

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

Strategic Environmental Assessment Report for the Park Development Framework

Strategic Policies

Non-Technical Summary

April 2019

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

Strategic Environmental Assessment Report for the Park Development Framework Strategic Policies

Non-Technical Summary

Prepared by LUC

Planning & EIA
Design
Landscape Planning
Landscape Management
Ecology
GIS & Visualisation

LUC LONDON
43 Chalton Street
London
NW1 1JD
T +44 (0)20 7383 5784
london@landuse.co.uk

Offices also in:
Bristol
Edinburgh
Glasgow
Lancaster
Manchester



FS 566056 EMS 566057

Land Use Consultants Ltd
Registered in England
Registered number: 2549296
Registered Office:
43 Chalton Street
London NW1 1JD
LUC uses 100% recycled paper

Introduction

- 1.1 The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) is required to prepare proposals for the future management and development of the Park. A Strategic Policies document forming part of the Park Development Framework (PDF) was therefore produced to fulfil this duty and replace the policies in Part 1 of the Park Plan (2000).
- 1.2 There is no statutory requirement for the LVRPA to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of its Strategic Policies; however, the LVRPA wishes to demonstrate good practice.
- 1.3 This Non-Technical Summary summarises the SEA of the Strategic Policies.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.4 The SEA process comprises a number of stages:
 - **Stage A:** Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.
 - **Stage B:** Developing and refining options and assessing effects.
 - **Stage C:** Preparing an Environmental Report.
 - **Stage D:** Consulting on the Strategic Policies and the SEA report.
 - **Stage E:** Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Strategic Policies. Chapter 4 contains a proposed monitoring framework for the Strategic Policies.

Stage A: Scoping

- 1.5 A SEA Scoping Report, including the PDF's policy context, key environmental issues and a framework for the SEA, was prepared and published for consultation in October and November 2017.
- 1.6 The baseline information summarised in the SEA Report (and SEA Scoping Report) is set out in more detail in the Strategic Planning Evidence Base document. The baseline was used as the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely effects of the Strategic Policies and helps to identify alternative ways of dealing with any adverse effects identified. The baseline information was collected on the following 'SEA Directive topics': biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; water; soil; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage and the landscape, as well as relevant social and economic issues.
- 1.7 An 'SEA Framework' (see pages 8-9) was then developed, which sets out the objectives against which the Strategic Policies are appraised and provides a way in which the environmental effects of the implementation of the Strategic Policies can be described, analysed and compared. The SEA Framework objectives, from here on referred to as the 'SEA objectives' define the Authority's long-term aspirations for the Park with regard to its environmental considerations. The SEA objectives help 'interrogate' the performance of the Strategic Policies in relation to these aspirations and environmental considerations.

Stage B: Developing and refining options

- 1.8 It should be noted that any alternatives considered to the plan need to be "reasonable". This implies that alternatives that are "not reasonable" do not need to be subject to appraisal. Examples include alternatives that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the National Planning Policy Framework), or are not within the geographical scope of the plan.
- 1.9 Given the strategic nature of the Strategic Policies and the fact that their range and content must reflect legislation, national policy and the latest local evidence, there are considered to be no reasonable alternatives.

- 1.10 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process usually involving a number of consultations with the public and other key stakeholders.
- 1.11 It also needs to be recognised that the SEA findings are not the only factors that have been taken into account in defining the preferred Strategic Policies. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability, conformity with national policy and law have also been taken into account by the Park Authority.

Stage C: Reporting

- 1.12 The SEA Report describes the process in carrying out the SEA of the Strategic Policies. This Non-Technical Summary sets out the findings of the SEA, highlighting likely significant effects (both positive and negative, and taking into account likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects).

Stage D: Consultation

- 1.13 Public and stakeholder participation is an important element of the SEA and wider plan-making processes. It helps to ensure that Plans and their associated SEA reports are robust and have due regard for all appropriate information.
- 1.14 A SEA Scoping Report, including the PDF's policy context, key environmental issues and a draft SEA Framework was prepared and published for consultation with key riparian and statutory stakeholders, between September and October 2017, alongside a 'Consultation Report' containing a first draft of the strategic policies. This process helped to formulate the draft strategic policies.
- 1.15 Consultation responses were received from the statutory consultees – Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England – and the London Boroughs of Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. The responses included advice and guidance on how the policy context and environmental baseline, key environmental challenges and opportunities and the SEA Framework could be updated and improved. Specifically, the Environment Agency suggested the inclusion of a new policy aim and set of criteria to cover flood risk and management.
- 1.16 The publication of the draft Strategic Policies and this accompanying SEA Report represented the second phase of consultation in 2018. A Members Panel was arranged for November 2018 to consider the proposed changes to the Strategic Policies and associated documents. This final SEA Report was approved by the Committee in January 2019, subject to various minor changes which have been reflected in this report.

Stage E: Monitoring

- 1.17 Pages 12-14 of this Non-Technical Summary set out recommendations for monitoring the significant environmental effects of the Strategic Policies once adopted.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.18 Following a 'screening' assessment of the draft Strategic Policies document it was considered that a likely significant effect on the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation, as a result of air pollution, could not be ruled out. Likely significant effects associated with the Lee Valley Special Protection Area and Ramsar could also not be ruled out. An appropriate assessment was therefore required.
- 1.19 The appropriate assessment concluded that the draft Strategic Policies would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Lee Valley Special Protection Area and Ramsar, as well as Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation – either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- 1.20 Natural England was consulted on the findings and conclusions of this assessment in December 2018. In a letter dated 16 January 2019, they expressed agreement with the conclusions of the HRA. They advised that subsequent reviews of the strategic policies, area proposals and the Biodiversity Action Plan should have regard to the outcome of recreational disturbance monitoring at SPA sites, particularly at Walthamstow Wetlands, and amendments made to policy and proposals if necessary.

Relevant Planning and Policy Context

The Park Plan

- 1.21 The former Park Plan was adopted in April 2000. It consists of two parts:
- **Part one** outlines the Strategic Policy Framework for the Park, including Strategic Policies and Objectives for its future use and development.
 - **Part two** sets out particular proposals for the future use and development of individual sites and areas that collectively form the totality of the Regional Park.

Purpose of the new Strategic Policies

- 1.22 The new Strategic Policies replace Part 1 of the Park Plan (2000).
- 1.23 While the Riparian Authorities have no obligation to accept the contents of the PDF, including the new Strategic Policies, they form part of the planning context against which the Riparian Authorities plan appropriate development in the Park. The complete PDF will also guide the LVRPA's responses to development proposals for land and property within the Park, whether they originate with the Park Authority, the Riparian Authorities or other stakeholders. As such, the new Strategic Policies inform the future master planning and project development of sites within and adjoining the Park.

Relationship between the Park Plan and other Plans

- 1.24 Given that the LVRPA is not a Local Planning Authority and the Park Plan is not a statutory development plan, the Park Plan is not required to be in conformity with International, National, Regional or Local Planning Policy. However, for the Park Plan to effectively engage with the planning process it must have regard to such plans, policies and programmes. The following were considered as part of the SEA:
- National Planning Policy Framework
 - National Planning Practice Guidance
 - The London Plan
 - The draft new London Plan
 - The Mayor's Opportunity Areas in London:
 - Lower Lea Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework
 - Upper Lea Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework
 - Housing Zones
 - London Environment Strategy
 - Riparian Authorities' Local Plans
 - The Mayor's Transport Strategy

Challenges and Opportunities in the Lee Valley and Likely Evolution without the Plan

Scoping the Challenges and Opportunities that can be influenced by the Park Plan

- 1.25 All environmental issues¹ have been scoped in to the SEA of the new Strategic Policies on the grounds that the policies offer an opportunity to directly and/or indirectly significantly effect, in a positive way, existing trends in relation to all issues:
- Population

¹ The environmental issues are set out in Schedule 2 of Regulation 12(3) of the SEA Regulations.

- Human Health
- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape
- Climatic Factors
- Air, Soil and Water Quality
- Material Assets

1.26 **Table 1** below distils the environmental issues identified into a series of concise challenges and opportunities that have the potential to be directly influenced by the new Strategic Policies. **Table 1** also considers the likely evolution of the environment in the Lee Valley Regional Park if the Strategic Policies were not implemented.

Table 1: Challenges and Opportunities in the Lee Valley and their Likely Evolution without the Strategic Policies

| Challenges and Opportunities | Likely Evolution without the Strategic Policies | SEA Regulations Environmental Issue(s) |
|---|--|--|
| Financial pressures on the Park. | The implementation of the Park's Strategic Policies offers an opportunity to increase and diversify the Park's income to help relieve the financial pressures on the Park. Without Strategic Policies that proactively and positively tackle this issue resulting in an increase in the range and quality of the Park's services and facilities, it is likely that the financial pressures on the Park will grow, hindering the ability of the Authority to address its other challenges and opportunities. | Population Human Health Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Cultural Heritage Landscape Climatic Factors Air Quality Soil Quality Water Quality Material Assets |
| There are opportunities to enhance and diversify the facilities and services of the Park to the benefit of the health and wellbeing of the Park's users without causing significant harm to the Green Belt or Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). | The Riparian Authorities' Local Plans as well as the London Plan include policies to protect and enhance local services and facilities, including open spaces designated as Green Belt and MOL within the Lee Valley Regional Park. The implementation of the Park's Strategic Policies offers an opportunity to dictate how the Park's services and facilities are improved and diversified. Without the implementation of the Strategic Policies it is considered that the Park's facilities and services, Green Belt land and MOL would be protected, however the Park would likely make a more limited contribution in shaping their future for the benefit of the Park's users. | Population Human Health Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Cultural Heritage Landscape Material Assets |
| Protect and enhance the Park's special qualities in the face of increasing development pressure and | The Riparian Authorities' Local Plans as well as the London Plan include policies to protect and enhance the tranquillity and openness of the Park's spaces, its biodiversity including flora and | Population Human Health Biodiversity, Flora |

| Challenges and Opportunities | Likely Evolution without the Strategic Policies | SEA Regulations Environmental Issue(s) |
|--|---|--|
| land use change within and adjacent to the Park. | fauna, historic environment, landscapes and townscapes. The implementation of the Park's Strategic Policies offers an opportunity to dictate which special qualities are in the greatest need of protection and enhancement and in so doing help direct where development should go within and in the immediate vicinity of the Park. Without the implementation of the Strategic Policies it is considered that the Park's special qualities would be protected, however the Authority would likely make a more limited contribution in shaping their future and the pattern of development within and in the immediate vicinity of the Park. | and Fauna Cultural Heritage Landscape Material Assets |
| Relatively poor use of the parklands and venues by people living and working close to the Park boundaries, specifically young people. | The implementation of the Park's Strategic Policies offers an opportunity to directly encourage people living and working close to the Park boundaries, including young people, to use it. Without Strategic Policies that proactively and positively tackle this issue by increasing the range and quality of the Park's services and facilities and improving the attractiveness and permeability of its boundaries, it is likely that a significant proportion of local people will continue to be discouraged from using the Park. | Population Human Health |
| There is a need to improve the visual appearance and permeability of the Park's boundaries so that visitors can and want to access the Park on foot and by bicycle. | | Human Health Landscape |
| There is significant pressure on the Park's biodiversity, flora and fauna as a result of increasing recreational pressures associated with rises in visitor numbers. | The Riparian Authorities' Local Plans as well as the London Plan include policies to protect and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna. The implementation of the Park's Strategic Policies offers an opportunity to direct how the Park's recreational pressures are managed. Without the implementation of the Strategic Policies it is considered that the Park's biodiversity, flora and fauna would be protected (e.g. through the River Lee Country Park management plan which is an internal document), however the Authority would likely make a more limited contribution in shaping how recreational pressures in the Park are managed and may miss out on opportunities to secure enhancement and mitigation for biodiversity in the Park. | Population Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna |
| There are opportunities to enhance and expand the Park's green and blue infrastructure networks by linking-up isolated habitats. | The Riparian Authorities' Local Plans as well as the London Plan include policies to protect and enhance green and blue infrastructure. The implementation of the Park's Strategic Policies offers an opportunity to direct how the Park's green and blue infrastructure are expanded, connected and managed. Without the implementation of the Strategic Policies it is | Human Health Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Landscape |

| Challenges and Opportunities | Likely Evolution without the Strategic Policies | SEA Regulations Environmental Issue(s) |
|--|---|--|
| | considered that the Park's green and blue infrastructure would be protected, however the Authority would likely make a more limited contribution in shaping how such strategic infrastructure is improved at the metropolitan scale. | |
| Climate change and development within the Park over recent decades has resulted in an increased risk of fluvial flooding – a trend which is expected to continue. Climate change is also expected to increase the risk of drought in the future. | The Riparian Authorities' Local Plans as well as the London Plan include policies to help mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, including flood risk and drought. The implementation of the Park's Strategic Policies offers an opportunity to contribute positively and proactively to climate change mitigation and adaptation measures at a local and regional scale. However as a global issue, climate change will continue to be a key consideration, regardless of the content of the Strategic Policies. | Climatic Factors Human health Biodiversity Landscape |
| Effluent discharge, litter from commercial and industrial premises and run-off from nitrogen rich fertilisers in the Park threaten the quality of the Park's soil and water. | National environmental standards as well as the Riparian Authorities' Local Plans and the London Plan include policies to minimise and manage waste and pollution. The implementation of the Park's Strategic Policies offers an opportunity to contribute positively and proactively to the management of waste and pollution in the Park. | Human Health Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Air Quality Soil Quality Water Quality Material Assets |

SEA Framework

- 1.27 The development of a set of SEA objectives is a recognised way in which the likely environmental effects of tested options can be described, analysed and compared, as part of Strategic Environmental Assessment. A set of 14 SEA objectives have been defined and consulted upon with the statutory consultees in 2017.
- 1.28 The SEA Framework used to assess the significant effects of the new Strategic Policies is presented in **Table 2**.

Table 2: SEA Framework

| No | Strategic Environmental Assessment Objectives | SEA Regulations Environmental Issue(s) |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | To prepare and provide for population growth, which is likely to result in increased visitors to the Park. | Population Human Health |
| 2 | To maximise the financial potential of the Park's assets to safeguard their future management and enhancement. | Population Human Health Landscape |

| No | Strategic Environmental Assessment Objectives | SEA Regulations Environmental Issue(s) |
|----|--|---|
| | | Biodiversity Climate Change |
| 3 | To seek to protect and preserve soil quality and greenfield land by making a presumption in favour of brownfield development, except where there are clear and sustainable reasons not to do so. | Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Landscape Air Quality Soil Quality Water Quality Material Assets |
| 4 | To improve facilities for non-motorised forms of transport within the Park to help link up open areas and clusters of services. | Human Health Air Quality |
| 5 | To protect existing transport infrastructure within the Park and balance this against the proper functioning of Park resources including recreation, nature conservation, open space and tranquillity. | Human Health Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Cultural Heritage Landscape Air Quality |
| 6 | To maintain and enhance landscape quality and visual amenity of the Park, taking full account of variations in landscape, townscape and waterscape character. | Landscape Human Health |
| 7 | To develop a range of venues and activities that appeal to all age groups. | Human Health Landscape Population |
| 8 | To protect and enhance priority species and existing habitats, including waterbodies and watercourses (including the riparian corridor), and to create new habitats to re-connect existing areas. | Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Water Quality |
| 9 | To develop maintenance and management regimes, including local volunteer initiatives, that improve land management for nature conservation and as an educational resource. | Population Human Health Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Landscape Water Quality |
| 10 | To maintain and enhance existing known heritage assets while seeking their full potential as visitor attractions or stimuli for regeneration. | Cultural Heritage |
| 11 | To minimise pollution to air and soil and water quality, improving | Air Quality |

| No | Strategic Environmental Assessment Objectives | SEA Regulations Environmental Issue(s) |
|----|---|--|
| | quality where possible, to reduce the negative effects pollution on human health, biodiversity and cultural heritage assets. | Soil Quality Water Quality |
| 12 | To reduce the risk of flooding to people and properties and promote the sustainable management of flood risk. | Human Health Climatic Factors Material Assets |
| 13 | To progressively manage and reduce contributions to climate change from all sources within the Park, and prepare for the effects of climate change on people and wildlife, including water scarcity and hotter summers. | Climatic Factors Human Health Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Water Quality |
| 14 | To improve access and interconnectivity within and surrounding the Park, including improving the quality and character of key entrances to the Park. | Human Health Landscape Population Climatic Factors Air Quality |

SEA of Strategic Policies

- 1.29 The findings of the SEA of the new Strategic Policies are presented as a colour coded symbol showing the score for each option against each of the SEA Objectives along with a concise justification for the score given.
- 1.30 The use of colour coding will allow for likely significant effects (both positive and negative) to be easily identified, as shown in **Table 3** below.

Table 3: Key to SEA scores

| | |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| ++ | Significant positive effect likely |
| + | Minor positive effect likely |
| 0 | Negligible effect likely |
| - | Minor negative effect likely |
| -- | Significant negative effect likely |
| ? | Likely effect uncertain |
| +/- | Mixed effect likely |

- 1.31 The Strategic Policies are presented in terms of the strategic planning aims to which they relate. The SEA has followed this structure by grouping assessments of the Strategic Policies by strategic planning aim.

Cumulative effects

- 1.32 **Table 4** illustrates all of the effects generated by the Strategic Policies against the SEA objectives, with a view to highlighting their likely cumulative effects.
- 1.33 In-combination, the Strategic Policies have the potential to generate **significant positive (++)** effects against the following SEA objectives:
- SEA1
 - SEA2
 - SEA3²
 - SEA4
 - SEA6³
 - SEA7
 - SEA8⁴
 - SEA10⁵
 - SEA14
- 1.34 In-combination, the Strategic Policies have the potential to generate **significant negative (--)** effects against the following SEA objectives:
- SEA8⁶
 - SEA11
 - SEA13

² Overall this effect is uncertain (?) due to the fact that new development within the Park has the potential to be located on greenfield land, including areas of good soil quality.

³ Overall this effect is uncertain (?) due to the fact that a significant increase to the number of visitors to the Park and new development within the Park has the potential to be located in areas of particular landscape sensitivity.

⁴ The significance of these positive effects is dependent on scale, location, design and landscaping of the developments and associated initiatives that enable such improvements. Therefore, overall, this effect is recorded as uncertain (?).

⁵ Overall this effect is uncertain (?) due to the fact that a significant increase to the number of visitors to the Park and new development within the Park has the potential to be located in areas of particular historic sensitivity.

⁶ There is uncertainty (?) associated with the potential location of new development within and in close proximity to the Park.

Table 4: Overview of Strategic Policies effects

| Strategic Policies / SEA Objectives | E1 | E2 | L1 | L2 | L3 | L4 | H1 | H2 | H3 | B1 | B2 | B3 | B4 | W1 | W2 | W3 | V1 | V2 | V3 | V4 | D1 | D2 | D3 | D4 | A1 | A2 | A3 | A4 | A5 | A6 | FR1 | FR2 | FR3 | |
|---|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|----|----|-------|----|-------|-------|----|----|-----|----|----|-------|-------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| SEA1: Population Growth | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SEA2: Maximise financial potential | ++ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ++ | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SEA3: Soil quality and greenfield land | ++? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ? | ? | 0 | ? | + | ? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SEA4: Non-motorised transport | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | + |
| SEA5: Existing transport infrastructure | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SEA6: Landscape and visual amenity | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | + | ? | 0 | + | ? | + | 0 | + | + | + | + | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + |
| SEA7: Venues and activities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SEA8: Species and habitats | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -? | + | + | + | + | +/-? | -? | + | +?/-? | -? | +?/-? | +?/-? | + | 0 | +/- | + | -? | +?/-? | +?/-? | -? | -? | -? | 0 | 0 | + | |
| SEA9: Land management | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | ? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SEA10: Heritage assets | 0 | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ? | 0 | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | + | ? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + |
| SEA11: Air, water and soil quality | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | + | 0 | 0 | + | +/-? | -? | + | ? | -- | ? | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | ? | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | + | |
| SEA12: Flood risk | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ? | 0 | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | + |
| SEA13: Climate change | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ? | -- | ? | - | 0 | + | 0 | + | ? | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | + | |
| SEA14: Interconnectivity | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | + |

Mitigation and Enhancement

- 1.35 It is important to recognise that the significant positive and negative effects likely to be generated by the Strategic Policies will not be created in a vacuum; such effects will mix with other influences, including the effects generated by the other components of the Park Development Framework. Notable components of the PDF include its Vision, Strategic Aims and Principles, Thematic and Area Proposals. The definition and delivery of the Park's Area Proposals offers the opportunity to avoid particularly sensitive areas of the Park and mitigate the adverse effects identified in this SEA of the Strategic Policies through the definition of area-based mitigation and enhancement measures. In addition, the implementation of the Strategic Policies and their associated effects are reliant on the strategic, site allocation and development management policies within the Local Plans of the riparian authorities as well as regional and national policy, such as the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Monitoring

- 1.36 Although National Planning Practice Guidance states that monitoring should be focused on the significant environmental effects, the reasons for this is to identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and to enable appropriate remedial actions. Since effects that the SEA expects to be minor may become significant and vice versa, monitoring measures have been proposed in the SEA Report in relation to all of the SEA objectives. If and when the likely significant effects become more certain, the LVRPA may wish to narrow down the monitoring framework to focus on those effects likely to be significantly adverse.
- 1.37 **Table 5** sets out a number of suggested indicators for monitoring the potential environmental effects of implementing the Strategic Policies. The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies, for example the Environment Agency. It is therefore recommended that the LVRPA remains in dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable.

Table 5: Proposed monitoring framework for the Strategic Policies

| SEA objectives | Proposed monitoring indicators |
|---|---|
| SEA1: Population Growth | Change in annual number of visits to the Park. |
| SEA2: Maximise financial potential | Change in annual income across the Park. Change in annual income for individual attractions/venues in the Park. |
| SEA3: Soil quality and greenfield land | Number of developments wholly or mostly on greenfield land per year. Availability of brownfield land for redevelopment. |
| SEA4: Non-motorised transport | Change in patterns of bicycle hire within the Park. Change in the number of footpaths and cycleways within the Park. |
| SEA5: Existing transport infrastructure | Loss of transport infrastructure within the Park. |
| SEA6: Landscape and visual amenity | Number of developments permitted contrary to Landscape Character Assessment 'sensitivities to change'. Development on previously developed land or conversion of existing buildings. |
| SEA7: Venues and activities | Number and range of venues within the Park. Social/economic profile of people using venues within the Park. |
| SEA8: Species and habitats | Number, area, quality and condition of designated wildlife |

| SEA objectives | Proposed monitoring indicators |
|------------------------------------|---|
| | <p>conservation sites within and near to the Park.</p> <p>Number of developments resulting in biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Number of developments resulting in biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>Population numbers and extent of protected and priority species within the Park.</p> <p>Area of protected and priority habitats within the Park.</p> |
| SEA9: Land management | <p>Area of land actively managed for nature conservation.</p> <p>Number and magnitude of local volunteer initiatives.</p> <p>Number of school and/or corporate visits.</p> |
| SEA10: Heritage assets | <p>Number and % of heritage assets at risk.</p> <p>Number of heritage assets restored and brought back into use.</p> <p>Number of major development projects that enhance the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character.</p> <p>Number of major development projects that detract from the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character.</p> <p>Improvements in the management of historic and archaeological sites and features.</p> <p>% change in visits to historic sites.</p> <p>% of planning applications or activities where archaeological investigations were required prior to approval.</p> <p>% of planning applications or activities where archaeological mitigation strategies (were developed and implemented).</p> |
| SEA11: Air, water and soil quality | <p>Percentage of water bodies at good ecological status or potential.</p> <p>Percentage of water bodies assessed at good or high biological status.</p> <p>Percentage of water bodies assessed at good chemical status.</p> <p>Number of water or soil pollution incidents.</p> <p>Change in area of contaminated land that has been remediated.</p> <p>Change in area of land where soil has been degraded by contamination.</p> <p>NO₂ emissions</p> <p>PM10 emissions</p> <p>Number of visitors arriving at the Park by car or other private vehicle.</p> |
| SEA12: Flood risk | <p>Spatial extent of flood zones 2 and 3</p> <p>Planning permission in identified flood zones granted permission contrary to advice from the Environment Agency</p> <p>Incidences of flooding and location</p> <p>Incidences of flood warnings in the Park</p> <p>Spatial extent of areas susceptible to surface water flooding</p> <p>Number or % of permitted developments incorporating SuDS</p> |
| SEA13: Climate change | <p>Carbon Dioxide emissions.</p> <p>Energy consumption of venues within the Park.</p> |

| SEA objectives | Proposed monitoring indicators |
|--------------------------|--|
| | Percentage of energy supplied from renewable sources. Number of visitors arriving at the Park by car or other private vehicle. |
| SEA14: Interconnectivity | Annual number of visitors. Average distance visitors travel to the Park. Average number of destinations within the Park visited per visit. |

Conclusion

- 1.38 This Non-Technical Summary has been prepared alongside the main SEA Report to accompany consultation on the draft Strategic Policies to be included within the Lee Valley Regional Park 'Park Development Framework' (PDF). This SEA Report was approved by the Committee in January 2019, subject to various minor changes which have been reflected in this final SEA report. The SEA has sought to identify significant effects emerging from Strategic Policies in line with the SEA Regulations.
- 1.39 It is important to recognise that the significant positive and negative effects likely to be generated by the Strategic Policies will not be created in a vacuum. Such effects will mix with other influences – policy mechanisms, external growth pressures and national, regional and local initiatives – that will work together and in opposition to mitigate and enhance the effects identified above.
- 1.40 Significant population growth within the riparian authorities and the associated intensification and densification of development around the Park, will increase the likelihood of significant adverse effects against the environmental SEA objectives, notably SEA6, SEA8, SEA10, SEA11, SEA12 and SEA13. However, the Park's Strategic Policies will mitigate these effects and enhance the Park's natural and historic assets for everyone to enjoy. Furthermore, the Park's Strategic Policies aim to secure new funding streams to proactively manage development within and around the Park, enabling the delivery of new and improved venues, services and facilities, as well as strategic initiatives that conserve and connect the Park's most sensitive and special qualities.
- 1.41 Significant positive effects are likely to be generated against SEA objectives SEA1, SEA2, SEA3, SEA4, SEA6, SEA7, SEA8, SEA10 and SEA14.

LUC

April 2019