Plan Review (NLPR) Publication Policies on 24 July 2024 which will be known as Local Plan 2024. The NLPR (with the necessary Main Modifications as appended to the Inspectors Report), adoption statement and the associated Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) incorporating the Sustainability Appraisal can be viewed on the [Local Plan page](#) 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 NLPR 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 July 2021. 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 [Interim IIA Report](#) was published alongside the Draft NLPR Policies (February 2022) 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.

Publication and Submission - Further assessment against the identified sustainability objectives were carried out on the various iterations of the preferred options and reported in the [Final IIA Stage C 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 Modifications were proposed to the Submission Version of the NLPR during, and following, the examination hearings. All modifications arising before and after the examination hearings were screened and an assessment of any additional sustainability impacts was published in a [Post Examination Addendum](#) (January 2024), and the associated [updated IIA Report](#) (January 2024). In assessing the NLPR the [Inspector's Report](#) noted:

The Council carried out an IIA of the Plan, which included a sustainability appraisal, health impact assessment, and equalities impact assessment of the Plan, prepared a report of the findings of the appraisal, and published the report along with the plan and other submission documents under regulation 19. (para 29, page 10)

In relation to post hearing modifications, the report states:

Following the examination hearings, the Council prepared a schedule of proposed MMs and carried out further Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of them. The MM schedule was subject to public consultation for six weeks. I have taken account of the consultation responses in coming to my conclusions in this report and in this light, I have made some amendments to the detailed wording of the MMs and added consequential modifications where these are necessary for consistency or clarity. None of the amendments significantly alters the content of the MMs as published for consultation or undermines the participatory processes and sustainability appraisal/habitats regulations assessment that has been undertaken. Where necessary I have highlighted these amendments in the report. (Para 5, page 6)

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

After the assessment of each proposed policy and site allocation and reasonable alternatives against each SA/SEA framework objective, the Council's [Final IIA Stage C report](#) concludes that the NLPR is an appropriate strategy and that the proposed policies and site allocations all result in less uncertain outcomes, less negative impacts and more significant positives impacts than identified alternatives. No amendments to proposed policies and site allocations were required as a result of the SA/SEA assessment. [The Part D, final IIA assessment](#) includes an assessment of a number of main modifications suggested to the Inspector. The conclusions do not differ.

Table 10.1 of the [Final IIA Stage C report](#) considered each of the IIA objectives, and suggested proposed mitigation and enhancement measures. The majority of these were associated with project level and design and assessment.

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 \(January 2023\)](#) along with the Council response explaining how the comment was been taken into account in the development of the NLPR.

(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 NLPR alongside the [Final IIA Stage C 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 NLPR will shape development in a sustainable way over the plan period. This conclusion was supported by the Inspector in her 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 NLPR. This chapter lays out a comprehensive set of monitoring indicators and data sources to monitor the environmental impacts of the NLPR. 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.