

**Statement of Reasons - SEA screening for the Smethwick to Birmingham Corridor
Framework Supplementary Planning Document**

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of Regulations)	Birmingham City Council's Response
Characteristics of the plan or programme	
(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.	<p>The SPD will support the existing policies of the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP), in particular policy GA2. This policy has been subject to a detailed Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regulation requirements. Those parts of the framework which relate to Sandwell Council's area support existing Black Country Core Strategy and Sandwell Site Allocations and Delivery DPD policies and allocations.</p> <p>The SPD provides further guidance for the plan area, which supplements existing policies. The framework for those projects is already set by the higher tier plans.</p>
(b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The SPD will supplement policies contained within the BDP. As such, it is influenced by higher level plans.
(c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The SPD promotes sustainable development in the plan area through the provision of green infrastructure and sustainable travel choices. This is in line with adopted policies in the BDP, in respect of which environmental considerations were subject to Sustainability Appraisal (see (a) above). It provides guidance rather than specific policies and will therefore not have a significant effects on environmental considerations which have not already been assessed through higher tier plans.
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	None
(e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community (EU) legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	None
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected	
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	<p>The guidance set out in the SPD promotes sustainable development and is in conformity with the BDP. It is therefore unlikely that any significant environmental effects will arise from the SPD which have not been considered as part of the production of the BDP, which met the requirements for SEA.</p> <p>Future major development will be required to go through a separate approval process (i.e, planning applications subject to Environmental Impact Assessments). This will provide an opportunity for any significant environmental impacts to be</p>

	identified and the effects mitigated.
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects	Significant environmental effects are unlikely to arise from the SPD. It is therefore unlikely that any cumulative impacts will arise. Future major development will be required to go through a separate approval process (i.e, planning applications subject to Environmental Impact Assessments). This will provide an opportunity for any significant environmental impacts to be identified and the effects mitigated.
(c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects	No trans-boundary (i.e. affecting other nation states) effects are likely to arise. The Corridor Framework covers part of Birmingham City Council's administrative area and part of the area administered by Sandwell Council. As noted above, the environmental effects of projects within the Corridor Framework have been assessed by both councils in higher tier plans.
(d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	There are no significant risks of health hazards arising from the SPD. If these effects were likely to arise, the City Council will, through the planning application process, ensure such issues are appropriately addressed.
(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	<p>The Corridor Framework covers the area between Smethwick Galton Bridge Railway Station and the Ladywood Middleway. The area covered is the corridor of the BCN Main Line Canal and the A457. The area has an estimated population of 13,334 (2019).</p> <p>The policies in the SPD will be in general conformity with the BDP. Therefore, it is considered that any effects not previously considered as part of the BDP will be limited in magnitude.</p>
(f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; iii) Intensive land-use.	i) Nationally and locally listed heritage assets and conservation areas; ii) The Corridor Framework area lies within an Air Quality Management Area, however the most recent annual status reports of the two councils do not identify exceedances of limit values in the Framework area. iii) None. <p>These destinations would have been taken into consideration as part of the SEA undertaken for the BDP and Black Country Core Strategy/Sandwell Site Allocations and Delivery DPD. The Corridor Framework does not propose development beyond the scale of growth allocated in those plans. Impact on the natural environment and statutorily listed buildings are considered in the SPD, in line with the policies contained within BDP. The SPD does not replace other statutory considerations, such as the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.</p>
(g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have recognised national, Community or international protection	No significant effects are considered to arise from the Corridor Framework.

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