



The Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan

Strategic Environment Assessment: Scoping Report

16 April 2007

SEA SCOPING– COVER NOTE

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
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PART 2

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

**ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL AND ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL
STRUCTURE PLAN**

The Responsible Authority is:

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL AND 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.

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PART 4

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PART 5

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(electronic
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Date

16 April 2007

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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.

As well as the SEA, Article 6 of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC requires that where a plan or project may significantly affect a Natura 2000 site (natural heritage designation of international importance – Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection areas, and Ramsar (wetland) sites), an Appropriate Assessment may be required. The purpose of the assessment is to identify the likely significant effects at an early stage.

The Appropriate Assessment consists of two stages:

- a screening exercise of all Natura 2000 sites to identify which sites are likely to be significantly affected by the structure plan, and
- a full Appropriate Assessment of specific Natura 2000 sites.

The screening exercise will not be undertaken until the draft structure plan has been written, which includes the preferred strategic option, plan objectives and policies, as the significant effects required for this assessment will not be known until actual proposals are set out. The screening exercise will be submitted to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and other stakeholders for their comment as a separate screening report. Where significant effects have been identified, as a result of the structure plan, a full Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken, and will be published along with the SEA environment report.

A framework for undertaking the Appropriate Assessment will be included with the screening report to SNH for their agreement.

Natura 2000 sites within the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) will be excluded, as a national plan is being produced by the CNPA.

Methodology for assessing environmental effects of the structure plan

The SEA scoping report sets out how Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils propose to assess the structure plan’s strategic objectives and 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 draft structure plan is placed on deposit for members of the public

to comment on. Alternative strategic objectives and policies will be included the assessment process, in order to ensure that the structure plan objectives 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 structure plan’s strategic objectives and policies, 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.

The SEA objectives are separate from the structure plan’s objectives although they can influence each other and even overlap. To fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive, they 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 appendices 2 to 5:

- identifying the 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);
- integrating the requirements of the plans, programmes, strategies, and environmental protection objectives relevant to the structure plan with the SEA objectives; and
- taking into account any baseline environmental characteristics of the area relevant to the structure plan, and including any relevant environmental problems (e.g. contaminated land, air pollution, or lack of affordable housing).

The following table lists a set of SEA objectives against which the vision, aims, strategic objectives and policies of the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire structure plan will be assessed. While all the SEA objectives will be used in the assessment, it is likely that those highlighted in the table below are unlikely to feature prominently in the assessment.

Further information on the assessment process is provided in chapter 4, which also sets out the proposed framework for assessing the cumulative impact of the structure plan, the compatibility of the structure plans 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 6.

Possible SEA objectives (Objectives highlighted are unlikely to feature prominently in the SEA assessment)

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives
Air	1 Protect and improve local air quality.
Water	2 Reduce water pollution and protect, maintain and enhance Water Quality and good ecological status as set out in the Water Framework Directive

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives
	<p>and the general water environment including marine, coastal and river systems, wetlands, loch, estuaries and floodplains.</p> <p>3 Maintain water abstraction, run-off and recharge within carrying capacity (including future capacity).</p> <p>4 Only development supported in SPP7: (Planning and Flooding) will be allowed within functional flood plains.</p> <p>5 Improve and support water efficient technologies.</p>
Soil	<p>6 Reduce area of land contamination in the region.</p> <p>7 Improve and safeguard the efficiency and effectiveness of land use and soil quality and quantity (e.g. controlling soil erosion and sedimentation).</p>
Biodiversity	<p>8 Conserve, protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity.</p>
Climatic factors	<p>9 Reduce the causes of adverse climate change (e.g. reduction in CO₂ levels and NE global footprint).</p> <p>10 Decrease the use of non-renewable energy.</p> <p>11 Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change e.g. flooding, public service provision, and habitats.</p>
Human health	<p>12 Improve accessibility to good quality open green space and countryside.</p> <p>13 Improve accessibility to open spaces, jobs/ employment, education, public services, and decrease deprivation/social exclusion.</p> <p>14 Increase opportunities for indoor recreation and exercise.</p> <p>15 Protect and improve health.</p> <p>16 Increase the mix of housing types and tenure.</p>
Population	<p>17 Improve the supply of housing land to accommodate in-migration and the predicted increase households.</p> <p>18 Improve the supply of dwellings for the aging population and those with special needs.</p> <p>19 Improve the provision of land for care homes.</p> <p>20 Improve the provision of services to cater for 'non-Scotland' migrants, especially if from overseas (e.g. language and cultural issues/differences).</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>21 Protect, and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment.</p> <p>22 Promote the understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment.</p>
Landscape	<p>23 Protect and enhance and where appropriate restore the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscape and townscapes.</p> <p>24 Safeguard the landscapes capacity to absorb new development.</p>
Material assets	<p>25 Promote the creation of fixed assets, including affordable housing and water and waste management facilities.</p> <p>26 Enhance and promote commercial and industrial assets.</p> <p>27 Regenerate derelict, vacant or contaminated land.</p> <p>28 Protect residential, commercial and industrial properties from flooding.</p> <p>29 Promote the use of sustainable materials and the adoption of Lifetime standards.</p>

1 Introduction

- 1.1. Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council have jointly prepared this Scoping Report for the Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council Structure Plan. According to Section 15 of Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the responsible authorities are 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 structure plan including the overview, name of authority, plan title, the reason why the plan is being drawn, plan 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. Chapter 5 provides the screening phase and sets out the framework for carrying out an Appropriate Assessment of Natura 2000 sites. In Chapter 6 the concluding stages proposed for the environmental report are outlined.

2 Key facts about Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council Structure Plan

- 2.1 Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council are preparing this Structure Plan, the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (excluding the Cairngorms National Park structure plan (known as the Aberdeen City Shire Structure Plan) (the Plan), as a legal requirement under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The structure plan is a land use plan covering the period 2008 to 2030. This plan is subject to review every five years or as soon as it has become necessary to do so.
- 2.2 The purpose of the plan is to provide a framework for the development of land cover its area of effect, Aberdeen City and part of Aberdeenshire. 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. Even then only development of such a scale or nature that it could be considered to have significant effects outwith the immediate locale will be considered. These are often referred to as “strategic” developments.
- 2.3 A Structure Plan is a plan:
 - “(a) formulating the planning authority’s policy and general proposals in respect of the development and other use of land in that district (including measures for the conservation of the natural beauty and amenity of the land, the improvement of the physical environment and the management of traffic),” (Part 2 s7.1 T&CP(S)Act 1997).
- 2.4 However, the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 is likely to come into force during preparation of this plan. This requires the production of a strategic development plan in which is set out
 - (a) a vision statement, being a broad statement of the planning authorities’ views as to how the development of the area should occur .
 - (b) a spatial strategy, being a broadly based statement of proposals as to the development and use of land within the area
 - (c) an analysis of the relationship of the vision statement and spatial strategy to general proposals for the development and other use of land
- 2.5 Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council have agreed to prepare a structure plan that also meets the requirements of a strategic development plan
- 2.6 At the time of submitting the scoping report no decisions have been made on the vision and objectives for the new plan, this is rightly something that is the subject of a public and stakeholder consultation exercise. However to aid this consultation a working draft vision and working draft objectives for the plan have been produced. These will be reviewed and incorporated as the preferred vision and objectives in the draft plan, in the light of comments received
- 2.7 The working draft vision was developed as an iterative process involving a key stakeholder working group and two seminars held with

the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Planning Committee. This committee has approved the text below as the draft vision for the plan, and on which consultation (as part of a general consultation on “issues”) should take place:

“By 2030, Aberdeen City and Shire will be an exciting, modern and environmentally sustainable European city region. Our communities will include everybody and enjoy the highest quality of life. We will be recognised across the world for our leadership in renewable energy, our technological and intellectual excellence, and the unique qualities of our environment.

To help achieve the vision, this plan will encourage new development to use land in a way that has less and less of an effect on the wider environment. It will help all the industries that support the vision to be successful. It will allow the area to have enough people, homes and jobs to support the level of services and facilities the community wants, and will provide a range of opportunities in lifestyle.

In achieving our vision, we will:

- manage our natural, built and community resources responsibly;*
- consider the needs of all our different communities fairly, now and in the future; and*
- be confident and courageous when making the hard choices needed to allow change to happen”*

- 2.8 A set of draft objectives are being developed to be consistent with this vision, but they are not at a sufficiently advanced stage to be able to be listed. The draft objectives will be subjected to scrutiny through the SEA process and publicly presented in the draft plan for consultation.
- 2.9 The lead officer with responsibility for managing the SEA of the new Structure plan is Alison Hogge, Planning Policy and Environment, Planning and Environment Service, Aberdeenshire Council, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen AB16 5GB.

3 Context of the Structure Plan

- 3.1 To set the context for the Structure Plan, this report considers the three issues addressed in SEA templates developed by Scottish Executive 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 1 below lists other plans, programmes and environmental objectives relevant to the Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council Structure Plan to be analysed in the Environmental Report for their relationship with the structure plan.
- 3.4 Detailed analysis of how they apply to the structure plan and SEA issues are shown at Appendix 2. 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.
- 3.5 Planning Advice Notes have been excluded, as they are only good practice guides, which would be more appropriately reflected in the local development plan or other local-scale plans/strategies.

Table 1: Other Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

	Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental protection objective
	International Level
1	Council Directive 92/43/EEC <i>on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (known as the Habitats Directive)</i>
2	Council Directive 79/409/EEC <i>on the conservation of wild birds (known as the Birds Directive)</i>
3	Council Directive 2000/60/EC <u>Water Framework Directive</u> - integrated river basin management for Europe
4	Council Directive 91/676/EEC <i>on nitrates from agricultural sources (known as the Nitrates Directive)</i>
5	Council Directive 99/31/EC <i>on the landfill of waste (known as the Landfill</i>

	<i>Directive)</i>
	National Level
1	National Planning Framework for Scotland (2004)
2	DTI (2003) Energy White paper: <i>Our energy future – creating a low carbon economy</i>
3	Securing the future – UK Government sustainability development strategy (2005) (implemented in Scotland through the <i>Choosing Our Future: Scotland’s Sustainable Development Strategy</i>)
4	Meeting the Needs, Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland (2002)
5	Climate Change: The UK programme (implemented in Scotland through the <i>Scottish Climate Change Programme</i> , which is under review)
6	BREEAM/ EcoHomes
7	Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2000)
8	Scotland’s Transport Future: The Transport White Paper (2004)
9	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
10	The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
11	UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)
12	Scottish Executive (2004) Scottish Biodiversity Strategy: <i>Scotland’s Biodiversity: It’s in Your Hands. A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland</i>
13	Scottish Executive Marine & Coastal Strategy (2005) – <i>Seas the Opportunity – A Strategy for the Long Term Sustainability of Scotland’s Coasts and Seas</i>
14	The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997
15	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
16	Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
17	National Waste Strategy
18	sportscotland (2003) Sport 21 2003-2007
19	Scottish Executive (2002) Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 1: The Planning System
20	Scottish Executive (2002) SPP2: Economic Development
21	Scottish Executive (2003) SPP3: Planning for Housing
22	Scottish Executive (2006) SPP4: Planning for Minerals
23	Scottish Executive (1998) National Planning Policy Guidelines (NPPG) 5: Archaeology and Planning
24	Scottish Executive (2000) NPPG6: Renewable Energy
25	Scottish Executive (2004) SPP7: Planning and Flooding
26	Scottish Executive (2006) SPP8: Town Centres and Retailing
27	Scottish Executive (1996) NPPG10: Planning and Waste Management
28	Scottish Executive (1996) NPPG11: Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space
29	Scottish Executive (1997) NPPG12: Skiing Developments
30	Scottish Executive (1997) NPPG13: Coastal Planning
31	Scottish Executive (1999) NPPG: 14 Natural Heritage
32	Scottish Executive (2005) SPP15: Planning for Rural Development
33	Scottish Executive (2005) SPP 17: Planning for Transport
34	Scottish Executive (1999) NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment

35	Scottish Executive (2005) NPPG19: Radio Telecommunications
36	Scottish Executive (2006) SPP 21: Green Belts
37	Scottish Historic Environment Policies (SHEP) No 1 <i>The Historic Environment</i> [CON 728] (2006)
38	SHEP No 2 <i>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</i> (2006)
39	SHEP No 3. <i>Gardens and Designed Landscape</i> [CON 731] (2006)
	Regional level
1	North East Scotland Biodiversity (2001) North East Scotland Biodiversity Action Plan
2	Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2005) Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire Council
3	River Dee Catchment Management Plan – Consultative Draft (October 2006)
4	Modern Transport System (MTS), its revision to be known as the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), NESTRANS, and Nestrans Annual Report 2005
5	North East Scotland Area Waste Plan (2003)
6	Economic Growth Strategy for North East Scotland (Local Economic Development Strategy 2003-2010)
	Local level
1	Aberdeen Future - Aberdeen City Community Plan
2	Aberdeenshire Community Plan
3	Aberdeen City Joint Health Improvement Plan
4	Aberdeenshire Joint Health Improvement Plan
5	Aberdeen City Local Housing Strategy 2004-2009
6	Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy 2004-2009
7	Aberdeen Contaminated Land Strategy
8	Aberdeenshire Contaminated Land Strategy (Under review December 2006)
9	Aberdeen City Local Transport Strategy (Under review)
10	Aberdeenshire Local Transport Strategy (Under review)
11	Aberdeen City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2006
12	Aberdeen City (2006) Air Quality Action Plan
13	Aberdeen City Nature Conservation Strategy (Under review)
14	Cobham Resource Consultants (1997) National programme of landscape character assessment: Banff and Buchan, Scottish Natural Heritage Review No 37
15	Environmental Resources Management (1998) South and Central Aberdeenshire: landscape character assessment, Scottish Natural Heritage Review No 102
16	The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2002) Guidelines for Visual Impact Assessment, Second edition, Spoon Press
17	Turnbull Jeffrey Partnership (1996) Cairngorms landscape assessment, Scottish Natural Heritage Review No 75.
18	Cairngorms National Park National Plan

3.6 Appendix 2 summarises the key points of the relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives.

3.7 From the analysis of the relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives (listed in column 2 of Appendix 2), we observe that the strategic land use plan should emphasise the following:

- the protection, maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity, the landscape character, and built and cultural heritage;
- sustainable use of water and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts;
- reducing water pollution and enhancing water quality;
- creating sustainable communities with a focus on the sustainable use of natural resources;
- to 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;
- promoting quality of life issues;
- ensuring more coherence and cost effectiveness in policy-making;
- supporting economic sustainability consistent with social progress and the environment.
- tackling housing shortage, low demand, abandonment and liveability;
- promoting good design, safe environments, clean environments and good quality services;
- promoting sustainable alternatives to car and reducing congestion traffic pollution through the allocation of land uses;
- promoting economic growth, social inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety;
- addressing climate change;
- avoiding further degradation of the coastal and marine environment;
- promoting the economy, supporting the community and the public service; and
- setting the planning policy framework for development consents for major residential, commercial, retail, and employment developments.

3.8 Were the structure plan not implemented, the likely changes to the environment would be:

- [To be completed in the Environment Report]

Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline data)

3.9 The existing environmental baseline data have been collected from a wide range of sources, including national government/agency websites, consultation authorities, North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC), the 2001 census. 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 Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire;

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

3.10 The detailed analysis of the baseline data is presented in Appendices 3 and 4. The linkages between the SEA Topics are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2: 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).
Human Health: over crowding, centralisation of services (e.g. training).		Population

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).
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
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
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.
Climatic factors: rising CO ₂ levels.		Material assets: use of sustainable materials.

Material assets: affordable housing		Human health (e.g. reducing the number of people living in deprived conditions)
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)

Environmental problems

3.11 This section summarises the state of the environment within the structure plan area (Aberdeen and 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.

3.12 Environmental problems affecting the strategic development plan area were identified through:

- the information collected from the environmental baseline data/trends/comparators, as presented in Appendix 3; and
- discussions with internal consultees within Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire councils (including environmental health, planning policy, natural and built heritage, and the flood prevention teams);

3.13 The significant environmental problems categorised under each SEA topic are summarised in the tables below. Details of the supporting data, key indicators and mitigation/policy measures to address these environmental problems are provided in Appendix 5.

Table 3: Significant environmental problems: air quality

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
Air	No significant effects near waste management facilities or quarries, but there is an issue of odour from sewerage works near development in Inverurie, Nigg and Torry.
	High traffic volumes is seriously affecting the air quality of Aberdeen's city centre (principally nitrogen dioxide NO ₂), which has resulted in it being designated an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).
	High NO ₂ levels (although not quite exceeding the annual mean NO ₂ objective for 2005) along some peripheral routes: Victoria Rd (Torry), North and South Anderson Drive and Anderson Driver, and Great Northern Road, Auchmill Rd, and King St (north of Roselin Terrace).
	New developments within the AQMA, and in areas with high NO ₂ levels should not exceed the 2005 NO ₂ objective of 40 µg/m ⁻³ .

Table 4: Significant environmental problems: water quality

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
Water	A decline and mortalities in the number of species of international importance if water levels fall (for example Salmon deaths in the river Dee during low flows in 2004),
	High nitrate levels adversely affecting the water quality of internationally important rivers (e.g. Ythan Estuary).
	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.
	A decrease in summer precipitation may lead to a decline in ground water levels in upland areas and reduce the likelihood of new development proposals in these areas.
	Future development may put a constraint on maintaining ground water and river levels.
	Bathing water quality not continuously meeting EC Guideline Standards in Stonehaven, Cruden Bay and Aberdeen (although in 2006, all bathing waters passed).
	53.1km of water courses in the North East are classified as poor or seriously polluted as a result of poor chemistry and biology quality.
	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 5: Significant environmental problems: soil quality

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
Soil quality	There are 5,900 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 silting of rivers from fluvial flooding.
	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 6: Significant environmental problems: biodiversity

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
Biodiversity	Native species and habitats are increasing, and the NE BAP is meeting the UK BAP targets, but 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. Native species and habitats are increasing, and the NE BAP is meeting the UK BAP targets, but UK priority species and habitats are still declining and require rigorous protection and enhancement.
	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.
	Impact from large-scale leisure and recreation uses.
	Increase of access to designated sites could be damaging to some sites.
	Indirect impacts of development on non-designated sites.
	Large-scale schemes around edge of towns are placing significant development pressure on unprotected open spaces.
	There is significant development pressure for new houses along the coast.
Fragmented habitats/ open space networks/ wildlife corridors may affect less mobile species from migrating and/or adapting to climate change.	

	Need to enhance and augment habitats to avoid their decline within settlements.
	Risk of increasing population near sensitive natural heritage areas.
	Extensive use of land, and cumulative impact is resulting in the loss of biodiversity.

Table 7: Significant environmental problems: climatic factors

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
Climatic factors	High energy dependence on fossil fuels to provide heat and electricity.
	High energy dependence on fossil fuels for transportation.
	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.
	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 8: Significant environmental problems: human health

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
Human health	Significant development pressure for 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.

Table 9: Significant environmental problems: population

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
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.
	In-migration will create greater demand for houses and services in Aberdeenshire.
	Possible need for services catering for 'non-Scotland' migrants, especially if from overseas (e.g. language and cultural issues/differences).

	Retiral 'stealth' in-migration may affect housing and service provision in Aberdeenshire (i.e. an increase need for).
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Table 10: Significant environmental problems: cultural heritage

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
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.
	Only a small number of buildings at risk are undergoing restoration in the North East.
	The majority of the buildings at risk are in rural areas, with few undergoing restoration.
	Poorly designed buildings, especially for the disabled, elderly and children.
	Lack of an existing policy on inclusive design in the Structure Plan.
	Issue of conflicting requirements when ensuring the accessibility of existing buildings.
	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 11 Significant environmental problems: landscape

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
Landscape	The insensitive siting and design, as well as type (e.g. dwelling(s), wind farm or quarry) of new development.
	The siting and design of new developments are individually and cumulatively adversely affecting designated landscapes.
	The individual or cumulative impact of dwelling houses may adversely be affecting the purpose of landscape designations, e.g. by affecting the coastal and landscape characteristics of Areas of Landscape Significance.
	The insensitive siting and design of new developments are individually and cumulatively adversely affecting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the setting of settlements; and ○ townscapes (e.g. conservation areas).

	<p>There is an increased need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ assess a settlement's key features(s); ○ reinforcing a sense of place; and ○ involving local communities.
	<p>The inappropriate scale and insensitive siting of enabling development is adversely affecting landscape characteristics (e.g. changing it's landscape character type, not respecting local topography/contours).</p>
	<p>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.</p>

Table 12: Significant environmental problems: material assets

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
Material assets	The number of vacant dwellings in Aberdeen is increasing, while in Aberdeenshire the figure is falling.
	More than two-thirds of Aberdeen's housing stock is identified as suffering some form of disrepair, with 43% (higher than the Scottish average) classified as "urgent".
	More than half of the housing stock in the North East is failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.
	Aberdeen has a high level of derelict and urban vacant land – need to reduce the under utilisation of these sites through regeneration schemes.
	More retrofitting of dwellings is required to bring them back into habitable use.
	20% of vacant and derelict sites in Aberdeen are greater than 5ha.
	Works have been identified in the North East to ensure that properties are safeguarded from flooding.
	Need to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ new development will not increase the probability of flooding elsewhere; ○ development is not sited in an area at risk from fluvial or coastal flooding; and ○ existing and new urban drainage systems will not flood properties (especially as storm events are predicted to increase).
	Predicted rise in sea level may result in existing flood defences being inadequate.
	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 wastewater constraint issue in most of Aberdeenshire.	

	There is a significant water supply constraint throughout most of the North East, with the exception of a handful of settlements.
	There is a significant shortfall of affordable housing in both Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, especially in one bedroom and 4 plus bedroom dwellings.
	The lack of holiday/second homes will increase house prices as dwellings that would normally have been bought to live in are bought for the purpose of being used as a second/ holiday home.
	A shortage of holiday/second homes will adversely affect the tourist trade in Aberdeenshire's most popular areas.
	Very few new developments (e.g. dwellings, schools, offices etc) are using sustainable materials in the North East.

4 Scope and level of detail proposed for strategic environmental assessment

Alternatives

- 4.1 At the current time no decisions have been taken on the content of the structure plan, no “preferred” alternatives exist. Preferred alternatives will emerge through engagement with stakeholders and will find expression in the draft plan.
- 4.2 The following section summarises how current “baseline” alternatives (i.e. plan objectives and strategic options) have been identified for early consultation. The section on “Methodology for assessing environmental effects” (paragraph 4.13) below sets out the method by which the current working drafts are to be assessed. It also records how future alternatives are to be generated, and the means by which they will be assessed.

Plan Objectives

- 4.1 A draft vision for the plan was developed from workshops with elected members and a “key stakeholder reference group”. This draft vision is a statement of the political aspirations for development in the area. It was developed through an iterative process where 6 working draft visions were constructed and dismissed before the draft vision presented in the “Structure Plan Issues report” was finalised and agreed by Members. Alternative vision statements centred around issues of presentation and the weight to be given to different aspirations of the plan.
- 4.2 The agreed draft vision was used to generate a series of draft aims for the plan. These were statements of what the plan should be seeking to achieve when the aspiration of the vision was applied to different topics that the plan might require to address. These statements were concatenated and reviewed to produce a set of working draft aims. These aims were then analysed to produce specific objectives for the plan to seek to achieve. Again this was a creative and iterative process designed to generate a small number of objectives, which were relevant over a wide range of development types.
- 4.3 The significance of this is that these “working draft objectives” are to be used by stakeholders as part of the qualitative evaluation of the strategic options.

Strategic Options

- 4.6 Working draft strategic options were also developed through an iterative process. Initial analysis identified that the preferred strategic option would require to identify where, how much and when development would be allowed. 8 Basic patterns for spatial distribution of development were identified. Whether additional models could be considered was tested through reference to expert stakeholder groups.
- 4.7 It was concluded that over 120,000 possible permutations of different scales, spatial distributions and phasing could be considered and, to

narrow this down to a manageable number exercises were undertaken with expert stakeholder groups. These exercises tested the 8 basic patterns of distribution against the requirements for a development in the Aberdeen area as articulated by the National Planning Framework, the broad aspirations of other plans and strategies operating in the area, and known planning objectives and constraints. This resulted in 8 specific strategic options being identified for consultation, each composed of elements from two of the basic strategies. These conclusions were tested through reference to a key stakeholder reference group.

- 4.8 A simple approach to issues of scale and phasing were promoted. Low, medium and high growth scenarios were developed based on forecast requirements, average development rates over the past 10 years, and additional “aspirational” growth respectively. Early intervention, sustained development and late intervention scenarios were developed to consider issues of phasing.

Initial rejection of alternatives

- 4.9 The work on identifying a set of working draft strategic options, on which to engage with stakeholders, and on a set of working draft objectives, on which to assess the strategic options, has not been the subject of a rigorous environmental appraisal process. For the purpose of transparency Tables 1 and 2 have been produced to identify the main reasons why alternative strategic options and plan objectives were accepted, rejected, or modified to form the current working drafts.
- 4.10 Those alternatives that have significant environmental effects and are feasible are taken forward for further assessment and evaluation. This will be an iterative process with key stakeholder involvement, and a final set of strategic objectives will be presented in the consultative draft SP.
- 4.11 The following table shows the strategic options/spatial strategies to be taken forward for further assessment in the environmental report with justifications. The section on “Methodology for assessing environmental effects” (paragraph 4.13) sets out the assessment process of those alternatives and structure plan objectives to be taken forward for further assessment against the SEA objectives set out in Table 15.

Table 13: Basic spatial strategies and reasons for accepting or rejection

Basic spatial strategy	Justification
New settlements	Accepted to complement the Aberdeen City model despite concerns surrounding regeneration, environmental impact and economic development
Development on the existing road and rail corridor	Accepted in part despite concerns on its ability to deliver both the quantity of development land required and regeneration.
Development in a new transport corridor	Accepted to complement the existing transport corridor despite poor assessment in terms of

	infrastructure constraints, development of the economy of the City and delivery of sufficient development land
Development in Aberdeen City	Accepted in part as it met the majority of criteria against which it was judged. Concerns relating to choice of development location, this models ability to provide sufficient volume of land for needs and lack of alternatives in other areas.
Development in new settlements associated with the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR)	Rejected due to impacts on environmental quality, opportunities to regenerate disadvantaged areas and concerns relating to impacts on the transport network
Edge of City Communities	Accepted to complement the Aberdeen City model despite concern about its ability to foster regeneration.
Dispersal throughout the region	Rejected due to environmental impact, infrastructure constraints, the ability to deliver sustainable transportation, sufficient volume of land for development in marketable locations, and economic development aspirations for the City.
Development in growth poles (e.g. a key growth location) across Aberdeenshire	Accepted to complement the Aberdeen City model despite concerns relating to economic development opportunities, sustainable transport options, environmental quality and promotion of the knowledge economy.

Scoping in/out of SEA issues

- 4.12 In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council's have 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 14.

Table 14: Environmental Issues Scoped in

Environmental Issues	Scoped in	Justification
Air	Yes	Due to the nature and scale of the structure plan (e.g. the geographic scale covered by the structure plan, and its place in the planning hierarchy), all the environmental issues have been scoped in for further consideration in the SEA, as the structure 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

- 4.13 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.
- 4.14 The SEA objectives are separate from the structure plan's objectives although they can influence each other and even overlap. To fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive, they 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.
- 4.15 Table 15 lists a set of SEA objectives against which the vision, aims, strategic objectives and policies of the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire structure 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. While all objectives will be used in the assessment it is likely that those highlighted in Table 15 are unlikely to feature prominently in the assessment.

Table 15: Possible SEA objectives & indicators (Objectives highlighted are unlikely to feature prominently in the SEA assessment)

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendices 3 and 5	Outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the strategic plan should emphasise on (Appendix 2)
Air	1. Protect and improve local air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) emissions. • Reduction in the number of days that exceed the National Air Quality Strategy (NAQS) objectives for NO₂ and PM₁₀. • Achievement or de-designation of Aberdeen as an Air Quality Management Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving air quality (odour and dust). • Achievement of Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Reduce water pollution and protect, maintain and enhance water quality and good ecological status as set out in the Water Framework and Nitrates Directives and the general water environment including marine, coastal and river systems, wetlands, loch, estuaries and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 watercourses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing water quality in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. • Safeguarding and improving water quality (biology and chemistry). • Reducing adverse impacts on the coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable use of water and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts. • Reduce water pollution and enhance water quality. • Prevent water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from point source pollution sources. • Avoid further degradation of the coastal environment.

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendices 3 and 5	Outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the strategic plan should emphasise on (Appendix 2)
	<p>floodplains.</p> <p>3. Maintain water abstraction, run-off and recharge within carrying capacity (including future capacity).</p> <p>4. Only development supported in SPP7: (Planning and Flooding) will be allowed within functional flood plains.</p> <p>5. Improve and support water efficient technologies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in water abstraction in environmentally sensitive areas. • Closure of the Water of Dye abstraction plant in the River Dee catchment area. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining ground water and river levels. • Reducing the likelihood of flooding from new development. 	
Soil	6. Reduce area of land contamination in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remediation of contaminated land • Reduction of soil/water pollution from landfill waste disposal schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remediation of contaminated land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create sustainable communities with a focus on the sustainable use of natural

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendices 3 and 5	Outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the strategic plan should emphasise on (Appendix 2)
	7. Improve and safeguard the efficiency and effectiveness of land use and soil quality and quantity (e.g. controlling soil erosion and sedimentation).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the area of Prime agricultural land developed. • Increase in the number of recycling schemes. • Meeting Landfill Allowance Targets. • 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). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding prime agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3.1). • Reducing waste disposal in landfill. • Reducing soil erosion. 	resources.
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	8. Conserve, protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving North East Biodiversity Action Plan (NE BAP) targets. • Safeguarding designated areas. • Safeguarding non-designated areas and enhancing biodiversity (reducing loss of habitat and species). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity.

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendices 3 and 5	Outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the strategic plan should emphasise on (Appendix 2)
		<p>natural/wild areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of wildlife corridors / augmentation of wildlife habitats (however a method of monitoring this would have to be developed). 		
Climatic factors	<p>9. Reduce the causes of adverse climate change (e.g. reduction in CO₂ levels through carbon accounting and North East global footprint).</p> <p>10. Decrease the use of non renewable energy.</p> <p>11. Reduce vulnerability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels through carbon accounting. • 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. • Reduction in the number of properties at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in carbon dioxide levels. • Minimising impact on natural resources. • Increasing in proportion of heat and electricity generated from renewable energy sources and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) schemes. • Reducing areas affected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendices 3 and 5	Outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the strategic plan should emphasise on (Appendix 2)
	to the effects of climate change e.g. flooding, public service provision, and habitats.	<p>risk from flooding (either pluvial, fluvial or tidal).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in those vulnerable to rising 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. 	<p>by flooding (sea, fluvial or pluvial).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding biodiversity. • Impact on year-round services. 	
Human health	<p>12. Improve accessibility to good quality open green space and countryside.</p> <p>13. Improve accessibility to open spaces, jobs/ employment, education, public services, and decrease deprivation/social exclusion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <i>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation</i> affecting Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. • Percentage of households within 6 minutes walk of a bus stop • Decrease in the number of those overcrowded (as identified in the Census). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing/maintaining quality and availability of public open space in urban and rural areas. • Improvements to quality of life in currently deprived areas. Increasing sport and recreation facilities in areas of identified need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote quality 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 Appendices 3 and 5	Outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the strategic plan should emphasise on (Appendix 2)
	<p>14. Increase opportunities for indoor recreation and exercise.</p> <p>15. Protect and improve health.</p> <p>16. Increase the mix of housing types and tenure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of sports facilities built (as identified in Aberdeen's and Aberdeenshire's sports strategies/studies). • Reduction in the number of letters of complaint to Environmental Health on noise, odours or air quality. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving those suffering from mental health (especially of poorer communities) as a result of overcrowding. • Reducing excessive noise disturbance from aircraft. 	
Population	<p>17. Improve the supply of housing land to accommodate in-migration and the predicted increase households.</p> <p>18. Improve the supply of dwellings for the aging population and those with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in the general resident perception surveys. • Increase in the number and tenure of dwellings built. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing trends in household size. • Size of population. • Migration change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the planning policy framework for development consents for major residential, commercial, retail, and employment developments.

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendices 3 and 5	Outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the strategic plan should emphasise on (Appendix 2)
	<p>special needs.</p> <p>19. Improve the provision of land for care homes.</p> <p>20. Improve the provision of services to cater for 'non-Scotland' migrants, especially if from overseas (e.g. language and cultural issues/differences).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of care homes built. • Increase in provision of services for overseas immigrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years of healthy life expectancy. 	
Cultural heritage	<p>21. Protect, and where appropriate, enhance the historic environment.</p> <p>22. Promote the understanding and enjoyment of the historic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Reduce conflict with building impact: form and materials, internal environment, urban and social integration, character, innovation and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing numbers of buildings at risk. • Safeguarding building functionality (e.g. use and access). • Safeguarding listed buildings, designed landscape etc, and conservation areas. • Safeguarding archaeological sites. • Ensuring that the impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, maintain and enhance the built and cultural heritage.

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendices 3 and 5	Outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the strategic plan should emphasise on (Appendix 2)
	environment.	accessibility (e.g. works required for the disabled).	from new build reflects: form & materials, environment, urban and social integration, character and innovation of existing historic buildings.	
Landscape	<p>23. Protect and enhance and where appropriate restore the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscape and townscapes.</p> <p>24. Safeguard the landscapes capacity to absorb</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing designated areas – National Scenic Areas (NSA). • Enhancing designated areas – Areas of Landscape Significance (ALS). • Enhancing townscape quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding landscape character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, maintain and enhance the landscape character.

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendices 3 and 5	Outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the strategic plan should emphasise on (Appendix 2)
	new development.	that have adversely affect landscape characteristics (e.g. changing it's landscape character type, not respecting local topography/contours).		

SEA Topics	Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators	Indicators from baseline data and environmental problems sections in Appendices 3 and 5	Outcomes from the analysis of other plans etc, which the strategic plan should emphasise on (Appendix 2)
Material assets	<p>25. Promote the creation of fixed assets, including affordable housing and water and waste management facilities.</p> <p>26. Enhance and promote commercial and industrial assets.</p> <p>27. Regenerate derelict, vacant or contaminated land.</p> <p>28. Protect residential, commercial and industrial properties from flooding.</p> <p>29. Promote the use of sustainable materials and the adoption of Lifetime standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase and enhancement in the number of wastewater treatment works and water works built. • Increase in the number of waste management facilities built that addresses the need identified in the Area Waste Plan. • Decrease in waiting list figures for affordable housing. • Increase in the number of vacant buildings reused. • 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 use of sustainable materials in new build and retrofit in planning applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing number of vacant dwellings. • Reducing number of degraded buildings. • Reducing derelict and vacant land (and buildings). • Safeguarding properties protected from flooding. • Enhancing existing flood defences. • Enhancing existing pumping stations and sewage works. • Enhancing water treatment works. • Ensuring sufficient supply of affordable housing. • Ensuring sufficient supply of second homes. • Increasing proportion of building materials from sustainable sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

- 4.16 The structure plan’s strategic options, plan objectives and policies, as well as the alternatives brought forward for further assessment will be assessed against SEA objectives to be agreed through this scoping process. Significant environmental effects of the plan will be predicted to determine whether the plan has 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). This will be an iterative process with key stakeholder involvement.
- 4.17 Table 16 presents the framework that will be used to assess effects of the strategic development plan.

Table 16: Framework for assessing the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan

The Structure Plan	SEA Objectives					Overall effect	Comments [Short-term, medium-term and long-term effects; permanent and temporary effects; positive & negative effects; and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects]	To be assessed for further cumulative impacts in Tables 17 and 18)? Tick if apply
	1	2	3	...	Nth SEA Objective			
Strategic option 1 [name]								√
Strategic option 2 [name]								√
Nth Strategic option								
Plan objective 1 [name] (v4)								
Alternative Plan objective 1 [name] (v3)								
Alternative Plan objective 1 [name] (v2)								√
Alternative Plan objective 1 [name] (v1)								
Nth Policy								
Policy 1 (v3)								
Alternative Policy 1 (v2)								
Alternative Policy 1 (v1)								
Nth Alternative Policy								
Overall Effects								
Key	++ = very positive + = positive +/- = mixed ? = uncertain -- = very negative - = negative 0 = neutral							

Cumulative effect assessment framework

4.18 A further framework for assessing cumulative and synergistic effects of the structure plan and the alternatives are presented in Tables 17 and 18 below. Only those structure plan spatial options, objectives and policies that were identified in Table 15 above (SEA objectives) 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 structure plan options, objectives and policies that were identified in Table 15 (SEA objectives) of having cumulative/synergistic/secondary effects;
- considering the effects that may arise from interaction with proposals within the structure plan as well as those within other plans, programmes and strategies (National Planning Framework, 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 17: Cumulative & synergistic effects of the structure plan options, objectives and policies

Structure plan objectives/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?	
Option/ Plan objective/Policy [name] (version 1)					More study needed
Option/Plan Objective/Policy [name] (version 4)					Potential adverse effect [Suggest appropriate mitigation measures]
Nth option/ plan objective/policy					

Key: positive (+), negative (-), neutral (0), uncertain (?)

Table 18: Cumulative & synergistic effects of alternative structure plan options, objectives and policies

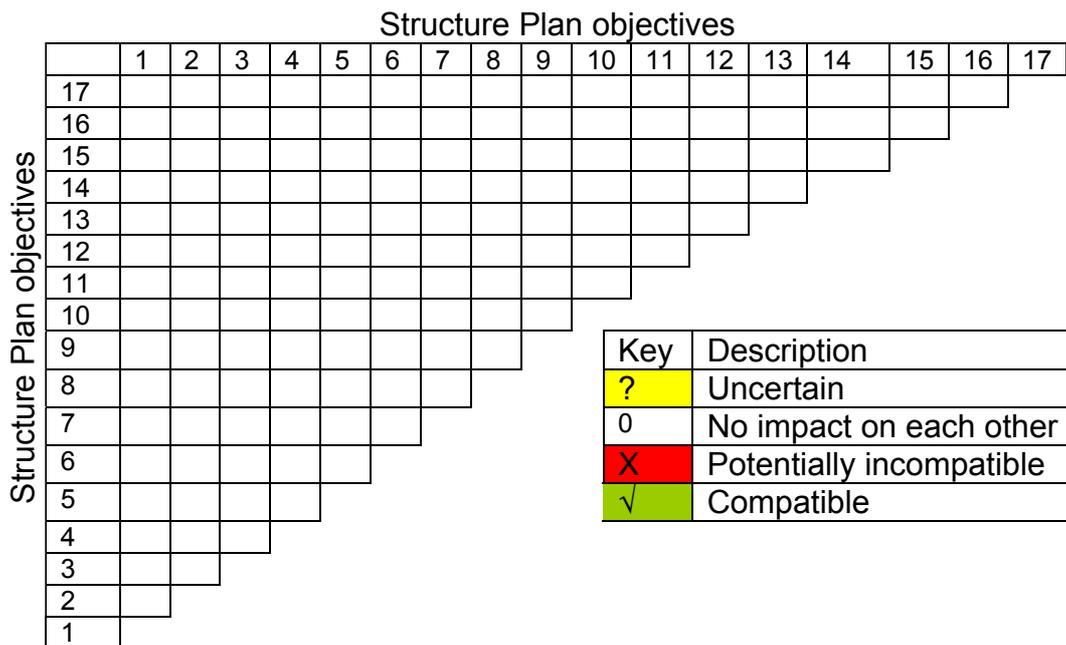
Alternative structure plan objectives/policies/	Cumulative effects assessment				Overall effects
	Cumulative/synergistic/secondary effects?	Cumulative/synergistic/secondary effects with other plans or strategies?	Effects on critical environmental capital (e.g. water)?	Does any uncertainty about the cumulative or other effects exist?	
Alternative Option/Plan objective/ Policy [name] (version 1)					More study needed
Alternative Option/Plan objective/Policy [name] (version 2)					Potential adverse effect [Suggest appropriate mitigation measures here]
Nth option/plan objective/policy					

Key: positive (+), negative (-), neutral (0), uncertain (?)

Assessment of compatibility of plan objectives

4.19 In order to determine the consistency and compatibility of the SP’s objectives to each other, an internal compatibility assessment of the SP’s objectives will be undertaken using a framework presented in Figure 1 below. At the time of writing, the first drafts of SP’s strategic objectives are still being developed.

Figure 1: Internal Compatibility Assessment of the SP’s Objectives



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 Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council Structure Plan. It also seeks to ensure that positive effects identified are enhanced. The proposed framework for mitigating significant environmental effects is shown in Appendix 6.

Monitoring Framework

- 4.21 Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council are required to monitor the significant environmental effects arising from the implementation of the structure 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 structure plan is shown in Table 19 below.

Table 19: 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?
Aims of the Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council Structure Plan							
Strategic Objectives of the Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council Structure Plan							
Policies of the Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council Structure Plan							

5 The Appropriate Assessment

- 5.1 Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC requires that where a plan or project may significantly affect a Natura 2000 site (natural heritage designation of international importance – Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection areas, and Ramsar (wetland) sites), an Appropriate Assessment may be required. The purpose of the assessment is to identify the likely significant effects at an early stage.
- 5.2 The Appropriate Assessment consists of two stages:
- a screening exercise of all Natura 2000 sites to identify which sites are likely to be significantly affected by the structure plan; and
 - a full Appropriate Assessment of specific Natura 2000 sites.
- 5.3 Natura 2000 sites within the Cairngorms National Park will be excluded from the Appropriate Assessment as the Cairngorms National Park Authority is producing their own national plan, and the structure plan will stop at the National Park boundary.
- 5.4 The screening exercise will not be undertaken until the draft structure plan has been written, which includes the preferred strategic option, plan objectives and policies, as the significant effects required for this assessment will not be known until actual proposals are set out. The screening exercise will be undertaken in accordance with the Scottish Executive's interim guidelines, *Assessing Development Plans in Terms of the Need for Appropriate Assessment* (May 2006), which sets out the following steps:
- to identify all Natura 2000 sites that may be affected within or outwith the structure plan boundary;
 - to identify the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of each site, which may be affected, in the context of the plan's aims and objectives;
 - to consider the intentions of the aims, objectives, proposals and policies within the plan and the anticipated changes to the interests of any of the sites that the plans implementation may cause or contribute to; and
 - to determine which elements of the plan would be likely to have any significant effect on any interests/feature of any European site, alone or in combination with other projects and plans, directly or indirectly.
- 5.5 The screening exercise will be submitted to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and other stakeholders for their comment as a separate screening report. Where significant effects have been identified, as a result of the structure plan, a full Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken, and will be published along with the SEA environment report.
- 5.6 A framework for undertaking the Appropriate Assessment will be included with the screening report to SNH and other stakeholders for their agreement.

6 Next steps

Proposed Consultation Timescale & Anticipated Milestones

- 6.1 Table 20 shows the remaining steps needed for the SEA of the Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council Structure Plan; and how these steps would be carried out and described in the Final SEA Environmental Report. From Table 20 below, the proposed period for consultation on the draft structure plan and the accompanying environmental report is a minimum of six weeks.

Table 20: Proposed Consultation Timescale and Methods

Expected date	Milestone	Comments
5 weeks	Consulting on the Scoping Report by the SE Gateway	
4 weeks	Collating views from the Consultation Authorities on the Scoping Report consultation	
4 weeks	Take the appropriate action on the Scoping report and the plan as the result of the consultations	
4 weeks	Produce the Environmental Report	
January 2008 for 6 weeks	Consulting on the interim Environmental Report and the draft Structure Plan	
2 weeks	Collating views on the Consultation	
5-8 weeks	Take the appropriate action on the environmental report and the plan as the result of the consultations.	
August 2008	Publication of the Environmental Report and the finalised draft Structure Plan and submission to Scottish Ministers	
4 weeks	Take post-adoption measures	

- 6.2 Key stages in the development of the structure plan can be identified as follows:
- Identification and confirmation of the issues to be considered by the plan by September 2007.
 - Identification and confirmation of the spatial strategy by September 2007.
 - Production of a draft plan by January 2008.
 - Production of a finalised plan by June 2008.
 - Production of an Action Programme by September 2008.

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 21 and 22 below.

Table 21: People Consulted on the initial draft of the Environmental Report

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

Table 22: 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 gateway
Scottish Executive
Area 1 H (Bridge)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Dear Scottish Ministers

**Consultation Period under Sections 16(1)(b) & 16(2)(a)(iv)
The Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan
The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005**

Aberdeen City Region has received the views of the consultation authorities on the scoping report for the Strategic Development Plan. In accordance with Section 15(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, Aberdeen City 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, Structure Plans)

Appendix 2: Analysis of relevant plans, programmes and environmental objectives

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
Review of International documents					
EC 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 protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity.	8	
Birds Directive 79/409/EEC	Gives powers and responsibility to protect wild birds and to conserve the habitats of rare and migratory species designated as Special Protection Area (SPAs).	The Plan should ensure the protection of all wild, rare and vulnerable birds, and their habitats, and avoid hindering the protection, management and control of species of wild birds.	Include a SEA objective that protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity.	8	
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	Establishes a framework for the protection, improvement and sustainable use of surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater by:	Develop policies that consider sustainable use of water and that mitigate the effects of floods and droughts.	Include SEA objectives that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce water pollution and enhance water 	2, 5, and 11	The RBMP for Scotland will have to be addressed in the strategic

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addressing the issues of flooding; • SuDS; • water quality; • bathing Water Quality; • treatment of waste water; • ground water protection; and • River Basin Management Plans (which promote the concept of sustainable water management) 		quality; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support water efficient technologies; and • reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change e.g. flooding, disruption to travel by extreme weather, etc. 		land use plan when it is produced in 2009 – most likely through a review.
Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC	This Directive has the objective of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources; and • preventing further such pollution. 	Develop policies that reduce and prevent water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from point source pollution sources.	Include objectives that aim to reduce water pollution and enhance water quality.		Agriculture does not come under direct planning control.
Landfill Directive	The Landfill Directive has derived a waste hierarchy, which starts at waste minimisation and increasing the levels of recycling and recovery, and it sets demanding targets to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal landfilled up to 2020.	The Plan should reflect the needs of the Landfill Directive, including the infrastructure required to meet the municipal biodegradable waste targets to 2020.	SEA objectives should use land effectively and efficiently, and promote the need for waste infrastructure (material assets).	7, and 25	
Review of National documents					
National Planning	• Promotes the development of City	The Plan should take	Include SEA	8, 10, 13, 25, 26	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
Framework for Scotland (NPF)	<p>Regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates the regeneration of socially disadvantaged areas. • Facilitates the implementation of sustainable transport and other key infrastructure. • Development of skills and the knowledge economy (accessibility). • Encourages environmental stewardship. 	<p>account of the spatial and environmental issues set out in the NPF, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting the concepts of sustainable development, community regeneration, transportation infrastructure, and other environmental issues; & • ensuring land required to meet the city region's needs (e.g. infrastructure and affordable housing) is delivered. 	<p>objectives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the investment of water and waste infrastructure; • affordable housing; • protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity; • renewable energy; • enhance and promote commercial and industrial assets; and • improve accessibility to public services, education, and decrease deprivation. 		
DTI: Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a low carbon economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the UK's carbon dioxide emissions – the main contributor to global warming – by some 60% by 2050, with real progress by 2020. • Increase the proportion of electricity provided by renewable sources to 	The Plan should contribute to meeting the requirements of the White Paper.	Include SEA objective to reduce the causes of adverse climate change.	9	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	<p>10% by 2010, subject to the cost being acceptable to the consumer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double the proportion of electricity supplied by renewable sources by 2020. • Ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated. 				
Securing the future – UK Government Sustainability Development Strategy (2005)	Is implemented in Scotland through the <i>Choosing Our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy</i> , and highlights the need to build a sustainable future taking account of public well-being (e.g. quality of life, food, economic opportunities), travel, natural resources and waste.	Consider policies that will lead to sustainable communities.	SEA objectives need to ensure the sustainable use of resources and energy, and the protection of natural resources and the environment.	3, 7, 8, 10, 21, 27, and 29	
Meeting the Needs, Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland (2002)	Requires all new developments to be sustainable, and it sets out the priorities for Scotland, which focus on resource use, energy use (e.g. fossil fuels, energy efficiency and renewable energy), and transportation (e.g. encouraging better land use planning, alternative service delivery and sustainable transport systems).	Promote policies that promote efficient resource use, energy efficiency and reduce the need to travel by private car.	SEA objectives need to ensure the sustainable use of resources and energy, and the protection of natural resources and the environment.	3, 7, 8, 10, 21, 27, and 29	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
Climate Change: The UK programme	Implemented in Scotland through the <i>Scottish Climate Change Programme</i> , which is under review. It reaffirms local government responsibilities set out in Energy White Paper and implements the Koyoto Protocol, which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Include policies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote sustainable alternatives to car and reduce congestion traffic pollution; and • encourage sustainable development and land use. 	Include sustainability objectives to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve air quality; • reduce the causes of adverse climate change; • increase the use of renewable energy technologies; and • have an adequate supply of affordable housing. 	1, 9, 10, and 25	
BREEAM/ EcoHomes	This programme sets the standards for development schemes to attain, so minimising their environmental impact, in particular through the implementation of energy and water efficiency techniques.	Include policies that aim to ensure the environmental impact of buildings are minimised.	Ensure there are SEA objectives to minimise the environmental impact, especially energy and water efficiency of buildings.	5, 8, 9, 10 and 29	
Air Quality Strategy For England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: Working Together for	Seeks to improve and protect ambient air quality and protect human health and the environment without unacceptable economic or social costs.	Promote policies that improve local air quality.	Include SEA objectives to improve air quality.	1	Awaiting new objectives for acceptable nitrogen dioxide levels, as the current objective was

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
Clean Air 2000					only to 2005.
Scotland's Transport Future: The Transport White Paper (2004)	<p>Sets out the Scottish Executive's ambitions for improving the planning and delivery of transport at a local, regional and national level. The White Paper aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote economic growth by improving transport services infrastructure and networks; • promote social inclusion by connecting communities and increasing accessibility; • protecting the environment and improve health by minimising emissions, and consumption of resources and energy; • improve safety of journeys; and • improving integration between different forms of transport. 	<p>Plan should contribute to meeting the objectives of the White Paper through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving transport infrastructure and interchanges; • connecting rural and disadvantaged communities; and • improving air quality. 	<p>SEA objectives should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving air quality; • increase the use of renewable energy technologies; and • improving accessibility to open spaces, jobs/ employment, education, public services, and decrease deprivation/social exclusion 	1, 10, and 13	
Wildlife and Country Act 1981	<p>UK legislation implementing the Habitats and Birds Directives – protection of habitats and species from harm, and designating sites (updated by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004) and public rights</p>	<p>Plan should protect wildlife from disturbance, injury, or intentional destruction.</p>	<p>Include a SEA objective that protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity.</p>	8	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	of way (updated by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000).				
Nature Conservation (Scotland) 2004 Act	Sets out a series of measures that are designed to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland. The Act introduced a general duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity.	Plan should promote the conservation of biodiversity.	Include a SEA objective that protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity.	8	
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Encourages planning authorities to adopt a strategic approach to natural heritage planning by augmenting habitats, and to make an important contribution to the achievement of biodiversity targets by adopting policies, which promote and afford protection to species and habitats identified as priorities in Local Biodiversity Action Plans.	Include policies that promote biodiversity through protecting habitats and species and by linking habitats together.	Include a SEA objective that protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity.	8	
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy	Is a 25 year strategy, which sets out a vision for the future health of Scotland's biodiversity to 2030. It highlights the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • look at the bigger picture: 	The Plan's strategy needs to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the protection and conservation of biodiversity; 	Include a SEA objective that protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity.	8	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	<p>reconnecting and extending habitats and reducing barriers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • think in terms of landscapes and ecosystems (not just in terms of species and habitats), which it says can be better delivered through strategic planning; and • encourage more engagement with people in biodiversity conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to assist in reversing the decline of important species and habitats; and • to maximise habitat linkage in both urban and rural areas and minimise further fragmentation. 			
Scottish Executive Marine & Coastal Strategy (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance and conserve the overall quality of the coasts and seas, their natural processes and their biodiversity. • To integrate environment and biodiversity considerations into the management of marine activities. • To promote wider public awareness, on the value of the marine and coastal environments and the pressures on them. • To identify means of working with natural processes to protect against coastal flooding and to maintain inter-tidal and coastal habitats of importance for biodiversity. 	Promote objectives that promote clean, safe, healthy and productive coastal and marine environment.	Include a SEA objective that protects, maintains and enhances the water environment, including coastal and marine systems.	2	Current planning legislation only applies to the coast and not the sea.

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997	Prescribes the approach to be taken in planning for listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens.	Plan should ensure that listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens are not adversely affected by new development.	Include a SEA objective that preserves historic buildings and other culturally important features.	21	
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Prescribes the approach to be taken in planning for scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological areas.	Plan should ensure that scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological areas are not adversely affected by new development.	Include a SEA objective that preserves archaeological sites and other culturally important features.	21	
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	Legislation provides for reasonable rights of access to countryside.	Plan should protect and keep open and free from obstruction or encroachment any route, waterway or other means by which access rights may reasonably be exercised.	Include a SEA objective that improves the quality and quantity of publicly accessible open spaces.	12	
National Waste Strategy (Scotland)	To provide a framework within which Scotland can reduce the amount of waste, which it produces, and to handle waste in more sustainable	Plan should contribute to implementing the strategy, and include policies that promote	Include a SEA objective that uses land effectively and efficiently and	7	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	ways. The National Waste Plan is the key to implementing the National Waste Strategy. This plan brings together Area Waste Plans for the different Waste Strategy Areas across Scotland.	waste minimisation and reduce the amount of municipal waste going to landfill.	safeguards soil quality and quantity.		
Sport 21 2003-2007 (sportscotland) Under review.	Sport 21 is the national strategy for sport in Scotland, and maintains a vision of Scotland as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a country achieving and sustaining world class performances in sport; • a country where sport is more widely available to all; and • a country where sporting talent is recognised and nurtured. 	Plan should contribute to implementing the strategy.	Include an SEA objective that increases opportunities for indoor recreation and exercise.	14	The strategy is currently under review, and will include objectives and targets post 2007.
SPP1: The Planning System	SPP1 sets out the primary objectives of the planning system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to set the land use framework for promoting sustainable economic development; • to encourage and support regeneration; and • to maintain and enhance the quality of the natural heritage and built 	Plan should pursue sustainable economic development, regeneration, social justice, and protect and enhance both urban and rural environmental quality.	Include SEA objectives that protect and enhance both urban and rural environmental quality.	8, 10, 13, 15, and 21 – 24	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	environment.				
SPP2: Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a range of development opportunities. • To secure new development in sustainable locations by integration of transport, brownfield site and use of ICT. • To safeguard and enhance the environment (e.g. protecting the natural and built heritage, and ensuring the high quality and design of new buildings. • To promote a dialogue between councils and business. 	Plan should pursue sustainable economic development principles, taking full account of the natural and built environment.	Include SEA objectives that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect, maintain and enhance historic buildings, landscape and townscape setting, biodiversity, archaeological sites; • uses land efficiently; • improve access to employment land; • enhance and promote commercial and industrial assets; and • regenerates brownfield land. 	7, 8, 13, 21 – 24, 26 and 27	
SPP3: Planning for Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create quality residential environments. • To guide development to the right places. • To deliver an adequate supply of housing land. 	Plan should meet the requirements of the SPP in terms of providing residential developments, making the best use of urban areas and reusing urban land, and	Is applicable to SEA objectives on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • soil and biodiversity; • renewable energy and energy efficient technologies; 	7, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17, 21 – 25, 27, 28, and 29	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	Plans and proposals for residential development should seek to minimise adverse effects on natural heritage, including landscape character and biodiversity, and consider the potential impact of housing land allocations on archaeological sites and landscapes of historic importance.	minimising adverse effects on natural heritage, including landscape character and biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • open space; • housing types and needs; • cultural heritage; • local vernacular styles; • landscape capacity; • creating fixed assets (affordable housing); • landscape and townscape characteristics and setting; and • using sustainable materials and lifetime standards. 		
SPP4: Planning for Minerals	Promotes a sustainable approach to mineral extraction that should reconcile the need for minerals with concern for the natural and built environment and communities in a Manner.	Plan should ensure that proposals for mineral extraction to accord with the principles of sustainable development and environmental justice.	<p>Include SEA objectives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use land effectively and efficiently; and • protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity, landscape, historic buildings, and 	7, 8, 15, and 21 -24	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
			archaeological sites.		
NPPG5: Archaeology and Planning	To secure the best possible treatment of the archaeological heritage while at the same time accommodating the need for development.	Plan should take account of the environmental issues in the NPPG and promote the enjoyment and understanding of cultural heritage.	SEA objectives should ensure the preservation of historic buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features.	21 and 22	
NPPG6: Renewable Energy	Providing positively for renewable energy developments where it is environmentally acceptable, and safeguarding sites with potential for renewable energy projects against sterilisation by development, as well as protecting areas of important natural and built heritage from inappropriate forms of development.	Plan should take account of the environmental issues in the NPPG (e.g. encourage renewable energy use in developments, and promote schemes in appropriate locations), and the Merton Rule (e.g. generating 10% of the developments energy requirements from onsite renewables).	SEA objectives should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage the use of renewable energy technologies; and • protect, maintain and enhance, amenity biodiversity, landscape, historic buildings, and archaeological sites. 	8, 10, 15, and 21 – 24,	This NPPG is under review.
SPP7: Planning and Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify where areas at medium to high risk exist. • Take into account the probability of flooding from all sources when 	Plan should ensure that existing land uses and new developments are not at risk from pluvial,	SEA objectives should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect the functional flood plains from 	4, 11, and 28	RBMPs will not be published until 2009 – the Plan may

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	<p>preparing the Plan, the risks involved, and defining areas where flood risk can be managed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute towards achieving the wider objectives of flood management and the water environment (e.g. safeguarding functional flood plains from development; realigning the coast; and playing their part in relation to River Basin Management Planning. 	<p>fluvial or tidal flooding, and contribute towards achieving the wider objectives of flood management and the water environment (e.g. SuDS and retrofitting).</p>	<p>development, unless supported in SPP7: <i>Planning and Flooding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect residential, commercial and industrial properties from flooding. 		<p>not be in accordance with the RBMP when it is approved, unless drafts of the RBMP are produced in 2007/8 that indicate the its objectives etc.</p>
SPP8: Town Centres and Retailing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and promote town centres as part of a network of centres, and identify commercial centres and out-of-centre shopping areas by identifying the most appropriate location for retailing and other related activities. • Promote good quality design, protect and enhance existing quality, support the creation of town centres that are safe, inclusive and attractive for everyone and which promote sustainable management of water and energy. 	<p>Plan should take account of the retail hierarchy set out in the SPP when developing policies.</p>	<p>Include a SEA objective that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improves accessibility to open spaces, jobs/ employment, public services, & decrease deprivation social exclusion/; • increase the sustainable use of water and energy; • protects, maintains and enhances built 	<p>5, 7, 10, 15, 21 – 24 and 27</p>	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage developments that are accessible to all, reduce the need to travel and provide alternatives to the private car. 		<p>and cultural heritage, the landscape and townscape;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promotes good design and efficient use of land; and • regenerates brownfield land. 		
NPPG10: Planning and Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage development that reduces waste at source, re-uses 'waste', recovers waste by recycling, and uses waste as a source of energy (e.g. heat). • Provide a strategic view of waste management with regard to the levels of waste arising. • Identify strategic areas suitable for waste treatment and disposal facilities (planning authorities should set out long term proposals for suitable after-uses of landfill sites). • Take account of the proximity principal to reduce waste movements and favouring access to facilities by rail over road where 	<p>Plan should take account of the environmental issues in the NPPG, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify suitable locations for large-scale waste management facilities to meet the Landfill Directive whilst safeguarding the natural and built environment including designated areas, green belts, open countryside and the coast; and • promote waste minimisation. 	<p>Include a SEA objective that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protects air quality, the water environment, biodiversity, human health, landscape, and townscape, cultural heritage; • reduces land contamination, uses land effectively and efficiently, and safeguards soil quality and quantity; • promotes the creation of fixed 	1, 2, 6 – 8, 15, 21, 23 – 25, and 27	This NPPG is under review.

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	<p>potential exists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard the natural and built environment including designated areas, green belts, open countryside and the coast. • Guide other new developments in order that their amenity and environmental quality is not impaired by waste facilities. 		<p>assets and regenerates contaminated, derelict or vacant land.</p>		
<p>NPPG11 - Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space (1996)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the sporting and recreation needs of residents, tourists and visitors, while safeguarding the quality of natural and cultural heritage. • To safeguarding a system of open spaces for formal and informal recreation needs within urban areas, ranging from easily accessible small local green spaces to country parks and paths networks. 	<p>Plan should take account of the need for sport, physical recreation and open space reflect.</p>	<p>SEA objectives should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the quality and quantity of publicly accessible open spaces; and • increase opportunities for indoor recreation and exercise. 	<p>12 – 14</p>	
<p>NPPG12: Skiing Developments</p>	<p>Provide for the growth of skiing in locations where it is not likely to lead to significant adverse effects. However, given the uncertainty over</p>	<p>Plan should take account of the environmental issues in the NPPG.</p>	<p>Include SEA objective to protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>8</p>	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	the effects of climate change and our increasing obligations under European legislation, the broad approach of these guidelines is to exercise caution in providing new opportunities for the expansion of skiing at new locations.				
NPPG13: Coastal Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish between the developed, undeveloped and isolated coast. • To protect the coastal environment. • Indicate priority locations for investment in enhancement and regeneration. • Set out the criteria new development will have to have regard to in terms of the risk from flooding and erosion, and areas of natural and cultural importance. 	The strategic land use plan should avoid damage to coastal areas, and manage uses that require coastal locations in an environmentally sensitive manner.	Include SEA objectives that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safeguard soil quality and quantity (e.g. controlling soil erosion and sedimentation); • protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity; and • reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change e.g. flooding, public service provision, and habitats. 	7, 8, and 11	
NPPG14: Natural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conserve, safeguard and enhance designated natural 	Plan should take account of the environmental	Include SEA objective to protect, maintain	8, 11 and 23	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	<p>heritage sites of importance, and beyond the confines of their designated areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make an important contribution to the achievement of biodiversity targets by adopting policies, which promote and afford protection to species and habitats identified as priorities in Local Biodiversity Action Plans. 	issues in the NPPG.	and enhance biodiversity and reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change (e.g. augmenting habitats) and landscapes.		
SPP15: Planning for Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain the viability of existing communities and bring new life to places which have seen years of decline. • Help create opportunities for development in sustainable locations wherever appropriate. • Identify areas where housing and business opportunities can be advanced together. • In recognition of the significant economic role which second and holiday homes can play, planning authorities should allocate land in their development plans to help 	The plan should promote sustainable economic development in settlements of less than 3000 residents, and provide for holiday/second homes.	<p>Is applicable to SEA objectives on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • soil/land use • biodiversity; • accessibility to public services; • landscape and townscape characteristics and setting; • landscape capacity; • cultural heritage; • creation of fixed assets (e.g. 	7, 8, 13, and 21 – 27	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	meet this demand in addition to other housing requirements.		affordable housing/ second homes); • regeneration; and • enhancing commercial and industrial assets.		
SPP17: Planning for Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages increased use of walking, cycling and public transport. • Development plans should be co-ordinated with Regional and Local Transport Strategies (RTS/LTS), relate the settlement strategy to the capacity of the strategic transport network, set strategic maximum parking standards, and identify where economic growth or regeneration requires additional transport infrastructure. • The impact of the development strategy should be appraised to identify required new infrastructure. • Development plan strategies should aim to reduce the need to use strategic routes for short local 	Plan should take account of the environmental issues in the SPP and the RTS and LTSs. (e.g. allocating of sites for employment uses in a range of locations readily accessible by road and other forms of transport, and ensuring public transport access to new development areas).	Include SEA objectives that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and improve local air quality; • reduce the causes of adverse climate change; and • improve accessibility to open spaces, jobs/ employment, public services, and decrease deprivation/social exclusion. 	1, 9, and 13	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	<p>journeys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development plan strategies should support emerging proposals for rail. • Development plans should allocate sites for manufacturing, processing, distribution or warehousing, which are readily accessible not only to the strategic road network, but also to suitable rail facilities, wharves and harbours. 				
NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicate the main elements of the historic environment of relevance for strategic planning purposes. • Set out general policies for their protection, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. • Identify priority locations where an integrated approach to the protection, conservation and positive management of the historic environment should be pursued 	Plan should take account of the environmental issues in the NPPG (e.g. encouraging the preservation and continued use of the built heritage).	Included sustainable objectives that preserve historic buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features, and value and protect diversity and local distinctiveness.	21 and 22	
SPP20: <i>Role of Architecture and</i>	The SPP draws together and reinforces the Executive's published	Design quality of new development must be	Include a SEA objective that	23	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
<i>Design Scotland</i>	<p>design policy commitments and sets out the role of Architecture and Design Scotland.</p> <p>The Scottish Executive has aspirations for higher design standards, and the success of the planning system will be measured by the quality of development on the ground.</p>	<p>central to the strategic plan, and the continuation of current practice is not acceptable.</p>	<p>safeguards the landscape and townscape setting from insensitive siting and design of new development.</p>		
SPP21 Green Belts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To use green belt policy to manage growth more effectively for towns and cities under significant development pressure, or with a distinct character and identity that could be harmed by unplanned growth. • Within a green belt designation, define the scale of land use change, identify the developments that are appropriate and indicate the standards of layout, design and other important requirements that should be met. • Ensure the three key objectives of green belt policy are met by any 	<p>Plan should take account of the environmental issues in the SPP (e.g. by considering strategies that protect and enhance the character and landscape setting, and improve the quality and quantity of publicly accessible open spaces).</p>	<p>Include SEA objectives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the quality and quantity of publicly accessible open spaces; • safeguard the landscape and townscape setting from insensitive siting and design of new development; & • protect, enhance and where appropriate, restore historic buildings, 	13 and 23	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	green belt designation.		archaeological sites and other culturally important features.		
Scottish Historic Environment Policies (SHEP) No 1 <i>The Historic Environment</i> [CON 728]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the overarching policy statement for the historic environment. • It provides a framework for more detailed strategic policies and operational policies that inform the day to day work of a range of organisations that have a role and interest in managing the historic environment. • They are intended to sit alongside and complement the Scottish Planning Policy series and other relevant Ministerial policy documents. 	Plan should take account of the vision statements in the SHEP by managing the historic environment in a sustainable way.	Include a SEA objective that protects, enhances and where appropriate, restores historic buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features	21	
SHEP No 2 <i>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out Scottish Ministers' policy for the identification and designation of nationally important ancient monuments, which range from 4000BC to World War Two defences in the 1940s. 	Plan should take account of the archaeological issues in the SHEP (e.g. by considering strategies that protect and enhance the archaeological remains and ensure that they are not needlessly	Include a SEA objective that protects and enhances archaeological sites and other culturally important features.	21	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
SHEP No 3. <i>Gardens and Designed Landscape</i> [CON 731]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out Scottish Ministers' policies for gardens and designed landscapes in respect of their identification and protection, the management of change, and how Historic Scotland will implement these policies. 	damaged or destroyed). Plan should take account of the archaeological issues in the SHEP (e.g. by considering strategies have careful regard to the specific qualities, character and integrity of gardens and designed landscapes.	Include a SEA objective that protects and enhances archaeological sites and other culturally important features, including gardens and designed landscapes.	21	
Review of Regional documents					
North East of Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Provides a long-term plan that aims to protect and enhance the biodiversity in the North East, and ensure that national targets for species and habitats, as specified in the UK Action Plan, are translated into effective local action.	Plan should take account of the proposed actions in the NE LAP action plans, and include strategic objectives that further biodiversity conservation and enhancement.	Include a SEA objective that protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity.	8	
Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen <i>Implements the Forests for Scotland – The</i>	<p>The Strategy provides a framework for woodland development and management, and aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the sustainable management of the woodlands and forests; • contribute to the local economy; 	Although the Plan does not need to conform to the Strategy, as it is a management tool, the Plan can ensure that new development does not conflict with forest and	<p>Include SEA objectives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity; • reduce vulnerability to the effects of 	8, 11, and 12	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
<i>Scottish Forestry Strategy</i> , (Scottish Executive, 2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide opportunities for recreation and tourism; and • protect and enhance biodiversity and the environment. <p>This means encouraging multi-benefit forestry in new planting and through re-structuring, balancing forestry against other land uses, protecting sensitive areas and identifying priority areas for expansion of a variety of forest and woodland types.</p>	woodland priorities (e.g. sustaining ancient woodlands, enhancing popular recreation areas, and linking wildlife corridors).	<p>climate change e.g. augmenting habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improves the quality and quantity of publicly accessible open spaces. 		
[Consultative draft] River Dee Catchment Management Plan (October 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records the current state of the Dee catchment, including water quality, the type and extent of habitats and species in the catchment, and important land management activities. • Identifies key issues and puts forward potential solutions through a series of actions. 	Plan should contribute to delivering the actions proposed in the Catchment Management Plan	<p>SEA objectives should include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the protection, maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity, landscape, water and soil quality, water abstraction, flood alleviation, accessibility and recreation. 	2 – 8, 11, 12, 23, and 28	Will not be finalised until later in 2007.
Modern Transport System (MTS), its	Sets the long-term framework to improve the transport network in the	Plan should contribute to meeting the MTS, which	SEA objectives should include:	1 and 13	The revised RTS is still

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
revision to be known as the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), NESTRANS, and Nestrans Annual Report 2005	<p>North East, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integrating land use and transportation; • creating a long-term sustainable framework; • providing communities with a choice of means of travel and improving people's access to jobs; • improving air quality both locally and globally; • improving external links to the area by rail, road, sea and air; and • integrating different modes of transport to provide seamless interchange. 	ends in 2011 and the future Regional Transport Strategy, which will extend to 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting and improving local air quality; and • improving accessibility to jobs employment, and public services. 		under development and will be submitted to Scottish Ministers in March 2007.
<p>North East Area Waste Plan (NEAWP)</p> <p>Implements the <i>National Waste Strategy</i> (NWS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to contribute to the sustainable development of the North East area by developing waste-management systems that will meet current and future legislative requirements and objectives of the NWS, and maximises the possible contribution to reduce society's environmental impact at an acceptable cost. 	Plan should contribute to implementing the National Waste Strategy and the North East Area Waste Plan and must be consistent with their aims (e.g. by identifying suitable waste management sites and promoting waste	Include SEA objectives that aim to reduce land contamination, use land effectively and efficiently and safeguard soil quality and quantity, and promote the creation of fixed assets (i.e.	6, 7, and 25	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures development planning policy in the North East is consistent with the overall aims of NSW and the NEAWP. • Maximise benefits and opportunities for businesses arising from sustainable waste-management. 	minimisation and environmental protection).	waste management facilities)		
<p>Business 2010: Economic Growth Strategy for North East Scotland: <i>Local Economic Development Strategy 2003-2010</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the strategic priorities to ensure the continued prosperity and growth of the North East, which will help to deliver the national aims set out in 'A Smart Successful Scotland. • The Strategy sets out six key strategic objectives and a programme of action to be implemented by Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils and its partners. • Provides the strategic guidance for the economic development dimension of the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Community Plans. 	Plan should support sustainable economic growth and ensure land required to implement the Strategy is provided in the right locations timeously.	<p>Include a SEA objectives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use land effectively and efficiently; • safeguard the landscapes capacity to absorb new development; • promote the creation of fixed assets; • enhance and promote commercial and industrial assets; • regenerate brownfield land; • protect commercial and industrial 	7, and 24 – 29	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
			properties from flooding; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the use of sustainable materials. 		
Review of Local documents					
Aberdeen Futures – Aberdeen Community Plan	Provides the key overarching framework for delivering services to communities. The vision of the Aberdeen Community Plan outlines a number of key goals for Aberdeen to achieve by 2010. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving access to services of a high quality that meet their needs; • making the City an attractive, clean, healthy and safe place to live; • Aberdeen to be a forward looking city that recognises its heritage and its internationally recognised institutions and services; • presenting a strong, positive image of the City both nationally and internationally. 	Plan should work towards implementing the Community Plan within the timescales set.	Include a SEA objectives that are applicable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving open spaces; • improving accessibility and decreasing deprivation; • increasing indoor recreation and exercise; • protecting and improving health; • providing services to cater for ‘non-Scotland’ migrants; • protecting and enhancing cultural 	12 – 15, 20 - 22, 25, 27, and 28	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
			heritage; • valuing & protecting diversity and local distinctiveness; • regeneration; and • protecting properties from flooding.		
Aberdeenshire Community Plan	The Community Plan for Aberdeenshire sets out five community planning themes. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Community Wellbeing</u>: improving health and social care, housing and community safety; • <u>Jobs and Economy</u>: improving the economy of Aberdeenshire and the employment prospects of its people; • <u>Lifelong Learning</u>: developing opportunities and build stronger communities; • <u>Sustainable Environment</u>: reducing resource use, protecting the environment, combating climate change and conserving and enhancing biodiversity; 	Plan should work towards implementing the Community Plan by supporting sustainability, economic development and environmental protection in its policies.	Will apply to all SEA topics (e.g. air, water, soil, biodiversity, human health and population needs, climatic factors, landscape, built and cultural heritage, and material assets).	1, 2, 5, and 7 – 29	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Developing our Partnership</u>: to be as efficient and effective as possible. 				
Joint Health Improvement Plans (JHIP) for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire	<p>The Joint Health Improvement Plans are part of the Community Plan for both authorities. Each JHIP sets out the main priorities for the city community planning partners and identifies the key health improvement issues facing the city. The plans seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support action to suppress poverty, lack of physical activity and leisure facilities, poor housing and other factors that contribute to physical inequality; and in Aberdeenshire • address rural disadvantage issues, such as access to quality services, transport, rural isolation, and affordable housing. 	Plan should contribute to implementing the JHIPs.	<p>Include SEA objectives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the quality and quantity of publicly accessible open spaces; • improve accessibility to open spaces, public services, and decrease deprivation; • increase opportunities for indoor recreation and exercise; and • increases the diversity of housing types. 	12 – 16	It is out of the Plan's remit to improve the quality of existing housing. Regeneration schemes can only be highlighted in the local development plan.
Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategies (LHS)	The LHS's have been produced to tackle the problems across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire for the period 2004-2009. Both documents seek to	Plan should contribute to delivering both Aberdeen's Aberdeenshire's LHS in	Include SEA objectives that increase/improve or promote:	10, 13, 15 – 18, 25, and 29	Improving the quality of existing housing is

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	<p>work in partnership to ensure every household in the North East:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has access to housing (e.g. affordability) • of good quality and design (e.g. housing condition and energy efficiency (to reduce fuel poverty)) • which meets a required particular need (e.g. special need/elderly) • in a sustainable and inclusive community (e.g. reducing deprivation). 	<p>terms of provision of land, need, tenure, affordability, location, and reducing deprivation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies; • accessibility to services etc, and reduces deprivation; • health; • diversity of housing types; • dwellings for the aging population and those with special needs; • creation of fixed assets, including affordable housing; & • use of sustainable materials. 		<p>outwith the scope of this Plan. Regeneration schemes can only be highlighted in the local development plan.</p>
<p>Aberdeen City's and Aberdeenshire's Contaminated Land Strategies</p>	<p>The Contaminated Land Strategy sets out how local authorities deal with potentially contaminated land. Both strategies are currently under review.</p>	<p>Unknown at present.</p>	<p>Regardless of the strategies status, the SEA should include objectives that bring about the remediation of land contamination.</p>	<p>6 and 27</p>	<p>Both strategies are currently under review.</p>

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
<p>Aberdeen City Local Transport Strategy (LTS)</p> <p>Currently under review.</p>	<p>The existing LTS aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take full account of the environment, social and economic implications of transport; • maximise accessibility for all to services and jobs; and • ensure the efficient use of resources in accordance with the strategy. 	<p>Plan should contribute to delivering the Strategy in terms of social exclusion, sustainability, environment protection, accessibility, safety, and ensuring land required to implement the Strategy is provided in the right locations.</p>	<p>Include SEA objectives that reduce the causes of adverse climate change, as well as improve/protect/enhance or use efficiently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • air and water quality; • soil/land; • biodiversity; • accessibility to services and reduce social exclusion; • human health; • built and cultural heritage; • landscape; and • sustainable materials. 	<p>1, 2, 7 – 9, 13, 15, 21, 23, and 27</p>	<p>Is currently under review</p>
<p>Aberdeenshire Local Transport Strategy (Draft)</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Council's Draft Local Transport Strategy (LTS) 2006 – 2009 sets out the Transport Vision and Objectives of the Council and provides a three-year Action Plan for meeting local challenges and needs.</p>	<p>Plan should contribute to delivering this draft Strategy in its aim to develop an integrated transportation system by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring land 	<p>Include SEA objectives that reduce the causes of adverse climate change, as well as improve/protect/enhance or</p>	<p>1, 2, 7 – 9, 13, 15</p>	<p>Is currently under review</p>

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
	<p>The Strategy's overall vision is:</p> <p>"To develop an integrated transportation system for Aberdeenshire which contributes to the development of an inclusive and safe society, a sustainable economy and which reduces environmental damage caused by transport".</p>	<p>necessary to implement the Strategy is provided in the right locations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing social exclusion and the issue of peripherality; • improving accessibility to employment, health, higher education and leisure facilities; and • improving the availability of public transport. 	<p>use efficiently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • air and water quality; • soil/land; • biodiversity; • accessibility to services and reduce social exclusion; and • human health. 		
<p>Air Quality Action Plan (2006), Aberdeen City</p>	<p>To reduce nitrogen dioxide within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Aberdeen City Centre, and to a lesser extent reduce particulates (PM₁₀) through short, medium and long term infrastructure and other projects.</p>	<p>Plan should contribute to delivering the actions proposed in the Action Plan in order to improve air quality with the AQMA and ensure land required to implement the Action Plan is provided timeously.</p>	<p>Include a SEA objective that protects and improves local air quality.</p>	<p>1</p>	
<p>Aberdeen City Nature Conservation</p>	<p>To control and maintain the remaining natural habitats and associated wildlife through the identification of</p>	<p>Plan should contribute to delivering the actions proposed in the revised</p>	<p>Include a SEA objective that protects, maintains and</p>	<p>8</p>	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
Strategy (Under review)	designated sites and additional non-statutory sites. This will benefit both biodiversity and the citizens that live, work and visit the City of Aberdeen.	Strategy.	enhances biodiversity;		
Landscape character Assessment of Aberdeen, South and Central Aberdeenshire, Banff and Buchan, and Cairngorms	<p>Their purpose is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyse the forces for change that affect the landscape and suggest how different landscape characters types may respond to these changes; • provide guidance on how these forces for change may best be accommodated in the landscape; • identify the distinctive qualities of the landscapes character of that area through detailed assessments; and • draw up guidelines with recommendations for conservation or enhancement of the landscape character that builds on the local distinctiveness of the area. 	<p>Plan should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any site allocations/ growth corridors are proposed with sensitivity given to their location (e.g. the landscape capacity can accommodate the development); and • that important and distinctive landscape features are retained. 	<p>Include SEA objectives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the use of land effectively and efficiently, and safeguard soil quality and quantity; • protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity; • protect and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness; • protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscape and townscapes; & • safeguard the landscapes capacity to absorb new 	7, 8, and 22 – 24	

Name of plan, programme, strategy or environmental objective	Requirements of the document	Implication for the structure plan (interim)	Implication for SEA (interim)	SEA objectives number (see Table 15)	Are there any gaps or problems?
			development.		
Cairngorms National Park Plan	The Plan is currently under development.	Plan should not adversely affect the National Park by placing undue pressure on the Parks resources if there is a lack of resources within Aberdeen or Aberdeenshire.	Include SEA objectives that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce the causes of adverse climate change; and • reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change e.g. habitats, and protect/enhance or use efficiently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land and soil; • biodiversity; • diversity and local distinctiveness; and • distinctiveness of the area's landscape and townscapes. 	7 – 9, 11, 22 – 24	

Appendix 3: Baseline data, targets and trends affecting the North East

Table 1: SEA Topic: Air

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Improving air quality (odour and dust)	<p>In Aberdeenshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 letters of complaint on grit/dust in 2004 and, 12 letters in 2005 were received. • 181 letters of complaint on odour/ fumes in 2004 and 186 in 2005, the majority from industrial/commercial premises. 	2004 and 2005 survey deemed these effects as having “no overall effect on air quality”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only a handful of letters have been received, but show no adverse or significant impact to local air quality of residents. • Between 2004 and 2005, there has been a 44% drop in letters of complaint for grit and dust in Aberdeenshire. • Letters of complaint relating to odour and fumes remain constant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant effects near waste management facilities or quarries, although there is an issue of development near sewage works in Inverurie, Nigg and Torry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>Local Air Quality Management Progress Report</i> http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environmental/airquality2004.pdf • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Local Air Quality Management Progress Report</i> http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environmental/air_report_2005.pdf

<p>Achievement of Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen was designated as an AQMA in 2001 for continuously exceeding the 2005 annual objective level for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). The annual mean standard of NO₂ in Union St was 53 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m⁻³) and in Market St 71 µg/m⁻³, principally from HGVs and buses. The AQMA includes Market St, Union St, King St, Guild St, and Virginia St. • In 2003, monitoring of particulate matter (PM₁₀), showed an exceedence of the 2010 annual mean PM₁₀ objective of 18µg/m⁻³ on Market Street. • Daily mean traffic volumes (2002): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Market Street: 31,958 ○ Union Street: 19,293 • Annual average daily traffic along North/South/ Anderson Drive is 36,246, and Auchmill Rd, 41,223. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An AQMA can be designated where an area exceeds the annual mean NO₂ objective level of 40µ g/m⁻³ to be achieved by councils by 2005 under the Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 and for exceeding the 2010 annual mean PM₁₀ level*. • The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland is currently under review. • Edinburgh and Glasgow, Paisley, Dundee, Perth, Bishopbriggs, Coatbridge, and Motherwell are also AQMA, as a result of transport related NO₂ and PM₁₀ emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The air quality in Aberdeen's city centre and other (city) peripheral roads is expected to improve when the Western Peripheral Route is built, but results will not be known until the road is built (post 2010). • Total road traffic is forecast to grow by between 22%-34% for the period 2002-2011. • In the long term, the number of AQMAs will decline as air quality continues to improve through developments in transport and industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High traffic volumes resulting in the designation of an AQMA in Aberdeen City centre • High NO₂ levels (although not quite exceeding the annual mean NO₂ objective for 2005) along some peripheral routes: Victoria Rd (Torry), North and South Anderson Drive and Anderson Driver, and Great Northern Road, Auchmill Rd, and King St (north of Roselin Terrace). • New developments within the AQMA, and in areas with high NO₂ levels should not exceed the 2005 NO₂ objective of 40 µg/m⁻³ (likewise for PM₁₀). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council: Air Quality Report - 4th Stage Air Quality Review and Assessment (2003); • Updating & Screening Assessment of Air Quality in Aberdeen (2003); and • Aberdeen City Council Air Quality Action Plan (2006) • BMT Cordah Ltd (2004) Local Air Quality Management - Detailed Assessment, Aberdeen City Council • National Air Quality Objectives: http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/laqm/information.php?info=objectives • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>National Transport Strategy Consultation – SEA Environmental Report</i> • Scottish Executive (2005) <i>Indicators of Sustainable Development for Scotland: Progress Report 2005</i> • Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 • *Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2002
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Table 2: SEA Topic: Water

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Enhancing water quality in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow for all rivers in the River Dee SAC (2447km). • Scottish Water is considering closing the abstraction unit on the Water of Dye. If it is not closed, the level of abstraction will be reduced by 50% to meet Water Framework Directive requirements. • The Ythan Estuary has been adversely affected by high nitrate levels from agriculture and from alterations to the river bank reducing wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The River Naver (1066km) in the Highlands is also a SAC and its runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow. • The runoff of the River Tweed (3795km, also a SAC) is affected by reservoir(s) in its catchment, and is reduced by public water supply abstraction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Water is complying with the water orders for the River Dee catchment. • As rainfall levels are predicted to decline in the future, the yield of watercourses in the River Dee catchment may decline. • The Ythan Project, which ran from 2001-05 has improved the river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A decline and mortalities in the number of species of international importance if water levels fall. (e.g. Salmon deaths in the river Dee during low flows in 2004). • High nitrate levels adversely affecting water quality of internationally important rivers (e.g. Ythan Estuary). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate Assessment meeting for Aberdeenshire Local Plan (11th April 2006): <i>Minutes of meeting to discuss research into the impact of water abstraction on the qualifying interests of the River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</i> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i> • www.nerc-wallingford.ac.uk • http://www.ythan.org
Reducing the likelihood of flooding from new development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 2002 and 2004, no large-scale planning applications have been granted planning consent in a flood plain. • In Aberdeenshire, 9 planning applications for new build were granted consent between 2002 and 2004 in a flood plain. 	Moray Council's Development Plan Review identifies a number of flood alleviation projects currently underway, to reduce the likelihood of flooding in Elgin, Forres and Rothes and Lhanbryde.	New developments in the flood plain are now unlikely due to the publication of SPP7: <i>Planning and Flooding</i> .	Indicator shows a positive significant environmental effect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-2016: Environment Monitoring Paper (Aberdeenshire)</i> • Moray Council (2003) Monitoring report www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file43359.pdf

<p>Maintaining ground water and river levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water runoff is reduced by public water supply abstraction for rivers Dee and Dye (a tributary of the River Dee near Banchory). • 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. • Data on ground water in Scotland was not available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the 2080s, summer precipitation in the south of Scotland is predicted to decrease by 20-40% under the low emissions (Global Sustainability), and to decrease by more than 40% under the high-emissions World Markets scenario. • 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. • In the Highlands, river runoff can be affected by hydro-power stations. • Data on ground water in Scotland was not available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainfall levels are predicted to decline during the summer months, which may affect a rivers yield rate, but this will be less severe further north. • Rainfall in winter months is predicted to increase. • Increase in water consumption from industrial consumers and from increased residential development. • Increase in leakages from pipe infrastructure as it 'ages'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to start reducing water abstraction by incorporating water efficient technologies into new development (industrial and domestic) in light of the predicted decrease in summer rainfall. • A decrease in summer precipitation may lead to a decline in ground water levels in upland areas (resulting in private supplies running out), and reduce the likelihood of new development proposals in these areas. • Future development may put a constraint on this indicator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Aberdeen City (2002) State of the Environment Report, <i>aberdeenfutures</i> http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&SID=883
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<p>Safeguarding and improving water quality (biology and chemistry)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2006 all bathing water passed the European tests. • In 2005 there was 1 failure. • Overall, two areas (Stonehaven and Cruden Bay) have the poorest bathing water quality, last failing in 2005 (Stonehaven) and 2002 (Cruden Bay). • In previous years Aberdeen beach was not meeting the guideline standards, but investigations on river flows and tidal state have resulted in an improvement in bathing water quality. • Groundwater vulnerability map from SEPA website indicates most of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire as vulnerable from pollutants that are not readily absorbed or transformed (class 4), except to the south of the Highland Boundary Fault (near Stonehaven) and along the Formartine/Buchan coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2006, all 63 sites in Scotland have satisfied European bathing water standards for the first time since monitoring began. • South West Scotland has the poorest bathing water quality principally due to leaching and runoff from agricultural practices (dairy). • Groundwater vulnerability map from SEPA website shows that the least vulnerable areas susceptible to pollutants is in the Central Belt and north of Scotland (John O' Groats). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Scottish Water's sewage treatment works have greatly improved bathing water quality. • Water quality overall is good in Scotland. • Improved agricultural practices (e.g. runoff) have reduced water pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathing water quality not consistently meeting EC Guideline Standards in Stonehaven, Cruden Bay and Aberdeen. • Impacts on bathing water from future uses, such as the rise in water sports, which could have an adverse impact on water quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/bathingwaters/bw2006/north.asp ○ http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/bathingwaters/bw2006/north.asp ○ http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/groundwater/tools/vulnerability.pdf • Scottish Executive Statistics Environment: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/15637/seoSubSearch/Q/SID/82 • Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47032/0014776.pdf • European Directive 76/160/EEC, which sets mandatory bacteriological and other health-related standards for bathing waters in Europe.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total length of poor rivers: 51km. Appendix 4, Table 1 provides a full list of those watercourses. • Total length of seriously polluted rivers: 2.1km. • There are 2 watercourses within the City with poor water quality. • There are 10 watercourses within Aberdeenshire with poor water quality. • There are 2 watercourses that are classified as seriously polluted (Mains of Dyce Burn (poor biology), & East Tollos Burn (poor biology and chemistry)), both in the City. • A build-up of 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Scotland, 717km of rivers are poor and 51km are seriously polluted. • The majority of the poor quality rivers are located in the Central Belt and Fife. • Watercourses that are seriously polluted are mostly located in Glasgow City. 	<p>Land based pollution from wastewater and sewage has been brought under stricter control, which has resulted in river quality throughout the North East slowly improving.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2005, 53.1km of water courses in the North East are classified as poor or seriously polluted as a result of poor chemistry and biology quality. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA (River Classification Stretch Data, 2005): http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm • Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47032/0014776.pdf
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	<p>The shoreline along Sandford Bay & Boddam (Peterhead Power Station) (4km) is classified as poor.</p>	<p>Other small sections along the coast (Gardenstown, River Don and Stonehaven) also have sections of coastline classified as poor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA (Coastal Classification Stretch Data, 2005): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/15637/seoSubSearch/Q/SID/103
<p>Reducing adverse impacts on the coast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Sea was once considered to be the most contaminated sea in Europe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are only a few places that allow quad-biking legally. • Sea-borne waste is a common problem throughout Scotland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major impact both on the sand dune erosion, wildlife and the enjoyment of other beach users. • Bathing water quality along the North East coast is improving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Grampian Coastal Partnership (Annual Report 2005-06): http://www.egcp.org.uk/documents/Toc138674449 • Forth Estuary Forum: http://www.forthestuaryforum.co.uk/downloads/strategy.pdf • Marine Conservation Society http://www.mcsuk.org/mcsaction/pollution/introduction

Table 3: SEA Topic: Soil

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Reducing contaminated land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no statutorily identified contaminated sites in Aberdeen, although there are 900 potentially contaminated sites, which are being considered for investigation. 7 are currently being studied (averaging 3 sites pa). • There are 4 statutorily identified contaminated sites in Aberdeenshire. • In the Shire, there are 5000 other potentially contaminated sites, including landfill sites, former gasworks, stations and goods yards, petrol stations and garages, distilleries, smithy's and infilled ground. 	Dundee City Council does not contain any contaminated sites on its Public register.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although only 2 contaminated sites are on the public register in the North East, this may increase as many sites are still to be investigated. • In Aberdeen, out of the 7 sites under investigation, which include 5 closed landfill sites. Two gas works sites are under further investigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 5,900 potentially contaminated sites recorded in the 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 on the water environment, i.e. ground surface and coastal waters, and the wider environment including for instance local ecology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council (2001) <i>Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy</i> http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/files/Pollution/ContaminatedLandInspectionStrategy.pdf • Aberdeenshire Council Contaminated Land Strategy (under review December 2006) • Aberdeenshire Council <i>Public Register of Contaminated Land</i> • Aberdeenshire Council GGP overlay: <i>Potentially contaminated sites</i> • Dundee City Council http://www.dundecity.gov.uk/ehts/contam.htm

<p>Safeguarding prime agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen contains very little prime agricultural land (300ha). • In Aberdeenshire, prime agricultural land is located principally in the central area (excluding Marr), and south of the Highland Boundary Fault (near Stonehaven). • Most Grade 2 prime agricultural land is found south of the Highland Boundary Fault, near Laurencekirk (approx 950ha). • Climate change is predicted to have an affect on precipitation (to increase in winter months and decrease during the summer), storm events, and sea level, which will affect prime quality agricultural land in the North East. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime agricultural land comprises around 5.8 % of Scotland's land surface, and is principally located in the eastern central belt and lowlands. • 6.7% of Scotland 's prime agricultural land is within flood risk areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net loss of Scottish agriculture land from roads, housing and industry has doubled from 588ha in 1989 to 1,402ha in 2003. • As a result of predicted increases in winter rainfall, all the major rivers in the North East are prone to meandering where flood defences have not been built. • Increase in storm events may increase the threat of soil erosion from the wind on low-lying areas, reducing the nutrient value of fields. • Sea level on the east coast is predicted to rise 34 to 55cm by the 2080s (rising 1.0mm per year). • Air temperatures are also predicted to rise by a few degrees. 	<p>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).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive Statistics (2005): Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/2290402/05121 • Scottish Executive (2002) Climate Change: Flooding Occurrences Review: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/kd01/lightgreen/ccfo.pdf • Davidson, D.A. and Grieve, I.C. (2004) <i>Trends in soil erosion</i>, SNH Commissioned Report No. 054 (ROAME No. F00AC106) http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf • Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal_Defence/Reports_and_Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf
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<p>Reducing waste disposal in landfill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005 figures for landfill and recycling in Aberdeen stands at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ landfilled biodegradable municipal waste (BMW): 70,773; and ○ recycled/ composted municipal solid waste (MSW): 16.5% (22,500 tonnes) (this has increased to 22% in 2005/06). • 2005 figures for landfill and recycling in Aberdeenshire stands at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ landfilled BMW: 83,222 tonnes; and ○ recycled/ composted MSW: 15.1% (23,366). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMW landfill allowances for Aberdeen are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 53,004 tonnes in 2009/10; ○ 35,336 tonnes in 2012/13; and ○ 26,387 tonnes in 2019/20. • BMW landfill allowances for Aberdeenshire are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 54,917 tonnes in 2009/10; ○ 36,611 tonnes in 2012/13; and ○ 27,340 tonnes in 2019/20. • National recycling targets are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006 – 25% 2008 – 30% 2020 – 55% • Aberdeenshire’s recycling targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2005/06 – 17% 2006/07 – 22% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish recycling/composting rate in 2005 is 22.8% (778,809 tonnes). • 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. • To meet the Waste Landfill Direct, the North of Scotland Strategic Options Review (includes Highland, Moray, Angus and City and Shire councils) is looking at several different methods to dispose of municipal waste, including incineration (energy from waste plant). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, although funding is being sought from the Scottish Executive’s Strategic Waste Fund to build the necessary infrastructure. • Housing, schools, and employment uses (e.g. retail and offices) are of inadequate design to maximise the storing and collection of waste to be recycled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North East Scotland Area Waste Plan (2003) http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/areas/north_east/awp/2.4.html • Aberdeen City Council http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/site/Rubbish/rub_WasteStrategy.asp • Aberdeenshire Council Waste Team • RPS (2006) <i>North of Scotland Strategic Option Review Group: Strategic Outline Case</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/113890/0027685.pdf • Landfill Allowance Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2005 – Interim Guidance, Scottish Executive http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/012514.pdf
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<p>Reducing soil erosion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Berwick to Aberdeen, the coastline is eroding, but is stable where there are rocky coasts or coastal defences. • From Aberdeen to Inverness the coastline is largely eroding, but parts are being replenished with sand and gravel from larger rivers. • Greater rainfall is predicted in the winter months, and rivers will be more prone to meandering, increasing the level of silt in watercourses (including Inverurie, Kintore, Kemnay). • Predicted increase in winter precipitation and storms will increase soil erosion from the wind and surface water runoff. • Use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The north of Scotland is mostly stable with little erosion, but south of Mallaig, towards Carlisle, the coastline is predominantly eroding but stable where there are rocky coasts or coastal defences. • Precipitation will be greater in the west due to the west-east precipitation gradient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coastline is predominantly eroding along the east. • Autumn/Winter rainfall is predicted to increase, giving rise to winter storms and affecting runoff and (wind and water) erosion. • 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). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal erosion mostly where there are no rocks or coastal defences • Increase silting of rivers from fluvial flooding • Increase in soil erosion from wind and water, which may also be exacerbated by bad land use practices, such as locating tracks/access roads on steep/ upland ground. • Increasing use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes is contributing to coastal erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Strategic Flooding Issues Topic Paper</i> • Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> • Aberdeen Council Natural Heritage Team • Davidson, D.A. and Grieve, I.C. (2004) <i>Trends in soil erosion</i>, Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 054 (ROAME No. F00AC106) http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf
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Table 4: SEA Topic: Biodiversity

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Achieving North East Biodiversity Action Plan (NE BAP) targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm intensification and specialisation practices have transformed habitats (e.g. removal of meadows and hedgerows) and reduced species numbers (e.g. barn owls). • Action plans have been prepared for 20 out of the 26 habitats identified in the NE BAP. • Action plans on upland species-rich grassland, coastal cliffs and heaths, marine habitats, broadleaf woodland, heathland, lochs and ponds, and wetlands are in development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of UK BAP priority species in Scotland in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stable: 56 (27%) ○ Increase: 11 (5%) ○ Extinct: 5 (3%) ○ Declining (accelerating): 11 (5%) ○ Declining (slowing): 18 (9%) ○ Fluctuating: 3 (1%) ○ Unknown: 90 (44%) • Status of UK BAP priority habitats in Scotland in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stable: 8 (27%) ○ Increase: 5 (13%) ○ Declining (accelerating): 0 ○ Declining (slowing): 12 (30%) ○ Fluctuating: 0 ○ Unknown: 11 (28%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NE BAP is meeting the targets for preparing action plans, as set out in the UK BAP. • UK BAP 2005 trends show that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat of Alien Species effecting water quality and ecological status of the rivers. • Native species and habitats are increasing, and the NE BAP is meeting the UK BAP targets, but 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Key Scottish Environment Statistics</i>: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/921/0036584.pdf • DEFRA (2005) <i>The UK Biodiversity Action Plan – Highlights from the 2005 reporting round</i> • UK BAP targets for Local Biodiversity Action Plans http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/brig/trgtargets/ScotlandLBAPTargets.xls • Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i> • NE Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Plans</i>: www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm

<p>Safeguarding designated areas</p> <p>For the number and location of natural heritage designations see Appendix 4, Table 2 and Figures 1, 2 and 3.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The River Dee's designation as a Special Area of Conservation will have a knock-on effect on future development within the river's catchment. • The lack of appropriate management of some designated natural heritage sites is affecting their underlying objective (of that designation) and overall integrity. • No monitoring of SINS has been undertaken, but they are under review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moray Council's Monitoring report did not identify any adverse impacts on designated sites as a result of new development that would result in the need to amend it's environment policies on natural heritage designations. • The main targets to be achieved are the conservation and enhancement of designated sites, and permitting only those developments that will not adversely affect these designations directly and indirectly, unless the proposal will be of national benefit to the population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning policies have generally prohibited developments within International and national designations that may harm these sites, and indirect impacts are affecting some important wetland sites. • The River Dee's designation as a Special Area of Conservation will affect future development within the river's catchment, which includes Cults, Peterculter, Banchory Aboyne, and Tarland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International designations: the significance and purpose of SACs is that development in or adjacent to them, such as the River Dee catchment may cumulatively prevent the objectives of these designations being met, and 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. • Impact from large-scale leisure and recreation uses. • Increase of access to designated sites could be damaging to some sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure Plan (NEST) (2006) <i>Monitoring Environment Monitoring Paper</i>, Aberdeenshire Council • Aberdeenshire Council, Natural Heritage team • Moray Council (2003) <i>Development Plan Monitoring Paper</i> http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_4_2476.html • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Natural Heritage Topic Paper</i> • Aberdeen City (2002) State of the Environment Report, <i>aberdeen futures</i> http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&sID=883
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<p>Safeguarding non-designated areas and enhancing biodiversity (reducing loss of habitat and species)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of monitoring of non-designated sites. • Land allocations for residential developments have been proposed in wooded areas in the Aberdeenshire Local Plan (e.g. Banchory). • Proposals for new dwellings have been granted consent on coastal sites and in urban green spaces. • Numerous planning applications have been received in the last 5 years for edge of town large-scale retail developments, but these have mostly been on farm or brownfield land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of the NE BAP will assist in safeguarding the North East biodiversity in non-designated sites through several habitat and species Action Plans. • About 10 per cent of the Scottish coastline has been affected by intensive urban or industrial use. • In the upper Forth estuary, it has been estimated that various forms of land uses and development have claimed 50% of the intertidal mudflats. • *Research by the UK Biodiversity Partnership has shown that infrastructure development, coastal developments, housing, and more recently global warming are the main threats to biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development pressure remains constant around the edge of settlements. The Action Plans for the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species shows how much still needs to be done to ensure they are not lost. • Fragmented and/or incomplete networks of open space/wildlife corridors • The loss/fragmentation of sites or open space by new development on or within hospital (or other grounds), as these areas are often viewed as brownfield sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indirect impacts of development on non-designated sites. • Intensive and unsustainable resource use has resulted in much of the biodiversity lost in both terrestrial and marine environments. • Large-scale schemes around edge of towns are placing significant pressure on unprotected open spaces. • There is significant development pressure for new dwelling houses along the coast. • Incomplete networks of open space/wildlife corridors. • Need to enhance and augment habitats to avoid their decline within settlements. • Risk of increasing population near 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure Plan (NEST) (2005) <i>Monitoring Environment Monitoring Paper</i>, Aberdeenshire Council • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Natural Heritage Topic Paper</i> • North East Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Updates</i> http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/updates.htm • North East Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Plans</i> http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm • *Planning Resource article <i>Study detects key threats to wildlife</i>, 23/06/2006 • Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i>
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				<p>sensitive natural heritage areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive use of land, and cumulative impact is resulting in the loss of biodiversity.• There are positive opportunities to enhance forestry and SuDS.	
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Table 5: SEA Topic: Climatic Factors

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Increasing in proportion of heat and electricity generated from renewable energy sources and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little uptake in renewable energy developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 wind farms have received planning consent in the North East; and ○ only a handful of planning applications have been received for CHP and biomass heating systems. • Aberdeenshire is promoting the use of biofuels and other renewable energy technologies through its Renewable Energy Strategy, and has published supplementary planning guidance on wind and biomass and micro-renewable energy schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity Consumption: 35TeraWatt hours. • Gas consumption (domestic): 34.2TeraWatt hours. • Most wind farm proposals are concentrated in the Highlands and southern Scotland. • SE targets: 40% (6GW) of Scotland's electricity generated to be generated from renewable sources by 2020. • UK targets: 10% of the UK's electricity generated to be generated from renewable sources by 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire is promoting the use of biofuels and other renewable energy technologies through its Renewable Energy Strategy. • Increasingly small scale wind farm projects are being proposed by farmers in the North East. • Most large-scale proposals are concentrated in the Highlands and southern Scotland (most likely due to adequate grid connections). • Micro-renewables are likely to become more common due to the need for on-site renewables as proposed in SPP6. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High energy dependence on fossil fuels to provide heat and electricity. • Insufficient grid connections and constraints with certain types of renewable energy technologies, such as wind and marine technologies. • Lack of appropriate locations identified for renewable energy technologies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Wind Assessment Project (2005) <i>Gazetteer of wind power in Scotland</i> http://www.viewsofscotland.org/library/docs/SWAP_Wind_Gazetteer_v1.pdf • Aberdeenshire Council weekly planning lists. • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Draft Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 6: Renewable Energy</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>The Renewable Energy Strategy</i>: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/green/renewable_energy2.pdf • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) Use of wind energy in Aberdeenshire (Parts 1 & 2) • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) Use of biomass energy in Aberdeenshire • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) Use of micro-renewable energy in Aberdeenshire

<p>Reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire an average dwelling house produces 6,318 kg CO₂, • In Aberdeen an average dwelling house produces 5,175 kg CO₂. • Total road traffic is forecast to grow by between 22%-34% for the period 2002-2011. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The average Scottish household produces 5,505 kg CO₂. • Scotland contributed 10% to the total UK CO₂ emissions. • In 2003, Scotland's main contributors to CO₂ emissions were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 33.2% from power generation (30.5% is the UK average), an increase of 23.6%; ○ 18% from road transport; and ○ 13% from domestic households. • Kyoto Protocol (1997) CO₂ targets are 12.5% below 1990 baseline – Scottish emissions in 2002 were 6% lower. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall greenhouse gases are decreasing, but Aberdeenshire produces the highest amount of carbon dioxide in Scotland. This is most likely due to the areas high dependence on oil, as very little renewable energy electricity is generated in Aberdeenshire, and the gas pipeline runs only along the eastern side of the area. • The majority of CO₂ emissions are from the burning of fossil fuels to generate power (principally electricity). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 CO₂ levels are still increasingly popular (e.g. concrete and tarmac). • Energy dependence on fossil fuels for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ heat and electricity; and ○ transportation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Foot Forward (2006) <i>Domestic Carbon Dioxide Emissions for Selected Cities</i>, British Gas http://www.britishgasnews.co.uk/managed_content/files/pdf/greenCity.pdf • *DEFRA (2005) <i>Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990 – 2003</i> http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/0509211321_R_eqhg_report_2003_Main_Text_Issue_1.doc, National Environmental Technology Centre • UK Greenhouse gas inventory, 1990-2004 http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/0605231047_u_kghgi_90-04_v1.1.pdf • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Energy</i>, Aberdeenshire Council
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<p>Reducing areas affected by flooding (sea)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 571 properties in Aberdeen and 1,743 in Aberdeenshire are located within the indicative floodplain or coastal area below 5 meters Ordnance Datum (OD). • The sea-level along the east coast is predicted to rise 34 to 55 cm by the 2080s. • Those settlements that are likely to be affected by rising sea levels are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fraserburgh harbour; ○ Peterhead harbour; ○ Stonehaven's harbour and the town centre; ○ Cowie; ○ Banff (east side); and ○ Aberdeen harbour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the 2080s, the sea-level along the south-west of Scotland is predicted to rise by 31 to 52cm and 36 to 57cm for north-west Scotland. • 3,780 properties in Moray and 6,639 in Angus are located within the coastal area below 5 meters OD. In Glasgow City 14,904 properties will be affected. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the 2080s, any part of a settlement below the 5m Ordnance Datum mark is likely to be affected by rising sea levels, high tides, and storm surges. • Rising sea levels will affect the whole of Scotland, especially low-lying areas. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 as a result of climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous Projects/Flood and Coastal Defence/Reports and Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i>, Aberdeenshire Council • SEPA's second generation Indicative Floodplain Maps (1 in 200year flood event) • New Zealand Climate Change Office (2004) <i>Local Communities: Planning for Climate Change</i> http://www.climatechange.govt.nz/resources/local-communities-planning-may04/local-communities-planning-change-may04.pdf
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<p>Reducing areas affected by flooding (fluvial)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the 2080s, summer precipitation decreases between 10-30% are predicted in the north of Scotland. • 309 properties in Aberdeen (out of 104,543) and 2,219 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fraserburgh ○ Turriff ○ Longside ○ Huntly ○ Kintore ○ Banchory ○ Newtonhill <p>See Appendix 4, Table 3 for the complete list.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the 2080s summer precipitation decreases of 20-40% under the low emissions (Global Sustainability), and more than 40% under the high-emissions World Markets scenario are predicted in the south of Scotland. • The frequency of extreme 48-hour rainfalls is likely to increase by the 2080s, especially in the west during the winter months when a stronger westerly airflow over Scotland is anticipated • In Scotland, the number of residential properties within inland floodplains is 71,402. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decrease in summer precipitation will be less farther north compared with southern Scotland. • Compared with the rest of Scotland, far fewer properties in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are at significant risk from flooding. • Frequency of storm events will increase, although it will be less significant along the east of Scotland. • National guidance (SPP7: <i>Planning and Flooding</i>) requires no properties (e.g. dwellings) to be affected by flooding either by being developed in a flood-affected area, or from development upstream. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise in soil erosion from storm events, which will create a greater need for SuDS, and an increase their water holding capacity. • 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 (see Appendix 4, Table 3). • The number of properties at risk from inland fluvial flooding is low, but local flood defensive schemes will still be required, as a result of climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous Projects/Flood and Coastal Defence/Reports and Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i>, Aberdeenshire Council • Scottish Executive (2004) <i>Scottish Planning Policy 7: Planning and Flooding</i>
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<p>Reducing areas affected by flooding (pluvial)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *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 affected by pluvial flooding, due to culverts being too small for surface water run-off during heavy rain. 	<p>Pluvial flooding away from the floodplain is difficult to characterise in terms of flood risk. It typically occurs in built-up areas where the urban drainage system is poorly maintained or unable to cope.</p>	<p>Sewers are generally designed to a 1:30 year return period and so extreme flood events will affect the sewerage network. As a result, there will be an increased requirement of SuDS in new (and even existing) development schemes.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Flooding in Aberdeenshire: Fifth Biennial Report</i> http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/flooding/report/5biennial.pdf • Aberdeenshire Council Flood Prevention Team • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i>, Aberdeenshire Council
<p>Safeguarding biodiversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 North East Local Biodiversity Action Plans are required to safeguard priority habitats (protecting priority species are included in these plans). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise in air and sea temperatures is pushing some bird (e.g. kingfisher) and fish species (e.g. cod) further north. • Birch species may increase in pinewoods, and the tree line may shift from its current line (650m). 	<p>The following changes are predicted to affect biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air and sea temperatures are predicted to rise by as much as 2 to 3°C in the next 80 years. • East coast waters are predicted to warm at a greater rate than those in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (2004) <i>Scotland's Biodiversity: It's In Your Hands – A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/25954/0014583.pdf • NE Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Plans</i>: www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/h

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arctic-alpine habitats and arctic species, such as the snow bunting may disappear. 	<p>west.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetter autumns and winters, drier, hotter summers and more unpredictable weather events. • Changes in precipitation will affect run-off and erosion. 	<p>may result in existing lowland and upland habitats from disappearing, which will have an adverse affect on the species who live in these habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to promote appropriate native species in new development schemes to enhance existing biodiversity and preventing the spread of non-native species. 	abactionplan.htm
Minimising impact on natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen's annual global footprint (in global hectares per person (gha/p): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total: 5.80gha/p ○ Energy consumption: 1.14gha/p (20%) ○ Food and drink: 1.07gha/p (19%) ○ Land travel: 0.81ha/p 	<p>The footprint project measures the amount of natural resources used annually by each person compared with what is available in the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current results show that people in 	<p>The main contributors to the NE's global footprint are energy consumption, food and drink, and land travel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen consumes more resources per person than any other Scottish city and it has the largest footprint in Scotland, which cannot be sustained in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North East Global Footprint Project http://www.scotlandsfingerprint.org/the_project/north_east.php • Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Scotland's Global Footprint Project - Reduction Report for North East</i>

	<p>(14%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Other (Government, capital investment, holiday activities, consumables services, and housing): 2.35gha/p (47%) ● Aberdeenshire's annual global footprint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total: 5.64gha/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%) 	<p>Aberdeen consume more resources per person than any other Scottish city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Scottish average global footprint is 5.37gha/p, which is lower compared to the NE's average. 		<p>long-term.</p>	<p><i>Scotland Global Footprint Project</i>, Joint Global Footprint Co-ordinator, Aberdeen City Council</p>
<p>Impact on year-round services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flash floods will affect services by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ increasing the maintenance and unblocking of gullies, including slow moving gullies, hecks (grills at the end of a burn), and ditches; ○ increase in outlet blockages; and 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase in winter precipitation, including snow melts and storms will affect drainage pipe, road and rail infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increasing need for service provision throughout the year (e.g. as flood events are predicted to increase during winter seasons). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> http://www.foresight.gov.uk/P/previous Projects/Flood and Coastal Defence/Reports and Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf ● Aberdeen City council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ overflow of combined water and sewage pipes.● Sudden/heavy snow fall will affect services by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ melt water affecting drainage○ gritting capability (only able to grit priority routes)● Rise in sea level will affect services by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ high tides exacerbating tidal rivers and gullies;○ 1 in 19 years cycle of the moon which increases the tides height to 4.7m (a spring tide is 4.5m)				
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Table 6: SEA Topic: Human Health

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/ constraints	Data source(s)
Increasing/ maintaining quality and availability of public open space in urban and rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant development pressure on open spaces within settlements. • Development on open spaces limits the council's ability to establish networks of linked open space areas. • There is pressure from private sector developers to limit the extent of open space for new residential developments. • There is a lack of government funding to allow local authorities to continuously manage areas of open space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other urban areas like Dundee are under substantial development pressure. • Councils are required to take a long term and spatially strategic perspective on open space provision (NPPG 11), and under the draft SPP11 undertake an open space audit and prepare an open space strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pressure from private developers to develop on open space will continue. • The demand for public open space will continue to grow, and this must be reflected, and over the long term. • There is growing demand for safer and more accessible areas of open space, which has promoted the creation of PAN65. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant development pressure for 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. • There is a lack of government funding to allow local authorities to continuously manage areas of open space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council (2002) <i>State of the Environment Report</i> http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&SID=883 • SNH <i>Scottish Natural Heritage in Dundee</i> http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/scottishparliamentleaflets/dundee.pdf • Scottish Executive (1996) <i>NPPG 11: Sport, physical recreation and open space</i> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>Planning Advice Note 65: Planning and Open Space</i> • Aberdeenshire Council's Information and Research team. • Scottish Executive (2006) Consultative draft <i>Scottish Planning Policy 11: Physical Activity and Open Space</i>

<p>Improvements to quality of life in currently deprived areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire is one of the least deprived areas in Scotland and is ranked 31st out of 32 councils in terms of multiple deprivation*. • Aberdeen ranked 23rd*. • The most deprived areas are Fraserburgh (education, income and health); Peterhead (income, jobs, and health); and Huntly (education, income, jobs, and housing). • Strathbogie, Echt, Upper Ythan, Inch, Donside and Cromar, Fyvie-Methlick, Aboyne, Upper Deeside, Tarves, and Udy-Slains comprise the worst 5% wards due to poor access to services. • In Aberdeen City, the highest levels of deprivation are located in Woodside, Tillydrone, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park, Torry and Seaton neighbourhoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glasgow City and West Dumbarton are the most deprived. • Dundee City is ranked 4th. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire is one of the least deprived area in Scotland. • Banff and Buchan and Buchan have the most deprived areas (known as datazones in the report*) in Aberdeenshire, with Garioch being the least deprived. • Datazones and wards in more urban areas tend to score higher under 'geographical access to services'. • One of the main outcomes of Aberdeen's Community Regeneration Strategy is six regeneration masterplans for Cummings Park, Middlefield, Tillydrone, Torry, Woodside and Seaton. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • * Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (Oxford Report) – Aberdeenshire: Key findings</i> http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/economic/SIMD%20Abshire%20Key%20Findings%202004.pdf • Aberdeen City: Community Planning Regeneration Masterplans (2006/7) http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Web/Site/Internet/RegenerationMasterplans.asp
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<p>Increasing sport and recreation facilities in areas of identified need</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeen, there is still an outstanding need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ sports facilities in Cove; ○ junior golf course; ○ a new Stadium and Soccer Academy; ○ one water based pitches and 2 sand based pitches; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50m swimming pool. (See Appendix 4, Table 4 for further information on Aberdeen City Council's sports strategy) • In Aberdeenshire, there is still an outstanding need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16.66m x 8.5m pool at Mintlaw; ○ 6 Badminton Court Hall at Peterhead and Fraserburgh ○ 56m x 26m ice rink at Peterhead. 	<p>Sportscotland strategy sets out 11 targets to be achieved by 2007, which focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring that most of the population is taking part in sport at least once a week; • 70% of the Scottish population has access to a (sports) hall within a 20 minutes walk; and • that every local authority's community planning process contributes to the targets of Sport 21: 2003-2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant work has been undertaken in Aberdeen, to implement proposals outlined in their sports strategy, including the upgrading of facilities at Rubislaw sports pitches, development of an extreme sports centre; and improved hockey pitches. • In Aberdeenshire, from the 14 sports facilities suggested in the 1990 Rural Sports Study to meet demand for swimming, halls sports, ice skating/ curling, hockey and athletics, only 3 remain to be built. 	<p>Positive steps have been made to ensure everyone has access to sport, leisure and recreation facilities, however limited progress has been made to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sports facilities at Cove; • a swimming pool in Mintlaw; and • a 6 Badminton Court Hall in Peterhead and Fraserburgh, <p>all of which were identified in the City's and Shire's sports studies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council (2002) <i>Active Aberdeen 2002-2007: A sport, recreation and physical activity strategy for Aberdeen City</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Sports Facility Study Updated Report</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2002) <i>Sports and Active Lifestyles Strategy</i> (for the period 2002 to 2005). • sportscotland (2003) <i>Sport 21: 2003 – 2007: The National Strategy for Sport – Shaping Scotland's Future</i> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Sport and recreation</i>
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<p>Improving those suffering from mental health (especially of poorer communities) as a result of overcrowding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberdeenshire – 12,536 (6%) ○ Aberdeen – 5,054 (13%) ○ Private rented sector and Council stock are higher than in RSL stock or owner-occupied housing • Quality of life/health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberdeenshire – Good: 73% Fairly good: 20% Not good: 7% ○ Aberdeen – Good: 70% Fairly good: 21% Not good: 9% • *Most common house type: Aberdeenshire - semi-detached (30%); Aberdeen – flats (49%) • *Most common house type granted planning consent (units over 20): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberdeenshire - detached (74%); ○ Aberdeen – flats (76%) (See also App. 4 Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowding in Scotland: 12%. • As a general rule (excluding kitchen and bathroom): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 room = 2 people can live there ○ 2 rooms = 3 people can live there ○ 3 rooms = 5 people can live there ○ 4 rooms = 7.5 people can live there ○ 5 rooms or more = 2 people per room can live there. • Population density in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scotland: 65 persons per km² ○ Aberdeen: 1,089 persons per km² ○ Aberdeenshire: 37 persons per km² • In Scotland there is a relatively equal spread (20%) of new house types built, although the majority (36%) are built as flats. (See App. 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of household type, lone parents and families with two or more children experience the highest levels of overcrowding. • Banff Buchan and Aberdeen Central have the highest % of people who say their health is not good, and adults who are unable to work due to disability. • Population density in Aberdeen may rise, as it is mostly flats that are receiving planning consent. • Relatively small % of new homes were semi-detached and none were terraced. • Differences in housing stock between the City and Shire will become more extreme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2001 Census (www.scot.gov.uk) • NHS Grampian (2004) <i>Mental Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment</i>, Public Health Unit • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the Housing Stock</i> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2002) <i>House buyers survey</i> • *Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council <i>Housing Needs Assessment 2004: Housing Market Area Report</i> • Shelter: http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/advice/advice-4035.cfm • Register for General Scotland (2006) <i>Mid-2005 Population Estimates</i>
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<p>Reducing excessive noise disturbance from aircraft</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 118 complaints received between 1999-2004, 10% only relate to fixed-wing aircraft, and most are complaints relating to helicopters. • Most complaints were received from Dyce and Bucksburn residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57dB L_{Aeq} 16h is the 'low noise disturbance contour' during daytime, and 48dB L_{Aeq} 8h during night-time. • PAN 56 lists four Noise Exposure Categories to be used when determining planning permission. 	<p>In 2003 there were 2.52 million passengers, and numbers are rising.</p>	<p>Few complaints regarding noise from fixed wing aircraft. Most noise complaints have been in relation to helicopters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</i>: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&SID=332 • Environs Consulting Ltd (2004) <i>Aberdeen airport proposals for fixed-wing aircraft, landing and taking off at any time – Noise Impact Assessment</i>, Aberdeenshire Airport Ltd • Scottish Executive (1999) <i>Planning and Noise</i>
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Table 7: SEA Topic: Population

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Changing trends in household size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen household figures: 2003 – 98,380 2021 – 107,610 • Aberdeenshire household figures: 2003 – 93,800 2021 – 104,300 • Aberdeen household size figures: 2003 – 2.04 2021 – 1.83 • Aberdeenshire household size figures: 2003 – 2.41 2021 – 2.24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average household size in Scotland is 2.27. • Aberdeenshire and Highland showed the largest percentage increase in the number of households over the past year (1.9 per cent), due to a combination of more dwellings, and more of the existing dwellings being occupied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household numbers predicted to increase. • 16,040 more houses are required in the Aberdeen Housing Market Area • 6,880 more houses are required in the Rural Housing Market Area • Household size predicted to decrease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing number of households is creating more demand for housing (and land). • Possibility that the need for more development land could put pressure on or near sensitive natural heritage areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</i>: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&slD=332 • General Register Office for Scotland: News Release – Household estimates for 2005 http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/press/news/2005/drop-in-number-of-vacant-dwellings-and-second-homes-in-scotland.html

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in Aberdeen age structure of head of household between 2003 and 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30-44yrs: -2,870 ○ 60+: +5,730 • Change in Aberdeenshire age structure of head of household between 2003 and 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30-44yrs: -6,660 ○ 60+: 16,700 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average age in 2005 in Scotland is 38 (m) and 41 (f). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</i>: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&sID=332
Years of healthy life expectancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life expectancy in Aberdeen: Male 73.6 years Females 78.9 years • Life expectancy in Aberdeenshire: Male 75.5 years Females 80.2 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.	Ageing 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) <i>Life expectancy</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/TrendLifeExpectancy
Size of population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen population figures: 2003 - 206,600 2021 - 202,636 • Aberdeenshire population figures: 2003 - 229,330 2021 - 229,353 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated population in Scotland in 2005 is 5,094,800. • Scottish average age in 2005 is 38 (m) and 41 (f). 	Approximately 2% decrease within the City, and 0.01% decrease within Aberdeenshire.		Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</i> : http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&sID=332

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North East population figures aged between 0 – 44 years: 2003 – 257,570 2021 – 216,333 • North East population figures aged 45+ years: 2003 – 178,360 2021 – 215656 • Average age in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberdeen – 38 (m), 41 (f). ○ Aberdeenshire – 39 (m), 41 (f) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the North East, the population aged 0 - 44 are predicted to decline by an average of 14% between 2003 and 2021. • The population aged 45 onwards is predicted to increase by 31%, with those aged 75+ increasing the most (49.7%). 		
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<p>Migration change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration loss 2002-05: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberdeen is losing its population to Aberdeenshire and outside Scotland. ○ Aberdeenshire is losing its population to Scotland. • Migration gain 2002-05: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberdeen is gaining its population from Scotland. ○ Aberdeenshire is gaining its population from Aberdeen and outside Scotland. <p>(See Appendix 4, Table 9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relative age of those migrating to Aberdeen is 15-19 yrs; and Aberdeenshire are 0-14yrs and 30yrs plus. • Only a slight net migration gain is predicted to 2016, with a decline post 2016. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total net migration gain in Scotland during 2005 was 12,500 people from the rest of the UK, a net gain of around 7,300 from overseas (including asylum seekers). • Aberdeenshire, Highland and Falkirk had the largest percentage increases over the year at 1.1% • Midlothian and Aberdeen City had the second largest decrease at 0.5%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The migration trend in the North East is slow growth to 2016 and then a slow decline thereafter. • However, migration is a significant and difficult to forecast element of demographic change which occurs in response to international and national as well as local factors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-migration will create greater demand for houses and services in Aberdeenshire. • Possible need for services catering for 'non-Scotland' migrants, especially if from overseas (e.g. language and cultural issues/differences). • Retiral 'stealth' in-migration may affect housing and service provision in Aberdeenshire (i.e. an increase need for). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the housing stock</i> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Population and household change</i> • Register for General Scotland (2006) <i>Mid-2005 Population Estimates Scotland Population estimates by sex, age and administrative area</i>, A National Statistics publication http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/05myp-e-cahb-booklet.pdf
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Table 8: SEA Topic: Cultural Heritage

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Reducing numbers of listed buildings sites at risk	<p>Numbers of buildings at risk (excludes those that have been demolished):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen: 10 (1 under restoration) • Aberdeenshire: 117 (6 under restoration) <p>% of listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk register*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen: 0.62% • Aberdeenshire: 3% <p>[*NB, the Buildings At Risk register includes not only listed buildings, but unlisted buildings in conservation areas, but as most of the buildings on the register are listed, the percentages represent an almost accurate picture.]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers and % of listed buildings at risk*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Angus: 42 (1.9%) ○ Moray: 30 (5.5%) ○ Dundee: 38 (4.2%) ○ Perth & Kinross: 51 (1.6%) ○ Highland: 168 (5.6%) • In 2003 1322 buildings were on the buildings at risk register. However, little work has been carried out to investigate possible new candidates for the Register. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although Aberdeenshire has one of the highest numbers of buildings at risk, the % of listed buildings at risk is lower than it's neighbouring authorities. • From the sample of comparators taken, Aberdeen has one of the lowest numbers of listed buildings on the Buildings At Risk register. • NPPG 18 states that the best viable use may not necessarily be the most profitable use. The aim should be to find a new economic use that is viable over the long term with minimum impact upon the special architectural and historic interest of the building or area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Only a small number of buildings at risk are undergoing restoration in the North East. • The majority of the buildings at risk are in rural areas, with few undergoing restoration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i> • Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland (Scottish Civic Trust) http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/browsea.asp • Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment</i>

Safeguarding building functionality (e.g. use, access and space)	Index 21 project in association with Aberdeenshire Council and Robert Gordon University encourages the use and re-use of existing buildings, which so far has mostly been ignored in new developments.	PAN 75 promotes the importance of inclusive design for all types of buildings and spaces.	With the development of SPP20 and PANs on design issues, future developments (and development plans) will have to consider these issues in greater detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly designed buildings, especially for the disabled, elderly and children. • Lack of an existing policy on inclusive design in the Structure Plan. • Issue of conflicting requirements when ensuring the accessibility of existing buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (www.index21.org.uk) • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Planning and Building Standards Advice Note 75: Inclusive Design</i> • Scottish Executive (2001) <i>A Policy Statement for Scotland - Designing Places</i> • Scottish Executive (2005) <i>SPP 20: Role of Architecture and Design Scotland</i>
Ensuring that the impact from new build reflects: form and materials, internal environment, urban and social integration, character and innovation of existing historic buildings	Index 21 project encourages the integration of old and new building styles, which has been given little consideration in new developments.	NPPG 18 requires structure plans to identify priority locations where an integrated approach to the protection, conservation and positive management of the historic environment should be pursued.	PAN 75 promotes the 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development adversely impacting on a community's 'sense of place' (e.g. historical perspective). • Safeguarding building functionality (e.g. use, access and space), which is not always considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (www.index21.org.uk) • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>PAN 75: Inclusive Design</i> • Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment</i>
Safeguarding listed buildings, designed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire, 17 proposals departed from the 	NPPG 18: Conservation policies should give	The purpose of conservation areas designations is to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor design when incorporating modern materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment</i>

<p>landscape etc, and conservation areas</p>	<p>Structure Plan (14 planning applications were recommended for refusal by planning officers), principally for new windows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on Aberdeen City departures is currently not available. 	<p>a high priority to maintaining and enhancing the prosperity and vitality of historic areas.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulative impact of proposals, which alone may not affect the conservation designation, but cumulatively affect it's overall objective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – environment Monitoring Paper</i>
<p>Safeguarding archaeological sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In recent times no schedules 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, & costal erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the past, Aberdeenshire Council's Archaeology Service records show that 3670 sites have been lost or partially destroyed, with a further 2301 as documentary records only. The Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route could adversely affect up to 10% of SMR sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strong presumption in NPPG5 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, e.g. funding agri-environment schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of unknown and locally known architectural remains from new development and other practices, vandalism and coastal erosion. Adverse impacts on the setting of archaeological remains from new developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i> Scottish Executive (1998) NPPG5: <i>Archaeology and Planning</i>

Table 9: SEA Topic: Landscape

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Enhancing designated areas – National Scenic Areas (NSA)	The majority of the planning applications in Aberdeenshire were in the Deeside and Lochnagar National Scenic Area in Marr, although most were change of use applications, primarily for dwelling houses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2003, Moray Council received only one planning application within the Cairngorms National Scenic Area. 	NPPG14 places strong emphasis on conserving important landscapes, and development within NSAs is unlikely unless it conforms to this national policy.	The insensitive siting and design, as well as type (e.g. dwelling(s), wind farm or quarry) of any new development may adversely affect nationally designated landscapes in some areas of the North East.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – Environment Monitoring Paper</i> Moray council (2003) Development Plan Monitoring Report: http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file43359.pdf Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG14: Natural Heritage</i>
Enhancing designated areas – Areas of Landscape Significance (ALS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2005, 167 planning applications in Aberdeenshire were approved within local heritage sites, the majority within Areas of Landscape Significance (ALS). The application were mostly for dwelling houses, although more than half was for change of use, amendments or reserved matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2003, Moray Council received 60 planning applications affecting Areas of Great Landscape Value. As a result, these designations are to be reviewed. ALS play an important role in protecting local natural heritage interests and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan recognises the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning applications within local heritage designations will continue to receive the majority of the planning applications, but this may be reduced if ALS are reviewed to exclude the major settlements in Aberdeenshire. NPPG14 confirms 	The siting and design of new developments may individually or cumulatively adversely affect locally designated landscapes (e.g. the impact of individual dwelling houses may affect the coastal and landscape characteristics of ALS).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – Environment Monitoring Paper</i> Moray council (2003) Development Plan Monitoring Report: http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file43359.pdf Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland (2005) <i>Guidance on Local Landscape Designations</i>, Natural Heritage Series Scottish Executive (1999)

	<p>applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of inappropriate developments granted consent is unknown as several ALS designations include a number of major settlements. 	<p>part played by non-statutory nature conservation designations in safeguarding biodiversity.</p>	<p>the continuing relevance of local designations alongside new 'wider natural heritage' approaches to landscape included in landscape character assessment methodologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance has been developed by SNH to help local authorities refresh their approach to local landscape designations when reviewing them. 		<p><i>NPPG14: Natural Heritage</i></p>
<p>Enhancing townscape quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the North East, there are 47 conservation areas, 20 of which are outstanding. • The majority of the departures in Aberdeenshire have been approved against 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 17 conservation areas in Moray. • Replacement of traditional windows and doors on non-listed buildings within conservation areas is a continuing case of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 2 in 5 of the population live in towns with a population of between 1,000 and 20,000. • Most small towns are under pressure from: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The insensitive siting and design of new developments may individually or cumulatively adversely affect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the setting of settlements; and ○ townscapes (e.g. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i> • Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership http://www.atap.org.uk/home.htm • Moray council (2003)

	<p>structure plan Policy 20 (Built and cultural environment), mostly for replacing old-fashioned windows and doors with the modern equivalent replacement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven Aberdeenshire Towns Partnerships (ATP) in Ellon, Banff and Macduff, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverurie, Peterhead and Stonehaven have been prepared, which aim to maintain and enhance the continued social, economic and environmental vitality of these settlements. • 6 regeneration masterplans are being drafted in the City (to be finalised in 2006/7) 	<p>concern for Moray.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Moray Development Plan has identified 40 urban renewal projects, most of which are now completed, and European funding was secured to upgrade several harbours and foreshores along the Coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ population change; ○ economic restructuring; ○ concentration of employment and services; ○ traffic growth; and ○ insensitive development. • PAN52 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. 	<p>conservation areas).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increased need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ assess a settlement's key features(s); ○ reinforcing a sense of place; and ○ involving local communities (which has started to happen in 7 towns under Aberdeenshire Council's ATP projects). 	<p>Development Plan Monitoring Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file43359.pdf • Aberdeen City: Community Planning Regeneration Masterplans (2006/7) http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Web/Site/Internet/RegenerationMasterplans.asp • Scottish Executive (1997) <i>PAN 52: Planning in small Towns</i>
Safeguarding landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five applications have been received in Aberdeenshire for the erection of houses (totalling 191 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The four Landscape Character Assessments that cover the North East provides a brief 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPPG 14 states that particular care is needed when considering proposals for new 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inappropriate scale and insensitive siting of enabling development may adversely affect landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – environment Monitoring Paper</i> • Scottish Executive (1999)

	<p> dwellings) as enabling development, and concern has been raised that in some cases the level of enabling development has had an impact on the setting of the buildings which development is intended to preserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Settlement Capacity studies are being prepared by Aberdeenshire Council, which uses Index 21 methodology to identify where new development should be sited (e.g. taking full account of the characteristics of the local landscape and townscape characteristics). • Aberdeen City’s finalised local plan includes a new designation – Green Space Network, which 	<p> overview of past land use practices and discusses potential land uses for existing landscapes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dundee City Council’s development plan aims to protect the landscape character along the prominent western side of the city by ensuring any new development is set within a “strong landscape framework”, which includes the planting of trees to allow new development to integrate with the surrounding landscape. 	<p> development at the edge of settlements or in open countryside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAN44: <i>Capacity for housing in the landscape</i> demonstrates an understanding of traditional growth. • The Scottish Executive’s design statement states that sensitive location and design is needed to avoid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ urban sprawl; ○ ribbon development; ○ new buildings on obtrusive sites; ○ incongruous materials; and ○ house styles more characteristic of suburban than rural areas. 	<p> characteristics (e.g. changing it’s landscape character type, not respecting local topography/contours).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development not fitting in with the landscape’s capacity to absorb new development (e.g. design, layout and sense of place) – need to promote suitable development capacity. 	<p><i>NPPG14: Natural Heritage</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (2001) <i>Designing Places: A Policy Statement for Scotland</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/planning/dpps-00.asp • Scottish Executive (1994) PAN44: <i>Capacity for housing in the landscape</i>. • Scottish Natural Heritage (1997) <i>National programme of landscape character assessment: Banff and Buchan</i>, Review No 37. • Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>South and Central Aberdeenshire: landscape character assessment</i>, Review No 102. • Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Cairngorms landscape assessment</i>, Review No 75. • Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Landscape character assessment of</i>
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	<p>aims to improve access to the countryside, enhance valued landscapes, and improve wildlife habitats, and has been developed in the form of 'green fingers or wedges' along side the redrawn Green Belt.</p>				<p><i>Aberdeen, Review No 80</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council (2004) finalised Local Plan: Green Spaces, New Places
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Table 10: SEA Topic: Material Assets

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Reducing number of vacant dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of vacant dwellings and second homes in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberdeen: 5,574 (5.1% increase since 2001) and 5.2% of the total housing stock. ○ Aberdeenshire: 4,8681 (decrease of 15% since 2001) and 4.6% of the total housing stock. • In Aberdeenshire there are 749 (5%) vacant commercial properties. • Between 2004 and 2005 the number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeen increase by 315 (6%). • Between 2004 and 2005 the number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeenshire fell by 250 (-5.1%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of vacant dwellings and second homes in 2005 (based on local authorities with a similar number of dwellings): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highland: 9,444 (0.3% increase since 2001) and 8.9% of the total housing stock. ○ Scotland: 107,250 (increase of 1.1% since 2001) and 4.5% of the total housing stock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeen has increased by 270. • Number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeenshire has declined sharply by 827. • PAN 52 states that planning authorities should consider the potential contribution which vacant, derelict land, and obsolete or redundant buildings can make towards meeting development requirements. 	<p>The number of vacant dwellings in Aberdeen is increasing, while in Aberdeenshire the figure is falling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Register for Scotland: Vacant dwellings and second homes (2001-2005) http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/h-e-05-table3.pdf
Reducing number of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of dwellings in disrepair in 2002: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of dwellings in a state of disrepair in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City has both a higher level of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than two-thirds of Aberdeen's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire

<p>degraded buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberdeen: 76,000 (81%) against 18,000 (19%) that are not in disrepair. ○ Aberdeenshire: 63,000 (70%) against 27,000 that are not in disrepair. ● Number of dwellings where their disrepair is classified as “urgent” in 2002: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberdeen: 43% ○ Aberdeenshire: 28% ● Number of dwellings (by tenure) failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2002 in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberdeen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rented (LA/HA) - 60% owner-occupied/ private rented – 64% ○ Aberdeenshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rented (LA/HA) - 50% owner-occupied/ private rented – 55% <p>(HA=Housing Association)</p>	<p>Scotland during 2002 stood at 1,761,000 (80%), of which 41% of the housing stock is classified as “urgent”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Disrepair” is where parts of a building central to its weather proofing, and/or its structural integrity requires attention. ● “Urgent” disrepair is defined as disrepair that, if not addressed, would cause the fabric of the building to deteriorate further and/or place the health and safety of residents at risk. ● In Scotland, the number of dwellings (by tenure) failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2002: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ rented (LA/HA) - 70% ○ owner-occupied/ private rented – 70% <p>(LA=Local authority)</p>	<p>disrepair in its housing stock and a higher percentage classified as “urgent”, although the figures for Aberdeen are in line with the Scottish average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Aberdeenshire, the number of properties in disrepair is better than the Scottish average, with far fewer dwellings in a state of “urgent” disrepair. ● Both Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire have lower rates of stock failure than the Scottish average, although levels are still quite high. ● Failure rates are slightly higher in the private sector than in the social rented sector. 	<p>housing stock is identified as suffering some form of disrepair, with 43% (higher than the Scottish average) classified as “urgent”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More than half of the housing stock in the North East is failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard. ● More retrofitting of dwellings is required to bring them back into habitable use. 	<p>Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the Housing Stock</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communities Scotland (2004) <i>Scottish House Condition Survey 2002</i>, http://www.shcs.gov.uk/pdfs/SHQSreport.pdf#search=%22Scottish%20House%20condition%20survey%20SHQS%22
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<p>Reducing derelict and vacant land (and buildings)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 18 sites measuring 72ha is derelict; ○ 32 sites measuring 116ha is vacant; & ○ combined represents 2% of the total vacant and derelict land recorded in Scotland. • In Aberdeenshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 21 sites totalling 9ha is derelict; and ○ 25 sites totalling 27ha is vacant. • Since 1996, the total area of derelict and urban vacant land in Aberdeen has remained steady (2005 figures stand at 180ha). • In Aberdeenshire the total area of derelict and urban vacant land has declined significantly from 190ha in 1996 to 36ha in 2005. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total derelict and (urban) vacant land in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moray: 44 sites totalling 37ha; ○ Angus: 51 sites totalling 172ha (2% of total vacant and derelict land recorded in Scotland); ○ Dundee: 213 sites totalling 216ha (3% of total land area) ○ Edinburgh: 64 sites totalling 179ha (2% of total land area) ○ Glasgow: 853 sites totalling 1,313 ha (12% of total land area) • The top 5 former uses of derelict and vacant land in Scotland are quarries, defence, manufacturing, agriculture, and community and health. • The top 5 preferred re-use of derelict and vacant land identified in the Bulletin are residential, industrial, manufacturing, recreation, and defence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen follows a similar trend with other urban authorities with high areas of vacant and derelict land, although Aberdeen has fewer sites compared to Dundee, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. • The area of derelict and urban vacant land in Aberdeenshire has decreased significantly (especially since 2004). • The majority of vacant and derelict sites in Aberdeen are between 0.5 and 5ha, with 10 sites greater than 5ha. • In Aberdeenshire, all sites are less than 5ha (52% of sites are less than 0.5ha). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen has a high level of derelict and urban vacant land in the North East – need to reduce the under utilisation of these sites through regeneration and reuse schemes. • 20% of vacant and derelict sites in Aberdeen are greater than 5ha. 	<p>Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Statistical Bulletin: Scottish Vacant Derelict and Derelict Land Survey 2005</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/91002/0021846.pdf</p>
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<p>Safeguarding properties protected from flooding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardens and lower floors of council houses in Middlefield (Aberdeen) are being flooded as a result of rising ground water levels, which is believed to be from a old quarry – a hydrological assessment is being undertaken. • Hecks (grills) are being replaced throughout the City to reduce pluvial flooding, along with increased culvert maintenance and water course inspections. • The loss of the flood plain at Maryculter bridge (River Dee) will affect the fluvial flooding downstream. • Fluvial flooding is being reduced at West Cults (Aberdeen) through the creation of flood embankments along the River Dee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPP7 states that new development should not be granted consent if it would be at significant risk of flooding from any source, or the proposal would materially increase the probability of flooding elsewhere. • It neither supports the development on greenfield sites, which benefit from flood defenses, as this would increase the number of properties at risk from flooding. • SPP7 discourages the culverting of watercourses, which are part of a new development (unless there is no practical alternative), and requires surface water run-off from a development to be fully or partially drained by SuDS, unless it is impracticable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biennial reports will continue to identify where there are existing problems that require remedying to reduce land and properties affected by flooding. • The impact of climate change will require existing and proposed infrastructure (e.g. urban drains) to be able to accommodate the predicted rise in precipitation and sea level, and a need for their increased maintenance. • Climate change will also require the increase use of SuDS to manage the flow of rain water run-off before it reaches piped drained systems or watercourses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works have been identified in the North East to ensure that properties are safeguarded from flooding. • Need to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ new development will not increase the probability of flooding elsewhere; ○ development is not sited in an area at risk from fluvial or coastal flooding; and ○ existing and new urban drainage systems will not flood properties (especially as storm events are predicted to increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council (2003) <i>Prevention or Mitigation of Flooding of Non-Agricultural Land within Aberdeen 4th Biennial report</i> • Halcrow (2006) <i>Aberdeen Bay Coastal Defence Scheme, Aberdeen city Council Project Appraisal Report</i>, Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Flooding in Aberdeenshire: Fifth Biennial Report</i> http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/flooding/report/5biennial.pdf • Scottish Executive (2004) <i>Scottish Planning Policy 7: Planning and Flooding</i>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of a 100 year strategy, which will protect 259 dwellings and 174 commercial properties, road infrastructure and Aberdeen beach, coastal defences and schemes to reduce tidal flooding between Nigg Bay and the Donmouth (Aberdeen) are currently underway, which include the recharging of Aberdeen beach with sand and rock t-head groynes. The area will then be monitored by Aberdeen University. • Consultation with Scottish Water and roads department is continuing in order to address insufficient drainage capacity. • Continuation of flood study's on watercourses prone to flooding. 				
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<p>Enhancing existing flood defences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect properties and infrastructure in Aberdeen, works to protect the beach wall will be required, which involves the replenishment of sand along Aberdeen Beach every 7 years. • In Aberdeenshire, flood studies have been carried out in Huntly, Inverurie, Rosehearty, Auchnagatt, Fyvie, Maryculter (Mill Inn), Alford and Aboyne. • Emergency works had to be carried out on Stonehaven's seawall foundations as coastal erosion caused part of it to collapse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the impact of climate change is predicted to be less significant along the east coast, the frequency of storm events and the level of winter precipitation are forecast to increase, which will give rise to increasing 1 in 200 year flood events and soil/sand erosion. • As highlighted in the SEA indicator on climatic factors, the sea-level along the east coast is predicted to rise 34 to 55 cm by the 2080s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood studies will continue to be commissioned whenever necessary to better understand and resolve flood-affected areas. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicted rise in sea level may result in existing flood defences being inadequate. • 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). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Flooding in Aberdeenshire: Fifth Biennial Report</i> http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/flooding/report/5biennial.pdf • Halcrow (2006) <i>Aberdeen Bay Coastal Defence Scheme, Aberdeen city Council Project Appraisal Report</i>, Aberdeen City Council • Office of Science and Technology (2005) <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous Projects /Flood and Coastal Defence/Reports and Publications/Scotland /final_scotland.pdf
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<p>Enhancing exiting pumping stations and sewage works</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present, Aberdeen has been identified as not having any constraints. • Aberdeenshire has significant constraints throughout most of the area, with the exception of a handful of settlements, including Westhill and Insch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, as Aberdeen City was identified in the study as having no water or waste water constraints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant wastewater constraint issue in most of Aberdeenshire, which may have adverse effects on water quality, especially on watercourses with a natural heritage designation, such as the River Dee, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Development Constraints (Water and Waste)</i> • Scottish Water (2006) <i>Strategic Asset Capacity and Development Plan</i> http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/portal/page?_pageid=627,4099564&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL
<p>Enhancing water treatment works</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the exception of areas in and around Peterhead, Banchory, Ellon, and Torphins, both Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire require significant works upgrades. • Turriff and Banff and Macduff have been identified with severe water supply constraints. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant water supply constraint throughout most of the North East, with the exception of a handful of settlements. 	

<p>Ensuring sufficient supply of affordable housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *The demand for affordable housing per annum is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in Aberdeen there is a net requirement of 897 affordable housing units; ○ in Aberdeenshire there is a net requirement of 915 affordable housing units (this represents two-thirds of the estimated new build in the area). • £150 million investment from Scottish Executive-funded Communities Homes (via the Devanha Group), which will result in 650 dwellings in both Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire over the next 4 years. • Work is currently underway at the former Donside Mills in Aberdeen. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The supply of affordable 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant shortfall of affordable housing in both Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, especially in one bedroom and 4 plus bedroom dwellings. • There is a need to review the proportion of affordable housing in new build in both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Aberdeen Council and Communities Scotland (2005) <i>2004 Housing Needs Assessment, Executive Summary</i>, Fordham Research http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2264&sID=970 • *Aberdeenshire Council and Communities Scotland (2005) <i>2004 Housing Needs Assessment, Executive Summary</i>, Fordham Research http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/councilhousing/reports/aberdeenshire_hna_final_summary.pdf
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<p>Ensuring sufficient supply of holiday homes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of second/holiday homes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 0 to 1%: Aberdeen, central and northern Aberdeenshire (excluding the coast) ○ 1 to 5%: southern Aberdeenshire (e.g. Mid Deeside and the Mearns area), and coastal areas excluding Peterhead and areas north and south of Aberdeen ○ 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Argyll and Bute second/holiday homes account for 11% of the housing stock (the highest of all rural authorities). • In Moray second/holiday homes account for 2% of the housing stock. • In the Highlands, second/holiday homes account for 6% of the housing stock. • On average, second/holiday homes account for 3.6% of rural housing stock, while second homes account for 0.5% of urban properties. • In Scottish rural areas, the proportion of housing stock accounted for by second/holiday homes is over seven times greater than in urban areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire, only a small fraction of the total housing stock accounted by second/holiday homes, although the figure is the same for Moray • The majority of second/holiday homes are located along the coast or in upland areas (which follows a similar pattern across the whole of Scotland) • The number of second homes rented out by oil companies could be sold off as the oil sector declines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of holiday homes will increase house prices as dwellings that would normally have been bought to live in are bought for the purpose of being a used as a second/holiday home, resulting in locals or those on low incomes being unable to purchase their own home. • A shortage of holiday homes will adversely affect the tourist trade in Aberdeenshire's most popular areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank of Scotland House Price Database; ONS http://www.hbosplc.com/economy/includes/30-07-05FTBsPricedOutOfScottishCountryside.doc • PRECiS (2005) <i>No. 70 The impact of second and holiday homes on rural communities in Scotland</i>, Communities Scotland http://www.communities.scotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/publics_011272.pdf#search=%22number%20of%20second%20homes%20in%20aberdeen%22
<p>Increasing proportion of building materials from</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current structure plan and City and Shire local plans encourage and supports the use of 	<p>SPP1 promotes the use of sustainable development mechanisms in all new build, and is supported in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire councils encourage and support the use 	<p>Very few commercial developments are using sustainable materials in the North</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP1: The Planning System</i> • Scottish Executive

<p>sustainable sources</p>	<p>sustainable materials and the adoption of Lifetime standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of design is also supported in general design guidelines and design briefs in the existing development plans. • In Aberdeenshire, work on increasing the energy efficiency and use of materials from sustainable 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. 	<p>PAN 67, which provides advice on good practice on the layout, design and materials to be used, and to a lesser extent in SPP2 and SPP3.</p>	<p>of buildings constructed of sustainable materials, there are only a few examples of this actually happening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is underway in Aberdeenshire to increase the sustainability of dwellings (although this approach can be applied to other uses). 	<p>East.</p>	<p>(2003) <i>PAN 67: Housing Quality</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP2: Economic Development</i> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP3: Planning for housing</i> • Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (www.index21.org.uk)
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Appendix 4: Additional baseline information

Table 1: Water courses with poor water quality

SEA Topic	Quantified information	
Water	Areas of poor water quality Shire	Areas of poor water quality City
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattery burn, Sandend (biology) • Cowie Burn (Distillery) (toxins) • Blackwater (nr Gas Terminal) (biology and chemistry) • Quomery Burn (Inverquormery) (biology) • Ides Burn (Daviot WWTP) (biology) • Brodiach Burn (Backhill Tip Kingswells) (chemistry) • Elrick Burn (biology and chemistry) • Diney Burn (Marywell) (chemistry) • Burn of Findon (biology) • Farrochie Burn (Stonehaven) (biology). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Far Burn (Dyce pumping station) (biology) • Far Burn (Airport, Wellheads SWS) (biology and chemistry) • Scatter Burn (entry to River Don) (chemistry).

Table 2: Natural heritage designations in the North East

SEA Topic	Quantified information						
Biodiversity	International designations						
	Number of Ramsar Sites	Number of Special Conservation Areas (SACs)		Number of Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
	4	20		10			
	National designations						
	Number of SSSIs	Number of Natural Nature Reserves		Number of National Scenic Areas			
	92	8		2			
	Local designations						
	Number of ALS/ primary landscape elements	Number of SINS	Number of DWS	Number of RSPB Reserves	Number of Local Nature Reserves	Number of Scottish Wildlife Trusts	
	18	150	79	3	5	4	

Figure 1: International natural heritage designations

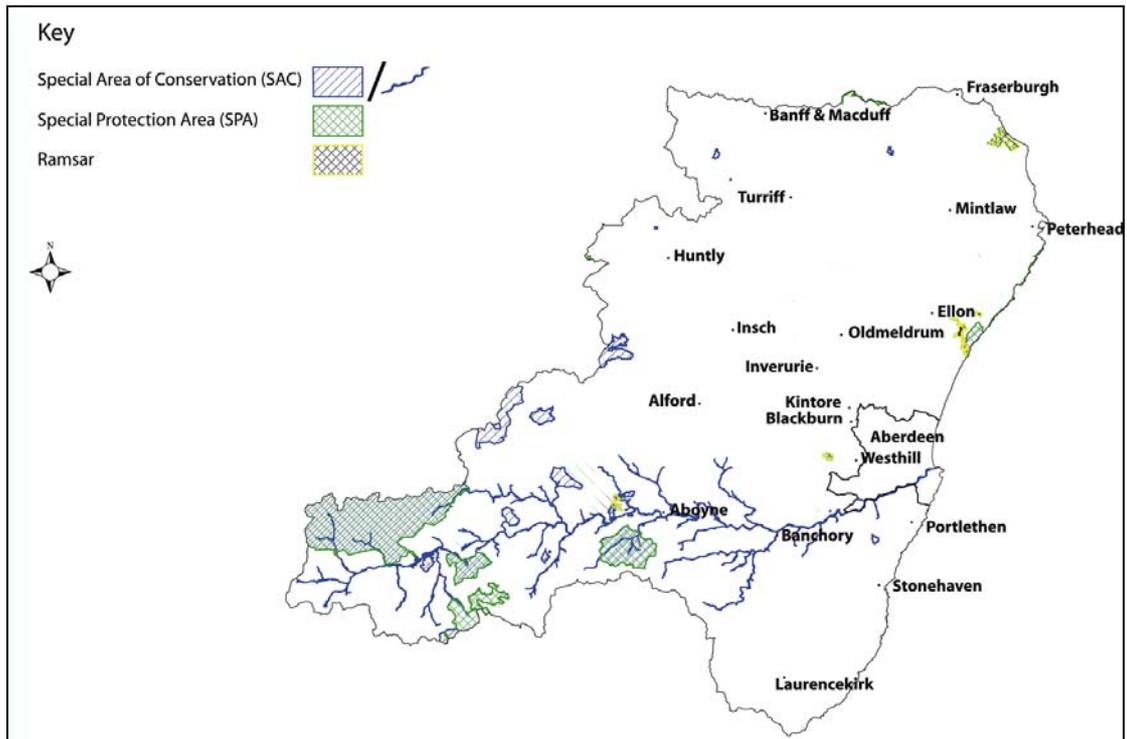


Figure 2: National natural heritage designations

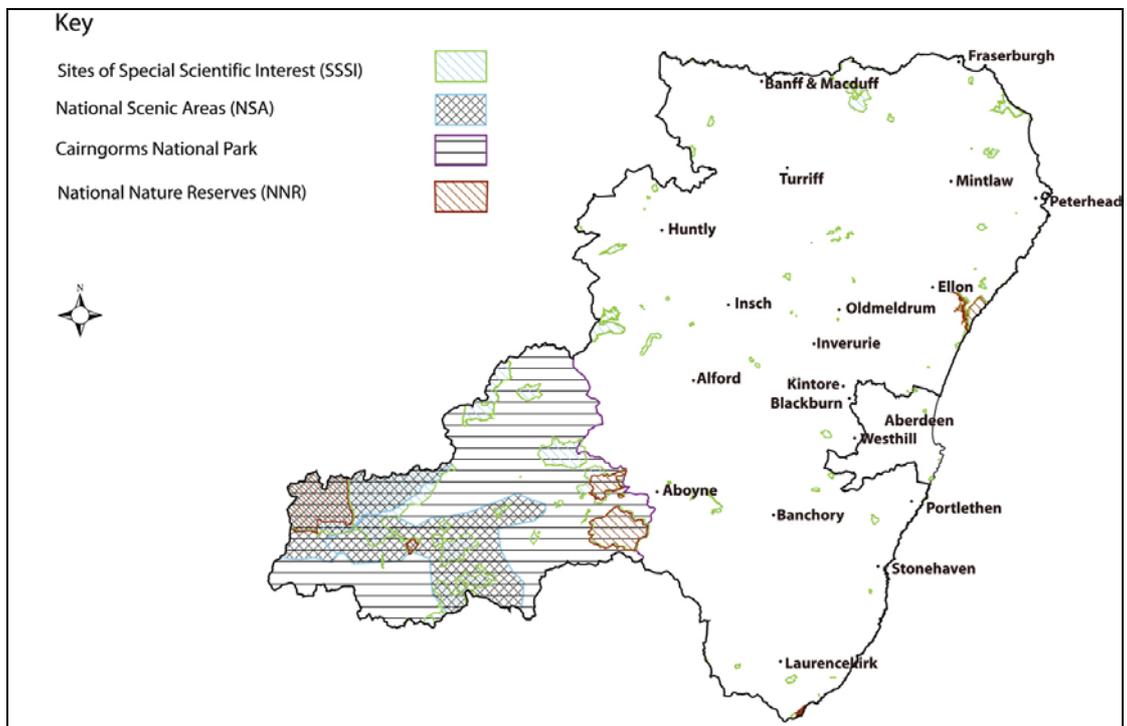


Figure 3: Local natural heritage designations:

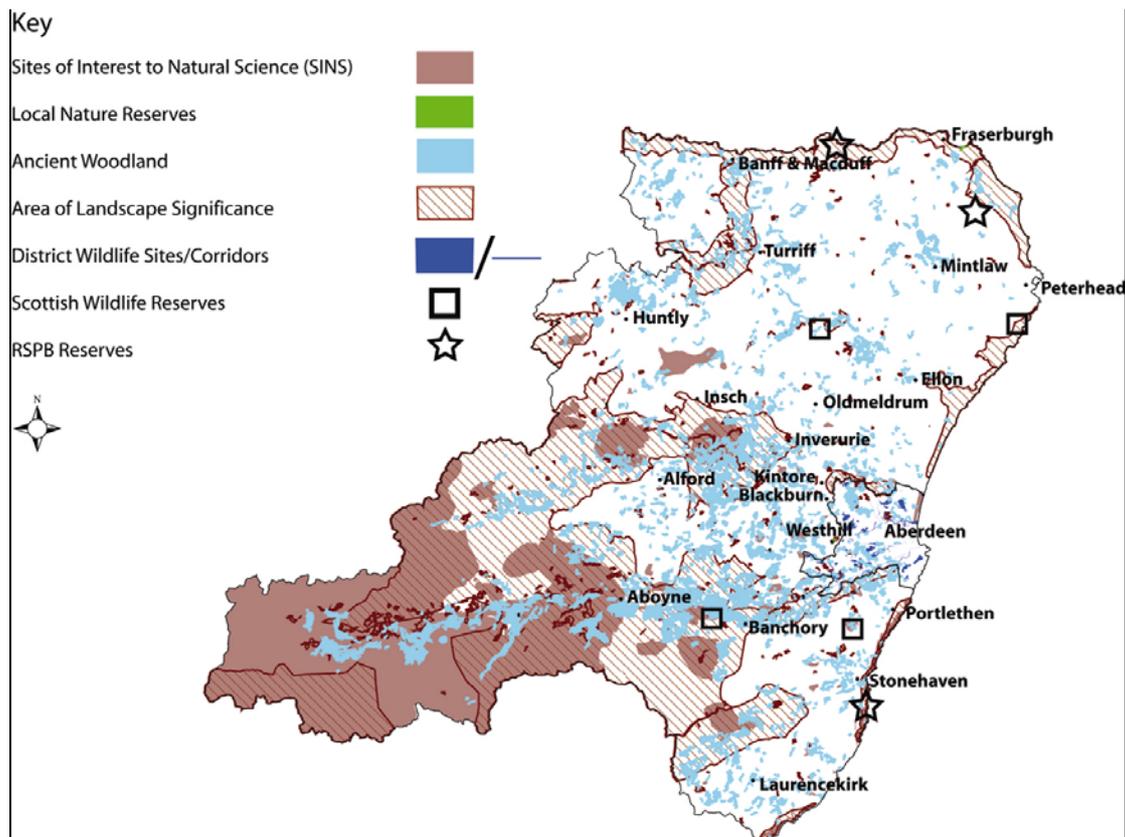


Table 3: The main settlements likely to be affected by fluvial and coastal flooding (up to the 2080s)

SEA Topic	Quantified information		
Climatic Factors	Settlement	Flood risk	
		Fluvial flooding constraints (1 in 200 year flood event)	Tidal/coastal flooding constraints
	Significantly constrained		
	Fraserburgh	To the west and southeast , including part of the settlement and Fraserburgh Golf Course.	Harbour area (jetties only, not the buildings).
Turriff	To the south, southwest and northwest from the river Deveron, Burn of Knockiemill, Burn of Dulerstone, and Burn of turriff.	N/A	
Longside	To the north, east , and southeast from the South Ugie Water and Burn of Cairngall.	N/A	

Huntly	To the north , from the River Deveron, which already affects part of the settlement, and to the east and southeast from the river Bogie and Thains Burn.	N/A
Kintore	To the north , northeast and southeast from the Loch Burn, Bridgealehouse Burn, River Don, and Tuach Burn	N/A
Banchory	To the south from the River Dee affecting part of the settlement immediately adjacent to the river, to the northeast and east from Burn of Bennie.	N/A
Newtonhill	To the north and northwest from the Burn of Elrick and to the south from Pheppie Burn.	None.
Moderately constrained		
Peterhead	To the north and northwest from the River Ugie and Collie Burn, and to the south from a drainage ditch, which affects the Dales Industrial Estate and a works factory on South Road.	Harbour area, affecting buildings in South Bay Harbour, Bridge street, and the main piers.
Inverurie	To the north and west from the River Urie, which includes part of the Inverurie Paper Mill, and to the south , from the river Don, which affects part of Port Elphinstone.	N/A
Stonehaven	To the north and northeast from the Cowie Water (including Mineralwell Park) and to the south from Carron Water.	To the northeast encompassing all of Cowie, the caravan park, and the leisure area along Beach Road, and to the southeast including part of the harbour and the settlement (e.g. High Street)

Dyce	To the east from the River Don.	N/A
Cults	To the south from the River Dee.	N/A
Bielside	To the south from the River Dee.	N/A
Milltimber	To the south from the River Dee.	N/A
Peterculter	To the south from the River Dee.	N/A
Slightly constrained		
Banff	To the south from the River Deveron, affecting Collenard Park and Dew Haugh.	To the southeast , affecting Duff Royal Golf Course, and part of the settlement to the east (including part of Bridge Street, Maple View, the football grounds and Princes Royal Park).
Macduff	To the south , from Gelly Burn.	None.
Mintlaw	To the west and south from South Ugie Water and the northwest (Pitfour Lake).	N/A
Ellon	To the south from the River Ythan, and to the east , from a drainage ditch.	N/A
Alford	To the north from the River Don and a drainage ditch in Baldyvin Wood.	N/A
Laurencekirk	To the west and northwest from Luther Water and Ducat Water.	N/A
Portlethen	To the north and northeast including part of the settlement from the Burn of Findon and a drainage ditch, which lies to the north of Moss-side.	None.
Balmedie	To the northeast from Eigie Burn.	None.
Potterton	To the south from Blackdog Burn.	N/A

	Aberdeen	To the south from the River Dee. and the north from the River Don, including the Railway station.	Part of the harbour (north) along Waterloo Quay and Regen Quay up to Virginia Street.
	Bridge of Don	To the south from the River Don.	None.
	Not constrained		
	Westhill	None.	N/A
	Kingswells	None.	N/A
	Cove	None.	None.

Source: SEPA Draft Second generation Indicative flood risk maps (January 2006)

Table 4: Need for sports facilities in the North East

SEA Topic	Quantified information	
Human Health	Need for sports provision in Aberdeen that is still outstanding:	Need for sports provision in Aberdeenshire
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council's sports strategy identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cove is the one area of the city that has no local sports facilities; ○ there are no golf courses suitable for juniors; ○ that Aberdeen Football club are presently reviewing their options for the redevelopment of a new Stadium and Soccer Academy in light of the EURO 2008 decision; ○ there is a need for one water based pitches in the city and a further 2 sand based pitches; & ○ the need for a 50m swimming pool for training and competition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council's sports strategy identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Swimming pool in mintlaw; ○ 6 Badminton Court Hall in Peterhead and Fraserburgh; and ○ 56mx26m ice rink at Peterhead.

Table 5: House Type in Scotland, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire

SEA Topic	Quantified information			
Human Health		Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire	Scotland
	Detached	12%	44%	20%
	Semi-detached	22%	30%	24%
	Terraced	17%	13%	20%
	Flats	49%	13%	36%

Source: 2001 Census

Table 6: House Type of Permissions over 20 Units in 2005

SEA Topic	Quantified information		
Human Health		Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire
	Detached	8.4%	73.9%
	Semi-detached	16.1%	26.1%
	Terraced	0.0%	0.0%
	Flats	75.5%	0.0%

Source: Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) Topic Paper: Characteristics of the Housing Stock

**Table 7: Balancing Housing Markets: House Size and Tenure
"Requirements" for Aberdeen City**

SEA Topic	Quantified information					
Human Health		Size Requirement				
		1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4+ Bed	Total
	Owner Occupation	57	822	88	(126)	841
	Social Rented	965	23	50	41	1,079
	Private Rented	(432)	(330)	(305)	(35)	(1,102)
	Total	590	515	(167)	(120)	818

Source: 2004 Housing Needs Assessment, Aberdeen City Council

The 2004 Housing Needs Assessments commissioned by the two Councils produced estimates of the range of new housing by tenure and size required to meet demand (see Table 7 and 8). It should be emphasised that this analysis was based on the level of completions seen in the recent past and trends in household formation and migration. The estimates are based on aspiration rather than household size "requirements" and assume compromise in tenure rather than house size. In addition, the analysis explicitly excludes housing benefit and thereby underestimates the contribution of the private rented sector (an overestimates the need for affordable housing).

A broader range of house sizes in both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire would have a number of additional benefits in terms of encouraging a broader range of house types (and consequently more energy efficient stock) and also impacting upon the densities at which housing is delivered.

**Table 8: Balancing Housing Markets: House Size and Tenure
“Requirements” for Aberdeenshire**

SEA Topic	Quantified information					
Human Health		Size Requirement				
		1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4+ Bed	Total
	Owner Occupation	174	336	637	349	1,496
	Social Rented	488	298	219	149	1,154
	Private Rented	(274)	(379)	(554)	(109)	(1,315)
	Total	388	255	303	390	1,335

Source: 2004 Housing Needs Assessment, Aberdeenshire Council

**Table 9: Migration flows to and from Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire
(2002 – 2005)**

SEA Topic	Quantified information					
Population		Destination				
		City	Shire	Scotland	Elsewhere	Net Change
	Origin	City	-	-4,568	+363	-2,065
Shire		+4,568	-	-704	+4,085	+7949

Source: GRO(S) Population Estimates

Appendix 5: Environmental problems: supporting data, key indicators and mitigation measures required

SEA Topic	Supporting data	Key Indicators	Policy measures required
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>Local Air Quality Management Progress Report</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Local Air Quality Management Progress Report</i> • Aberdeen City Council (2003) Air Quality Report - 4th Stage Air Quality Review and Assessment • BMT Cordah Ltd (2004) Local Air Quality Management - Detailed Assessment, Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen City Council (2003) Updating & Screening Assessment of Air Quality in Aberdeen • National Air Quality Objectives: http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/laqm/information.php?info=objectives • Scottish Executive (2006) National Transport Strategy Consultation – SEA Environmental Report • Scottish Executive (2005) Indicators of Sustainable Development for Scotland: Progress Report 2005 • Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 • Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving air quality (odour and dust) • Achievement of Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development planning policies that support improvements to sewage works to reduce odours. • Allocate new development close to areas of existing employment to reduce car usage (as excessive traffic volumes could affect the pattern of future development). • Reduce traffic volumes in the most adversely affected areas by avoid siting proposals within the AQMA for Aberdeen City Centre, which may increase nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels. • Avoid siting proposals that may increase traffic volumes along the periphery routes in Aberdeen, which may increase nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels. • Identify/safeguard land for sustainable transport modes (e.g. cycling, buses). • Favourable renewable energy policy on bio-fuel / fuel cell plant production (subject to the usual planning criteria).

SEA Topic	Supporting data	Key Indicators	Policy measures required
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate Assessment meeting for Aberdeenshire Local Plan (11th April 2006): <i>Minutes of meeting to discuss research into the impact of water abstraction on the qualifying interests of the River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</i> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-2016: Environment Monitoring Paper (Aberdeenshire)</i> • 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 • Aberdeen City (2002) State of the Environment Report, <i>aberdeenfutures</i> http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&sID=883 • SEPA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/bathingwaters/bw2006/north.asp ○ http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/groundwater/tools/vulnerability.pdf • Scottish Executive Statistics Environment: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/15637/sesoSubSearch/Q/SID/82 • Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i> • SEPA (River Classification Stretch Data, 2005): http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm • SEPA (Coastal Classification Stretch Data, 2005): http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm • Scottish Executive Environment Statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing water quality in Special Areas of Conservation • Reducing the likelihood of flooding from new development • Maintaining ground water and river levels • Safeguarding and improving water quality (biology and chemistry) • Reducing adverse impacts on the coast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop planning policies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ promote water efficient technologies/schemes (e.g. grey water recycling); ○ limit the siting of new development where there is no main water connection; ○ prohibit developments that would adversely affect bathing and river water quality; ○ encourage schemes that improve coastal and water quality; ○ prohibit recreation proposals that would adversely affect sand dune systems; and ○ support measures to protect and enhance valued coastlines.

SEA Topic	Supporting data	Key Indicators	Policy measures required
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council (2001) <i>Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy</i> • Aberdeenshire Council <i>Contaminated land Strategy (under review Dec 2006)</i> • Aberdeenshire Council: <i>Public Register of Contaminated Land</i> • Aberdeenshire Council GGP overlay: <i>Potentially contaminated sites</i> • Scottish Executive Statistics (2005): <i>Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture</i> • Scottish Executive (2002) <i>Climate Change: Flooding Occurrences Review:</i> • Davidson, D.A. and Grieve, I.C. (2004) <i>Trends in soil erosion</i>, SNH Commissioned Report No. 054 (ROAME No. F00AC106) • Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> • North East Scotland Area Waste Plan (2003), SEPA • Aberdeen City Council http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/site/Rubbish/rub_WasteStrategy.asp • Aberdeenshire Council Waste Team • RPS (2006) <i>North of Scotland Strategic Option Review Group: Strategic Outline Case</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/113890/0027685.pdf • Landfill Allowance Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2005 – Interim Guidance, Scottish Executive http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/0012514.pdf • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Strategic Flooding Issues Topic Paper</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remediating contaminated land • Safeguarding prime agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3.1) • Reducing waste disposal in landfill • Reducing soil erosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify ‘growth’ corridors on land that is of less agricultural quality. • Develop planning policies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ promote the redevelopment of brownfield/ contaminated/ unused land before developing on greenfield land; ○ encourages remediation schemes before/during/ after the development on land water; ○ supports waste management schemes that reduce the amount of waste going to landfill; ○ promote the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle); ○ requires the local development plan to only permit land uses that do not erode the soil, either directly or indirectly; and ○ avoid siting developments in areas at risk from coastal erosion or within floodplains. • Allocate sites for waste management facilities via the Area Waste Plan, bearing in mind the proposals within the Strategic Outline Case, produced by the North of Scotland Strategic Option Review Group (NOSSOR).

SEA Topic	Supporting data	Key Indicators	Policy measures required
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Key Scottish Environment Statistics</i>: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/921/0036584.pdf • DEFRA (2005) <i>The UK Biodiversity Action Plan – Highlights from the 2005 reporting round</i> • UK BAP targets for Local Biodiversity Action Plans http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/brig/trgtargets/ScotlandLBAPTtargets.xls • Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i> • NE Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Plans</i>: www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm • Structure Plan (NEST) (2006) <i>Monitoring Environment Monitoring Paper</i>, Aberdeenshire Council • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Natural Heritage Topic Paper</i> • Aberdeen City (2002) <i>State of the Environment Report</i>, <i>aberdeenfutures</i> • Structure Plan (NEST) (2005) <i>Monitoring Environment Monitoring Paper</i>, Aberdeenshire Council • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Natural Heritage Topic Paper</i> • North East Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Updates</i> http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/updates.htm • North East Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Plans</i> http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm • Planning Resource article <i>Study detects key threats to wildlife</i>, 23/06/2006 • Scottish Executive (2005) <i>Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in your hands – a strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland</i> • Aberdeenshire Council's Natural Heritage Team (landscape). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving North East Biodiversity Action Plan (NE BAP) targets • Safeguarding designated areas • Safeguarding non-designated areas and enhancing biodiversity (reducing loss of habitat and species) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop planning policies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ encourage the planting of native plants; ○ promote the creation of new or enhancement/ regeneration (e.g. linkages) of existing habitats through developer contributions; ○ improved public access to the natural environment; ○ do not support proposals that may adversely affect a protected site; ○ ensure the cumulative impact of different or the same types of development do not adversely affect designated natural heritage sites; ○ support the creation of wildlife corridors where substantial development is proposed. • The development of 'growth corridors' should not adversely affect biodiversity. • Allow for the migration of species affected by climate change by maximising connections between habitats and minimising the barriers to movement and dispersal.

SEA Topic	Supporting data	Key Indicators	Policy measures required
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Wind Assessment Project (2005) <i>Gazetteer of wind power in Scotland</i> http://www.viewsofscotland.org/library/docs/SWAP_Wind_Gazetteer_v1.pdf • Aberdeenshire Council weekly planning lists. • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Draft Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 6: Renewable Energy</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>The Renewable Energy Strategy</i>: • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) Use of wind energy in Aberdeenshire (Parts 1 & 2) • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) Use of biomass energy in Aberdeenshire • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) Use of micro-renewable energy in Aberdeenshire • Best Foot Forward (2006) <i>Domestic Carbon Dioxide Emissions for Selected Cities</i>, British Gas http://www.britishgasnews.co.uk/managed_content/files/pdf/greenCity.pdf • DEFRA (2005) <i>Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990 – 2003</i>, National Environmental Technology Centre • UK Greenhouse gas inventory, 1990-2004 http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/0605231047_ukqghi_90-04_v1.1.pdf • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Energy</i>, Aberdeenshire Council • Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i>, Aberdeenshire Council • SEPA's second generation Indicative Floodplain Maps (1 in 200year flood event) • Scottish Executive (2004) <i>Scottish Planning Policy 7: Planning and Flooding</i>¹⁴⁵ • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Flooding in Aberdeenshire: Fifth Biennial</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in CO₂ levels. • Increasing in proportion of heat and electricity generated from renewable energy sources and Combined Heat and Power schemes • Reducing areas affected by flooding (e.g. fluvial) • Safeguard biodiversity • Minimising impact on natural resources • Impact on year-round services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate the findings from the North East global footprint project into the structure plan to reduce the North East's environmental impact (e.g. sustainable use of resources, reduction in carbon emissions). • Favourable energy policy that supports all forms of renewable energy technologies (subject to the usual planning criteria), including projects that use cleaner fossil fuels. • Allocating sites for (renewable) energy research, development and manufacturing (e.g. energy park). • Allocate new development close to areas of existing employment to reduce the need to travel. • Relocated all or part of coastal settlements at risk from rising sea levels (managed retreat). • Strengthen/enhance defensive walls • Assess airport expansion against potential rise in pollution level. • Allow for the migration of species affected by climate change by maximising connections between habitats and minimising the barriers to movement and dispersal.

SEA Topic	Supporting data	Key Indicators	Policy measures required
Climatic Factors			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop planning policies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ encourages the use of energy efficient technologies in new build; ○ are favourable towards micro-renewable energy developments; ○ supports the incorporation of carbon accounting principles into new build or renovations; ○ supports sustainable modes of transport; ○ promotes the use of sustainable urban drainage systems in new developments; ○ recognises the importance of heat, which is enforced in land use allocations; ○ prohibits any development on the flood plain (unless permitted under SPP7); ○ promotes water recycling technologies in new build (e.g. design consideration); ○ ensures the sensitive siting and correct type of flood prevention engineering works; and ○ permits the use of stilts/resilient designs for schemes within areas of flood risk (and are permitted under SPP7). • •

SEA Topic	Supporting data	Key Indicators	Policy measures required
Human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council (2002) <i>State of the Environment Report</i> • SNH <i>Scottish Natural Heritage in Dundee</i> http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/scottishparliamentleaflets/dundee.pdf • Scottish Executive (1996) <i>NPPG 11: Sport, physical recreation and open space</i> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>Planning Advice Note 65: Planning and Open Space</i> • Aberdeenshire Council's Information and Research team. • Scottish Executive (2006) Consultative draft <i>Scottish Planning Policy 11: Physical Activity and Open Space</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (Oxford Report) – Aberdeenshire: Key findings</i> http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/economic/SIMD%20Abshire%20Key%20Findings%202004.pdf • Aberdeen City Council (2002) <i>Active Aberdeen 2002-2007: A sport, recreation and physical activity strategy for Aberdeen City</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Sports Facility Study Updated Report</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2002) <i>Sports and Active Lifestyles Strategy</i> (for the period 2002 to 2005). • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Sport and recreation</i> • sportscotland (2003) <i>Sport 21: 2003 – 2007: The National Strategy for Sport – Shaping Scotland's Future</i> 2001 Census (www.scrol.gov.uk) • NHS Grampian (2004) <i>Mental Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment</i>, Public Health Unit • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the Housing Stock</i> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2002) <i>House buyers survey</i> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council <i>Housing Needs Assessment 2004: Housing Market Area Report</i> • Shelter: http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/advice/advice-4035.cfm • Register for General Scotland (2006) <i>Mid-2005 Population Estimates</i> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021:</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing/ maintaining quality and availability of public open space in urban and rural areas • Improvements to quality of life in currently deprived areas • Increasing sport facilities in areas of identified need • Improving those suffering from mental health as a result of overcrowding • Reducing excessive noise disturbance from aircraft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop planning polices that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ improve access to recreation facilities; ○ supports sport and leisure facilities where there is an identified need; ○ state appropriate housing densities that do not result in people feeling overcrowded; ○ secure training for people in disadvantaged communities where planning consent is granted for a large employment development through the use of planning agreements; ○ ensure there is adequate accessibility to jobs, shops, leisure facilities, health care and schools (for all ages and all locations). ○ requires LDP to protect and enhance areas of open space, and identifies potential for more civic or town parks; and ○ supports the principles behind Index 21, which encourages residential proposals to include a variety of house types.

SEA Topic	Supporting data	Key Indicators	Policy measures required
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</i> • 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 • Scottish Executive Statistics (2006) <i>Life expectancy</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/TrendLifeExpectancy • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the housing stock</i> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Population and household change</i> • Register for General Scotland (2006) <i>Mid-2005 Population Estimates Scotland Population estimates by sex, age and administrative area</i>, A National Statistics publication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing trends in household size • Years of healthy life expectancy • Size of population • Migration change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide housing that meets the needs of predicted household trends while minimising the need to develop on natural heritage designations. • Develop high-density homes in the AHMA where there is a higher population density. • Identify the likely need for special needs housing and other forms of residential accommodation to meet the predicted rise in the elderly. • Develop a policy that ensures LDP caters for services likely to be required for the increase in overseas immigrants.

SEA Topic	Supporting data	Key Indicators	Policy measures required
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i> • Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland (Scottish Civic Trust) http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/browse.asp • Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment</i> • Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (www.index21.org.uk) • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Planning and Building Standards Advice Note 75: Inclusive Design</i> • Scottish Executive (2001) <i>A Policy Statement for Scotland - Designing Places</i> • Scottish Executive (2005) <i>SPP 20: Role of Architecture and Design Scotland</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – environment Monitoring Paper</i> • Scottish Executive (1998) <i>NPPG5: Archaeology and Planning</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing numbers of buildings at risk. • Safeguarding building functionality (e.g. use). • Ensuring that the impact from new build reflects: form & materials, environment, urban and social integration, character and innovation of existing historic buildings. • Safeguarding built and cultural heritage sites, including conservation areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop planning policies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ allow for the excavation, documentation and publication of previously unknown archaeological remains when discovered; ○ encourage the redevelopment of historic buildings, especially those identified as ‘at risk’; ○ prevent developments from adversely affecting known archaeological remains; ○ ensures the protection of all built and cultural heritage sites, in accordance with NPPG5 and NPPG18; ○ promote good/best practice design principles in conservation areas and in areas listed with a Garden and Designed Landscape designation; and ○ prevent development adversely affecting the historical perspective of settlements, and by sensitively allocating developments within historical settlements or allocating certain land uses to more ‘modern’/recent settlements.

SEA Topic	Supporting data	Key Indicators	Policy measures required
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – Environment Monitoring Paper</i> • Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG14: Natural Heritage</i> • Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland (2005) <i>Guidance on Local Landscape Designations</i>, Natural Heritage Series • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i> • Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership http://www.atap.org.uk/home.htm • Aberdeen City: Community Planning Regeneration Masterplans (2006/7) • Scottish Executive (1997) <i>PAN 52: Planning in small Towns</i> • Scottish Executive (2001) <i>Designing Places: A Policy Statement for Scotland</i> • Scottish Executive (1994) PAN44: Capacity for housing in the landscape. • Scottish Natural Heritage (1997) National programme of landscape character assessment: Banff and Buchan, Review No 37. • Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>South and Central Aberdeenshire: landscape character assessment</i>, Review No 102. • Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Cairngorms landscape assessment</i>, Review No 75. • Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Landscape character assessment of Aberdeen</i>, Review No 80 • Aberdeen City Council (2004) finalised Local Plan: Green Spaces, New Places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing designated areas – National Scenic Areas (NSA) • Enhancing designated areas – Areas of Landscape Significance (ALS) • Enhancing townscape quality • Safeguarding landscape character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop planning policies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ only permit proposals that are sited in an appropriate location and/or at an appropriate scale that fits in with the landscape and/or townscape (general principles) – policies should focus on new urban form, which respects what has been there in the past (i.e. design and layout); and ○ ensures the cumulative impact of different (or the same) types of development do not adversely affect designated landscapes and the principle landscape character/type of the area. • Land allocations should only be identified where the landscape has the capacity to absorb new development – consideration will have to be given to the scale and type of land use.

SEA Topic	Supporting data	Key Indicators	Policy measures required
Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Register for Scotland: Vacant dwellings and second homes (2001-2005) • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the Housing Stock</i> • Communities Scotland (2004) <i>Scottish House Condition Survey 2002</i>, http://www.shcs.gov.uk/pdfs/SHQSreport.pdf#search=%22Scottish%20House%20condition%20survey%20SHQS%22 • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Statistical Bulletin: Scottish Vacant Derelict and Derelict Land Survey 2005</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/91002/0021846.pdf • Aberdeen City Council (2003) <i>Prevention or Mitigation of Flooding of Non-Agricultural Land within Aberdeen 4th Biennial report</i> • Halcrow (2006) <i>Aberdeen Bay Coastal Defence Scheme, Aberdeen city Council Project Appraisal Report</i>, Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Flooding in Aberdeenshire: Fifth Biennial Report</i> • Scottish Executive (2004) <i>Scottish Planning Policy 7: Planning and Flooding</i> • Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Development Constraints (Water and Waste)</i> • Scottish Water (2006) <i>Strategic Asset Capacity and Development Plan</i> http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/portal/page?_pageid=627,4099564&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL • Aberdeen Council and Communities Scotland (2005) <i>2004 Housing Needs Assessment, Executive Summary</i>, Fordham Research http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2264&SID=970 • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing number of vacant dwellings • Reducing number of degraded buildings • Reducing derelict and vacant land (and buildings) • Safeguarding properties protected from flooding • Enhancing existing flood defences • Enhancing existing pumping stations and sewage works • Enhancing water treatment works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop planning polices that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ encourages and supports the redevelopment of vacant/empty buildings; ○ supports new or the enhancement of existing flood defence works that comply with planning and environmental policies; ○ prohibits the development within areas at risk of flooding (unless they comply with the risk Framework, set out in SPP7), or where they would increase the risk of flooding elsewhere; ○ support the use of water efficient technologies to reduce water consumption and ensure a sustainable supply of water capacity; and ○ encourages and supports development that use ‘sustainable’ materials. • Engage with Scottish Water to resolve water and waste water constraints – may result in the need to phase new development when there is sufficient water and waste capacity over the lifetime of the plan.

SEA Topic	Supporting data	Key Indicators	Policy measures required
Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council and Communities Scotland (2005) <i>2004 Housing Needs Assessment, Executive Summary</i>, Fordham Research http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/councilhousing/reports/aberdeenshire_hna_final_summary.pdf • Bank of Scotland House Price Database; ONS http://www.hbosplc.com/economy/includes/30-07-05FTBsPricedOutOfScottishCountryside.doc • PRECiS (2005) <i>No.70 The impact of second and holiday homes on rural communities in Scotland</i>, Communities Scotland http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/pubcs_011272.pdf#search=%22number%20of%20second%20homes%20in%20aberdeen%22 • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP1: The Planning System</i> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>PAN 67: Housing Quality</i> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP2: Economic Development</i> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP3: Planning for housing</i> • Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (www.index21.org.uk) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring sufficient supply of affordable housing • Ensuring sufficient supply of second/ holiday homes • Increasing proportion of building materials from sustainable sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the appropriate siting of second homes in the North East. • Including a policy statement on the need for affordable homes in the North East.

Appendix 6: Proposed Mitigation Framework

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant effects near waste management facilities or quarries, but there is an issue of odour from sewerage works near development in Inverurie, Nigg and Torry. • High traffic volumes is seriously affecting the air quality of Aberdeen's city centre (principally nitrogen dioxide NO₂), which has resulted in it being designated an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). • High NO₂ levels (although not quite exceeding the annual mean NO₂ objective for 2005) along some peripheral routes: Victoria Rd (Torry), North and South Anderson Drive and Anderson Driver, and Great Northern Road, Auchmill Rd, and King St (north of Roselin Terrace). • New developments within the AQMA, and in areas with high NO₂ levels should not exceed the 2005 NO₂ objective of 40 µg/m⁻³. 		
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A decline in the number of species of international importance if water levels fall. • 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. • A decrease in summer precipitation may lead to a decline in ground water levels in upland areas and reduce the likelihood of new development proposals in these areas. 		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future development may put a constraint on maintaining ground water and river levels. • Bathing water quality not continuously meeting EC Guideline Standards in Stonehaven, Cruden Bay and Aberdeen (although in 2006, all bathing waters passed). • 53.1km of water courses in the North East are classified as poor or seriously polluted as a result of poor chemistry and biology quality. • 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. 		
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 5,900 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 		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 silting of rivers from fluvial flooding. • 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. 		
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native species and habitats are increasing, and the NE BAP is meeting the UK BAP targets, but UK priority species and habitats are still declining and require rigorous protection and enhancement. 		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the NE BAPs is the key issue to enhancing biodiversity. • Native species and habitats are increasing, and the NE BAP is meeting the UK BAP targets, but UK priority species and habitats are still declining and require rigorous protection and enhancement. • 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. • Impact from large-scale leisure and recreation uses. • Increase of access to designated sites could be damaging to some sites. • Indirect impacts of development on non-designated sites. • Large-scale schemes around edge of towns are placing significant development pressure on unprotected open spaces. • There is significant development pressure for new houses along the coast. • Fragmented habitats/ open space networks/ wildlife corridors may affect less mobile species from migrating 		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<p>and/or adapting to climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to enhance and augment habitats to avoid their decline within settlements. • Risk of increasing population near sensitive natural heritage areas. • Extensive use of land, and cumulative impact is resulting in the loss of biodiversity. 		
Climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High energy dependence on fossil fuels to provide heat and electricity. • High energy dependence on fossil fuels for transportation. • 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 CO₂ 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 		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<p>greater need for SuDS, and an increase their water holding capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant development pressure for 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 		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
	study.		
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • In-migration will create greater demand for houses and services in Aberdeenshire. • Possible need for services catering for 'non-Scotland' migrants, especially if from overseas (e.g. language and cultural issues/differences). • Retiral 'stealth' in-migration may affect housing and service provision in Aberdeenshire (i.e. an increase need for). 		
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Only a small number of buildings at risk are undergoing restoration in the North East. • The majority of the buildings at risk are in rural areas, 		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<p>with few undergoing restoration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly designed buildings, especially for the disabled, elderly and children. • Lack of an existing policy on inclusive design in the Structure Plan. • Issue of conflicting requirements when ensuring the accessibility of existing buildings. • 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. 		
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The insensitive siting and design, as well as type (e.g. dwelling(s), wind farm or quarry) of new development. • The siting and design of new developments are individually and cumulatively adversely affecting designated landscapes. 		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual or cumulative impact of dwelling houses may adversely be affecting the purpose of landscape designations, e.g. by affecting the coastal and landscape characteristics of Areas of Landscape Significance. • The insensitive siting and design of new developments are individually and cumulatively adversely affecting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the setting of settlements; and ○ townscapes (e.g. conservation areas). • There is an increased need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ assess a settlement's key features(s); ○ reinforcing a sense of place; and ○ involving local communities • The inappropriate scale and insensitive siting of enabling development is adversely affecting landscape characteristics (e.g. changing it's 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. 		
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of vacant dwellings in Aberdeen is increasing, while in Aberdeenshire the figure is falling. • More than two-thirds of Aberdeen's housing stock is identified as suffering some form of disrepair, with 43% (higher than the Scottish average) classified as "urgent". • More than half of the housing stock in the North East is 		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<p>failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen has a high level of derelict and urban vacant land – need to reduce the under utilisation of these sites through regeneration schemes. • More retrofitting of dwellings is required to bring them back into habitable use. • 20% of vacant and derelict sites in Aberdeen are greater than 5ha. • Works have been identified in the North East to ensure that properties are safeguarded from flooding. • Need to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ new development will not increase the probability of flooding elsewhere; ○ development is not sited in an area at risk from fluvial or coastal flooding; and ○ existing and new urban drainage systems will not flood properties (especially as storm events are predicted to increase). • Predicted rise in sea level may result in existing flood defences being inadequate. • 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 wastewater constraint issue in most 		

SEA Topic	Existing significant environmental problems	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<p>of Aberdeenshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant water supply constraint throughout most of the North East, with the exception of a handful of settlements. • There is a significant shortfall of affordable housing in both Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, especially in one bedroom and 4 plus bedroom dwellings. • The lack of holiday/second homes will increase house prices as dwellings that would normally have been bought to live in are bought for the purpose of being a used as a second/ holiday home. • A shortage of second homes will adversely affect the tourist trade in Aberdeenshire's most popular areas. • Very few new developments (e.g. dwellings, schools, offices etc) are using sustainable materials in the North East. 		