

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats
Regulation Assessment Screening Report
(including Equality Impact Assessment)

for the

Development Contributions Supplementary
Planning Document

and the

Parking Supplementary Planning Document



Elmbridge
Borough Council
... bridging the communities ...



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Executive Summary

- 1.1 Elbridge Borough Council is currently producing two Supplementary Planning Documents as part of its existing Local Plan. The Development Contributions Supplementary Planning Document and the Parking Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- 1.2 This report details the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment and a full Habitats Regulations Assessment to be produced to accompany the SPDs. It also discusses whether an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for each SPD.

Introduction

- 1.3 This report is designed to determine whether the Development Contributions Supplementary Planning Document and the Parking Supplementary Planning Document requires:
 - A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and
 - An assessment against the Habitats Regulations to establish whether there would be any significant effects on European site(s).
 - An Equality Impact Assessment to assess the impact of new or changed services, strategies and policies.

Purpose and Content of the SPDs

Parking SPD

- 1.1 The aim of this SPD is to ensure that all new developments provide well-designed vehicle and cycle parking, in order to avoid the problems and issues associated with the provision of inadequate or poorly designed parking for vehicles and cycles.
- 1.2 The SPD also seeks to support the aims of both local and national policy in relation to parking. At a national level this includes an emphasis on good design and sustainability. At a local level this document provides further

detail to supplement the policies of the adopted Core Strategy 2011, particularly Policy CS25 Travel and Accessibility, and the Elmbridge Borough Council Development Management Plan 2015, specifically Policy DM7 Access and parking, along with the Parking Standards found in appendix 1 of this plan.

- 1.3 This SPD encourages the provision of good quality designed development by setting out clear requirements and guidance with regards to all types of parking when designing new developments.

Development Contributions SPD

- 1.4 The Development Contributions Supplementary Planning Document provides greater detail on the practical application of the relevant policies and aims of the Local Plan to bring together the Council's approach to seeking contributions from new development to address the cumulative impacts on infrastructure, Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) and to deliver affordable housing.
- 1.5 There are currently two mechanisms enabling the delivery of these goals - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Planning Obligations. This SPD is an update of its original version 'Development Contributions Supplementary Planning Document' published in April 2012 and has been developed to assist applicants, developers and residents in understanding how these mechanisms are applied in Elmbridge.

SEA Screening

- 1.6 The adopted Core Strategy 2011 and the Development Management Plan 2015 provide the framework for the SPDs and were the subject of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (incorporating SEA). The following sets out those policies that SPDs are providing further guidance on and that were included in the SA/SEA process:

Development Contributions SPD

Core Strategy (2011) CS13: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area

Core Strategy (2011) CS21: Affordable housing

Core Strategy (2011) CS28: Implementation and Delivery

Parking SPD

Core Strategy (2011) CS25: Travel and Accessibility.

Development Management Plan (2015) DM7: Access and Parking

- 1.7 The Core Strategy and Development Management Plan can be found on the council website at:

<https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/>

- 1.8 With regard to the need for SA (inc.SEA) for SPDs, the National Planning Policy Guidance (Reference ID: 11-008-20140306) states that:

“Supplementary planning documents do not require a sustainability appraisal but may in exceptional circumstances require a strategic environmental assessment if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already have been assessed during the preparation of the Local Plan.

‘A strategic environmental assessment is unlikely to be required where a supplementary planning document deals only with a small area at a local level (see regulation 5(6) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004), unless it is considered that there are likely to be significant environmental effects.

‘Before deciding whether significant environment effects are likely, the local planning authority should take into account the criteria specified in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and consult the consultation bodies”.

- 1.9 The following table therefore assesses the proposed SPDs in relation to Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations to determine whether they would have a significant effect on the environment.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment The characteristics of the plan having regard to:	Potential effects of the SPD	Is there a likely significant effect?
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	Both SPDs will provide guidance on how to apply policy set in the adopted Local Plan (Core Strategy policies and Development Management Plan). It does not establish new policy. The adopted Local Plan was prepared with continuous, iterative input from the SA (inc. SEA). The Local Plan (Core Strategy and Development Management	No

<p>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</p> <p>The characteristics of the plan having regard to:</p>	<p>Potential effects of the SPD</p>	<p>Is there a likely significant effect?</p>
	<p>Plan was considered sound by an independent Inspector.</p>	
<p>(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;</p>	<p>The SPDs sit in a hierarchy of documents. They do not directly affect any other plans or programmes but are influenced by the Core Strategy 2011 and the Development Management Plan 2015 and other higher tier planning policy documents such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;</p>	<p>The adopted Local Plan and other higher- level policies set the context for achieving sustainable development in the borough. The SPDs will not change the higher-level policy requirements which have, in themselves, been subject to SA (inc. SEA), but do provide further guidance on the implementation of these policies and through this the promotion of sustainable development.</p> <p>The SPDs will assist with meeting many of the SA (inc. SEA) objectives. Please see the SA report which presents the detailed assessment for CS13, CS21, CS25 and CS28.</p> <p>Given the topics in the SPDs, it is not likely that there would be any significant environmental effects arising from them.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and</p>	<p>The Core Strategy SA Report identified that policies CS13, CS21, CS25 and CS28 would have positive impacts against a number of SA objectives.</p> <p>The SPDs will provide further guidance and reinforce relevant parts of these policies.</p>	<p>No</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment The characteristics of the plan having regard to:	Potential effects of the SPD	Is there a likely significant effect?
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	It is unlikely that there would be any significant environmental effects resulting from the further guidance relating to parking provision and development contributions.	No
Characteristics of the effects likely having regard, in particular, to: (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	The SPDs include guidance to support the policies in the Local Plan. The evidence to support the SA (inc. SEA) for the emerging Local Plan continues to be updated to consider the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects.	No
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	There are no likely cumulative effects that would result from the production of the SPDs.	No
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	There will be no transboundary effects (in relation to other EU member states).	No
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);	There are unlikely to be any significant risks to human health.	No
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The spatial extent of the SPDs will be the borough boundary.	No
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to –	The value and vulnerability of the area covered by the SPDs has been	No

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment The characteristics of the plan having regard to:	Potential effects of the SPD	Is there a likely significant effect?
(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or. (iii) intensive land-use; and	considered as part of the SA (inc. SEA) of the Local Plan. The SPDs will provide further guidance and reinforce relevant parts of the policies.	
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	The content of the SPDs does not present any impacts on any areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	No

SEA Conclusion

- 1.10 The proposed SPDs have similar scope in that they will provide additional detail and guidance to supplement policies in the Core Strategy 2011 and Development Management Plan 2015 and will not contain any new policies or proposals or influence the delivery or spatial distribution of development.
- 1.11 Following consultation with the three statutory consultees (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England), Historic England replied concluding that an SEA is not required. (Please see appendix 1 for the response). No other responses were received.

Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening and Conclusion

- 1.12 A Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) screening report was undertaken for the adopted Local Plan (the Core Strategy 2011 and Development Management Plan 2015).
- 1.13 The HRA for the adopted Local Plan (the Core Strategy 2011 and Development Management Plan 2015) concluded that there were no likely

significant effects arising on European sites, either alone, or in combination with other plans and projects as a result of the Local Plan. The Local Plan 2011-2029 contains an adequate policy framework to avoid or adequately mitigate effects on European sites. The Local Plan (2011-2029) did not therefore require full Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations.

- 1.14 Given that the SPDs do not introduce new planning policy, the SPDs, alone or in combination with other plans and programmes, are not likely to have significant effects on any European site.

Equality Impact Assessment and Conclusion

- 1.15 Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs) are carried out on certain new or changed services, strategies and policies. The aim of EqIAs is to identify any potential barriers or discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and good relations between different groups. No new policy or changed services in being introduced for both SPDs and hence an equality impact assessment is not required for these documents.

Appendix 1: Response from Historic England



Our ref: PL00653840
Your ref:

Telephone 020 7973 3700
Email e-seast@historicengland.org.uk

Date 19 December 2019

Elmbridge Borough Council Development Contributions Supplementary Planning Document and Parking Supplementary Planning Document
Strategic Environmental Appraisal Screening Opinion

Thank you for your email dated 13 December 2019 consulting Historic England on your intention of carrying out a SEA for the above plans.

In light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, our view is that a SEA is not required in this instance for the reason set out in paragraph 1.10 of the Screening Report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Byrne".

Alan Byrne
Historic Environment Planning Adviser



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