

SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
SEA Gateway
Scottish Executive
Area 1 H (Bridge)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

PART 2

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

Aberdeen City & Shire Coastal Flooding Policy Framework

The Responsible Authority is:

Aberdeenshire Council

COMPLETE PART 3 or 4 or 5

PART 3

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that:

- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects **or**
- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects **or**
- an SEA is not required** because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects

PART 4

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

PART 5

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

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PART 6

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PART 7

Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	Maurice Stack
Date	07/06/07

SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority

Aberdeenshire Council

Title of PPS

Aberdeen City & Shire Coastal Flooding Policy Framework

Purpose of PPS

- To provide a framework of guidance as a basis for coastal management policy;
- To establish benchmarks for development having determined the probability of flooding in the area;
- To determine a range of contour lines beyond which development will not be allowed along the Aberdeen City & Shire's Coastline;
- Through the identification of an array of different flooding scenarios for the developed and undeveloped coast and improvement in partnership working with Aberdeen City Council, the framework will be jointly implemented.

What prompted the PPS

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

Administrative provision by Aberdeenshire Council pursuant to Foresight Report (2004) and new European Directive on the Assessment and Management of Floods.

Subject

(e.g. transport)

Flooding

Period covered by PPS

10 years

Frequency of updates

5 years

Area covered by PPS

(e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Coastline

**Summary of nature/
content of PPS**

The Aberdeen City & Shire Coastal Flooding Policy Framework will cover purpose statement, aims, objectives and links to other policies and strategies. It also provides a background to partnership working and action plans.

**Are there any proposed
PPS objectives?**

YES

NO

Copy of objectives attached

YES

NO

Date

07/06/07

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Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of **[Aberdeen City & Shire Coastal Flooding Policy Framework]** is set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

TITLE OF PPS		
Aberdeen City & Shire Coastal Flooding Policy Framework		
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY		
Aberdeenshire Council.		
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
1(a) the degree to which the PPS sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	Yes	<p>It will set the framework for future development along Aberdeen City & Shire's Coastline as well as the construction of flood defences.</p> <p>It will set the context for addressing planning blight and its resultant effects in blighted areas, for example, through vacancy and dereliction along coastal areas.</p>
1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy	Yes	It will set the framework for future structure plan, local plans and infrastructure policies and Coastal Protection work. It will also influence the ACC Nature Conservation

		Strategy and North East Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Any future plan/policy framework that deals with coastal flooding will have an impact (positive and negative) on habitats and species and, therefore will have an influence on the above.
1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	Yes	It seeks to reduce the risk of flooding to people and developments. It will also indirectly have provision for the protection of coastal habitats, and species. By addressing flood risks, the framework will help to manage biodiversity losses that could occur when coastal areas flood. It will similarly reduce pollution and protect livelihoods of coastal communities from future flooding. Sustainable Development is a cross cutting theme of Aberdeen City Council and an overarching challenge in their Corporate Plan.
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(d) etc. refer to paras in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS	Yes	Some problems relevant to this PPS include a threat of global warming, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, "coastal squeeze", threats to habitats and species and pressure on housing and planning blight.

1(e) the relevance of the PPS for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, PPS linked to waste management or water protection)	Yes	The relevant Directives include Water Framework Directive and the proposed Directive on the Assessment and Management of Floods. Also to be considered are the Birds and Habitats Directive, Community Plans and Local Agenda 21.
2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Yes	<p>The PPS is likely to have a long-term positive effect on flood prevention insofar as it prevents future development beyond a certain datum line.</p> <p>It will also have a long-term positive effect on integration of coastal management. However, flooding prevented from one section of a coastline could be displaced and transferred to another section of the coastline. To that extent the possible effect of this framework is likely to be negative if proper mitigation measures are not in place. Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility will be considered during the development of the policy Framework.</p>
2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects	Yes	Since the framework covers the entire coastline of Aberdeen City and the Shire, the combined effects could be cumulative on the environment. (Likely to be

		seen over a long period of time given the length of time the Policy Framework will cover)
2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	No	
2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	Yes (probably)	Depends on the effectiveness of policy in identifying areas at risk. The probability of coastal erosion being displaced to another point means that flood risks could also be displaced. The Policy Framework is being devised to prevent risks to human health, but will potentially have some negative effects to some aspects of the environment as a result.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (2(e), 2(f) etc refer to paras in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Yes	The policy covers the entire coastline of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, including the citizens within it.

<p>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (2(e), 2(f) etc refer to paras in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p>Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</p>
<p>2 (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to- (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The coastline has areas of archaeological significance as well as dune systems. The coast of Aberdeen City & Shire is also home to some Special Area of Conservation SACs, SSSI's, and Areas of Landscape Significance.</p>
<p>2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Possible effects to Cultural Heritage eg. Conservation areas, listed buildings and Areas of Landscape Significance.</p>

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A summary of our considerations of the significant environmental effects of **[Aberdeen City & Shire Coastal Flooding Policy Framework]** is given below.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The PPS, when implemented will have both positive and negative effects on the environment. It is relevant to the implementation of some EU Directives including the Water Framework Directive and the proposed European Directive on the Assessment and Management of Floods. The implementation of the PPS will have resource use implications. The effects of the framework are cumulative. It is our view that the effects of the framework are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The Aberdeen City & Shire's Coastal Flooding Policy Framework therefore requires the preparation of a strategic environmental assessment.

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**TABLE 3
SUMMARY RECORD OF COMMENTS FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES**

GUIDANCE NOTE

It is not a statutory requirement to include this section in the screening report. However, the Responsible Authority may find it useful for record purposes.

TITLE OF PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

DATE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES

Consultation Authority	Views (if known at this stage)
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Significant environmental effects - YES/ NO
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. soil and water)
Scottish Natural Heritage	Significant environmental effects - YES/ NO
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. flora, fauna and biodiversity)
The Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland)	Significant environmental effects - YES/ NO
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. landscape and cultural heritage)

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TABLE 4 – RECORD OF POST SCREENING ACTION

<p>GUIDANCE NOTE</p> <p>It is not a requirement to include this section in the screening report. However, the Responsible Authority may find it useful for record purposes.</p> <p>TITLE OF PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY (PPS)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 100%;"></div>	
<p>1 Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <i>is</i> likely to have significant environmental effects</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>2 Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <i>is not</i> likely to have significant environmental effects</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>3 Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities cannot reach agreement – referred to the Scottish Ministers for their determination</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>4 Scottish Ministers' determination</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>5 Publicity requirements met</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;">YES</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;">NO</div> </div>

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Signature

Date