

# **Draft Belgravia Conservation Area Audit**

## **Consultation Statement and Supporting Information**

**October 2013**



City of Westminster

## **Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012**

### **Belgravia Conservation Area Audit Supplementary Planning Document Statement of Consultation- July 2013**

This statement has been prepared to accompany the draft Belgravia Conservation Area Audit SPD and to comply with Part 5 Regulation 12 (a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

It sets out the details of those people consulted during the preparation of the audit and is followed by details of the formal consultation process. Consultation on all SPDs follow procedures set out in Westminster's adopted 'Statement of Community Involvement' (January 2007).

**1 Title of the Document:** Belgravia Conservation Area Audit Supplementary Planning Document

#### **2 Purpose and Reasoned Justification for production of Belgravia Conservation Area Audit SPD**

The City Council is undertaking an ongoing and comprehensive review of its 56 conservation areas. This review process is a statutory duty and involves consideration of conservation area boundaries and preparation of detailed conservation area appraisals for each area.

The audit is being produced to guide the conservation, enhancement and management of the special character of Belgravia Conservation Area, by identifying those features of special architectural or historic interest which contribute to the local townscape and the significance of the conservation area. It will also identify negative features, opportunities for enhancement and management proposals to positively guide future change and development within the area.

This will assist with the interpretation of Westminster City Plan Strategic Policy S25 which seeks to conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance and as such will provide more clarity and assist in the preparation of appropriate and successful planning applications.

#### **3. Consultation in connection with preparation of the SPD**

In advance of formal consultation, a phase of pre-drafting consultation has been undertaken over an extended period of time. The conservation area audit programme was made available on the council's website ([www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk)). This invites comments and includes a comments form which can be downloaded and submitted at any stage of the process. In addition, the Council sent letters advertising the full Audit programme to local and national amenity societies in 2009 indicating our intention to undertake the audit and inviting comments prior to drafting.

Consultees at this stage included:

English Heritage  
Royal Parks  
Transport for London  
Westminster Property Owners  
Association  
Grosvenor Estates  
London Historic Parks & Gardens Trust  
Society for the Protection of Ancient  
Buildings  
Ancient Monuments Society  
The Victorian Society

20th Century Society  
Land Securities  
The Thorney Island Society  
Belgravia Residents Association  
CB Richard Ellis  
Barton Willmore  
London Underground  
Pimlico F.R.E.D.A  
Royal Borough of Kensington and  
Chelsea  
Citywest Home

A walkabout was undertaken with the planning advisor to the Grosvenor Estate and council planning officers attended the South Area Forum with an exhibition in February 2009. The draft audit has also been circulated internally within the Council for comments and ward councillors have been provided with a draft.

#### **4. Issues Raised**

Issues raised by consultees for consideration in drafting the document include the following:

- Basement extensions are now a major issue: what impact does this have on the conservation area and can this be covered in the audit?
- Additional suggestions for extensions to area were made, including the stretch along Grosvenor Place.
- As well as the typical white stucco and brick Belgravia houses, other building types also make a positive contribution to the character of the area, including Victorian brick buildings and some twentieth century buildings
- Need to consider public realm, mixture of street surfaces is detrimental to character. Traffic also has a major impact.

These comments have shaped the content of the current SPD, in particular influencing the 'negative features' section and extensions report.

#### **5. Formal Consultation Process on Draft Conservation Area Audit**

The Cabinet Member agreed that the document should be published for formal public consultation on 03.10.2013.

The consultation period will last for six weeks from 30/10/2013- 11/12/2013.

During this period, site notices will be put up throughout the conservation area advertising that the documents have been drafted and are available to view and comment upon and meetings with local groups will be held. There will be an informal meeting to introduce the audit and the proposed extensions to the conservation area. Details of the venue and times will be published in the

website. Consultation notification will be sent out by email to local stakeholders including:

- Belgravia Residents Association;
- Grosvenor Estate;
- English Heritage;
- Victorian Society;
- Relevant Statutory Bodies;
- Other organisations and businesses in the conservation area and their various representatives.

## **6. Availability of Documents**

During this period, the draft audit will be available online and can be downloaded from the internet at:

<http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/environment/planning/conservationlist/edbldings/areaprofiles/belgravia/>

It can also be inspected on request at: City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, SW1 (Open 8.30am-6pm, Monday-Friday).

Hard copies will also be provided on request (address for requests below).

## **7. How to comment on the draft SPD**

Representations on the draft SPD can be submitted in writing during the six week consultation period. Representations should preferably be made by e-mail and submitted to: [conservationareaaudits@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:conservationareaaudits@westminster.gov.uk)

Alternatively they can be made by post to the following address:

**Conservation Area Audits Team  
Built Environment, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Westminster City Council, City Hall  
64 Victoria Street  
SW1E 6QP**

**For further information please telephone: 020 7641 2503**

**Any representations may be accompanied by a request to be notified in future, at a specified address, of the adoption of the SPD.**

## **8. Next steps**

Following public consultation, the SPD will be revised to take account of the comments received and the document and details of all consultation comments and how they have been addressed will be put before the Cabinet Member for a decision on whether to adopt. Once adopted, all final

documents will be published on the website alongside the final Statement of Adoption.