Independent Review of Environmental Statements

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Independent Review of Environmental Statements

- Background: EIA at Land Use Consultants
- Reviewing Environmental Statements
- One-off reviews to support LPAs and other clients
- Framework contracts: Case Study – London Borough of Tower Hamlets
EIA at Land Use Consultants
Reviewing Environmental Statements

- Supporting LPAs and other clients
- Focus on informing decision making for LPAs
- Sufficient Environmental Information
- IEMA criteria
IEMA ES Review Criteria

• Review and publication of revised criteria April 2011
• Targeted questions:
  • EIA Regulatory Compliance
  • EIA Context & Influence
  • EIA Content
  • EIA Presentation
One-off reviews

• To provide specialist support to LPAs
• Complex applications
• Technical issues
• Training and building capacity
• Follow up support
ES Review Framework Contracts: Case Study

- London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- LUC with Cascade Consulting
- The project
- Approach
- Issues / Trends
London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Context

Map courtesy of London Borough of Tower Hamlets
London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Context

Mildmay, Credit: Paddington Churches Housing Association (PCHA) and Homes and Community Agency (HCA)

New Festival Quarter, Poplar
Credit: Bellway Homes Ltd & Family Mosaic Developments Ltd

Bromley-by-Bow Tesco
Credit: GL Hearn Property Consultants
ES Review Project Aims:

• Ensure that ESs submitted to the Council are prepared to a standard that enables the LPA to make fully informed decisions when resolving planning applications.

• Demonstrate the importance of environmental impacts to decision-making

• Support the independence of the decision making process

• Provide an external ‘stamp of approval’ on the quality of ESs

• Release Local Planning Authority time

• Reduce the risk of legal challenge
London Borough of Tower Hamlets: the Project

**Project Management Handbook:**

- Project organisation
- Task protocols and timescales
- ES review method and report format
- Progress reporting
- Standard rates per task

**Scoping Guidance**

Tower Hamlets Council
EIA Scoping Guidance

February 2010
London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Approach

The review process specifically considers:

• Description of the development and the site
• Scoping process
• Discussion of alternatives
• Assessment of impacts
• Proposed mitigation measures
London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Approach

Specialist input to reflect **key issues for Tower Hamlets**, including:

- Townscape and Visual Impacts
- Daylight & Sunlight
- Air Quality
- Noise

Images courtesy of London Borough of Tower Hamlets Core Strategy
Case Study: London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Key Outputs / Stages

• Initial Review Report
• Review of Clarifications / Reg 19 Responses
Case Study: London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Issues

• Townscape / built heritage
• Microclimate - Daylight / Sunlight
• Putting it off until planning
• Clear reporting of impacts in NTS
• EMPs

Future

• Health & Wellbeing
• Climate Change