

## Statement of Reasons - SEA screening for Sutton Coldfield Town Centre Masterplan

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of Regulations)	Birmingham City Council's Response
<b>Characteristics of the plan or programme</b>	
(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 draft SPD will support the existing policies of the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP), with particular reference to policy GA4. This policy has been subject to a detailed Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regulation requirements.</p> <p>The draft SPD will provide further guidance for the plan area, and will therefore supplement existing policies rather than set the framework.</p>
(b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The draft 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 draft SPD promotes sustainable development in the plan area with particular reference to reducing the risk of flooding, introducing more green infrastructure and increasing the levels of sustainable travel. This will be done in line with adopted policies in the BDP, where environmental considerations on the sites were subject to Sustainability Appraisal (see (a) above). It will provide guidance rather than specific policy, and will therefore not have a significant effect on environmental considerations which have not already been considered.
(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
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected</b>	
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	<p>The guidance set out in the SPD will promote sustainable development and be in general 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 of the 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 identified and the effects mitigated.</p>
(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	The masterplan is not expected to have significant trans-boundary effects. If effects are likely to arise the City Council will ensure they are appropriately addressed through the planning application process.
(d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	There are no significant risks of health hazards arising directly 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, including ecology, water quality, and flood risk assessments.
(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	<p>Sutton Coldfield Town Centre is located to the north of Birmingham and is the largest suburban town centre in the City. It extends from the High Street (A5127) in the north to Birmingham Road to the south. It incorporates the train station and Town Hall to the north-west and is bounded by Victoria Road and Queen Street to the east and the railway line to the west. Sutton Coldfield has an estimated population of 94,935.</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) SSSI Impact Risk Zone for Sutton Park, Plants Brook Wildlife Corridor, Cross City Line Wildlife Corridor and Flood Zone 2; iii) None. <p>These destinations would have been taken into consideration as part of the SEA undertaken for the BDP. The masterplan does not propose development beyond the scale of growth allocated in the BDP. Impact on the natural environment and statutorily listed buildings are considered in the SPD, in line with the policies contained within BDP. Furthermore, 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 status.	No significant effects are considered to arise from the masterplan.