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The London Borough of Hillingdon (Hillingdon) has updated its [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy \(LFRMS\)](#), which identifies the sources of flood risk across the Borough and the ways in which these should collaboratively be managed. The LFRMS is a local strategy, which means it must also be assessed through both a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Assessment and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Assessment.

The LFRMS has been screened in accordance with the SEA and HRA requirements to determine if the implementation of its objectives could pose any negative effects on the environment (the SEA) or on protected European habitat (Natura 2000) sites (the HRA). Completion of a SEA is a requirement for any plans and strategies under the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations \(2004\)](#), which implements the [European SEA Directive \(2001\)](#). Undertaking a HRA is a requirement for plans and strategies under the [Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations \(2017\)](#).

The SEA Screening Assessment concluded that the LFRMS Strategic Objectives would have positive effects on the SEA Objectives, in addition to some neutral effects (where the SEA or HRA Objectives have little to no correlation with the LFRMS Strategic Objectives). Therefore, it was not required to progress the LFRMS to the second stage of the SEA process. The HRA Screening Assessment concluded that the LFRMS Strategic Objectives do not pose any negative impacts on the six identified designated sites. On the contrary, implementation of the LFRMS Strategic Objectives brings about opportunities for collaboration to support the improvement of the ecological status of the identified designated sites through environmental stewardship and implementation of blue-green infrastructure. As a result, it was concluded that it is not required to progress the LFRMS to the second stage of the HRA process.

As part of the SEA and HRA Screening Assessments, a statutory consultation was carried out over a six-week period between December 2023 to January 2024. In line with the above-mentioned legislation, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency are statutory consultees for SEAs and Natural England is the sole statutory consultee for HRAs. The wider public were also consulted on the SEA and HRA during a six-week period between January to February 2024.

The statutory consultees agreed that there is no requirement to progress the SEA or HRA to their second stages – ‘Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects’ and ‘Appropriate Assessment’ respectively. The statutory consultees had requested several changes be made to the documents. However, the consultation on the SEA and HRA is not a consultation on what a document should say but whether or not the Strategy consulted upon will result in likely significant environmental effects. So whilst the Statutory Consultees requested minimal changes to wording or context, none have identified likely



significant environmental effects. Therefore, based on the outcome of this SEA Screening Report, it can be concluded that the delivery of the LFRMS does not require progression onto the SEA Environmental Report (second) stage, or the HRA Appropriate Assessment (second stage) and that it is thus not necessary to apply SEA or HRA requirements any further.