

Bristol City Council

**Temple Quarter Spatial
Framework**

Strategic Environmental Assessment
– Screening Report

Final | September 2016

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Job number

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Appendices

Appendix A

Bristol Central Area Plan Sustainability Appraisal - Summary of Significant Effects

1 Introduction

This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)¹ Screening Report has been prepared on behalf of Bristol City Council (BCC) to accompany the Bristol Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone (TQEZ) Spatial Framework (Consultation Draft -March 2016) (hereafter referred to as “The Framework”).

Bristol Temple Quarter is a 70 Hectare (ha) site in the heart of Bristol. It comprises Temple Meads Station and the predominantly commercial development that surrounds it. There are a substantial number of sites within Temple Quarter with the potential for further development. To help unlock this potential and drive growth, Bristol Temple Quarter has been designated by the Government as an Enterprise Zone.

The Framework is being prepared by BCC to provide guidance to development in TQEZ. It is not a statutory planning document, but is intended to illustrate how key urban design principles, reflecting the City’s ambitions for the Enterprise Zone, could be incorporated in new development. **The Framework is indicative and provides guidance for how development could satisfy adopted Local Plan Policy for TQEZ, and is not intended to be prescriptive or to set additional policy requirements.**

The broader planning policy context to the Framework is set by the Bristol Central Area Plan (BCAP)² (Adopted March 2015). BCAP forms part of Bristol’s Local Plan and supports the Core Strategy by setting out how the City Centre will develop over the next 15 years. It sets a vision for Temple Quarter and identifies the mix and quantum of development to be delivered in the city centre area of Bristol Temple Quarter, along with policies which address design standards and approaches to be adopted for development in the City Centre. BCAP was subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal incorporating SEA.

Directive 2001/42/EC on *the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment* (the SEA Directive) requires SEA to be undertaken for certain plans and programmes. In the UK, SEA typically forms part of the broader Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process. However, Sustainability Appraisal is not required for the Framework as it does not form part of the Local Plan³. As stated in the Government’s Planning Practice Guidance⁴, “Strategic environmental assessment alone can be required in some limited situations where Sustainability Appraisal is not needed. This is usually only where either Neighbourhood Plans or Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) could have “significant environmental effects”.

For plans or programmes within the scope of the SEA Directive, Screening is the process of deciding whether a plan or programme might have significant effects on the environment, and therefore require SEA. This Report comprises a screening assessment to determine whether the

¹ Pursuant to Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

² <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/planning-and-building-regulations/local-plan>

³ Planning Practice Guidance (2015) Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal, paragraph 005 (<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>)

⁴ <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal-and-how-does-it-relate-to-strategic-environmental-assessment/>

proposed Temple Quarter Spatial Framework (TQSF) requires an SEA. The assessment has been made in accordance with the SEA Directive, the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004' (The SEA Regulations) which implement the Directive in the UK, and the relevant EU and UK guidance.

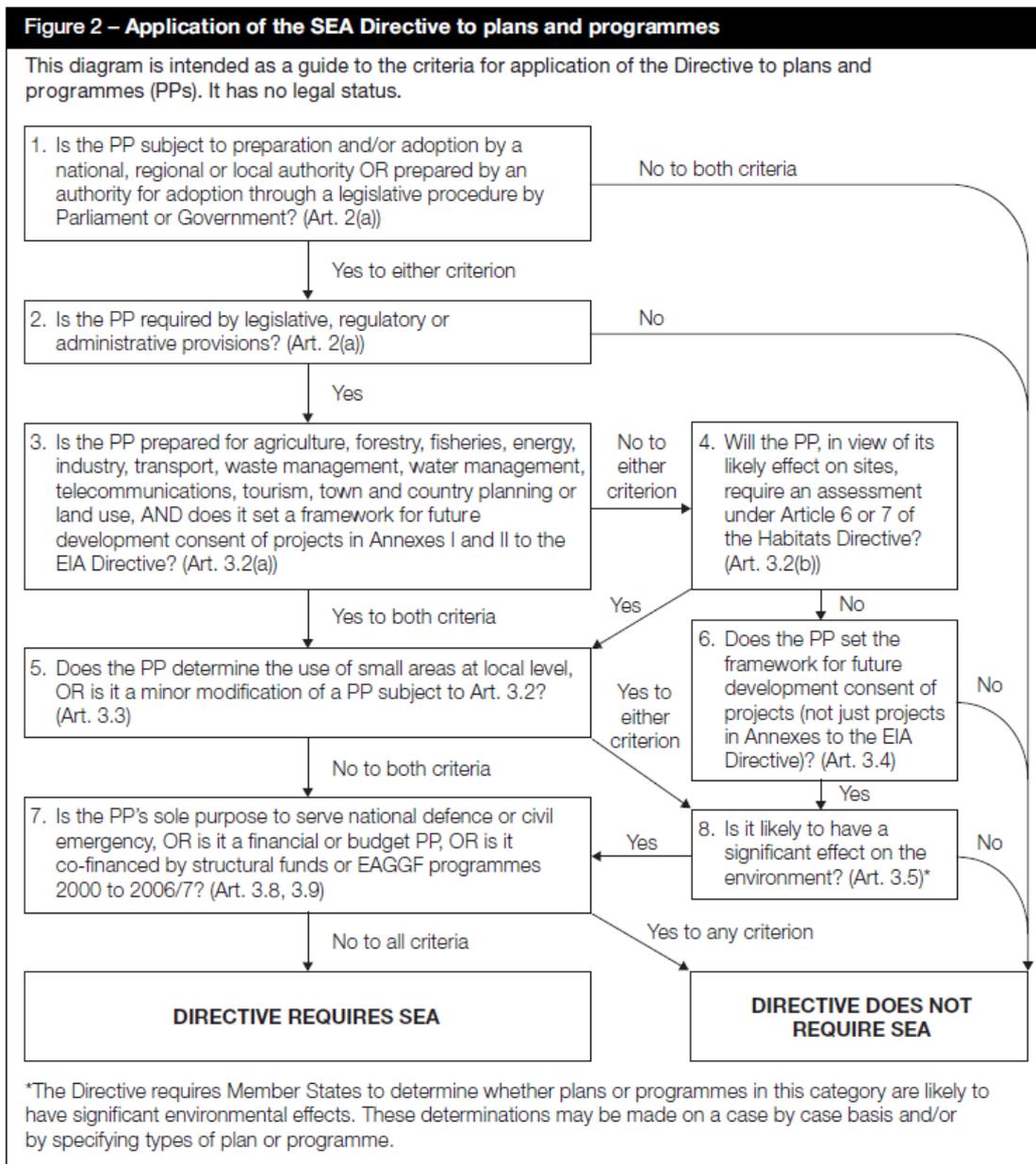
The report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 – sets out the SEA Screening Process applied to the Framework;
- Section 3 – explains the status, policy context and objectives of the Framework;
- Section 4 – presents the SEA screening assessment;
- Section 5 – summarises the role of consultation in the process; and
- Section 6 – presents the statement of determination of the screening process.

2 SEA Screening Process

The methodology applied in the screening assessment has been informed with due reference to the requirements of the SEA Directive, and takes into account the UK Government's Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SEA Guidance)⁵. The diagram below is taken from the UK Government's SEA Guidance, and sets out the screening process for determining whether SEA is required for a plan or programme. It has been applied to this report.

Figure 1. Application of the SEA Directive to plans programmes taken from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2005'



⁵ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005) A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

The screening process was undertaken in four stages, set out below.

2.1 Stage 1: Consideration of whether the Framework falls within the scope of the SEA Directive

The SEA Directive identifies those plans and programmes which are subject to the Directive. The first stage of the assessment is to determine whether the Framework falls within the scope of the Directive.

Plans and programmes are defined under Article 2(a) of the Directive as being:

- Subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government; and
- Required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions (administrative provisions include public available documents involving consultation, prepared formally which requires a plan or programme to be prepared).

Under Article 3 (2) of the Directive, SEA is mandatory for plans and programmes which are:

- Prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent for projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (85/337/EEC); or
- In view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

Article 3 (3) of the Directive states that plans and programmes referred to in paragraph 2 (i.e. those identified above) which determine the use of small areas at local level and minor modifications to plans and programmes referred to in paragraph 2 shall require an environmental assessment only where the Member States determine that they are likely to have significant environmental effects.

The European Commission Guidance on SEA, notes that plans and programmes which set a framework for future development consent of projects, are also subject to the SEA Directive where they normally contain 'criteria or conditions which guide the way a consenting authority decides an application for development consent'. It also notes that as with the EIA Directive, the SEA Directive should be interpreted as having a wide scope and a broad purpose.

2.2 Stage 2: Assessment against the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive

SEA is mandatory for those plans and programmes identified in Article 3 (2) of the Directive. For plans outside those identified in Article 3 (2), SEA is only required where the plan or programme is likely to give rise to a significant effect on the environment. For such plans, this determination is made through the application of the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive, as set out in Table 1 below.

Following an assessment of the Framework against the criteria identified below, an initial determination is made of whether the Framework is likely to give rise to a significant effect on the environment, and therefore requires SEA.

Table 1 SEA Directive Annex II Criteria

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
The cumulative nature of the effects,
The transboundary nature of the effects,
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, intensive land-use,
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

2.2.1 Relationship with BCAP

The Bristol Central Area Plan (BCAP) sets the planning policy context for Temple Quarter and the spatial framework. In its preparation, BCAP underwent a full process of SA/SEA. Temple Quarter was identified in the plan making process as Key Site 01 (KS01). The BCAP SA Report documented the assessment of the main draft policy relating to TQEZ - Policy KS01 (a summary of which is presented in Appendix A of this report). No significant effects were identified in relation to this policy.

Given that the Framework provides further detail and elaborates on the vision for TQEZ presented in BCAP, and that BCAP has undergone a full process of SA/SEA, consideration has been given to any areas where the Framework might be considered to diverge from BCAP. This was undertaken in order to consider whether the effects predicted for the Framework were different from those identified through the SA of BCAP, and to determine whether the Framework would give rise to additional significant effects not considered within the Sustainability Appraisal.

2.3 Stage 3: Consultation

Paragraph 9 (2) (b) of the SEA Regulations requires the Responsible Authority to consult with the consultation bodies⁶ prior to determining whether SEA is needed. As such, BCC consulted on the framework and the initial SEA screening assessment, in order to formally seek the views of three statutory consultees: Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency.

In determining the need for SEA, regard has been had for any relevant responses that are received through the consultation on the Spatial Framework with the public and relevant consultation bodies.

2.4 Stage 4: Screening Determination

Following completion of stages 1-3 of the screening process, this report has been updated to provide a final screening determination. In accordance with the relevant legislation, BCC will make its conclusions on a determination available to the public, including, if relevant, reasons for not requiring SEA.

⁶ Consultation bodies are defined within the SEA regulations as the Countryside Agency (now Natural England); the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage - now Historic England); English Nature (Now Natural England); and the Environment Agency.

3 Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone Spatial Framework

3.1 Policy Context

The BCC Local Plan sets the policy framework for determining planning applications in Bristol. It comprises a number of documents including the Core Strategy which sets out the overall approach for planning in Bristol, and the Bristol Central Area Plan (BCAP) which sets policies specific to development in the centre of Bristol (including the majority of TQEZ). As such, BCAP provides the policy context for the TQEZ Framework, setting out how the City Centre will develop over the next 15 years.

BCAP incorporates development management policies, designations for land which should be safeguarded or where specific policies apply, and site allocations that identify sites for particular land uses. Development that comes forward in TQEZ is also subject to policies in the Core Strategy and 'Site Allocations and Development Management Policies' Local Plan Documents.

Policy BCAP35 embeds the vision for Bristol Temple Quarter within the development plan. It sets out a wide range of appropriate uses, and the role of the spatial framework in delivering the vision for Temple Quarter. It identifies that development in Temple Quarter will include:

- A major indoor arena and complementary leisure uses;
- At least 100,000m² of net additional high quality office and flexible workspace;
- Up to 2,200 new homes including live/work space;
- Hotel and conference facilities;
- Complementary retail and leisure uses, particularly within and adjacent to Bristol Temple Meads station;
- New walking and cycle routes to connect the developments to the rest of the city centre and surrounding neighbourhoods;
- Green infrastructure and public realm enhancements including a continuous and accessible Quayside Walkway (Policy BCAP32) and the improvement of open space to serve the new developments.

Supporting text to BCAP 35 goes on to state that Bristol Temple Meads station is a Grade I listed building and forms a striking historic centrepiece to Temple Quarter, and in considering proposals great weight will be given to the conservation of this nationally important heritage asset.

BCAP also identifies those policies which link with Policy BCAP35, namely:

- Policy BCAP5: Development and flood risk – sets out areas at risk of flooding which are identified as areas in need of regeneration. This includes Temple Quarter and the requirement to undertake a flood risk sequential test for developments.
- Policy BCAP6: Delivery of employment space in Bristol City Centre – sets out employment floor space to be delivered in Temple Quarter.

- Policy BCAP9: Cultural and tourist facilities and water-based recreation – sets out policy for investment in cultural facilities including the proposed arena and complementary leisure uses being developed in Bristol Temple Quarter.
- Policy BCAP13: Strategy for retail development in Bristol City Centre – sets out that only complementary retail and leisure uses should be developed as part of the Bristol Temple Quarter.
- Policy BCAP23: Totterdown Basin enhancement sets out the approach to securing a fully accessible natural green space at the heart of Bristol Temple Quarter.
- Policy BCAP28: New interchange facilities – sets out that sites adjacent to Temple Meads Station will be expected to deliver public transport interchange facilities and new and enhanced walking / cycle route.
- Policy BCAP33: Key City Spaces – sets out Temple Quarter as a ‘key city space’ and development will be expected to provide an appropriate level of public realm improvements.

BCAP has been assessed for likely significant effects on the environment under the SEA Directive Article 3 (1). The SEA is incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal of BCAP which is documented in the Bristol Central Area Plan: Sustainability Appraisal - Main Report (The SA Report). The SA Report provides information on the appraisal process undertaken on the Bristol Central Area Plan, and records and reports the appraisal of the Key Sites including KS01 which incorporates the majority of the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone. A summary of the assessment of effects relating to the policies promoting development within TQEZ, is included at Appendix A of this document.

The spatial extent of TQEZ, as set out in the Spatial Framework, extends beyond the area defined by BCAP as the City Centre to include an additional area of land along the Avon Riverside in the vicinity of the Paintworks development. This land includes sites that have been identified and subjected to Sustainability Appraisal as part of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies, namely sites BSA1101, BSA1202 and BSA1210.

3.2 TQEZ Framework: Status and Content

BCAP identifies the Spatial Framework as providing a planning and design framework that seeks to deliver the BCAP vision for the area. It will provide a tool to guide and shape the physical layout and quality of places, working with key stakeholders and potential investors.

The overarching purpose of the Spatial Framework is to provide more detailed spatial guidance to development in TQEZ that elaborates on existing policy set out within BCAP. Whilst the Spatial Framework is a non-statutory planning document, following consultation and ratification by cabinet, the Spatial Framework will become a material consideration for use in determining planning applications in the EZ. The Spatial Framework will be a flexible and living document that is periodically refreshed to encapsulate emerging thinking and design development.

The approach set out within the Framework promotes the reconnection, re-shaping and re-positioning of Temple Quarter, building on adopted statutory planning policy and major transport and public infrastructure initiatives. It sets out how key urban design principles,

reflecting the City's ambitions for the Zone, could be incorporated in new development. The Framework provides guidance on:

- Development layout;
- Development form - height, scale and massing;
- Land use;
- District heating and high speed broadband networks;
- Key public spaces;
- Pedestrian route improvements;
- Quayside and bridges;
- Cycle route improvements;
- Public transport and station improvements;
- Changes to highway access.

3.3 Environmental Baseline

The Enterprise Zone is located on the eastern edge of Bristol City Centre with a core area around the Temple Meads mainline railway station. It has two separate extensions eastwards, into industrial areas along the north side of the Feeder Canal and along the south bank of the River Avon. The total area of the Enterprise Zone is 70 hectares.

As identified in the Framework, key features and attributes of the TQEZ area include:

- The area is bounded, contained and divided by major highways, the main railway line through Temple Meads and the two key waterways – the River Avon and the Floating Harbour;
- There is almost 1km of waterfront within Temple Quarter. The watercourses of the tidal River Avon, the Feeder Canal and the Floating Harbour are strong landscape features in the Zone;
- Significant areas of land within the EZ are in Flood Zone 3a - at risk of tidal flooding incident for a 1 in 200 chance in any year, with limited areas in Flood Zone 3b - the functional floodplain. Taking into account climate change over the next 100 years and a likely sea level rise of between 0.7m and 1m, a large part of the city centre will be at a risk of 1 in 200 chance in any year risk if no further flood works are carried out;
- The River Avon and the Feeder Canal are both designated Sites of Nature Conservation Interest;
- Protected species are known to use parts of the site, including bats and otters, which use the waterways as habitat and foraging corridors. In response to consultation on this screening report, Natural England has stated that it is not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the proposals within the plan. An Extended Phase One Habitat Survey was undertaken over the area provisionally

identified by Bristol City Council (BCC) as the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone, during early March 2012. The survey identified that, with the exception of the River Avon, the New Cut and associated scrub woodland habitat, the area offered a relatively low level of ecological interest. It did however identify a number of focussed areas / as having potential for protected species including bats, reptiles and breeding birds. The New Cut and Floating Harbour were identified as retaining habitat features that were believed to be favourable to Bristol's otter population, and a number of suitable resting places were identified. A separate BCC report⁷ recommended that any suitable resting places are retained and managed to ensure the continued presence of otters in the floating harbour.

- Significant heritage assets still define the character of the Zone and include a number of listed structures – in particular the Grade I and II* Temple Meads station complex. The Listed Grade I Old Station is the oldest surviving railway terminus building in the world and retains many important historic features both internally and externally;
- Temple Quarter forms the eastern gateway into Bristol's historic harbour and represents a significant opportunity to further develop this attraction;
- It has been established that the transport network is operating very close to capacity during the day and couldn't cope with the additional load generated by 17,000 jobs in the Zone (estimated at 8,000 to 9,000 extra trips);
- Temple Meads Railway Station is the key interchange focus for the Zone with 21 bus services passing within 250m of the station entrance. Temple Meads will be handling 40% more passengers in 10 years (currently 8 million per annum). Metrobus (previously known as bus rapid transit) will also pass within 250m of the station entrance;
- The pedestrian and cyclist environment is affected by the levels of vehicle traffic on nearly all routes;
- Communities within the Enterprise Zone are predominantly of a business type, although there is a limited residential community, amongst the studio spaces of The Paintworks and at Temple Quay North. There is also a community which uses the riverside area for recreation (fishing, dog-walking etc.) and a large transient community who travel through the station on a daily basis.

⁷ BCC (April, 2012) ecological considerations needed to inform the temple Quarter enterprise zone spatial framework - Issues & opportunities

4 Screening Assessment

In undertaking this screening assessment, the following key characteristics of the Framework have been taken into account:

- The Framework is a non-statutory document and will not be adopted through a legislative procedure;
- The Framework is not a formal land use plan and is designed to encourage investment and assist in guiding development within the TQEZ, elaborating on the existing policy set out within BCAP and other Local Plan documents;
- The local Plan, including BCAP, has been the subject of a full SA (incorporating SEA) and will take primacy in the decision making process.

4.1 Stage 1: Does the Framework fall within the scope of the SEA Directive?

Applying the process and questions set out in the Government’s “Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental”, consideration has been given to whether the Framework falls within the scope of the SEA Directive (See **Table 2** below).

Table 2: Application of the SEA Directive to the Framework

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The Framework has been prepared by BCC. It will ratified by the Council’s Cabinet, although this will not be as part of the statutory local plan making process, and the Framework will not be an adopted statutory planning document. ⁸
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	N	The Framework is not being prepared under the statutory local plan making process.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use.	Y	The Framework has been prepared to provide spatial guidance to development but is not a statutory land use plan. However, it will provide guidance on land use and could be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The framework for future development consent of projects is established by the Local Plan, including BCAP. The TQEZ

⁸ EU Guidance states at para 3.5 that: “The kind of document which in some Member States is thought of as a plan is one which sets out how it is proposed to carry out or implement a scheme or a policy. This could include, for example, land use plans setting out how land is to be developed, or laying down rules or guidance as to the kind of development which might be appropriate or permissible in particular areas, or giving criteria which should be taken into account in designing new development”.

Stage	Y/N	Reason
AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))		Spatial Framework provides detail for future development but does not materially diverge from the BCAP.
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	A Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) is not required for the Framework as HRA screening has been undertaken for the BCAP which sets the policy for the Framework. The HRA screening opinion confirmed that no significant effects were likely to occur. The Framework does not include any proposals beyond those considered in the SA for BCAP.
5. Does the PP Determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	N	The framework provides further guidance to elaborate on the policy set within BCAP. It does not determine the use of land or determine the use of small areas at local level, but provides guidance to shape development in the TQEZ.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	N	The Core Strategy and BCAP set the framework for future development consent of projects. The TQEZ Framework is limited to providing guidance on what future development could look like in order to accord with Local Plan policy.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	The Framework does not fall into these categories.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	See Section 4.2 below.

The TQEZ Spatial Framework does not set a framework for future development consent, nor does it have any statutory status. Whilst it would be afforded some material weight in determining planning applications, the Local Plan will take primacy in the decision making process. The Framework is limited to providing guidance and further detail that elaborates on the policy set out, and assessed, in BCAP and other Local Plan Documents.

Applying the process for determining whether a plan or programme falls within the scope of the SEA Directive and whether it requires SEA (see Figure 1 above), the framework is not considered to be required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions and is therefore not required to be subject to SEA. It is however recognised that the Framework is to be ratified by Council Cabinet and the SEA Directive should be interpreted as having a wide scope and a broad purpose. Therefore it has been decided to adopt a precautionary approach and a screening assessment will be undertaken to assess whether the Framework will have a likely significant effect on the environment.

4.2 Stage 2: Is the Framework likely to give rise to a significant effect on the environment?

The screening assessment has been undertaken against the Criteria set out at Annex II of the SEA Directive, and is presented below in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Screening Assessment

SEA Directive Annex II Criteria	Response	Is there a significant effect?
The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:		
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	<p>The planning policy framework for development in TQEZ is established by the Local Plan, including the Core Strategy, BCAP and Site Allocations and Development Management documents. The Local Plan documents are the key determinant in setting the framework for development in TQEZ, and will take primacy in the decision making process.</p> <p>The TQEZ Framework provides additional guidance that adds detail and complements planning policy. It does not present new policy or proposals, and is not a statutory planning document. Whilst it will form a material consideration in determining planning applications, it will not in itself be the key determinant in establishing the location, nature, size and operating conditions of projects within TQEZ, and does not take primacy over the Local Plan.</p> <p>Therefore the degree to which the document sets a framework for projects is limited and is considered unlikely to result in a significant effect.</p>	No
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The Framework draws on existing Local Plan policies, articulating how the vision and policy objectives can be realised within development in TQEZ. The Framework is a guidance tool, and has limited influence on other plans or programmes.	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	<p>The Framework seeks to capitalise on the highly sustainable location of TQEZ in Bristol City Centre and its proximity to a major railway station. It recognises the opportunity to use development land efficiently, and places integrated sustainable urban design at its heart. It builds on existing local plan policy and promotes a range of sustainability principles in development, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment led, mixed use development at the heart of the city. • The use of local and renewable resources in construction. • Future flexibility. • Smart energy use and waste management. • Establishment of a reconnected, walkable neighbourhood with an emphasis on walking, cycling and public transport as primary considerations above private cars. • Integration of movement with greening of the urban environment. • Development that doesn't just meet but routinely exceeds 'green' standards for housing, commercial development and adaptive re-use of existing buildings. 	No

SEA Directive Annex II Criteria	Response	Is there a significant effect?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reuse of historic buildings and railway arches. • Replacing or compensating for loss of valuable habitat, and protection and enhancement, and improved connection of areas of ecological value. • Avoidance of loss of habitat of importance for protected species. • A development layout which provides a positive relationship between development, streets, spaces, green infrastructure and heritage assets. • Provision of high-quality, people-friendly public realm. <p>The framework has relevance for the integration of environmental considerations. On the whole these reflect the policies set out in the local plan, and are unlikely to give rise to significant effects.</p>	
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	<p>Environmental issues that are particularly relevant to the Framework are set out above at Section 3.3, and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk; • Heritage; • Ecology; • Impacts on views; and • Transport with associated noise and air quality effects. <p>The guidance provided within the Framework promotes high quality design standards and sustainable design principles. Where possible, the Framework incorporates guidance that supports the environmental principles established in planning policy, and aims to avoid, reduce or minimise adverse effects. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Framework does not promote vulnerable uses in flood zone 3b. It promotes a water sensitive approach to urban design, and the efficient use of land at risk of flooding by matching a mix of uses with the levels of risk. In accordance with BCAP35, planning applications will be required to undertake a flood risk sequential test (and full Flood Risk Assessment for developments that exceed one hectare in size). • Historic assets and views have been considered and form the basis of the development layout set out within the Framework. The Framework seeks to provide a positive relationship between development and heritage assets, and promote development of a scale that is sympathetic to the historic grain of the area. Impacts on the setting of historic assets will depend on the precise locations and detailed design of taller buildings. The exact locations, heights and design of buildings within TQEZ will be a matter for consideration within individual planning applications that are brought forward within TQEZ, and each application will be assessed on its own merits and against the adopted planning policy. The Framework states that the Planning Authority will 	No

SEA Directive Annex II Criteria	Response	Is there a significant effect?
	<p>take into account advice on tall buildings in Historic England Advice Note 4 (2015), and the Good Practice Advice Note: Setting of Heritage Assets (GPA3) when assessing proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The framework incorporates a green infrastructure plan that seeks to protect and enhance the strategic green infrastructure network, particularly in relation to the River Avon Corridor and the Feeder Canal. An ecologically rich landscape accommodating a waterfront walkway/cycle route and water-related leisure is proposed at Totterdown Basin. • Protected species are known to use parts of the site. The Framework states that it is particularly important that habitats supporting European Protected Species such as otters and bats are not destroyed, and where disturbance is unavoidable, proper alternative arrangements need to be put in place to mitigate the impact on these species. Individual applications within TQEZ will be assessed against adopted planning policy, including Policy BCAP22: Habitat preservation, enhancement and creation on waterways. Where planning permission is required in relation to re-development which may impact on European Protected Species, adequate surveys will need to be submitted with the planning application and where necessary a protected species license may be required. • The Framework identifies a number of important existing views that require protection, such as views to the listed station tower. Applications for development will be required to identify key views for their site, and address these through the planning application. The framework identifies possible locations for tall buildings (9+ storeys) located away from sensitive views and the Station and Bath Road. The Framework states that it is consistent with the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 1 guidance, which supports policies within the Central Area Plan and provides guidance on allocation and development of tall buildings in Bristol. SPD1 indicates that parts of Temple Quarter may be appropriate for tall buildings subject to meeting the identified Assessment Criteria, and requires all tall building applications to undertake a 360 degree visual impact assessment. As such, impacts on views will be further considered against Local Plan policy in the determination of planning applications that come forward in TQEZ. • Given the proximity to Temple Meads Station and enhancements being delivered through MetroWest, Metrobus and rail electrification, development in TQEZ will have good access to public transport. The Framework proposes facilities to improve walking, cycling and public transport across the A4 corridor, and the creation of new vehicular access arrangements to the station and arena to improve access and movement. There is likely to be 	

SEA Directive Annex II Criteria	Response	Is there a significant effect?
	<p>an increase of traffic in the area although a significant proportion of people using the site are anticipated to access the site using public transport, walking and cycling. The impacts of traffic on the environment were previously assessed as part of the SA for BCAP and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies. The proposals outlined within the spatial framework are not considered likely to result in additional significant effects beyond those identified in the SA of the aforementioned local plan documents.</p> <p>Effects will be dependent on the detailed design of proposals that come forward in TQEZ, including measures specified therein to reduce adverse effects through appropriately tailored mitigation. The Framework seeks to guide appropriately designed development and reduce adverse effects in a way that is consistent with policies set out in BCAP and the Local Plan.</p> <p>The SA of BCAP concluded that development in TQEZ would not have a significant negative effect. It is considered that the Framework provides additional guidance that adds detail and complements policy set out in BCAP, and the Framework is considered unlikely to give rise to a significant effect.</p>	
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	The Framework sits within a broader national and local policy framework that takes into account the requirements of Community legislation. The framework itself promotes environmental improvements that could directly or indirectly contribute towards the objectives and goals of Community legislation. For example, the Framework promotes measures for surface water management to improve water quality.	No
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:		
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,	The Framework promotes high quality design standards and sustainable design concepts, which on the whole, are anticipated to result in positive environmental effects. The Framework seeks to guide appropriately designed development and reduce adverse effects in a way that is consistent with policy. The Framework is considered unlikely to give rise to a significant effect.	No
The cumulative nature of the effects,	Cumulative effects have been considered within the SA for the Bristol City Local Plan, particularly within the Core Strategy, Site allocations policies, and BCAP. The Framework seeks to guide appropriately designed development and reduce adverse effects in a way that is consistent with policy. The Framework is considered unlikely to give rise to a significant effect.	No
The transboundary nature of the effects,	Any potential environmental effects are likely to occur at a local level and are not transboundary in nature.	No

SEA Directive Annex II Criteria	Response	Is there a significant effect?
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),	The Framework promotes positive development and guidance to minimise risks to the environment and human health. It seeks to guide appropriately designed development and reduce adverse effects in a way that is consistent with policy, and is considered unlikely to give rise to a significant effect.	No
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),	The Framework promotes high quality design standards and sustainable design concepts, which on the whole, are anticipated to result in positive environmental effects where incorporated in development. The Framework seeks to guide appropriately designed development and reduce adverse effects in a way that is consistent with policy. Given the scale of the area and size of population that is likely to be affected, the Framework is considered unlikely to give rise to a significant effect.	No
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, intensive land-use,	<p>The value and vulnerability of the area is addressed at Section 3.3 above. The Framework promotes the protection and, where feasible, the enhancement of environmental assets considered as being of value or sensitive in nature.</p> <p>The Framework appraises each area of the TQEZ, highlighting environmental characteristics and any features of value. The Framework provides indicative proposals for development and movement within these areas taking account of the characteristics of the area.</p>	No
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	<p>TQEZ contains a number of heritage assets that include the Grade I and II* Listed Temple Meads Station complex. Listed Buildings are those which are of national 'special interest'.</p> <p>Any effect will depend on the detailed design of proposals that come forward in TQEZ. The Framework incorporates measures to reduce negative effects on designated sites. These include protecting listed buildings by directing tall buildings away from important views to those buildings. Application of the policy and guidance hierarchy will ensure that in considering proposals in TQEZ, great weight will be given to the conservation of nationally important heritage assets. The Framework is not expected to result in a significant effect.</p> <p>No effects on any other environmental features or assets recognised as being of national, Community or international protection status have been identified.</p>	No

4.2.1 Relationship with BCAP

The Framework provides guidance and further detail that elaborates on the policy set out, and assessed, in BCAP and other Local Plan Documents. BCAP 35 sets policy to determine the mix and type of development considered appropriate for Temple Quarter, and the impacts of development in Temple Quarter were considered in the SA for BCAP. Consideration has been given to whether the detail set out in the Framework departs from that considered under BCAP, and it has been concluded that on the whole the Framework is consistent with BCAP.

The area defined within the TQEZ Framework includes an additional area of land beyond the central area defined in BCAP. This comprises the area along the Avon riverside in the south of

TQEZ, and includes sites that have been identified and subjected to Sustainability Appraisal as part of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies, namely sites BSA1101, BSA1202 and BSA1210.

Within the Spatial Framework, indicative proposals for this area comprise housing led mixed use development of an area of green space adjacent to the river, and the extension to the paintworks site in the east. It is not considered that proposals in this area would alter the conclusion of the SA for BCAP or the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies. Assuming the application of the policy hierarchy in the determination of planning applications, the Framework is considered unlikely to give rise to a significant effect.

Overall, it is considered that the Framework does not result in additional significant effects above those assessed and addressed within the Sustainability Appraisal of BCAP (see Appendix A) and wider Local Plan documents.

5 Consultation

5.1.1 BCC Consultation on the Draft TQEZ Spatial Framework

In Spring 2016, BCC consulted on the Draft TQEZ Framework and two supporting documents: the ‘Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan’ (SUMP) and the ‘BTQEZ Making People-friendly Streets and Spaces - A Public Realm Guide’. BCC subsequently analysed the comments received, and their response along with any proposed changes to the TQEZ Framework is set out in the Bristol Temple Quarter Spatial Framework Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (August 2016).

The majority of changes proposed in the SCI are designed to strengthen the framework and are considered to be consistent with the screening assessment presented within this report. It is noted that the response to consultation includes proposals to increase the number of dwellings promoted in the EZ to around 2500. This exceeds the number of dwellings for the Temple Quarter Area as set out in BCAP35, however it is noted that BCAP applies only to the city centre part of the EZ, and that there are also housing allocations in the EZ outside the city centre. Furthermore, BCAP covers the plan period to 2026 whereas the EZ programme goes further into the future. On this basis, BCC has concluded that the additional number of dwellings does not materially differ from the development proposals set out in the local plan. As such, when considering the changes to the Framework proposed in the SCI, the overall conclusions set out within this report are considered to remain valid.

5.1.2 Consultation with Statutory Bodies

A Draft SEA Screening Report was issued for consultation on 31 March 2016 in accordance with the SEA Directive and Regulations. The consultation formally sought the views of three statutory consultees: Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency, on the screening assessment presented above and the Council’s determination that the Spatial Framework does not require strategic environmental assessment.

Responses were received from all three statutory consultees, and this Screening Report has been finalised, taking into account the relevant responses received from the consultation. None of the three statutory bodies raised an objection to the determination that a strategic environmental assessment is not required.

6 Statement of Screening Determination

Based on the findings and reasons provided in the screening assessment set out above, and having regard to the views of relevant statutory consultation bodies, the Council has come to the view that the Framework is not considered likely to have significant environmental effects, and SEA is not required. This conclusion will be made available to the public.

Appendix A

Bristol Central Area Plan Sustainability Appraisal - Summary of Significant Effects

A1

A summary of the effects identified in the sustainability appraisal for the TQEZ is set out below.

Key Sites: Publication Effects Matrix of the Bristol Central Area Plan (Taken from the Bristol Central Area Plan: Sustainability Appraisal – Main Report 2014)

Objective	KS01 (Temple Quarter)	
Improve Broad Determinants of Health – Air/Noise	I	-
Improve Health Lifestyles - Eating/Open Space	+	-
Housing Provision	++	
Provide Learning/Training/Skills		
Reduce Crime	+	I
Employment floorspace and job opportunities	++	
Address Income/Employment Deprivation	+	
Increase, walking, cycling, public transport	++	
Provide, easy, safe and cheap access to key services	I	-
Protect and Enhance local ecology	I	
Conservation and wise use of land	++	
Protect and Enhance Green Infrastructure	+	
Townscape Quality	+	
Protect Cultural and Historic assets	+	I
Reduce vulnerability to Flood Risk	I	

Assessment scoring:

Symbol	Meaning
Significant positive (+ +) or positive (+)	Positive effect – approach would help in achieving the objective.
Significant negative (- -) or negative (-)	Negative effect – approach would be in conflict with the objective.
I	Effect depends on either final implementation (e.g. location of development on a site, design detail or route of cycle link), or uncertain effects (e.g. grocers with unknown certainty of selling fresh fruit and vegetables) to make appraisal – however potential exists for negative or positive effect