

# **Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit**

## **Statutory Documents to Accompany SPD**

- 1. Statement of SPD Matters**
- 2. Consultation Statement**
- 3. Statement of Representations**
- 4. Sustainability Appraisal**
- 5. Statement of Adoption**



## Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit SPD: Notice of Supplementary Planning Document Matters

<b>Title</b> Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit Supplementary Planning Document
<b>Purpose</b> To guide the protection, enhancement and management of the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area, by identifying those features of special historic and architectural interest which contribute to the local townscape and which the council will seek to protect. It will also identify negative features, opportunities for enhancement and management proposals to guide future change and development within the area.
<b>Content</b> This will include <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>[a] Historical Development</li><li>[b] Appraisal of character</li><li>[c] Identification of Unlisted Buildings of Merit</li><li>[d] Appraisal of roofscape and Identification of properties suitable for roof extension</li><li>[e] Identification of townscape detail and landscape features which contribute to the character of the area</li><li>[f] Identification of Features which detract from the character of the conservation Area</li><li>[g] Management and Enhancement proposals</li></ul>
<b>Geographical coverage</b> Will apply to the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area.
<b>Consultation Period</b> The full public consultation on the draft audit and sustainability appraisal will be held in April-May 2008. During this time, the draft audit and sustainability appraisal can be downloaded from the internet or inspected at One Stop Services, 62 Victoria Street, SW1 (Open 8.30am-7pm, Monday-Friday; 9am-1pm Saturday).
<b>Representations</b> You can submit comments and suggestions at any stage of the process. Representations on the draft SPD can be submitted in writing during the six week consultation period. Written representations should be made by post to the following address: <b>Conservation Area Audits Team</b> <b>Department of Planning and City Development</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> Floor (South)</b> <b>Westminster City Council</b> <b>City Hall</b> <b>64 Victoria Street</b> <b>SW1E 6QP</b>  Or by e-mail to: <a href="mailto:conservationareaaudits@westminster.gov.uk">conservationareaaudits@westminster.gov.uk</a> Any representations may be accompanied by a request to be notified in future, at a specified address, of the adoption of the SPD.

# Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit SPD: Statement of Consultation and Statement of Representations Received

## 2 Statement of Consultation (Section 17 (B))

Under Section 17(b) of the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, Westminster City Council has a duty to prepare a consultation statement to accompany the draft Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Consultation on all SPD follow procedures set out in Westminster's adopted 'Statement of Community Involvement' (January 2007). Main steps undertaken are set out below.

### Pre-drafting consultation

Prior to drafting the initial draft Conservation Area Audit for Westminster Cathedral a forward programme of the audits was made available on the council's website ([www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk)); officers also attended the Area Forums of May/June 2007 with details of the forthcoming programme. In addition, letters advertising the Audit programme and inviting comments prior to drafting were sent to local and national amenity societies, Westminster Property Owners' Association (WPOA), local housing associations, and English Heritage. The audit was also advertised by press advert

### Consultation on Draft Conservation Area Audit

Following feedback on the initial information provided, the document was drafted and formally adopted for full public consultation in April 2008. The draft Audit and Boundary Review documents have been made available on the council website, with full details of the public consultation process and links to the feedback form. Site notices were also put up throughout the conservation area advertising that the documents has been drafted and were available to view and comment upon. A press notice has also been issued describing the SPD matters and information made available at One Stop services. The consultation draft was sent out to consultation with letters to the following:

<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Ms	Susan	Denyer		<b>ICOMOS UK Government Office for London</b>
Mr	Ken	Bean	Planning & Housing Division	
Mr	Edmund	Bird	Heritage Advisor	<b>Design for London</b>
Mr	Terry	Clark	Property Services Manager	<b>CityWest Homes</b>
Mr	Ian	Mawson		<b>Citywest Homes</b>
Mr	Mike	Dunn	Central & West London Team	<b>English Heritage</b>

Ms	Camilla	Ween	Interim Head of Land Use Planning, Borough Partnerships	<b>Transport for London</b>
Mr	Paul	Houston		<b>Westminster Property Owners Association</b>
Ms	Francine	Reddaway		<b>Westminster Property Owners Association</b>
Mr	Nick	Dudman	Property Director	<b>The Peabody Trust</b>
Mr	John	McQuaid	Facilities Manager	<b>The Peabody Trust</b>
Mr	Steven	Peter	Diocesan Estates Surveyor	<b>The Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster</b>
Mr	Steve	Melligan	Planning & Development Manager	<b>The Church Commissioners</b>
Ms	Elsbeth	Miller	Head of Central London Estates	<b>The Crown Estate</b>
Mr	Philip	Davies		<b>English Heritage</b>
Mr	Matthew	Salcombe	Deputy Secretary	<b>Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings</b>
			Casework Advisor	<b>Ancient Monuments Society</b>
Ms	Kathryn	Ferry		<b>The Victorian Society</b>
Ms	Josephine	Brown	Case Officer for Westminster	<b>The Georgian Group</b>
Ms	Eva	Branscombe	Case Officer	<b>20th Century Society</b>
Mr	Peter	Handley		<b>The Westminster Society</b>
Mr	Barry	Henderson	Chairman	<b>The Westminster Society</b>
Miss	June	Stubbs		<b>The Thorney Island Society</b>
Mr	Micheal	Bird	Portfolios Director	<b>Land Securities</b>
	Ms	Collette	O'Shea	<b>Land Securities</b>
Ms	Lisa	Webb		<b>Moseley and Webb</b>
			Director of Parliamentary Estates	<b>Parliamentary Estates Directorate</b>
Mr	Adam	Watrobski	Conservation Architect	<b>Parliamentary Estates Directorate</b>
Ms	Sue	Hannah		<b>The South Westminster Community Network and Steering Group</b>
Ms	Virginia	Crowe	Chariman	<b>Ashley Gardens Residents Association</b>
Ms	Rowena	Wilson	Vice Chairman	<b>Ashley Gardens Residents Association</b>
Ms	Sandra	Rennie	Resident	<b>Ashley Gardens, Ambrosden Avenue</b>
Mr	Paul	Kurgo	Resident	<b>Ashley Gardens, Emery Hill Street</b>
Mr	Brian	Wadsworth	Resident	<b>Ashley Gardens, Emery Hill Street</b>
Ms	Jane	Mardell	Resident	<b>Ashley Gardens, Ambrosden Avenue</b>
Ms	Benedicte	Paviot	Resident	<b>Ashley Gardens,</b>

				<b>Ambrosden Avenue</b>
Ms	Elizabeth	Frimston	Resident	<b>Morpeth Mansions</b>
Mr	Jonathan	Gibbs	Resident	<b>Morpeth Mansions</b>
Mr	Stephen	Braddock	Resident	<b>1-3 Morpeth Terrace</b>
Ms	Carole	Philips	Resident	<b>1-3 Morpeth Terrace</b>
Mrs	Gilda	Shipp	Resident	<b>Ashley Court</b>
Ms	Margo	Chalcrow	Resident	<b>Cardinal Mansions</b>
Mr	John	Corbett	Resident	<b>Carlisle Mansions</b>
Sir	Peter	Heap MacDonald	Resident	<b>Carlisle Mansions</b>
Mr	Peter	Eggers	Resident	<b>Carlisle Mansions</b>
Mr	David	Jacob	Resident	<b>Carlisle Mansions</b>
Ms	Agnes	Ellis	Resident	<b>1-3 Carlisle Place</b>
Mr	John	Maynard		
Mr	Pascal	Bates	Resident	<b>Evelyn Mansions</b>
Mr	John	Miller	Resident	<b>Evelyn Mansions</b>
Father	Michael	Seed		<b>Westminster Cathedral</b>
Monsignor	Mark	Langham		<b>Westminster Cathedral</b>
Cllr	Alexander	Nicoll Chalkley		
Cllr	Danny			
Cllr	Duncan	Sandys		
Cllr	Steve	Summers		
Cllr	Louise	Hyams		
Cllr	Tim	Mitchell		
Mr	Tony	Benton		
Mr	Graham	King		
Ms	Rebecca	Cloke	Parks Project Manager	<b>WCC Parks</b>
	Martin	Low	Director of Transportation	<b>Highways</b>
Mr	Don	Murchie		
Mr	Fergus	Coleman		
Ms	Vivienne	Lukey		
Mr	Mark	Banks		
Ms	Debbie	McMullen	Special Development Strategy Team Planning Decisions Unit	<b>Greater London Authority Greater London Authority London Development Agency</b>
Mr	Giles	Dolphin Heighton		<b>Policy South Area Planning Team</b>
Ms	Linda Barry	Smith		<b>Trees and Landscape Corporate Property Division</b>
Mr	Alan	Wharton	Property Strategy Manager	

Sister	Ellen	Flynn		<b>Passage Day Centre Franciscan Friars of the Atonement Westminster Cathedral Choir School St Vincent de Paul Primary School</b>
Mr	Neil	McLaughlan	Headmaster	
Mr	J	O'Neill	Headteacher	
Mr	Colin	Buttery	Director	<b>Royal Parks The Garden History Society London Historic Parks &amp; Gardens Trust</b>
Mr	Ian	Kennaway		<b>London Borough Of Lambeth London Borough of Southwark</b>
Mr	Michael	Copeman	Team Leader: Conservation and Urban Design Planning and Transport Policy Manager	
Mr	Simon	Bevan		<b>Westminster School</b>
Mr	Chris	Silcock	Bursar	
Mr	John	Burton	Surveyor of Fabric to Westminster Abbey	<b>Westminster Abbey QEII Conference Centre Westminster Arms Institution of Civil Engineers Institution of Chartered Surveyors St Matthews CE Primary Scool St Matthew's Church City of Westminster Archive Centre Cross River Partnership Westminster Abbey Choir School Robert O'Hara Architects Greater London Authority Transport for London</b>
Mr	Phil	Ackers	Manager	
Mr	Phil	Ackers	Facilities Manager	
Mr	Phil	Ackers	Headteacher	
Ms	Anna	Covelli		
Mr	Jonathon	Milton	Headteacher	
Mr	Robert	O'Hara		
Mr	Ceciel Graham	Delarue Nash	Project Manager: Squares	

The main public consultation on both the audit and its sustainability appraisal runs from from 4 April to 29 May 2008. Officers will attend two MyWestminster forums on Thursday 24 April 2008 at Greycoat Place and on Tuesday 6 May 2008 at Mary Sumner House. At the forum there will be an exhibition and copies of the documents and comments sheets available. These meetings will be advertised on site notices, on Westminster's website, by local press advert and by writing to local organisations and individuals.

### **3 Statement of Representations Received (Regulation 18 (4) (b))**

A letter dated 4 April 2008 also invited all interested parties to comment on the audit and ward councillors were also notified. The main public consultation period on the draft Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit closed on 29 May 2008.

Feedback from the area forums was generally supportive and the production of the audit has been welcomed in principle. In addition to comments made at the meeting, five other consultation responses were received from the Cathedral Area Residents Group, Land Securities, The Westminster Society, English Heritage and Westminster Cathedral. These have been considered and amendments were made to the draft SPD. These were considered by the Cabinet Member for Built Environment and are also detailed in the Cabinet Member report published in the Directory appended to the audit.

**PPENDIX 3: Table of comments**

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Council Response</b>
<b>Cathedral Area Residents Group (CARG)</b>	3.2 Seventeenth not fourteenth century? Battle of Worcester 1651	Corrected
	3.8 There is no separate street called Ashley Gardens. Ashley Gardens is the name of the Blocks on Ambrosden Ave, Thirleby Rd and Emery Hill St.	'Ashley Gardens' deleted from paragraph
	General Comment: The historic and symbolic significance of this area is not adequately reflected in the Audit  3.9 (or addition to 4.13) statement of cultural significance needs to be added explaining the symbolic importance of this cathedral s a site of outstanding national value to catholic congregation of England and Wales	Much further historical information has been added to the history section of the audit, including statement of significance in final para of history secyion and at para. 3.20.  Agree Added to history section at paras 3.16 and 3.20
	3.12 First refers to the streets that comprise the Conservation Area arising from the 1860's onwards, but subsequently in the same paragraph it says "..... Carlisle Place and Morpeth Terrace were constructed in the 1850's..." This should be changed to the 1860's.	The laying out of these streets was begun in the late 1850s. Wording amended to be consistent.
	4.2 Omit <i>surprisingly</i>	Omitted
	4.3 Offices are 1970s not 1960s.	Amended
	INSET BOX – SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT – The Cardinal Place development does not open up any wider views than were produced by the creation of the Piazza in front of the Cathedral in 1975 (see 3.13). The corridor running into the centre of the development merely extends the existing view of the frontage by	'longer' inserted instead of 'wider'

	<p>some 80 yards in a virtual direct line into the development. It is exactly the same view but it can be seen along a longer corridor in front of the Cathedral than it could before.</p>	
	<p>4.10 – Insufficient definition of meaning of Primary Routes, Spaces and Secondary Routes and Spaces, and Intimate Routes and Spaces gives rise to some inaccuracies here. Although para 4.5 says that street layout has impact on scale of development and level of enclosure, is there really an equivalence between some of these Secondary Routes? Such as Carlisle Place/Morpeth Terrace which are one-way streets with narrowing footpaths (which should limit them to local traffic) and Ambrosden Avenue/Thirleby Road which are two way streets providing a more direct access and egress to Victoria Street?</p> <p>We consider that given the significance of route classifications (for future maintenance, preservation and development etc) the criteria used should be more refined and a detailed explanation of route classification/categories included in the Audit text (or as an Appendix).</p>	<p>Definition added to clarify different types of routes at para. 4.6.</p> <p>Although some of the routes are two way and some are one way, these are still similar routes in terms of the scale and width of the buildings and so we do feel that there is an equivalence between routes identified.</p>
	<p>4.11 Add sentence: <i>‘These buildings are the official residence and administrative headquarters of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of England and Wales.’</i></p>	<p>Sentence added within land uses section 6.</p>
	<p>4.11 – 4.66 – Does not give a description of King’s Scholars’ Passage and its history, first as a branch of the Tyburn, then as a main sewer or drain, at first open but then closed in.</p> <p>4.12 – Carlisle Place and Morpeth Terrace were started in the 1860’s not the 1850’s.</p> <p>4.27- We are not sure that the 1893 date is accurate. Some late 19<sup>th</sup> C maps show Evelyn as having been built before Carlisle Mansions (1886). Note that fig 6 shows Evelyn, suggesting it was built before 1893?</p>	<p>Reference added in history section, para. 3.3.</p> <p>Started in the late 1850s, see above.</p> <p>This date came from Pevsner. However, have added the word ‘circa’ Figure 6 is an 1890s map, not specifically 1890, the ‘s’ has been added to clarify.</p> <p>Amended.</p>



	4.3 offices are 1970s and not 1960s	
	<p>Fig 11 Wilcox Place needs to be given a route/space designation <i>And see Section 2 below – Useful additions ('Character' map).</i></p> <p>Thirleby Road continues into Victoria Street and the final part of the road should also be given the Route categorisation.</p>	<p>Wilcox Place designated as a <i>secondary</i> route/space.</p> <p>Amended.</p>
4.28	<p>Replace first sentence of paragraph with quote from EH Inspector: “The handsome Italianate Palazzo inspired elevations of <b>St Vincent’s Centre</b>” etc. St Vincent Centre contains studio flats for Servite Housing Assoc and sleeping accommodation for the Daughters of Charity.</p> <p>Add a sentence “This building gives a distinctly international flavour to the street and makes a significant contribution to the character of the area as a local landmark.” OR as per other Audits for example, list the building along with No 47 the Friary on Francis Street in a separate section for Local Landmarks.</p>	<p>Sentence amended.</p> <p>Land use info incorporated in land uses section 6.</p> <p>Sentence amended and importance of building acknowledged by its classification as an <i>Unlisted Building of Merit</i>. However not considered to be a local landmark building as in scale and style it is similar to many other buildings within the conservation area and it is not more visible in long views.</p>
	<p>4.33 – The first four blocks of Carlisle Mansions have stucco pedimented porches and the reference should be to Nos 1-20 and not 1-15</p> <p>Fig 27 – Should refer to No 21-35 and not 16-35, and the Table of Figures and Illustrations on p.6 should be changed accordingly (see above).</p> <p>Fig 28 – Should refer to No 1-20 and not 1-15, and the Table of Figures and Illustrations on p.6 should be changed accordingly (see above).</p>	Amended.
	<p>4.38 – The description of Francis Street should be extended to mention the St Mungo’s building and others such as the Cardinal Pub which is included in 4.79 as an unlisted building of merit -(especial mention of its unique title and the history of, etc)</p> <p>4.43 – Ashley Court runs through to Carlisle Place – the rear of which</p>	<p>Agreed. Amended and section on Francis Street reordered so all information is together at paras. 4.61-4.66.</p> <p>The rear of Ashley court does not make a positive contribution to the street. However, as of one build it</p>

	<p>should not be classified separately as “neutral development” – especially if Partnership House is to be listed as an unlisted building of merit. The confusion may lie in the outdated Ordnance Survey map misleadingly describing the rear part of Ashley Court as “St Andrew’s” (Hall).</p> <p>4.45 – Partnership House replaced Borax House sometime ago as the address for this building.</p> <p>4.47 – 29 Francis Street now listed Grade 2. Description needed of it being a very fine example of early an accommodation solution for young, low-paid single working women in London.</p>	<p>has been included as an unlisted building of merit.</p> <p>Address amended.</p> <p>Added at para. 4.62.</p>
	4.48 United House more usually now referred to as 1 Ambrosden Avenue	Text amended.
	<p>4.55 Wigram House is student accommodation for the University of Westminster not a nurses’ home.</p> <p>4.62 The shop in Greencoat Row no longer operates as such. Need to check current 4.64 St Phillips de Pury. The redevelopment also contains residential flats and a community safety office use.</p>	<p>Land Uses map and Para 4.54 text has been corrected</p> <p>Information added to the land uses section.</p>
	4.65 – Does not give any description of the Greencoat Boy public house although it is shown on 4.79 as an unlisted building of merit.	Photographs and description added.
	4.70 There is WW2 bomb/fire damage to certain roofs and these could be considered for renovation to their original design?	<p>Following consultation with south team, it was agreed that reference to WW2 bomb/fire damage to certain roofs should be added to Para. 4.76.</p> <p><i>Where it can be demonstrated that roofs have been damaged by WW2 bombing or fire, these may be considered for renovation to their original design.’</i></p>
	Is there a DES/policy for preserving roof top playgrounds? (see EH report Education Buildings Selection Guide 03/07 p.4 and UDP 2007 on Children’s Play Provision?)	<p>No DES Policy related to this.</p> <p>Although these may provide important facilities and be of historical interest, it is not considered that roof top playgrounds make a significant contribution to the character of the conservation area as none are not visible within or contribute to the townscape.</p>
	4.79 – The list here should be comprehensive in its description of the convent buildings. These	Description amended

	<p>include Bentley House as well as No 87 Convent of St Vincent de Paul (see para 4.28). Additionally Borax House should be labelled Partnership House and the entirety of Ashley Court (see comment above to include rear on Carlisle Place). Furthermore, there is no description of 55-66 Coburg Close, although (and correctly) this is included as an unlisted building of merit.</p> <p>Insert the EH-recommended caveat (<i>Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals</i>) viz: <i>“It should be made clear in the text that no appraisal can ever be completely comprehensive and that omission of any particular building, feature or space should not be taken to imply that it is of no interest.”</i></p>	
	<p>4.85 Views – additionally, maintaining clear, unobstructed views of the Cathedral Campanile is necessary to preserve both Metropolitan and Local Views.</p> <p>Equally important is to respect the religious symbolism of the Campanile and preserve the atmosphere of calm which needs surround the call-to-prayer bell. Equally respect for the solemnity of the funeral bell and the daily Eucharist. Amongst others, these bells are an aural mark of the rhythm of daily life around the Cathedral and add greatly to the special character of the area.</p> <p>4.90 Add:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local View (8?) North up Morpeth Terrace taking in the Cathedral and distinctive tree formation (especially when in summer leaf).</li> <li>• Along Francis Street as it has a varied set of frontages, including many buildings of special interest and two listed building (The Friary and St Mungo’s).</li> <li>• South down Thirleby Road to <i>include</i> the garden.</li> </ul>	<p>Views reviewed and some new views added</p>
	<p>5.18 Add references to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• decommissioned wall mounted letter boxes (Clergy House)</li> </ul>	<p>References added.</p> <p>Para 5.17: <i>‘Decommissioned wall</i></p>

	<p>Francis Street,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wall mounted sign on Ambrosden Avenue side of Clergy House prohibiting ball games (fyi "IF ANY CHILD IS SEEN DISFIGURING THESE WALLS BY CHALKING OR WRITING UPON THEM, THE POLICE WILL BE COMMUNICATED WITH BY TELEPHONE")</li> <li>• memorabilia from WW2 – stencilled sign on wall of 41-50 Carlisle place "PUBLIC SHELTER IN VAULTS UNDER THIS STREET" (episode of Clementine and Winston Churchill accessing this one night from their flat in Morpeth Mansions quoted in biography of same). Note - similar signs in Lord North Street have been preserved.</li> </ul>	<p><i>mounted letter boxes are also located on Francis Street to the entrance of Clergy House and contribute to the character of the building.'</i></p> <p>Para 5.19: <i>'Other notable historic signage within the conservation area is found on the wall outside Clergy House and stencilled on the wall of 41-50 Carlisle Place.'</i></p>
	<p>6.6 – Refers to the fact that Victoria Street frontage is included within the Central Activities Zone as defined by the UDP but gives no further thought or details to this ( and see below).</p> <p><b>General comment:</b> The Cathedral Conservation Area, together with others locally, were at the epicentre of WW2 bombing this is not sufficiently traced in the draft audit.</p>	<p>This is just a cross reference to UDP policy. Land uses section has however been amended and explanation added stating: <i>This recognises the significance of the Cathedral and its piazza as the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church in England and also as an important tourist destination The rest of the conservation area has a quieter residential character and is located outside the CAZ.</i></p> <p>More info added in the history section</p>
	<p>5.28 –Garden is not situated on Morpeth Terrace but Thirleby Rd. The garden is privately owned and maintained. It is necessarily so for the security and privacy of those residents' whose properties adjoin the garden at basement and ground floor levels. The garden also contains some specific trees of interest – e.g. the Japanese Pagoda tree (sophora japonica). Paul Akers, Arboriculture Officer, has the information and should be contacted regarding this aspect of the Audit.</p> <p><b>General comment:</b> The Audit</p>	<p>Consulted Tree officer and some amendments made in the light of his comments (see below)</p> <p>Added reference to large Plane tree</p>

	<p>gives the impression the area is 'tree-light' (5.27) this is not so. The Audit does not mention (for example) the large plane tree outside Partnership House nor the pair of fig trees in front of the John Lewis HQ main entrance – all at the northern end of Carlisle Place. Neither is there any mention of the extensive planting within the purlieu of the Cathedral – the playground of St Vincent's de Paul Primary contains trees and architectural plants and the Choir school likewise several trees (including cherry). The garden in front of the Hinsley Room (Morpeth Terrace) has a range of bedding and architectural plants. Taken together the tree system and the Garden in Thirleby Road in the Conservation Area forms an important eco-system and since 'cat-free' habitat for song-birds and repeat nesting blue tits, great tits, jays, blackbirds and even urban foxes. The aborist at WCC (Mr Akers) has extensive knowledge of the planting locally and it is recommended these paragraphs are revised accordingly.</p>	<p>outside Partnership House and some more photos</p>
	<p>Fig 82 1 Ambrosden Avenue is residential not B1. Howick Place Sorting Office contains some residential and a community safety office. "Shop" use in Greencoat Row is missing.</p>	<p>Land Uses Map altered</p>
	<p>Fig 82 Land use of units in Howick Place needs checking. Wasabi subject of PET inquiry and Brook Street bureau appears to be occupying a unit with permission for B1 use only?</p>	<p>Checked and amended</p>
	<p>Section 5 is Section 7.</p>	<p>Amended</p>
	<p><b>Fig 11 Add map which places this conservation area in its wider setting (as per EH guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals)</b></p>	<p>Map showing adjacent conservation areas is within conservation directory to end of document.</p>
	<p><b>Add 'Character Areas' map to this section ('character' being a composite of age, use, heights and historical/symbolic significance, residential and mixed-use etc)</b></p>	<p>Not felt relevant for this area, as character areas are usually used for large and complicated conservation areas, used to reflect significant variations in terms building ages, materials, uses and forms. With the exception of the Victoria street frontage, it is important to recognise that this conservation area has a very consistent character, with all buildings built over a short period,</p>

		being of a similar scale and using a consistent palette of materials. The only variations are in terms of land uses, as described in the land use section. Victoria Street does have a separate character but this is a small section forming the boundary of the conservation area, rather than a separate character area, and it is felt this is adequately described in the text. To over-emphasise that different parts of the conservation area are different could lead to a lack of recognition and dilution of the area's distinctive character.
	<b>Add</b> after 4.67 – The range of building types, styles and materials described above makes a significant contribution to the area's character.	Recommended sentence does not fit within paragraph introducing roof profiles. Sentence added at the end of the architecture section.
	<b>Add:</b> A map showing approximate Building Ages in the Conservation Area.	Building Ages map inserted
	<b>Add, particularly</b> St Vincent's Convent as a local landmark building – located in Carlisle Place, a Borough landmark and visible from Ashley Place, distinctive for its Palazzo-inspired elevations which give a distinctively international flavour to the street.	Whilst we recognise it is of significant interest, It is not felt that the St Vincent's Convent is a landmark building within the conservation area, as it is similar in scale and materials to the majority of buildings in the conservation area and is not visible in long views. More information on this building included within the architecture section.
	<b>Advertisement Signage</b> – para 5.6 (p46) of the draft Conservation Audit for Broadway and Christchurch Gardens makes especial mention of "internally illuminated signs which are over bulky and intrusive" and CARG will be looking for the same para inserted into draft Audit for Cathedral Cons Area. Is there scope for controlling advertising further by way of a Direction under the Regulations?	Internally illuminated signs are generally discouraged within the conservation area and will require consent. Reference is made to inappropriate advertising/ shopfronts in the negative features section of the audit, although this is not as significant an issue here as in the Broadway and Christchurch Gardens Conservation Area and therefore exactly the same wording is not felt to be appropriate. Sub-headings have been added to Section 7 to improve the flow of text and make clear the importance of advertisements as an issue affecting the conservation area.
	4.48 <b>Ventilation Grilles</b> – para 7.8 (p48) of the draft Cathedral CAA specifically lists as a negative feature "the careless placement of plant and air conditioning equipment" and that for the Broadway Audit (para 5.12 p46)	Reference to 'flues' as having a negative effect on character of conservation areas has been added, although there currently are none in the area.  Conservation Area Audit focuses on

	specifically mentions “flues” as having a negative effect on the character of the area. Again, CARG will be looking for a similar reference in the CCAA to prevent commercial on the interface of Victoria Street using the CCA as ‘their back yard’. Our Audit should make specific mention of cooking odours. (P.S. between 50 and 60 black sacks of waste and food waste per day from Wasabi evidences extent of this operation).	protection and enhancement of built environment rather than amenity issues. Recommendation to include specific reference to ‘cooking odours’ cannot be included within the Conservation Area Audit but specific cases can be passed to environmental health/ enforcement where necessary.
	4.55 <b>Lighting</b> – Cardinal Place development has had a very detrimental impact on the character of the CA by way of light pollution. It detracts from the rightful dominance of the cathedral and its illumination. It is also an issue for residential amenity and local townscape detail. A statement needs to be made concerning the impact of commercial lighting inside the CA and from developments outside it. This is especially so on the rear elevations of the Victoria Street frontages.	Light pollution from within buildings cannot be controlled by planning legislation and is considered to be an amenity issue rather than conservation, therefore not relevant to the audit. The audit does, however, state that: <i>‘Any proposals for development both within and adjacent to the Conservation Area should include an analysis of the impact on the setting and the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.’ In future developments this might include consideration of the appropriateness or otherwise of a highly glazed building adjacent to the cathedral .</i>
	4.62 The rear of 131 Victoria Street (Wasabi) has become a negative feature in the CA due to excessive illumination, inappropriate shop frontage on the rear elevation and an illuminated brash signage also on the rear elevation.	Disagree. We consider the signage and illumination to be satisfactory in the context. As it is located internally, the signage does not require permission.
	4.64 <b>Wigram House</b> – this building is currently a negative feature in the CA in that scaffolding has been erected on the frontage of the building for over a year with no work being carried out. It is understood that this is an “emergency” measure to prevent masonry falling onto the footway. As well as indicating that the building is not being properly maintained, the scaffolding detracts from the appearance of the CA.	It is acknowledged in <i>Section 8: Management Proposals</i> that maintenance of properties within the conservation area should be of a high standard to ensure the architectural and historic quality of the area is preserved. We hope that through circulation of the audit awareness amongst owners and tenants will ensure that high standards of maintenance are promoted. However, the scaffolding is in the interests of public safety and is temporary and not therefore considered to detract significantly from the character of the area.
	<b>Tables and Chairs</b> – Applications for tables and chairs on the footway should not normally be approved in the CA due to the impact on the appearance on the CA. For	Each case is considered on its own merits and the individual context, taking into account impact on access and setting of listed buildings. Given the absence of wide footways and

	<p>example intensification of use on secondary routes, adding to the impact of unsympathetic post-war developments and changing the character of the setting of listed buildings such as the cathedral.</p>	<p>residential character of the area, it is highly unlikely tables and chairs would be permitted in the majority of the conservation area. The northern part of the conservation has a different character and is therefore an exception</p>
	<p><b>Boundaries of the Conservation Area</b> – the CA is at most risk from unsympathetic design and intensified commercial uses on its boundaries. The setting of the Cathedral is particularly vulnerable since the Piazza seems to have been included in the CAZ. The Audit needs to comment on the appropriateness of this. Again, look to Cardinal Place as an example of an unsympathetic development which has recently been permitted. On a smaller scale, the Wasabi development at 131 Victoria St is a disaster for the CA degrading its appearance, adding to congestion and introducing smells.</p> <p>We need a specific statement about the preservation of boundaries – for example (as demonstrated in Broadway and Abbey audits) a variety of quality railing treatments as clear ‘boundary markers’.</p>	<p>Agree that the greatest development pressure is around the boundaries. The audit already acknowledges in Section 8 Management Proposals that: ‘Any proposals for development both within and adjacent to the Conservation Area should include an analysis of the impact on the setting and the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, making reference to the findings of the Conservation Area Audit.’ The Central Activities Zone and land use policies will be considered and reviewed as part of the LDF. (see below for comments). More emphasis on the setting of the conservation area has also been added within negative features and management proposals.</p> <p>With regards to preservation of boundary treatments such as railings this is a separate issue to the setting of the conservation area and defining the boundaries of the conservation area with railings would not be appropriate.. However, the audit already contains relevant references to preservation of boundary treatment as found in Broadway and Abbey audits This is in the railings section.</p>
	<p><b>Central Activity Zone Designation</b> - the Piazza and all of the cathedral land is within CAZ between Morpeth Terrace and Ambrosden Ave. This is not an appropriate designation and the cathedral area needs to be removed from CAZ. A more appropriate boundary would run along Victoria Street at this point. How does CARG make this point to the LDF team as it would like to make these representations? Also, given the proximity of the residential areas and ecclesiastical buildings within the CA to CAZ, where else does this overlap in policy occur and how it is dealt with? How does the Audit seek to protect these areas? This emphasises the</p>	<p>The CAZ does not just relate to commercial activities but activities which contribute to London’s international national and regional roles. The location of the cathedral and piazza in the CAZ seems appropriate given that the cathedral is a major landmark and tourist attraction. Also as stressed by CARG , the importance of the cathedral as the centre of the catholic church for England and Wales attracts many visitors and makes this the setting for national religious events and pageant.</p> <p>The CAZ designation cannot be altered through conservation area audit process itself and is considered</p>



	<p>importance of the issue of boundaries raised above as well as the need to develop Character Areas.</p> <p>Imminent pressures on the Cathedral Conservation Area will arise from major redevelopments on its borders. These include the seven year construction programme for the Victoria Station Upgrade (VSU) and the redevelopment of LandSecurities substantial holdings along Victoria Street. No mention is made of these in the Audit, which they should be if the Audit is to be in complete compliance with EH directions (<i>Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals</i> para 4.24).</p>	<p>by policy through LDF process. Details of comments passed to LDF team.</p> <p>Not sure what overlap in policy is being referred to.</p> <p>Many residential areas within Westminster are also within the CAZ and ecclesiastical uses certainly form part of the CAZ (Westminster Abbey). The conservation area legislation seeks to protect the area's architectural and historic interest and townscape character this relates to design more than land use issues.</p> <p>Reference is made in management proposals to the Victoria street planning brief which includes Landsecurities sites most relevant to this audit. Further reference to impact of large scale development around Victoria has also been added</p>
	<p>Section 8 Management proposals need editing in the light of the above and the abandonment of the Victoria area planning sub-brief?</p> <p>Some suggestions are:</p> <p>Recommending marking the Cathedral purlieu with suitable boundary treatment.</p>	<p>Management proposals refer to setting of the conservation area</p> <p>The Cathedral Piazza is currently demarcated by bollards. Detailed design issues related to Public realm to be addressed through PAP. However it will be important to retain the piazza as an open and accessible public space and enclosing it with boundary markers is unlikely to be supported in design terms.</p>
	<p>Stating clearly that any proposals for development both within and adjacent to the Cathedral should include an analysis of the impact on the setting and character of the Cathedral (as well as the Conservation Area).</p>	<p>This is already stated in exactly these words in management proposals table.</p>
	<p>Other than specialist bookshops, recommend any re-design eliminate retail frontage from Piazza area and retail frontage to the rear of Victoria Street (Ashley Place/Howick Place).</p>	<p>Unable to control the specific types of retail uses of the piazza frontage through planning legislation. The Council considers that the blank frontages to the rear are generally more negative in appearance than the retail frontages.</p>
	<p>Remove all references to addition of appropriate street furniture or allow this issue to be determined in the for the Piazza Action Plan</p>	<p>Reasoning for suggestion not clear. The Piazza Action Plan will determine the exact detail of this but it is an appropriate issue to raise within management proposals as something the Council will work on in the future.</p>

	Recommend the PAP determine a local traffic management plan having due regard for the needs of the Cathedral.	Comments passed to officers undertaking PAP for consideration.
	Allow PAP to determine priority use of public realm/cover all management aspects of.	Management Proposals take into consideration the use of the public realm but overall issue to be determined by PAP as stated in the Conservation Area Audit
	Generic issues that underlie obvious problems for this Conservation Area require Article 4 directions to prevent further erosion of the area's special interest.	Not aware of any issues within this area which an article 4 direction could usefully control. Article 4 Directions are generally applied to single family dwellings, where much small change is permitted development. Within Westminster Cathedral, most buildings are flats or other uses, and therefore small alterations such as replacing windows would require planning permission anyway.
<b>English Heritage</b>	No specific comments to make with regards to this audit	Noted
<b>Westminster Society</b>	<p>The main narratives in the earlier chapters provide a comprehensive historical perspective but my comments are restricted to chapters 7 and 8 in each audit.</p> <p>Agree with Chapter 7 mentions the poor treatment of some of the rear elevations of buildings on Victoria Street. (ie fronting Howick Place and Ashley Place. The installation of modern windows and insensitively sited air conditioning equipment is also the subject of fully justified comments- the St Vincent Centre on Carlisle place in particular.</p> <p>Chapter 8 there is nothing that could really generate adverse comments. We have already seen proposals for improvements to the part of the piazza immediately in front of the cathedral. The one problem that will continue to be hard to resolve is the adverse effect on the piazza and surrounding streets on anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>Agree, section has been restructured but retains these comments</p> <p>Improvements to the piazza may help address some anti-social behaviour issues. This is referred to in management proposals/ negative features.</p>
<b>Land Securities</b>	4.67-4.72 We feel the need to emphasise that any scope for extensions and additional height in general needs to be considered on a case by case analysis considering all aspects such as local context, architectural merit, views etc	Agree. Each case is considered on its merits and the audit provides guidance on this.

	<p>Paragraph 4.5-4.9 outlines proposals to designate primary routes and spaces and intimate routes and spaces. However, as the border of the conservation area cuts through Wilcox Place it has been given no official designation on the map. We suggest identifying Wilcox Place as a secondary route and space to tie in with the rest of the Conservation Area Audit and the draft Victoria Area Planning Brief</p>	Amended
<b>Westminster Cathedral</b>	<p>I have seen the very full and detailed response made by CARG to the Conservation Area Audit and would support their recommendations. The Cathedral shares CARGs hope that the Piazza area be treated as an area of special importance. Westminster Cathedral is the seat of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and the principal Roman Catholic cathedral in this country. It therefore holds a major position in both the life of London and in the national arena, for Catholics especially but also for other Christians and other Faiths, and is the setting for many major ecclesiastical events. The older cathedrals were built with a sacred space around them, usually known as “the Close”, but because of the circumstances at the time of building we had no such space. However, with the opening up of the Piazza, we have been given such a space, and so are particularly keen to preserve it as a “sacred space”, an area of calm and peace which will enhance the cathedral and its environs for the benefit of visitors and of residents. We hope that any future developments will reflect the unique architecture of the cathedral and be in sympathy with its setting.</p>	Comments noted and also passed to West End Team for consideration as part of piazza action plan.
<b>Paul Akers</b>	<p>5.28 paragraph is confusing as to location of Garden which is in thirlbey road. Not clear what is meant by “the grouping of this mature garden”. The garden is certainly attractive and one of its qualities is the effective combination of plants grown well in difficult conditions beneath the shade of the trees.</p>	Document amended

	<p>I disagree with the comment that 'the garden does not appear to be welcoming' I have seen pedestrians stop and admire plants it contains. Access is prohibited by locked gates and rightly so in this situation. It is unusable as a recreation area which is completely understandable.</p> <p>5.38 Change cherry to read Myrobalan Plum and Swedish to read Himalayan White Barked 5.30 Insert Chanticleer before Pear. Delete Lone before Crab Apple and change Crab to Pillar.</p> <p>The omission of a very fine plane tree made the subject of a TPO in 1971 outside Borax House on the corners of Carlisle Place and Ashley Place should be rectified by the inclusion of this information in the final document.</p>	
Ian Diamond South Area Forum	<p>"Any conservation work should include natural aspects in particular trees: KEEP them in free form and don't reduce the number. In fact I suggest any conservation study should show how the number of trees can be INCREASED."</p>	Importance of trees stressed within the audit and more photos added to increase emphasis.
Derek Howard Sudd, South Area Forum	<p>Thinks mansion blocks in Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area should be listed</p>	<p>Feel blocks are well protected as they are within conservation area and as they are flats, most development would require planning permission. However, requests for listing should be made directly to EH</p>
Sir Peter Heap, South Area Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carlisle Place listable</li> <li>▪ Does not want the hostel on Carlisle Place to be demolished</li> </ul>	<p>See above</p> <p>No current proposal to demolish the hostel on Carlisle Place</p>

Once adopted, the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit SPD (plus Statement of Adoption and Statement of Consultation) will be made available to download from the council website with hard copies available at OneStop Services and from the Conservation Area Audits Team. Notification will also be sent to consultees listed above.

# **Sustainability Appraisal Report**

**For the Westminster Cathedral  
Conservation Area Audit SPD**

**April 2008**

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# 1. Non Technical Summary

## Purpose and methodology

The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, economic and environmental considerations into the preparation of all planning policy documents. This SA considers implications of the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) from a social, economic and environmental perspective, by assessing different options and the draft SPD against available baseline data.

The preparation of the SA for the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit has involved two key stages, namely:

- The production of a Scoping Report, setting out what the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal would be which was issued for consultation in December 2006.
- The production of the final Sustainability Appraisal Report, which follows this non technical summary.

The Scoping Report identified the key sustainability issues for the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit. These included:

- Increasing pressure on the natural and built environment.
- Need to promote sustainable building policies and practice.
- Maintaining economic diversity and increasing local opportunity.

This led to 17 'Sustainability Objectives' being formulated, which were used to describe sustainability effects. These include issues such as improving health and well-being and reducing fear of crime and can be found in Section 4 of the main report.

## Appraisal of Options

The key sustainability issues along with a careful assessment of issues raised by the public; stakeholders and technical advice were used to formulate the options which are included in Section 5 of the main report. The options assessed were:

- Option 1:** Prepare the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit SPD  
**Option 2:** Do Nothing

The key changes and the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of each option were identified and assessed against the 17 sustainability objectives. This concluded that the preferred option was to adopt a Conservation Area SPD for Westminster Cathedral.

## Statement of Significant Effects and Difference the Process has made

The next stage of the SPD attempts to predict the effects of the SPD. The SA process and the SPD have been initiated to build upon the policies in the Unitary Development Plan. Generally, the draft SPD performed well against sustainability objectives and the majority of effects identified were positive. However, certain minor negative issues were identified and proposals for mitigation have been identified and these recommendations have been incorporated into the draft SPD.

## How to Comment on the Report

Public consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal will run until **9 May 2008**. Comments can be posted, emailed or faxed to the address below:

<b>Conservation Area Audits Department of Planning and City Development Westminster City Hall 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP</b>	<b>Fax: 020 7641 2338</b> <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:conservationareaaudit@westminster.gov.uk">conservationareaaudit@westminster.gov.uk</a>
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## 2 Appraisal Methodology Guidance and Limitations

In accordance with section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and PPS 12, a Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out to assess the social, environmental and economic effects resulting from the Conservation Area Audits. The appraisal methodology is based on the approach set out in the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit Scoping report, which was subject to consultation with the statutory consultation agencies in early 2007.

The Sustainability Appraisal Report has been compiled using a number of guidance documents including:

- Policy Planning Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks
- Sustainable Appraisals of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, November 2005).

The Audit will be a Supplementary Planning Document and will be a part of the new Local Development Framework suite of documents. The process is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Links between SEA/SA and SPD development



Plan Stage	SA/SEA Stage	Date Undertaken
Pre-production	<b>A. Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</b> A1. Identify other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. A2. Collect baseline information A3. Identify sustainability issues A4. Develop the SA framework, consisting of sustainability objectives, indicators and targets A5. Test the SPD objectives against the SA framework A6. Consult on the scope of the SA	May-January 2006
Production	<b>B. Developing and refining options</b> B1. Appraise issues and options	January 2007
	<b>C. Appraising the effects of the SPD</b> C1. Predict the effects of the SPD C2. Assess the effects of the SPD C3. Mitigate adverse effects and maximise beneficial effects C4. Develop proposals for monitoring C5. Prepare the SA report	January 2007
	<b>D. Consulting on the draft SPD and SA report</b> D1. Consult on the SA report D2. Appraise significant changes <b>D3. Decision making and provision of information</b>	April 2008
Monitoring	<b>E. Monitor implementation of the plan</b> E1. Monitor the significant effects of the plan E2. Respond to adverse effects	

### Timetable and Responsibility

An SA Scoping Report was produced to set out the initial context and findings of the SA and the proposed approach to the rest of the appraisal. The aim was to ensure that the SA was comprehensive and addressed all issues and objectives by enabling input from key stakeholders and consultation bodies at an early stage of the process. The report also set out the proposed methodology for the SA, giving details of its proposed level of detail and scope.

The Scoping report set out an initial assessment of:

- The relationship between the SPD and other relevant plans and programmes
- Sustainability objectives established at the national, regional and local level.

- The current environmental, social and economic baseline and any trends
- The likely key sustainability issues

The information contained within the Scoping Report forms the backbone of this Sustainability Appraisal. The Sustainability Appraisal was carried out by officers within the Planning and City Development Department.

### **Who was consulted?**

Statutory bodies were consulted on the Scoping Report, with responses received from English Heritage and English Nature. These comments were primarily baseline indicator information and have been taken into account in re-drafting. A wide range of stakeholders were consulted on the audit itself at both pre-production and draft stages. A separate consultation statement summarising all representations received has been prepared.

## **3 Background**

### **Purpose of Sustainability Appraisal**

The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that Local Development Documents, including SPDs, are subject to Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The purpose of a Sustainability Appraisal is to assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of plans at a strategic level, in order to ensure that planning decisions are made that accord with the principles of sustainable development. This Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out according to the ODPM guidelines: "Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents."

### **Background To SPD**

Westminster City Council Department of Planning and City Development is preparing all its conservation area studies as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). The Westminster Cathedral SPD provides guidance on the protection, enhancement and management of the conservation area. It identifies those features of special interest, which contribute to the local townscape and set out the council's policies and guidance for the protection of the areas. It also identifies negative features and opportunities for enhancement and change within the areas, as well as management proposals to guide future change and development.

The SPD will act as a tool for the proactive management of the conservation area and to guide future change. As such, they will assist with the overall objective of conserving and enhancing the City's historic environment.

All the matters covered in the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit relate to saved policies in the Westminster City Council Unitary Development Plan 2007. It therefore conforms with current Westminster planning policy national policy and the London Plan.

Information on the timetable for preparation, consultation and production of these SPDs is contained within the Local Development Scheme, which is available on the Westminster website at:

<http://www.westminster.gov.uk/environment/planning/ldf/local-development-scheme.cfm>

### **Compliance with the SEA Directive**

In accordance with the Government’s draft guidance on strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), SAs of SPDs should also fully incorporate the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the SEA directive. This directive is transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004- the SEA Regulations. Whilst SEA and SA are distinct processes, the intention of this SPD is to adopt an approach to appraisal which also meets the requirements of the SEA directive.

## **4 Sustainability objectives, baseline and context**

### **Identifying other relevant policies plans programmes & sustainability objectives.**

The purpose of reviewing other plans and programmes and sustainability objectives is to ensure that the relationship between these documents and the draft SPD has been fully explored. This will in turn ensure that Westminster City Council is able to act on any identified inconsistencies between international, national and local objectives.

This SPD covers a small area and will only have impacts at a local level, therefore the other relevant plans and programmes will be confined to those which influence at this local level. Table 2 below shows a list of the plans and strategies that were reviewed as part of the SA. A full review of these which sets out the implications for the SPD is set out in the Scoping Report and at Appendix 2.

**Table 2:** List of plans and Strategies reviewed.

<b>National</b>
PPS 1 Delivering sustainable development
PPS 9 Biodiversity and Geographical conservation
PPS 12 Local Development Framework
PPS 22 Renewable energy
PPS23 Planning and pollution control
PPS25 Development and Flood Risk

PPG 3 Housing
PPG 4 Industrial, commercial development and small firms
PPG 8 Telecommunications
PPG 15 Planning and the Historic environment
PPG 16 Archaeology and planning
PPG17 Open Space, sports and recreation
PPG 24 Planning and noise
English heritage Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals and Conservation Area Management.
Regional
The London Plan
Mayor's London View Management Framework (2007)
Mayor's Energy Strategy (2004)
Local
Replacement Unitary Development Plan 2004
Westminster City Council's Community Plan – One City (draft)
'Air Quality Strategy & Action Plan' (2001) and 'Air Quality Strategy & Action Plan: Progress Report' (2005)
Open Space Strategy (draft)
Sustainable Buildings SPG
Economic Development Strategy
Nature Conservation Strategy (1997)
'Biodiversity Action Plan' (2000)
Design Matters in Westminster – Supplementary Planning Guidance on creating good City architecture
Development and Demolition in Conservation Areas
Railings In Westminster SPG
Roofs: A guide to Alterations and Extensions on Domestic Buildings
Shopfronts, Blinds and Signs
Westminster Way: A Public Realm Manual for the City
Inclusive access and Design SPG

## Baseline Information

The Sustainability Appraisal requires relevant current information to set out the characteristics of the plan area and the environmental features likely to be affected. The gathering of baseline information provides the basis for monitoring and predicting effects thus enabling sustainability issues to be identified and suggest potential mitigation measures, or ways of dealing with them.

A crucial part of the procedure is to ensure that where possible each of the SA objectives is supported with comprehensive and up to date baseline information. The collection of baseline data for the appraisal needs to be co-ordinated with the development of the information base for the plan itself. The task is also linked to the development of the SA Framework which includes criteria and objectives.

Data was collated from a variety of sources, from very local to regional. Not all information was available, and certain datasets were too complex to translate

into localised district or ward information practically in the time available. The Scoping Report again provides detailed information on the baseline data. The collection of baseline data for the SPD has helped to identify the key social economic and environmental issues that need to be addressed.

**Table 3:** Details the sustainability issues that exist for the City of Westminster and Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area.

Sustainability Issues	Characteristics and supporting data
<p>Increasing pressure on the natural and built environment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immense pressure upon open space</li> <li>• General lack of open space in the residential areas in the north-west and south of the borough</li> <li>• The need to protect, enhance and increase biodiversity and increase in habitats.</li> <li>• Problems caused by late night activities – noise, smells, rubbish</li> <li>• Need to protect and enhance the cultural heritage, both architectural and archaeological, particularly given the significance and high number of listed buildings and conservation areas.</li> <li>• Air pollution, the borough is a declared AQMA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.2 ha of public accessible open space / 1000 resident pop.</li> <li>• Common standard of 1.6 ha / 1000 pop. Initially open space provision does look acceptable. But the vast influx of daily tourists and visitors swells the daytime population to approx. 1 million people. Reduces this standard to .5 ha / 1000.</li> <li>• Westminster covers an area of 365 hectares and 17.1% is deemed deficient in biodiversity. When compared to the other inner London Borough's Westminster is slightly better than average. But the situation is by no means satisfactory</li> <li>• The pressures placed on wildlife are compounded by the sheer number of daily visitors that enter the borough.</li> <li>• River quality when compared to the rest of the country is not very good, for London as a whole.</li> <li>• Westminster has 38 theatres, 60 Cinemas, 17 Casino's, 3,000 + eating, drinking, nightlife establishments.430 hotels (40% London's Hotel stock) Home national Ballet and Opera companies, museums and art galleries. All of which attract people to the C of W (City of Westminster) and contributes to increasing pressure on the environment as well as noise and rubbish issues.</li> <li>• The cleanliness of the public realm when compared to neighbouring borough's figures is not very good and when compared to the national average for authority type is not good at all. Is an issue when considered with the amount of visitors the city has and the importance it is as a tourist destination.</li> <li>• Protected vistas cross large parts of Westminster. This in turn will influence and shape spatial land use and building design. They therefore are significant when considering the impact upon sustainability.</li> <li>• Historic and listed buildings are an issue in Westminster because of their large number and level of importance. This will have an impact upon many spatial land use issues and decisions. There are over 11,000 listed buildings in Westminster, this represents 20% of Listed buildings in London. It also has 54 conservation areas, covering 76% of Westminster by area, as well as 1 World Heritage Site, 6 Royal Parks' 19 historic squares and gardens and 5 areas of special archaeological priority.</li> <li>• Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area includes one Grade I, one Grade II* and one Grade II listed building.</li> <li>• Air pollution affects residents, daily commuters and visitors to the borough. The AQMA for the whole of Westminster declared in 1999 for NO2 and PM10. In 2004 PM10 and NOx are at levels that exceed European standards.</li> </ul>
<p>Noise and the impact upon human health and quality of life,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambient noise levels</li> <li>• Noise impact from licensed and commercial activities</li> <li>• Cooling / heating plant for buildings</li> <li>• Transport noise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO state that to prevent serious annoyance during the day in outdoor living areas noise should not exceed 55db<sub>laeq</sub> for a steady continuous noise. Night noise levels at the outside façade of living space should not exceed 45db<sub>laeq</sub>. Note that the average hourly night time noise levels only drop below the WHO day time recommended values between 02:00-04:00.this data indicates that noise is a major issue in Westminster.</li> <li>• Westminster noise survey (June 2003) highlighted that traffic noise is the major issue in Westminster, particularly if the vehicle noise source is also included. Construction activities also have a relatively significant impact. Noting that this information does not indicate is the impact upon residents from entertainment and licensed premises.</li> <li>• A study of 17 London boroughs has shown that in 1999/2000 the number of Noise service request in Westminster was more than three times higher than the average and 45% higher than the figure for the next highest borough.</li> </ul>
<p>Waste and recycling,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No waste handling facility in Westminster recycling rates need to improve as population increases</li> <li>• Street cleansing important</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no waste handling facility within the City primarily due to the immense pressure upon land. All of Westminster's waste has to be handled outside of the borough.</li> <li>• Recycled waste is material separated from municipal waste to be processed into marketable products. WCC is average when compared to other by figures but there are grounds to make huge improvements. Noting that in 2001 the C of W was responsible for 2,000 tonnes of disposable nappies.</li> <li>• A high proportion of municipal waste from Westminster is incinerated. Much higher than the average.</li> <li>• Westminster is below the national average and below neighbouring boroughs in terms of the percentage of the population that is by kerbside collection or are within 1KM of a recycling centre.</li> </ul>

<p>Road transport and congestion are an issue The provision for pedestrians and cycling needs to be increased.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of the public realm is important</li> <li>• Pedestrianisation is an issue due to the number of people entering Westminster on a daily basis.</li> <li>• Further support for alternative modes of transport, specifically cycling and walking, including green travel plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WCC has a daily influx of people that takes the borough's daily population to over 1 million (approx.).</li> <li>• In Westminster the underground is the predominant mode of public transport.</li> <li>• Walking in Westminster is also important. Despite this and the level of public transport access 13.2 % of residents still drive to work.</li> <li>• In Westminster there is increased reliance upon Public Transport for those with no access to car</li> <li>• The majority of the Borough has an excellent PTAL rating, level 6b(40.01+). The north west and south of the Borough has slightly less public transport access which does correlate with the more deprived areas in the borough.</li> <li>• Westminster has a very high level of road vehicle ownership. Particularly in comparison with the rest of London and England &amp; Wales.</li> <li>• Congestion around the CCZ has decreased with Westminster having an average % change when compared to other London Boroughs that surround the CCZ.</li> <li>• The borough has intense pedestrian activity. Managing this number of people is a major challenge. Particularly with all the other land use pressures experienced in the Borough.</li> <li>• Overall trend for KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) figures are that they have progressively dropped since 1990. When compared to neighbouring Boroughs the situation is not good. National target is to reduce Killed and Seriously Injured on GB roads by 40% by 2010 compared with 94-98 averages. In Westminster this means a reduction from 302 to 181 between 2000 and 2010</li> <li>• WCC has good public transport links, which are reflected in the high proportion trips to school being made on these modal transport groups.</li> <li>• Cycling is an issue and advised by the Safe Routes to Schools officer this is mainly down to lack of storage space. As well as possible safety issues.</li> <li>• Advised walking figures are relatively good and are helped by the small catchment areas Westminster schools have.</li> </ul>
<p>Climate change, climate change adaptation and air quality,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green house gas emissions and contribution to this global issue</li> <li>• Change in weather patterns</li> <li>• Increase in flood risk</li> <li>• Flash flooding and drainage issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proportion of carbon emissions from commercial activity is very high. C of W accounts for 11.8% of this sectors total for London.</li> <li>• C of W emits 6.8 %of the total carbon emissions for the whole of London, which is approximately 0.6% of the whole of the UK's total.</li> <li>• The main contributing factor would be the amount of electricity consumed within the borough by commercial activities (12.6% of total emissions from electricity used in commercial activities for the whole of London).</li> <li>• WCC is also responsible for 11.4 of total carbon emissions from gas used in commercial activity for the whole of London.</li> <li>• The C of W figure is far higher than the figure for London. The main reason is the high proportion of commercial activity. Future climate in London is predicted to be, warmer, wetter winters more intense downpours of rain</li> <li>• Hotter drier summers, with more frequent and extreme high temp. Reducing the impact upon climate change and adapting to the predicted changes are vital and need to be addressed. No specific figures for C of W found.</li> <li>• The Thames region accounts for 10% of land in the UK and nearly a quarter of the population with a below average annual rainfall. Water is a major issue in the SE, London and so Westminster.</li> <li>• Flooding is deemed low risk but is something that needs to be taken into account, particularly as the true impact of climate change is not yet fully known.</li> </ul>
<p>Sustainable building policies need to be embraced in a far greater fashion,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to increase energy efficiency measures</li> <li>• Application of SUD's</li> <li>• Sustainability issues in historic and listed buildings as well as new developments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult from this data to fully ascertain the issues from C of W perspective. But the nature of the intensely developed urban environment is conducive to cumulatively impacting on these types of water pollution incidents.</li> <li>• UK trend is for more electricity being generated from renewable methods.</li> <li>• For the Thames region the average water consumption in litres/ person /day in 2000 – 01 was 163 by 2004 – 05 reduced slightly to 161 litres/day. Increase in water consumption with a greater amount used in the Thames (therefore C of W) region than the country as a whole. This is important when the steady increase in people living in the region is on the increase.</li> <li>• The application of sustainable design and construction standards are required to assist in improving the overall contribution to sustainable development BREEAM and eco-homes would seem that sort of approach that would allow this to happen.</li> <li>• Refitting buildings so they embrace sustainability may pose difficulties in Conservation Areas and lead to some policy clashes.</li> </ul>
<p>Supply of appropriate housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness is a major issue</li> <li>• supply of affordable and intermediary home</li> <li>• over crowding and polarisation and lack of family units</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little change in amount of homelessness in Westminster over the last 4 years. Although the number in London has dropped, a high proportion are in Westminster. Where as trend is falling in C of W is static.</li> <li>• Throughout the county and London number of houses completed has steadily increased. In Westminster this trend is very much the opposite. Except for social housing which has increased.</li> <li>• The number of dwellings in London is increasing on the same land size. This increase the pressure upon local services and infrastructure overcrowding and the density of people in C of W is a major issue being the third most crowded LA area in the country</li> <li>• No of council properties (2005) in Westminster was 12,407, this figure has consistently decreased over the last 11 years.</li> </ul>

<p>Major challenge is the creation of cohesive and inclusive communities, which are sustainable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to supply appropriate level of social and community facilities if sustainable communities are to be created and maintained</li> <li>• Mixed use pattern of land use creates conflicting issues</li> <li>• Remedy areas, which are recognised as deprived.</li> <li>• Health and well-being of all the community and Community cohesion and inclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Westminster has seen a steady increase in population from 174,842 in 1991 to 181,286 in 2001, which is a similar rate to the national increase. London as a whole has seen a greater increase in the number of people / hectare the ninth densest local authority in the UK.</li> <li>• Adult pop is higher than average with the children and elderly proportion being lower.</li> <li>• Ethnicity is diverse in Westminster and is not only reflected in these statistics but also by the fact that there are 120 languages (City Futures, City of Westminster Profile) spoken by residents in the borough. It is vital then to have an inclusive society, which can maximise the potential of all residents.</li> <li>• Westminster is a diverse religious community with Christian biggest group followed by no religion followed by Islam.</li> <li>• By comparison Westminster has a higher than average senior management/ professional occupation. Although it does have a slightly less than average small employers and lower supervisory employment types.</li> <li>• Life expectancy in Westminster is above the London average as well as the average for England and Wales for both men and women</li> </ul>
<p>Maintain economic diversity and increase local opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land and office cost very high in Westminster</li> <li>• Careful is not a victim of its own success, very successful economic activity covering a wide number of areas. Needs to include all age groups in facility provision</li> <li>• Education and job creation and distribution of wealth to local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16,207 offices – 8.4 million m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• 8,526 retail premises – 2.2 million m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• GDP in 2005 was £16 billion</li> <li>• Number of business based in the borough is 47,000 (mar. 2005)</li> <li>• More business failing than starting up. With high % than for London and much high % for GB.</li> <li>• New business figures are similar to those for London and more than for GB as a whole</li> <li>• The supply of jobs far out strips the supply of residents and is far greater than the London and GB figures.</li> <li>• Westminster provides 14.1% of all employment in London (Economic Development Strategy, Mar.05)</li> <li>• Westminster has proportional more full-time jobs than rest of London and the country as a whole</li> <li>• Westminster more dependant on the service sector than the rest of London or GB. In particular finance, IT and business activities and tourism. Manufacturing is much lower than for GB. As is construction. The patterns are similar when compared to the rest of London.</li> <li>• Westminster has higher than average number of residents of working age</li> <li>• Huge disparity between average income male and female residents. Greater than for rest of London and the country.</li> <li>• Average pay is high than for the rest of London and the country as a whole</li> <li>• Westminster has less Job Seeker Allowance claimants (JSA) than London and slightly more than the GB average.</li> <li>• In all areas more men than women claiming JSA The trend is similar for all areas. With less younger people claiming JSA in Westminster. But more middle range claiming as with over 50's.</li> <li>• Westminster is a very deprived area on these indices. It is a borough of extremes with some of the wealthiest areas in the country next to some of the poorest. Church St and Queens Park are the two most deprived SOA in London and the UK – therefore the distribution of wealth across the Borough would appear to be a key issue.</li> <li>• When compared to the rest of London the education figures are not that different. Area where this is an issue is NVQ1 level which less than 5GCSE's is below the figures for London and GB. Over view at the very bottom of the scale and the top Westminster is above London and national figures. It is the middle of the scale where there are problems which is the school leavers type of education.</li> </ul>

## Likely Future Trends

Identifying and predicting future trends is difficult with so many differing local, regional and global facts that interplay and impact on the City of Westminster and therefore the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area. The key factors, which have been identified and will have a future impact are:

- **Continuous redevelopment taking place with density of residential and commercial premises increasing. There are very few large sites available in the City.**

- Current residential population is 230,000 and this is expected to increase to between 310,000 and 350,000 by 2016. This predicted rise in population will further increase pressure upon the social and community facilities as well as the local environment.
- Meeting the challenge of supplying affordable quality housing will always be an issue, due to the numbers of people living and wanting to live in the borough, as well as the ever-increasing pressure on land.
- Increasing availability of new technology to enhance and deliver services to all residents.
- The economy of the City of Westminster is important locally as well as nationally, with over half a million people employed and approximately 50,000 businesses located within the City. It will increasingly rely upon the service sector to provide jobs and business tourism is set to increase and will require improved services and facilities.
- The Olympics in 2012 are predicted to have a major impact upon the City of Westminster through Olympic events themselves, tourism, entertainment, shopping and hotel usage (presently 40 % of all of London's hotels are located within the City of Westminster).
- The City of Westminster is a dynamic and ever changing area. Crossrail (lines 1 and 2) may have an impact on the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area.

## **The Sustainability Appraisal Framework, including objectives targets and indicators**

The identification of sustainability issues allows the development of a set of sustainability objectives, which will be used to appraise and modify policies, to increase their sustainability credentials. It can be seen as *a methodological yardstick against which social, environmental and economic effects of a plan can be tested.*<sup>1</sup>

The sustainability objectives have been developed in the first instance by researching issues specific to the City of Westminster through detailed discussion with key officers in the Local Authority. These issues have then been used to guide and target the collection of baseline information, which in turn has provided the evidence base to form an initial set of sustainability objectives. These have subsequently undergone an extensive internal consultation process resulting in the sustainability objectives, which are set out below in Table 6. Objectives have been reviewed and adjusted to create the 17 sustainability objectives (see appendix 1 for objectives, sub-objectives and indicators), which have been used to assess the sustainability aspects of the draft Conservation Area audits and are listed below in table 4.

These sustainability objectives have also been formulated having regard to the need to be consistent with those in the London Plan, the higher tier regional spatial plan.

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<sup>1</sup> ODPM Guidance



**Table 4** SA objectives and their support of the three key pillars of sustainable development.

	Sustainability Objectives	Social	Environ	Economic
1	To create cohesive, inclusive and safe communities with appropriate levels of social and community facilities.	✓		
2	To reduce the fear of crime and actual crime.	✓		✓
3	To ensure the provision of appropriate housing types to meet homeless, affordable, intermediary, over crowding and family unit demands.	✓		
4	To promote and improve health and well-being.	✓		
5	To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support climate change adaptation	✓	✓	✓
6	To require the application of sustainable design and construction in all new developments and refurbishment of existing buildings.		✓	✓
7	To minimise flood risk, promote sustainable urban drainage and protect surface and ground water quality.		✓	
8	To protect, enhance and create environments that encourages and support biodiversity.		✓	
9	To improve air quality.	✓	✓	
10	To reduce the impact of noise.	✓	✓	✓
11	To reduce the need to travel and use of private motorised vehicular transport as well as encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport.	✓	✓	✓
12	To reduce waste production and increase recycling and recovery of all waste.		✓	
13	To protect and enhance the historic environment and architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage.	✓	✓	✓
14	To enhance the public realm and street environment.	✓	✓	✓
15	To protect, enhance and seek opportunities to increase open space throughout the borough.	✓	✓	
16	To ensure equality of opportunity and improve opportunities for education, training and employment.	✓		✓
17	To maintain economic diversity, increase local opportunity and support sustainable economic growth.	✓		✓

The sustainability objectives have also been derived so that they meet the environmental protection objectives set out in the SEA Directive. This is demonstrated in Table 5, which demonstrates how the sustainability objectives support and meet the SEA Directives key environmental protection issues.

**Table 5** listing SA/SEA objective and their link to SEA Directive protection objectives

Environmental protection objectives (part f, Annex 1, Directive 2001/42/EC)	Sustainability Objectives
Biodiversity	7, 8, 9, 14, 15
Population (this term is not clearly defined in the Directive)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
Human Health	1, 2, 3, 4,
Fauna	5, 8, 15
Flora	5, 8, 15
Soil	7, 13
Water	5, 6, 7,
Air	5, 9, 11,
Climatic Factors	5, 6, 7, 11, 12,

Material Assets (this term is not clearly defined in the Directive)	3, 5, 6, 7, 14
Cultural heritage – Architectural, archaeological,	13, 14, 15
Landscape	5, 7, 13, 14, 15

### Sustainability Objectives Framework

The Sustainability Objectives have been assessed for their compatibility with each other to identify any potential conflict between the individual objectives. For this assessment each objective had the same weight and equal importance. The resulting matrix set out in Figure 1 identifies where potential clashes between individual objectives may exist.

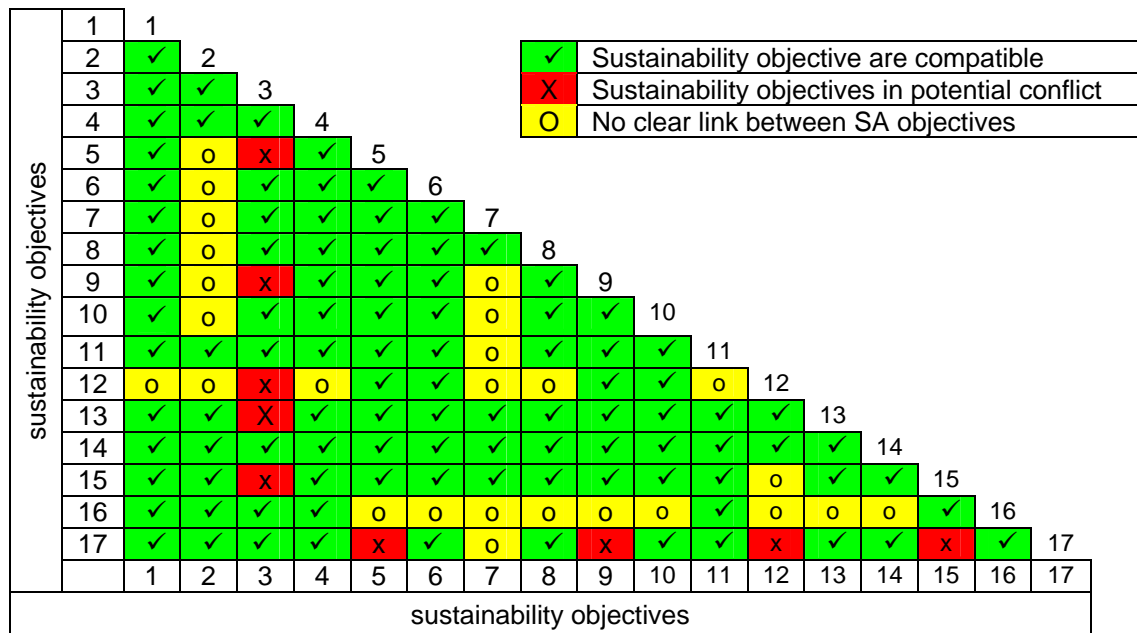


Figure 1. Assessment of the compatibility between the sustainability objectives.

It demonstrates that the majority of the objectives are compatible with each other or that there is no clear link and therefore no predicted conflict. There are a number of exceptions where possible conflict between two sustainability objectives may exist.

Objective 3 (appropriate housing units) and 17 (sustainable economic growth) are predicted to be in conflict with other sustainability objectives. This is because they both require the potential increase in activities, which could contribute to increasing pressure upon the local environment. This includes increasing carbon emissions, contributing to local air pollution, producing more waste; and placing further pressure upon green space and the historic environment.

The assumptions or justification for the conflicting objectives are presented below in Table 6 accompanied by considerations that will assist in mitigating the predicted issues.

Conflicting objectives	Comments / Justification / Assumption	Mitigation / Resolution / Consideration
3 and 5	With an increase in residential units there will be an increase in space heating / cooling, which along with associated transport demands is likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions.	Climate change consideration will need to be taken in to account when forming policies relating to residential unit construction, conversion or refurbishing

3 and 9	An increase in the number of housing units will mean an increase in space heating from boilers and increasing demands on transport usage, including private road vehicles, all of which will impact upon air quality	Air quality consideration will need to be taken into account when form policies. Will also reflect other plan objectives – WCC AQAP, The Mayors AQAP and national AQAP.
3 and 12	Increase in residential units will increase the amount of municipal waste that will need to be collected and recycled.	Waste and recycled material storage space need to be supplied in residential developments and services need to be able to cope with potential increases in waste and recycled material.
3 and 13	Pressure to supply more residential units could impinge on historic environment as the demand for housing is satisfied.	Careful consideration for the historic environment needs to take place to prevent this happening; difficult as pressures on land constantly increase.
3 and 15	More residential units are likely to increase pressure on open space by actual land take and increase in numbers using the open spaces.	Land pressure in very difficult to resolve. Have green space is vital for social well being and community cohesion.
17 and 5	Any increase in economic activity is likely to have a negative impact upon greenhouse gas emissions because of the increase in buildings and subsequent heating / cooling demands and transport requirements.	Climate change consideration will need to be taken in to account when forming policies relating to commercial unit construction, conversion or refurbishing
17 and 9	Increasing economic activity will require more commercial buildings requiring space heating / cooling which, will contribute to levels of air pollution. Also, more people travelling to work in the City will increase demands on transport again will contribute to air pollution.	Air quality consideration will need to be taken into account when form policies. Will also reflect other plan objectives – WCC AQAP, The Mayors AQAP and national AQAP.
17 and 12	An increase in economic activity is directly and indirectly likely to increase waste production.	Recycling within commercial organisations needs to be encourage and so reduce the conflict between these two objectives
17 and 15	Increase in economic activity may increase pressure on open space as more people use then for recreational purposes	The increase in pressure upon open space is inevitable if more people work in Westminster.

**Table 6.** Identification and explanation for conflicting objectives.

The potential for conflict between sustainability objectives are not insurmountable and through the development of policies these can be minimised. The identification of these potential conflicts now means that this information can guide and inform future policy decisions.

## 5 SPD Options Appraisal

### Main options and how they were identified

One of the key requirements of SA is to consider reasonable alternatives as part of the assessment process. The aim of options appraisal is to assess the preferred option alongside others previously considered, against the sustainability framework.

This process enables comparison between options, highlighting any potential implications on sustainability. The appraisal of options also enables recommendations for mitigation of negative impacts and suggestions for modifications to the preferred option as presented in the draft SPD.

The options have been appraised against the Sustainability Objectives, in environmental, social and economic dimensions. A scoring system was used for every objective, for the short, medium and long term and a summary of the option against each of the dimensions were reached. A conclusion sums up the general impact the option would have and makes comments on the sustainability of this option.

The main options identified for the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit can be described as a “Do Nothing” and a “Best Practice” approach.

**Option 1** The “Do Nothing” option consists of the current situation, with the conservation area in place but with no formal guidance as to how the character of the area will be interpreted.

**Option 2** The “Best Practice” option consists of the conservation area supported by guidance in the form of the draft Westminster Cathedral Area Audit.

A table showing appraisal of options can be found at Appendix 4.

#### **Option 1 –**

This option does not have dramatic effects against the sustainability objectives and, for majority of them, the effect would be neutral. However, environmentally this option would minimise the opportunities to enhance certain aspects of the physical environment. Against the social objectives, evidence elsewhere suggests that the historic built environment can have positive knock on effects and by utilising this option these perceived benefits will not materialise, such as education and involvement of the community through consultation which helps to promote social cohesion. Economically this option is likely to have a minor negative effect. The conservation of the historic built environment has the potential to give economic confidence (e.g. via promoting a positive image) and stimulate economic growth and actively aid in regeneration. Westminster’s historic built environment forms the focus of tourism, which brings substantial economic benefits.

With regards to **Option 2**, the Council recognises the important role of the historic environment to the character of Westminster, with associated environmental, social and economic benefits. Whilst it is evident that development within the historic environment can rarely occur without some form of compromise, it is unlikely that the adoption of the SPD would have any notable negative impacts and this should provide clarity for developers. Conservation area audits also help to formulate proposals to enhance the historic environment having long lasting impacts and helping to preserve local distinctiveness. Socially, although in some instances the links are rather limited or neutral, this option can, if adequately consulted on, help to generate a sense of local ownership to the area. Furthermore, this can help towards other social issues, such as crime, by encouraging people to value their surroundings which should have a cumulative effect of improving the physical environment of locations. Economically, again, this option should have an overall positive impact, especially in relation to tourism and sustainable growth, benefiting businesses by enhancing areas.

The preferred option is thus to prepare a conservation area audit for the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area.

## **6 Appraisal of Plan's Effects**

This section provides a record of the prediction and assessment of the potential effects of the draft SPDs. The appraisal process has used an appraisal framework. The analysis is presented in Appendix 5 and includes each of the plan objectives. The plan objectives are appraised in turn for their potential impact on each of the sustainability objectives. Scores are recorded on a five-point scale (major negative impact; minor negative impact; neutral impact; minor positive effect; major positive effect; impact uncertain).

The appraisal process has considered the following issues:

- Direction of effect: is the policy moving towards or away from sustainability?
- Severity of effect: will the effect be marginal or significant?
- Cumulative and synergistic effects: are there potentially significant effects resulting from a combination of activities, which may be insignificant individually?
- Trans-boundary effects: does the effect impact on adjoining boroughs?
- Timing of Effect: does the effect occur immediately or later, does it last indefinitely or only temporarily?

The plan's objectives appraised in this way are as follows:

- Expand upon the UDP Policy DES 9: Conservation Areas by providing a detailed appraisal of the historical interest, architectural qualities, street patterns and spaces, trees, townscape detail and negative features, comprising the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit.

- Provide a fair and effective and transparent mechanism for reviewing the design and appearance of proposed development in the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area
- Identify potential enhancements and proposals for the future management of the conservation area.

### **Potential overall effects of the draft SPDs**

The matrix shows that the majority of the sustainability objectives are affected either positively or very positively by the implementation of the SPD. The negative impacts of the SPDs on sustainable development are:

- **It may have a negative effect on the affordability of housing**
- **It may have a negative effect on the use of low emission technology**
- **It may have a negative effect on making land and property available for business development**
- **It may have a negative impact on reducing the impact of noise**

However, these effects are uncertain.

### **Time scale and reversibility**

Each action has been assessed for its potential impact over time and, if negative, whether it is reversible. The main findings of this assessment are;

- Almost all time scales for implementation and resulting impacts is for the medium and long term. This is mainly because of the lead in times for the actions, the actual nature of the actions and what they set out to achieve.
- All impacts, both positive and negative, are perceived to be reversible

## **IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

The significant sustainability effects of implementing the draft SPD will be monitored to help identify unforeseen adverse effects and to enable remedial action to be taken. The Council is required to prepare Annual Monitoring Reports to assess the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies in the Local Development Documents are being achieved. The SPD will be included in this process.

### **Key next steps**

1. Appraisal of any significant changes proposed to the draft SPD not already considered.
2. Publishing a statement following adoption of the SPD setting out any changes to the SPD in response to the SA process
3. Monitoring the significant effects.

## Conclusion

The Sustainability Appraisal process has enabled assessment to be made of the social, environmental and economic impacts of the Conservation Area both with and without the Audit. Planning decisions should not be affected by the guidelines, which give clarity to applicants on the changes that will require permission and which changes are likely to be acceptable.

The main benefit of the SA process is that it has enabled the development of mitigation measures and monitoring which will ensure that any adverse impacts can be minimised.

The SA process has also documented the current status of social, environmental and economic aspects of the areas in the form of baseline data, which will act as a check to determine whether any unintended consequences are resulting from the audits. The SA process has also documented the status of social, environmental and economic aspects of the area in the form of baseline data, which will act as a check to determine whether any unintended consequences are resulting from the publication of the SPD.

The conclusion of the SA process is that option 2 with the SPD in place is the most sustainable and will:

- Lend clarity to the planning process
- Help safeguard Westminster's historic built environment and promote a high quality environment for residents and business, with associated economic benefits especially relating to tourism
- Safeguard the character of open spaces and promote improvements to public realm and street environment

A number of issues have been highlighted by this appraisal which are being taken into account in amending the SPD before it is formally adopted by Westminster City Council.

The significant sustainability effects of implementing the draft SPD will be monitored to help identify unforeseen effects and to enable remedial action to be taken. This will mean the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit will be a more sustainable document and will thereby embrace social responsibility, economic development and environmental protection.

## Appendices



## **Appendix One**

### **Consultees on the Scoping Report SEA Consultation bodies**

English Heritage  
Environment Agency  
Natural England

### **Representatives of other interests**

Westminster Property Owners Association

*(Full consultee list in Statement of Consultation)*

**Appendix 2: List of Plans and strategies reviewed**

**Relevant Plans, Programmes, Policies & Strategies**

**National and International**

**PPS 1 Delivering Sustainable Development**, ODPM 2005  
<http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143805>

**Requirement or objectives**

Facilitate and promote sustainable patterns of urban development by:

- Making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve the quality of life.
- Contributing to sustainable economic growth.
- Protecting and where possible enhancing the natural and historic environment and the quality and character of the countryside, and existing successful communities.
- Ensuring high quality development through good design.
- Ensuring that development supports existing communities and contributes to the creation of safe, accessible, sustainable communities.

**Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan**

SPD documents need to take objectives in to account and these should be integrated into policies.

**Implications for the SA**

These themes should underpin the sustainability appraisal.

**PPG 3 Housing, 1990**

<http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143941>

**Requirement or objectives**

- Plan to meet housing requirements for whole community.
- Provide wider choice, mix, size, type, location and mixed communities.
- Make more efficient use of land and under utilised buildings.
- Reduce car dependency in residential development.

**Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan**

SPD should not conflict with the objective of meeting the housing needs of the whole residential community.

**Implications for the SA**

SA will identify the social, environmental and economic implications of different housing types and identify the best from a sustainability perspective and any conflict with conservation policies.

**PPG 4 industrial, commercial development and small firms**

<http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143926>

**Requirement or objectives**

- Encourage economic growth which is compatible with environmental objectives
- Give greater certainty as to types of development allowed in specific locations
- Commercial activity located where transport is most efficient and road traffic reduced
- Mixed use is acceptable and encouraged unless specific environmental adverse effects are likely. Optimum use should be made potential sites and existing premises.

**Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan**

The needs of business and economic development need to be taken into account and considered along with environmental and social implications.

**Implications for the SA**

The SA will assist in identifying potential conflict between economic policies, the environment and social considerations.

<b>PPG 8 Telecommunications</b> <a href="http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143926">http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143926</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitates the growth of telecommunication systems while keeping environmental impacts to a minimum, with particular concern for impacts upon buildings of architectural or historic importance.</li> <li>Take into account cumulative impact of multiple masts</li> <li>Location of mast relative to sensitive receptors</li> </ul>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b> The improvement of telecommunications should be balanced against the protection of the environment and society.	<b>Implications for the SA</b> Infrastructure provision needs to be taken into account from the impacts upon the environment, society and economic perspective.
<b>PPG 13 Transport</b> <a href="http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1144016#P13_304">http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1144016#P13_304</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b> The objectives of this guidance are to integrate planning and transport at the national, regional, strategic and local level to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight;</li> <li>promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling, and</li> <li>reduce the need to travel, especially by car.</li> </ol>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b> The improvement of public transport, cycling and pedestrian provision needs to be taken into account when forming the SPD policies.	<b>Implications for the SA</b> Sustainable transport is vital for sustainable development and needs to be taken in to account and
<b>PPG 15 Planning and the Historic Environment</b> DoE and Department of National Heritage, 1994 Link: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1144041">http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1144041</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be effective protection for all aspects of the historic environment</li> <li>The physical survival of our past is to be valued and protected as a central part of our cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b> Need to protect historic buildings and especially to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the conservation area underpins the SPD.	<b>Implications for the SA</b> Identify the most appropriate options for protection to conservation area whilst meeting social and economic needs
<b>PPG 16 Archaeology and Planning</b> DoE and Department of National Heritage, 1990 Link: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1144057">http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1144057</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archaeological remains are irreplaceable; they are vital evidence of past development of our civilisation.</li> <li>In particular care must be taken to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed.</li> </ul>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b> Need to meet the balance between protection and preservation off archaeological sites with the need to meet social and economic needs of an area.	<b>Implications for the SA</b> Identify the most appropriate options that protect archaeological sites while meeting social and economic needs.
<b>PPG17 Open space, sports and recreation</b> <a href="http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143926">http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143926</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting local standards for open space and identify extra provision requirements as well as improving access and existing facilities.</li> <li>Maintain an adequate supply of Open Space by protecting existing facilities (including playing fields), using development opportunities to</li> </ul>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b> SPD should be consistent with the objective of protection of open space as pressures on land increase across the City.	<b>Implications for the SA</b> Protection and enhancement of open space is important economically, socially as well as environmentally.

<p>improve open space and associated facilities, prevent the erosion of quality of open space, better management of open space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New open space should taken in to account; accessibility, contribute to town centre vitality, improve the quality of public realm, provision of open space in commercial areas, safety, meet regeneration needs, social inclusion and needs of tourists</li> <li>• Use planning obligations to alleviate local deficiencies. Particularly where quality and/or quantity is threatened and local needs are increased.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>PPG 24 Planning and Noise</b>  <a href="http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143926">http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143926</a></p>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise can have a significant effect on the environment and on the quality of life.</li> <li>• Development of specific land uses should be guided to appropriate locations.</li> <li>• Development plans should give developer and the community a degree of certainty about areas where particular types of development will be acceptable</li> </ul>	<p>Policies should take into account the impact of noise across the City. With particular focus on preventing noise generating land use being located near to noise sensitive land uses.</p>	<p>Need to ensure focus on minimising the impact of noise upon the local environment and community.</p>
<p><b>PPS 9 Biodiversity and Geographical conservation</b>  <a href="http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143803">http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143803</a></p>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain, maintain, restore and enhance biodiversity and environmental resources</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate significance in made to protected sites of biological importance</li> <li>• To accommodate biodiversity within new development, +recognising the link between nature conservation and a sense of well-being in the community.</li> <li>• This corresponds with biodiversities role in supporting economic diversification.</li> </ul>	<p>Policies need to take into account the need to protect and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>Identify which policy options will have the most positive effect on biodiversity.</p>
<p><b>PPS12 Local Development Framework ODPM 2004</b>  Link: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143847">http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143847</a></p>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes the format and methodology to be employed to implement the new planning system documents.</li> </ul>	<p>Is a guiding PPS on the whole process so influence is paramount.</p>	<p>SA must comply with procedures as set out in this planning policy statement.</p>
<p><b>PPS 22 Renewable energy</b>  <a href="http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143803">http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143803</a></p>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statement of government policy concerning planning and development control of renewable energy developments.</li> <li>UK target to generate 10% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010, and 20% by 2020.</li> </ul>	Establishes targets for renewables. Endorses policies that actively encourage the inclusion of renewable energy in the energy mix. This needs to be balanced against the protection of the historic environment.	Policies need to employ the best option for promoting the uptake of renewable energy in new and existing buildings.
<b>PPS23 Planning and pollution control</b> <a href="http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143803">http://www.communities.gov.UK/index.asp?id=1143803</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration should be made to the quality of land, air and water and potential impacts from development</li> <li>Potential sensitivity to pollution – landscape, soil, air, water nature conservation.</li> <li>Reduce land use conflict caused by mixed use developments</li> <li>Compliance with statutory environmental quality standards</li> <li>Limit GHG emissions and take into account potential effects of Climate Change (including drainage)</li> <li>Cumulative impacts to be considered</li> </ul>	Impacts of existing pollution are minimised and that any new development does not increase pollution levels in general.	SA will identify options that allow development which minimise cause of environmental pollution
<b>Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals and Guidance on the Management of Conservation Areas</b> English Heritage, 2005 Link: <a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.UK/server/show/nav.00100200800q005">http://www.english-heritage.org.UK/server/show/nav.00100200800q005</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
Sets out guidance for the preparation of conservation area appraisals and management of conservation areas	The format of the conservation area appraisal should be in conformity with this guidance.	
<b>Regional</b>		
<b>The London Plan</b> GLA 2001 Link: <a href="http://www.gov.UK/mayor/strategies/sds/plan_download.jsp">http://www.gov.UK/mayor/strategies/sds/plan_download.jsp</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
The Key Themes of the Plan are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>health of Londoner's</li> <li>equality of opportunity</li> <li>Contribute to sustainable development.</li> </ol> And six key objectives which are; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accommodate 's growth within its boundaries without encroaching on open spaces.</li> <li>To make London a better city for people to live in.</li> <li>To make London a more prosperous city with strong and diverse economic growth.</li> <li>To promote social inclusion and tackle deprivation and discrimination.</li> <li>To improve accessibility.</li> <li>To make a more attractive, well-designed and green city.</li> </ol>	Conservation Area Audit should be in general conformity with the London Plan.	The London Plan has had a sustainability Appraisal carried out on it therefore policies that directly refer to it should be as sustainable as is practically possible.
<b>Mayor's Biodiversity Action Plan</b>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>

The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy aims to protect and enhance the natural habitats of London together with their variety of species. The Strategy sets out the Mayor's vision for the future, identifying the key issues and providing innovative solutions. It demonstrates how biodiversity can be maintained as a crucial part of a sustainable world city.	Biodiversity needs to be taken into account by the Conservation Area Audit	Need to make sure biodiversity considerations have included in all the conservation areas policies
<b>The Draft View Management Framework GLA 2005</b> Link: <a href="http://www.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/sds/spg-views.jsp">http://www.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/sds/spg-views.jsp</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
Provides guidance and policies on the protection of London views.	Conservation Area Audits identify local views using criteria suggested in the guidance	Sustainability Objectives must identify the most appropriate options for the protection of views whilst allowing for social and economic development.
<b>Local</b>		
<b>Unitary Development Plan</b> Westminster City Council , 1997 and 2004 (RUDP) <a href="http://www.Westminster.gov.uk/environment/planning/unitarydevelopmentplan/">http://www.Westminster.gov.uk/environment/planning/unitarydevelopmentplan/</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
The UDP sets out planning policies for developing land, improving transport and protecting the environment for the next 10 – 15 years. It advises people on the types of development likely to get planning permission. It gives guidance for planners when deciding on planning applications and the basis by which planning decisions are defended at public enquiry	Until the adoption of the LDF, the RUDP policies will set the foundation or stating point for the policies that are included within the conservation area audit. There consideration is obviously imperative	Monitoring of UDP policies provides much of the evidence base and baseline for the SA
<b>Westminster City Council's Community Strategy – The City Plan 2006-16 (draft)</b> <a href="http://www.Westminster.gov.uk/councilgovernmentanddemocracy/councils/partnerships/upload/CityPlanFinal.pdf">http://www.Westminster.gov.uk/councilgovernmentanddemocracy/councils/partnerships/upload/CityPlanFinal.pdf</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
The City Plan sets a vision for the future and outlines key aims and priorities to achieve this vision over the next ten years. It does this by establishing the four key goals, with the priorities to achieve these goals which are: 1.An Improving City Environment • A safer city • A more sustainable, cleaner and greener city • A well-designed and distinctive city 2.Better Life Chances for All Our Citizens • A better city for children and young people • A city of opportunity meeting the aspirations of all our citizens • A strong and economically thriving city built in partnership with business 3.Cohesive communities and engaged citizens • A more united city • A stronger voice for local people 4.Customer Tailored Services. • Accessible services • Locally-focused services	The Community Strategy identifies the policy options to which all other policy documents should contribute. Conservation Area Audits must therefore align with these.	As the City Plan is designed to encourage economic, social and environmental well being of the city the policies it affects should be sustainable.

<b>Sustainable Buildings SPG</b> <a href="http://www.Westminster.gov.UK/environment/planning/sitesandprojectspolicies/spg.cfm">http://www.Westminster.gov.UK/environment/planning/sitesandprojectspolicies/spg.cfm</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
Advises on the life cycle of building projects, including the basic principles of sustainable construction. Key goal is to enable the environmental performance and quality of design of buildings in the city to be improved.	The objectives of the SPD should be embraced within the Conservation Area Audits, so that the impact upon the environment from new development is reduced and social as well as economic consideration are taken into account.	The SPD objectives will be supported by the SA as it assists in policy selection that contribute to sustainable development.
<b>Design Matters in Westminster City Council</b> <a href="http://www3.Westminster.gov.UK/planningpublications/cf-results.cfm">http://www3.Westminster.gov.UK/planningpublications/cf-results.cfm</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
Sets out the councils policies with regards to design of new buildings in Westminster, including accessibility, sustainability and context.	Need to promote high quality design and materials, sensitive to the local context	SA objectives should incorporate these themes
<b>Development and Demolition in Conservation Areas SPG Westminster City Council</b> <a href="http://www3.Westminster.gov.UK/planningpublications/cf-results.cfm">http://www3.Westminster.gov.UK/planningpublications/cf-results.cfm</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
Sets out the city council's policies and guidance with regards to development and demolition in conservation areas.	Retention of unlisted buildings of merit, original architectural detail and features which contribute to the character of the conservation area.	SA objectives must incorporate these themes.
<b>Roofs – A Guide to Alterations and Extensions on Domestic Buildings Westminster City Council</b> <a href="http://www3.Westminster.gov.UK/planningpublications/cf-results.cfm">http://www3.Westminster.gov.UK/planningpublications/cf-results.cfm</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
Sets out the city council's policy with regards to alteration and extension of roofs.	Original historic roof forms shall be retained where appropriate and new design sensitive to historic context	SA objectives must incorporate these themes.
<b>Shopfronts, Blinds and Signs, Westminster City Council</b> <a href="http://www3.Westminster.gov.UK/planningpublications/cf-results.cfm">http://www3.Westminster.gov.UK/planningpublications/cf-results.cfm</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
Sets out the city council's policy with regards to alterations to shopfronts.	Shop front and signs should be designed with respect to the architecture and character of the area. The shop front must be seen as an integral part of the building. Seek to prevent loss of traditional shopfronts, reinstate features where missing in any scheme for a new shop front. T	Need to balance economic and environmental objectives.
<b>Westminster Biodiversity Action plan, Westminster City Council, 2000</b> <a href="http://www3.Westminster.gov.UK/publications/publications_detail.cfm?ID=691">http://www3.Westminster.gov.UK/publications/publications_detail.cfm?ID=691</a>		



Requirement or objectives	Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan	Implications for the SA
Identifies priority Species and Habitats For Protection In Westminster - Sets out a series of Action Plans covering this.	Protection of priority species and habitats	Assess the effectiveness of audit in combining aims of built environment and nature conservation.
<b>Westminster Way- A Public Realm Manual for the City, Westminster City Council, 2004</b> <a href="http://www3.Westminster.gov.UK/publications/publications_detail.cfm?ID=1114">http://www3.Westminster.gov.UK/publications/publications_detail.cfm?ID=1114</a>		
Requirement or objectives	Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan	Implications for the SA
A manual for design of public realm in Westminster	Use of high quality materials and high standard of design contributing to an accessible, sustainable and attractive public realm, in keeping with the character of the conservation area.	Need to assess sustainability of materials and contribution of high quality public realm to economic and social as well as environmental objectives
<b>Air Quality Strategy for Westminster</b> <a href="http://www.Westminster.gov.UK/environment/pollution/airpollution/airqualityinfo.cfm">http://www.Westminster.gov.UK/environment/pollution/airpollution/airqualityinfo.cfm</a>		
Requirement or objectives	Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan	Implications for the SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce emissions from the most polluting vehicles by working with the Mayor and London boroughs to implement a low emission zone</li> <li>To reduce traffic and discourage unnecessary car journeys through traffic control and restraint based parking policies</li> <li>To promote the use of alternative road fuels such as gas, fuel cells and electricity in general, but especially in council vehicles, contractors vehicles, buses, taxis, light vans.</li> <li>To promote the development of a refuelling infrastructure for alternative fuels in Westminster and central London</li> <li>To enforce emissions standards through: the roadside emissions testing programme, and the stationary vehicles offence - working with other London local authorities.</li> <li>To promote alternative modes of transport to the private car including walking, cycling and public transport</li> <li>To reduce the impact of development on traffic emissions</li> <li>To minimise emissions caused by building activities</li> <li>To minimise emissions caused by the use of buildings</li> <li>To monitor air quality</li> <li>To raise public awareness</li> <li>To work in partnership with others</li> </ul>	The objectives need to be integrated and supported by the plan so that new development has a minimal impact upon air pollution.	Policies that minimise the impact upon air quality need to be identified by the SA.
<b>Economic Development Strategy</b> <a href="http://www.Westminster.gov.UK/Business/economicdevelopment/upload/EDS%20final.pdf">http://www.Westminster.gov.UK/Business/economicdevelopment/upload/EDS%20final.pdf</a>		
Requirement or objectives	Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan	Implications for the SA

Has three key objectives; 1. Supporting Business and Enterprise 2. Business friendly City Management 3. Promoting Employability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clean and safe environment creating the right conditions for businesses to succeed and thrive.</li> <li>Provide businesses and employers with the skills that they need on their doorstep.</li> </ul>	SA needs to select options that support environmental protection, are socially responsible as well as allowing economic development.
<b>Open Space SPG</b> <a href="http://www.Westminster.gov.UK/environment/planning/ldf/documents/oss.cfm">http://www.Westminster.gov.UK/environment/planning/ldf/documents/oss.cfm</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
The key objectives of the Open Space Strategy are to improve the quality, management, accessibility and usage of parks and other open spaces in the City. Provide new facilities where there are deficits in provision and also provide well maintained, quality open spaces which are safe and attractive to all	Open space is important and needs protection as the pressures on land increase through out the city.	The objectives and actions of the open Space Strategy therefore need to be taken into account.
<b>Nature Conservation Strategy (1997)</b> <a href="http://www.Westminster.gov.UK/environment/landandpremises/conservation/index.cfm">http://www.Westminster.gov.UK/environment/landandpremises/conservation/index.cfm</a>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
Strategy developed to ensure that valuable resource protected for the benefit of everyone in the city. Key aims are 1. Protect existing habitats and create new opportunities for wildlife. 2. Encourage wildlife through the sympathetic management of green spaces. 3. Improve public access to and understanding of nature in the city. 4. Monitor progress.	Policies need to safe guard and protect and enhance important habitats and biodiversity	Sustainability appraisal must highlight any policies that would have a detrimental impact on biodiversity measures
<b>Emerging Supplementary Planning Guidance on Inclusive Access and Design, Westminster City Council (2006)</b>		
<b>Requirement or objectives</b>	<b>Requirements and objectives to be integrated into the Plan</b>	<b>Implications for the SA</b>
Encourage provision of access for all as part of new development and refurbishment schemes	Policies need to safeguard the environment with	Need to balance safeguarding the environment with social considerations and providing inclusive access for all

**Appendix 3: Sustainability Appraisal Objectives**

## Appendix 2 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Number	Sustainability Objective	Sub-objective	Indicators
1	Reduce poverty and social exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the economic opportunities for excluded people and communities</li> <li>• Reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected</li> <li>• Improve affordability to essential services to the home</li> <li>• Improve affordability of housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Census levels of deprivation</li> <li>• Proportion of the population living in deprived areas</li> <li>• Proportion of children in low income families</li> <li>• Proportion of people claiming benefits</li> <li>• Proportion of the population of working age in full-time employment</li> <li>• Levels of fuel poverty</li> </ul>
2	Improve health and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the health and well-being of the population</li> <li>• Provide, protect and improve health facilities</li> <li>• Reduce health inequalities</li> <li>• Encourage healthy lifestyles</li> <li>• Maximise the safety of streets for pedestrians, cyclists &amp; motorists</li> <li>• Provide facilities for sport and recreation</li> <li>• Provide and ensure access to open space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average life expectancy of population</li> <li>• Mortality rates by cause</li> <li>• Working days lost through illness</li> <li>• NHS hospital waiting lists</li> <li>• Access to a GP</li> <li>• Access to a hospital</li> <li>• Levels of health inequalities</li> <li>• Levels of participation in sport and cultural activities</li> <li>• Proportion of journeys on foot or by bicycle</li> <li>• Proportion of school children travelling to school, by mode of transport</li> <li>• Access to green space</li> <li>• Number of pedestrian, cyclists and motorist accidents</li> <li>• Percentage of resident population describing their health as 'not good'</li> </ul>
3	Improve availability of decent homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce homelessness</li> <li>• Increase the range of housing and increase housing choice for all</li> <li>• Increase the affordability of housing for all</li> <li>• Improve the quality of housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levels of homelessness</li> <li>• Proportion of the population living in temporary accommodation</li> <li>• Affordability of housing in comparison to earnings</li> <li>• Levels of availability of good quality housing for all social groups</li> <li>• Housing completion figures</li> <li>• Affordable housing completion figures</li> <li>• Proportion of homes judged unfit to live in</li> </ul>
4	Reduce anti-social activity and remove the fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve community safety and establish conditions that discourage crime</li> <li>• Encourage safer environments through</li> <li>• Reduce actual crime levels and fear of crime design</li> <li>• Reduce actual noise levels and noise concerns resulting from anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour on the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime levels</li> <li>• Fear of crime amongst the local and visiting populations</li> <li>• Noise levels and complaints</li> <li>• Litter levels</li> <li>• Number of Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) issued</li> <li>• Level of race-related crime</li> </ul>
5	Improve sense of community identity and welfare and the quality of where people live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage a sense of community and place, and embrace diversity</li> <li>• Provide, protect and improve religious facilities</li> <li>• Encourage development of and participation in cultural, creative and sporting activity</li> <li>• Support local activities and crafts</li> <li>• Protect, provide and improve community meeting places</li> <li>• Protect and improve sports, play and recreation facilities</li> <li>• Encourage active involvement in local decision making and voluntary activities</li> <li>• Support cross-cultural integration</li> <li>• Improve resident and visitor satisfaction with where they live</li> <li>• Improve the legibility of streets for all pedestrians</li> <li>• Ensure a mix of land uses</li> <li>• Protect and improve cultural provision</li> <li>• Protect and improve provision and quality of open spa</li> <li>• Provide, protect and improve childcare facilities and access to open spaces</li> <li>• Protect and improve provision of wildlife, and improve access to it where appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levels of engagement in community activities</li> <li>• Levels of engagement in voluntary activities</li> <li>• Levels of resident satisfaction, participation and sense of well-being</li> <li>• Proportion of the population that are or feel they can be involved in local decision making</li> <li>• Proportion of the population who feel their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live together harmoniously</li> <li>• Proportion of residents who are satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live</li> <li>• Mix of appropriate land uses</li> <li>• Number of cultural events held</li> <li>• Number and type of cultural facilities available;</li> <li>• Additions and improvements made to open spaces</li> <li>• Number, accessibility and affordability of child care facilities;</li> <li>• Levels of biodiversity</li> <li>• Areas of wildlife protected</li> </ul>

6	Reduce unemployment and Improve education and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce unemployment both short and long-term</li> <li>Facilitate the creation and sustaining of employment, particularly where appropriate for the local population</li> <li>Provide opportunities for those most in need of employment</li> <li>Help improve work/life balance</li> <li>Help improve earnings</li> <li>Increase opportunity for rewarding and satisfying employment</li> <li>Provide, protect and improve education facilities</li> <li>Facilitate development of local skills</li> <li>Develop and improve opportunities for lifelong learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall levels of unemployment</li> <li>Proportion of people of working age who are in work</li> <li>Proportion of people of working age who are unemployed</li> <li>Proportion of lone parents, long-term ill and disabled people who are economically active and claiming benefits</li> <li>Proportion of ethnic minorities in full-time employment</li> <li>Average hours worked by people in employment</li> <li>Average earning for full-time employees</li> <li>Qualifications achieved by the population</li> <li>Proportion of the population with no qualifications</li> <li>Proportion of the adult population participating in learning</li> </ul>
7	Increase accessibility to essential services and community facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve access to buildings and ease of movement for all</li> <li>Improve interchanges between streets and buildings, with regard to levels, widths and obstructions</li> <li>Encourage developments that improve the quality of the spaces between buildings</li> <li>Improve access between housing, jobs, services and amenities</li> <li>Improve provision of public transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of residents within walking distance (500m/15mins) of key local services (post office, food shop, GP, primary school)</li> <li>Childcare spaces available per 1,000 population</li> <li>Levels of new retail floorspace</li> <li>Availability of public transport</li> </ul>
8	Improve air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce direct emissions of local air</li> <li>Reduce combustion of natural resources pollutants</li> <li>Encourage and facilitate the use of low emission technology and fuels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of days per year of air pollution</li> <li>Levels and concentrations of pollutants in the air</li> <li>Levels and concentrations of emissions</li> <li>Levels of use of low emission technology and fuels</li> <li>Planning permissions granted for solar panels and alternative energy sources</li> </ul>
9	Reduce contributions to climate change and vulnerability to impacts, including flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce direct emissions of greenhouse gases</li> <li>Reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances</li> <li>Encourage use of renewable energy to minimise use of finite resources</li> <li>Minimise non-renewable energy consumption</li> <li>Protect against storm damage</li> <li>Protect against potential river flooding and flash flooding</li> <li>Reduce the risk of subsidence</li> <li>Protect the microclimate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Levels of CO2 emissions</li> <li>Levels of renewable and non-renewable energy use</li> <li>Thermal efficiency of the building stock</li> <li>Energy efficiency of road passenger travel</li> <li>Energy efficiency of rail passenger travel</li> <li>Energy efficiency of freight distribution</li> <li>Depletion of fossil fuels</li> <li>Depletion of ozone</li> <li>Sale/use of ozone depleting substances</li> <li>Frequency of fluvial flood events</li> <li>Development in the floodplain</li> <li>Amount of land affected by subsidence</li> <li>Works undertaken for flood prevention</li> <li>Works undertaken to protect from storm damage</li> <li>Amount of fossil fuels used</li> </ul>
10	Protected and enhance open space and conserve soil resources and quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce use of minerals, materials and resources</li> <li>Use minerals, materials and resources more efficiently</li> <li>Ensure that contamination of land is prevented or remedied</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Levels of minerals, materials and resources</li> <li>Levels of contaminated land</li> <li>Net loss of soils to development</li> <li>Levels of soil quality</li> <li>Amount of contaminated land remediated</li> </ul>
11	Minimise production and harmful effects of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise use of resources and materials</li> <li>Conserve manufactured resources</li> <li>Reduce waste generation</li> <li>Reduce hazardous waste</li> <li>Encourage more efficient use of resources</li> <li>Encourage use of renewable materials and resources</li> <li>Encourage use of once-used and recycled materials</li> <li>Enable recovery of energy from waste</li> <li>Ensure careful and efficient collection and storage of waste</li> <li>Enable collection of used resources and materials so they can be recycled</li> <li>Enable environmentally satisfactory disposal of waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Levels of materials consumption per person</li> <li>Levels of waste generated in total and per household</li> <li>Levels of material recycling in total and per household</li> <li>Destination of all waste and that just from households i.e. recycling, composting, used to recover energy, landfill</li> <li>Source of materials used in total and just within households i.e. recycled, re-used</li> <li>Levels of hazardous waste</li> <li>Compliance with EU Landfill Directive</li> </ul>

12	Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna and improve water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect designated nature conservation sites of national, metropolitan and local significance</li> <li>• Protect and enhance habitats and buildings that benefit wildlife, such as gardens, trees, rivers, water bodies and wild spaces</li> <li>• Protect and provide priority habitats</li> <li>• Protect and provide for priority species</li> <li>• Protect and enhance open spaces</li> <li>• Prevent pollution of water bodies and courses</li> <li>• Improve the quality of water bodies and courses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievement of Biodiversity and Species Action Plan targets at National and Westminster levels</li> <li>• Changes in priority habitats</li> <li>• Changes in populations of priority animal species</li> <li>• Trends in plant biodiversity</li> <li>• Population of wild birds</li> <li>• Number of habitat enhancement projects in open spaces</li> <li>• Levels of marine life in water bodies and water courses</li> <li>• Levels of dangerous substances found in water</li> <li>• Levels of nutrients found in water</li> <li>• Levels of pathogens in water</li> <li>• Amount of dissolved oxygen in water</li> <li>• Number of significant pollution events in the river Thames</li> <li>• Number of incidents of accidental/deliberate release of pollutants into water bodies</li> </ul>
13	Conserve and enhance the historic environment and the quality of landscapes and townscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage repair, maintenance and protection of historic buildings and structures</li> <li>• Protect public art, monuments, statues and their settings</li> <li>• Protect and enhance sites, features and areas of cultural value</li> <li>• Preserve and enhance historic parks and gardens</li> <li>• Protect and conserve the archaeological resources</li> <li>• Improve the legibility of streets for all</li> <li>• Improve ease of movement for all</li> <li>• Ensure high quality visual streetscape and buildings</li> <li>• Preserve and enhance the character and fabric of conservation areas</li> <li>• Reduce street clutter</li> <li>• Ensure clean streets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss or damage to listed buildings and their settings</li> <li>• Loss or damage to scheduled ancient monuments and their settings</li> <li>• Loss or damage to historic parks and gardens and their settings</li> <li>• Loss or damage to historic landscapes and their settings</li> <li>• Percentage of conservation area demolished or otherwise lost</li> <li>• Loss or damage to historic view lines/strategic views and vistas</li> <li>• Levels of loss or damage to public art, monuments, statues and their settings</li> <li>• Measures in place to protect and conserve archaeological resources</li> <li>• Measures to protect historic view lines/strategic views and vistas</li> <li>• Level of street legibility</li> <li>• Quality of visual streetscape</li> <li>• Changes in character of the conservation areas</li> <li>• Proportion of new homes built on previously developed land</li> <li>• Proportion of vacant land and properties</li> <li>• Proportion of streets that are clean/litter free</li> <li>• Improvements to the number/types of street furniture and signage</li> <li>• Number of street obstructions/obstacles</li> </ul>
14	Reduce the need to travel and the use of the car.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage a reduction in travel and use of alternatives to powered transport</li> <li>• Encourage use of energy efficient transport modes</li> <li>• Reduce the need to travel, especially by private car</li> <li>• Encourage walking and cycling and other forms of sustainable travel</li> <li>• Integrate new development schemes with public transport</li> <li>• Provide infrastructure to enable efficient, optimal use of public transport, accessible to all</li> <li>• Reduce the impact of service and delivery vehicles on congestion and levels of pollution</li> <li>• Reduce congestion and minimise the intrusion of all vehicles in working and residential areas</li> <li>• Reduce traffic noise</li> <li>• Encourage use of sustainable river transport facilities</li> <li>• Optimise access for emergency vehicles on all routes</li> <li>• Encourage greater use of renewable cleaner fuels</li> <li>• Reduce the impact of passenger vehicles on congestion and levels of pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume of traffic on all roads</li> <li>• Volume of traffic on principle roads</li> <li>• Volume of heavy goods vehicles</li> <li>• Level of congestion</li> <li>• Level of traffic noise</li> <li>• Passenger travel by modes</li> <li>• Reasons for travel mode choices</li> <li>• Level of integration of new development schemes with public transport</li> <li>• Leisure trips by mode of transport</li> <li>• Proportion of trips made using alternative powered transport</li> <li>• Proportion of trips made using energy efficient transport modes</li> <li>• Level of investment in and use of sustainable water transport facilities</li> <li>• Levels of CO2 emissions</li> <li>• Levels of renewable and non-renewable energy use</li> <li>• Energy efficiency of road passenger travel</li> <li>• Energy efficiency of rail passenger travel</li> <li>• Energy efficiency of freight distribution</li> <li>• Depletion of fossil fuels</li> <li>• Amount of fossil fuels used</li> <li>• Number of Section 106 agreements for contributions to, or infrastructure provided for improving public transport</li> </ul>
15	Require energy efficient buildings and provide for sustainable sources of water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure design of buildings and structures are resource efficient</li> <li>• Ensure buildings and structures are designed to be energy efficient</li> <li>• Ensure buildings and structures adaptable for re-use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of new buildings considered to be energy efficient</li> <li>• Proportion of building stock adaptable for re-use</li> <li>• Proportion of building stock safe-guarded for re-use</li> </ul>
16	Encourage sustainable economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the strength of the economy is maintained and further sustainable growth is enabled and accommodated</li> <li>• Assist business development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in the number of businesses in the area</li> <li>• Levels of productivity</li> <li>• Indicators of competitiveness</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance competitiveness</li> <li>• Promote growth in key sectors</li> <li>• Promote tourism</li> <li>• Encourage indigenous business</li> <li>• Encourage inward investment</li> <li>• Make land and property available for business development</li> <li>• Promote innovation and enterprise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survival rates of new and established businesses</li> <li>• Diversity of economic sectors</li> <li>• Relative employment/output growth in different economic sectors</li> <li>• Long term economic growth of GDP (gross domestic product)</li> <li>• Number of new businesses opening and existing ones closing</li> <li>• Growth of local business by number of employees and turnover</li> <li>• Investment levels from UK owned companies</li> <li>• Investment levels from overseas owned companies</li> <li>• Amount of employment land available</li> <li>• Number of business applications granted planning consent</li> <li>• Image indices derived from consultation with businesses and the public</li> <li>• Volume of new investment</li> </ul>
17	Reduce impacts from noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce generation of noise from all activities</li> <li>• Reduce generation of noise from all premises</li> <li>• Reduce emissions of noise from transport related activities</li> <li>• Reduce emissions of noise into properties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levels of noise generated from commercial premises and activities</li> <li>• Levels of noise generated from residential premises</li> <li>• Levels of noise emitted from transport related activities</li> <li>• Levels of noise imitated into properties</li> <li>• The number of noise complaints received</li> </ul>
18	To ensure the plan does not negatively effect existing Westminster residents		

#### Appendix 4: Appraisal of strategic Options

Sustainability objectives	Option 2	Option 1	Comments and time-frame of effects
To create cohesive, inclusive and safe communities, with appropriate levels of social and community facilities.	0	0	By taking positive action to record and highlight the local environment and encourage local communities in the process, this may have minor positive impacts in terms of strengthening community identification with and pride in the local area, which may contribute to more cohesive communities.
To reduce the fear of crime and actual crime.	+	0	The document will take positive action in promoting a well-designed and attractive environment which will have minor positive benefits in the medium term in terms of enhancing the image of the area and the community's sense of identity and reducing fear of crime
To ensure the provision of appropriate housing types to meet homeless, affordable, intermediary, over crowding and family unit demands.	0	0	The recording of special architectural and historic interest of the areas will not have any impacts on housing provision.
To promote and improve health and well-being.	+	0	The document will take positive action in promoting a well-designed and attractive environment which will have minor positive benefits in the medium and long term on the quality of the environment which contributes to a sense of well-being.
To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support climate change adaptation	0	0	The recording of special architectural and historic interest of the areas will not have any impacts on greenhouse gas emissions.
To require the application of sustainable design and construction in all new developments and refurbishment of existing buildings.	0	0	The recording of special architectural and historic interest of the areas will not have any impacts on sustainable design and construction.



<b>To minimise flood risk, promote sustainable urban drainage and protect surface and ground water quality.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	The recording of special architectural and historic interest of the areas will not have any impacts on flooding.
<b>To protect, enhance and create environments that encourages and support biodiversity.</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>0</b>	The recording of special architectural and historic interest of the areas will not have significant impacts on biodiversity, although the protection of trees may have minor positive benefits in the medium term.
<b>To improve air quality.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	The recording of special architectural and historic interest of the areas will not have any impacts on air quality.
<b>To reduce the impact of noise.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	The recording of special architectural and historic interest of the areas will not have any impacts on sustainable design and construction.
<b>To reduce the need to travel and use of private motorised vehicular transport as well as encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	The recording of special architectural and historic interest of the areas will not have any impacts on reducing the need to travel.
<b>To reduce waste production and increase recycling and recovery of all waste.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	The recording of special architectural and historic interest of the area will not have any impacts on sustainable design and construction.
<b>To protect and enhance the historic environment and architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage.</b>	<b>++</b>	<b>0</b>	Guidance on the architectural and historic character of the conservation area will have a major positive impact in the medium term on the ability to conserve and enhance the character of the conservation area.
<b>To enhance the public realm and street environment.</b>	<b>++</b>	<b>0</b>	Guidance on the architectural and historic character will promote the protection of features of interest in the public realm as well as public realm enhancements and will have a positive impact in the medium term.

<b>To protect, enhance and seek opportunities to increase open space throughout the borough.</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>0</b>	The guidance will have a positive impact in the medium term on protection of existing areas of historic open space, although it will not increase open space.
<b>To ensure equality of opportunity and improve opportunities for education, training and employment.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	The recording of special architectural and historic interest of the areas will not have any impacts on equality of opportunity and training.
<b>To maintain economic diversity, increase local opportunity and support sustainable economic growth.</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>0</b>	By recording and highlighting the architectural and historic interest of the conservation area there is likely to be a minor positive effect in the long term on the enhancement of the area's image for business and tourism.

## Appendix 5: Summary of the impacts of the draft SPD

SA Objectives	Criteria for appraisal	Score	Comment / observation: effects and mitigation
<b>1. To create cohesive, inclusive and safe communities with appropriate levels of social and community facilities</b>	Improve the economic opportunities for excluded people and communities	0	Westminster's conservation policies, as set out in the Westminster Cathedral Audit, make a positive contribution to Westminster's economic performance in general, by creating an attractive, desirable place in which to live, visit and do business. It is likely, though not proven, that this improvement to economic performance extends beyond the boundaries of the conservation area, and is of benefit to excluded people throughout Westminster.
	Reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected	0	There standard of living is high across the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area. Property values are high, with few social housing properties in the area. IMD scores are low, ranging from 14 – 26 across the area. It is not anticipated the audits will affect this situation. The Cathedral Area, particularly the piazza, is a well used area for rough sleeping. The audit is unlikely to affect this situation.
	Improve affordability of essential services to the home	0	The conservation area audits are unlikely to have an impact on affordability of essential services.
	Improve affordability of housing	-	There is little opportunity for the conservation area audit to influence the availability of affordable housing. Conservation measures may well serve to maintain or increase property prices.
<b>2. To promote and improve health and well-being</b>	Improve the health and well-being of the population	+	A quality environment, such as that promoted by the conservation area audit, has a positive effect on health and wellbeing.
	Provide, protect and improve health facilities	0	No impacts are anticipated
	Reduce health inequalities	0	Encouraging protection and enhancement of the conservation area is unlikely to have an impact on health inequalities.
	Encourage healthy	0	It is not anticipated that the audit will have any impact on

	lifestyles		encouraging healthy lifestyles
	Maximise the safety of streets for pedestrians, cyclists & motorists	0	Whilst the audit encourages reduction in street clutter which may increase accessibility for pedestrians, it will have little impact on cyclists and motorists, and overall is considered to have a neutral impact.
	Provide facilities for sport and recreation	0	It is not anticipated that the audit will have any impact on provision of leisure facilities
	Provide and ensure access to open space	+	The audit recognises the importance of open space to the character of the area.
<b>3. To ensure the provision of appropriate housing types to meet homeless, affordable, intermediary, over crowding and family unit demands</b>	Reduce homelessness	0	The audit recognises that areas within the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area are hot spots for rough sleepers but this is unlikely to have either positive or negative on the issue of homelessness.
	Increase the range of housing and increase housing choice for all	0	The audit, in identifying the majority of pre-war properties as unsuitable for demolition helps to maintain the historic mix of building types. However, it is not considered the audit will have any significant impact on housing choice.
	Improve the quality of housing	++	Ensuring high design quality of both new and existing buildings is a primary function of the Audit. New buildings in the conservation area should be designed to the highest standard, and should sit happily in their context. Works to existing buildings should always maintain or enhance the quality of those buildings.
<b>4. To reduce both the fear of crime and actual crime</b>	Improve community safety and establish conditions that discourage crime.	+	A high quality, well designed and maintained environment is less likely to be the location for crime. A good mix of residential and employment uses ensure that surveillance of the area is constant.
	Encourage safer environments through good design	+	The audit seeks to promote the highest standards of design within the conservation area and as such should also contribute to safer environments.

	Reduce actual crime levels and fear of crime	+	The conservation audit discourages overly obtrusive security measures which serve to foster fear of crime. Solid roller shutters, high boundary walls, security fencing and cctv cameras can all contribute to an exaggerated perception of the risk of crime. These environmental approaches to crime reduction are discouraged in the Audit. A well-designed environment should help to reduce fear of crime.
	Reduce actual noise levels and noise concerns resulting from anti-social behaviour	0	The audit is not likely to have significant effects in this area. However, improving the quality of places can help to reduce anti social behaviour, however.
	Reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour on the environment	+	High quality environments discourage anti social behaviour. Environmental improvement resulting from policies in the audit will encourage people to value their surroundings.
<b>5. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support climate change adaptation</b>		0	No significant effects are anticipated as a result of the Westminster Cathedral Audit. The preference for architecturally appropriate timber windows can lead to suboptimal thermal performance. This can be mitigated in numerous ways – by the use of double glazed units where possible, or by the use of secondary glazing and other insulation measures.
<b>6. To ensure equality of opportunity and improve opportunities for education, training and employment</b>	Facilitate the creation of sustainable employment particularly where matched to the needs of the local population	0	The economic benefits of a well maintained historic district could include encouraging investment. This is not proven.
	Provide opportunities for those most in need of employment	0	Whilst the conservation policies contained in the Audits may encourage inward investment and other economic benefits, this is unlikely to have specific impacts on those most in need.
	Help improve	+	The land use section of the audit encourages the current mix of

	work/life balance		uses, with an emphasis on the residential character of the area. City centre living contributes to a better work life balance by reducing travel time between home and work.
	Help improve earnings	0	The audits are unlikely to have any impact on earnings.
	Increase opportunity for rewarding and satisfying employment	0	The audits are unlikely to have any impact on local employment
	Provide, protect and improve education facilities	0	The audits are unlikely to have any impacts on educational facilities
	Facilitate development of local skills	0	The audits are unlikely to have any impacts on local skills, though the national conservation agenda, of which conservation area appraisals such as the Westminster Cathedral Audit forms a part, is driving a resurgence in craft skills.
	Develop and improve opportunities for lifelong learning	+	Whilst not intended as an educational document, the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit can and does function as such. It contains historical information, numerous photographs and a useful glossary. The document is useful to those pursuing local studies, as well as planning and conservation students.
<b>7. To enhance the public realm and street environment</b>		++	The conservation area audits have dedication sections relating to the preservation and enhancement of the historic public realm, including specifically historic street furniture and historic street surfaces. Both of these, together with a co-ordinated approach to street furniture serve to improve the public realm. Other improvements to the public realm are promoted in the audit, including reduction of street clutter and preservation of important street trees.
<b>8. To improve air quality</b>	Reduce direct emissions	0	The conservation area audit is unlikely to have an effect on emissions.

	Reduce combustion of natural resources pollutants	0	
	Encourage and facilitate the use of low emission technology and fuels	-	By encouraging the protection and enhancement of the historic environment, the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit may prevent certain visually intrusive forms of technology such as the installation of on site micro generation. Rooftop plant is discouraged, as is the visual clutter caused by pipes, wires and flues. Intrusive elements at roof level or on facades are also discouraged. These measures could hinder to the installation of wind turbines and solar cells and biomass boiler flues. However, with careful siting it may often be possible to install low emission technology or other more appropriate technologies. Westminster could consider the preparation of further information on sustainable technologies that would not have an impact on the appearance of conservation areas and effects of this will be monitored.
<b>9. To protect, enhance and seek opportunities to increase open space throughout the borough</b>	Protect and enhance open space	+	The audits specifically encourage the protection and enhancement of historic open spaces within the conservation area. Effects should therefore be positive.
	Use minerals, materials and resources more efficiently	0	No impacts are anticipated.
	Ensure that contamination of land is prevented or remedied	0	No impacts are anticipated.
<b>10. To reduce waste production and increase recycling and recovery of all waste.</b>	Minimise use of resources and materials	+	The conservation policies in the Audit, specifically, the identification of unlisted buildings of merit make a positive contribution to the use of resources. Retention and re-use of historic buildings has significant resource savings from both the embodied energy in existing buildings, and the existing fabric.

	Conserve manufactured resources	0	No impacts are anticipated.
	Reduce waste generation	0	The audit will have no impact on waste generation.
	Reduce hazardous waste	0	The audit will have no impact on hazardous waste.
	Encourage use of renewable materials and resources	+	The conservation area audit encourages the retention of existing windows and doors or the use, where appropriate, of timber windows and doors. The use of PVC and aluminium for these purposes is considerably less sustainable, due to the high energy costs of their manufacture, and to waste issues arising from disposal.
	Encourage use of once-used and recycled materials	0	To a certain extent, the continuing reuse of historic building stock supports the reuse of building materials. Brick, slate, doors and other architectural detail can all be reused.
	Enable recovery of energy from waste	0	No impacts are anticipated.
	Ensure careful and efficient collection and storage of waste	0	No impacts are anticipated.
	Enable collection of used resources and materials so they can be recycled	0	No impacts are anticipated.
	Enable environmentally satisfactory disposal	0	No impacts are anticipated.



	of waste		
<b>11. To protect, enhance and create environments that encourage and support biodiversity</b>	Protect designated nature conservation sites of national, metropolitan and local significance	0	There are no sites of national, metropolitan or local importance in the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area audit.
	Protect and enhance habitats and buildings that benefit wildlife, such as gardens, trees, rivers, water bodies and wild spaces	+	The Conservation Area Audit encourages the protection of gardens from development, where they exist, and the protection of both street trees and private trees.
	Protect and provide priority habitats	0	No impacts are anticipated.
	Protect and provide for priority species	0	No impacts are anticipated.
	Protect and enhance open spaces	+	The Conservation Area Audit identifies the value of open space to the character of the area.
<b>12. To protect and enhance the historic environment and architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage</b>	Encourage repair, maintenance and protection of historic buildings and structures	++	The audit emphasises the importance of good maintenance of historic buildings and structures as a principal plank of historic conservation.
	Protect and enhance public art, monuments, statues	++	A dedicated chapter identifies significant public art in the area, and should ensure its careful custodianship.

	and their settings and sites		
	Preserve and enhance historic parks and gardens	0	There are no registered historic parks or gardens in the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area.
	Protect and conserve the archaeological resources	+	The incorporation into the Audit of information regarding areas of archaeological priority make the audit a useful resource for those planning below ground works. The history section provides useful background information.
	Improve the legibility of streets for all	++	The audits identify and seek to protect important views and landmarks, which contribute to the legibility of streets and spaces.
	Improve ease of movement for all	+	The audit recommends a unified approach to street surfaces, which will make a positive contribution to ease of movement.
	Ensure high quality streetscape and buildings	++	The identification of the special character of existing buildings in the conservation area will enable high quality, sensitive design of any new development. The protection of existing buildings of townscape merit will clearly be of great importance in ensuring the overall high quality of the streetscape.
	Preserve and enhance the character and fabric of conservation areas	++	The primary function of the Conservation Area Audits is to help preserve and enhance the special character of conservation areas.
	Reduce street clutter	+	The audit identifies street clutter as a negative feature of parts of the conservation area, and will help to support planning appeals on the erection of new items contributing to this problem.
<b>13. To reduce the need to travel and use of private motorised vehicular transport as well as encouraging</b>	Encourage a reduction in travel and use of	0	By identifying residential use as an important component of the character of the area, the audit encourages city centre living, and thus may lead to a reduction in travel times. However any such

<b>walking, cycling and the use of public transport</b>	alternatives to powered transport		effects will be slight, and the overall impact of the audits on travel is considered to be neutral.
	Encourage use of energy efficient transport modes	0	The Audits will have no impact on efficient transport modes.
	Reduce the need to travel, especially by private car	0	No significant impacts are anticipated.
	Encourage walking and cycling and other forms of sustainable travel	0	No significant impacts on sustainable travel are anticipated.
	Integrate new development schemes with public transport	0	Large new schemes in the area are unlikely given the fine grain of plot boundaries and the large number of listed and other historic buildings
	Provide infrastructure to enable efficient, optimal use of public transport, accessible to all	0	No significant impacts on public transport infrastructure are anticipated.
	Reduce the impact of service and delivery vehicles on congestion and levels of pollution	0	No significant impacts on service and delivery vehicles are anticipated.
	Reduce congestion	0	No significant impacts on congestion are anticipated

	and minimise the intrusion of all vehicles in working and residential areas		
	Reduce traffic noise	0	The audit has no impact on traffic noise
	Encourage use of sustainable river transport facilities	0	The audit has no impact on sustainable river transport
	Optimise access for emergency vehicles on all routes	0	The audit has no impact on access for emergency vehicles
	Encourage greater use of renewable cleaner fuels	0	The audit has no impact on renewable cleaner fuels
	Reduce the impact of passenger vehicles on congestion and levels of pollution	0	The audit has no impact on passenger vehicles
<b>14. To minimise flood risk, promote sustainable urban drainage and protect surface and ground water quality</b>	Protect against storm damage	0	The audit has no impact on storm damage
	Protect against potential river flooding and flash flooding	0	The audit has no impact on river flooding or flash flooding
	Reduce the risk of subsidence	0	The audit has no impact on the risk of subsidence
	Prevent pollution of water bodies and	0	The audit has no impact on pollution of water bodies and courses.

	courses		
	Improve the quality of water bodies and courses	0	The audit has no impact on the quality of water bodies and courses.
<b>15. To maintain economic diversity, increase local opportunity and support sustainable economic growth</b>	Ensure that the strength of the economy is maintained and further sustainable growth is enabled and accommodated	0	Protection and enhancement of the special qualities of the conservation area may have a positive impact on the local economy, encouraging future investment.
	Assist business development	0	Improvements in the special character of an area, and in local distinctiveness may assist businesses in marketing.
	Enhance competitiveness	0	The audit has no major impact on competitiveness
	Promote growth in key sectors	0	Improvements resulting from conservation policy may help to promote growth in tourism – see below.
	Promote tourism	+	The historic environment is one of Westminster's most valuable tourist assets. The maintenance of this environment in good order, and protection of buildings from demolition make a key contribution to the economic life of Westminster
	Encourage indigenous business	0	The audit has no impact on indigenous business
	Encourage inward investment	+	An attractive and high quality environment may well help to encourage inward investment.

	Make land and property available for business development	-	The emphasis of the audit on conservation of existing heritage assets means that it may have a minor negative effect on property available for development. However, the audits encourage adaptive re-use of existing building stock.
	Promote innovation and enterprise	0	The audit has no impact on innovation and enterprise
<b>16. To reduce the impact of noise</b>	Reduce generation of noise from all activities	0	The audit will have no impact on emissions of noise from activities
	Reduce generation of noise from all premises	0	The audit, in common with other Westminster policies advises against external plant, which is often the source of background noise
	Reduce emissions of noise from transport related activities	0	The audit will have no impact on emissions of noise from transport related activities
	Reduce emissions of noise into properties	0	Advice in the audit against the installation of PVC and aluminium double glazing may prevent effective sound insulation inside properties. However, the possibility of the use of double glazed timber sash windows where appropriate, the use of secondary glazing means that this impact need not be negative. Reference to guidance on this issue will be added.
<b>17. To require the application of sustainable design and construction in all new developments and refurbishment of existing buildings</b>	Ensure design of buildings and structures are resource efficient	0	Re use of existing buildings, and of materials for works to existing buildings are both resource efficient, and promoted by the building conservation policies in the Audit.
	Ensure buildings and structures are designed to be energy	0	The Conservation Area Audits discourage the use of windows such as uPVC, which can have a beneficial effect on energy efficiency of buildings. Mitigating strategies are the use of double glazed timber

	efficient		sash windows where appropriate, the use of secondary glazing, the maintenance / refurbishment of existing windows to ensure maximum thermal performance, and other non-visually intrusive energy efficiency measures such as roof insulation.
	Ensure buildings and structures adaptable for re-use	+	The Conservation Area Audits encourage the reuse of existing buildings.

## Appendix 6 Time Scale and Reversibility of the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit

SA Objectives	Predicted impact	Time scale of predicted impact			Is impact reversible	Comments or Assumptions
		Short term	Medium Term	Long Term		
1. To create cohesive, inclusive and safe communities with appropriate levels of social and community facilities		o	o	+	Y	
2. To promote and improve health and well-being	+	o	o	+	Y	
3. To ensure the provision of appropriate housing types to meet homeless, affordable, intermediary, over crowding and family unit demands	o	o	o	o	Y	
4. To reduce both the fear of crime and actual crime	o	o	o	o	Y	
5. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support climate change adaptation.	-	o	-	o	Y	
6. To ensure equality of opportunity and improve opportunities for education, training and employment	o	o	o	o	Y	
7. To enhance the public realm and the street environment	+	o	+	+	Y	
8. Improve air quality	o	o	o	o	Y	
9. To protect, enhance and increase areas of open space	+		+	+	Y	
10. To reduce waste production and to increase recycling and recovery of all waste	o	o	o	o	Y	
11. To protect, enhance and create environments that encourage and support biodiversity	+	o	+	+	Y	
12. To protect and enhance the historic environment and architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage	++	+	+	+	Y	
13. To reduce the need to travel and use of the private motor car, as well as encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport.					Y	
14. To minimise flood risk, promote sustainable urban drainage and protect surface and ground water quality					Y	
15. To maintain economic diversity, increase local opportunity and support sustainable economic growth	+	o	o	+	Y	
16. To reduce the impact of noise	o	o	o	o	Y	
17. To require the application of sustainable design and construction in all new developments and refurbishment of existing buildings.	+		+	+	Y	



# Statement of Adoption

**Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004**  
**City of Westminster**  
**Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit Supplementary Planning**  
**Document: Statement of Adoption**

Westminster City Council adopted the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on **5 September 2008**. This adoption statement is required by Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

Any person aggrieved by the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit SPD may make an application to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of the decision to adopt the Supplementary Planning Document. Any such application must be made promptly and in any event not later than 3 months after the date on which the Supplementary Planning Document was adopted.

**Title:** Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area Audit Supplementary Planning Document

**Geographical coverage:** Will apply to the Westminster Cathedral Conservation Area.

**Availability:** You can obtain a copy of the SPD:

1. At Westminster City Council One Stop Services, 62 Victoria Street, SW1 (Open 8.30am-7pm, Monday-Friday; 9am-1pm Saturday).
2. On the city council's website at:  
[www.westminster.gov.uk/environment/planning/conservationlistedbuildings/areaprofiles/westminstercathedral](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/environment/planning/conservationlistedbuildings/areaprofiles/westminstercathedral)
3. Hard copies are available by contacting:

**Conservation Area Audits Team**  
**Department of Planning and City Development**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Floor (South)**  
**Westminster City Council**  
**City Hall**  
**64 Victoria Street**  
**SW1E 6QP**

**Tel:** 020 7641 2850/8705/8019

**E-mail:** [conservationareaaudits@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:conservationareaaudits@westminster.gov.uk)

**Documents:** Alongside the adopted SPD and this statement of adoption, the Statement of Consultation, Representations and Sustainability Appraisal Report are also available for inspection.

