



# **Strategic Environmental Assessment of Local Implementation Plans: SEA Statement**

**by C Treleven & S Simmons**

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**Centre for Sustainability at TRL Limited**



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**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL  
IMPLEMENTATION PLANS: SEA STATEMENT**

Version: Final

**by C Treleven & S Simmons**

Contact: [ctreleven@trl.co.uk](mailto:ctreleven@trl.co.uk)

**Client: Association of London Government (Damian Price)**



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<b>Approvals</b>	
<b>Project Manager</b>	<b>Colin Treleven</b>
<b>Quality Reviewed</b>	<b>Chris Fry</b>

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## 1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to assist London Boroughs with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of their Local Implementation Plans. This report should be read together with the Advice Note prepared by C4S for London Boroughs in September 2004.

This report should also be used together with the other C4S documents about Strategic Environmental Assessment of Local Implementation Plans. Individual documents cover the following:

- Sources of baseline data for stage A;
- Problems and opportunities of relevance to SEAs for LIPs;
- SEA objectives for stage A;
- Scoping report template;
- Selecting and documenting alternatives;
- Significance criteria;
- Environmental Report Template;
- Mitigation.

These additional documents can be found at: [http://www.sea-info.net/sea\\_lips.htm](http://www.sea-info.net/sea_lips.htm)

In the Advice Note, the SEA was considered in five Stages:

**Stage A:** Context and Baseline

**Stage B:** Scope and Alternatives

**Stage C:** Assessment and Mitigation

**Stage D:** Consultation and Report

**Stage E:** Monitoring

This document is concerned with the SEA Statement, which is produced to accompany the adopted LIP. This occurs after the consultation on the draft LIP and the Environmental Report, but before implementation of the plan and monitoring of effects. As such, the SEA Statement completes Stage D of the SEA process.

Chapter 2 explains the purpose of the SEA Statement. Chapter 3 provides a template for a Borough SEA Statement.

At the time of writing this document, the authors are not aware of any SEA Statements for transport plans or programmes that have been completed and made available in the UK. London Boroughs are likely to publish their SEA statements between July and December 2005, to accompany their adopted LIPs.

This document provides guidance for Boroughs. The intention of the guidance is to show Boroughs one way of presenting information in an SEA Statement that will form part of an effective SEA. This document also makes specific reference to various parts of the SEA Regulations, see references. When in doubt, Boroughs' own legal departments should be consulted for advice on the minimum steps that a Borough needs to take in order to satisfy the SEA Regulations.

## 2 Purpose of the SEA Statement

### 2.1 Aims of the SEA Statement

Most importantly, the SEA statement requires the decision maker to justify the choices made in the adopted LIP, therefore making it a transparent process.

The production of the SEA statement acts as an important check on the LIP, and on the SEA process. It helps to ensure that the environment has been considered at every stage, and that the information collated has influenced the final shape of the LIP.

The SEA process and Regulations do not prescribe that the final LIP must incorporate the best environmental option. However, the SEA provides the decision maker with evidence and information, upon which to make a decision.

### 2.2 What the SEA Regulations require

SEA Regulations 16.3c)(iii) and 16.4 require that a ‘statement’ be made available to accompany the plan, as soon as possible upon adoption of the LIP. This statement must contain the following information:

1. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the LIP;
2. How the Environmental Report has been taken into account;
3. How consultation responses have been taken into account;
4. Reasons for choosing the LIP as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
5. Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the LIP.

In addition, all consultees need to be made aware of both the adoption of the plan, and the availability of the LIP and the accompanying statement. Here the ‘consultees’ include the public. This notification could be through the press, or via Borough’s web sites. Notification should be provided directly to all organisations who submitted comments in response to the Environmental Report. Sections 3.9-3.13 of ODPM2004 outline some approaches to consultation, commenting that:

*‘Some consultees..... may only wish to be kept informed, or to be involved in a broader sense through participatory events or written consultation’.*

The requirement to include details in the SEA statement of the monitoring measures acts as a useful reminder. It draws attention to the need to monitor the significant effects, both positive and negative, of the LIP. By this stage of the LIP process, it is also clear what needs to be monitored. This helps remove uncertainties that might have been present at the Environmental Report stage.

Earlier in the SEA process, the Environmental Report provides an inventory of environmental issues in the Borough. The role of the SEA statement is different. The SEA statement is a demonstration of action taken by the Borough during the development of the SEA and LIP, to produce a better environmental outcome. An important part of the SEA statement is the section explaining the reasons for specific choices that have been made. This breaks new ground, in comparison to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

### **2.3 Format of the SEA Statement**

The SEA Regulations only specify the contents of the SEA Statement, not the format to be used.

In practice, the SEA Statement will need to be a separate document from the LIP. This is because the Regulations state that it must be available to view with the adopted LIP and the Environmental Report.

Boroughs have the opportunity to use novel formats for the SEA statement. The template in chapter 3 is simply one option. This template has been provided in order to give a concrete example of what the authors of this report think would be one useful approach.

The authors of this report consider that the SEA Statement is likely to be shorter than the Environmental Report. This is because the Statement should be presenting the outcomes and effects that the SEA has had on the adopted LIP, and how these were achieved. The SEA Statement does not need to repeat environmental data that was included in the Environmental Report.

### 3 Template for a Borough's SEA Statement

#### 3.1 Introduction

Table 1 below lays out a template for an SEA Statement. The left column of the template provides suggested chapter headings for the SEA statement. The right column provides major subject headings for each chapter, in bold. The italicised writing in the right column lists information that could be provided under each major subject heading.

**Table 1: LIP SEA Statement Template**

<b>Chapter Heading</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<p><b>Brief summary of the purpose of both the LIP and SEA</b>  <i>Explanation of how the SEA helped to improve the LIP.</i>  A table, listing the documents produced to date and their purpose. This should include information about where to access each document, such as web links at which at least the LIP and Environmental Report can be accessed. The table should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SEA Scoping Report;</li> <li>• The draft LIP and Environmental Report;</li> <li>• The adopted LIP and SEA Statement.</li> </ul> <p><i>Information on who conducted the SEA e.g. departments involved, consultants.</i>  Some members of the public will not have internet access. So contact details and locations for viewing the LIP and Environmental Report as hard copies should be provided, where possible.</p>
<b>The SEA Process</b>	<p><b>Explanation of the process used to ensure that the SEA influenced the LIP</b>  <i>Details of timing of meetings and discussions/consultations on the SEA/LIP. Cross departmental and outside stakeholder involvement.</i>  <b>Summary of how information collated, analysed and presented in the Environmental Report has been used to improve the adopted LIP</b>  <i>What specific actions have been taken to influence/change the LIP as a result of the information presented in the Environmental Report? If no changes have been made, then justification for this should be provided.</i></p>
<b>Consultation</b>	<p><b>Stages of consultation</b>  <i>Scoping and full consultation, purpose and who consulted.</i>  <b>Results of consultation</b>  <i>Summary of specific comments received.</i>  <b>Effects on the draft and adopted LIP</b>  <i>How and where have specific comments been incorporated/ changed the draft LIP.</i></p>
<b>Alternative Options</b>	<p><b>Alternatives Considered</b>  <i>Summary of the options considered in the draft LIP.</i>  <b>Option chosen for the LIP</b>  <i>Outline of the chosen option and its environmental effects.</i>  <b>Reasons for Choosing Option.</b>  <i>Justification should be provided for the choice of alternative over others considered, and in light of information contained in the Environmental Report and consultations.</i></p>
<b>Monitoring Requirements</b>	<p><b>The adopted LIP option's significant adverse and beneficial effects that will require monitoring</b>  <i>Measures proposed to monitor potentially significant effects: What, how, why, when, who?</i></p>

## Acknowledgements

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