

Appendix 3: Comparison of Potential Environmental Effects of High Level Strategy Alternatives

Table 1 - High Level Alternatives and Effects

High-Level Alternatives and Effects				
Key Environmental Issue	Do Nothing	Business as Usual	Maintain Current Flood Risk	Proactive approach to Flood Risk
Climatic Factors				
Climate Change	There would be no adaption/ mitigation of climate change.	This issue is likely to continue with or without the strategic intervention. However without suitable adaption mitigation measures, the impacts of climate change in terms of flood risk could be more severe.	Flood risk management will maintain the current levels of flood risk through adapting and mitigating climate change impacts.	Would consider the impacts of climate change in relation to flood risk and develop suitable mitigation/ adaption strategies.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna				
Threats to Biodiversity	Projected increased risk of flooding combined with no flood risk management could lead to further loss of habitats and species and temporary harm during flood events.	Projected higher sea levels and an increased risk of tidal, river and surface water flooding could lead to further loss of habitats and species and temporary harm during flood events. Flood management plans in place within Southwark e.g. Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan and the Thames Estuary 2100 Project would continue to provide protection.	Would maintain current flood risk levels into the future and maintain protection to habitats and species at current levels.	Would present an opportunity to further protect existing biodiversity within Southwark by increasing the knowledge base on flood risk, particularly at a local level, and integrating communities and partnerships into the flood management process. Further opportunities for the enhancement of biodiversity should be encouraged.

High-Level Alternatives and Effects				
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Water				
Vulnerability to Flooding	Projected higher sea levels and an increased risk of tidal, river and surface water flooding combined with no management and deterioration of current flood management assets leading to increased vulnerability to flooding.	Projected higher sea levels and an increased risk of tidal, river and surface water flooding could lead to increased community vulnerability to flooding. Flood management plans in place within Southwark e.g. Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan and the Thames Estuary 2100 Project would continue to provide protection.	Vulnerability to flooding will be maintained at current levels into the future.	A pro-active approach would build on already available knowledge to reduce community and business vulnerability to flood risk. Measures would be adopted that ensure that information on flooding is available to the community and businesses so that they can make informed decisions on flood risk and that they are engaged in its management.
Water Quality	Projected higher risk of flood events combined with no management of flood risk is likely to lead to increased water pollution (e.g. as a result of pollutant run-off).	Projected higher risk of flood events of flood risk is likely to lead to increased water pollution (e.g. as a result of pollutant run-off). Water Framework Directive requirements to achieve at least 'good' status in all water bodies by 2015 would still need to be met.	Little/ no identified potential change to the current baseline.	Measures implemented should not adversely affect water quality. Opportunities to enhance water quality such as development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) should be utilised.

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Population and Human Health				
Population growth and demands for new development and infrastructure	Abandonment of flood risk management and population growth is likely to combine to increase flood risk to future and current population and properties.	Would continue in line with current trends.	Flood risk to population and properties would be maintained at current levels.	Would consider the requirement for new infrastructure to meet the demands of the growing population. Would ensure that new development does not increase flood risk and that new development is designed to adapt to climate change.
Health impacts of flooding	No management is likely to result in increased flood risk and the associated direct and indirect adverse effects on health.	Recent flood events in the Borough and projected increases in frequency of flood events could lead to a higher perception of flooding and associated health impacts.	Little/ no identified potential change to the current baseline.	Provides an opportunity to involve local communities in flood risk management, allowing them to develop a greater understanding of flood risk and how it affects them. In turn this should contribute to altering the perception of flood risk and the associated health impacts. Would also provide an opportunity to reduce flooding and potential direct impacts upon human health.

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Key Environmental Issue	Do Nothing	Business as Usual	Maintain Current Flood Risk	Proactive approach to Flood Risk
Accessibility to community and public transport	No management that would enhance/ maintain accessibility to community and public transport.	Projected higher sea levels and an increased risk of tidal, river and surface water flooding, and more frequent flood events could lead to increased temporary disruptions to transport and accessibility to services.	Little/ no identified potential change to the current baseline.	Would provide an opportunity to further protect transport routes and infrastructure, public rights of way and cycle routes from flood risk.
Cultural Heritage				
Protection of the Historic Environment	No management to protect, maintain or enhance the historic environment.	Projected higher sea levels and an increased risk of tidal, river and surface water flooding, and more frequent flood events could lead to increased flood risk to the historic environment. In the absence of flood risk management achieved through the LFRMS other flood management plans would still apply.	Flood risk to the historic environment would be maintained at current levels.	The LFRMS presents an opportunity to manage flood risk to heritage assets and archaeology on a more local scale.

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Townscape/ Landscape				
Protection of Townscape/ Landscape	No management that would protect the character or setting of townscapes/ landscapes..	Without the LFRMS any development linked to the strategic programme will not have an effect on the character or setting of townscape/ landscape in Southwark.	Potential for beneficial and adverse effects as a result of works to maintain current flood risk levels.	Potential for beneficial and adverse affects as a result of proactive approach to flood risk management. New flood management works have the potential to adversely affect the townscape/ landscape character within Southwark. There is also the opportunity for new schemes to have beneficial effects on the townscape/ landscape.
Material Assets				
Flood Risk to Housing	Current and future housing at risk of damage/ deterioration through increased exposure to flood risk.	The issue is likely to continue as at present, as the LFRMS does not address the demand for development. However, without the LFRMS new development may contribute to increased flood risk without strategic flood risk measures in place. Without the LFRMS, policies within the Core Strategy would still apply to reduce the flood risk to new development.	Current levels of flood risk to housing would be maintained.	The LFRMS should seek to ensure that the borough is well equipped to accommodate new development without increasing local flood risk, and to improve management of flood risk to the current housing stock.

High-Level Alternatives and Effects				
Key Environmental Issue	Do Nothing	Business as Usual	Maintain Current Flood Risk	Proactive approach to Flood Risk
Flood Risk to Critical Infrastructure	Critical infrastructure exposed to damage/ deterioration through increased exposure to flood risk.	There is potential for critical infrastructure to be impacted through damage from increased flood events. Flood management plans in place within Southwark e.g. Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan and the Thames Estuary 2100 Project would continue to provide protection.	Current levels of flood risk to critical infrastructure would be maintained.	The LFRMS would provide an opportunity to identify and manage critical infrastructure on a local level.

