1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) is in the process of preparing a borough-wide Managing Development Development Plan Document (MD DPD). The LBTH Core Strategy (2010) refers to a Development Management DPD and a Sites and Placemaking DPD. These two documents have been combined to form the MD DPD.

This non-technical summary sets out the results of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the MD DPD using a set of SA objectives (see Appendix A). It sets out information on how the SA has informed the preparation of the MD DPD. It also presents the key findings of the SA and gives a short summary of the SA process. The purpose of the SA was to assess the broader sustainability impacts of the MD DPD. How sustainability and sustainable development was defined and understood for the purposes of this assessment is set out below.

The overall aim of the SA was to minimise the negative impacts associated with the MD DPD whilst putting forward ways of enhancing the benefits the MD DPD could achieve.

Sustainable Development

The Government outlined the United Kingdom’s approach to sustainable development in the ‘UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy’ (March 2005). Within this document the government identifies five guiding principles with which the United Kingdom’s sustainable development strategy would be developed:

- Living within Environmental Limits;
- Ensuring a Strong Healthy and Just Society;
- Achieving a Sustainable Economy;
- Promoting Good Governance; and
- Using Sound Science Responsibly.

The guiding principles are further explained in the diagram below which is taken from the government’s strategy.
The Government has also produced a definition of sustainable communities. Sustainable communities are:

“Places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.”

Sustainable communities embody the principles of sustainable development, they:

- Balance and integrate the social, economic and environmental components of their community;
- Meet the needs of existing and future generations; and
- Respect the needs of other communities in the wider region or internationally also to make their communities sustainable.

2. BACKGROUND

The purpose of SA is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the social, economic and environmental impacts that the MD DPD may have.

The SA process consists of the following stages:

- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;
Stage B: Developing and refining options;
Stage C: Appraising the effects of the DPDs;
Stage D: Consulting on the plan and the SA Report; and
Stage E: Monitoring Implementation of the DPDs.

This is a summary of a SA report that is being consulted on.

**What is the Managing Development DPD?**

The MD DPD provides policies in relation to development management and allocating sites for development that are not contained in the Core Strategy. The DPD helps to manage development across the borough through development management policies and provides strategic guidance for key development sites within site allocations.

The development management policies are required to help ensure the delivery of sustainable development, in terms of sustainable communities, supporting the local and regional economy and protecting and enhancing the borough’s environment.

Site allocations have been identified to plan for strategic housing developments (i.e. sites that can provide over 500 new net-additional homes) that will help the borough meet its housing targets and identify key regeneration sites. The site allocations also ensure the borough has adequate space and capacity for physical, social and green infrastructure to meet the needs of existing and new communities.

The MD DPD has been prepared using a proportionate evidence base to ensure it plans positively to meet the development and infrastructure needs of communities, as set out in the Core Strategy.

**3. KEY FINDINGS**

1.1.1 The Core Strategy contains a comprehensive suite of policies, both thematic and area specific. The role of the Managing Development DPD is to provide more detail, where it is needed, and to ensure that more detailed topics are covered. The challenge is to avoid repetition and duplication between the Core Strategy and DPD but at the same time to ensure that the high level policies in the Core Strategy are better developed, where they need to be, in order to ensure that the high level objectives are translated into development on the ground. LBTH also need to be satisfied that the DPD contains the necessary policy hooks for the SPDs it intends to adopt.

1.1.2 This review of the Managing Development DPD against the SA objectives suggests that it is building appropriately on the Core Strategy. Detailed recommendations have been identified within this document, but it is also noted that many of the previous recommendations have been taken on board.

1.1.3 The assessment of site allocations identified a range of benefits across the objectives. In particular, the commitment to developing decentralised energy generation across all sites in the borough will be beneficial in terms of both climate change mitigation and low and zero carbon energy generation. The site allocations seek to promote mixed use development on a number of the sites, identifying specific infrastructure requirements where they are necessary.

1.1.4 Care will need to be taken at sites with low levels of accessibility to ensure that the level of accessibility is suitable once the site has been regenerated and there is every indication that this will be the case. Flood risk is also an issue for certain areas of the borough, particularly areas close to the River Thames but again the site allocations acknowledge this and have put in place a suitable approach to ensuring that the risk is managed.
4. CONCLUSIONS

The SA process has assessed the MD DPDs sustainability through an examination of the content of the document. The SA team have made a series of recommendations throughout the development of the MD DPD.

The MD DPD seeks to engage with the public to ensure to provide an on-going sense of ownership. This is particularly important in light of the Localism Bill, which seeks to get the public more involved in the planning system and empower them to make their own decisions with regards to the development of their community. In particular, the site allocations could provide an important first step in ensuring that neighbourhood plans function in compliance with the Local Development Framework.

5. NEXT STEPS

This document will be submitted to the Statutory Consultees, advertised in public local newspapers, as well as being made available on the Council’s website to view and download. This will enable relevant stakeholders to ensure that the Sustainability Appraisal Report is satisfactory and if not, comments will be addressed in later stages of the work.

Please send comments to:

FREEPOST RRBK - TZER - UTAU
LDF DPD Consultation
D&R Strategic Planning
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
PO Box 55739
London
E14 1BY

The consultation for the report runs from the XXX. The comments on the Report will then be reviewed and, if necessary, elements of the report will be amended and incorporated in subsequent work.
## Appendix A  SA Framework

### Overall objective

We will achieve environmental, social and economic development simultaneously; the improvement of one will not be to the detriment of another. Where trade offs between competing objectives are unavoidable, these will be transparent and minimised.

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<tr>
<th>SA Objective</th>
<th>Appraisal Criteria specific to the DPDs</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Managing Resources</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Biodiversity. To conserve and enhance natural habitats and wildlife and bring nature closer to people.</td>
<td>Will it conserve and enhance habitats and species in accordance with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. In particular, will it avoid harm to national or London priority species and designated sites and habitats and species identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan? Will it provide for the long-term management of natural habitats and wildlife? Will it provide opportunities to enhance the environment and create new conservation assets (or restore existing wildlife habitats) for example by integrating the creation of new habitats into the design of new buildings and areas? Will it protect and enhance the Borough’s waterbodies to achieve a good ecological status? Will it promote, educate and raise awareness of the enjoyment and benefits of the natural environment? Will it bring nature closer to people, especially in the most urbanised parts of the Borough, for example through the use of green and brown roofs? Will it improve access to areas of biodiversity interest? Will it enhance the ecological function and carrying capacity of the greenspace network?</td>
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<td>2. Water Quality &amp; Water Resources. To improve the quality of surface waters and groundwater and To achieve the wise management and sustainable use of water resources.</td>
<td>Will it improve the quality of waterbodies? Will it reduce discharges to surface and groundwaters? Will it support sustainable urban drainage? Will it improve the water systems infrastructure (e.g. water supply/sewerage)? Will it reduce abstraction form surface and groundwater sources? Will it reduce water consumption? Will it encourage the consideration of the water cycle?</td>
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| 3. Natural Resources. To minimise the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably produced, harvested and manufactured local products. | Will it reduce the demand for natural resources and raw materials from unsustainable sources?  
Will it encourage the prudent and efficient use of natural resources?  
Will it encourage the use of local sustainable products?  
Will it reduce the Borough’s ecological footprint per capita? |
|---|---|
| 4. Climate Change. To address the causes of climate change through minimising the emissions of greenhouse gases and ensuring that London is prepared for its impacts. | Will it minimise emissions of greenhouse gases?  
Will it help London meet its emissions targets?  
Will it protect the Borough from climate change impacts?  
Will it avoid exacerbating the impacts of climate change?  
Will it minimise the risk of flooding from rivers and watercourses to people and property?  
Will it manage existing flood risks appropriately and avoid new flood risks? |
| 5. Air Quality. To improve air quality. | Will it improve air quality?  
Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption?  
Will it help to reduce emissions of PM10, NO₂?  
Will it help to achieve national and international standards for air quality (for example, those set out in the Air Quality Regulations 2000 and (Amendment) Regulations 2002?  
(See objective 10 for further details on transport criteria including the provision of infrastructure to achieve a modal shift) |
| 6. Energy. To achieve greater energy efficiency and to reduce reliance on fossil fuels for transport, heating, energy and electricity. | Will it reduce the demand and need for energy?  
Will it promote and improve energy efficiency (e.g. buildings)?  
Will it increase the proportion of energy both purchased and generated from renewable and sustainable resources? |
| 7. Waste. To minimise the production of waste across all sectors and increase reuse, recycling, remanufacturing and recovery rates. | Will it minimise the production of household and commercial waste?  
Will it promote reuse and recycling (e.g. in the design of housing or promoting recycling schemes in existing building stock etc.) particularly in high density developments? |
| Getting Results | |
| 8. Built and Historic Environment. To enhance and protect the existing built environment (including the architectural distinctiveness, townscape/landscape and | Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical, archaeological and cultural value/potential?  
Will it conserve and enhance the townscape/cityscape character including the |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>9. Housing. To ensure that all Londoners have access to good quality, well-located, affordable housing that promotes liveability.</th>
<th>Will it reduce homelessness? Will it reduce overcrowding? Will it increase the range and affordability (both upfront and over its lifetime) of housing (taking into account different requirements and preferences of size, location, type and tenure)? Will it ensure that appropriate services and facilities are in place for the new population? Will it provide housing that ensures a good standard of living and promotes a healthy lifestyle? Will it improve the quality of housing? Will it increase use of sustainable design and sustainable building materials in construction? Will it improve energy efficiency and insulation in housing to reduce fuel poverty and ill health? Will it provide housing that encourages a sense of community and enhances the amenity value of the community? Will it improve the wider built environment and sense of place?</th>
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<td>10. Accessibility / Availability (Transport). To maximise the accessibility to key services and amenities and increase the proportion of journeys made by public transport, by bicycle and by foot (relative to those taken by car).</td>
<td>Will it encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel as well as encourage greater efficiency (e.g. through car-sharing)? Will it provide the infrastructure required to achieve a modal shift to more sustainable forms of transport? Will it reduce the overall need for people to travel by improving their access to the services, jobs, leisure and amenities in the place in which they live? Will it promote locally-based employment? Will it improve accessibility to work by public transport, walking and cycling?</td>
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<td>11. Regeneration &amp; Land Use. To stimulate regeneration and urban renaissance that maximises benefits for the most deprived areas and communities and to improve efficiency in land use through the sustainable reuse of previously developed land and existing buildings.</td>
<td>Will the regeneration have immediate and long-term benefits for deprived areas? Will it help to make people feel positive about the area they live in? Will it help to create a sense of place and ‘vibrancy’? Will it help reduce the number of vacant and derelict buildings?</td>
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12. Employment. To offer everyone the opportunity for rewarding, well-located and satisfying employment.

- Will it minimise the loss of soils to development?
- Will it improve soil quality?
- Will it generate satisfying and rewarding new jobs?
- Will it help to provide employment in the most deprived areas and stimulate regeneration?
- Will it reduce overall unemployment, particularly long-term unemployment?
- Will it encourage flexibility of work, including voluntary and part-time work?
- Will new employment opportunities be well served by public transport?

- Will it provide the infrastructure to help increase the levels of participation and attainment in education?
- Will it help improve employee education/training programmes?
- Will it help reduce skills shortages?
- Will it promote multiple uses of schools?

13. Stable Economy. To encourage a strong, diverse and stable economy and to improve the resilience of businesses and their environmental, social and economic performance.

- Will it improve sustainable business development?
- Will it help to diversify the economy?
- Will it prevent the loss of indigenous businesses?
- Will it encourage business start-ups and support the growth of businesses?
- Will it safeguard the best of the employment land portfolio?
- Will it create and sustain vibrant and diverse communities and encourage increased engagement in recreational, leisure and cultural activities?
- Will it provide opportunities for people to choose an active, fulfilling life?
- Will it increase the provision of key services, facilities and employment opportunities?
- Will it positively enhance and promote the perceived sense of place held by the community?
- Will it protect and enhance the provision of open space?
- Will it encourage a mix of land uses?
- Will it reduce the urban heat island effect associated with increasingly dense development?

14. Creativity and Innovation. To promote creativity and innovation in the environmental and social economy (including new clean technologies, renewable energy, pollution control and the skills sector).

- Will it help to diversify the economy?
- Will it encourage investment in new technologies, new solutions, new plans and new ideas that contribute to achieving progress towards sustainability?

15. Liveability and Place. To create and sustain liveable, mixed use physical and social environments that promote long-term social cohesion, sustainable lifestyles and a sense of place.

Taking Responsibility

- Will it promote multiple uses of schools?
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<tr>
<th>17. Ownership and Participation. To promote civic participation, ownership and responsibility and enable individuals, groups and communities to contribute to decision-making at neighbourhood, borough and regional levels in London.</th>
<th>Will it promote social cohesion and encourage engagement in community activities? Will it increase the ability of people to influence decisions? Will it support civic engagement and encourage the involvement and participation of a diverse range of stakeholders?</th>
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<td>Developing Respect</td>
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<td>18. Health and Well-being. To maximise the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health.</td>
<td>Will it reduce poverty and health inequalities? Will it improve access to high quality public services (including health facilities)? Will it address the causes of key health issues including high rates of cardio-vascular disease and lung cancer? Will it create an environment that will promote and support physical activity and other healthy behaviours? Will it improve access to high quality public services (including health facilities) with particular emphasis on access by active travel means such as walking, cycling and public transport?</td>
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<td>19. Safety and Security. To enhance community safety by reducing crime, antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime.</td>
<td>Will it reduce the fear of crime? Will it reduce actual noise levels and disturbances from noise?</td>
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<td>20. Equality and diversity. To ensure equitable outcomes for all communities, particularly those most liable to experience discrimination, poverty and social exclusion.</td>
<td>Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas and communities most affected?</td>
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