

SEA 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:

Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan

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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.....
.....

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PART 6

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PART 7

Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	Alan Campbell
Date	30 May 2007

SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority	Aberdeenshire Council
Title of PPS	Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan
Purpose of PPS	To provide a broad framework within which Aberdeenshire Council services are delivered and all PPS are produced.
What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	Administrative
Subject (e.g. transport)	Corporate Management & Cross-cutting themes
Period covered by PPS	2007 – 2011
Frequency of updates	Every 2 years
Area covered by PPS (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	The whole of Aberdeenshire
Summary of nature/content of PPS	The Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan (ACSP) has a strategic vision and principles; strategic approach and strategic themes which in turn cover community & well being, jobs & the economy, learning, sustainable environment and quality services. ACSP also discusses the delivery of the plan, Council resources, facts & figures, frontline service and support services.
Are there any proposed PPS objectives?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Copy of objectives attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Y YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Date	

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Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of **[insert PPS title]** is set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

TITLE OF PPS		
Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan		
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	The strategic plan sets the framework for developments including public transport, affordable housing, asset management and infrastructure
1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy	Yes	The strategic plan will be delivered through service plans and other plans, policies and strategies the Council prepares. By the very scope of the strategic plan, it influences all Aberdeenshire Council's plans, programmes and strategies including the structure plan, the local plan, the local housing strategy and the local transport strategy among others.

<p>1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Sound environmental stewardship and sustainable development are at the heart of the strategy. Indeed sustainable environment is one of its strategic themes. The strategy promotes the reduction in CO2 emissions, ecological footprints, and carbon footprints</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</p>
<p>1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The strategic plan acknowledges that Aberdeenshire has a high carbon footprint and uses resources inefficiently. There are also potential flood and coastal erosion issues in some areas of Aberdeenshire. The strategy will also address poor asset management issues within the life of the plan.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>By the scope of the plan, it will implement most EU Directives including the Water Framework Directive, the EC Air and Waste Directives, and the EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings among others.</p>
<p>2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive improvements through higher environmental standards and carbon management will bring long-term positive environmental benefits. On the other hand, development actions through the local housing strategy or the local transport strategy are likely to have significant environmental effects on many environmental issues including landscape and biodiversity.</p>

2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects	Yes	The Strategic plan influences all PPS developed by the Council. The environmental effects from development actions generated by these PPS could be negative and cumulative in nature. Similarly, environmental effects from environmentally friendly PPS could be positive and cumulative in nature.
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 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	Yes	To the extent that climate change impacts, CO2 emission and global warming are transboundary in nature, the proposals in the strategic plan aimed to reduce CO2 emissions will be positive and transboundary in nature.
2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	Yes	By setting the context for all PPS produced by Aberdeenshire Council, this PPS carries inherent risks of the PPS it sets the framework for.
2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Yes	The Strategic plan covers the whole of Aberdeenshire
2 (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due		The ACSP is a very high-level document, which seeks to safeguard the environment. It does not envisage that any development

<p>to-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use. 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>will affect designated sites and landscapes at local, national and international level. The strict planning regime in Aberdeenshire Council will not permit any effect on these areas. However, to the extent that the document sets the framework for all PPS developed by the Council, such as the local plan, some indirect effects cannot be ruled out</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>The SP will safeguard the environment. It does not envisage that any development will affect designated sites and landscapes at local, national and international level. The current planning regime in Aberdeenshire Council will not permit any effect on these areas. Again, to the extent that the document sets the framework for all PPS developed by the Council some indirect effects cannot be ruled out</p>

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A summary of our considerations of the significant environmental effects of [name of PPS] is given below.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The strategic plan sets the framework for developments including public transport, affordable housing, asset management and infrastructure. The strategic plan will be delivered through service plans and other PPS. By the very scope of the strategy, it influences all Council PPS including the structure plan, the local plan, the local housing strategy and the local transport strategy among others. It is our view that the PPS is likely to have significant positive and negative environmental effects. For these reasons, SEA is required.

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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	Significant environmental effects - YES/ NO

Ministers (Historic Scotland)	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: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>	
<p>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; 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: 30px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; 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: 30px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; 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: 30px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>4 Scottish Ministers' determination</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>5 Publicity requirements met</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">YES</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">NO</div> </div>

6 Signature

Date

Attached vision, aims and objectives

VISION

- Our VISION for the future of Aberdeenshire is captured in the simple statement: *“Working together for the best quality of life for everyone in Aberdeenshire”*
- We will pursue through the four major THEMES of Community Well Being, Jobs and the Economy, Learning, Sustainable Development and through the provision of Quality Services.
- Supporting all our work will be based on PRINCIPLES of inclusion, accountability, Participation, Communication, Evidence-based and Partnership

Our Aims

What we want to do

- We want to maintain and improve the quality of life for everyone in Aberdeenshire by delivering first class public services.
- We want to protect and improve Aberdeenshire’s special environment for this and future generations of residents and visitors
- We want to help sustain and develop our communities by encouraging a wide range of successful economic activities.

How we will work

- We will involve our many communities by consulting and working together.
- We will deliver services to achieve the best value possible and will work with other organisations to achieve our aims.
- We will make services easy to use by taking them close to the people.
- We will always look for new ways to improve our services.

What will we be

- Courteous and responsive
- Open and honest
- Fair and just
- Responsible and reliable
- Sensitive and realistic

Aberdeenshire Council’s Strategic Intention are as follows:

- *We will work to* develop a caring community which supports its more vulnerable citizens and promotes community well being. With the active

participation of service users and carers and in partnership with local agencies, we will promote socially inclusive policies.

- *We will work to* create an economy in which sustainable economic activity, steady growth, low unemployment and a broadening and strengthening of the economic base are established.
- *We will work to* implement a vision of Aberdeenshire as a place where citizens participate in lifelong learning and where everyone is included.
- *We will work to* ensure that all our actions are as sustainable as possible and meet the needs of the current generation of Aberdeenshire's people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- *We will work to* maintain and improve the quality of life for everyone in Aberdeenshire by delivering first class public services.