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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear

Planning consultation: Hammersmith & Fulham Local Plan - Sustainability Appraisal Draft Scoping Report for consultation
Location: Hammersmith & Fulham

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 09 January 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.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Draft Scoping Report:

The objectives within the SA, against which to assess the Local Plan objectives, are in line with the approach and methodology Natural England would wish to see. There are broadly a good range of monitoring indicators for most of the sustainability objectives however a category should be added to Table 3 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework that could be used to help with identifying changes in biodiversity or wildlife in the borough. This will be useful in helping to assess whether policies in the Local Plan do have a positive impact (or not as the case may be) upon the wider environment in the borough area and thus further afield. Baseline data to be collected should also include an assessment of the current state of biodiversity in the Borough, through checks against current Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets, for instance.

Within Table 3, under the objective relating to Climate Change it might also be useful to add in targets relating to the number of planning application approved that had some element of Green Infrastructure (GI) included in them. This could include elements that worked toward creation of new habitat or for instance were used for rainwater attenuation in heavy rainfall events – which would contribute to a more resilient borough in adverse weather conditions. Use of rain gardens or green and brown roofs would also be useful to look out for under the targets section, all being positive additions to any new development.

Under section A6 Testing the Draft Local Plan Objectives, the objectives that are most relevant to Natural England would be numbers 12,13,14 & 15. These cover a range of desired outcomes, from health and wellbeing to integration of GI into development and adaptation to climate change. A well designed and managed open space network within the borough would contribute toward good health and of course a better sense of place and feeling of safety in the environs of the borough. The maintenance and enhancement of a good network of green and blue ribbons that run through the borough would be a good step toward adapting to the pressures of climate change and coping with adverse weather events in the future.



We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Piotr Behnke on 0300 060 1963. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to 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

Development Plan Network – Land Use Ops

