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Our ref: 128128



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Southon,

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Royal Borough of Greenwich - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping and Screening Reports

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 28/07/2014.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Strategic Environmental Assessment:

The approach and methodology used are appropriate and in line with advice that would be offered by Natural England, covering the topics and issues we would like to see considered in such a document. Relevant legislation has been identified and sourced together with appropriate designated sites being identified and referenced.

Under Chapter 3: Other Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes and Appendix A Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes, The London Plan 2013 is referenced, the Council may wish to consider the Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP). The alterations are being undertaken to address new and increased population figures London and consequent increase in infrastructure requirements. Additional information is being used to update the baseline of the London Plan and the Council may find more up to information to assist their strategy.

Chapter 4 Environmental Characteristics and Key Issues makes reference to the Habitats Regulation Assessment screening. Paragraph 4.12 in particular refers to the Test of Likely Significant Effect and that none has been found in respect of this strategy.

The approach and methodology used for this assessment is in line with legislation and advice that would be offered by Natural England and therefore the conclusion that no likely significant effect is identified and that there is no need to undertake and Appropriate Assessment can be agreed in respect of this Strategy.

Table 8 SEA Objectives and Indicators, again covers the issues and topics that Natural England would wish to see in such a document and the eleven objectives can be broadly supported, especially objectives (2), (3) and (4) in respect of Biodiversity, flora and fauna. The indicators proposed are also acceptable to natural England.

For clarification of any points in this letter, please contact David Hammond on 0300 060 1373. For any further consultations on your Order, please contact consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely,

David Hammond
Lead Advisor
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Thames valley Team