

Statement of Reasons - SEA screening for the Langley Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) and Peddimore Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

Criteria (from Annex II of SEA Directive and Schedule I of Regulations)	Birmingham City Councils 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.	The SPDs will amplify the existing policies of the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP), with particular reference to policies GA5 and GA6. These policies have been subject to detailed Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the SEA regulation requirements. The SPDs will provide further guidance on the requirements in respect of design, phasing, and site access to ensure coordination, and the comprehensive development of these sites. The SPDs will therefore supplement existing policies rather than setting the framework.
(b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	As noted above, the SPDs will supplement policies contained within the BDP. As such it is influenced by other higher level plans, rather than influencing them.
(c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Some relevance. The SPDs will promote sustainable development by putting in place indicative frameworks for these two sites. However, 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.
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected	
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	The SPDs will amplify policies contained within the BDP, providing guidance on design, phasing and site access allowing the sites to come forward in a comprehensive way. It will not in itself bring development forward, which will need to go through separate approval processes (i.e, planning applications subject to Environmental Impact Assessments). The guidance set out in the SPD will promote sustainable development. As such there is no mechanism for significant environmental effects to arise from the SPDs which have not already been considered as part of the production on the BDP, which met the requirements of the SEA.

	It is noted that the developments may have potential to give rise to significant environmental impacts, however it will be for individual planning applications to address this matter. It is also likely that there could be environmental improvements, and negative effects mitigated.
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects	As noted above, there is no mechanism for significant environmental effects to arise from the SPDs. It is therefore unlikely that any cumulative impacts will arise. Where these effects are likely to arise, the City Council will, through the determination of planning applications, ensure such issues are appropriately addressed.
(c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects	As noted above, there is no mechanism for significant environmental effects to arise from the SPDs. It is therefore unlikely that any trans-boundary impacts will arise. Where these effects are likely to arise, the City Council will, through the determination of planning applications, ensure such issues are appropriately addressed.
(d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	As noted above, there is no mechanism for significant environmental effects to arise from the SPDs. It is therefore unlikely that any risks to human health or the environment impacts will arise. Where these effects are likely to arise, the City Council will, through the determination of planning applications, ensure such issues are appropriately addressed, including ecology and flood risk assessments.
(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The SPDs applies to part of Sutton Coldfield in north west Birmingham, with Langley SUE covering 274 hectares and Peddimore 71 hectares. The sites are mostly greenfield, with only a few residents on the sites. The four Wards in Sutton Coldfield are home to just over 95,000 people. The SPDs are only concerned with ensuring comprehensive development, including design, phasing and site access, in line with policies in the BDP. It does this by setting out guidance and indicative frameworks. It is considered that any effects not previously considered as part of the BDP will be limited in magnitude.
(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.	Given the nature of the document: i) None; ii) None; iii) None Historic assets, areas of flood risk and impact on locally important habitats are considered in the design guidance and indicative frameworks in the SPDs in line with the policies contained within BDP. The SPDs does not replace other statutory considerations in this regard, such as the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
(g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have recognised national, Community or international protection status.	No significant effects are considered to arise on the adoption of the SPDs in line with BDP policies.