



**Strategic
Environmental
Assessment (SEA) of
the Waltham Forest
Local Flood Risk
Management Strategy**

SEA Adoption
Statement

March 2015

Prepared for:

The London Borough of
Waltham Forest

REVISION SCHEDULE					
1	March 2015	SEA 'Adoption Statement' published alongside the Waltham Forest LFRMS	Chris Eves Consultant	Mark Fessey Principal Consultant	Steve Smith Technical Director

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF) adopted the Waltham Forest Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRS) on 21st April 2015. Work to develop the LFRMS was undertaken by LBWF between 2014 and 2015. URS was commissioned to lead on a parallel process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- 1.1.2 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of a draft strategy, and alternatives, with a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse environmental effects and maximising the positives.
- 1.1.3 It is a requirement that SEA involves a series of procedural steps. The final step in the process involves preparing a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption with a view to explaining:
- 1 – The 'story' of plan-making / SEA up to the point of adoption; and
 - 2 – Measures decided concerning the monitoring of plan implementation.
- 1.1.4 This Adoption Statement considers (1) and (2) in turn.

2 THE PLAN-MAKING / SEA 'STORY'

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Essentially, SEA fed-into and informed plan-making in two ways:

- 1 – Appraisal of alternatives informed preparation of the draft plan.
- 2 – Appraisal of the draft plan informed plan finalisation.

2.1.2 This Chapter considers each plan-making / SEA step in turn.

2.1.3 In line with regulatory requirements, there is a focus on explaining the plan-makers' reasons for choosing the preferred approach in-light of SEA findings (and consultation responses), and hence the way in which plan-making involved the integration of environmental / sustainability considerations.¹

2.2 Step 1 – Appraisal of alternatives (to inform preparation of the draft plan)

2.2.1 In autumn 2014, prior to finalisation of the draft plan, there was an appraisal of alternative approaches to addressing six area-wide policy issues.

2.2.2 Appraisal findings were then published in the SEA Report published alongside the draft plan, in January 2015. The SEA Report also explained the Council's reasons for selecting / developing the preferred approach subsequent to and in-light alternatives appraisal. This information was presented within 'Part 2' of the SEA Report, which answered the question: *'What has plan-making / SA involved up to this stage?'*

2.2.3 Alternative approaches were appraised for the following six area-wide policy issues: SuDs measures in new developments; Mitigation in Critical Drainage Areas; Enhancing the natural environment; Water quality in the Dagenham Brook; Ditch clearance; Gully clearance. In many instances, the Council agreed with the appraisal findings and ensured that they were reflected in the preferred policy approach. There were no instances of the Council's preferred approach clearly conflicting with the SEA findings.

2.3 Step 2 – Appraisal of the draft plan (to inform plan finalisation)

2.3.1 The draft version that was published for consultation in January 2015 was subject to appraisal. The appraisal was presented within the SEA Report under seven headings; one for each of the sustainability objectives established through scoping. It is clear from our assessment that the LFRMS should deliver benefits against all of the SEA topics covered.

2.3.2 In particular the strategy is likely to lead to benefits in terms of the mitigation of flood risk throughout the borough and improvements in water quality in the Dagenham Brook. In addition, the strategy is expected to lead to wider environmental improvements, for instance through the incorporation of SuDS in private developments and the enhancement of the natural environment in relation to flood risk management works where possible.

2.3.3 No major recommendations were put forward at this stage, although opportunities were identified for further work on some issues with a view to adding further detail to the strategy. For example, further work could be undertaken to understand how green infrastructure opportunities could be better maximised and targeted (e.g. the strategic use of SuDS that deliver numerous cobenefits beyond flood risk). However, limitations in the time and resources available to undertake this work were recognised.

2.3.4 Subsequent to the draft plan / SEA Report consultation the plan was finalised. No further SEA work was undertaken, however, as it was recognised that the issues that were a focus of modifications were minor from an SEA perspective.

¹ The information to be provided in the Adoption Statement is listed in Article 9 of the SEA Directive / Regulation 16 of the Regulations.

3 MEASURES DECIDED CONCERNING MONITORING

- 3.1.1 The monitoring recommendations presented within the SEA Report were as follows:
- Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence or water quality grounds
 - Percentage of flooding incidents reported through the call centre that are answered within target timescales
 - Percentage of gully's cleansed in accordance with targets set out in gully cleansing programme
 - Change in water quality in the Dagenham Brook
- 3.1.2 The Council will monitor these indicators over the plan period.