

**SEA SCREENING REPORT – COVER NOTE**

**COVER NOTE – SECTION 1**

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**COVER NOTE – SECTION 2**

An SEA screening report is attached for the plan/programme entitled:-

Aberdeenshire Open Space Strategy

The Responsible Authority is: -

**ABERDEENSHIRE CCOUNCIL**

**COMPLETE SECTION 3 OR 4 OR 5**

**COVER NOTE – SECTION 3**

Screening is required because the plan/programme falls under Regulation 9c or 10 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004. Our view is that: -



**An SEA is required** because the plan/programme is likely to have significant environmental effects

**or**



**An SEA is not required** because the plan/programme is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects

**COVER NOTE – SECTION 4**



The plan/programme does not require an SEA under the regulations. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, because this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 28-day timescale for views from the Consultative Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

**COVER NOTE – SECTION 5**



None of the above applies. We have prepared this screening report because:

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...  
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**SEA SCREENING REPORT – COVER NOTE (Continued)**

**COVER NOTE – SECTION 6**

**Contact name**

James Wheater

**Job Title**

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**COVER NOTE – SECTION 7**

**Signature**  
(electronic  
Signature  
is acceptable)

**Date**

30/03/07

**SEA SCREENING REPORT – SECTION1, KEY FACTS**

<b>Responsible Authority</b>	Aberdeenshire Council
<b>Title of Plan/Programme</b>	Aberdeenshire Open Space Strategy
<b>Plan purpose</b>	To develop and deliver a comprehensive strategy for open space across Aberdeenshire.
<b>What prompted the plan</b> (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions)?	Cross service Open Space Liaison Group and NPPG 11 (soon to be replaced by SPP 11).
<b>Plan subject</b> (e.g. transport)	Open Spaces in and around Settlements
<b>Period covered by plan</b>	2008 - 2013
<b>Frequency of plan updates</b>	Annually/as required
<b>Plan area (e.g. sq kms)</b>	All of Aberdeenshire's Settlements (+110 sq kms)
<b>Summary of nature/ content of plan</b>	The strategy covers a purpose statement, aims, objectives, policies and a link to other strategies. It will provide the basis for the maintenance and management and financial arrangements relevant to open spaces in and around settlements and a framework to guide development of new open spaces.
<b>Are there any proposed plan objectives?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>Copy of objectives attached</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

<b>Date</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2007
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**SEA SCREENING REPORT – SECTION 2  
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

Our determination regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of [insert plan title] are set out in table 1

**TABLE 1 - LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

<b>TITLE OF PLAN/PROGRAMME</b>		
Aberdeenshire Open Space Strategy		
<b>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</b>		
Aberdeenshire Council		
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (para numbers refer to Schedule 1 of the Regulations)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects
1(a) Will the plan set a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	Yes	The strategy will set the basis for policy development within Council services responsible for Open Space. It covers all types of open spaces (other than general countryside) within Aberdeenshire. It will influence Development Plan Policy and future Supplementary Planning Guidance and hence planning decisions across Aberdeenshire.
1(b) Will the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	Yes	The strategy sets the framework for Local Plan Policy and Supplementary Planning Guidance. It will also provide the basis for policy development within

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		Council services responsible for Open Space.
1(c) Does the plan have any relevance for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development?	Yes	At the heart of the strategy will be the promotion of sustainable development, management and maintenance. Enhancing the biodiversity value of open spaces will also be key to the strategy.
1(d) Are there some environmental problems relevant to the plan?	Yes	The strategy will aim to resolve current issues regarding poor provision, management and maintenance of open spaces. There is potential to increase the potential for biodiversity and public health benefits.
1(e) Will the plan have any relevance for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)	No	
<b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (para numbers refer to Schedule 1 of the Regulations)</b>	<b>Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO</b>	<b>Summary of significant environmental effects</b>
2(a) Will the environmental effects be significant when consideration is given to probability, duration, frequency and reversibility.	Yes	The development of new open spaces and improvement of existing will have a positive impact on the environment. Green field sites may be used for open space development but this can also have positive benefits for the environment.
2(b) Will the effects be cumulative in nature	Yes	The combined effects of development, management and maintenance of new and

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		existing open spaces across Aberdeenshire will be cumulative in effect.
2(c) Will the effects be transboundary in nature	Yes	The plan will affect the Cairngorms National Park Area of Aberdeenshire
2(d) Will the environmental effects be significant when consideration is given to the to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	Yes	There are positive benefits for human health through the development and improvement of open spaces. There are inherent risks associated with open spaces and a potential for accident.
2(e) Will the environmental effects be significant when consideration is given to the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)?	Yes	The strategy will cover all open spaces around Aberdeenshire using the basic classification within PAN 65 (not including general countryside). The implementation of the strategy will therefore
2(f) Will the environmental effects be significant when consideration is given to the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</li> <li>ii exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or</li> <li>iii intensive land-use</li> </ul>	Yes	Although the effects from the implementation of this strategy are likely to be positive it may increase visitor numbers to areas of open space protected for natural heritage purposes. It has the potential to affect cultural heritage designations. It may also raise quality standards. Open spaces tend not to be intensive land uses.
2(g) Will the environmental effects be significant when consideration is given to the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	No	

**TABLE 2 – SUMMARY**

**SUMMARY**

The Strategy will set the framework for the long-term enhancement of the networks of open space in Aberdeenshire Settlements. It will set policies, standards and procedures to all a holistic approach from relevant Council Services within which they can apply in concert to achieve the framework and maintain thereafter. Although the Strategies aim is to have a significant positive impact on the environment there is the potential for affecting the environment negatively. Its effects could be cumulative in nature. The strategy could be a source of risk to human health and the environment. It is our view that the implementation of the strategy is likely to have significant effects on the environment. This strategy will therefore require the preparation of a strategic environmental assessment.

**SEA SCREENING REPORT – SECTION 3  
SUMMARY RECORD OF COMMENTS FROM  
THE CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES**