

SEA SCREENING REPORT – COVER NOTE

COVER NOTE – SECTION 1

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or  
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COVER NOTE – SECTION 2

An SEA screening report is attached for the plan/programme entitled:-  
Aberdeenshire Carbon Management Programme

The Responsible Authority is: -

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

COMPLETE SECTION 3 OR 4 OR 5

COVER NOTE – SECTION 3

Screening is required because the plan/programme/strategy falls under Section 5(3)(c) and Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that: -

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

COVER NOTE – SECTION 4

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

**COVER NOTE – SECTION 5**

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

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

**COVER NOTE – SECTION 6**

Contact name

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Job Title

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**COVER NOTE – SECTION 7**

**Signature**(electronic  
Signature  
is acceptable)

A Laird

**Date**

7 November 2006

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

**Responsible Authority**

Aberdeenshire Council

**Title of Programme**

Aberdeenshire Carbon Management Programme

**Programme purpose**

To improve the environmental performance of Aberdeenshire Council through the reduction carbon emissions from its activities and operations.

**What prompted the Programme** (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions)?

**Programme subject** (e.g. transport)

Carbon/Energy

**Period covered by**

<b>Programme</b>	2007 – 2012		
<b>Frequency of Programme updates</b>	Every 2 years		
<b>Programme area (e.g. sq kms)</b>	Aberdeenshire		
<b>Summary of nature/ content of Programme</b>	It is an environmental management tool designed to address environmental effects from corporate operations similar to an Environmental Management System		
<b>Are there any proposed programme objectives?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>
<b>Copy of objectives attached</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>
<b>Date</b>	7 November 2006		

**SEA SCREENING REPORT – SECTION 2  
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

Our determination regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of

Aberdeenshire Towns Housing Strategy is set out in table 1

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

TITLE OF PLAN/PROGRAMME		
Aberdeenshire Carbon Management Programme		
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY		
Aberdeenshire Council		
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (para numbers refer to Schedule 2 of the Act)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects
1(a) Will the plan set a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources?	No	Essentially, the programme is designed to increase corporate responsibility towards its carbon emissions. The programme is not designed to set any framework for development consents for projects. However it will drive future standards that the Council will use for the design/construction of its corporate buildings.
1(b) Will the plan influence other plans including those in a hierarchy?	No	The programme will not set a framework for other plans. It is a strategy for tackling corporate resource use, energy consumption and carbon emissions.
1(c) Does the plan have any relevance for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development?	Yes	The programme is relevant for the integration of environmental considerations as it seeks opportunities to reduce carbon dioxide emissions as a result of corporate activity
1(d) Are there some	Yes	At the moment carbon emissions in the public sector have not

<p>environmental problems relevant to the plan?</p>		<p>been comprehensively tackled in a coordinated manner. The programme will bring together all Services of Aberdeenshire Council to adopt a common strategy to help reduce carbon emissions.</p>
<p>1(e) Will the plan have any relevance for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans linked to waste management or water protection)?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The proposed carbon management programme aims to improve the Council's environmental performance on a continuous basis similar to the goal of an Environmental Management System (EMS). Its structure is also similar to EMS to some extent. In this sense, it has some relevance to the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). The programme is also relevant to the EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings Directive insofar as energy consumption in Council premises will be tackled.</p>
<p><b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (para numbers refer to Schedule 2 of the Act)</b></p>	<p><b>Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of significant environmental effects</b></p>
<p>2(a) Will the environmental effects be significant when consideration is given to probability, duration, frequency and reversibility?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>It is not envisaged that the implementation of the programme is likely to have any significant negative environmental effects. The programme is likely to have significant positive impacts on the corporate environment. However, that positive impact will be minimal within the context of the wider Aberdeenshire</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	<p>It is intended that the programme</p>

2(b) Will the effects be cumulative in nature?		would result in a net reduction in carbon emissions
2(c) Will the effects be transboundary in nature?	Yes or No	In so far as carbon emissions are not restricted to the authorities geographical boundaries
2(d) Will the environmental effects be significant when consideration is given to the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)?	No	There are no expected risks to human health and the environment arising from the implementation of the programme.
2(e) Will the environmental effects be significant when consideration is given to the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)?	No	Generally a reduction in carbon emissions has global positive effects. Specifically although the effects from Aberdeenshire's carbon management programme are significant for the corporate environment and operations, they may not be significant geographically.
2(f) Will the environmental effects be significant when consideration is given to the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to- special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or intensive land-use?	No	Like EMS, the programme is an environmental management tool designed for corporate operations and will not influence any physical development apart from corporate buildings. Even so, it is not envisaged that future design/construction of corporate buildings will ignore the value and vulnerability of the areas or exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values.
2(g) Will the environmental effects be significant when consideration is given to the effects on areas or landscapes, which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status?	No	Again the programme is an environmental management tool designed for corporate operations and will not influence any physical development. As a result the programme will not affect any areas of landscape, which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

## TABLE 2 – SUMMARY

### SUMMARY

Aberdeenshire Council Carbon Management Programme is an environmental management tool similar, in many respects, to an Environmental Management System. It is designed to increase corporate responsibility towards its carbon emissions. It is a strategy for tackling corporate resource use; energy consumption and carbon emissions. It will form the basis for improving the Council's environmental performance on a continuous basis. Although the programme is relevant for the integration of environmental considerations, it is not intended to set any framework for development consents for projects or for other plans. To a limited extent the programme will drive the standards the Council uses for the design/construction of corporate buildings. Nevertheless the purpose of the programme is to ensure that the construction of corporate buildings does not ignore the value and vulnerability of the areas or exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values.

Despite its possible relevance to some EU Directives/Schemes, such as Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, it is an environmental management tool in its own right suitable for addressing environmental impacts from corporate operations. It is not a policy, plan, programme, or strategy in the sense of driving projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources. Indeed Aberdeenshire Carbon Management Programme will do for Aberdeenshire's corporate operations and activities what SEA will do for policies, plans, programmes and strategies. For these reasons it our view that the programme is not likely to have any significant environmental effects within the context of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. SEA is therefore not required.

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

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

**GUIDANCE NOTE**

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

**TITLE OF PLAN/PROGRAMME**

**RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY**

**DATE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES**

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

**SEA SCREENING REPORT – SECTION 4  
RECORD OF POST SCREENING ACTION**

**TABLE 4 - RECORD OF POST SCREENING ACTION**

**GUIDANCE NOTE**

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

**TITLE OF PLAN/PROGRAMME**

**RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY**

**1. Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – SEA is required**

**Date of determination**

**2. Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – SEA is not required**

**Date of determination**

**3. Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities cannot reach agreement – referred to the Scottish Ministers for their determination**

**Date referred to the Scottish Ministers**

**4. Scottish Ministers' determination**

**Date of determination**

<b>5. Publicity requirements met (Regulation 15)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
<b>6. Signature</b>	<input type="text"/>		
<b>Date</b>	<input type="text"/>		

Attached Objectives of Aberdeenshire Carbon Management Programme

- Objectives of Aberdeenshire Carbon Management Programme are:
- To achieve genuine reductions in carbon emissions
  - To raise awareness amongst staff and the general public
  - To embed carbon management into corporate policy and practice
  - To identify specific person with responsibility for carbon management