Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL

The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan

Strategic Environment Assessment: Scoping Report

23 March 2009

SEA SCOPING– COVER NOTE

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
SEA Team
Scottish Government
2-H (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

PART 2

An SEA Scoping Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Responsible Authority is:

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

PART 3

Please tick the appropriate box

√	The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. ***or***
	The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. ***or***
	The PPS does not require an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, as this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 5 week timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

SEA SCOPING – COVER NOTE

PART 4

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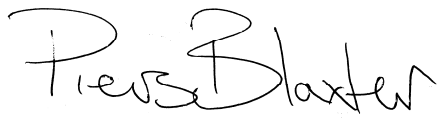
PART 5

Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	
Date	23 March 2009

Contents of Scoping Report

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Executive Summary

Background and context

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, which came into force on 20 February 2006 establishes a new framework for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Scotland and is the implementing legislation for the "SEA" Directive 2001/42/EC. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the environmental assessment of policies, plans, strategies and programmes. The SEA process requires the preparation of an environmental report on which consultations take place. The level of detail to consider in the environmental report as well as the duration of consultations must be stated in this scoping report. This is to enable the Consultation Authorities (Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Historic Scotland) who will review the scoping report, to express an early and effective opinion on the methods proposed to carry out the environmental report. Upon receiving the SEA scoping report, the Consultation Authorities have five weeks to provide comments.

Methodology for assessing environmental effects of the Main Issues Report

The SEA scoping report sets out how Aberdeenshire Council proposes to assess the proposed land allocations, policies and alternatives for any significant positive or negative environmental affects. The outcome of this assessment will then be presented in the environmental report, which will be made available to the public when the consultative Main Issues Report and Proposed Plan are placed on deposit for members of the public to comment on. Alternative land allocations and policies will be included the assessment process, in order to ensure that allocations and policies are the least damaging to the environment, and have the most positive impact.

Neither the SEA Directive nor the Scottish legislation specifically requires the use of objectives or indicators to assess the Local Development Plan, but they are very useful in describing, analysing and comparing environmental effects. SEA objectives state the broad intention while the indicators become a benchmark against which the structure plan's performance is measured.

To fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive, the SEA objectives must cover ten environmental issues, as set out in the SEA legislation: air, water, soil, biodiversity (fauna and flora), climatic factors, human health population, cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets, as well as the interrelationship between them.

The SEA objectives were developed from the following, which are provided in more detail in chapter 3 and Appendix 2:

- reviewing the Environmental Report (ER) for the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire draft Structure Plan, updating the baseline data for further significant problems under 10 environmental issues (biodiversity (flora and fauna); population; human health; soil; water; air and climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage; and landscape);
- combining the SEA objectives, as identified in the draft Structure Plan ER to reduce repetition or where no significant impact had been identified; and

- integrating the requirements of the plans, programmes, strategies, and environmental protection objectives relevant to the Local Development Plan with the SEA objectives; and

The tables in this report set out the proposed methodology to assess the Local Development Plan, as well as alternatives, and the 15 SEA objectives. Further information is provided in chapter 4, which also sets out the proposed framework for assessing the cumulative impact of the local development plan, the compatibility of the SEA objective's with each other, as well as the proposed mitigation measures and monitoring framework. The proposed consultation timetable of the environment report, anticipated milestones, and the framework for analysing the comments from consultees are provided in chapter 5.

Possible SEA objectives

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives
Air	1 Protect and improve local air quality.
Water	2 Sustain and enhance water quality to good ecological status.
Soil	3 Improve and safeguard soil quality. 4 Reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill
Biodiversity	5 Conserve, protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity (including ecosystems, habitats, species and genetic).
Climatic factors	6 Reduce the causes of adverse climate change (e.g. reduction in CO_2 levels and NE global footprint). 7 Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change e.g. flooding, public service provision, and habitats.
Human health	8 Safeguard and improve accessibility to open spaces. 9 Decrease deprivation/social exclusion.
Population	10 Improve the supply of housing land to accommodate in-migration, an aging population, and the predicted increase in households.
Cultural heritage	11 Protect, and where appropriate enhance the historic environment.
Landscape	12 Protect, enhance and where appropriate restore the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscape and townscapes.
Material assets	13 Promote the creation of fixed assets, commercial and industrial assets. 14 Regenerate derelict, vacant or contaminated land. 15 Promote the use of sustainable materials and the adoption of Lifetime standards.

1 Introduction

1.1. Aberdeenshire Council have prepared this Scoping Report for the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. According to Section 15 of Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the responsible authority is required to send to the consultation authorities sufficient details of the plan in respect of which an environmental assessment is being prepared to enable them to form a view on those matters before deciding on the consultation period and the level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report. This report is being prepared for consultations with Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Scotland (HS).

1.2. Chapter 2 provides some key facts about the Local Development Plan including the overview, name of authority, plan title, the reason why the report is being drawn, its subject, period covered, area coverage and frequency of future plan updates. Chapter 3 discusses the requirements of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and how this report meets those requirements. These are the requirements covered during the early (pre-assessment) stages of the SEA process. Chapter 4 looks at how the SEA process including alternatives, scoping in/out issues, assessment framework, mitigation and monitoring frameworks will be handled. In Chapter 5 the concluding stages proposed for the environmental report are outlined.

2 Key facts about Local Development Plan

2.1 The key facts relating to the plan are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Key facts relating to the local development plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Aberdeenshire Council
Title of PPS	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan
What prompted the PPS	Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006
Subject	Land Use
Period covered by PPS	2010-2025
Frequency of updates	Every five years
Area covered by PPS	The whole of Aberdeenshire excluding the Cairngorms National Park
Purpose and/objectives of PPS	The purpose of the local development plan is to provide a framework for the sustainable development of land covering its area of effect, all of Aberdeenshire excluding land within the Cairngorms National Park. It does not provide a framework for all development, only actions defined as "development" in legislation, and for which planning permission is a legal requirement.
Contact Point	Planning Policy and Environment, Planning and Environment Service, Aberdeenshire Council, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen AB16 5GB 01224 665168

2.2 The Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Planning Authority have prepare a draft structure plan that meets the requirements of a strategic development plan, as set out in Part 2 s7.1 of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006. The local development plan will take into account the National Planning Framework and be consistent with the structure plan's vision, aims, spatial objectives and strategy.

3 Context of the Local Development Plan

3.1 To set the context for the local development plan, this scoping report considers the three issues addressed in SEA templates developed by Scottish Government covering the following topics:

- identify the relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
- collect baseline information; and
- identify environmental problems

3.2 This report also adopts the recommendations in the UK-wide Guidance (2005): "A Practical Guide for Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive" to concurrently carry out these early SEA stages - describing the baseline, identifying environmental problems and analysing links to other policies so that each of the stages inform each other. The following section provides detailed analysis for this context.

Relationship with other plans and programmes and Environmental Objectives

3.3 Table 2 below lists other plans, programmes and environmental objectives relevant to the Main Issues Report to be analysed in the Environmental Report for their relationship with the Main Issues Report.

Table 2: Other Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental protection objective	
International Level	
1.	Council Directive 92/43/EEC *on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (known as the Habitats Directive)*
2.	Council Directive 79/409/EEC *on the conservation of wild birds (known as the Birds Directive)*
3.	Council Directive 2000/60/EC *on establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy (known as the Water Framework Directive) - integrated river basin management for Europe*
4.	Council Directive 99/31/EC *on the landfill of waste (known as the Landfill Directive)*
5.	Council Directive *on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (known as the Floods Directive)*
6.	Council Directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on waste (this is the codified version of Waste Framework Directive, 75/442/EEC as amended)
7.	Commission of the European Communities (2005/1681 (COD) [*Review of the Waste Framework Directive*] Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council (presented by the Commission)
8.	Council of Europe, 2000 *The European Landscape Convention*
9.	Council Directive 2001/77/EC on the Promotion of Electricity from Renewable Energy Sources in the Internal Electricity Market (known as the Renewables Directive)
10.	Council Directive 2006/21/EC on the management of waste from the extractive industries (known as the Mining Waste Directive)

National Level	
1.	Scottish Government. 2008. *National Planning Framework for Scotland 2: Draft*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government
2.	Office of Public Sector Information, 2006 *The Planning (Scotland) Act 2006*.
3.	SEPA (2008) Draft River Basin Management Plan, Annexes and the North East Area Management Plan
4.	The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997
5.	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
6.	Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
7.	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
8.	The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
9.	Scottish Office (1992) *The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992*
10.	Scottish Executive Circular 12/1996: Planning agreements (under review)
11.	Water Environment Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003
12.	SDD Circular 2/1962: Definition of Areas of Great Landscape Value
13.	DTI (2003) Energy White paper: *Our energy future – creating a low carbon economy*
14.	Securing the future – UK Government sustainability development strategy (2005) (implemented in Scotland through the *Choosing Our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy*)
15.	Climate Change: The UK programme (implemented in Scotland through the *Scottish Climate Change Programme*, which is under review)
16.	The Scottish Parliament: Scottish Climate Change Bill
17.	Energy Efficiency and Microgeneration: Achieving a Low Carbon Future: A Strategy for Scotland
18.	Low Carbon Building Standards Strategy for Scotland: Sullivan Report
19.	BREEAM/ EcoHomes
20.	National Waste Strategy
21.	Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2000)
22.	Scotland's Transport Future: The Transport White Paper (2004)
23.	Scottish Executive. 2006. *Scotland's National Transport Strategy*. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive.
24.	UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)
25.	Scottish Executive (2004) Scottish Biodiversity Strategy: *Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands*. *A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland*
26.	Scottish Executive Marine & Coastal Strategy (2005) – *Seas the Opportunity – A Strategy for the Long Term Sustainability of Scotland's Coasts and Seas*
27.	Scottish Government (2008) *The Future of Flood Risk Management in Scotland* – consultation for the future Scottish Flooding Bill
28.	SEPA (2006) Second-generation flood risk maps (200 year flood event maps on GIS)
29.	Scottish Executive, (2001). A Smart Successful Scotland – Ambitions for the Enterprise Network (2001)
30.	Scottish Government (2008) SPP: The Planning System (Parts 1 and 2)
31.	Scottish Executive (2002) SPP2: Economic Development

32.	Scottish Government (2008) Scottish Planning Policy 3: Planning for Homes (Revised)
33.	Scottish Executive (2006) SPP4: Planning for Minerals
34.	Scottish Planning Policy 6: *Renewable Energy*
35.	Scottish Executive (2004) SPP7: Planning and Flooding
36.	Scottish Executive (2006) SPP8: Town Centres and Retailing
37.	Scottish Executive (2006) SPP 10: *Planning for Waste Management*
38.	Scottish Government (2007) SPP 11: *Open Space and Physical Activity*
39.	Scottish Executive (1997) NPPG12: Skiing Developments
40.	Scottish Executive (1997) NPPG13: Coastal Planning
41.	Scottish Executive (1999) NPPG: 14 Natural Heritage
42.	Scottish Executive (2005) SPP15: Planning for Rural Development
43.	Scottish Executive (2005) SPP 17: Planning for Transport
44.	Scottish Executive (2005) NPPG19: Radio Telecommunications
45.	Scottish Executive (2005) SPP20: Role of Architecture and Design Scotland
46.	Scottish Executive (2006) SPP 21: Green Belts
47.	Scottish Government (2008) SPP23 Planning and the Historic Environment
48.	Historic Scotland (2008) Scottish Historic Environment Policy
49.	Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas
50.	Scottish Executive's *Designing Places: A Policy Statement for Scotland*
51.	Scottish Executive Development Department, (Revised 2000). Planning Advice Note 33: Development of Contaminated Land
52.	PAN 42: Archaeology - The Planning Process & Scheduled Monument Procedures
53.	Scottish Executive (1994) Planning Advice Note 44*: Fitting new development into the landscape*
54.	Planning Advice Note 45: *Renewable Energy Technologies* (2002)
55.	Planning for Micro Renewables Annex to PAN 45 Renewable Energy Technologies (2006)
56.	Planning Advice Note 50: *Controlling the Environmental Effects of Surface Mineral Workings* (1996)
57.	PAN 51 Planning, Environmental Protection and Regulation (Revised 2006)
58.	Scottish Office Development Department, (1997). Planning Advice Note 52: Planning in Small Towns
59.	Scottish Executive (1998) Planning Advice Note 53: *Classifying the coast for planning purposes*
60.	PAN54 Planning Enforcement
61.	Scottish Office Planning Advice Note: PAN 57: *Planning and Transport* (1999)
62.	Scottish Executive Development Department, (1999). Planning Advice Note 59: Improving Town Centres
63.	Planning Advice Note 60: *Planning for Natural Heritage* (August 2000)
64.	Scottish Executive (2001) *Planning Advice Note 61 Planning and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems*
65.	Scottish Executive (2002) Planning Advice Note: 63 *Waste Management Planning*
66.	Planning Advice Note 64: Reclamation of Surface Mineral Workings (2002)

67.	Scottish Executive (2003) Planning Advice Note 65: *Planning and Open Space*
68.	Planning Advice Note PAN66: Best Practice in Handling Planning Applications affecting Trunk Roads (January 2003)
69.	Scottish Executive (2004) Planning Advice Note: 69 *Planning and Building Standards Advice on Flooding*
70.	PAN71 *Conservation Area Management*
71.	Planning Advice Note 72: *New Housing in the Countryside*
72.	Scottish Executive Development Department, (2005). Planning Advice Note 73: Rural Diversification
73.	Planning Advice Note 75: Planning for Transport (August 2005)
74.	Planning Advice Note 76: New residential streets (November 2005)
75.	Scottish Government (2006) Planning Advice Note79: Water and Drainage. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.
76.	Planning Advice Note: PAN 84 Reducing Carbon Emissions in New Development (2008)
77.	SNH (2006) *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*, SNH and Historic Scotland
78.	Scottish Executive (2007) Allocation of Land for Affordable Housing Through the Planning system
79.	Scottish Water (2007) *Sewers for Scotland Manual 2nd Edition .*
80.	Scottish Government (2007) Firm Foundations: The Future of Housing in Scotland
81.	Forestry Commission Scotland (2006) The Scottish Forestry Strategy
82.	Scottish Government (2007) Firm Foundations: The Future of Housing in Scotland
83.	Scottish Government (2008) Business Improvement District Guidance.
Regional level	
1.	Finalised Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan (2009)
2.	North East Scotland Biodiversity (2001) *North East Scotland's Biodiversity Action Plan*
3.	Aberdeenshire Council (2005) Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City
4.	Aberdeenshire Council (2008) River Dee Catchement Management Plan
5.	NESTRANS. 2008. Regional Transport Strategy 2021. Finalised Strategy. Nestrans & Steer Davies Gleave.
6.	North East Scotland Area Waste Plan (2003)
7.	Economic Growth Strategy for North East Scotland (Local Economic Development Strategy 2003-2010)
8.	Aberdeen City and Shire, (2007). Building on Energy. The Economic Manifesto for Aberdeen City and Shire
Local level	
1.	Aberdeenshire Community Plan
2.	Aberdeenshire Council (2004) *The Renewable Energy Strategy: A Strategy to Promote the Generation of Energy from Renewable Sources*
3.	Aberdeenshire Council (2006) Aberdeenshire Parks and Public Open Spaces Strategy
4.	Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council (2007) Strategic

	Forecasts
5.	Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy 2004-2009 Aberdeenshire Council (2006) *Local Housing Strategy*
6.	The Macaulay Institute and the University of Aberdeen (2006) *Planning for Rural Diversification in Aberdeenshire*
7.	Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council (2007) *Housing Land Audit*
8.	Index 21: Housing Layout Tool
9.	Aberdeen City and Shire, (2007). Employment Land Audit
10.	Local Transport Strategy (April 2007)
11.	Aberdeenshire Council (2007) *Local Air Quality Management: Progress Report 2007*
12.	Aberdeenshire Contaminated Land Strategy (Under review)
13.	Aberdeenshire Countryside Access Strategy (1998),
14.	Aberdeenshire Council, (2004). Assessing the Impact of Retail Developments in Aberdeenshire, A Guide for Applicants
15.	Hargest and Wallace Planning Ltd, (2008). For Aberdeenshire Council: Review of Retail Requirements
16.	Cobham Resource Consultants (1997) National programme of landscape character assessment: Banff and Buchan, Scottish Natural Heritage Review No 37
17.	Environmental Resources Management (1998) South and Central Aberdeenshire: landscape character assessment, Scottish Natural Heritage Review No 102
18.	The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2002) Guidelines for Visual Impact Assessment, Second edition, Spoon Press
19.	Turnbull Jeffrey Partnership (1996) Cairngorms landscape assessment, Scottish Natural Heritage Review No 75.

3.4 Detailed analysis of how they apply to the local development plan and SEA will be set out in the Environmental Report. The framework is provided in Table 3 below. It should be stated that the modernisation of the planning system; the gradual replacement of National Planning Policy Guidelines with Scottish Planning Policies is resulting in many planning guidance updates. Changes in legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines continue to influence land use planning. Consequently, any changes in policies will be tracked throughout the SEA process, keeping the process iterative and current. However, those changes occur after the plan has been submitted through legislative process for adoption cannot be considered.

Table 3: Framework of analysis proposed for relationship with other PPS and environmental objectives listed in Table 1

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for local development plan	Implication for SEA	SEA objectives number (see Appendix xx)	Are there any gaps or problems?
Review of International documents					
Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC	Gives powers to protect biodiversity through the maintenance or restoration of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora at a favourable conservation status with robust protection of habitats (designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)) and Species of European Importance list.	Consider how the Plan can maintain and restore natural habitats to ensure biodiversity.	Include a SEA objective that protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity.	5	
Review of national documents					
Review of regional documents					
Review of local documents					

Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

3.5 The existing environmental baseline data have been collected from a wide range of sources, including national government/agency websites, consultation authorities, and council publications. Environmental issues such as air, water, soil, climatic factors, landscape, cultural heritage, biodiversity and material asset set the context for the collection of the baseline data. This data is then presented in a table covering:

- the latest data for Aberdeenshire;
- comparators: regional or national data against which Aberdeenshire's status are compared;
- targets where they exist;
- trends where they exists;
- environmental problems/issues – where Aberdeenshire is performing badly compared with the comparators or targets; and
- referencing the sources of data used.

3.6 The detailed analysis of the baseline data is presented in Appendix 2. The linkages of the environmental problems between the SEA Topics are presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Linkages between SEA topics

SEA Topic	Link with	SEA Topic
Water: Increasing water abstraction of the River Dee from Scottish Water is likely to have an effect on water quality and associated fauna and flora.(e.g. Fresh water pearl mussels and Atlantic Salmon)		Climatic Factors: changes predicted in precipitation (e.g. drier summers and increased water temperature).
Water abstraction from underground water supplies (e.g. boreholes) may dry up and increase the level of demand for mains water supply.		Climatic Factors: changes predicted in precipitation (e.g. drier summers).
Soil: Rise in river and coastal erosion (as rainfall is predicted to increase in the future) will reduce areas of prime agricultural land.		Climatic Factors: changes predicted in weather patterns (e.g. more and heavier flash floods).

SEA Topic	Link with	SEA Topic
Biodiversity: Habitats and communities at the local level – issue of quality, variety and migration of species (e.g. wildlife corridors).		Human health (e.g. recreation corridors)
Biodiversity: non-native/invasive species.		Climatic factors: migration of alien species northwards as temperatures rise (if predictions are correct).
Biodiversity: encourage native plants (robustness of biodiversity).		Climatic factors
Climatic factors: rising CO_2 levels.		Material assets: use of sustainable materials.
Climatic Factors: Habitat changes due to climate change, which will result in invasion of new species (Alien Species) living in the North East. As a result, should we continue to protect the River Dee, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation under the Habitats Directive from inappropriate development if new species are likely to migrate from the south?		Biodiversity
Climatic Factors: Peatslides / soil erosion from flash floods / increased rainfall.		Soil: degrading of soil quality and reduction in quantity (e.g. from water run-off).
Climatic Factors: increase silting of rivers from fluvial flooding.		Water: degradation of water quality.

SEA Topic	Link with	SEA Topic
Human Health: over crowding, centralisation of services (e.g. training).		Population
Population: increase in household numbers will require a need for more housing.		Material assets: there are a high number of vacant properties, which are not being retrofitted/ redeveloped.
Material assets: Roads		Air and Human health
Material assets: Flood defences.		Climatic factors: increase in storms.
Material assets: Second/holiday homes.		Population: increasing number of households
Material assets: affordable housing		Human health (e.g. reducing the number of people living in deprived conditions)

Environmental problems

3.7 This section summarises the state of the environment within the local development plan area (Aberdeenshire) by identifying the most significant environmental problems that exist in North East Scotland, as well as presenting the policy measures required to mitigate the environmental problems identified.

3.8 Environmental problems affecting the local development plan area were principally identified through the information collected from the environmental baseline data/trends/comparators, as presented in Appendix 2; and

3.9 The significant environmental problems categorised under each SEA topic are summarised in the tables 5 to 14 below.

Table 5: Significant environmental problems: air quality

Air	Significant environmental problems
	High NO_2 levels (although not quite exceeding the annual mean NO_2 objective for 2005) in parts of Inverurie and Peterhead.
	Traffic growth is a constraining factor in the future, especially in Inverurie

Table 6: Significant environmental problems: water quality

Water	Significant environmental problems
	Qualifying interests in the SACs constrain how the SACs should be used and managed.

	Significant environmental problems
	Need to reduce water abstraction by incorporating water efficient technologies into new development (e.g. industrial and domestic) in light of the predicted decrease in summer rainfall.
	The Ythan estuary is an SPA, so the sensitivity of the area is greater and therefore the overall effect is likely to be more significant than this implies.
	Impacts on bathing water from future uses, such as the rise in water sports, which could have an adverse impact on water quality.
	The release of untreated sewage effluent is reducing the water quality along the coast.
	A build-up of nitrates from diffuse pollution within the River Ythan catchment is adversely affecting species that live in the mud flats of the river mouth, which is an internationally designated natural heritage site.
	Peterhead Power Station is likely to be contributing to the poor water quality.
	In the North East, the main cause of poor quality coastline is the result of sewage effluent being released untreated.
	Major impact both on the sand dune erosion, wildlife and the enjoyment of other beach users from motorised vehicles.

Table 7: Significant environmental problems: soil quality

Soil quality	Significant environmental problems
	There are 5,000 potentially contaminated sites recorded in North East. These include several hundred high-risk sites such as landfill and gasworks.
	Contaminated land places financial and technological constraints on development. These constraints may dictate the type of development: the feasibility of remedial works may determine that a site is only suitable for industrial use; the cost of remedial works may determine that high-density housing is the only viable economic option.
	Contaminated land impacts the water environment, i.e. ground surface and coastal waters, and the wider environment including for instance local ecology.
	Potential loss of prime agricultural land from climate change – precautionary approach may need to be applied in certain areas (e.g. on prime agricultural land near flood plains, along the coast, and on land of the highest quality).
	Not enough sites for recycling or composting biodegradable municipal waste (large, medium or small scale) to help the local authorities achieve their recycling and landfill targets.
	Coastal erosion mostly where there are no rocks or coastal defences.

	Significant environmental problems
	Increase in soil erosion from wind and water, which is exacerbated by bad land use practices, such as locating tracks/access roads on steep/ upland ground.

Table 8: Significant environmental problems: biodiversity

Biodiversity	Significant environmental problems
	UK priority species and habitats are still declining and require rigorous protection and enhancement.
	Implementation of the NE BAPs is the key issue to enhancing biodiversity.
	Threat of Alien Species effecting water quality and ecological status of the rivers.
	The significance and purpose of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) mean that development in or adjacent to them, such as the River Dee SAC may cumulatively prevent the objectives of these designations being met, and may prevent new development being developed.
	Indirect impact of development on designated sites that are affecting their water table, and therefore the quality of wetland habitats.
	Development will put pressure on biodiversity, especially on the periphery of settlements.
	Increase of access to designated sites could be damaging to some sites.
	Indirect impacts of development on biodiversity.
	Need to enhance and augment habitats to avoid their decline both within and outwith settlements.
	Extensive use of land and cumulative impact is resulting in the loss of biodiversity.

Table 9: Significant environmental problems: climatic factors

Climatic factors	Significant environmental problems
	High energy dependence on fossil fuels to provide heat and electricity.
	High energy dependence on fossil fuels for transportation.
	Insufficient grid connections and constraints with certain types of renewable energy technologies.
	Lack of appropriate locations identified for renewable energy technologies.
	The current layout of low density housing does not reduce energy use (e.g. reducing wind chill, maximising solar gain).
	Few properties incorporate in their design resilience to extreme climate and weather conditions.

	Significant environmental problems
	Materials with high CO_2 levels are still increasingly popular (e.g. concrete and tarmac).
	Possible need for a management retreat of settlements below the 5m Ordnance Datum mark.
	Sea defensive walls may be inadequate as sea levels rise.
	Rise in soil erosion from storm events, which will create a greater need for SuDS, and an increase their water holding capacity.
	Increase silting of rivers from fluvial flooding.
	Rising precipitation and storms will increase fluvial flooding (e.g. 1 in 200 year flood event), which will restrict where new development can be located for some settlements.
	The number of properties at risk from inland fluvial flooding is low, but local flood defensive schemes will still be required.
	Rise in precipitation during the winter months and increase in storms will result in the need for SuDS to prevent pluvial flooding in urban areas.
	Aberdeen consumes more natural resources per person than any other Scottish city and has the largest global footprint in Scotland, which cannot be sustained in the long-term.
	Fragmented habitats resulting from development and changes in the climate may affect less mobile species from migrating and/or adapting to changes in the environment.
	Need to promote appropriate native species in new development schemes to enhance existing biodiversity and preventing the spread of non-native species.
	Increasing need for service provision throughout the year (e.g. as flood events are predicted to increase during winter seasons).

Table 10: Significant environmental problems: Human health

Human health	Significant environmental problems
	Significant development pressure to build on urban open spaces.
	There is pressure to reduce the size of open spaces in residential developments.
	Need for larger areas of open spaces, including civic or town parks.
	Poor access to services in rural areas.
	Centralisation of service provision has and will continue to affect marginalised areas.
	Pockets of deprivation through low job opportunities and income could be adversely affecting people's mental health in Aberdeen and in northern Aberdeenshire.
	Overcrowding in Aberdeen is higher than the Scottish average and it could be affecting people's mental health.

Human health	Significant environmental problems
	Lack of variety in new house types granted planning consent.
	There will still be a need for a significant proportion of new housing to be larger properties.
	When considered in the context of the existing stock, planning permissions are being given which, over time, will lead to the differences between the housing stock in the City and Shire being more extreme.
	Limited progress has been made to provide sports facilities at Cove, a swimming pool in Mintlaw, and a 6 Badminton Court Hall in Peterhead and Fraserburgh, all of which were identified in the City's and Shire's sports study.

Table 11: Significant environmental problems: population

Population	Significant environmental problems
	Increasing number of households is creating more demand for housing (and land).
	The need for more development land is placing pressure on or near sensitive natural heritage areas.
	The growing age of the head of the household may result in more homes needed for their needs (e.g. bungalows or special needs dwellings).
	Aging population will create demand for certain types of houses (e.g. bungalows and services (increasing the need for more land) and care homes.
	There is likely to be capacity issues in some of secondary schools in the larger settlements in Aberdeenshire.
	In-migration will create greater demand for houses and services in Aberdeenshire.
	Continuing demand for land for new dwellings and associated infrastructure in Aberdeenshire.
	The rise in visitor numbers annually demonstrates the popularity of country parks. However, care is necessary to ensure access to and within parks is sufficient and is not damaged by erosion.

Table 12: Significant environmental problems: cultural heritage

Cultural heritage	Significant environmental problems
	Although only a small percentage of the listed buildings in the North East are on the Buildings at Risk Register, the area has one of the highest numbers of properties at risk, and the figure is rising.
	Very few buildings at risk are undergoing restoration in Aberdeenshire.

Cultural heritage	Significant environmental problems
	The majority of the buildings at risk are in rural areas, with few undergoing restoration.
	Lack of an existing policy on inclusive design in the Local Plan.
	Development adversely impacting on a community's' or settlement's 'sense of place' (e.g. historical perspective).
	Safeguarding building functionality (e.g. use, access and space), which is not always considered.
	Poor design when incorporating modern materials.
	Cumulative impact of proposals, which alone may not affect the conservation designation, but cumulatively affect it's overall objective.
	Loss of unknown and locally known architectural remains from new development and other practices, vandalism and coastal erosion.
	Adverse impacts on the setting of listed buildings and archaeological remains from new developments.

Table 13 Significant environmental problems: landscape

Landscape	Significant environmental problems
	Even outwith the boundary of a designation, the insensitive siting and design, as well as type (e.g. dwelling(s), wind farm or quarry) of any new development may adversely affect landscapes of national importance (e.g. National Scenic Areas and Cairngorms National Park).
	There is an increased need to: o assess a settlement's key features(s); o reinforcing a sense of place (its character and identify) by restoring, enhancing, improving and rehabilitating the best and worst areas of these settlements; and o involving local communities.
	The inappropriate scale and insensitive siting of enabling development is adversely affecting landscape characteristics (e.g. changing its landscape character type, not respecting local topography/contours).
	New development not fitting in with the landscape's capacity to absorb further developments (e.g. design, layout and sense of place) – need to promote suitable development capacity.

Table 14: Significant environmental problems: material assets

Material assets	Significant environmental problems
	Land that has been vacant for several years is unlikely to become redevelopment due to the recent rise in vacant and derelict sites.

Material assets	Significant environmental problems
	The predicted rise in storm events and winter precipitation is likely to increase soil/sand erosion from the wind and rain/water, which may prevent flood defence schemes functioning properly and result in their failure (e.g. collapse).
	There is a significant wastewater constraint issue in most of Aberdeenshire, which may have adverse effects on water quality.
	There is a significant water supply constraint throughout most of the North East, with the exception of a handful of settlements in the north and Banchory.
	The predicted rise in storm events and winter precipitation is likely to increase soil/sand erosion from the wind and rain/water, which may prevent existing flood defence schemes functioning properly and result in their failure (e.g. collapse).
	There is a significant shortfall of affordable housing in Aberdeenshire.
	There is a need to review the proportion of affordable housing in new build.
	The number of second homes rented out by oil companies could be sold off as the oil sector declines.
	A shortage of holiday homes will adversely affect the tourist trade in Aberdeenshire's most popular areas.
	New developments (e.g. dwellings, schools, offices etc) not using sustainable materials in new build.
	Greater pressure will be placed on the natural and built environment in and around settlements in central Aberdeenshire to cater for the demand in employment land.

4 Scope and level of detail proposed for strategic environmental assessment

- *Alternatives*

4.1 The spatial strategy has been set out in the finalised Aberdeen City and Shire structure plan, but at the time of submitting the scoping report no decisions have been made on the local development plan's settlement strategy, policies and land allocations. This is rightly something that is the subject of a public and stakeholder consultation exercise, to be set out in the proposed local development plan.

4.2 However, as part of the local development plan process, seven "main issues" have been identified through monitoring and consulting with stakeholders and Community Councils to be carried forward for inclusion in the Main Issues Report. These seven main issues are:

- Housing in the countryside (including conversion of rural buildings)
- "Enabling" Development to support economic development proposals
- Retail tourism in the countryside
- Provision of strategic and community infrastructure
- Design and design quality of new development
- Planning for minerals and waste
- Landscape impact of new development

4.3 These issues require fairly intensive debate and consideration before a clear way to progress the issues to a consensus based policy and means of achieving the aims of that policy are identified. Preferred alternatives will emerge through engagement with stakeholders and will find expression in the Main Issues Report.

4.4 Other important issues (amending existing local plan policies) have also been identified. However, there are clearer ways forward for their development (i.e. updating the policies to conform to national policy) and there is not the same pressing need to identify them as Main Issues. As a result, alternatives of the existing policies will be identified during the development of the proposed plan and not at the Main Issues Report stage.

4.5 In September 2008, land owners and developers were invited to submit proposals of land they would wish to see allocated for development in the local development plan. Over 700 development proposals have been received. All the development proposals will be subjected to scrutiny through the SEA process and publicly presented in the Main Issues Report for consultation.

- *Scoping in/out of SEA issues*

4.6 In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Aberdeenshire Council has considered which environmental issues that have positive and negative significant environmental effects should be scoped in for further consideration. The details and justification is presented in Table 15.

Table 15: Environmental Issues Scoped in

Environmental Issues	Scoped in	Justification
Air	Yes	Due to the nature and scale of the local development plan (e.g. the geographic scale covered by the plan, and its place in the planning hierarchy), all the environmental issues have been scoped in for further consideration in the SEA, as the plan will significantly affect (either positively or negatively) all 10 environmental issues.
Climatic Factors	Yes	
Water	Yes	
Soil	Yes	
Population & Human Health	Yes	
Biodiversity (Fauna & Flora)	Yes	
Landscape	Yes	
Cultural Heritage (including archaeological and architectural heritage)	Yes	
Material Assets	Yes	

- *Methodology for assessing environmental effects*

4.7 Neither the SEA Directive nor the Scottish legislation specifically requires the use of objectives or indicators in the SEA, but they are very useful in describing, analysing and comparing environmental effects. SEA objectives state the broad intention while the indicators become a benchmark against which the structure plan's performance is measured.

4.8 To fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive, the SEA objectives must cover environmental issues including biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between them.

4.9 Table 16 lists a set of SEA objectives against which the policies, development allocations and settlement strategy of the Aberdeenshire local development plan will be assessed. These are a standard set of SEA objectives derived from analysis of environmental problems; baseline data; and relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives. They will inform the final choice of SEA Objectives. They are not conclusive but subject to consultation outcomes.

Table 16: Possible SEA objectives & indicators

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendix 2	Likely outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the local development plan should emphasise on (Appendix XX)
Air	1. Protect and improve local air quality.	• Reduction in nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) emissions. • Reduction in the number of days that exceed the National Air Quality Strategy (NAQS) objectives for NO_2 and PM_{10}. • Achievement or de-designation of Aberdeen as an Air Quality Management Area.	• Air quality nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) monitored at specific locations in Aberdeenshire	• Promote sustainable alternatives to car and reducing congestion traffic pollution through the allocation of land uses. • Improvement of green spaces, such as more tree planting to combat air quality.
Water	2. Sustain and enhance water quality to good ecological status.	• Improvement to water quality and maintain the ecological status of fresh water bodies in rivers and the coastline. • Increase in the number and duration of bathing water areas passing Bathing water quality EC Guideline Standards. • Reduction in diffuse pollution (e.g. nitrates) within river catchment areas. • Reduction in point source pollution in water courses. • Reduction in water abstraction in environmentally sensitive areas. • Closure of the Water of Dye abstraction plant in the River Dee catchment area.	• Water quantity in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas • Ground water and river levels • Water quality (biology and chemistry) • Coastal Impacts.	• Sustainable use of water and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts. • Reduce water pollution and enhance water quality. • Avoid further degradation of the coastal environment.

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendix 2	Likely outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the local development plan should emphasise on (Appendix XX)
		• Reduction in the number of planning applications granted planning permission in functional floodplains. • Increase in the number of development schemes that incorporate water efficient technologies. • Encourage and increase the number of SuDS retrofitted for existing water systems. • Number of developments in upland areas that use water taken from underground water sources.		
Soil	3. Improve and safeguard soil quality. 4. Reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill.	• Remediation of contaminated land • Reduction of soil/water pollution from landfill waste disposal schemes. • Reduction in the area of Prime agricultural land developed. • Increase in the number of recycling schemes. • Meeting Landfill Allowance Targets. • Increase in the number of waste management facilities built that addresses the need identified in the Area Waste Plan.	• Contaminated land. • Prime agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3.1). • Waste disposal in landfill. • Soil erosion.	• Create sustainable communities with a focus on the sustainable use of natural resources.

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendix 2	Likely outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the local development plan should emphasise on (Appendix XX)
		• Reduction in the number of proposals granted planning permission on sites at risk from coastal erosion. • Reduction in the number of proposals granted consent that may increase soil erosion (e.g. increase erosion from water runoff).		
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	5. Conserve, protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity (including ecosystems, habitats, species and genetic).	• Number of planning applications given consent on designated sites. • (Achievement) Implementation of Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) actions. • Percentages of BAP species and habitats, which are identified as stable or increasing (although this is not measurable locally for all BAP species – may be possible to link with existing monitoring schemes such as breeding bird census and butterfly monitoring and possible local squirrel survey). • Proportion of required open space being natural/wild areas. • Increase in the number of wildlife corridors / augmentation of wildlife habitats (however a method of	• North East Biodiversity Action Plan (NE BAP) targets. • Designated areas. • Sites of Special Scientific Interests • Special Areas of Conservation • Special Protection Areas • Country Parks • Local Nature Reserves • National Nature Reserves • Ramsar sites	• Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity.

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendix 2	Likely outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the local development plan should emphasise on (Appendix XX)
		monitoring this would have to be developed).		
Climatic factors	6. Reduce the causes of adverse climate change (e.g. reduction in CO_2 levels and NE global footprint).	• Reduction in carbon dioxide (CO_2) levels. • Reduction in the North East's global (energy) footprint. • Decrease in the proportion of people traveling to work or study by car. • Increase in the proportion of people traveling to work or study by walking or cycling. • Increase in electricity and heat generated from renewable energy sources and CHP located in the area. • Increase in the use of energy efficient technologies. • Increase in the development of alternative transport fuels, including hydrogen.	• Proportion of heat and electricity generated from renewable energy sources and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) schemes. • Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions. • Priority Species • Impact on natural resources (global footprint)	• Limit or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. • Encourage the increase use of renewable energy resources and more efficient use energy and water in housing. • Limit or reduce the emissions of pollutants. • Address climate change
	7. Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change e.g. flooding, public	• Reduction in the number of properties at risk from flooding (pluvial, fluvial or tidal). • Reduction in those vulnerable to rising	• Areas affected by flooding (sea, fluvial and pluvial). • Impact on year-round	

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendix 2	Likely outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the local development plan should emphasise on (Appendix XX)
	service provision, and habitats.	sea levels through the improvement and building of new sea defences. • Decrease in the number of new developments NOT incorporating SuDS. • Increase in the number of retrofitted SuDS for existing drainage systems. • Increase in augmented habitats.	services.	
Human health	8. Safeguard and improve accessibility to open spaces. 9. Decrease deprivation/social exclusion.	• Increase in the proportion of the population within 200m of parks and open spaces. • Increase in the number of town/civic parks created. • Improvement to the issues highlighted in the *Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation* affecting Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. • Decrease in the number of those overcrowded (as identified in the Census). • Reduction in the number of sports facilities still to be built, as identified in Aberdeen's and Aberdeenshire's sports strategies/studies.	• Quality and availability of public open space in urban and rural areas. • Improvements to quality of life in currently deprived areas. • Sport and recreation facilities in areas of identified need • Cause of mental health (especially of poorer communities).	• Promote qualify of life issues. • Promote good design, safe environments, clean environments and good quality services.

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendix 2	Likely outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the local development plan should emphasise on (Appendix XX)
		• Increase in the number of regeneration schemes. • Increase in the number of planning permissions granted for the different housing types and the variation between Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.		
Population	10. Improve the supply of housing land to accommodate in-migration, an aging population, and the predicted increase in households.	• Improvement in the general resident perception surveys. • Increase in the number and tenure of dwellings built. • Increase in the number of care homes built. • Increase in provision of services for overseas immigrants.	• Changing trends in household size. • Years of healthy life expectancy. • Size of population. • Migration change. • Number of visitors to country parks • School role and capacity	• Set the planning policy framework for development consents for major residential, commercial, retail, and employment developments.
Cultural heritage	11. Protect, and where appropriate enhance the historic environment.	• Decline in the number of listed buildings and archaeological sites at risk from human (e.g. neglect or vandalism) or natural (e.g. coastal erosion) impacts. • Increase in the number of buildings renovated/regeneration schemes in urban and rural areas.	• Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments. • Listed Buildings numbers. • Conservation Areas numbers. • Number of Archaeological sites.	• Protect, maintain and enhance the built environment.

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendix 2	Likely outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the local development plan should emphasise on (Appendix XX)
		• Reduce conflict with building impact: form and materials, internal environment, urban and social integration, character, innovation and accessibility (e.g. works required for the disabled).	• Numbers of listed buildings at risk. • No. of excavations, evaluations, etc., the Archaeology Service instigated to mitigate against the loss of sites. • Safeguarding archaeological sites • Number of Gardens and Designated Landscapes (GDL) • Safeguarding listed buildings, • Designed landscape etc, and Conservation Areas. • Ensuring the impact from new build reflects: materials & form, urban & social integration, internal environment, character and innovation of existing	

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendix 2	Likely outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the local development plan should emphasise on (Appendix XX)
			historic buildings.	

Landscape	12. Protect, enhance and where appropriate restore the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscape and townscapes.	• Reported condition of Aberdeen's and Aberdeenshire's landscapes (non/designated) and townscapes, (including conservation areas).
		• Reduction in the number of planning applications granted planning permission either as departures or against officers' recommendation. For example where:
		  • new developments individually or cumulatively adversely affect designated landscapes; and
		  • the insensitive siting and design of new developments adversely affect the landscape and townscape setting.
		• Reduction in the number of planning applications granted planning permission for enabling development that may adversely affect landscape characteristics (e.g. changing its landscape character type, not respecting local topography/contours).
			• Impact to National Scenic Areas (NSA).
			• Enhancing and sustaining townscape quality.
			• Impact on Landscape character
				• Protect, maintain and enhance the landscape character.

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendix 2	Likely outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the local development plan should emphasise on (Appendix XX)
Material assets	13. Promote the creation of fixed assets, commercial and industrial assets. 14. Regenerate derelict, vacant or contaminated land. 15. Promote the use of sustainable materials and the adoption of Lifetime standards.	• Increase and enhancement in the number of wastewater treatment works and water works built. • Decrease in waiting list figures for affordable housing. • Increase in the number of holiday homes built to meet predicted demand. • Decrease in the number of derelict and vacant land. • Increase in the number of flood defences developed or upgraded. • Increase in the number of residential, industry, and commercial properties protected by flood defences. • Increase in the number of vacant buildings reused. • Increase in the use of sustainable materials in new build and retrofit in planning applications.	• Number of vacant dwellings • Derelict and vacant land (and buildings) • Existing flood defences. • Existing pumping stations and sewage works. • Water treatment works. • Supply of affordable housing. • Supply of holiday homes. • Access to good quality affordable housing. • Proportion of building materials from sustainable sources. • Number of new businesses. • Employment land supply. • Quality of life	• Promote economic growth, social inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety. • Support economic sustainability consistent with social progress and the environment. • Tackle housing shortage, low demand, abandonment and liveability. • Promote the economy, and support the community and public services.

Assessment framework – SEA objectives and indicators

4.10 Each development proposal site, the final allocations and policies with alternatives will be assessed against 15 SEA Objectives to be agreed through this scoping process. Significant environmental effects of the sites will be predicted to determine whether they will have negative, positive, uncertain or neutral effects. In addition, the effects will further be evaluated to determine damage or otherwise to the receptors in relation reversibility or irreversibility of effects, risks, duration (permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term) and cumulative (direct, indirect, secondary and synergistic). The Environmental Report of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan will provide some guidance on the likely environmental effects.

4.11 Due to the number of proposed development sites (over 700) and specific land allocations, two tables will be used in the assessment process. Table 17 presents the detailed framework that will be used to assess the effects of the development proposals, which will be presented in the Main Issues Report. Table 18 presents the detailed framework that will be used to assess the effects of the existing local plan policies (to be slightly amended) and the seven major issues listed in paragraph 4.2 (i.e. change in policy direction), and the proposed policies and land allocations in the Proposed Local Development Plan. Table 19 presents the framework of the summary table that will be included in the Environmental Report.

Table 17: Framework for assessing the development proposal sites to be included in the Main Issues Report

Site Number:	**Name:**	
SEA Objectives	**Effect**	**SEA Objectives**
SEA Topic: Air		
1. Protect and improve local air quality.		
SEA Topic: Water		
2. Sustain and enhance water quality to good ecological status.		
SEA Topic: Soil		
3. Improve and safeguard soil quality.		
4. Reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill		
Summary of effect:		
SEA Topic: Biodiversity		

Site Number:	Name:	
SEA Objectives	**Effect**	**SEA Objectives**
5. Conserve, protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity (including ecosystems, habitats, species and genetic).		
Summary of effect:		
SEA Topic: Climatic factors		
6. Reduce the causes of adverse climate change (e.g. reduction in CO_2 levels and NE global footprint).		
7. Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change (e.g. flooding, public service provision, and habitats).		
Summary of effect:		
SEA Topic: Human health		
8. Safeguard and improve accessibility to open spaces.		
9. Decrease deprivation/social exclusion.		
Summary of effect:		
SEA Topic: Population		
10. Improve the supply of housing land to accommodate in-migration, an aging population, and the predicted increase in households.		
SEA Topic: Cultural heritage		
11. Protect, and where appropriate enhance the historic environment.		
SEA Topic: Landscape		
12. Protect, enhance and where appropriate restore the quality & distinctiveness of the area's landscape and townscapes.		
SEA Topic: Material assets		

Site Number:	Name:	
SEA Objectives	**Effect**	**SEA Objectives**
13. Promote the creation of fixed assets (e.g. affordable housing, water and waste management facilities, and commercial and industrial assets.		
14. Regenerate derelict, vacant or contaminated land.		
15. Promote the use of sustainable materials and the adoption of Lifetime standards.		
Summary of effect:		
Overall effect:		• *If 0, +/0 or 0/- state why the overall effect is neutral or partially neutral, and identify which SEA Topics will be positively or negatively effected. Identify if the effects will be temporary or permanent.* • *If -, ++ or +/- highlight the key significant effects (e.g. ++ or - -) and identify which SEA Topics will be positively or and negatively effected, what are the duration of the effects (e.g. temporary or permanent).*

Table 18: Framework for assessing the major policy changes and existing local plan policies in the Main Issues Report, and the proposed land allocations and policies in the Proposed Local Development Plan

Land allocation: [*Reference Number]* **Name:** **Main Issue: [*Policy Issue*]** **Option: [*1, 2 or 3*]** **Policy: [*Number and title*]** **Policy v1: [*Number and title*]**			
SEA Objectives	**Impact**	**Comments**	**Cumulative impacts**
SEA Topic: Air			
1. Protect and improve local air quality.			
SEA Topic: Water			
2. Sustain and enhance water quality to good ecological status.			
SEA Topic: Soil			

Land allocation: [*Reference Number]* **Name:** **Main Issue: [*Policy Issue*]** **Option: [*1, 2 or 3*]** **Policy: [*Number and title*]** **Policy v1: [*Number and title*]**			
SEA Objectives	**Impact**	**Comments**	**Cumulative impacts**
3. Improve and safeguard soil quality.			
4. Reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill			
SEA Topic: Biodiversity			
5. Conserve, protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity (including ecosystems, habitats, species and genetic).			
SEA Topic: Climatic factors			
6. Reduce the causes of adverse climate change (e.g. reduction in CO_2 levels and NE global footprint).			
7. Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change (e.g. flooding, public service provision, and habitats).			
SEA Topic: Human health			
8. Safeguard and improve accessibility to open spaces.			
9. Decrease deprivation/social exclusion.			
SEA Topic: Population			

Land allocation: [*Reference Number]* **Name:** **Main Issue: [*Policy Issue*]** **Option: [*1, 2 or 3*]** **Policy: [*Number and title*]** **Policy v1: [*Number and title*]**			
SEA Objectives	**Impact**	**Comments**	**Cumulative impacts**
10. Improve the supply of housing land to accommodate in-migration, an aging population, and the predicted increase in households.			
SEA Topic: Cultural heritage			
11. Protect, and where appropriate enhance the historic environment.			
SEA Topic: Landscape			
12. Protect, enhance and where appropriate restore the quality & distinctiveness of the area's landscape and townscapes.			
SEA Topic: Material assets			
13. Promote the creation of fixed assets (e.g. affordable housing, water and waste management facilities, and commercial and industrial assets.			
14. Regenerate derelict, vacant or contaminated land.			
15. Promote the use of sustainable materials and the adoption of Lifetime standards.			
Overall effect:			

Table 19: Framework for presenting the summary of the Main Issues Report/Proposed Local Development Plan: *Development Proposal Site options in [Settlement name]* and *Policy Options [Theme]*

Main Issues Report/ Proposed Local Development Plan	**SEA Objectives**															Overall effect	Cumulative impacts
[Settlement name, if applicable]	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
Development Proposal Site Number [Reference No.]																	
Development Proposal Site Number [Reference No.]																	
Nth Development Proposal Site Number																	
Policy [Theme] e.g. Environment or Housing																	
Policy [Number]																	
Alternative Policy [Number] (v1)																	
Alternative Policy [Number] (v2)																	
Nth Alternative Policy																	
Overall Effects																	
Key	++ = very positive						+ = positive					+/- = mixed				? = uncertain	
	-- = very negative						- = negative					0 = neutral					
Comments [Short-term, medium-term and long-term effects; permanent and temporary effects; positive & negative effects; and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, as identified in the Goal Achievement Matrix]																	

Cumulative effect assessment framework

4.12 A further framework for assessing cumulative and synergistic effects of the local development plan and the alternatives are presented in Tables 20 and 21 below. Only the policies and land allocations that were identified in Table 18 above of having cumulative/ synergistic/secondary effects will be included the assessment. The assessment of cumulative effects will be undertaken using the following process:

- further assessing the land allocations and policies that were identified in Table 18 of having cumulative/ synergistic/secondary effects;
- considering the effects that may arise from interaction with proposals within the local development plan as well as those within other plans, programmes and strategies (National Planning Framework 2, Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan, Regional Transport Strategy, and Local Economic Development Strategy);
- taking account of whether any effects will bring the critical environmental capital (e.g. water) close to their capacity or threshold to remain productive or sustainable; and
- being aware of the level of uncertainty in identifying cumulative, secondary or synergistic effects and ensuring that, where uncertainty exists, this is documented.

Table 20: Cumulative & synergistic effects of the local development allocations and policies

Local Development Plan land allocations and policies	**Cumulative effects assessment**				Overall effects
	Cumulative/ synergistic/ secondary effects?	Cumulative/ synergistic/ secondary effects with other plans or strategies?	Effects on critical environmental capital (e.g. water)?	Does any uncertainty about the cumulative or other effects exist?	
Land allocation/ Policy [name]	Cumulative effects: • air (-) • water (+) Synergistic effects: • Soil (+)	Cumulative and synergistic effects: • Local Regional Transport Strategy **Impact: +/-**	Cumulative effect: Phosphate discharge into River XX affecting/ reducing wetland habitat. **Impact: -**	Yes, water abstraction from the River Dee will be subject to review by SEPA, date unknown.	Potential adverse effect [Suggest appropriate mitigation measures]
Land allocation/ Policy [name]	Cumulative effects: • air (-)				More study needed
Nth Land allocation/ Policy					
Key: positive (+), negative (-), neutral (0), uncertain (?)					

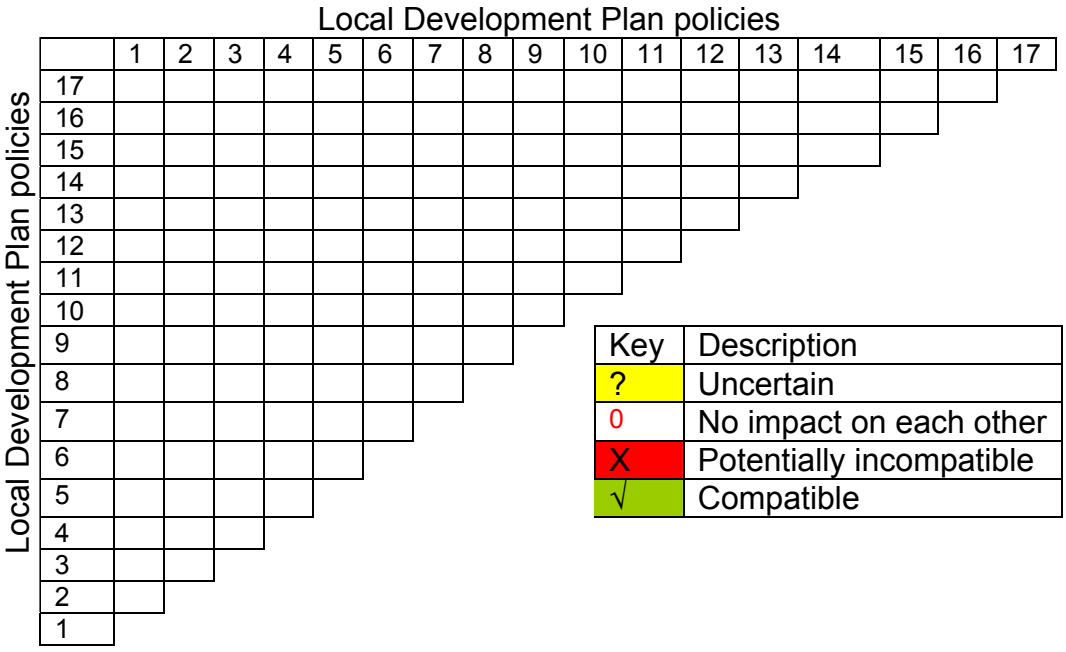
Table 21: Cumulative & synergistic effects of alternative local development allocations and policies

Alternative Local Development Plan land allocations and policies	**Cumulative effects assessment**				Overall effects
	Cumulative/ synergistic/ secondary effects?	Cumulative/ synergistic/ secondary effects with other plans or strategies?	Effects on critical environmental capital (e.g. water)?	Does any uncertainty about the cumulative or other effects exist?	
Alternative Land allocation/ Policy [name] (Version 2)					More study needed
Land allocation/ Policy [name] (Version 3)					Potential adverse effect
Nth Land allocation/ Policy [name]					
Key: positive (+), negative (-), neutral (0), uncertain (?)					

Assessment of compatibility of plan policies

4.19 In order to determine the consistency and compatibility of the local development plan's policies to each other, an internal compatibility assessment of the local development plan's policies will be undertaken using a framework presented in Figure 1 below. This will be presented in the Environmental Report of the proposed local development plan and not in the Environmental Report for the Main Issues Report, as the policies will not have been finalised until the proposed plan stage.

Figure 1: Internal Compatibility Assessment of the preferred Local Development Plan policies



Proposed Mitigation Measures

4.20 The SEA Directive requires that through mitigation measures, recommendations will be made to prevent, reduce or compensate for the negative effects of implementing the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. It also seeks to ensure that positive effects identified are enhanced. The proposed framework for mitigating significant environmental effects is shown in Appendix 3.

Monitoring Framework

4.21 Aberdeenshire Council is required to monitor the significant environmental effects arising from the implementation of the local development plan. A monitoring report will therefore be integrated into the adopted plan to constantly monitor the significant environmental effects and the proposed framework for monitoring significant environmental effects of the implementation of the local development plan is shown in Table 22 below.

Table 22: Monitoring the structure plan

What needs to be monitored? (e.g. effects)	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where can the information be obtained?	Are there gaps in the existing information and how can it be resolved?	When should the remedial action be considered?	Who is responsible for undertaking the monitoring?	How should the results be presented?	What remedial actions could be taken?
Settlement strategy of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan							
Policies of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan							
Land allocations in the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan							

5 Next steps

- *Proposed Consultation Timescale & Anticipated Milestons*

6.1 Table 23 shows the remaining steps needed for the SEA of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan; and how these steps would be carried out and described in the Final SEA Environmental Report. From Table 23 below, the proposed period for consultation on the draft Main Issues Report, Proposed Plan and the accompanying environmental reports is a minimum of six weeks.

Table 23: Proposed Consultation Timescale and Methods

Expected date	Milestone	Comments
24 March 2009 – 28 April 2009	Consulting on the Scoping Report by the SEA Gateway	
1 week	Collating views from the Consultation Authorities on the Scoping Report consultation	
1-2 weeks	Take the appropriate action on the Scoping report and the plan as the result of the consultations	
4 weeks	Produce the draft Environmental Report	
6 weeks	Consulting on the interim Environmental Report and the Main Issues Report	
1-2 weeks	Collating views on the Consultation	
2-4 weeks	Take the appropriate action on the environmental report and the plan as the result of the consultations.	
2-4 weeks	Produce the finalised Environmental Report	
January 2010 6 weeks	Consulting on the Environmental Report and the Proposed Plan	
1-2 weeks	Collating views on the Consultation	
2-4 weeks	Take the appropriate action on the environmental report and the plan as the result of the consultations.	
May 2010	Examination of the plan	
December 2010	Modify and adopt the Environmental Report, amend the proposed plan in light of the Reporters recommendations and adopt the plan and action programme, and submission to Scottish Ministers	
4 weeks	Take post-adoption measures	

- *Framework for Analysing Consultees & their Comments*

6.3 In order to track and analyse comments and suggestions from the consultation process, a framework for analysis is provided in Tables 24 and 25 below.

Table 24: People Consulted on the initial draft of the Environmental Report

Source (examples)	List names
Private individual	
Consultancy	
House builder	
Community group	

Table 25: Analysis of Comments

Organisation	Issue	Concern/ Comments	How addressed in SEA Process	SEA Report page [specify number]
Scottish Natural Heritage				
Historic Scotland				
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency				

Appendix 1: Covering Letter for Consultation Period under Section 17(3)

The Scottish Ministers
Via
SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
SEA Team
Scottish Government
2-H (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Dear Scottish Ministers

Consultation Period under Sections 16(1)(b) & 16(2)(a)(iv)
The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan
The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

Aberdeenshire Council has received the views of the consultation authorities on the scoping report for the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. In accordance with Section 15(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, Aberdeenshire Council would like to advise the Scottish Ministers that the period they intend to specify under Section 16(1)(b) and notify under Section 16(2)(a)(iv) is a minimum of weeks six (6) weeks.

If you require any further information, please contact Alison Hogge as per the above address.

Yours faithfully,

……..
Piers Blaxter
(Team Leader, Planning Policy)

Appendix 2: Baseline data, targets and trends

Table 1: SEA Topic: Air Quality (NO_2)

SEA Indicator: Air	Quantified Information					Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/ constraints	Data source(s)
Air quality nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) monitored at specific locations in Aberdeenshire	Annual Mean ugm-3	Bias Corrected (by factor of 1.04) Annual Mean ugm-3 (2004)	Bias Corrected (by factor of 1.04) Annual Mean ugm-3 (2005)	Bias Corrected (by factor of 1.04) Annual Mean ugm-3 (2006)	2010 Estimate Annual Mean ugm-3	Aberdeen was designated as an AQMA in 2001 for continuously exceeding the 2005 annual objective level for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) of 40 μgm^{-3} .The annual mean standard of NO_2 in Union St was 53 micrograms per cubic metre (μgm^{-3}) and in Market St 62 μgm^{-3}, principally from HGVs and buses. The AQMA includes Market St, Union St, King St, Guild St, and Virgina St.	Improvement in some settlements.	Traffic growth is a constraining factor in the future	Aberdeen City Council: *Air Quality Progress Report May 2008* Aberdeenshire Council (2005) *Local Air Quality Management Progress Report* Aberdeenshire Council (2006) Updating and Screening Assessment Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council Aberdeenshire Council (2007) *Local Air Quality Management: Progress Report 2007.* Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council
Westhill 1	11.7	10.4	11.1	12.2	10.3				
Westhill 2	16.1	20.0	14.6	16.7	14.2				
Inverurie 1	31.7	34.1	26.5	33.0	28.1				
Inverurie 2	10.2	11.1	10.1	10.6	9.3				
Inverurie 3	11.2	12.9	10.8	11.6	10.2				
Inverurie 4	9.6	10.8	10.1	10.0	8.8				
Stonehaven 1	25.0	25.1	20.6	26.0	22.1				
Stonehaven 2	11.3	10.6	10.7	11.6	10.2				
Stonehaven 3	10.5	9.4	9.2	10.9	9.6				
Peterhead 1	25.7	26.1	22.9	26.7	22.7				
Peterhead 2	26.3	32.2	23.5	27.4	23.3				
Peterhead 3	24.1	23.6	21.3	25.1	21.3				
Peterhead 4	24.3	24.9	20.6	25.3	21.5				
Mintlaw 1	17.5	14.2	15.1	18.2	15.5				

Table 2: SEA Topic: Water

SEA Indicator: Water	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Water quantity in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas	• Runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95-percentile flow for all rivers in the River Dee SAC (2447km). • The Ythan Estuary has been adversely affected by high nitrate levels from agriculture & from to the riverbank alterations.	The River Naver (1066km) in the Highlands is also a SAC and its runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow.	• Yield of watercourses in the River Dee catchment may decline. • The Ythan Project has improved the river. • although the Ythan Project showed some improvement, SNH's monitoring is showing patchy breeding success by some of the SPA species and there is also evidence that the algal mats are spreading onto the mussel beds on which some of these species are entirely dependant.	Qualifying interests in the SACs constrain how the SACs should be used and managed.	• Appropriate Assessment meeting for Aberdeenshire Local Plan (11th April 2006) • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) *Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues* • www.nerc-wallingford.ac.uk • http://www.ythan.org

SEA Indicator: Water	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Ground water and river levels	• Water runoff is reduced by public water supply • Runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow for all rivers in the North East. • In 2002, Scottish Water utilised 62% of its permitted water abstraction licence from the River Dee of 145 megalitres per day. • The average water abstraction from the River Dee is 89.9 megalitres per day.	By the 2080s, summer precipitation in the north of Scotland is predicted to decrease by 10-20% under the low emissions (Global Sustainability), and to decrease by 20-30% under the high-emissions World Markets.	• Increase in water consumption from industrial consumers and from increased residential development. • Increase in leakages from pipe infrastructure as it 'ages'.	Effects of climate change (such as predicted decrease in summer rainfall) means that water efficient technologies should now be incorporated into new development (industrial and domestic).	• Centre for Hydrology and Ecology (River Flow – gauging stations) (2004): http://www.nwl.ac.uk/ih/nrfa/station_summaries/op/SEPA-north_map.html • SEPA: http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/river_levels/data.htm
Water quality (biology and chemistry)	• In 2005 there was 1 failure. • In 2006 all bathing water passed the European tests. • In 2007 all bathing waters in Aberdeenshire passed. • Although passing Mandatory Standards, the following are not meeting bathing water quality for EC Guideline Standards in Stonehaven, Rosehearty, Inverboyndie, Fraserburgh, and Cruden Bay. • The Ythan estuary is an SPA, so the sensitivity of the area is greater and therefore the overall effect is likely to be more significant than this implies.	South West Scotland has the poorest bathing water quality principally due to leaching and runoff from agricultural practices (dairy).	Aberdeenshire is vulnerable from not-readily absorbed or transformed pollutants (class 4), except the south Highland Boundary Fault (near Stonehaven) & along the Formartine/Buchan coast.	• Impacts on bathing water from future uses, such as the rise in water sports, which could have an adverse impact on water quality. • The Ythan estuary is an SPA, so the sensitivity of the area is greater and therefore the overall effect is likely to be more significant than this implies.	• SEPA: http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/north.asp http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/groundwater/tools/vulnerability.pdf

SEA Indicator: Water	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)

	• Length or poor rivers: 51km.
	• Length of seriously polluted rivers: 2.1km.
	• No of poor quality watercourse - 10
	• No of seriously polluted watercourse – 2
	• Draft RBMP has identified the following will not achieve good ecological (and chemical) status because of point source pollution:
	  • Idoch Water(Turriff)
	  • South Ugie Water - Stuartfield to Longside
	  • River Ugie (New Pitsligo)
	  • River Ythan (Fyvie and Methlick)
	  • Youlie Burn/Bronie Burn (Tarves)
	  • Elrick Burn (Newmachar)
	  • Lochter Burn/Kings Burn (Oldmeldrum)
	  • Belti Burn (Torphins)
	  • Water of Cruden (Hatton)
	  • Tarty Burn (Udny Station and Tipperty)
	  • Fordyce Burn (Fordyce)
	• Draft RBMP has identified which lochs are at high risk of failing to meet good ecological status:
	  • Loch of Skene (Dunecht and Lyne of Skene)
		• Length or poor rivers in Scotland: 717 km.
		• Length of seriously polluted rivers in Scotland: 51 km.
		• No of poor quality watercourse in Aberdeen City-2
			Land based pollution is under stricter control, which has resulted in river quality throughout the North East slowly improving.	• Nitrates from diffuse pollution within the River Ythan catchment has enriched estuarine mudflats such that dense algal mats now affect invertebrate communities living in the mud.
				• Development will be constrained until works to upgrade Sewage Treatment Works in undertaken by Scottish Water.
					• SEPA (River Classification Stretch Data, 2005): http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm
					• Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) *Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource sand Trends*
					• SEPA: http://gis.sepa.org.uk/rbmp/MapViewer.aspx

SEA Indicator: Water	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
	• The shoreline along Sandford Bay & Boddam (Peterhead Power Station) (4km) is classified as poor. • Peterhead Power Station is likely to be contributing to the poor water quality.	Other small sections along the coast (Gardenstown, River Don and Stonehaven) also have sections of coastline classified as poor.	• In 2000, industrial effluent pollutes a total length of 58km of coastline in Scotland, representing 22%. • Sewage effluent is the main cause of polluted coastlines (87%).	In the North East, the release of untreated sewage effluent is reducing the water quality along the coast.	• SEPA (Coastal Classification Stretch Data, 2005): • http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm and • http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/data/classification/coastal_waters_classification.pdf • Scottish Executive Environment Statistics:
Coastal Impacts	• Use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes. • Balloon releases, and marine litter are damaging the marine environment.	In the North East, sea borne waste pollution is principally from urban sewage (although this is declining), chemical waste, and agricultural fertilisers.	• The situation is improving because there are only a few places that allow quad-biking legally. • Bathing water quality along the North East coast is improving.	Major impact both on the sand dune erosion, wildlife and the enjoyment of other beach users.	• East Grampian Coastal Partnership (Annual Report 2005-06): http://www.egcp.org.uk/documents/_Toc138674449 • Marine Conservation Society http://www.mcsuk.org/mcsaction/pollution/introduction

Table 3: SEA Topic: Soil

SEA Indicator: Soil	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Contaminated land	• No of statutory identified contaminated sites in Aberdeenshire – 4. • No of potential contaminated sites – 5000	• Number of statutory identified contaminated in Aberdeen City – 0 • No of potential contaminated sites – 900	Legal regime for dealing with contaminated sites means the situation will improve in the future.	Contaminated land places financial and technological constraints on development. These constraints may dictate the type of development: the feasibility of remedial works may determine that a site is only suitable for industrial use; the cost of remedial works may determine that high-density housing is the only viable economic option.	• Aberdeen City Council (2001) *Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy* http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/files/Pollution/ContaminatedLandInspectionStrategy.pdf • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) *Public Register of Contaminated Land*
Prime agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3.1)	• Prime agricultural land is located in the central area (excluding Marr), near Stonehaven. • Most Grade 2 prime agricultural land is near Laurencekirk (approx 950ha).	Aberdeen contains very little prime agricultural land (300ha).	Net loss of Scottish agriculture land from roads, housing and industry has doubled from 588ha in 1989 to 1,402ha in 2003.	Potential impacts of climate will constrain prime agricultural land available in the future.	Scottish Executive Statistics (2005): Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/2290402/05121
Waste disposal in landfill	• 2005 - landfilled BMW: 83,222 tonnes; • 2008- landfilled BMW: 70,056 • 2005 - Recycled/ composted MSW: 15.1% (23,366). • 2008 - Recycled/ composted MSW: 31.6%	• 2005 - landfilled (Aberdeen) BMW: 70,773 tonnes; • 2008- landfilled BMW: 68,484 • 2008 - Recycled/ composted (Angus) MSW: 35.5% (27,620 tonnes)	• The trend is improving because Aberdeenshire Council is focussing on waste minimisation, and recycling second, hence the lower %. • It is expected that the level of recycling will continue to rise.	Limited sites for recycling or composting biodegradable municipal waste (large, medium or small scale) to help the local authorities achieve their recycling and landfill targets.	• North East Scotland Area Waste Plan (2003) http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/areas/north_east/awp/2.4.html • SEPA Landfill Allowance Scheme Reports

SEA Indicator: Soil	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
	(48,534). • BMW landfill allowances for Aberdeenshire are: o 54,917 tonnes in 2009/10; o 36,611 tonnes in 2012/13; and o 27,340 tonnes in 2019/20.	• 2008 -Recycled/ composted (Aberdeen City) MSW: 22.1% (30,961 tonnes). • Aberdeenshire's recycling targets: o 2005/06 – 17% o 2006/07 – 22%			http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_data/waste_data_reports/landfill_allowance.aspx • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
Soil erosion	• The coastline is largely eroding, but parts are being replenished with sand and gravel from larger rivers.	From Berwick to Aberdeen, the coastline is eroding, but is stable where there are rocky coasts or coastal defences.	Upland schemes such as wind farm access roads and recreation tracks (e.g. mountain biking) on steep ground can increase surface water runoff and lead to significant soil loss (e.g. gullies).	Predicted climate change, bad land use practices, such as locating tracks/access roads on steep/ upland ground as well as increasing use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes is contributing to coastal erosion.	• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) *Strategic Flooding Issues Topic Paper* • Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: *Future Flooding Scotland* • http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf

Table 4: SEA Topic: Biodiversity

SEA Indicator: Biodiversity	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
North East Biodiversity Action Plan (NE BAP) targets	Transformed habitats resulting from: • farm intensification & • inappropriate habitat "creation" • No of action plans for habitats identified in the NE BAP - 20 out of 26. • Action plans being developed – for upland species-rich grassland, coastal cliffs and heaths, marine habitats, broadleaf woodland, heathland, lochs and ponds, and wetlands	• Status of UK BAP priority species in Scotland in 2005: o Stable: 56 (27%) o Increase: 11 (5%) o Extinct: 5 (3%) o Declining (accelerating): 11 (5%) o Declining (slowing): 18 (9%) o Fluctuating: 3 (1%) o Unknown: 90 (44%) • Status of UK BAP priority habitats in Scotland in 2005: o Stable: 8 (20%) o Increase: 5 (13%) o Declining (accelerating): 0 o Declining (slowing): 12 (30%) o Fluctuating: 1 (3%) o Unknown: 11 (28%)	• NE BAP is meeting the targets for preparing action plans, as set out in the UK BAP. • UK BAP 2005 trends show that: • 10 habitats (22%) and 42 species (11%) are increasing. • 17 habitats (39%) are thought to be declining, although this decline is slowing for 11 (25%) habitats. • 102 species (27%) are thought to be declining, but the decline is slowing for 36 (10%) species. • UK trend was unknown for 11 habitats (24%) and 47 species (13%). • Changes in farm practices have increased habitat and species numbers.	• Threat of Alien Species effecting water quality and ecological status of the rivers. • UK priority species and habitats are still declining and require rigorous protection and enhancement. • Implementation of the NE BAPs is the key issue to enhancing biodiversity. • Equally, a constraint would be the loss of funding/support to complete that work • Development will put pressure on biodiversity, especially on the periphery of settlements. • Need to enhance and augment habitats to avoid their decline both within and outwith settlements.	• Scottish Executive (2008) *Key Scottish Environment Statistics:* http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/235986/0064692.pdf • UK BAP targets for Local Biodiversity Action Plans http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/brig/trgtargets/ScotlandLBAPTargets.xls • NE Biodiversity Action Plan: *Action Plans:* www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm • See survey work being done by the Council, using the Integrated Habitat Survey (IHS).
Designated areas	• There are 28 Natura 2000 sites in Aberdeenshire, which have implications for development. • No monitoring of SINS has been undertaken, but they are under	• Scotstown Moor SSSI in Aberdeen is subject to indirect development pressure due to changes in the water table adjacent development, which is affecting flush and bog habitats.	Housing pressure on designations are increasing	• Development will put pressure on these resources (directly or indirectly). • Increase of access to designated sites could be damaging to some sites.	• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) *Natural Heritage Topic Paper* • http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/corporate/factsandfigures/0405/index.htm

SEA Indicator: Biodiversity	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
	review.	• Dee SAC is the only in affecting the City			
Sites of Special Scientific Interests (SSSIs)	In Aberdeenshire there are 82 SSSIs occupying 39805 hectares and taking about 6.3% land.	There are 3 SSSIs in Aberdeen City occupying 47 hectares and taking about 0.2% of the City's land area. 12.92% of Scotland's land areas accommodate 1,455 SSSIs occupying about 1,036, 553 hectares of land	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) *SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004. Battleby*: SNH
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	5.6% of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 18 SACs which occupy 35, 334 hectares of land	• There is only 1 SAC (Dee SAC) in Aberdeen City it also affects Aberdeenshire • There are 238 SACs in Scotland occupying 962, 667 hectares representing 9.9% Scotland's land take.	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) *SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004. Battleby*: SNH
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	There are 10 SPAs in Aberdeenshire occupying 29,926 hectares representing 4.7% Aberdeenshire's land take.	There are 142 SPAs in Scotland occupying 630305 hectares representing 8% Scotland's land take.	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) *SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004. Battleby*: SNH
Country Parks (CP)	Aberdeenshire has 4 CPs on 276 hectares of land and this represents 0.04% of the total land area.	0.08 % of Scotland's land area accommodates 36 CPs which occupy 6, 481 hectares of land	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) *SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004. Battleby*: SNH
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0.004 % of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 2 LNRs which occupy 28	Aberdeen City has 4 LNRs on 126 hectares of land and this represents 0.6% of the	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) *SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004. Battleby*: SNH

SEA Indicator: Biodiversity	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
	hectares of land	total land area. Scotland has 36 LNRs on 9410 hectares of land and this represents 0.12% of the total land area.			
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	2.2% of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 6 NNRs which occupy 14225 hectares of land	1.5 % of Scotland's land area accommodates 63 NNRs which occupy 111913 hectares of land	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) *SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004. Battleby*: SNH
Ramsar sites	There are 4 Ramsar sites in Aberdeenshire occupying 1239 hectares representing 0.2% Aberdeenshire's land take.	There are 51 Ramsar sites in Scotland occupying 313181 hectares representing 4.2% Scotland's land take.	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) *SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004. Battleby*: SNH

Table 5: SEA Topic: Climatic Factors

SEA Indicator: Climatic factors	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Proportion of heat and electricity generated from renewable energy sources and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) schemes.	• Little uptake in renewable energy developments. • Few planning applications have been received for major CHP and biomass heating systems: o Aboyne Academy 600 Kw (2007) o Macphie of Glenbervie 1.2 Mw (2008) o Burnroot Sawmill 3Mw • There is around 70 Megawatts of installed capacity of wind to electricity generation in Aberdeenshire. Major installations are at : o Glens of Foudland (26Mw) o Dummuies (9.9Mw) o Boyndie (20Mw) • One commercial anaerobic digester generating electricity in Aberdeenshire using pig slurry as its principal feedstock • Old water mills could be reinstated to generate electricity.	• SG targets: 50% (+6GW) of Scotland's electricity generated to be generated from renewable sources by 2020. • SG interim target of 31% by 2011. • UK targets: 10% of the UK's electricity generated to be generated from renewable sources by 2010.	Things are likely to improve in the future through Aberdeenshire Council's SPG on Renewables	• Insufficient grid connections and constraints with certain types of renewable energy technologies. • Lack of appropriate locations identified for renewable energy technologies.	• The Scottish Wind Assessment Project (2005) *Gazetteer of wind power in Scotland* • *Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 6: Renewable Energy* • Aberdeenshire Council (2004) *The Renewable Energy Strategy:* • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) Use of micro-renewable energy in Aberdeenshire

SEA Indicator: Climatic factors	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions	• In Aberdeenshire an average dwelling house produces 6,318 kg CO_2, • Total road traffic is forecast to grow by between 22%-34% for the period 2002-2011.	• In Aberdeen an average dwelling house produces 5,175 kg CO_2. • Kyoto Protocol (1997) CO_2 targets are 12.5% below 1990 baseline – Scottish emissions in 2002 were 6% lower.	• Overall greenhouse gases are decreasing, but Aberdeenshire produces the highest amount of carbon dioxide in Scotland. • The majority of CO_2 emissions are from the burning of fossil fuels to generate power (principally electricity).	• The current layout of low-density housing does not reduce energy use (e.g. reducing wind chill, maximising solar gain). • Materials with high CO_2 levels are still increasingly popular (e.g. concrete and tarmac).	• Best Foot Forward (2006) *Domestic Carbon Dioxide Emissions for Selected Cities*, British Gas http://www.britishgasnews.co.uk/managed_content/files/pdf/greenCity.pdf • http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/0509211321_Reghg_report_2003_Main_Text_Issue_1.doc, • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) *Topic Paper: Energy*, Aberdeenshire Council
Areas affected by flooding (sea)	• 1,743 properties in Aberdeenshire are located within the indicative floodplain or coastal area below 5 meters Ordnance Datum (OD). • Settlements likely to be affected by rising sea levels are o Harbours of Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Boddam and Gourdon o Newburgh, Johnshaven, Stonehaven & the town centre of Stonehaven, Cowie; & Banff (east side)	• 571 properties in Aberdeen are located within the indicative floodplain • In Scotland, the number of residential properties in coastal areas below 5m OD is 86,793 • The number of commercial properties in coastal areas below 5m OD is 7,037.	• Storm surges represent a less severe threat in the North East, as there are a high proportion of rocky coasts. • Storm surges are predicted to rise by 5m, although they will be much lower further north.	• Possible need for a management retreat of those settlements below the 5m Ordnance Datum mark. • Sea defensive walls may be inadequate as sea levels rise because of climate change.	• Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: *Future Flooding Scotland* http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal_Defence/Reports_and_Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) *Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues*, Aberdeenshire Council • SEPA's second generation Indicative Floodplain Maps (1 in 200 year flood event)

SEA Indicator: Climatic factors	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Areas affected by flooding (fluvial)	• 2,219 properties in Aberdeenshire (out of 95,174) are located within the indicative floodplain. • Those settlements that are most likely to be affected by fluvial flooding (1 in 200yr) are: Fraserburgh, Turriff, Banff, Longside, Huntly, Kintore, Stonehaven, Port Elpinstone, Insch, Auchenblae, Peterhead	• 309 properties in Aberdeen (out of 104,543) are located within the indicative floodplain. • In Scotland, the number of residential properties within inland floodplains is 71,402.	• Compared with the rest of Scotland, far fewer properties in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are at significant risk from flooding. The implementation of • National guidance (SPP7: *Planning and Flooding*) will improve the situation	Effects of climate change will: • create greater need for SuDS and local flood defensive schemes • restrict location of new developments • increase silting of rivers from fluvial flooding.	• Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: *Future Flooding Scotland* http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal_Defence/Reports_and_Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) *Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues*, Aberdeenshire Council
Areas affected by flooding (pluvial)	• 72% of flood problems reported relate to urban drainage problems. • Settlements in Aberdeenshire that are affected by pluvial flooding include Huntly, Turriff and Westhill.	Only a handful of sites in Aberdeen are affecting by pluvial flooding, due to culverts being too small for surface water run-off during heavy rain.	Sewers designed to a 1:30 year return period will be over stretched resulting in an increased requirement of SuDS in all development schemes.	Effects of climate change will create greater need for SuDS in urban areas.	• *Aberdeenshire Council (2005) *Flooding in Aberdeenshire: Fifth Biennial Report* • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) *Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues*, Aberdeenshire Council
Priority Species	• 26 North East Local Biodiversity Action Plans are required to safeguard priority habitats and priority species		Effects of climate change is • is pushing some bird and fish species further north. • Birch species may increase in pinewoods, and the tree line may shift from its current line (650m). • Arctic-alpine habitats and artic species, such	Need to promote appropriate native species in new development schemes to enhance existing biodiversity and preventing the spread of non-native species.	• Scottish Executive (2004) *Scotland's Biodiversity: It's In Your Hands – A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland* http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/25954/0014583.pdf • NE Biodiversity Action Plan: *Action Plans:* www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm

SEA Indicator: Climatic factors	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
			as the snow bunting may disappear		
Impact on natural resources	• Aberdeenshire's annual global footprint: • Total: 5.60gha/p • Energy consumption: 1.09ha/person (19%) • Food and drink: 1.11ha/person (20%) • Land travel: 0.74ha/p (13%) • Other: 2.7gha/p (48%)	• Aberdeen's annual global footprint (in global hectares per person (gha/p): • Total: 5.80gha/p • Energy consumption: 1.14gha/p (20%) • Food and drink: 1.07gha/p (19%) • Land travel: 0.81ha/p (14%)	The main contributors to the NE's global footprint are energy consumption, food and drink, and land travel.	Aberdeenshire footprint is increasing and this cannot be sustained in the long-term.	• North East Global Footprint Project http://www.scotlandsfootprint.org/the_project/north_east.php • Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) *Scotland's Global Footprint Project - Reduction Report for North East Scotland Global Footprint Project*,
Impact on year-round services	Rise in sea level will affect services and maintenance works, and costs the Council height to 4.7m (a spring tide is 4.5m)		Increase in winter precipitation, including snow melts and storms will affect drainage pipe, road and rail infrastructure.	Increasing need for service provision throughout the year	Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: *Future Flooding Scotland*

Table 6: SEA Topic: Human Health

SEA Indicator: Human health	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/ constraints	Data source(s)
Quality and availability of public open space in urban and rural areas	• Need for larger areas of open spaces, including civic or town parks. • There is pressure to reduce the size of open spaces in residential developments.	Aberdeen City has development pressure as well	• The pressure from private developers to develop on open space will continue. • There is growing demand for safer and more accessible areas of open space, which has promoted the creation of PAN65.	• There is a lack of government funding to allow local authorities to continuously manage areas of open space. • Development pressure to build on urban open spaces.	• Aberdeen City Council (2002) *State of the Environment Report* http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&sID=883 • Scottish Executive (2003) *Planning Advice Note 65: Planning and Open Space* • Scottish Executive (2006) Consultative draft *Scottish Planning Policy 11: Physical Activity and Open Space*

SEA Indicator: Human health	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/ constraints	Data source(s)
Improvements to quality of life in currently deprived areas	• Aberdeenshire, along with East Renfrewshire has 8 data zones (out of 301) in the 20% most deprived, representing 0.6% of all data zones in the 20% most deprived in Scotland and an increase of 4 data zones since 2004. • All of the 20% most deprived are in Banff and Buchan and Buchan, primarily Faserburgh and Peterhead because of unemployment, on income support, poor health (e.g. mortality, depression), education (e.g. performance), crime and housing (e.g. overcrowding). • Strathbogie, Echt, Upper Ythan, Insch, Donside and Cromar, Fyvie-Methlick, Aboyne, Upper Deeside, Tarves, and Udy-Slains comprise the worst 5% wards due to poor access to services (2004).	• Decreases in the number of data zones in the most deprived areas are Fife, Aberdeen City, Highland, Inverclyde and Perth and Kinross. • In Aberdeen City, the highest levels of deprivation are located in Woodside, Tillydrone, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park, Torry and Seaton neighbourhoods.	The trend is improving	Poor access to services in rural areas; centralisation of service provision, & low job opportunities and income are reducing people's quality of life.	• Aberdeenshire Council (2004) *Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (Oxford Report) – Aberdeenshire: Key findings* • Aberdeenshire Statistics *Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2006)* http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/economic/aberdeenshireSIMD2006.pdf, Aberdeenshire Council • Aberdeen City: Community Planning Regeneration Masterplans (2006/7) http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Web/Site/Internet/RegenerationMasterplans.asp

SEA Indicator: Human health	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/ constraints	Data source(s)
Sport and recreation facilities in areas of identified need	• In Aberdeenshire, there is still an outstanding need for: • 16.66m x 8.5m pool at Mintlaw; • 6 Badminton Court Hall at Peterhead and Fraserburgh • 56m x 26m ice rink at Peterhead.	• In Aberdeen, there is still an outstanding need for: • sports facilities in Cove; • junior golf course; • a new Stadium and Soccer Academy; • one water based pitches and 2 sand based pitches; and • 50m swimming pool.	Positive steps have been made to ensure everyone has access to sport, leisure and recreation facilities, however limited progress has been made to provide.	**Sport**scotland's national strategy sets out 11 targets to be achieved by 2020, which took into the account the need for greater participation and elite performance improvement	• Aberdeen City Council (2002) *Active Aberdeen 2002-2007: A sport, recreation and physical activity strategy for Aberdeen City* • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) *Sports Facility Study Updated Report* • **sport**scotland (2003) *Sport 21: 2003 – 2007: The National Strategy for Sport – Shaping Scotland's Future* • **sport**scotland (2003) Reaching Higher: Building on the Success of Sport 21' http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/169113/0047106.pdf

SEA Indicator: Human health	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/ constraints	Data source(s)
Cause of mental health (especially of poorer communities)	• Overcrowding: • Aberdeenshire – 12,536 (6%) • Private rented sector and Council stock are higher than in RSL stock or owner-occupied housing • Quality of life/health: • Aberdeenshire – Good: 73% • Fairly good: 20% • Not good: 7% • *Most common house type: Aberdeenshire - semi-detached (30%); • *Most common house type granted planning consent (units over 20): • Aberdeenshire - detached (74%);	• Overcrowding: • Aberdeen – 5,054 (13%) • Private rented sector and Council stock are higher than in RSL stock or owner-occupied housing • Quality of life/health: • Aberdeen – • Good: 70% • Fairly good: 21% • Not good: 9% • *Most common house type: Aberdeen – flats (49%) • *Most common house type granted planning consent (units over 20): • Aberdeen – flats (76%)	Differences in housing stock between the City and Shire will become more extreme.	• The development plan will make more provision for housing. • Limited variety in housing stock.	NHS Grampian (2004) *Mental Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment*, Public Health Unit Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) *Topic Paper: Characteristics of the Housing Stock* Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council *Housing Needs Assessment 2004: Housing Market Area Report* Shelter: http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/advice/advice-4035.cfm Register for General Scotland (2006) *Mid-2005 Population Estimates*

Table 7: SEA Topic: Population

SEA Indicator: Population	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)

Changing trends in household size	• Aberdeenshire household figures:
	  • 2006 – 93,770
	  • 2031 – 120,450
	• Aberdeenshire household size figures:
	  • 2003 – 2.41
	  • 2021 – 2.16
	  • 2031 – 2.03
		• Aberdeen household figures:
		  • 2006 – 100,740
		  • 2031 – 117,210
		• Aberdeen household size figures:
		  • 2003 – 2.04
		  • 2021 – 1.82
		  • 2031 – 1.74
		• Average household size in Scotland is 2.27.
			• Household numbers predicted to increase.
			• 36,430 more houses are required in the Aberdeen Housing Market Area
			• 10,680 more houses are required in the Rural Housing Market Area
			• Household size predicted to decrease.
				• Increasing number of households is creating more demand for housing (and land).
				• Rise in single person with no children and 2 adult and no children households.
				• Possibility that the need for more development land could put pressure on or near sensitive natural heritage areas.
					• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) *Strategic Forecasts 2006-2031*: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/economic/strategic_forecasts_2007.pdf
					• General Register Office for Scotland: News Release – Household estimates for 2005 http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/press/news2005/drop-in-number-of-vacant-dwellings-and-second-homes-in-scotland.html

SEA Indicator: Population	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
	• Change in Aberdeenshire age structure of head of household between 2003 and 2021: o 30-44yrs: -6,660 o 60+: 16,700	• Change in Aberdeen age structure of head of household between 2003 and 2021: o 30-44yrs: -2,870 o 60+: +5,730 • Average age in 2005 in Scotland is 38 (m) and 41 (f).	• In the North East, the number of households headed by people aged 60+ is predicted to increase by 50%. • The number of households headed by people aged 30-44 is predicted to fall by 6,660, a decrease of 25%	The growing age of the head of the household may result in more homes needed for their needs (e.g. bungalows or special needs dwellings).	• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) *Strategic Forecasts 20032021*:http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?lID=1720&sID=332
Years of healthy life expectancy	• Life expectancy in Aberdeenshire: • Male 75.5 years • Females 80.2 years	• Life expectancy in Aberdeen: • Male 73.6 years Females 78.9 years • Life expectancy in Scotland: • Male 73.8 years Females 79.1 years	Life expectancy at birth for Scots continues to improve, and recent trends show a slight narrowing of the gap between males and females to around 5.3 years in 2002-2004.	Aging population will create demand for certain types of houses (e.g. bungalows and services (increasing the need for more land) and care homes.	• Scottish Executive Statistics (2006) *Life expectancy* http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/TrendLifeExpectancy
Size of population	• Aberdeenshire population figures: • 2003 - 229,330 • 2006 – 236,260 • 2031 - 247,000 • Average age of people in Aberdeenshire in 2005 is 39yrs (m) and 41yrs (f)	• Aberdeen population figures: • 2003 - 206,600 • 2006 – 206,880 • 2031 - 210,000 • Average age of people in Aberdeen in 2005 is 38yrs (m) and 41yrs (f).	Approximately 4.5% rise in population in Aberdeenshire.	Continuing demand for land for new dwellings and associated infrastructure in Aberdeenshire.	• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) *Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021* • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2006) *Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021*: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/economic/strategic_forecasts_2007.pdf

SEA Indicator: Population	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Migration change	• Migration loss 2002-05: o Aberdeenshire is losing its population to Scotland. • Migration gain 2002-05: o Aberdeenshire is gaining its population from Aberdeen and outside Scotland. • The relative age of those migrating to Aberdeen is 15-19 yrs; and Aberdeenshire are 0-14yrs and 30yrs plus.	• Migration loss 2002-2005: o Aberdeen is losing its population to Aberdeenshire and outside Scotland. • Migration gain 2002-05: o Aberdeen is gaining its population from Scotland.	The migration trend in the Aberdeenshire is slow growth to 2016 and then a slow decline thereafter.	In-migration will create greater demand for houses and services in Aberdeenshire.	• Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) *Topic Paper: Population and household change* • Register for General Scotland (2006) *Mid-2005 Population Estimates Scotland Population estimates by sex, age and administrative area,* A National Statistics publication http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/05mype-cahb-booklet.pdf
Number of visitors to country parks	• 2006/07: o March – 56,000 o September – 71,000 • 2007/08: o March – No data o September - 70,000	The target for visitors to country parks in 2007/08 is to achieve a 1% increase on the previous year, the monthly average for 2006/07 was 66,000.	No significant trend	The rise in visitor numbers annually demonstrates the popularity of country parks. However, care is necessary to ensure access to and within parks is sufficient and is not damaged by erosion.	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

SEA Indicator: Population	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Secondary School - role and capacity	Aberdeenshire Total Role • 2006 –15,948 • 2007 –15,848 • 2008 –15,635 Total Capacity • 2006 – 16,210 • 2007 – 16,210 • 2008 – 16,210	No comparators	No significant trend	There is likely to be capacity issues in some of the larger settlements in Aberdeenshire.	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
Primary School - role and capacity	Aberdeenshire Total Role • 2006 –19573 • 2007 –19267 • 2008 –19045 Total Capacity • 2006 – 24965 • 2007 – 24943 • 2008 – 24943	No comparators	No significant trend	Overall, none at present, but locally there may be capacity issues.	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

Table 8: SEA Topic: Cultural Heritage

SEA Indicators: Cultural heritage	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments	No. of SAMs in Aberdeenshire: • 2006: 476 • 2009: 581 (94 in the Cairngorms National Park)	In 2006 there were 37 SAMs in Aberdeen City 2006.	Development is putting pressure on this feature	The location of new developments will be constrained by this factor	Aberdeenshire Council GGP Sites and Monuments Record Overlay
Listed Buildings numbers	Number of listed buildings in Aberdeenshire • Category A: o 2006: 198 o 2009: 197 (11 in CNP) • Category B: o 2006: 1608 o 2009: 1622 (84 in CNP) • Category C(s): o 2006: 1906 o 2009: 1896 (148 in CNP)	Number of listed buildings in Aberdeen City in 2006: • Category A - 69 • Category B - 680 • Category C(s) - 462	No trend	New housing should take this into account	• Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) *Topic Paper: Built Heritage* • Aberdeenshire Council GGP Listed Buildings Overlay
Conservation Areas numbers	Number of conservation areas in Aberdeenshire • 2006: 36 • 2009: 49 (3 in CNP)	Number of conservation areas in Aberdeen City • 2006: 11 • 2009: 11	Slight increase in the number of conservation areas.	The location and design of developments will be constrained by this factor	http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/site/Planning/SL/pla_ConservArea.asp Aberdeenshire Council GGP Conservation Areas Overlay
Number of Archaeological sites	Number on the sites and Monuments Record in Aberdeenshire • 2006: 17,935 • 2007: 17,631 (2,061 within the CNP)	In 2006 there are 699 Sites and Monuments Record in Aberdeen City.	Development is putting pressure on this feature	The location of new developments will be constrained by this factor	• Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) *Topic Paper: Built Heritage* • Aberdeenshire Council GGP Sites and Monuments Record Overlay
Numbers of listed buildings at risk	• Numbers of buildings at risk in Aberdeenshire:	• Numbers of buildings at risk in	Number of listed buildings at risk has doubled in the	• Only a small number of buildings at risk are	• Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils

SEA Indicators: Cultural heritage	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
	o 2006: 117 and 6 under restoration o 2009: 228 and 7 under construction • %r of listed buildings are on the Buildings at Risk o 2006: 3% o 2009: 16%	Aberdeen: o 2006: 10 and 1 under restoration o 2009: 27 and none under restoration • 0.62% of listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk register Aberdeen (2006)	last 3 years.	undergoing restoration. • The majority of the buildings at risk are in rural areas, with few undergoing restoration.	(2006) *Topic Paper: Built Heritage* • Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland (Scottish Civic Trust) http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/BAR/Default.aspx
No. of excavations, evaluations, etc., the Archaeology Service instigated to mitigate against the loss of sites	Aberdeenshire • Sept 06 - 27 • Mar 07 – 24 • Sept 07 - 31	No Comparators	Improving	None at present.	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
Safeguarding archaeological sites	• In recent times no scheduled ancient monuments have been lost or significantly destroyed. • However, damage to remains of local importance, which are listed in the Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) is mostly caused by vandalism, new developments, ploughing, forestry, activities of utility companies, rabbits,& coastal erosion.	• In the past, Aberdeenshire Council's Archaeology Service records in 2006 show that 3670 sites have been lost or partially destroyed, with a further 2301 as documentary records only. • The Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route could	• The strong presumption in SPP23 on the preservation or recording (if preservation is not possible) of archaeological sites has, and will continue to encourage the safeguarding of sites throughout Scotland. • Damage to remains of local importance will continue unless solutions are found,	• Loss of unknown and locally known archaeological remains from new development and other practices, vandalism and coastal erosion. • Adverse impacts on the setting of archaeological remains from new developments.	• Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) *Topic Paper: Built Heritage* • Scottish Government (2008) *SPP23: Planning and the Historic Environment*

SEA Indicators: Cultural heritage	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
		adversely affect up to 10% of SMR sites.	e.g. funding agrienvironment schemes.		
Number of Gardens and Designated Landscapes (GDL)	In 2009 there are 27 GDLs, including 4 in the CNP occupying 5,640.5hectares of land (0.9% of Aberdeenshire).	• In 2009 there are 34GDLs, in Perth and Kinross occupying 9464.1hectares of land. • In Scotland there are 344 GDLs which occupy 69,841 hectares of land	Over the years existing boundaries of GDLs have been extended.	New development, especially housing will put pressure on the resource.	SNH (2006) *SNH Facts & Figures 2004/2005. Battleby*: SNH http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/corporate/factsandfigures/0405/FF0405full.pdf
Safeguarding listed buildings, designed landscape etc, and conservation areas	• In 2006 17 proposals departed from the Structure Plan in Aberdeenshire (14 planning applications were recommended for refusal by planning officers), principally for new windows. • In 2008, departures from the Aberdeenshire Local Plan were: o 22 for Conservation Areas; o 25 for Listed Buildings; o 1 for Archaeological sites; and o 0 for Historic Gardens & Designed Landscapes	SPP23: Conservation policies should give a high priority to maintaining and enhancing the prosperity and vitality of historic areas.	The purpose of conservation areas designations is to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of such areas and the spaces between them, and care also needs to be taken regarding changes to the streetscape.	• Poor design when incorporating modern materials. • Cumulative impact of proposals, which alone may not affect the conservation designation, but cumulatively affect its overall objective.	• Scottish Government (2008) *SPP23: Planning and the Historic Environment* • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) *NEST Monitoring – Environment Monitoring Paper* • Aberdeenshire Council (2008) *Local Development Plan Policy Review LDP.1.38: Historic and built environment*
Ensuring the impact	Index 21 project encourages the	SPP 23 requires local	PAN 75 promotes the	• Development	• Aberdeen Sustainability

SEA Indicators: Cultural heritage	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
from new build reflects: materials & form, urban & social integration, internal environment, character and innovation of existing historic buildings.	integration of old and new building styles, which has been given little consideration in new developments.	development plans to identify priority locations where an integrated approach to the protection, conservation, enhancement and positive management of the historic environment should be pursued.	importance of inclusive design for all types of buildings and spaces, and with the development of SPP20 and PANs on design issues, future developments (and development plans) will have to consider these issues in greater detail.	adversely impacting on a community's' or settlement's 'sense of place' (e.g. historical perspective). • Safeguarding building functionality (e.g. use, access and space), which is not always considered.	Research Trust: *Index 21* (www.index21.org.uk) • Scottish Executive (2006) *PAN 75: Inclusive Design* • Scottish Government (2008) *SPP23: Planning and the Historic Environment*

Table 9: SEA Topic: Landscape

SEA Indicator: Landscape	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Impact to National Scenic Areas (NSA)	There are 2 NSAs within the Cairngorms National Park, and as the CNP Authority will be taking over planning matters within its boundaries, there will be no NSAs within the LDP.	There are 40 NSAs in Scotland occupying 1, 001, 800 hectares of land. This represents 12.5% of Scotland's land area.	NPPG14 places strong emphasis on conserving important landscapes, and development within NSAs is unlikely unless it conforms to this national policy. Development should	Even outwith the boundary of a designation, the insensitive siting and design, as well as type (e.g. dwelling(s), wind farm or quarry) of any new development may adversely affect landscapes of national importance (e.g. National Scenic Areas and Cairngorms National Park).	SNH (2004) *SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004. Battleby*: SNH
Enhancing and sustaining townscape quality	• 46 conservation areas in Aberdeenshire outwith the CNP. • 7 Aberdeenshire Towns Partnerships (ATP) in Ellon, Banff and Macduff, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverurie, Peterhead and Stonehaven have developed plans to maintain and enhance the continued social, economic and environmental vitality of these settlements. The ATP finished in December 2008.	• 11 conservation areas in Aberdeen City. • 7 areas in Aberdeen City contain the worst 15% of data zones suffering from deprivation namely, and 6 regeneration masterplans were drafted in 2006.	The majority of the departures in Aberdeenshire have been approved against the 2001 Structure Plan (NEST) Policy 20 (Built and cultural environment), mostly for replacing old-fashioned windows and doors with the modern equivalent replacement.	PAN52 *Planning And Small towns* aims to encourage local councils and other public/private bodies to help reinforce the character and identity of small towns by restoring, enhancing, improving and rehabilitating the best and worst areas of these settlements.	• Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership http://www.atap.org.uk/home.htm • Aberdeen City: Community Planning Regeneration Masterplans (2006/7) http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Web/Site/Internet/RegenerationMasterplans.asp • Scottish Executive (1997) *PAN 52: Planning in small Towns*
Impact on Landscape character	• There are 42 landscape character areas in Aberdeenshire, including 9 within the CNP. • In Aberdeenshire there	The four Landscape Character Assessments that cover the North East provides a brief overview of past land use practices and	• NPPG 14 states that particular care is needed when considering proposals for new development	• The inappropriate scale and insensitive siting of enabling development may adversely affect landscape	• Scottish Executive (1999) *NPPG14: Natural Heritage* • Scottish Executive (1994) PAN44: *Capacity for*

SEA Indicator: Landscape	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
	are 9 Areas of Landscape Significance.	discusses potential land uses for existing landscapes.	at the edge of settlements or in open countryside. • PAN44: *Capacity for housing in the landscape*	characteristics (e.g. changing its landscape character type, not respecting local topography/contours). • New development not fitting in with the landscape's capacity to absorb further developments (e.g. design, layout and sense of place) – need to promote suitable development capacity.	*housing in the landscape*. • Scottish Natural Heritage (1997) *National programme of landscape character assessment: Banff and Buchan*, Review No 37. • Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) *South and Central Aberdeenshire: landscape character assessment*, Review No 102. • Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) *Landscape character assessment of Aberdeen*, Review No 80

Table 10: SEA Topic: Material Assets

SEA Indicator: Material assets	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Number of vacant dwellings	• Number of vacant dwellings and second homes in Aberdeenshire o 2005: 4,868 (decrease of 15% since 2001) and 4.6% of the total housing stock. o 2006: 4,750 • In Aberdeenshire there are 749 (5%) vacant commercial properties. • Between 2004 and 2005 the number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeenshire fell by 250 (-5.1%)	• Number of vacant dwellings and second homes in Aberdeen City: o 2005: 5,574 (5.1% increase since 2001) and 5.2% of the total housing stock. o 2006: 4,990 • Between 2004 and 2005 the number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeen increase by 315 (6%), but has since fallen for dwellings.	The number of vacant dwellings in Aberdeenshire is falling very slowly.	Population increases into Aberdeenshire is causing the decline in vacant properties.	• General Register for Scotland: Vacant dwellings and second homes (2001-2005) http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/he-05-table3.pdf • Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Forecasts (2007) http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/economic/strategic_forecasts_2007.pdf

SEA Indicator: Material assets	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Derelict and vacant land (and buildings)	• Derelict land in Aberdeenshire: o 2005: 21 sites totalling 9ha o 2007: 21 sites totalling 51 ha • Urban vacant land in Aberdeenshire: o 2005: 25 sites totalling 27ha. o 2007: 41 sites totalling 39 ha. • In Aberdeenshire the total area of derelict and urban vacant land has declined significantly from 190ha in 1996 to 36ha in 2005. • Between 2005 and 2007, the number of vacant sites has significantly increased, although the area of land vacant has not. • Aberdeenshire has 1% of the vacant and derelict land in Scotland (2007 data).	• Derelict land in Aberdeen: o 2005: 18 sites measuring 72ha o 2007: 15 sites, 28 ha. • Urban vacant land in Aberdeen: o 2005: 32 sites measuring 116ha o 2007: 16 sites measuring 35 ha. • Since 1996, the total area of derelict and urban vacant land in Aberdeen has remained steady, but in recent years has significantly declined. • Derelict land in Perth and Kinross: o 2007: 44 sites, 56 ha. • Urban vacant land in Perth and Kinross: o 2007: 19 sites measuring 22ha • Perth and Kinross has 1% of the vacant and derelict land in Scotland (2007 data).	• The area of derelict and urban vacant land in Aberdeenshire has decreased significantly. • In recent years the number and area of vacant/derelict land in Aberdeenshire has increased.	Land that has been vacant for several years is unlikely to become redevelopment due to the recent rise in vacant and derelict sites.	• Scottish Executive (2006) *Statistical Bulletin: Scottish Vacant Derelict and Derelict Land Survey 2005* http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/91002/0021846.pdf • Scottish Government (2008) *Statistical Bulletin: Scottish Vacant Derelict and Derelict Land Survey 2007* http://openscotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/210308/0055593.pdf

SEA Indicator: Material assets	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Existing flood defences	• Between 2003 and 2005 flood studies have been carried out in Huntly, Inverurie, Rosehearty, Auchnagatt, Fyvie, Maryculter (Mill Inn), Alford and Aboyne. • Between 2007 and 2007 flood studies have been carried out in Fettercairn, Ellon, Newburgh, Inverugie, Inverurie and Kintore. • In 2005, emergency works had to be carried out on Stonehaven's seawall foundations as coastal erosion caused part of it to collapse. • No major fluvial events in Aberdeenshire between 2005 and 2007. • Pennan landslip in 2007 as a result heavy localised rain and excessive run off from fields above, caused part of the vegetative cliff to collapse, resulting in the evacuation of the entire coastal village.		Flood defence schemes will progressively be affected by soil/sand erosion from increasing rainfall and storm events, which will affect their stability and effectiveness. As a result, there will be a need to increase the maintenance these defences, and possibly relocate them.	The predicted rise in storm events and winter precipitation is likely to increase soil/sand erosion from the wind and rain/water, which may prevent flood defence schemes functioning properly and result in their failure (e.g. collapse).	• Aberdeenshire Council (2005) *Flooding in Aberdeenshire: Fifth Biennial Report* http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/flooding/report/5biennial.pdf • Halcrow (2006) *Aberdeen Bay Coastal Defence Scheme, Aberdeen city Council Project Appraisal Report*, Aberdeen City Council

SEA Indicator: Material assets	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Existing pumping stations and sewage works	Aberdeenshire has significant constraints throughout most of the area, with the exception of the north coast (Banff, Macduff, Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Inverallochy, Cruden Bay and St Combs).	• In 2003, it was identified that the cost of overcoming development constraints in Scotland is £435.1m, of which 89% was identified for the removal of waste water constraints, and 11% for water supply constraints. • The North East accounts for 5% of the Scottish total (£18.1m), which is mostly required in Aberdeenshire.	Data used for this assessment can only be considered as a draft, and will be subject to change in relation to Scottish Water's and SEPA's understanding of asset performance and development potential identified by planning authorities.	There is a significant wastewater constraint issue in most of Aberdeenshire, which may have adverse effects on water quality.	• Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) *Topic Paper: Development Constraints (Water and Waste)* • Scottish Water (2007) *Strategic Asset Capacity and Development Plan* http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/portal/page/portal/SWE_PGP_CONNECTIONS/SWE_CORP_CONNECTIONS/SWE_CORP_STRATEGIC_PLANNING/SWE_CON_CAPACITY_ABERDEEN
Water treatment works	• With the exception of Banff and Buchan (excluding Banff) and Buchan, and west of Banchory, most of Aberdeenshire requires significant works upgrades. • Many dwellings are at risk of low water pressure.			• There is a significant water supply constraint throughout most of the North East, with the exception of a handful of settlements in the north and Banchory.	Scottish Water (2007) *Strategic Asset Capacity and Development Plan* http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/portal/page/portal/SWE_PGP_CONNECTIONS/SWE_CORP_CONNECTIONS/SWE_CORP_STRATEGIC_PLANNING/SWE_CON_CAPACITY_ABERDEEN
Supply of	Aberdeenshire: Net	The demand for affordable	• The supply affordable	• There is an identified	• Aberdeen Council

SEA Indicator: Material assets	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
affordable housing	requirement of 915 affordable housing units (this represents two-thirds of the estimated new build in the area).	housing per annum in Aberdeen is a net requirement of 897 affordable housing units	homes in the North East are not meeting the demand, even with additional Scottish Executive grants. • The main shortfall is for one bedroom and larger (4 plus) bedroom dwellings.	shortfall in the number of affordable homes in Aberdeenshire. • There is a need to review the proportion of affordable housing in new build.	and Communities Scotland (2005) *2004 Housing Needs Assessment,* • Aberdeenshire Council and Communities Scotland (2005) *2004 Housing Needs Assessment, Executive Summary*, Fordham Research http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/councilhousing/reports/aberdeenshire_hna_final_summary.pdf

SEA Indicator: Material assets	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Supply of holiday homes	• % of second/holiday homes: • Aberdeenshire (excluding the coast) • 1 to 5%: southern Aberdeenshire (e.g. Mid Deeside and the Mearns area), and coastal areas excluding Peterhead 5 to 10%: Donside Valley • 10-20%: Portsoy coast (Banff) and Aberdeen • 20%+: Upper Deeside (Cairngorms) • In Aberdeenshire second/holiday homes account for 2% of the housing stock.	• % of second/holiday homes: • 0 to 1%: Aberdeen, central and northern • In Scottish rural areas, the proportion of housing stock accounted for by second/holiday homes is over seven times greater than in urban areas.	In Aberdeenshire, only a small fraction of the total housing stock accounted by second/holiday homes.	• The number of second homes rented out by oil companies could be sold off as the oil sector declines. • A shortage of holiday homes will adversely affect the tourist trade in Aberdeenshire's most popular areas.	• Bank of Scotland House Price Database (2006); ONS http://www.hbosplc.com/economy/includes/30-07-05FTBsPricedOutofScottishCountryside.doc • PRECiS (2005) *No.70 The impact of second and holiday homes on rural communities in Scotland*,
Access to good quality affordable housing	Percentage of vacant housing properties offered to new tenants within less than 10 working days • Sept 06 -87.9 % • Mar 07 –97.7 % • Sept 07 –93 %	• No Comparators	Improving	Funding	The Residents' Survey published in October 2006 reported that 54% of those responding were satisfied with Housing services, this compares with 47% in 2004.
Proportion of building materials from sustainable sources	• In Aberdeenshire, work on increasing the energy efficiency and use of materials from sustainable		• Implementation of • SPP1 - sustainable development; PAN 67 - layout, design and	New developments (e.g. dwellings, schools, offices etc) not using sustainable materials in new build.	• Scottish Executive (2003) *SPP1: The Planning System* • Scottish Executive

SEA Indicator: Material assets	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
	sources in new dwellings are being researched in a project entitled Index 21. The outcome of this work will be incorporated into the next local development plan. • Although Aberdeenshire Council encourages and supports the use of buildings constructed of sustainable materials, there are only a few examples of this actually happening.		materials to be used, and to a lesser extent in SPP2 and SPP3 will improve the situation.		(2003) *PAN 67: Housing Quality* • Scottish Executive (2003) *SPP2: Economic Development* • Scottish Executive (2003) *SPP3: Planning for housing* • Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: *Index 21* (www.index21.org.uk)
Number of new businesses	VAT registered businesses 2005 - 9,980 2008 - 10,110. Rate of businesses formation- 48 VAT registrations per 10,000 working age people in Aberdeenshire	Rate of businesses formation in Scotland- 36 VAT registrations per 10,000 working age people	There were increases in the manufacturing, construction, hotels/restaurants, transport/ communications, finance, real estate/renting/ business activities, and education/ health sectors	None at present.	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
Employment land supply	• The level of Established Employment Land Supply o 2006 - 395 hectares o 2007 - 393 hectares • Potential industrial land o 8 ha land at Portlethen added to the Moss-side Audit. There is additional land at	No Comparators	The future trend will see improvements The Council actively provides further industrial land at MacDuff, Fraserburgh, Ellon and Balmedie.	• A reduction of 2 hectares (-0.5%). This is predominantly because of land being developed across Aberdeenshire but in particular at Inverurie and Kintore. • Greater pressure will	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

SEA Indicator: Material assets	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
	Formartine added in line with the Aberdeenshire Local Plan at Balmedie (Eigie Farm South); o 2 further 150 ha sites pending production of development briefs to be used at the former RAF base at Edzell Woods o 5.1 ha land at Rosehall in Formartine • Greater uptake of land in central Aberdeenshire partly due to the shortages of suitable sites in Aberdeen. • Uptake of employment land in Banff and Buchan, Formartine and Marr is quite small, reflecting the more rural nature of the areas' economies. • Lower uptake of land in Peterhead than expected.			be placed on the natural and built environment in and around settlements in central Aberdeenshire to cater for the demand in employment land.	
Quality of life	In 2006 Aberdeenshire – 3rd best quality of life in Scotland's 32 local authorities. In 2007 Aberdeenshire - best quality of life in Scotland's 32 local authorities.	No comparators	No trend	The factors taken into account included employment, the housing market, environment, education, and health. Aberdeenshire was found to have 81% employment,	• 2007 Quality of Life Study commissioned by the Bank of Scotland.

SEA Indicator: Material assets	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
				one of the highest life expectancies and low crime rates. A Bank of Scotland spokesperson noted “A strong economy, along with good schools and a low crime rate have helped Aberdeenshire to become the area with the best quality of life in Scotland in 2007”.	

Appendix 3: Proposed Mitigation Framework

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
Air	• High NO_2 levels (although not quite exceeding the annual mean NO_2 objective for 2005) in parts of Inverurie and Peterhead. • Traffic growth is a constraining factor in the future, especially in Inverurie		
Water	• Qualifying interests in the SACs constrain how the SACs should be used and managed. • Need to reduce water abstraction by incorporating water efficient technologies into new development (e.g. industrial and domestic) in light of the predicted decrease in summer rainfall. • The Ythan estuary is an SPA, so the sensitivity of the area is greater and therefore the overall effect is likely to be more significant than this implies. • Impacts on bathing water from future uses, such as the rise in water sports, which could have an adverse impact on water quality. • The release of untreated sewage effluent is reducing the water quality along the coast. • A build-up of nitrates from diffuse pollution within the River Ythan catchment is adversely affecting species that live in the mud flats of the river mouth, which is an internationally designated natural heritage site. • Peterhead Power Station is likely to be contributing to the poor water quality. • In the North East, the main cause of poor quality coastline is the result of sewage effluent being released untreated. • Major impact both on the sand dune erosion, wildlife and the enjoyment of other beach users from motorised vehicles.		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
Soil	• There are 5,000 potentially contaminated sites recorded in North East. These include several hundred high-risk sites such as landfill and gasworks. • Contaminated land places financial and technological constraints on development. These constraints may dictate the type of development: the feasibility of remedial works may determine that a site is only suitable for industrial use; the cost of remedial works may determine that high-density housing is the only viable economic option. • Contaminated land impacts the water environment, i.e. ground surface and coastal waters, and the wider environment including for instance local ecology. • Potential loss of prime agricultural land from climate change – precautionary approach may need to be applied in certain areas (e.g. on prime agricultural land near flood plains, along the coast, and on land of the highest quality). • Not enough sites for recycling or composting biodegradable municipal waste (large, medium or small scale) to help the local authorities achieve their recycling and landfill targets. • Coastal erosion mostly where there are no rocks or coastal defences. • Increase in soil erosion from wind and water, which is exacerbated by bad land use practices, such as locating tracks/access roads on steep/ upland ground.		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	• UK priority species and habitats are still declining and require rigorous protection and enhancement. • Implementation of the NE BAPs is the key issue to enhancing biodiversity. • Threat of Alien Species effecting water quality and ecological status of the rivers. • The significance and purpose of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) mean that development in or adjacent to them, such as the River Dee SAC may cumulatively prevent the objectives of these designations being met, and may prevent new development being developed. • Indirect impact of development on designated sites that are affecting their water table, and therefore the quality of wetland habitats. • Development will put pressure on biodiversity, especially on the periphery of settlements. • Increase of access to designated sites could be damaging to some sites. • Indirect impacts of development on biodiversity. • Need to enhance and augment habitats to avoid their decline both within and outwith settlements. • Extensive use of land and cumulative impact is resulting in the loss of biodiversity.		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
Climatic factors	• High energy dependence on fossil fuels to provide heat and electricity. • High energy dependence on fossil fuels for transportation. • Insufficient grid connections and constraints with certain types of renewable energy technologies. • Lack of appropriate locations identified for renewable energy technologies. • The current layout of low density housing does not reduce energy use (e.g. reducing wind chill, maximising solar gain). • Few properties incorporate in their design resilience to extreme climate and weather conditions. • Materials with high CO_2 levels are still increasingly popular (e.g. concrete and tarmac). • Possible need for a management retreat of settlements below the 5m Ordnance Datum mark. • Sea defensive walls may be inadequate as sea levels rise. • Rise in soil erosion from storm events, which will create a greater need for SuDS, and an increase their water holding capacity. • Increase silting of rivers from fluvial flooding. • Rising precipitation and storms will increase fluvial flooding (e.g. 1 in 200 year flood event), which will restrict where new development can be located for some settlements. • The number of properties at risk from inland fluvial flooding is low, but local flood defensive schemes will still be required. • Rise in precipitation during the winter months and increase in storms will result in the need for SuDS to prevent pluvial flooding in urban areas. • Aberdeen consumes more natural resources per person than any other Scottish city and has the largest global footprint in Scotland, which cannot be sustained in the long-term. • Fragmented habitats resulting from development and changes in the climate may affect less mobile species from migrating and/or adapting to changes in the environment. • Need to promote appropriate native species in new development schemes to enhance existing biodiversity and preventing the spread of non-native species. • Increasing need for service provision throughout the year (e.g. as flood events are predicted to increase during winter seasons).		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
Human Health	• Significant development pressure to build on urban open spaces. • There is pressure to reduce the size of open spaces in residential developments. • Need for larger areas of open spaces, including civic or town parks. • Poor access to services in rural areas. • Centralisation of service provision has and will continue to affect marginalised areas. • Pockets of deprivation through low job opportunities and income could be adversely affecting people's mental health in Aberdeen and in northern Aberdeenshire. • Overcrowding in Aberdeen is higher than the Scottish average and it could be affecting people's mental health. • Lack of variety in new house types granted planning consent. • There will still be a need for a significant proportion of new housing to be larger properties. • When considered in the context of the existing stock, planning permissions are being given which, over time, will lead to the differences between the housing stock in the City and Shire being more extreme. • Limited progress has been made to provide sports facilities at Cove, a swimming pool in Mintlaw, and a 6 Badminton Court Hall in Peterhead and Fraserburgh, all of which were identified in the City's and Shire's sports study.		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
Population	• Increasing number of households is creating more demand for housing (and land). • The need for more development land is placing pressure on or near sensitive natural heritage areas. • The growing age of the head of the household may result in more homes needed for their needs (e.g. bungalows or special needs dwellings). • Aging population will create demand for certain types of houses (e.g. bungalows and services (increasing the need for more land) and care homes. • There are likely to be capacity issues in some of secondary schools in the larger settlements in Aberdeenshire. • In-migration will create greater demand for houses and services in Aberdeenshire. • Continuing demand for land for new dwellings and associated infrastructure in Aberdeenshire. • The rise in visitor numbers annually demonstrates the popularity of country parks. However, care is necessary to ensure access to and within parks is sufficient and is not damaged by erosion.		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
Cultural Heritage	• Although only a small percentage of the listed buildings in the North East are on the Buildings at Risk Register, the area has one of the highest numbers of properties at risk, and the figure is rising. • Very few buildings at risk are undergoing restoration in Aberdeenshire. • The majority of the buildings at risk are in rural areas, with few undergoing restoration. • Lack of an existing policy on inclusive design in the Local Plan. • Development adversely impacting on a community's' or settlement's 'sense of place' (e.g. historical perspective). • Safeguarding building functionality (e.g. use, access and space), which is not always considered. • Poor design when incorporating modern materials. • Cumulative impact of proposals, which alone may not affect the conservation designation, but cumulatively affect it's overall objective. • Loss of unknown and locally known architectural remains from new development and other practices, vandalism and coastal erosion. • Adverse impacts on the setting of listed buildings and archaeological remains from new developments.		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
Landscape	• Even outwith the boundary of a designation, the insensitive siting and design, as well as type (e.g. dwelling(s), wind farm or quarry) of any new development may adversely affect landscapes of national importance (e.g. National Scenic Areas and Cairngorms National Park). • There is an increased need to: o assess a settlement's key features(s); o reinforcing a sense of place (its character and identify) by restoring, enhancing, improving and rehabilitating the best and worst areas of these settlements; and o involving local communities. • The inappropriate scale and insensitive siting of enabling development is adversely affecting landscape characteristics (e.g. changing its landscape character type, not respecting local topography/contours). • New development not fitting in with the landscape's capacity to absorb further developments (e.g. design, layout and sense of place) – need to promote suitable development capacity.		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
Material Assets	• Land that has been vacant for several years is unlikely to become redevelopment due to the recent rise in vacant and derelict sites. • The predicted rise in storm events and winter precipitation is likely to increase soil/sand erosion from the wind and rain/water, which may prevent flood defence schemes functioning properly and result in their failure (e.g. collapse). • There is a significant wastewater constraint issue in most of Aberdeenshire, which may have adverse effects on water quality. • There is a significant water supply constraint throughout most of the North East, with the exception of a handful of settlements in the north and Banchory. • There is a significant shortfall of affordable housing in Aberdeenshire. • There is a need to review the proportion of affordable housing in new build. • The number of second homes rented out by oil companies could be sold off as the oil sector declines. • A shortage of holiday homes will adversely affect the tourist trade in Aberdeenshire's most popular areas. • New developments (e.g. dwellings, schools, offices etc) not using sustainable materials in new build. • Greater pressure will be placed on the natural and built environment in and around settlements in central Aberdeenshire to cater for the demand in employment land.		