

Report



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Report for – London Borough of Waltham Forest
Local Implementation Plan 3 (2019)
Strategic Environmental Assessment
Post-Adoption Statement



Document version control

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Report for: **London Borough of Waltham Forest**

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Contents

1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Purpose of the SEA Post-Adoption Statement	1
1.2	London Borough of Waltham Forest’s Local Implementation Plan.	1
2.0	The Strategic Environmental Assessment	2
2.1	Integrating environmental considerations into the Plan	2
2.2	Taking account of the Environmental Report	2
2.3	Taking Account of Stakeholder opinions	3
3.0	Alternatives	4
4.0	Monitoring significant environmental effects	5

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the SEA Post-Adoption Statement

This post-adoption statement sets out how the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process, the impacts and suggested mitigation or enhancement and the views of stakeholders have been considered in the adopted Waltham Forest's third Local Implementation Plan (LIP3) for the borough. Waltham Forest's LIP3 sets out the priorities and proposals to support and implement the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy (MTS). The statement also outlines the measures for monitoring the environmental effects associated with the implementation of the plan.

1.2 London Borough of Waltham Forest's Local Implementation Plan.

The Waltham Forest LIP3 was adopted by the Council in May 2019. The Council subsequently commenced delivery of the LIP3.

Copies of the Waltham Forest LIP3, as adopted, its accompanying Environmental Report, and in due course this Statement may be viewed or and downloaded from www.walthamforest.gov.uk.

Alternatively, the plan and accompanying documents may be obtained from: Waltham Forest Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow E17 4JF

2.0 The Strategic Environmental Assessment

2.1 Integrating environmental considerations into the Plan

The LIP3 was subject to a process of environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), known as the 'SEA Regulations'. The process of environmental assessment requires identification of the significant effects of a plan or programme on the environment against a baseline situation. These effects were identified in the Environmental Report prepared for the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

The environmental effects of the draft Waltham Forest LIP3 were identified and analysed through use of the TfL/ GLA framework which was developed to satisfy SEA requirements for plans and strategies produced by the Mayor of London. This framework sets out objectives against 11 topics and was used to assess the LTP's objectives

The SEA concluded that no significant adverse environmental effects will result from the implementation of the LIP3 in Waltham Forest. As such, no specific recommendations for the mitigation of effects were required. All the effects identified were either considered to have no impact or will be positive. In a few cases, the LIP3 may have positive or negative effects but the level of information available at a time of assessment did not allow a clear judgement to be made.

The assessment did identify where positive effects can be strengthened for some of the objectives and these were described in the Environmental Report.

It can be considered that it is not surprising or unusual that there was a lack of adverse environmental effects identified in the SEA of the LIP3; this could be expected given that the Local Implementation Plans (LIPs) prepared by the boroughs are the local-level means for implementing the Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS) and the MTS was subject to a comprehensive Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)¹. The IIA considered a range of alternatives and interventions at a strategic level and enhanced the sustainability of the MTS policies. Therefore, as the LIP3 needs to align with the MTS it would be expected to reflect these positive outcomes.

2.2 Taking account of the Environmental Report

The SEA process was how the drafting and detail of the LIP3 could be influenced in terms of environmental considerations. The Environmental Report was published by the LB Waltham Forest and was available for public comment during the consultation. Section 5 of the report set out the assessment of the draft LIP3 using the TfL / GLA framework referred to above.

The Consultation Report on the draft LIP3 set out the consultation comments received, the Council's response to these and identified some minor changes planned to be made to the final LIP. The report did not identify any specific comments or changes about environmental effects or enhancement. As no significant changes have been made to the LIP3 because of the consultation, all identified environmental effects remained valid.

As the SEA identified that the environmental effects of the draft LIP3 would either have no impact or be positive, and as no negative effects were identified, then no specific changes were required

¹ See IIA documents available here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/publications-and-reports/travel-in-london-reports#mtsevidence>

to address these. The proposals for enhancement of the environmental effects sought to ensure that the existing proposals in the LIP3 would be further enhanced where possible.

2.3 Taking Account of Stakeholder opinions

2.3.1 Statutory Consultees

The Scoping Report for the SEA² was forwarded to the statutory consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) by the Waltham Forest in November 2018. The Environmental Report took account of the comments received from these bodies on the Scoping Report where provided. This included consideration of the borough characterisation study outlined in the Heritage section and updates to the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. Natural England responded to the consultation indicating it had no comments to make. The Environment Agency (EA) responded to the consultation indicating that it was not possible to provide bespoke comments to each local authority and that instead a generic checklist of issues was provided identifying those issues which the EA wished to see in local transport plans and their SEAs. This checklist was referred to in the preparation of the Environmental Report.

2.3.2 Other consultees

The Environmental Report was published for consultation with the public and other interested parties and organisations alongside the draft LIP3 and additional documents as identified above. The consultation ran for a 6-week period in early 2019. No specific comments were received on the Environmental Report. A consultation report on the LIP3 documenting the comments received and the Council's response was prepared by the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

2.3.3 Transboundary consultations

No transboundary consultations as described under Regulation 14(4) were undertaken.

² Temple and Steer (2018) - **Local Implementation Plan: Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report** – LB Waltham Forest, August 2018.

3.0 Alternatives

To meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations, it was necessary to identify “reasonable alternatives” to the proposals presented in the Plan, and meaningful comparisons made of the environmental implications of each. A range of strategic level options and alternatives were considered through the IIA of the MTS, which compared a “do minimum” alternative (Option 1), with one that provided an “additional package of enhanced public transport investment” (Option 2), and another that provided this as well as “additional levers to maximise mode shift to sustainable modes” (Option 3).

The results of the assessment of these options indicated that Option 3 offered the most sustainability benefits across the six elements of the IIA assessment (Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), Assessment of Economic Impact (AEI), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Community Safety Impact Assessment (CSIA), Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Option 3, therefore, became the Preferred Option which was subsequently developed into the Draft MTS 3, which incorporated appropriate mitigation measures to address potential impacts on the natural environment and the community, in particular noise, air quality, climate resilience and accessibility.

Therefore, as the key alternatives had already been assessed and the most sustainable one selected, in for the LIP3, it was considered that the only alternative to the proposals would be the “do-nothing” scenario. It was deemed inappropriate to develop other alternatives simply for comparison in the SEA.

This approach was outlined in the Scoping Report for the SEA that was sent to the Statutory Environmental Bodies as the basis of consultation on the Plan. No comments or objections were received in respect of this.

4.0 Monitoring significant environmental effects

Whilst the LIP3 does not include separate proposals for environmental monitoring of the effects identified in the SEA, monitoring of many existing targets will provide relevant insights. This includes monitoring of the MTS indicators and targets – such as those for air quality – together with local monitoring of LB Waltham Forest specific targets, including the percentage of trips made by active travel modes, traffic flow data and levels of car ownership.

Considering the amount of existing strategic and local monitoring in place, further additional targets and indicators are not proposed because of the SEA.

