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Strategic Environmental Assessment - Draft Screening Statement

Report for the East London Waste Partner Authorities
ED13247



Customer:**East London Waste Authority****Customer reference:**ED13247 ELWA East London Joint Resources
and Waste Strategy – Part A**Confidentiality, copyright & reproduction:**

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1 Introduction

1.1 This Document

This document forms the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening statement for the Joint Strategy for Resources and Waste Management in East London 2027-2057.

1.2 Purpose of the Joint Strategy

The Joint Strategy sets out the strategic aims and ambitions for resources and waste management of the five Partner Authorities, namely the East London Waste Authority (ELWA) and the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Newham and Redbridge and outlines how the Partner Authorities will work together to manage resources and waste within their boundaries between 2027 and 2057, after the end of the long-term contract for waste treatment services.

The Partner Authorities will commit to undertake a high-level review of the Joint Strategy by 2028, to ensure the targets, priorities and ambitions are appropriate once future waste and recycling collection and treatment arrangements are better understood. Reviews thereafter will be conducted at intervals of not more than 10 years.

The previous strategy was originally drafted in 1996 and reviewed in 2006 and set the framework for performance for the 25-year waste management contract to 2027. The contract operator (Renewi) has developed a number of five-year and annual budget and service delivery plans, which review progress and outline future performance standards¹ and the Partner Authorities have prepared Reduction and Recycling Plans (RRPs) that set out how they will develop their services and local performance to work towards the targets and service standards within the London Environment Strategy². The Partner Authorities Plans will also be updated as proposals for future service and performance improvement on waste reduction, reuse and recycling evolve.

The Joint Strategy does not cover local issues such as the collection of litter, street cleansing and fly-tipping, and also does not set out specific details on how each Borough will develop its household waste and recycling collection services in the future. The Joint Strategy focuses on the longer-term targets and ambitions of the Partner Authorities, and the general principles by which the Partner Authorities will work together to achieve them.

1.3 The Joint Strategy and the SEA Screening Process

The objective of SEA is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development.

The requirement for SEA was brought into legislation by the SEA Regulations³. These regulations

¹ [Renewi-FYSDP-Report-web-res.pdf \(eastlondonwaste.gov.uk\)](#)

² [London Environment Strategy](#)

³ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633) apply to any plan or programme which relates solely or in part to England.

transposed the requirements of EU Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) into English legislation. Following Brexit, minor amendments, to correct deficiencies and terminology, were made to the SEA Regulations through the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018.

This SEA screening has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations. The Practical Guide to SEA⁴ has also been taken into account.

The screening consultation has been prepared to enable the Consultation Bodies as specified in section 4 of the SEA Regulations to provide comment on the appropriateness of the screening process and its conclusion for this draft strategy. Those bodies are Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. Other bodies that have specifically been invited to comment are the Greater London Authority and the Partner Authorities.

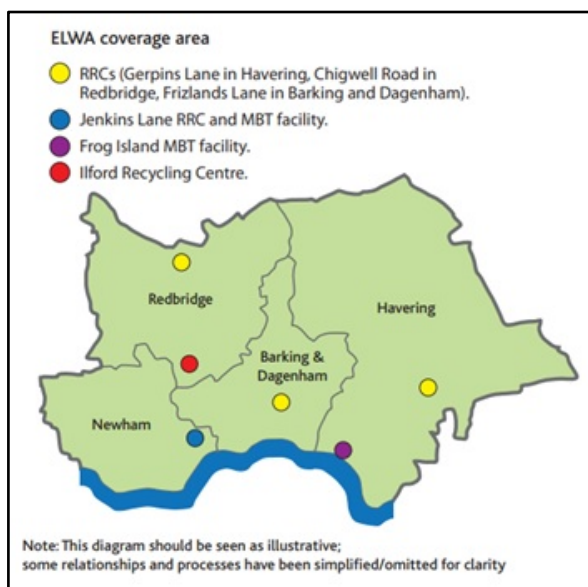
The consultation period will be from **19th July 2021 to 10th September 2021**. Any comments are invited to be made in writing and returned to the Team at:

Email: consultation@eastlondonwaste.gov.uk

Postal Address: **to be confirmed**.

Once responses to this screening statement have been received, a statement of determination will be produced indicating that the SEA screening process has been conducted in accordance with the SEA Regulations and available guidance and a determination has been made on the likely 'significant environmental effects' of the Strategy. In accordance with the SEA Regulations the conclusions on the determination will also be made available to the public.

1.4 The Strategy Area



The area covered by the ELWA is shown in Figure 1. The London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Newham and Redbridge cover an area of 93 square miles, bordering the historic East End, the edges of Epping Forest, rural Essex and the River Thames. The 1.1 million residents live in 425,000 households, spread over a diverse mix of districts including large housing estates, dense terraces, detached suburban streets, and small villages. There are also significant pockets of commercial land, active farms, and large industrial zones.

Figure 1: Map of the East London Partner Authorities

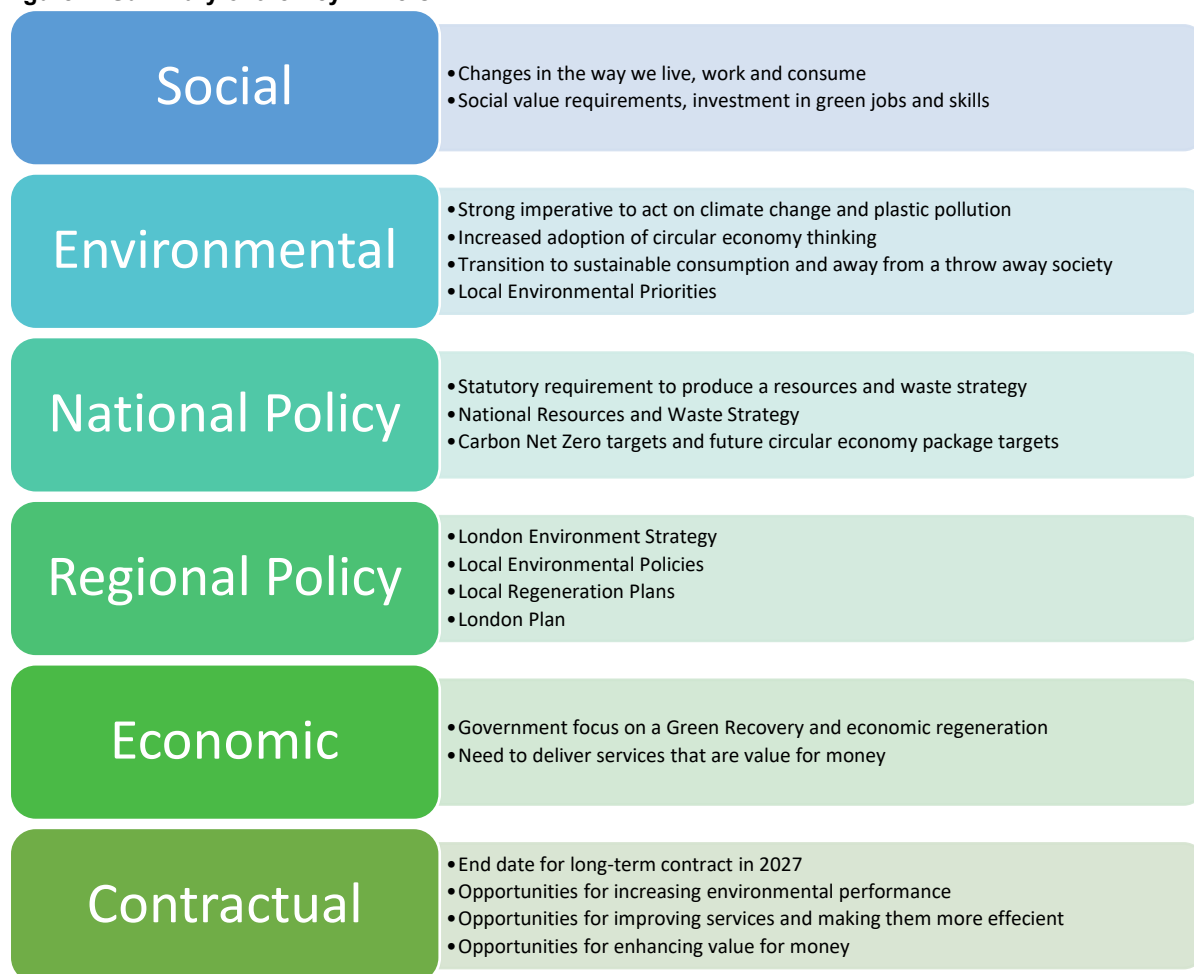
⁴ A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: Practical Guidance on Applying European Directive 2001/42/EC', Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2005.

1.5 Context of the Strategy

This Joint Strategy is needed to help the Partner Authorities start to plan for the end of the long-term 25-year contract (2002-2027) for waste treatment, while meeting the new requirements that will be arising from national and regional policy changes, and economic, environmental and societal drivers. The Partner Authorities also recognise the imperative to manage resources better in the future, to enhance resource efficiency and minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

Development of a joint strategy is a statutory requirement for waste authorities in two-tier areas⁵. Furthermore, development of the Joint Strategy provides an opportunity to ensure that future strategy, procurement proposals and targets align as closely as possible with London's overall strategic ambitions, as set out in the London Environment Strategy. The summary of the key drivers of the Joint Strategy is shown in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2: Summary of the Key Drivers



⁵ [Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

1.6 The Structure of the Joint Strategy

The structure of the Joint Strategy is as follows:

- **Chapter One** – sets the context for the Joint Strategy;
- **Chapter Two** - describes how resources and waste are currently managed in the Partner Authorities' area, and provides detail on some of the opportunities, challenges and existing performance levels;
- **Chapter Three** - describes what changes the Partner Authorities expect to see in the future, both in terms of how the area will change, what impacts national and regional policy may have on the types and quantities of waste being generated, and some of the other factors which may also play a role in how consumers buy, use and dispose of products that will have an effect on resources and waste management;
- **Chapter Four** – sets out the vision for how the Partner Authorities will work together and with the community to help reduce waste and divert more items for repair and reuse. Four aims and eight objectives have been developed by the Partner Authorities to provide a clear outline of what is to be achieved and priorities for the future. This chapter also sets out priorities around Waste Prevention, Reuse and Repair, Recycling and Supporting improvements with infrastructure;
- **Chapter Five** – outlines how the Partner Authorities will work together to achieve the aims and ambitions set out in the Joint Strategy; and
- **Chapter Six** – describes what performance measures will be used to measure success.

1.7 Responsibilities of the Partner Authorities

The four Constituent Councils, namely the London Boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham and Redbridge, are responsible as 'waste collection authorities' for arranging the collection of household waste and recycling, as well as undertaking waste and recycling collections from local businesses that choose to use their commercial waste services. The Constituent Councils also manage street cleansing, fly-tipping removal, and management of litter from local parks and open spaces, which all generate waste.

ELWA is the 'joint waste disposal authority' for the region and is responsible for providing treatment and disposal services for the waste and recycling collected by the Constituent Councils. ELWA also operates four Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs) where residents can deposit a wide range of materials for reuse, recycling and disposal.

2 The SEA Screening Process

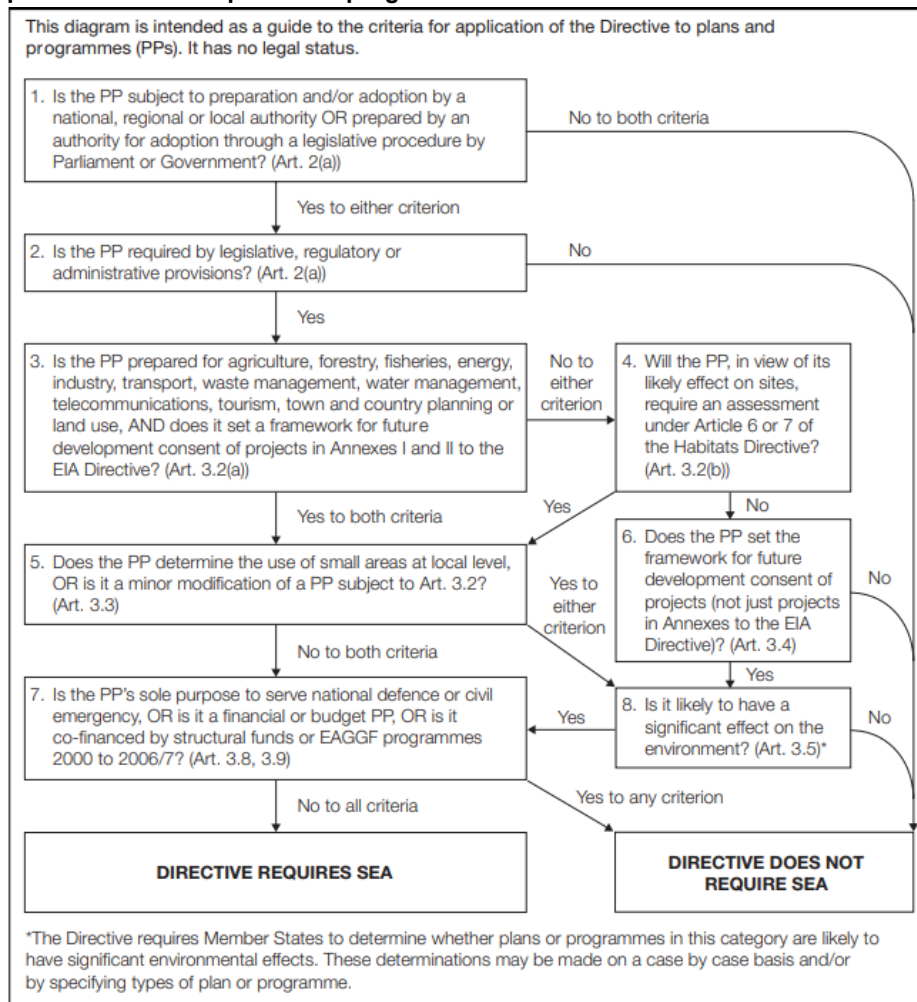
2.1 The Requirement for SEA

As stated in the SEA Regulations, the requirement for SEA applies to waste management plans, programmes and strategies. An SEA is only required if the Strategy is likely to have 'significant environmental effects' as detailed in Regulation 9(3):

“Where the responsible authority determines that the plan, programme or modification is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), it shall prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination.”

The screening process forms the first stage of SEA and determines whether an SEA is required for a plan or programme. The Practical Guide to SEA⁶ provides a framework for determination of the requirement for SEA (the screening process) in a staged flow-diagram (see **Figure 3**).

Figure 3: Application of SEA to plans and programmes



In accordance with **Figure 3**, the Practical Guide to SEA sets out eight criteria that should be considered when screening a plan, programme or strategy to determine whether it will require SEA. These are set out in **Table 1**.

⁶ A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: Practical Guidance on Applying European Directive 2001/42/EC', Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2005.

Table 1: ODPM Assessment

Screening Question		Screening Assessment
1	Is the strategy subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority through legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes This Joint Strategy sets out how the five Partner Authorities, namely ELWA and the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Newham and Redbridge, will work together to preserve resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy.
2	Is the strategy required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Yes The development of a joint strategy is a statutory requirement for waste authorities in two-tier areas ⁷ . The strategy will also be publicly available, has been prepared in a formal way and will involve consultation with interested parties.
3	Is the strategy prepared for agricultural, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport or waste management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land-use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive?	No Whilst the Joint Strategy is prepared for waste management it does NOT set a framework for future development consent of projects.
4	Will the strategy, in view of its likely effects on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive	No The implementation of this Joint Strategy will not have any likely effects on sites.
5	Does the strategy determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a plan subject to Article 3.2?	No The Joint Strategy covers the administrative areas of the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Newham and Redbridge
6	Does the strategy set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)?	No The Joint Strategy does not set the framework for future development consent of projects.
7	Is the strategy sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget plan, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000-2006/7?	No The purpose of the Joint Strategy is not to serve national defence or a civil emergency and is not a financial or budget plan.
8	Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	No This Joint Strategy sets out the strategic aims and ambitions for resources and waste management of the five Partner Authorities, and outlines how the Partner Authorities will work together to manage resources and waste within their boundaries between 2027 and 2057, after the end of the long-term contract for waste treatment services. The strategy encourages environmental performance and sets some aims and objectives to help set priorities for the future. Specific actions, will be decided later by the Partner Authorities.

⁷ [Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

2.2 Determination of Significance

In accordance with SEA Regulations the likely significance of all changes to the Joint Strategy have been considered with the relevant SEA Screening criteria and are presented in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Consideration of significant environmental effects of the Joint Strategy

SEA Screening Criteria	Summary of Predicted Environmental Effects	Significant Environmental Effect?
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to-		
(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 Joint Strategy will not provide a policy framework or allocate resources. Instead it provides the evidence base for local needs as well as the context and priorities of national and regional waste and resources policy for the local area. The Joint Strategy prescribes no alterations to the location, nature, size or operating conditions of potential facilities related to waste management.</p> <p>The Joint Strategy seeks to explore and investigate options in collaboration with wider organisations as well as promoting initiatives to the community. In terms of specific changes to the waste and recycling services that are already in place across East London, the Joint Strategy seeks to introduce separate waste food collections in line with anticipated regulations and Government guidance, and expand household collection services to allow residents to recycle a wider range of packaging and containers where markets exist.</p> <p>These are not considered to entail a significant environmental effect.</p>	No
b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	<p>The Joint Strategy is a strategic framework document in the local context that sets out the high level aspirations for waste and resource management. The Joint Strategy is influenced by a number of plans and programmes, nationally and regionally, within which there are a number of policy drivers that will influence how the Partner Authorities manage resources and waste in the future. This includes the Environment Bill which will bring into law key policies set out in the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy which have been identified as being important for the Partner Authorities to consider. These include the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, to incentivise recycling; standardising recycling collections from businesses and households and Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging.</p>	No

SEA Screening Criteria	Summary of Predicted Environmental Effects	Significant Environmental Effect?
	<p>East London will also contribute towards reuse and recycling targets set out in the national and regional strategies.</p> <p>The Joint Strategy itself has limited direct influence over other plans and programmes and therefore, it is not considered to entail a significant environmental effect.</p>	
<p>(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;</p>	<p>The Joint Strategy is relevant for the integration of environmental considerations to minimise waste arising and maximise waste reuse, repair and recycling.</p> <p>The London Plan and the Constituent Councils' Local Plans set the policies for sustainable development. The objectives in the Joint Strategy will not change Local Plan policy.</p>	No
<p>(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;</p>	<p>The Joint Strategy promotes waste prevention, and increase in reuse, repair and recycling in accordance with the waste hierarchy and moving towards a circular economy. The objectives in the Joint Strategy will not introduce or exacerbate any environmental problems. The guidance in the Joint Strategy supplements and supports Local Plan policy.</p>	No
<p>(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).</p>	<p>The Joint Strategy supports targets for recycling and landfill diversion. The Joint Strategy also contains aims, objectives, and priorities to facilitate treatment of waste in line with the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>The Joint Strategy will supplement Local Plan policies and is not relevant to the implementation of Community legislation on the environment.</p>	No
<p>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to (i.e. will the environmental effects be significant when consideration is given to:)</p>		
<p>(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</p>	<p>It is not envisaged that the implementation of the Joint Strategy is likely to have any significant negative environmental effects. The Joint Strategy sets out local priorities and aspirations. Whilst it does not set out any specific needs or locations a number of the objectives and priorities proposed aim to deliver</p>	No

SEA Screening Criteria	Summary of Predicted Environmental Effects	Significant Environmental Effect?
	improved performance in line with wider regional and national targets.	
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The Joint Strategy is designed to improve environmental protection/performance, and therefore there are no negative cumulative environmental effects envisaged for the strategy. The Joint Strategy is consistent with the waste hierarchy and therefore will promote that waste is treated increasingly in a more sustainable and environmentally friendly manner, meaning pollution and other negative environmental impacts are reduced over the life of the Joint Strategy.	No
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The Joint Strategy will not provide a policy framework or allocate resources. Instead it provides the evidence base for local needs as well as the context and priorities of national and regional waste and resources policy for the local area. The Joint Strategy does not set out any specific needs or locations. The Joint Strategy intends those changes in waste treatment should move waste up the Waste Hierarchy where possible, and therefore any potential effects of service changes will entail an environmental performance improvement within the boundaries of the ELWA area.	No
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	<p>There are no expected additional risks to human health and/or the environment arising from the implementation of the strategy.</p> <p>Two of the key Joint Strategy aims are to promote and implement sustainable municipal resources and wastes management policies and to minimise the overall environmental impact of resources and wastes management. This would potentially reduce materials handling that can give risk to potential health concerns.</p>	No
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The spatial extent of the Joint Strategy is contained within the Constituent Councils' Local Plan areas. The Joint Strategy does not seek to expand current waste management operations in the area. It seeks to reduce waste growth, increase reuse, repair and recycling. The Joint Strategy seeks to improve waste management which is considered to have positive effects in the ELWA area.	No
(f) the value and vulnerability of the	The Joint Strategy is not site specific and has been considered alongside sustainability issues as	No

SEA Screening Criteria	Summary of Predicted Environmental Effects	Significant Environmental Effect?
<p>area likely to be affected due to- (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use;</p>	<p>described in criteria 1(d). Furthermore, the implementation of the Joint Strategy will not remove protection for any such areas and therefore there are no significant effects associated with the Joint Strategy.</p>	
<p>(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>The Joint Strategy will not remove any protection for areas with a recognised community or international protection status. The strategy will encourage improved environmental performance. It is anticipated that the supplementary guidance in the Joint Strategy will have negligible impact on protected areas.</p>	<p>No</p>

3 Conclusion

The scope of the East London Joint Strategy has been considered against the criteria from the Practical Guide to SEA⁸ and the SEA Regulations.

It is considered that the East London Joint Strategy will not set a framework for future development consent of projects. Also, the aims, objectives and priorities set out in the Joint Strategy are focussed on exploring ways to work together and in partnership with the local community and other organisations to deliver sustainable systems for managing resources and waste in accordance with wider established targets and evolving legislation. The Partner Authorities will be exploring how to do this within their own services. For these reasons it is considered that the East London Joint Strategy is not likely to have any significant environmental effects and a SEA is not required.

⁸ A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: Practical Guidance on Applying European Directive 2001/42/EC', Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2005.



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