

Edmonton EcoPark Planning Brief: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

May 2013

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1 Introduction

- 1.0.1** This report has been produced to determine the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (hereafter referred to as 'SEA regulations') for the Edmonton EcoPark Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- 1.0.2** Previously, under the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 regulations, all development plan documents (DPDs) and SPDs were subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). These SAs usually incorporated the requirement for SEA. Amendments in 2009 ⁽¹⁾ and the subsequent introduction of new Regulations ⁽²⁾ mean the requirement to prepare SAs does not apply for SPDs, however, SPDs are still subject to the requirements set out in the European Directive and associated SEA regulations, and therefore could still require a SEA.
- 1.0.3** This screening report has been used as the basis for assessing the need for a SEA.

2 Edmonton EcoPark Planning Brief

- 2.0.1** The Edmonton EcoPark SPD supports the policies contained in the Enfield's Local Plan, including the adopted Core Strategy, emerging Central Leaside Area Action Plan; and the London Plan.
- 2.0.2** The SPD covers the full extent of the Edmonton EcoPark site (approx 15 ha), which is an existing waste management site.
- 2.0.3** The Planning Brief includes an overarching vision for the site; the opportunities and constraints associated with the site; the principles which future development should follow; and more specific guidance on implementation.
- 2.0.4** The document does not introduce new policies; rather, it provides site specific guidance on how to achieve objectives already set out in other local and sub regional planning policy.
- 2.0.5** The SPD requires the site to be used for sustainable waste management, prioritising recycling and energy recovery in particular. It requires future development to provide the heat source for, and accommodate the infrastructure to help deliver, the Lee Valley Heat Network (LVHN). The SPD sets out ways in which development can respond to the opportunities and constraints identified, including the use of sustainable transport modes, high quality design, and sustainable design and construction methods to reduce transport, visual and environmental impacts.
- 2.0.6** The document covers the following key topics:
- Waste management
 - Decentralised energy
 - Regeneration
 - Employment
 - Design
 - Transport
- 2.0.7** The Edmonton EcoPark Planning Brief is a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to Enfield's Local Plan and once adopted, will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for the site.

1 The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009

2 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

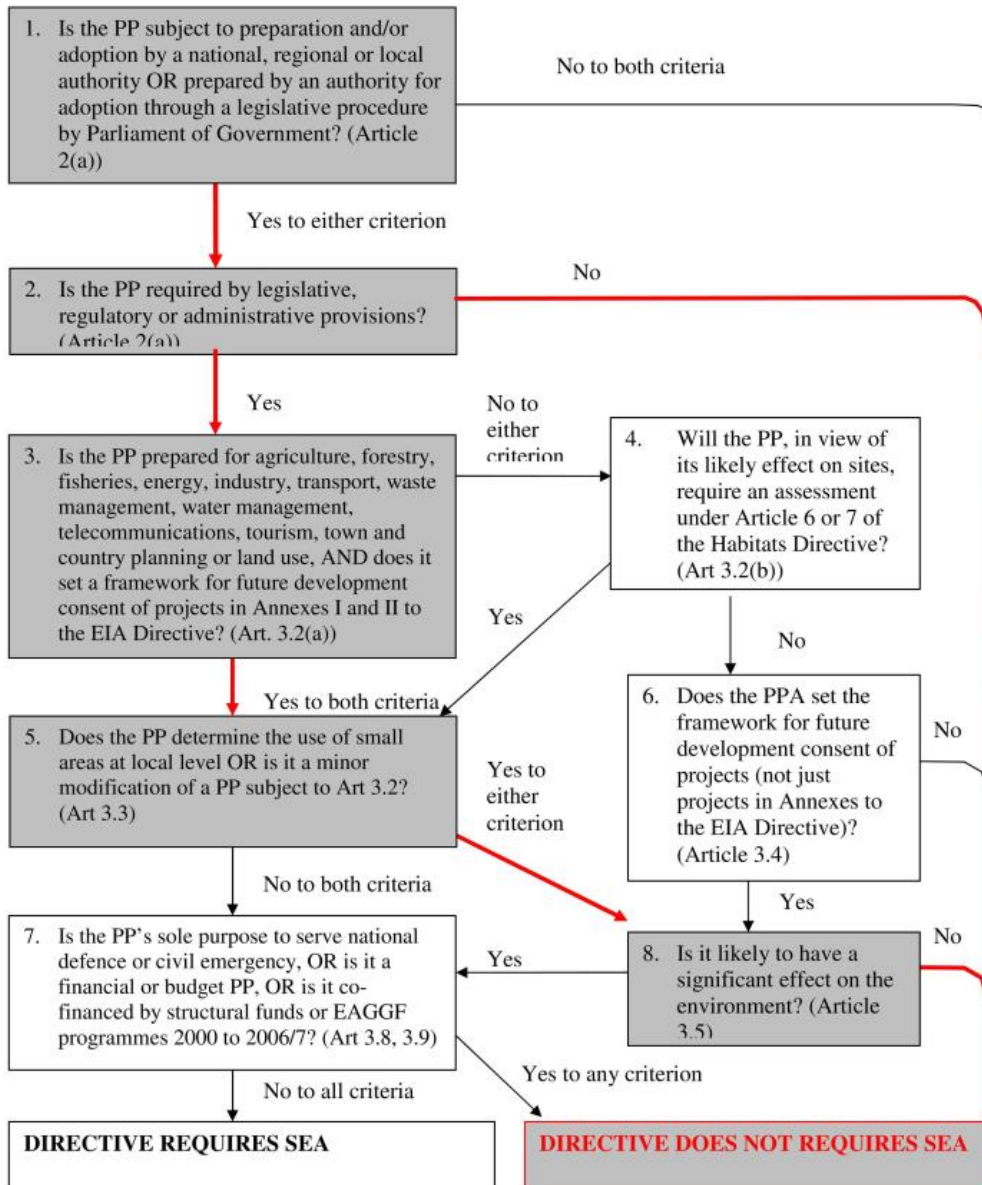
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3 Screening Assessment of the Edmonton EcoPark Planning Brief

- 3.0.1** The ODPM practical guidance ⁽³⁾ provides a checklist illustration based on the SEA Regulations to help determine whether SEA is required for plans and programmes.
- 3.0.2** In accordance with the SEA Regulations (regulation 5), an SEA need not be carried out for a plan or programme which determines the use of a small area at the local level unless it has been determined under regulation 9(1) that it is likely to have significant environmental effects, or it is the subject of a direction under regulation 10(3).
- 3.0.3** The Draft Edmonton EcoPark Planning Brief SPD was screened for the purposes of the SEA Regulations 2004. Following the checklist, the Council concluded that a SEA was not required for the Draft Edmonton EcoPark Planning Brief SPD. The Draft Edmonton EcoPark SPD was published for 6 weeks from 4th February to 18th March 2013.
- 3.0.4** The SEA Screening Statement accompanying the draft Edmonton EcoPark Planning Brief SPD was made available to statutory consultees and relevant stakeholders in February 2013. The consultees included the three statutory bodies: Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage.
- 3.0.5** The formal determination required under regulation 9(1) is set out in the following section.

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Figure 1: Establishing the need for a SA
 (Note: PP refers to plans and programmes)



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4 Updates following consultation on the Draft Edmonton EcoPark Planning Brief (May 2013)

4.0.1 The Edmonton EcoPark Planning Brief SPD was modified, taking into account the consultation responses and any other relevant matters. Changes to the document seek to:

- Clarify the trends and targets for municipal waste arisings, and reference commercial and industrial waste;
- Recognise the potential impact on the historic environment;
- Clarify the objective for the site related to climate change;
- Reflect the National Planning Framework on heritage, nature conservation, green belt and flood risk issues;
- Provide information on what the approach taken by the Environment Agency;
- Add to the examples of potential transport mitigation measures;
- Clarify s106 requirements related to local employment and transport
- Update the position on Enfield’s Development Management Document (DMD), North London Waste Plan (NLWP) and greenway proposals;
- Consider how potential health impacts will be assessed as part of future development;
- Clarify planning application information requirements and the details required in the Transport Assessment;

4.0.2 These minor changes to the document do not affect the conclusions reached and the determination made at the earlier screening stage, that a SEA is not required for the EcoPark SPD.

5 Determination

5.0.1 Determination for the following plan or programme:

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5.0.2 The responsible authority is:

Enfield Council

5.0.3 The responsible authority considers that the plan or programme falls within the description set out in regulation 5, paragraph (6) and therefore is subject to Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which requires the responsible authority to determine whether or not the plan is likely to have significant effects, taking into account the criteria specified in Schedule 1 of those Regulations. These criteria have been considered in the table below.

Table 5.1

The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:	Is there a significant environmental impact?	Justification
1a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and	No	The SPD does provide a framework for development projects within the site but this framework constitutes additional detail on the application of higher tier policies set out in the Core

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The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:	Is there a significant environmental impact?	Justification
other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources		<p>Strategy and those which may emerge through the preparation of the Central Leaside Area Action Plan (AAP) and North London Waste Plan (NLWP).</p> <p>The Core Strategy policies dictate the location and nature of activities on this site including its continued use of the site for waste treatment and have already been assessed through a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Core Strategy has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess potential environmental impacts arising from the all policies in the Core Strategy.</p> <p>The operating conditions for waste treatment facilities are largely determined by the environmental permitting system.</p>
1b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	<p>The SPD will not form part of the Local Plan, it will only provide supplementary planning guidance to those documents which do form part of the Plan.</p> <p>This hierarchy means that the SPD has been influenced by but will not significantly influence other plans or programmes in the Local Plan.</p> <p>It will be afforded less weight as a material planning consideration than Local Plan documents in the determination of planning applications for this site.</p>
1c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	No	<p>The SPD aims to support sustainable development by providing guidance on the provision of sustainable treatment facilities on the Edmonton EcoPark site. It also aims to address potential negative environmental issues associated with waste treatment facilities such as air quality and noise impacts. However, the SPD does not provide a specific environmental policy in its own right.</p>
1d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	No	<p>One of the overarching principles of future development on the site as set out in the Brief is to ensure that sufficient waste capacity is provided in order to treat waste in the most sustainable way possible and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Additional benefits arising from this include the potential for low carbon energy, the use of modern and efficient waste technologies which deliver environmental benefits, and opportunities for more sustainable transport. Therefore, the Brief should have a positive overall impact on the environment.</p>

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The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:	Is there a significant environmental impact?	Justification
		At the local scale the SPD seeks to ensure that future waste treatment facilities on the site will not have a detrimental impact on the surrounding area, including potential environmental issues.
1e) 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).	No	<p>The SPD will have a positive impact in line with Community legislation regarding waste management and will therefore contribute to local implementation of this legislation.</p> <p>Any future planning application for the site will be subject to the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) and if required an Environmental Statement will be submitted providing a full assessment of the impact of proposals on the environment.</p>
2a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	No	<p>The SPD will not set new policy. The anticipated effects of the document are anticipated to be positive through the provision of sustainable waste treatment facilities as well as the mitigation of potential negative effects associated with waste treatment.</p> <p>The duration of effects are likely to be long term given that once planning permission has been granted the new sustainable waste treatment facilities will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>The EcoPark site plays a key role in managing north London's waste and will continue to do so in the future; it is therefore highly probable that new waste treatment facilities will be developed on the site in accordance with the principles established in the planning brief. One of the key purposes of the Brief, as well as higher tier policies, is to ensure that new development on the site does not result in negative effects; in this respect the probability of negative effects is low.</p>
2b) The cumulative nature of the effects	No	The nature of development required and planned for in the borough is set out in the adopted Core Strategy, including support for the continued use of the Edmonton EcoPark as a strategic waste site. The Core Strategy has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess potential environmental impacts arising from the all policies in the Core Strategy.
2c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects	No	See 2b) above

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The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:	Is there a significant environmental impact?	Justification
2d) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	No	<p>The SPD is intended to help ensure that any future development protects amenity and human health.</p> <p>Any risks would be assessed in detail as part of any planning applications for the site.</p>
2e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	<p>The SPD covers the EcoPark site; the guidance set out by the SPD will therefore have the greatest effect at the local level.</p> <p>The SPD will also have a positive effect across a wider area by facilitating the delivery of sustainable waste management facilities to treat waste from across North London. The implications of the effect across north London will be assessed as part of the development of the North London Waste Plan.</p>
2f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. special natural characteristics or cultural heritage II. exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values III. intensive land-use 	No	<p>The SPD applies only to the EcoPark site which is not considered to have any special natural characteristics of cultural heritage. The SPD seeks to protect the natural characteristics of the site.</p> <p>The EcoPark is located in the LB Enfield and is also in the vicinity of the LB Waltham Forest and LB Haringey. All three Boroughs are designated Air Quality Management Areas. Any impacts on air quality will be assessed in detail as part of any planning applications for the site and the operation will be subject to strict environmental permitting regulations.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that the SPD will not have effects on natural characteristics, cultural heritage, environmental quality standards or intensive land-use.</p>
2g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	No	<p>The SPD is not considered to have environmental effects on landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status. Please refer to Question 4 in Figure 1.</p>

Conclusion:

- 5.0.4** The Edmonton EcoPark SPD provides clarification and guidance on the intended implementation of objectives set out in Enfield's adopted Core Strategy; the emerging Central Leaside Area Action Plan and the London Plan.
- 5.0.5** The SPD only covers the Edmonton EcoPark site and therefore determines the use of a small area at the local level.

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- 5.0.6** The SPD does not contain any new policies; instead it sets out further guidance on the implementation of existing adopted or emerging policies in Enfield's Local Plan. All relevant policies in other documents have either already been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the requirement for a SEA or are in the process of being assessed. Any future planning application will be determined in accordance with these adopted and emerging policies, and would be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment.
- 5.0.7** The role of the SPD will be as a material consideration which helps to clarify policy in relation to development at this particular site and thereby shape emerging developments. It is anticipated that the potential impacts arising from SPD are likely to be positive at a local scale through the avoidance and mitigation of any localised impacts which would be likely to arise from new development on the site.
- 5.0.8** Overall, it is considered that the Edmonton EcoPark SPD will not give rise to significant environmental effects. It is therefore concluded that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the Edmonton EcoPark Supplementary Planning Document.