

SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – COVER NOTE

PART 1

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PART 2

An Environmental Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled

Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Priorities

The Responsible Authority is:

Aberdeenshire Council

PART 3

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PART 4

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Date

8 July 2008

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Environmental Report
for
Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Priorities 2007-2011

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Non-Technical Summary

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Purpose of this Environmental Report and key stages

In preparing the Aberdeenshire Strategic Priorities, we (Aberdeenshire Council) have carried out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a method of finding out how plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) we prepare affect the environment. SEA aims to put the environmental into the PPS we prepare, and the decisions we make based on the PPS. It will help us to prepare a very good PPS that protects the environment. It also makes it possible for everyone to take part in the decisions we make, so that what we do and how we do it is open and transparent.

The key stages under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 are pre-screening, screening, scoping, environmental report and adoption. In pre-screening, we try to show that the PPS we are preparing will have no effect on the environment; or even if there are any effects, they will be minimal on the environment. When we pre-screen a PPS, we will do no further SEA. When we screen a plan, we are trying to find out whether the plan will have any change on our environment. If the plan will change our environment, we want to know whether the change will be very large, last long, or have a change we cannot reverse. This type of change on the environment is called “significant effects.” If the effect will be significant then we will have to do an SEA. When we scope a plan, we decide on how much details we will put into the environmental report and how long we will consult on it. When we prepare the environmental report, we assess the effects of the plan; we address the effects through mitigation measures, and show how we will monitor plan. After we consult on the environmental report, we will finally adopt the plan, taking the views everyone we consult into account; and informing them about how the report and their views have affected the final plan.

1.3 The Context of the Strategy

Aberdeenshire Strategic Priorities cover the period 2007 to 2011. We will review it as and when it is necessary. It aims to promote community wellbeing; safeguard jobs and economy; encourage lifelong learning; promote a sustainable environment; develop our partnerships; and drive corporate improvement.

We use fifty-eight other plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives to set the context for the strategic priorities. These other plans are at international, national, regional and local levels and cover issues such as climate change; biodiversity; air pollution; water and flooding. They also address housing design and quality; the historic environment; and sustainable development. Other issues include energy efficiency and renewable energy; low carbon economy; waste management; physical activity; transport; access, the marine and coastal environment; economic development; greenbelts; noise and town centres.

1.4 Baseline Data and Environmental Problems

There are no serious air quality problems in Aberdeenshire. However, households consume much fossil fuel for household and transportation purposes. These consumptions increase CO₂ emissions and Aberdeenshire’s ecological footprint.

Future climate change will put pressure on water quantity and soil stability. Past and present industrial activity, waste disposal, and farm practices are constraints on soil and water. Aberdeenshire is very rich in biodiversity, cultural heritage and landscape, all of which have been under pressure from all kinds of development. To boost the material asset base of Aberdeenshire, the significant shortfall in affordable housing needs to be addressed. Furthermore there is the need to maintain and increase the physical infrastructure across large areas covered by Aberdeenshire when compared with Aberdeen City. Finally the Aberdeenshire population is ageing and this places constraints on service provision.

1.5 Assessment of Effects

Air & Climatic factors: The effects of the strategic priorities on these receptors are mainly indirect ones through supporting plans. Meeting the Scottish housing Quality Standard improves the efficiency of the housing stock, which will be implemented through the Local Housing Strategy. Efficiency measures are likely to have long-term positive effects on climatic factors and air quality, population and human health. On the other hand the 'Jobs and Economy' aspect of the objectives and actions, through the Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development Priorities, could lead to the development of transport links, more industries, commerce and housing, the results of which are likely to have some indirect negative effects on climatic factors and air. However, because the priorities also promote biomass/bio fuel production, related technology, innovative energy-related and hydrogen fuel technology, long-term positive effects are likely on these receptors. Although the ecological footprint is likely to increase for all the scenarios, it is substantially much less if the efficiency of the housing stock is tackled. Owing to the fact that the economic priorities lack CO2 reduction and renewable targets, it is impossible to measure all the possible reductions in efficiency and conservation. Thus, results in Section 4.3 below and Section 4.5 below could be higher or lower.

Biodiversity, flora and fauna: The strategic priorities are not likely to have any direct effect on these receptors. However, during implementation phases through the Structure Plan, Aberdeenshire Local Plan, and Local Housing Strategy, the priorities are likely to have mixed effects. There is potentially a negative impact on greenfield habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and vegetation removal resulting from land take. Long-term positive effects on biodiversity are possible, particularly if new developments incorporate soft landscaping and planting of new trees into the design of new homes. However the 'Jobs and Economy' aspects for the objectives and actions could lead to the development of transport links, more industries, commerce and housing, the results of which are likely to have some negative effects on biodiversity.

Landscape: Direct impacts by the strategic priorities are unlikely, but indirect effects are likely. Those effects will depend on the site, situation, and context. Negatively this will be through the Structure Plan, Aberdeenshire Local Plan and Local Housing Strategy, where the housing can adversely encroach onto primary landscape, the hierarchy and proportion of strategic open spaces, strategic green linkages, and urban landmarks. Developments may also restrict certain views. These effects may weaken the sense of place, the identity of existing settlements and landscape character in places. Positively, where the quality of the landscape and views are currently poor, housing can actually improve the overall quality of an area. Lastly where the 'Jobs and Economy' aspects of the objectives and actions could lead to the development of transport links, more industries, commerce and housing, the priorities are likely to have some negative effects on landscape.

Material Asset: Potential savings through energy efficiency measures in the Strategy are likely to have positive effects on people's asset base. Regenerating priority areas are also likely to have positive effects on people's material asset base. Where the 'Jobs and Economy' aspects of objectives and actions promote industry, commerce and wealth creation, the priorities are likely to have a long-term positive effect on material assets. Directly, actions under the "Corporate Improvement," "Life-long Learning" and "Developing our Partnership" objectives that seek to increase funding to improve the quality of our assets, optimise the Council's financial resources, thereby increasing funding to improve the quality of our assets. Furthermore the priorities will introduce systems and procedures to facilitate more efficient and cost effective ways of working that will have a long-term positive effect on material assets.

Population and Human Health: The 'Community Wellbeing', 'Life-long Learning' 'Corporate Improvement', and 'Developing Our Partnerships' component of the priorities are likely to have long-term positive effects on human health. Efficiency measures are likely to have long-term positive effects on population and human health, while regenerating priority areas are also likely to have positive effects on the wellbeing of the population.

Water & soil: There are no direct effects from the strategic priorities on water and soil. Indirectly, through lower-tier strategies like the Local Housing Strategy, housing is likely to have some short-term negative effects, including soil erosion, desegregation, compaction, and pollution during construction phases. Housing could potentially have short-term negative impacts on water through a change in water table, stream flows, site water budgets, localised flooding, silt deposition, and water-borne pollution. Housing development process is likely to generate its own constructional wastes. Inevitably, some localised impacts on watercourses, on drain capacity, and flooding would occur due to the development. Regeneration of decontaminated brownfield sites are likely to have long-term positive effects on soil quality. Where the 'Jobs and Economy' aspects of objectives and actions could lead to the development of transport links, more industries, commerce and housing, the priorities are likely to have some negative effects on water and soil.

Cultural Heritage: The 'Community Wellbeing' and 'Sustainable Environment' components of the strategic priorities provide an opportunity for people to understand and enjoy the historic environment, leading to long-term positive effects for the cultural heritage. Where the 'Jobs and Economy' aspects of objectives and actions could lead to the development of transport links, more industries, commerce and housing, the priorities are likely to have some negative effects on cultural heritage.

1.6 Broad mitigation measures

The measures proposed under the "Sustainable Environment" priorities to address environmental effects are very narrow. For example, while ecological footprint, as a tool, measures consumptions in terms of land take; carbon footprint captures climate change through carbon dioxide emissions. They do not sufficiently capture the effects of the supporting plans, actions and projects on environmental receptors such as Natura 2000 sites, air, biodiversity, flora fauna, soil, water, landscape, cultural heritage, material asset, population and human health. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) are designed to measure environmental effects on these receptors as well. They do not adequately account for other climatic factors such as flooding and drainage. They also overlook the fact that the supporting plans, and actions set the framework for development consents.

- It is therefore recommended that when the Strategic Priorities are reviewed, the priority “reduce Aberdeenshire’s global footprint” should be reworded to read, for example, “reduce all Aberdeenshire’s environmental effects.” Then an action should include a statement such as “promote strategies that reduce Aberdeenshire’s global footprint.”
- It is recommended that the plans, programmes, strategies and actions, which sit under and support the strategic priorities, should be subject to strategic environmental assessment, appropriate assessment, environmental impact and assessments (EIAs) as appropriate.
- It is further recommended that the actions supporting the strategic priorities, which promote new development projects should be subject to Drainage Impact Assessments (DIAs) at the earliest stage in their planning; and housing development and redevelopment sites should be subject to Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) at the earliest stage of planning.

The actions proposed under the “Managing Waste” priority seems to overlook the fact that large volumes of waste generated at new and large-scale housing development, regeneration and redevelopment sites should be considered.

- It is therefore recommended that when the Strategic Priorities are reviewed, an additional action should come under the priority, “Managing Waste” to read “Encourage and work with developers to manage their constructional wastes.”
- It is recommended that the supporting plans, strategies and actions that promote housing and industrial development would require Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs)

When we assessed the effects of the priorities against all the environmental topics (air, soil, water, climatic factors, landscape, cultural heritage, material asset, population and human health), the ‘Corporate Improvement’, ‘Life-long Learning’ and ‘Developing our Partnerships’ priorities have the greatest effects on population and human health. And all their effects on population and human health are positive.

- It is recommended that we should explore innovative ways of enhancing the positive effects of proposals under ‘Corporate Improvement’, ‘Life-long Learning’ and ‘Developing our Partner for the health and well-being of the people of Aberdeenshire.

1.7 Monitoring

Consistent with SEA Directive, monitoring is based on Aberdeenshire Council’s Strategic Priorities. It takes five main themes of the Community Plan, with an overarching outcome. Each overarching outcome has a ‘strategic performance definition’ linked with suggested key measures. The framework cross-references each Strategic Priority to the National Outcomes that will provide a common framework for the development of a Single Outcome Agreement between the Scottish Government and each Local Authority.

1.8 How to comment on the Report

If you would like to express your views on this environmental report, please send your comments to

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Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this Environmental Report and key facts

As part of the preparation of the Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Priorities, Aberdeenshire Council is carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of certain Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS). SEA aims to integrate environmental factors into PPS preparation and decision-making; improve PPS and enhance environmental protection; increase public participation in decision-making; and facilitate openness and transparency of decision-making. This report will provide information on the Strategic Priorities; identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the PPS and its reasonable alternatives; and provide an early and effective opportunity for the Consultation Authorities and the public to offer views on any aspect of this Environmental Report.

SEA is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The key SEA stages are screening, scoping, environmental report, adoption and monitoring. In screening, we determine whether the PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether an SEA is required. In scoping, we decide on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report, and the consultation period for the report – this is done in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. At the report stage, we publish the environmental report on the PPS and its environmental effects, and consult on that report. When we adopt the PPS, we provide information on PPS; saying how we have taken into account consultation. We also specify how we will monitor the significant environmental effects

2.2 Key Facts

Table 2.1: Key facts relating to Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Priorities

Name of Responsible Authority	Aberdeenshire Council
Title of PPS	Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Priorities
What prompted the PPS	Administrative Requirements
Subject	Corporate Management
Period covered by PPS	2008-2011
Frequency of updates	As and when necessary
Area covered by PPS	Aberdeenshire excluding the Cairngorms National Park
Purpose and/or objectives of PPS	The Strategic priorities aim to promote community wellbeing; safeguard jobs and economy; encourage lifelong learning; promote sustainable environment; develop our partnerships; and drive corporate improvement.
Contact Point	Alan Campbell Sustainability, Information & Research Manager Planning and Environmental Services Aberdeenshire Council Woodhill House, Wesburn Road Aberdeenshire Council AB16 5GB 01224 664740

2.3 Description of Aberdeenshire Council Strategic priorities Contents

Aberdeenshire Council’s vision can be summarised as “Serving Aberdeenshire from mountain to sea – the very best of Scotland.” As the best area, Aberdeenshire Council will be helping to create and sustain the best quality of life for all through:

- happy, healthy and confident people
- safe, friendly and lively communities
- an enterprising and adaptable economy
- our special environment and diverse culture

As the best area, Aberdeenshire Council will be aiming to provide excellent services for all by.

- involving, responding and enabling
- finding new and more efficient ways of doing things
- providing elected leadership for our area
- working with our partners in the North East and beyond
- always looking to the future.

Flowing from the vision, the following strategic priorities and key actions have been developed

Table 2.2: Strategic Priorities and Key Actions

Community Wellbeing	
Enhancing Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of casualties on our roads. • Improve the safety and environment for those living in our communities. • Continue to identify and tackle anti-social behaviour, particularly vandalism, neighbour difficulties, and disorder in public places. • Continue to identify and tackle issues caused by and the misuse of alcohol and drugs. • Protect people from domestic abuse. • Take part in Public Protection arrangements to supervise dangerous offenders.
Delivering services for children, young people and adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to ensure the needs and aspirations of Aberdeenshire’s children are met. • Ensure child protection measures are in place to protect all children across Aberdeenshire. • Work with Partners to ensure the needs of vulnerable adults are met
Delivering health and care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to improve the health of the people of Aberdeenshire • Take a full part in the Aberdeenshire Community Health Partnership (NHS Grampian) to deliver integrated health and care services across Aberdeenshire.
Providing quality housing services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there is a wide enough range of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet the changing needs of Aberdeenshire’s residents. • Ensure that the Council’s housing stock meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the needs of homeless people are met in line with national policy. • Reduce the number of households in Aberdeenshire in fuel poverty.
Community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the Council's approach to engagement and consultation to actively involve residents and communities in the Council's decision.
Promoting inclusiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with communities and partners to regenerate priority areas. • Work to integrate migrant workers and other ethnic minority groups into Aberdeenshire communities. • Ensure that services are accessible to all members of the community.
Providing good quality public spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with communities and partners to provide recreational opportunities in well-maintained public spaces.
Jobs and Economy	
Promote Aberdeenshire locally, nationally and internationally as a location for employment, living and leisure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver "Building on Energy" the Economic Manifesto for Aberdeen City and Shire. • Deliver the Council's Economic Development and European Policy Strategies. • Ensure that the Scottish Government and national agencies recognise the importance of investment in the Aberdeenshire area.
Attract and support businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure an adequate supply of employment land, business premises and appropriate housing across Aberdeenshire. • Ensure the necessary skills and workforce are available to sustain economic growth and attract high value enterprise to Aberdeenshire. • Assist all parts of economy from producer to consumer of agriculture, fishing and forestry industries to ensure higher value products and jobs. • Support the development of innovative products and technologies. • Encourage diversification into new areas and niche markets.
Improve the transport network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby the Scottish Government to deliver the necessary strategic transport links to the rest of Scotland, Europe and beyond. • Through NESTRANS support the delivery of the Regional Transport Strategy. • Deliver the actions in the Council's Local Transport Strategy.
Maintain road infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the public road network is maintained to a high standard that enhances accessibility and supports commercial, industrial and residential development.

Lifelong Learning	
Effective targeting of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review staffing allocations in schools. • Maintain an accurate forecast of the numbers of children moving into and through our schools to enable needs and school capacity issues to be identified. • Improve management and maintenance of education, leisure and learning buildings and facilities. • Increase funding to improve the quality of our buildings and facilities. • Implement the Recruitment, Retention and Succession Planning initiative to address the particular difficulties with the supply of teachers (see also 'the best workforce' under Corporate Improvement). • Improve access to, and the use of, computer technology in education and learning services.
Improved early years opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the early years provision for children and families provided by the Council.
Improved achievement for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve attainment and achievement for all users of the service • Review the curriculum for 3-18 year olds
Improve inclusion and participation across the service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve youth work and youth participation. • Enhance support for those who need extra help. • Increase the involvement of parents in schools.
Improved access to sport and cultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote cultural and heritage opportunities for people of all ages • Preserve, and improve the display of, artefacts and historical collections. • Meet the leisure needs of disabled people. • Increase participation in sport and leisure activities. • Improve performance in sport.
Enhanced community learning and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance achievement through learning for adults. • Promote achievement through learning for young people. • Encourage achievement through developing confidence and capability in communities to tackle the things that matter to them.
Sustainable Environment	
Reduce Aberdeenshire's global footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce reliance on goods and services from non-sustainable sources. • Continue to address carbon management in relation to the Council's own activities to become a carbon neutral organisation in the short to medium term e.g. by the year 2020. • Instigate a dialogue with partners to agree what needs to be done to achieve the aim of the geographical area of

	Aberdeenshire becoming a carbon neutral region in the medium term e.g. by the year 2030.
Achieving sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage energy conservation, as well as the use of green fuels and small-scale renewable energy sources. • Raising awareness of sustainability • Develop sustainable communities where residents can live, work, play and access services all within the local area. • Manage sustainable development through effective land use planning. • Promote sustainable construction. • Move towards more sustainable travel methods throughout Aberdeenshire.
Protect and promote the historical environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and promote Aberdeenshire's cultural heritage and historical environment. • Seek, where appropriate, to retain and reuse old buildings in Aberdeenshire.
Protect and promote the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage access to our natural environment. • Protect and promote our biodiversity.
Managing waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign to reduce the amount of packaging. • Increase diversion of waste from landfill in order to exceed the Aberdeenshire Strategic Waste Fund target and improve levels of recycling beyond what is agreed. • Work with businesses to reduce the volume of trade waste disposed to landfill.
Developing our partnerships	
Developing community planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of community planning in communities, and build on their successes. • Ensure that the Community Planning Partnership delivers its agreed priorities for 2007-2010. • Introduce Area Community Plans by April 2008 that set out the community planning partnership's local priorities for each area • Integrate other major council partnerships more closely into community planning
Working in partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all partnership and joint working arrangements are effective, are accountable for their policies, and the outcomes they achieve produce benefits that outweigh their costs. • Ensure that the Council's reputation and financial risk are safeguarded; and appropriate audit arrangements are in place in relation to both finance and performance of partnership and joint working arrangements.
Sharing services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share services with other public bodies that will deliver improved services and save money, including through the Aberdeen City and Shire Modernisation and Shared Services Board and the North East of Scotland Joint Public Sector Group.

Community Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the effectiveness of how we communicate and work with Community Councils. • Establish an Aberdeenshire Community Council Forum by September 2008.
Corporate Improvement	
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure efficiency is an integral part of all services. • Manage purchase of goods and services effectively and efficiently.
Outcome focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the Council's performance management arrangements to focus on the difference we make to people's lives. • Further enhance the Area Committee structure.
Delivering high quality customer service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise the ease with which customers are able to contact and interact with the Council.
Effective corporate communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen communication between stakeholders and the Council using the information we gather to improve and prioritise services.
The best workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure an integrated approach to workforce management that ensures the contribution of all Council employees is recognised as key in achieving the delivery of excellent Services.
Managing our buildings and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the improvement of Asset Management to support and inform investment decisions.
Managing financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise the Council's financial resources and campaign for a review of the distribution formula to improve the Council's government grant position.

Context of Aberdeenshire Council Strategic priorities

3.1 Relationship with PPS and environmental objectives

Table 1 lists the plans, programmes, strategies and environmental objectives that we propose to analyse for their relationship with Aberdeenshire Council's Strategic Priorities.

Table 3.1. PPS & Environmental Objectives to be analysed

	INTERNATIONAL
1	Air Quality Framework Directive
2	EC Birds Directive 79/409/EEC
3	EC Habitat Directive
4	European Biodiversity Framework
5	European Framework on sustainable development 2001
6	European Spatial Development Perspective
7	Kyoto Protocol (1992)
8	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
9	Construction Products Directive 89/106/EEC
10	Limiting CO2 Emissions by Improving Energy Efficiency (SAVE) Directive 93/76/EEC
11	Boiler Directive 92/42/EEC
12	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive
13	EC Waste and Landfill Directive
14	The European Landscape Convention
	NATIONAL
15	BREEAM/ EcoHomes
16	Climate Change: The UK programme
17	Historic Scotland's Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas
18	Meeting the Needs, Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland (2002)
19	National Waste Framework (Scotland)
20	Scottish Executive Policy Statement for Scotland - Designing Places
21	Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act
22	Passed to the Future
23	Scotland's Transport Future: The Transport White Paper (2004)
24	Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 & 2005
25	Physical Activity Strategy
26	Scottish Executive Marine & Coastal Framework (2005)

27	Scottish Historic Environment Policy 1
28	Scottish Historic Environment Policy 1
29	NPPG 5 - Archaeology and Planning (1998)
30	NPPG10 - Planning and Waste Management
31	NPPG 11 -Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space (1996)
32	NPPG13 - Coastal Planning
33	NPPG14 - Natural Heritage
34	NPPG 18 – Planning and the Historic Environment
35	SPP 1 - The Planning System
36	SPP 2 Economic Development
37	SPP 3 Planning for Housing (2003)
38	SPP 6 Renewable Energy
39	SPP 7 Planning and flooding (2004)
40	SPP 15 Planning for Rural Development
41	SPP 17 Planning for Transport
42	PAN 51 Planning &Environmental Protection and Regulations
43	PAN 61 Planning & sustainable urban drainage
44	PAN 71 Conservation Area Management
45	PAN 77 Designing safer places
46	PAN 79 Water and Drainage
47	Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland (Policy 19)
48	Policy and Supporting Guidance on Provision of Waste water in Settlements (Policy 55)
49	Policy on Culverting of watercourses (Policy 26)
	REGIONAL
50	Economic Growth Framework for North East Scotland
51	Joint Health Improvement Plan
52	North East Area Waste Plan
53	North East of Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
54	North East Scotland Together Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-2016
	LOCAL
55	Aberdeenshire Local Plan
56	Aberdeenshire Community Plan
57	Aberdeenshire Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Framework and Fuel Poverty Framework
58	Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG): Reducing Energy Demand of New Developments and Promoting Renewable Energy

From the analysis of the relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives at Appendix 6.1, the key points arising from this analysis are that the strategic priorities should seek to:

- protect all wild, rare and vulnerable birds, their nests, eggs and habitats;
- maintain and restore natural habitats to ensure biodiversity;
- encourage sustainable use of water and the mitigate the effects of floods and droughts;
- promote sustainable communities with a focus on the sustainable use of natural resources;
- limit or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases;
- encourage increased use of renewable energy resources and more efficient use energy and water in development
- limit or reduce the emissions of pollutants;
- tackle housing shortage, low demand, abandonment and liveability;
- protect wildlife from disturbance, injury and intentional destruction;
- promote good design, safe environment, clean environment and good quality services;
- promote sustainable alternatives to car and reduce congestion traffic pollution through the location of buildings;
- promote economic growth, social Inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety;
- address climate change and biodiversity;
- protect the coast from environmental degradation
- promote the economy, support the community and the public service
- set the framework for development consents for all developments and
- protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment

3.2 Baseline Information & the evolution of the environment

The existing environmental baseline data have been collected from a wide range of sources, including national government or agency websites, consultation authorities, NESBReC, the 2001 census and from primary surveys. 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. The data is then presented in a table covering the latest data for Aberdeenshire Council. It includes comparators for Aberdeen City, the region and Scotland. The baseline is also compared with targets and trends where they exist. Those trends seek to convey environmental problems in Aberdeenshire, while also measuring the evolution of the environment without consideration to the Strategic priorities. The detailed analysis of the baseline data is in Appendix 6.2 below. The business as usual scenario used in the ecological footprint analysis under the existing structure plan (BAU SP) conveys the evolution of the baseline without the plan.

3.3 Environmental problems

Environmental problems that affect the PPS were identified through discussions with all Services within Aberdeenshire Council and an analysis of the baseline data. Environmental problems identified through analysis of the baseline data are very extensive and listed at Appendix 6.6. Most of these problems are already being dealt with through the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan, Aberdeenshire Towns Housing Strategy, Aberdeenshire Economic Development Priorities, and Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plans among other PPS. The remaining issues relevant to this PPS are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3.2: Environmental problems relevant to the Strategic Priorities

SEA Issue	Problem	Supporting data (where available at this stage)	Implications for PPS
Population & human health	<p>Increasing and ageing population constrains resources available to meet all future health needs</p> <p>High road casualties causing death and health problems</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour in public places creating noise nuisance</p> <p>Challenging task of meeting the needs of children and protecting vulnerable children across Aberdeenshire that does not impair their health and well-being</p>	<p>The population of Aberdeenshire is projected to increase over the next 20 years with a very significant increase in those over 60 years of age, placing inevitable pressure on social work services</p>	<p>The Strategic Priorities should address issues related to population increase and ageing population</p>
Material Assets	<p>The number of energy inefficient council properties needing refurbishing and replacing.</p> <p>The need to meet diverse housing needs without adversely affecting greenfield land</p> <p>Improving housing efficiency and fuel poverty</p> <p>Promoting inclusiveness in development without destroying environmental assets.</p>	<p>The Council owns in excess of 2000 properties, including schools, leisure facilities and offices. A significant proportion of these buildings need to be refurbished or replaced.</p> <p>HSW (2007) <i>Service Plan for Housing and Social Work</i>. Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>T&I (2007) <i>Service Plan for Transport and Infrastructure</i>. Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council.</p>	<p>The Strategic Priorities to provide for the refurbishment of Council properties</p>
Air & Climatic Factors	<p>Carbon emissions from large number of energy inefficient housing stock challenge the Council's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2020.</p> <p>Over-dependence on the motorcar for private travel increases our carbon footprint.</p>	<p>Scrutiny and Audit Committee Report</p> <p>P&ES (2007) <i>Service Plan for Planning and Environmental Services</i>. Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council</p>	<p>The Strategic Priorities should promote carbon neutrality and encourage behavioural change</p>
Water	<p>Farming, housing and industrial developments putting pressure on water abstraction and polluting rivers in Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>P&ES (2007) <i>Service Plan for Planning and Environmental Services</i>. Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council</p>	<p>The Strategic Priorities should promote sustainable use of resources such as water</p>
Soil & Waste	<p>Household waste generation continues to increase and potentially causing land contamination and possibility of leaks into water bodies.</p>	<p>P&ES (2007) <i>Service Plan for Planning and Environmental Services</i>. Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council</p>	<p>The Strategic Priorities should encourage recycling</p>
Landscape	<p>Housing development is reducing the size of Aberdeenshire landscape</p> <p>Improving coordinated, effective and responsive streetscene services</p>	<p>P&ES (2007) <i>Service Plan for Planning and Environmental Services</i>. Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council</p>	<p>The Strategic Priorities should encourage responsible and management of the natural environment and streetscene</p>

SEA Issue	Problem	Supporting data (where available at this stage)	Implications for PPS
Cultural Heritage	Stress on the historical environment resulting from development Promoting the area as a destination for business and cultural experience can put some extra stresses on the historic environment. Changing these stresses into opportunities for tourism & resources for the Council can be challenging.	P&ES (2007) <i>Service Plan for Planning and Environmental Services</i> . Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council	The Strategic Priorities should protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment
Biodiversity	Stress on biodiversity through development There is also conflicting interests from stakeholders regarding the proportion of biodiversity land that can be preserved, protected from development or maintained in view of pressures for residential and employment land on the one hand and the presence of some European protected sites in Aberdeenshire on the other hand.	P&ES (2007) <i>Service Plan for Planning and Environmental Services</i> . Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council	The Strategic Priorities should promote and protect biodiversity

Assessment of Environmental Effects

4.1 Alternatives

Alternatives to this PPS have been considered. The alternatives considered are restricted by legal, regulatory, administrative, and community-planning frameworks within which the Council operates.

Option 1 - Business As Usual (BAU): The existing strategic priorities expired in 2007. If no new strategic priorities are drawn, the North East Scotland Together (NEST), the current approved Structure Plan, will shape the strategic priorities. By the time the new Joint Development Plan, the replacement for the Structure Plan, is approved, agreed targets may be out of date, and inconsistent with best value, community planning, administrative principles, new legislations, and efficiency considerations that corporate improvement can bring about. This option can therefore not be taken forward for implementation.

Option 2 – Do Minimum 1: Strategic Forecast Driven Option: This option will be up-to-date on legislations, recent climate change declaration, efficiency and best value considerations that corporate improvement can bring about. It will drive housing numbers projected by the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Forecast (estimated to be 6600 houses out of 23930 new houses proposed to 2025). While new housing under this option will be more efficient than the existing housing stock, there is no guarantee that the efficiency of the housing stock will be improved.

Option 3 – Do Minimum 2: Proposed Joint Development Plan Driven Option: At the time of developing the strategic priorities, a new structure plan is being formed; the options under this proposed plan have undergone extensive consultations, and it is reasonable to consider that the strategic priorities will be shaped by the future outcome of the structure plan. There is therefore the need to draw inspiration from the emerging Structure Plan. Like Option 2, this option will be up-to-date on legislations, recent climate change declaration, efficiency and best value considerations that corporate improvement can bring about. It will drive housing numbers projected by the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan (estimated to be 9929 houses out of 36000 new houses proposed to 2025). Again, while new housing under this option will be more efficient than the existing housing stock, there is no guarantee that the efficiency of the housing stock will be improved.

Option 4 - Do Maximum 1: Strategic Forecast Driven Option: Like Option 2, this option will be up-to-date on legislations, recent climate change declaration, efficiency and best value considerations that corporate improvement can bring about. It will drive housing numbers projected by the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Forecast (estimated to be 6600 houses out of 23930 new houses proposed to 2025). In the development of the strategy, the Council seriously considers cutting in emissions from business mileage, improving energy efficiency and conservation in the housing stock, promoting the development of renewable energy, and improving waste management. A prudent combination of all these measures is likely to have a positive effect on the environment.

Option 5 – Do Maximum 2: Proposed Structure Plan Driven Option: Like Option 3, this option will be up-to-date on legislations, recent climate change declaration, efficiency and best value considerations that corporate improvement can bring about. It will drive housing numbers projected by the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan (estimated to be 9929 houses out of 36000 new houses proposed to 2025). In the development of the strategy, the Council seriously considers cutting in emissions from business mileage, improving energy efficiency and conservation in the housing stock, promoting the development of renewable energy, and improving waste management. A prudent combination of all these measures is likely to have a positive effect on the environment.

4.2 Methodology for assessing environmental effects

The Strategic Priorities is a very high level document that sets the framework for all PPS developed in the Council including the structure plan and the Local Plan. Because of its high level nature, the plan's options, priorities, and actions are assessed against 8 groups of SEA issues. The issues covered include biodiversity (flora and fauna); climatic factors & air; soil; water; landscape; cultural heritage; material asset; population and human health.

The options are further subjected to ecological footprint assessment to determine the effects of the options and how significant effects would be mitigated. The ecological footprint method depends on the Resource and Energy Analysis Programme (REAP) developed by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) at York. There are over 120 variables in the REAP software classified under transport; housing; consumables & durables; services; demographics and food consumption. The housing data is varied to reflect demolition rates, space heating, hot water, cooking, lighting, and appliances. For new housing proposed under the scenarios, baseline data for energy consumption in REAP was adjusted by 30%. Similarly, a 17% adjustment was made to reflect the efficiency improvement to the housing stock in Aberdeenshire.

Transport variables could have an effect on the results by raising or lowering the ecological footprints. However, the Strategic Priorities document is a broad policy statement with no location indication for the proposed houses under the scenarios. These assumptions are based on the energy efficiency for these types of houses calculated by SEI. The percentage adopted for the housing stock is based on the information provided by Aberdeenshire Council Housing and Social Work, and is related to what is achievable.

The consumable and durables related to the development, and which are considered to also relate to environmental issues such air, climatic, water etcetera, were adjusted upwards by 6.3% to reflect the percentage increase in houses under the strategic forecast and 9.2% to reflect the percentage increase in houses under the proposed structure plan. Certain elements such as landscape setting, which are difficult to quantify, were ignored. To take account of biodiversity, additional land take of 15% was added based on popular belief among ecologists that between 12% and 25% of the world's ecosystem needs to be preserved in order to secure biodiversity (Chambers et al. 2004¹). To assess the significance of effects the ecological footprint figures are assessed against footprint reduction figures proposed by the Council. The total carbon footprint figures are also read for all the options using the REAP software.

4.3 Assessment of Effects against SEA Issues

The effects of the strategic priorities assessed against SEA issues are recorded in at Appendix F below. Table 5 below summarises the effects and mitigation measures.

¹ Chambers, N., Simmons, C., Wackernagel, M. (2004) *Sharing Nature's Interest: Ecological Footprints as an Indicator of Sustainability*. London: Earthscan.

Table 4.1: Summary of the Assessments and Mitigation Measures

Environmental Issue	Effects	Mitigation Measures
Air & Climatic factors	<p>The effects are indirect through lower-tier plans. Ensuring that the Council’s housing stock meets the Scottish housing Quality Standard requires improving the efficiency of the housing stock. This will be achieved through the Local Housing Strategy. Efficiency measures are likely to have long-term positive effects on climatic factors and air quality, population and human health.</p> <p>To the extent that “Jobs and Economy” aspects of objectives and actions could lead to the development of transport links, the development of more industries, commerce and houses, the priorities are likely to have some indirect negative effects on climatic factors and air. The implementation of the priorities is through Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development Priorities. Because, the objective also promotes biomass/bio fuel production, related technology, innovative, energy-related and hydrogen fuel technology, long-term positive effects are likely on these receptors.</p> <p>Directly the ecological footprint for the strategic priorities is only likely to increase above the baseline for the two scenarios under which substantial efforts are not made to tackle the efficiency of the housing stock. Indirectly, although the ecological footprint is likely to increase for all the scenarios, it is substantially much less if the efficiency of the housing stock is tackled. Because, the economic priorities lack CO2 reduction and renewable targets, it is impossible to measure all the possible reductions in efficiency and conservation. Thus, results in Section 2.9 below could be higher or lower.</p>	<p>The lower-tier strategies and priorities through which priorities will be delivered should be subject to strategic environmental assessment. The projects flowing from the strategies would be subject to EIAs. Through these lower-tier plans, positive effects will be enhanced and negative effects will be mitigated.</p> <p>There should be additional objective or action in the strategic priority document to reflect the need for SEA and EIA at the appropriate level under sustainable environment priorities.</p> <p>Targets in the carbon management problems should be monitored so that ecological footprint will slow down and development proceeds.</p> <p>The objectives and actions should be smarter than the current wording of the priorities.</p>

<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna</p>	<p>The strategy is not likely to have any direct effect on the receptors. However, during implementation phases through the Structure Plan, Local Plan, and Local Housing Strategy, the action is likely to have mixed effects. There is potential negative impact on greenfield habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and vegetation removal resulting from land take. Long-term positive effects on biodiversity is possible particularly if new developments incorporate soft landscaping and planting of new trees into the design of new homes.</p> <p>To the extent that “Jobs and Economy” aspects of objectives and actions could lead to the development of transport links, the development of more industries, commerce and houses, the priorities are likely to have some negative effects on biodiversity.</p> <p>Ecological Footprint: Same as for Air & Climatic factors.</p>	<p>The lower-tier strategies and priorities through which priorities will be delivered should be subject to strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and appropriate assessment (AA). The projects flowing from the strategies would be subject to EIAs and appropriate assessment. Through these lower-tier plans, positive effects will be enhanced and negative effects will be mitigated.</p> <p>Some brownfield sites should be considered for development as recreational or environmental open space There should be additional objective or action in the strategic priority document to reflect the need for SEA, AA and EIA at the appropriate level under sustainable environment priorities</p> <p>Mitigation for projected Ecological Footprint: Same as for Air & Climatic factors.</p>
<p>Landscape</p>	<p>Direct impacts are not likely. Indirectly, some effects are likely. But it depends on the site, situation, and context. Negatively, through the Structure Plan, Local Plan and Local Housing Strategy and the housing can adversely encroach onto primary landscape, the hierarchy, and proportion of strategic open spaces, strategic green linkages, and urban landmarks. Developments may also restrict some views. These effects may weaken the sense of place, the identity of existing settlements and landscape character in places. Positively, where the quality of the landscape and view are poor in places, housing can improve the quality.</p> <p>To the extent that “Jobs and Economy” aspects of objectives and actions could lead to the development of transport links, the development of more industries, commerce and houses, the priorities are likely to have some negative effects on landscape.</p> <p>Ecological Footprint: Same as for Air & Climatic factors.</p>	<p>The lower-tier strategies and priorities through which priorities will be delivered should be subject to strategic environmental assessment. The projects flowing from the strategies would be subject to EIAs. Through these lower-tier plans, positive effects will be enhanced and negative effects will be mitigated.</p> <p>There should be additional objective or action in the strategic priority document to reflect the need for SEA, and EIA at the appropriate level under sustainable environment priorities.</p> <p>Mitigation for projected Ecological Footprint: Same as for Air & Climatic factors.</p>

<p>Material Asset</p>	<p>Potential savings through energy efficiency measure are likely to have positive affects on people’s asset base. Regenerating priority areas is also likely to have positive effects on people’s material asset base.</p> <p>To the extent that “Jobs and Economy” aspects of objectives and actions promote industry, commerce and wealth creation, the priorities are likely to have a long-term positive effects on material assets.</p> <p>Directly, actions under the “Corporate Improvement,” “Life-long Learning” and “Developing our Partnership” objectives that seek to increase funding to improve the quality of our assets, optimise the Council’s financial resources, increase funding to improve the quality of our assets. And it will introduce systems and procedures to facilitate more efficient and cost effective ways of working will have a long-term effects positive on material assets.</p> <p>Ecological Footprint: Same as for Air & Climatic factors.</p>	<p>The lower-tier strategies through which priorities will be delivered should be subject to strategic environmental assessment. The projects flowing from the strategies would be subject to EIAs. Through these lower-tier plans, positive effects will be enhanced and negative effects will be mitigated.</p> <p>The priorities would explore innovative ways of enhancing the positive effects of Corporate Improvement,” “Life-long Learning” and “Developing our Partnership” objectives identified.</p> <p>Mitigation for projected Ecological Footprint: Same as for Air & Climatic factors.</p>
<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<p>This “Community Wellbeing”, “Life-long Learning” and “Corporate Improvement”, and “Developing our Partnerships” component of the priorities are likely to have long-term positive effects on human health. Efficiency measures are likely to have long-term positive effects on population and human health. Regenerating priority areas is also likely to have positive effects on the wellbeing of population.</p> <p>Ecological Footprint: Same as for Air & Climatic factors.</p>	<p>The priorities would explore innovative ways of enhancing the positive effects of enhancing community wellbeing, life long learning and corporate improvement, and developing our partnerships components of the priorities to improve human health.</p> <p>The lower-tier strategies through which priorities will deliver regeneration should be subject to strategic environmental assessment. The projects flowing from the strategies would be subject to EIAs.</p> <p>Mitigation for projected Ecological Footprint: Same as for Air & Climatic factors.</p>

<p>Water & soil</p>	<p>There are no direct effects from the strategic priorities on water and soil. Indirectly, through lower-tier strategies like the LHS, housing is likely to have some short-term negative effects including on soil erosion, desegregation, compaction, and pollution during construction phases.</p> <p>Housing could potentially have short-term negative impacts on water through a change in water table, stream flows, site water budgets, localised flooding, silt deposition, and water-borne pollution.</p> <p>Housing development process is likely to generate its own constructional wastes.</p> <p>Inevitably, some localised impacts on watercourses, on drain capacity, and flooding would occur due to the development.</p> <p>Regeneration of decontaminated brownfield sites is likely to have long-term positive on soil quality.</p> <p>To the extent that “Jobs and Economy” aspects of objectives and actions could lead to the development of transport links, the development of more industries, commerce and houses, the priorities are likely to have some negative effects on water and soil.</p> <p>Ecological Footprint: Same as for Air & Climatic factors.</p>	<p>The lower-tier strategies through which priorities will be delivered should be subject to strategic environmental assessment and appropriate assessment. The projects flowing from the strategies would be subject to EIAs and appropriate assessment (AA). Through these lower-tier plans, positive effects will be enhanced and negative effects will be mitigated.</p> <p>Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) would be required for wastes during all construction projects.</p> <p>Drainage Impact Assessments (DIAs) for all new projects at the earliest stage in their planning.</p> <p>Housing development sites and including redevelopment sites would be subject to Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) at the earliest stage of planning.</p> <p>There should be additional objective or action in the strategic priority document to reflect the need for SEA, AA and EIA at the appropriate level under sustainable environment priorities</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>To the extent that the “Community Wellbeing”, and the “Sustainable Environment” component of the priorities gives the opportunity to people to protect, understand and enjoy the historic environment, it is likely to have long-term positive effects on cultural heritage.</p> <p>To the extent that “Jobs and Economy” aspects of objectives and actions could lead to the development of transport links, the development of more industries, commerce and houses, the priorities are likely to have some negative effects on cultural heritage.</p> <p>Ecological Footprint: Same as for Air & Climatic factors.</p>	<p>Through lower-tier plans, positive effects would be enhanced and negative effects mitigated. The lower-tier strategies through which priorities will be delivered should be subject to strategic environmental assessment. The projects flowing from the strategies would be subject to EIAs.</p>

General conclusion

From the analysis, the ecological footprint will fall below the current level by 2011 (that is from 5.60 global hectares per capita (gha/cap) to 5.44 gha/cap and 5.40 gha/cap) under all scenarios if the efficiency of the existing housing stock is addressed. Cumulatively, the ecological footprint will increase for all the options – from 5.63 to 5.99 gha/cap by 2011. Similarly the carbon footprint of the Strategic Priorities will fall from 14.39 CO2

emissions/cap to 12.53 CO₂ emissions/cap for energy efficiency scenarios for the existing housing stock. The carbon footprint will however increase to 15.82 CO₂ emissions/cap if the efficiency of the housing stock is not addressed. The issues with the greatest increases in footprint are climatic factors, material asset, population, and human health. These relate to energy consumption associated with lifestyle. However, the rate of increase will be minimal for the options, which address the efficiency of the existing housing stock.

4.4 Cumulative Effect Assessment

A further framework for assessing cumulative and synergistic effects of the Strategic Priorities is shown in Table 12 below

Table 4.2: Cumulative & Synergistic Effects of Plan and Options

SEA Issues	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Cumulative impacts
Biodiversity	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	0	+/-
Climatic Factors & air	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	0	+/-
Soil	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	0	+/-
Water	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	0	+/-
Landscape	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	0	+/-
Cultural heritage	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	0	0	+/-
Material Asset	+/-	+	+	+/-	+	+	+/-
Population and Human health	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+/-

4.5 Assessment of Effects – Ecological Footprint (EF)

In addition to undertaking a broad-brush assessment of the Strategic Priorities against SEA issues (Appendix 6.4), we have also used ecological footprint analysis to assess the Strategic Priorities. Detailed assessment under each environmental issue is listed in Appendix 6.5. In this report BAU SP refers to Business as Usual under the existing Structure Plan (Option1); DM1 refers to Do Minimum 1 – development under strategic forecast with no consideration for housing stock improvement (Option 2); DM2 is Do Minimum 2 - development under the proposed structure plan projections with no consideration for housing stock improvement (Option 3). DMx 1 refers to Do Maximum 1 - development under strategic forecast with consideration for housing stock improvement (Option 4); and DMx 2 - Do Maximum 2 - development under the proposed structure plan projections with consideration for housing stock improvement (Option 5).

Table 4.3: Direct Effect

	Nature of Effects	BAU SP	DM 1	DM 2	DMx 1	DMx 2
Households	Direct	4.398664	4.41629	4.431547	4.232774	4.190618
Government	Direct	0.418480	0.418482	0.418844	0.418482	0.415196
Capital		0.791234	0.791234	0.791713	0.791234	0.786886
Total Footprint		5.608378	5.626006	5.642104	5.44249	5.3927
Difference		0	0.017628	0.033727	-0.16589	-0.21568

Table 4.4: Cumulative Effects in gha/cap

	Nature of Effect	BAU SP	DM1	DM2	DMX1	DMX2
		0.891381	0.891381	0.891381	0.891381	0.891381
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Indirect	0.020794	0.022099	0.022702	0.022082	0.022643
Air & Climatic factors	Indirect	1.609821	1.657933	1.687223	1.474416	1.455904
Material Asset	Indirect	1.497077	1.591393	1.634809	1.591393	1.619966
Population & Human Health	Indirect	1.488632	1.582416	1.625587	1.582416	1.625587
Soil	Indirect	0.032503	0.034553	0.036415	0.034553	0.027160
Water	Indirect	0.010858	0.011542	0.011857	0.011542	0.011857
Cultural Heritage	Indirect	0.050423	0.053600	0.055062	0.053600	0.055062
Landscape	Indirect	0.024066	0.025582	0.026280	0.025582	0.026280
Total Footprint	Indirect	5.625555	5.870499	5.991316	5.686965	5.735840
Difference		0	0.244944	0.365761	0.06141	0.110285

Table 4.53: Footprints of Options Compared

	Direct Effects	Indirect/Cumulative Effects
Option 1	5.6084	5.625555
Option 2	5.6260	5.870499
Option 3	5.6421	5.991316
Option 4	5.4425	5.686965
Option 5	5.3927	5.73584

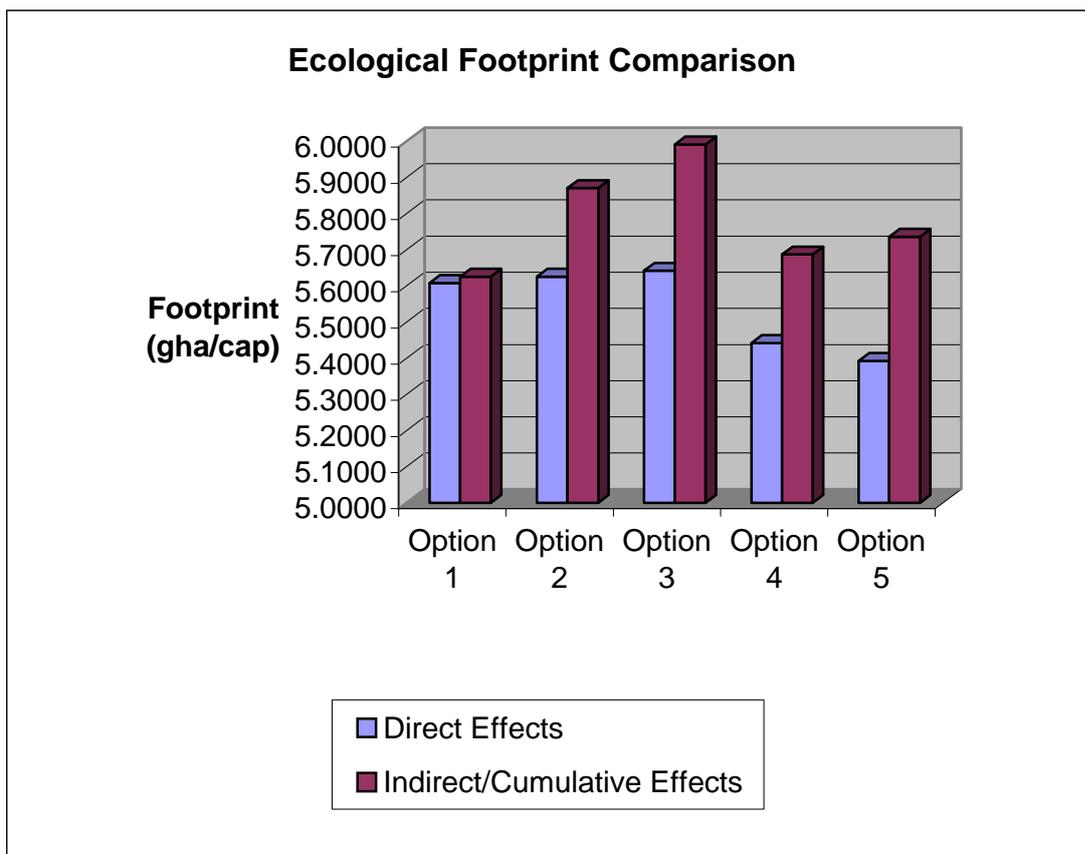


Table 4.6 Carbon Footprint

	BAU SP	Do Minimum 1	Do Minimum 2	Do Maximum 1	Do Maximum 2
Direct Impact	12.84160423	12.89013386	12.93436718	12.20563221	12.38493061
Indirect Impact	14.38762032	14.43270823	15.80992423	12.53440423	12.53440423

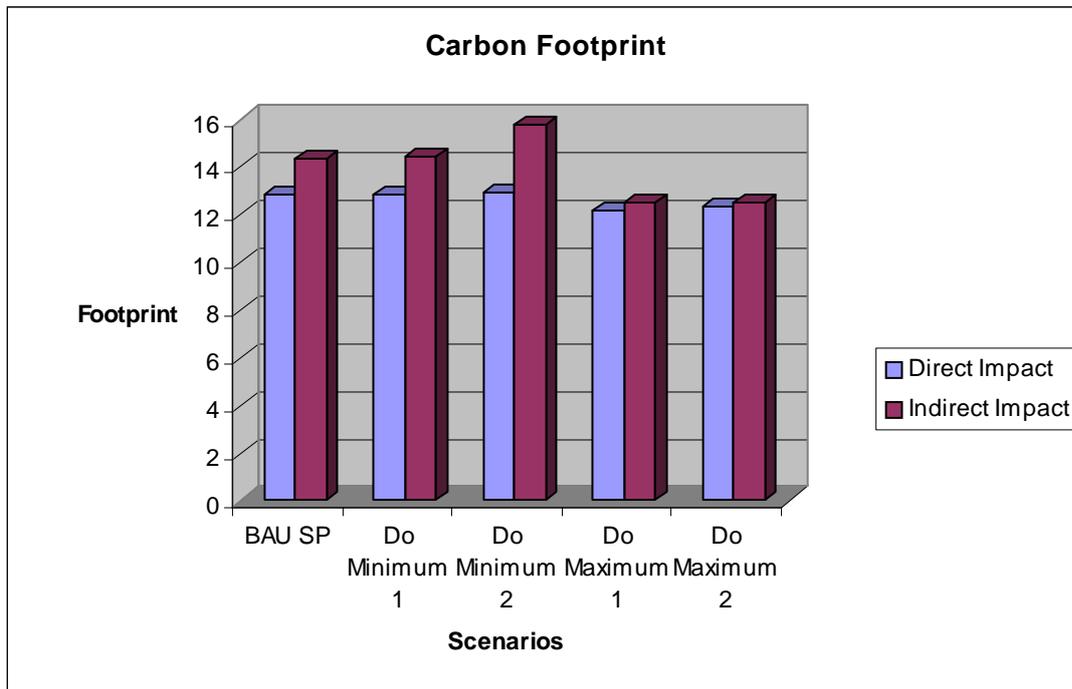


Table 4:7 Evaluation of Significance

Scenarios	Footprint	Nature of Effect	Evaluation		Significance
Council's Commitment	Reducing Ecological Footprint (EF) below current levels by 2011				
Current EF	5.60				
If EF > 5.6084(5.6256)	Effect = Significant				
If EF < 5.6084(5.6256)	Effect = Insignificant				
	Computed EF		EF > 5.6084 (5.6256)	EF < 5.6084 (5.6256)	Effect
BAU SP	5.6084				
BAU SP ²	5.6256				
Do Min 1	5.6260	Direct	Yes	No	Significant
Do Min 2	5.6421	Direct	Yes	No	Significant
Do Max 1	5.4425	Direct	No	Yes	Insignificant ³
Do Max 2	5.3927	Direct	No	Yes	Insignificant
Do Min 1	5.8705	Cumulative	Yes	No	Significant
Do Min 2	5.9913	Cumulative	Yes	No	Significant
Do Max 1	5.6870	Cumulative	Yes	No	Significant
Do Max 2	5.7358	Cumulative	Yes	No	Significant

² Evolved Baseline Without the PPS

³ Strictly speaking, any changes (increase or decrease) to the baseline should be significant and indicating negative or positive impacts. In order to encourage more action on footprint reduction strategies, these effects have been left as insignificant.

4.6. Appropriate Assessment

The requirement for appropriate assessment of plans and projects on the potential impact on any Natura 2000 site is detailed in Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive¹. It requires that ‘any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives.’ The Directive goes on to say that the plan shall only be agreed if there is no adverse impact on the integrity of sites after mitigation is considered.

The Strategic Priorities were screened against some broad criteria for the protection of Natura 2000 sites (see Table 6.4.8). Most of the Strategic Priorities have been screened out, as they do not generate any development, take land, cause pollution, require water abstraction, or cause any disturbance. Some of the priorities also protect the environment. However, since some impacts are likely to be indirect through other plans, programmes and strategy (PPS), which deliver housing, transport and employment land, appropriate assessment would be required for those PPS at the appropriate stage. No further action will be taken at this stage in respect of this PPS.

4.7. Proposed Mitigation Measures

The SEA Directive requires that through mitigation measures, recommendations will be made to prevent, reduce or compensate for the negative effects of implementing the Priorities. It also seeks to ensure that positive effects identified are enhanced. From the assessments the following summarises the mitigation measures. Table 4.1 above also lists the mitigation measures against the effects.

Broad Mitigation Measures

- The lower-tier strategies and priorities through which the Strategic Priorities will be delivered should be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA). The projects flowing from the strategies would be subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). Through these lower-tier plans, positive effects will be enhanced and negative effects will be mitigated.
- There should be additional objective or action in the Strategic Priorities document to reflect the need for SEA, EIA and other assessments as appropriate.
- Targets in the carbon management programme should be monitored so that the ecological footprint will slow down as development proceeds.
- The priorities would explore innovative ways of enhancing the positive effects of “Corporate Improvement,” “Life-long Learning” and “Developing our Partnership” objectives identified.
- There should be additional objective or action in the Strategic Priorities document to reflect the need for SEA, AA and EIA at the appropriate level under “Sustainable Environment” priorities.
- Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) would be required for construction waste for large-scale constructional projects
- Drainage Impact Assessments (DIAs) for all new projects at the earliest stage in their planning
- Housing development sites and including redevelopment sites would be subject to Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) at the earliest stage of planning.

- Some brownfield sites should be considered for development as recreational or environmental open space

4.7 General Difficulties, Weaknesses and Limitations

The general weakness or limitation of this report is that it focuses on priorities and strategic objectives; and shifts responsibility to the implementation stages. The first stage assessment is also broad brush. At the second stage the assessment depended on REAP software which is complicated and depends on further training for its use. The inability of REAP to address all kinds of impacts fully is also a limitation. The broad policy nature of the Strategic Priorities could not permit consideration of transport impact into the analysis. Notwithstanding these limitations, (i) the method enabled quantitative values for the options to be assessed. (ii) It allows Aberdeenshire Council to assess the significance of effects, (iii) assess the performance of the options against each other and (iv) assess the cumulative effects of the priorities.

4.8 Monitoring Framework

The SEA Directive requires the significant environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme to be monitored in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake remedial action. Monitoring needs to build on the existing monitoring frameworks. These provide a wealth of information that can be aggregated or disaggregated. For example monitoring arrangements for other plans, programmes or projects within the Local Authority may already be available. Thus it is good practice to incorporate the overall monitoring into existing monitoring arrangements. Responsible Authorities may already monitor the implementation of plans or programmes against their objectives or targets. Some of these may be environmental, but this will not necessarily be enough to satisfy the Directive. Responsible Authorities must therefore ensure that when designing their monitoring arrangements that they comply with this provision.

Monitoring is based on Aberdeenshire Council's framework. It takes five main themes of the Community Plan, with an overarching outcome. Each overarching outcome has a 'strategic performance definition' linked with suggested key measures. This is tabulated with column headings covering "Strategic Performance Measure"; "Outcome Measurement (analyses to show change from previous monitoring periods)"; "Frequency of Monitoring and Reporting"; and "Monitoring carried out by." The framework cross-references each Strategic Priority to the National Outcomes that will provide a common framework for the development of a Single Outcome Agreement between the Scottish Government and each Local Authority.

Table 4.4: Monitoring: Community Wellbeing

Priority Strategic Performance Measure	Outcome measurement (analyses to show change from previous monitoring periods)	Frequency of Monitoring and reporting	Monitoring carried out by
Strategic performance definition: Aberdeenshire is a place where people			

• feel safe after dark;	• Residents' survey – percentage of residents who feel safe after dark;	A six monthly basis	Transport and Infrastructure Services (T&I)
• feel safe on the roads;	• Number of fatalities on the road;	A six monthly basis	T&I
• have access to good quality affordable housing;	• Meeting affordable housing needs effectively and efficiently	A six monthly basis	Housing and Social Work Services (H&SW)
•	• Number of households in fuel poverty assisted;	A six monthly basis	H&SW
• are listened to and involved in Council decisions;	• Residents' Survey – percentage of residents surveyed who rate the Council as 'very good' or 'fairly good' in response to the question "How good do you think the Council is at taking account of your views over matters which concern you?"	A six monthly basis	H&SW
• who are elderly have their needs assessed and care provided;	• Number of home care clients aged 65+ receiving personal care as a percentage of clients;	A six monthly basis	H&SW
• who are young and vulnerable have support;	• Support children in need and their families to prevent possible family break down	A six monthly basis	H&SW
• who are homeless get care and support;	• Homeless - Average time (weeks) between presentation and completion of duty by the Council	A six monthly basis	H&SW
	• Ensuring children looked after by the authority are provided with safe and effective care	A six monthly basis	H&SW
• have access to good quality recreational and leisure facilities.	• Trend in usage of recreational harbours	A six monthly basis	T&I
	○ Increase visitors to country parks – trend in usage of parks	A six monthly basis	T&I

Table 4.5: Monitoring: Jobs and the Economy

Priority Strategic Performance Measure	Outcome measurement (analyses to show change from previous monitoring periods)	Frequency of Monitoring and reporting	Monitoring carried out by
Strategic performance definition: Aberdeenshire is a place where	Detail of specific activities and initiatives with partners promoting Aberdeenshire;		
• Businesses start up;	• Number of businesses starting ups by size, type and location;	A six monthly basis	T&I
• Businesses expand;	• Number of businesses expanding by size, type and location;	A six monthly basis	T&I
•	• Number of social enterprises by type and location;	A six monthly basis	T&I

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an adequate supply of industrial land (annual audit, level of business planning applications suggested proxy outcome for six monthly monitoring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount of industrial land provided; 	A six monthly basis	Planning and Environmental Services (P&ES)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are facilities to support enterprises; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of e-business centres; 	A six monthly basis	T&I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents feel that the Council is contributing to the economy; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of business advice queries and the percentage responded to within the target time (currently within 14 days of receipt); 	A six monthly basis	T&I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents rate the transport service and road maintenance highly; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in deliver of regional and local transport strategies – number of actions on target; 	A six monthly basis	T&I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents' survey – overall rating of public transport; 	A six monthly basis	T&I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The roads and infrastructure are well maintained; and, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents' survey – overall rating of road maintenance; 	A six monthly basis	T&I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads and lighting – condition of the road by road type; 	A six monthly basis	T&I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People enjoy the best quality of life in Scotland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome of best quality of life survey (data may be available through the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum (ACSEF)). 	A six monthly basis	T&I

Table 4.6: Monitoring: Lifelong Learning

Priority Strategic Performance Measure	Outcome measurement (analyses to show change from previous monitoring periods)	Frequency of Monitoring and reporting	Monitoring carried out by
Strategic performance definition: Aberdeenshire is a place where			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and leisure resources are well managed; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of schools in which the ratio of pupils to available places is between 61% and 100%; 	A six monthly basis	Education Learning and Leisure (ELL)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing appropriate school places for all children of school age (ELL 1); 	A six monthly basis	ELL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing access to a suitable range and quality of library and information services – number of media issues (ELL 11); 	A six monthly basis	ELL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing access to a suitable range and quality of library and information services – online hits (ELL12); 	A six monthly basis	ELL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone is encouraged to achieve the best they can; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement and Attainment – raising attainment in specified curricular areas and subjects at specified stages – Primary (Learning National Priority 1); 	A six monthly basis	ELL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement and Attainment – raising attainment in specified curricular areas and subjects at specified stages – Secondary (Learning National Priority 1); 	A six monthly basis	ELL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone is encouraged to participate and extra support is provided to those who need it; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion and equality (Learning National Priority 3); 	A six monthly basis	ELL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting and encouraging a wide range of arts opportunities for people of all ages (ELL 20); 	A six monthly basis	ELL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is good access to sport and cultural activities; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recording and maintaining for future availability Aberdeenshire’s history and culture (ELL14); 	A six monthly basis	ELL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of attendances per 1,000 population for at council swimming pools (ELL 18.1); 	A six monthly basis	ELL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of attendances per 1,000 population at council indoor sport and recreation facilities (ELL18.2); 	A six monthly basis	ELL

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities are encouraged, through learning and development, to tackle the things that matter to them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing assistance and advice to voluntary and community organisations seeking funding (ELL 21). 	A six monthly basis	ELL
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Table 4.7: Monitoring: Sustainable Environment

Priority Strategic Performance Measure	Outcome measurement (analyses to show change from previous monitoring periods)	Frequency of Monitoring and reporting	Monitoring carried out by
Strategic performance definition: Aberdeenshire is a place where		A six monthly basis	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an action plan to manage the challenge of climate change; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress on implementing Climate Change Action Plan; 	A six monthly basis	Planning and Environmental Services (P&ES)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of green house gases – Local authority; 	A six monthly basis	P&ES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption is reducing and renewable energy promoted; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in energy consumption; Use of renewable energy sources; 	A six monthly basis	P&ES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of residents feel that the Council behaves in an environmentally friendly way; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress on the implementation of the Sustainability Charter – number of actions on target; Number of submissions to the bi-annual sustainable design awards; Residents' Survey – where the majority of residents feel that the Council behaves in an environmentally friendly way; Residents' Survey – where the majority of residents feel that the Council helps others to behave in an environmentally friendly way; 	A six monthly basis	P&ES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable development is achieved through effective planning; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	A six monthly basis	P&ES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cultural and historical environment is protected; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of sites on the Sites & Monuments Record; 	A six monthly basis	P&ES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Outdoor Access forum – number of access issues resolved; 	A six monthly basis	P&ES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The natural environment is protected; and Waste is managed effectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tonnage waste to landfill and tonnage diverted from landfill. 	A six monthly basis	P&ES

Table 4.8: Monitoring: Developing our Partnerships

Priority Strategic Performance Measure	Outcome measurement (analyses to show change from previous monitoring periods)	Frequency of Monitoring and reporting	Monitoring carried out by
Strategic performance definition: Aberdeenshire is a place where			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership and joint working is the preferred way of working with other agencies and organisations; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents' survey – where the majority of residents feel that the Council genuinely listens to local communities; Number of partnerships registered; Promotion of community Economic Development; Progress of the Aberdeenshire Joint Local Implementation Plan; Implementation of Local Community Plans; 	A six monthly basis	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary sector partners are involved, listened to and empowered; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of action plans in place for the Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership and progress on their implementation; 	A six monthly basis	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community planning ensures close working with other service providers; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress of work being done through the Aberdeen City and Shire Modernisation and Shared Services Board; 	A six monthly basis	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services are shared with other public bodies where this enables improved services to be delivered and efficiencies to be gained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress of work being done through the North East Scotland Joint Public Sector Group; and Implementation of the Aberdeenshire Community Council Forum. 	A six monthly basis	

Table 4.9: Monitoring: Corporate Improvement

Priority Strategic Performance Measure	Outcome measurement (analyses to show change from previous monitoring periods)	Frequency of Monitoring and reporting	Monitoring carried out by
<i>Strategic performance definition:</i> Aberdeenshire is a place where			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council services are provided efficiently; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Housing and Council Tax Benefits – accuracy of processing; Administration of Housing and Council Tax Benefits – processing time; Sickness Absence – the percentage of working days lost through sickness absence for chief officers and local government employees, craft employees, and teachers. 	A six monthly basis	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents feel they are receiving a good quality service from the Council; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development services – percentage of all applications dealt within two months; Percentage of consumer complaints dealt with within 14 days of receipt. 	A six monthly basis	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents are satisfied with the level of information they receive about Council services; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents' Survey – the percentage of residents who are satisfied with their contact with the Council; Seeking the views of residents – satisfaction with the information received on Council services; 	A six monthly basis	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's buildings and facilities are well run; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management – the portion of Gross Internal Floor Area (GIA) of Operational Buildings that is in satisfactory condition; 	A six monthly basis	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council demonstrates a high standard of financial management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of Council Tax collection; Percentage of Council Tax collected in current year; Cost of business rates collection; Percentage of business rates collected in current year; Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days of receipt; Planning Gain. 	A six monthly basis	

Next Steps

5.1 Proposed Consultation Timescale

Aberdeenshire Council will ensure an early and effective consultation on the Strategic Priorities and the accompanying environmental report. In this connection, the minimum consultation period Aberdeenshire Council intends to specify under Section 16(1)(b) and notify under Section 16(2)(a)(iv) is six (6) weeks.

5.2 Anticipated Milestone

Table 5.1 shows the remaining steps needed for the SEA of Aberdeenshire Strategic Priorities and how these steps would be carried out and described in the final environmental report.

Table 5.1: Anticipated milestones

Expected date	Milestone	Comments
6 weeks	Consulting on the Environmental Report and the Strategic Priorities	From the date of Consultation
4 weeks	Collating views on the Consultation	
4 weeks	Take the appropriate action on the Documents as the result of the consultations	
4 weeks	Finalise the environmental report	
4 weeks	Finalise the environmental report	
2 weeks	Take post-adoption measures	

Appendices

Appendix 6.1: Links to other PPS & Environmental Protection Objectives

	Name of PPS / Environmental protection objective	Requirements of the PPS	How it affects, or is affected by LHS in terms of SEA issues* at Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
	INTERNATIONAL		
1	EC Air Quality Framework Directive	Sets new air quality standards for previously unregulated air pollutants Includes pollutants as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone pollutants.	Air & Climatic factors The Strategic priorities should limit or reduce the emissions of pollutants
2	EC Birds Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds	Provide for the protection, management and control of all species of naturally occurring wild birds; Seeks to preserve habitats for naturally occurring, rare and migratory species	Biodiversity, Fauna and flora The Strategic priorities should not hinder protection, management and control of species of naturally occurring wild birds
3	EC Habitat Directive	Ensure biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora Maintain or restore natural habitats Take into account economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics	Biodiversity, Fauna and flora The Strategic priorities should maintain and restore natural habitats to ensure biodiversity
4	European Biodiversity Framework	Promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity Emphasises education, training and awareness, research, identification, monitoring and exchange of information	Biodiversity, Fauna and flora The Strategic priorities should support conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
5	European Framework on sustainable development 2001	Promote quality of life, coherent and costs effective policy-making; technological innovation; stronger involvement of civil society; and business in policy	All Issues The Strategic priorities support social progress and respect local

		<p>formulation</p> <p>Strategies for sustainable economic growth should support social progress and respect the local environment</p>	environment -
6	European Spatial Development Perspective	<p>Emphasises the importance of achieving, equally in all regions of the EU, through economic and social cohesion as well as the conservation and management of natural resources and the cultural heritage</p> <p>It stresses more balanced competitiveness of the European territory</p>	<p>All Issues</p> <p>The Strategic priorities should have a sustainable vision and provide sustainable spatial policies. This may encompass many issues</p>
7	Kyoto Protocol (1992)	<p>Encourages reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases</p> <p>UK seeks to reduce emissions of six key greenhouse gases by 12.5% relative 1990 level over the period 2008 to 2012.</p>	<p>Air & Climatic factors</p> <p>The Strategic priorities should limit or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases</p> <p>Follow interpretations and targets interpreted into national, regional and local guidance</p>
8	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	<p>Safeguard the sustainable use of surface water; transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater</p> <p>Supports the status of aquatic ecosystems and environments;</p> <p>Addresses groundwater pollution; flooding and droughts; river basin management planning;</p>	<p>Water</p> <p>The Strategic priorities should consider sustainable use of water and that mitigate the effects of floods and droughts</p>
9	Construction Products Directive 89/106/EEC	<p>Aims to set standard for construction materials in terms of mechanical resistance and stability; safety in case of fire; hygiene, health and environment; safety in use; protection against noise; and energy economy and heat retention.</p>	<p>Population Human health, Climatic factors</p> <p>The Strategic priorities should promote the use of construction materials that are stable, safe, efficient and minimises noise.</p>
10	Limiting CO2 Emissions by Improving Energy Efficiency (SAVE) Directive 93/76/EEC	<p>Aims to limit carbon dioxide emissions by improving energy efficiency, by means of energy certification of buildings, billing heating, air-conditioning and hot water costs on the basis of actual consumption, third party financing for energy efficiency investments in the public</p>	<p>Climatic factors</p> <p>The strategic priorities should promote energy efficiency in public buildings</p>

		sector, thermal insulation of new buildings, regular inspection of boilers and energy audits of undertakings with high energy consumption	
11	Boiler Directive 92/42/EEC	It ensures that necessary measures are put in place to ensure that boilers cannot be put into service unless they satisfy efficiency requirements and conditions for entry into service.	Climatic factors The strategic priorities should promote the use of energy efficiency boilers in public buildings
12	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	The overall aim of the Directive is to optimise the reduction in carbon emissions and promote the improvement of energy performance of buildings taking into account outdoor climatic and local conditions, as well as indoor climate requirements and cost-effectiveness	Climatic factors The strategic priorities should promote energy efficiency in public buildings
13	EC directive 1999/31/EC on the Landfill of Waste	The Directive seeks to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste, by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. It intends to prevent or reduce the adverse effects of the landfill of waste on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air and human health.	Soil and water Strategic priorities should limit waste to landfills
14	The European landscape Convention	The aims of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues.	Landscape The Strategic Priorities should protect the landscape
	NATIONAL		
15	BREEAM/ EcoHomes	This programme sets the standards for development schemes to minimise their environmental impact, Seeks the implementation of energy and water efficiency techniques	Climatic factors, water The Strategic priorities should ensure the environmental impact of buildings is minimised

16	Climate Change: The UK programme	Makes local authorities central to more sustainable development and land use, energy efficiency, in housing provision, transport Promotes well-being in communities through energy saving measures/low carbon technologies Best Value Performance Indicator 180 requires local authorities to benchmark energy use in their operational property	All Issues The Strategic priorities should promote sustainable alternatives to car and reduce congestion traffic pollution
17	Historic Scotland's Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas	Provides the context for listed buildings, conservation areas, as well as Gardens and Designated Landscapes Clarifies the context for listed building consents and the intervention by planning authorities	Cultural Heritage The Strategic priorities should be consistent with designations
18	Meeting the Needs, Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland (2002)	Prioritises responsible resource use; Encourages the generation of less energy and use power from renewable sources; Ensures provision of affordable and encourage better land use planning, alternative service delivery and sustainable transport systems.	All Issues The Strategic priorities should promote efficient resource use, energy efficiency and the which reduces the need to travel
19	National Waste Framework (Scotland)	Provide a framework within which Scotland can reduce the amount of waste it produces and deal with the waste, which has been produced in more sustainable ways. Sees the National Waste Plan as key to implementing the National Waste Framework bringing together Area Waste Plans for the different Waste Framework Areas across Scotland. It stresses the basis for a fundamental shift in the way resources is managed - efficient culture where waste reduction, reuse and recycling are part of everyday life for everyone.	Soil, water, air The Strategic priorities should promote waste minimisation
20	Scottish Executive Policy Statement for Scotland - Designing Places	Raises standards of urban and rural development. Empowers everyone to play a part in shaping the built environment, whether as politicians, developers, planners, designers, opinion-formers or anyone else whose attitudes have a direct or indirect influence on what gets built.	Population and human health The Strategic priorities should promote the economy, support the community and the public service
21	Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act	Sets out a series of measures, which are designed to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the	Biodiversity, flora & fauna

		biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland. Places a general duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity.	The Strategic priorities should promote biodiversity
22	Passed to the Future	This is Historic Scotland's Policy for the sustainable Management of the Historic Environment Stress the value of retaining and where possible and the right to do so, re-using existing structures and materials Explains the continued relevance of traditional building materials and local craft skills	Cultural Heritage The Strategic priorities should encourage the re-use of existing and traditional structures and materials
23	Scotland's Transport Future: The Transport White Paper (2004)	Supports building, enhancing, managing and maintaining of transport services infrastructure and networks Promote social inclusion; protect our environment and improve health Improve safety of journeys Improve integration by making journey planning and ticketing easier and working to ensure smooth connection between different forms of transport.	All Issues The Strategic priorities should promote economic growth, social Inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety
24	Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 & 2005	Ensures that discrimination law covers all the activities of the public sector; and requires public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. Aims to end the discrimination that many disabled people face and gives disabled people rights in the areas of employment, education, access to goods, facilities and services and buying or renting land or property.	Population and Human health The Strategic priorities should build the needs of the disabled persons into its strategic actions
25	Physical Activity Strategy	Aims to increase and maintain the proportion of physically active people in Scotland. Sets targets to achieve 50 percent of adults aged over 16 and 80 percent of all children aged 16 and under who meet the minimum recommended levels of physical activity by 2022 through building healthy public policy, creating supportive environments, strengthening community action, developing personal skills and directing health services at the people who need them most.	Population and Human health The Strategic priorities should promote physical activities
26	Scottish Executive Marine & Coastal Framework (2005)	Seeks to provide clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse marine and coastal environment, which is managed to meet the long-term needs of nature and people.	Biodiversity, Population & human health The Strategic priorities should

		Seeks to provide a strategic analysis of existing marine activities; better understanding of environmental capacity, spatial planning issues, current pressures and how the marine environment can be managed in the future.	promote clean, safe, healthy and productive coastal environment
27	Scottish Historic Environment Policy 1	Seeks to care for, protect and enhance the historic environment for the benefit of our own and future generations; Increased public appreciation and enjoyment of the historic environment; Promote, recognise and skilfully harness the historic environment as a key asset in Scotland's economic, social and cultural success	Cultural Heritage The Strategic priorities should ensure the benefit of the Historic Environment
28	Scottish Historic Environment Policy 2	Sets out the policy for the identification and designation of nationally important ancient monuments Sets the context to conserve the evidence of Scotland's past based on their cultural significance.	Cultural Heritage The Strategic priorities should ensure the conservation of historic areas of cultural significance
29	NPPG5 - Archaeology and Planning (1998)	Seeks to encourage the preservation of the heritage of sites and landscapes of archaeological and historic Promotes the enjoyment and understanding of heritage, Seeks the preservation of Scheduled Ancient Monuments is a material consideration in determining planning applications and appeals and should ensure, where appropriate, that the prospective developer arranges for an archaeological assessment.	Cultural Heritage The Strategic priorities should take account of the fact that housing framework should preserve archaeological remains
30	NPPG10 - Planning and Waste Management	Provides a strategic view of waste management; identifies strategic areas suitable for waste treatment and disposal facilities while reducing waste movements Safeguards the natural and built environment and guiding other new developments in order that their amenity and environmental quality is not impaired by waste facilities	Soil, Air The Strategic priorities should safeguard the natural and built environment including designated areas, green belts, open countryside and the coast and promote waste minimisation
31	NPPG11 - Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space (1996)	Aims to address the land use implications of sport and physical recreation including golfing. The guidance also encompasses aspects of informal physical recreation that	Population and Human health The Strategic priorities should safeguard open spaces and promote

		<p>takes place in urban open spaces and describes the role of the planning system in making provision for sports and physical recreation and protecting and enhancing open space.</p> <p>Seeks to satisfy demand for recreation in the countryside and the economic development it brings whilst preserving the benefits of a healthy and attractive environment as well as the cultural and natural heritage</p>	recreation
32	NPPG13 - Coastal Planning	<p>Seeks the protection of areas of natural importance and along coastlines</p> <p>Makes planning to contribute to achieving sustainable development and also maintaining and enhancing biodiversity on the coast distinguishing between policies for the developed, undeveloped and isolated coast while responding to the risk of erosion and flooding in the coastal zone;</p>	<p>Biodiversity, water, soil</p> <p>The Strategic priorities should avoid damage to coastal areas</p>
33	NPPG14 - Natural Heritage	<p>Aims to secure the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage and seeks to protect species or habitats; designated sites; the wider natural heritage beyond the confines of designated areas; landscape heritage while safeguarding areas which have value for the enjoyment of the natural heritage</p> <p>Includes all National Scenic Areas, Sites of Specific Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves and National Parks as natural heritage designations of national importance</p> <p>Seeks protection for species and habitats identified as priorities in Local Biodiversity Action Plans consistent with the UK Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p> <p>The Strategic priorities should protect species or habitats, safeguard and enhance the wider natural heritage beyond the confines of designated areas</p>
34	NPPG 18 – Planning and the Historic Environment	<p>Deals primarily with listed buildings, conservation areas, world heritage sites, historic gardens, designed landscapes and their settings. It complements NPPG5</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p> <p>The Strategic priorities should protect ancient monuments and</p>

		<i>Archaeology and Planning</i> , which sets out the role of the planning system in protecting ancient monuments and archaeological sites and landscapes.	archaeological sites and landscapes.
35	SPP1 - The Planning System	Promotes sustainable economic Development in planning Encourages and supports regeneration and social justice through the planning system Maintaining and enhancing the quality of natural heritage and built environment	All Issues The Strategic priorities should pursue sustainable economic development, regeneration and social justice
36	SPP2 Economic Development	Seeks a more close links between key business locations, transport and other development activity; Seeks to integrate competing demands between economic, social and environmental considerations, in particular ensuring that social justice and sustainable development concerns are addressed and providing a range of development opportunities Envisions economic development as safeguarding and enhancing the environment and ensure that that new development contributes to a high standard of quality and design and that the natural and built heritage is protected	Material Asset The Strategic priorities should promote sustainable economic development
37	SPP3 Planning for Housing (2003)	Encourages the planning system to create quality residential environments; guide development to the right places; and deliver an adequate supply of housing land. Provides the basis for good landscape design, minimising adverse effects on natural heritage, including landscape character and biodiversity; and maintaining the effectiveness of existing green belts and safeguard the amenity of the countryside.	Landscape, biodiversity, material asset The Strategic priorities should seek to minimise adverse effects on natural heritage, including landscape character and biodiversity.
38	SPP 6 Renewable Energy	Safeguarding sites with potential for renewable energy projects against sterilisation by development Protecting areas of important natural and built heritage from inappropriate forms of development Promotes increased proportion of renewables as a means of meeting UK targets for reducing greenhouse gases without adverse impact on the character, quality, integrity and setting of a designated area.	Climatic factors The Strategic priorities should encourage renewable energy use in developments

39	SPP7 Planning and flooding (2004)	<p>Sets the context for preventing further development, likely to have a significant probability of being affected by flooding, or which would increase the probability of flooding elsewhere.</p> <p>Encourages flood prevention and alleviation measures to respect wider environmental concerns and not lead to deterioration in the ecological status of the watercourse.</p> <p>Guides the exploration of the environmental implications of landraising for habitat creation as well as the design of culverts for natural habitat and environmental concerns.</p>	<p>Water, biodiversity</p> <p>The Strategic priorities should prevent flood and protects the environment</p>
40	SPP 15 Planning for rural Development	<p>It supports sustainable rural development with emphasis on the need for a more aspirational planning vision for rural Scotland. The SPP encourages a more supportive attitude towards 'appropriate' development whilst acknowledging and valuing the enormous diversity of rural Scotland</p>	<p>Material Asset</p> <p>The Strategic Plan should support rural development</p>
41	SPP 17 Planning for transport	<p>It promotes integrated transport, the creation of sustainable patterns of development through joint consideration of transport, land use, economic development, social justice and the environment.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>The Strategic Plan should promote integrated transport system</p>
42	PAN 51 - Planning, Environmental Protection and Regulation	<p>It supports the principles in the planning system and provides a framework for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution Prevention and Control • Protection of the Water Environment • Drinking Water Quality - public and private water supplies • Contaminated Land • Radioactive Substances • Statutory Nuisance including Noise • Litter • Light • Local Air Quality Management • Environmental Noise 	<p>All Issues</p> <p>Planning must protect the environment and conform to the planning system</p>

43	PAN 61 Planning And Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.	Describes how the planning system has a central co-ordinating role in getting SUDS accepted as a normal part of the development process. In implementing SUDS on the ground, planners are central in the development control process, from pre-application discussions through to decisions, in bringing together the parties and guiding them to solutions which can make a significant contribution to sustainable development	Water & Soil The Strategic priorities should consider the role of sustainable urban drainage
44	Pan 71 – Conservation Area Management	The PAN fits with Designing Places and forms part of the design series of Advice Notes, which together strive to provide the foundations for tomorrow's conservation areas	Cultural heritage The Strategic Priorities should protect conservation areas
45	PAN 77 Designing Safer Places.	Highlights the positive role that planning can play in helping to create attractive, well-managed environments which help to discourage antisocial and criminal behaviour. Aims to ensure that new development can be located and designed in a way that deters such behaviour as poorly designed surroundings can create feelings of hostility, anonymity and alienation and can have significant social, economic and environmental costs.	Cultural heritage, Population & human health The Strategic priorities should safeguard safety
46	PAN 79 – Water and Drainage	Highlights the importance of appropriate drainage for development actions	Water, soil Developments proposed under the Strategic Priorities should have regard to the use of appropriate drainage system
47	Environmental Policy Number 19 - Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland	This policy aims to provide a sustainable future for Scotland's groundwater resources by protecting legitimate uses of groundwater and providing a common SEPA framework to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect groundwater quality by minimising the risks posed by point and diffuse sources of pollution; • Maintain the groundwater resource by influencing 	Water, Soil The Strategic Priorities should protect groundwater quality and maintain groundwater source

		the design of abstractions and developments, which could affect groundwater quantity.	
48	Policy And Supporting Guidance On Provision Of Waste Water Drainage In Settlements (Policy 55)	To ensure sustainable development of communities and protection of the environment, sewerage provision should be strategically planned and maintained.	Soil, water The Strategic Priorities should ensure that proposed development support sewerage provision
49	Policy on Culverting of watercourses (Policy 26)	Highlights the importance of appropriate drainage for development actions	Water, soil Developments proposed under the Strategic Priorities should have regard to the use of appropriate drainage system
	REGIONAL		
50	Economic Growth Framework for North East Scotland	Sets the context for economic prosperity which will in turn drive housing development Promote sustainable economic growth; sustainable competitiveness and inclusive communities	Material asset The Strategic priorities should support sustainable economic growth
51	Joint Health Improvement Plan	Seeks to encourage, support and enable individuals and communities to take shared responsibility for their own health and to work together to bring about improvements by enabling people to become involved in community issues; Supports action to suppress poverty, lack of physical activity and leisure facilities, poor housing and other factors that contribute to physical inequality;	Population & human health Develop a strategic priorities that support health and well-being

52	North East Area Waste Plan	<p>Sets out the existing waste-management infrastructure, develop the principles and plan for progress in waste-management in the medium and long term to meet current and future legislative requirements and objectives of the National Waste Plan.</p> <p>Seeks to make the maximum possible contribution to reduce environmental impact at an acceptable cost and the maximisation of opportunities for businesses arising from sustainable waste-management</p>	<p>Soil, air, water</p> <p>The Strategic priorities should promote waste minimisation and environmental protection</p>
53	North East of Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan	<p>Ensures the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity in the north east through the development of effective, local, working partnerships;</p> <p>Ensure that national targets for species and habitats, as specified in the UK Action Plan, are translated into effective local action;</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Biodiversity, fauna & flora</p> <p>The Strategic priorities should promote biodiversity</p>
54	North East Scotland Together Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-2016	<p>Creates a long-term sustainable framework of settlements in a hierarchy, which focuses major development on the main settlements in the North East,</p> <p>Sets the strategic context for Aberdeen City Local Plan which in turn set the framework for land use housing development</p>	<p>All Issues</p> <p>The Strategic priorities should promote sustainable development</p>
	LOCAL		
55	Aberdeenshire Local Plan	<p>Sets the framework for development and environmental protection throughout the Shire</p>	<p>All Issues</p> <p>The Strategic Priorities should conform to the Aberdeenshire Local Plan</p>
56	Aberdeenshire Community Plan	<p>Stresses access to services of a high quality that meet their needs; seeks to make Aberdeen an attractive, clean, healthy and safe place to live;</p> <p>Promotes Aberdeen as a forward looking city that recognises its heritage and its internationally recognised</p>	<p>All Issues</p> <p>The Strategic priorities should support accessibility, health, Safety, and the environment</p>

		institutions and services; and seeks to give Aberdeen a strong, positive image of itself both nationally and internationally.	
57	Aberdeenshire Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Framework and Fuel Poverty Framework	Sets the framework for energy efficiency in Council housing; minimum standards for minimum energy rating of 5.0 and encourages improvements in owner occupiers and non local authority rented homes Seeks to lift poor households from fuel poverty.	Air, Climatic factors The Strategic priorities should promote energy efficiency
58	Aberdeen SPG on Carbon Neutrality	It sets targets for the future design of new developments to use a mix of carbon neutral techniques such as renewable energy and high energy efficiency to meet energy reduction targets over time consistent with SPP6	Air, Climate The Strategic Priorities should promote carbon neutral developments

Appendix 6.2: Baseline data, targets and trends

Table 6.2.1: SEA Topic: Air Quality (NO₂)

SEA Indicator	Quantified Information					Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Air quality (NO ₂) monitored at the following locations	Annual Mean ugm-3	Bias Corrected (by factor of 1.04) Annual Mean ugm-3 (2004)	Bias Corrected (by factor of 1.04) Annual Mean ugm-3 (2005)	Bias Corrected (by factor of 1.04) Annual Mean ugm-3 (2006)	2010 Estimate Annual Mean ugm-3	Aberdeen was designated as an AQMA in 2001 for continuously exceeding the 2005 annual objective level for nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) of 40 µgm ⁻³ . The annual mean standard of NO ₂ in Union St was 53 micrograms per cubic metre (µgm ⁻³) and in Market St 71 µgm ⁻³ , principally from HGVs and buses. The AQMA includes Market St, Union St, King St, Guild St, and Virginia St.	Improving	Traffic growth is a constraining factor in the future	Aberdeen City Council: Air Quality Report - 4th Stage Air Quality Review and Assessment (2003); and Aberdeen City Council Air Quality Action Plan (2006) Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Local Air Quality Management Progress Report</i> Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Updating and Screening Assessment Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council Aberdeenshire Council (2007) Local Air Quality Management: Progress Report 2007.</i> Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council
Westhill 1	11.7	10.4	11.1	12.2	10.3				
Westhill 2	16.1	20.0	14.6	16.7	14.2				
Inverurie 1	31.7	34.1	26.5	33.0	28.1				
Inverurie 2	10.2	11.1	10.1	10.6	9.3				
Inverurie 3	11.2	12.9	10.8	11.6	10.2				
Inverurie 4	9.6	10.8	10.1	10.0	8.8				
Stonehaven 1	25.0	25.1	20.6	26.0	22.1				
Stonehaven 2	11.3	10.6	10.7	11.6	10.2				
Stonehaven 3	10.5	9.4	9.2	10.9	9.6				
Peterhead 1	25.7	26.1	22.9	26.7	22.7				
Peterhead 2	26.3	32.2	23.5	27.4	23.3				
Peterhead 3	24.1	23.6	21.3	25.1	21.3				
Peterhead 4	24.3	24.9	20.6	25.3	21.5				
Mintlaw 1	17.5	14.2	15.1	18.2	15.5				

Table 6.2.2: SEA Topic: Air - Smoke, Grit, Dust, PM10 and Odour

Air quality complaints/enquiries dealt with	Quantified Information		Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Service Request Category	Number 2004	Number 2006	Improving In 2003, monitoring of particulate matter (PM ₁₀), showed an exceedance of the 2010 annual mean PM ₁₀ objective of 18µg/m ³ on Market Street. Daily mean traffic volumes (2002): 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.	Mixed, some categories improving while others are worsening	Contained by housing development, industrial development and transport	Aberdeen City Council: Air Quality Report - 4th Stage Air Quality Review and Assessment (2003); and Aberdeen City Council Air Quality Action Plan (2006) Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Local Air Quality Management Progress Report</i> Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Updating and Screening Assessment Aberdeen</i> : Aberdeenshire Council Aberdeenshire Council (2007) <i>Local Air Quality Management: Progress Report 2007</i> . Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council
Smoke, Domestic Bonfires	18	30				
Smoke, Industrial/Commercial	37	26				
Smoke, Industrial Chimney	1	1				
Smoke, Domestic Chimney	2	3				
Dark Smoke, Visible Plume etc	2	6				
Stubble Burning	2	3				
Total Smoke	62	69				
Grit/Dust Chimney	0	0				
Grit/Dust DIY Activity	3	1				
Grit/Dust Unknown/Other	8	12				
Smuts/Deposits	1	3				
Total Grit/Dust	12	16				
Odour/Fumes/Industrial/Commercial	104	65				
Odour/Fumes/Domestic	21	21				
Agricultural Odours- Spreading	8	10				
Agricultural Odours - Housing	8	3				
Agricultural Odours – Dung Heaps	7	6				
Agricultural Odours – Sources Unknown	5	1				
Odour Unknown/Other	33	20				
Total Odour/Fumes	186	126				

Table 6.2.3: SEA Topic: Water

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Water quantity 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). The Ythan Estuary has been adversely affected by high nitrate levels from agriculture & from to the riverbank alterations. 	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yield of watercourses in the River Dee catchment may decline. The Ythan Project has improved the river. although the Ythan Project showed some improvement, SNH's monitoring is showing patchy breeding success by some of the SPA species and there is also evidence that the algal mats are spreading onto the mussel beds on which some of these species are entirely dependant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualifying interests in the SACs constrain how the SACs should be used and managed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate Assessment meeting for Aberdeenshire Local Plan (11th April 2006) Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i> www.nerc-wallingford.ac.uk http://www.ythan.org
Likelihood of flooding from new development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 2002 and 2004, apart from 9 applications, no large-scale planning applications have been granted planning consent in a flood plain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moray Council's Development Plan Review identifies a number of flood alleviation projects currently underway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because of "SPP7: <i>Planning and Flooding</i>," future approvals affecting floodplains are unlikely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Ground water and river levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water runoff is reduced by public water supply Runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow for all rivers in the North East. In 2002, Scottish Water utilised 62% of its permitted water abstraction licence from the River Dee of 145 megalitres per day. The average water abstraction from the River Dee is 89.9 megalitres per day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in water consumption from industrial consumers and from increased residential development. Increase in leakages from pipe infrastructure as it 'ages'. 	<p>Effects of climate change (such as predicted decrease in summer rainfall) means that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> water efficient technologies should now be incorporated into new development (industrial and domestic) 	<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
Water quality (biology and chemistry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2005 there was 1 failure. In 2006 all bathing water passed the European tests. Bathing water quality not consistently meeting EC Guideline Standards in Stonehaven, Cruden Bay. The Ythan estuary is an SPA, so the sensitivity of the area is greater and therefore the overall effect is likely to be more significant than this implies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South West Scotland has the poorest bathing water quality principally due to leaching and runoff from agricultural practices (dairy). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire is vulnerable from not-readily absorbed or transformed pollutants (class 4), except the south Highland Boundary Fault (near Stonehaven) & along the Formartine/Buchan coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on bathing water from future uses, such as the rise in water sports, which could have an adverse impact on water quality. The Ythan estuary is an SPA, so the sensitivity of the area is greater and therefore the overall effect is likely to be more significant than this implies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEPA: 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length or poor rivers: 51km. • Length of seriously polluted rivers: 2.1km. • No of poor quality watercourse - 10 • No of seriously polluted watercourse - 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length or poor rivers in Scotland: 717 km. • Length of seriously polluted rivers in Scotland : 51 km. • No of poor quality watercourse in Aberdeen City-2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land based pollution is under stricter control, which has resulted in river quality throughout the North East slowly improving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> • 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>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shoreline along Sandford Bay & Boddam (Peterhead Power Station) (4km) is classified as poor. • Peterhead Power Station is likely to be contributing to the poor water quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other small sections along the coast (Gardenstown, River Don and Stonehaven) also have sections of coastline classified as poor. 	<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"> • In the North East, the release of untreated sewage effluent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA (Coastal Classification Stretch Data, 2005): • http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm and • http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/data/classification/coastal_waters_classification.pdf • Scottish Executive Environment Statistics:

Coastal Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes. • Balloon releases, and marine litter are damaging the marine environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 situation is improving because there are only a few places that allow quad-biking legally. • Bathing water quality along the North East coast is improving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major impact both on the sand dune erosion, wildlife and the enjoyment of other beach users. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Grampian Coastal Partnership (Annual Report 2005-06): http://www.egcp.org.uk/documents/_Toc138674449 • Marine Conservation Society http://www.mcsuk.org/mcsaction/pollution/introduction
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Table 6.2.4: SEA Topic: Soil

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Contaminated land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of statutory identified contaminated – 4. No of potential contaminated sites – 5000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of statutory identified contaminated in Aberdeen City – 0 No of potential contaminated sites – 900 <p>No of registered contaminated in the Northeast – 2.</p>	Legal regime for dealing with contaminated sites means the situation will improve in the future.	Contaminated land places financial and technological constraints on development. These constraints may dictate the type of development: the feasibility of remedial works may determine that a site is only suitable for industrial use; the cost of remedial works may determine that high-density housing is the only viable economic option.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen City Council (2001) <i>Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy</i> http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/accj/web/files/Pollution/ContaminatedLandInspectionStrategy.pdf Aberdeenshire Council <i>Public Register of Contaminated Land</i>
Prime agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime agricultural land is located in the central area (excluding Marr), near Stonehaven. Most Grade 2 prime agricultural land is near Laurencekirk (approx 950ha). 	Aberdeen contains very little prime agricultural land (300ha).	Net loss of Scottish agriculture land from roads, housing and industry has doubled from 588ha in 1989 to 1,402ha in 2003.	Potential impacts of climate will constrain prime agricultural land available in the future.	Scottish Executive Statistics (2005): <i>Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture</i>

					http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/2290402/05121
Waste disposal in landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005 -landfilled BMW: 83,222 tonnes; • Recycled/ composted MSW: 15.1% (23,366). • BMW landfill allowances for Aberdeenshire are: • 54,917 tonnes in 2009/10; • 36,611 tonnes in 2012/13; and • 27,340 tonnes in 2019/20. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005 - landfilled (City) BMW: 70,773 tonnes; • Recycled/ composted MSW: 16.5% (22,500 tonnes) (this has increased to 22% in 2005/06 • Aberdeenshire's recycling targets: • 2005/06 – 17% • 2006/07 – 22% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trend is improving because Aberdeenshire Council is focussing on waste minimisation, and recycling second, hence the lower %. • It is expected that the level of recycling will continue to rise. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited sites for recycling or composting biodegradable municipal waste (large, medium or small scale) to help the local authorities achieve their recycling and landfill targets • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North East Scotland Area Waste Plan (2003) http://www.sepa.org.uk/news/areas/north_east/awp/2.4.html • Aberdeen City Council http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acc/web/site/Rubbish/rubbish/WasteStrategy.asp • http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/113890/0027685.pdf
Soil erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coastline is largely eroding, but parts are being replenished with sand and gravel from larger rivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Berwick to Aberdeen, the coastline is eroding, but is stable where there are rocky coasts or coastal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland schemes such as wind farm access roads and recreation tracks (e.g. mountain biking) on steep ground can increase surface water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicted climate change, bad land use practices, such as locating tracks/access roads on steep/ upland ground as well as increasing use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Strategic</i>

		<p>defences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . 	runoff and lead to significant soil loss (e.g. gullies).	contributing to coastal erosion.	<p><i>Flooding Issues Topic Paper</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> http://www.science.gov.uk/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf
Waste tonnage	<p>Aberdeenshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 06 - 75,842 Mar 07 - 69,313 Sept 07 - 81,527 	No Comparators	Increasing		Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
	<p>Tonnage of waste to landfill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 06 – 62,209 Mar 07 - 52,195 Sept 07 - 58,347 	No Comparators	Increasing		Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
	<p>Tonnage of waste recycled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 06 –13,633 Mar 07 - 17,118 Sept 07 - 23,180 	No Comparators	Improving		Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
	<p>Percentage of waste recycled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 06 – 18% 	No Comparators	Improving		Aberdeenshire Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mar 07 - 24.7%• Sept 07 - 28.4%				Monitoring Plan 2008
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Table 6.2.5: SEA Topic: Biodiversity

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
North East Biodiversity Action Plan (NE BAP) targets	<p>Transformed habitats resulting from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • farm intensification & inappropriate habitat “creation” • No of action plans for habitats identified in the NE BAP - 20 out of 26. • Action plans being developed – for upland species-rich grassland, coastal cliffs and heaths, marine habitats, broadleaf woodland, heathland, lochs and ponds, and wetlands 	<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. • Equally, a constraint would be the loss of funding/support to complete that work 	<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 • UK BAP targets for Local Biodiversity Action Plans http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/brig/trgtargets/ScotlandLBAPTTargets.xls • NE Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Plans</i>: www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm • See survey work being done by the Council, using the Integrated Habitat Survey (IHS).
Designated areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 28 Natura sites in Aberdeenshire, which have implications for development. • No monitoring of SINS has been undertaken, but they are under review. 	<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. • Dee SAC is the only in 	Housing pressure on designations are increasing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Natural Heritage Topic Paper</i> • http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/corporate/factsandfigures/0405/index.htm

		affecting the City			
Sites of Special Scientific Interests (SSSIs)	In Aberdeenshire there are 82 SSSIs occupying 39805 hectares and taking about 6.3% land.	There are 3 SSSIs in Aberdeen City occupying 47 hectares and taking about 0.2% of the City's land area. 12.92% of Scotland's land areas accommodate 1,455 SSSIs occupying about 1,036, 553 hectares of land	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004.</i> <i>Battleby: SNH</i>
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	5.6% of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 18 SACs which occupy 35, 334 hectares of land	There is only 1 SAC (Dee SAC) in Aberdeen City it also affects Aberdeenshire There are 238 SACs in Scotland occupying 962, 667 hectares representing 9.9% Scotland's land take.	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004.</i> <i>Battleby: SNH</i>
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	There are 10 SPAs in Aberdeenshire occupying 29,926 hectares representing 4.7% Aberdeenshire's land take.	There are 142 SPAs in Scotland occupying 630305 hectares representing 8% Scotland's land take.	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004.</i> <i>Battleby: SNH</i>
Country Parks (CP)	Aberdeenshire has 4 CPs on 276 hectares of land and this represents 0.04% of the total land area.	0.08 % of Scotland's land area accommodates 36 CPs which occupy 6, 481 hectares of land	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004.</i> <i>Battleby: SNH</i>
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	0.004 % of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 2 LNRs which occupy 28 hectares of land	Aberdeen City has 4 LNRs on 126 hectares of land and this represents 0.6% of the total land area. Scotland has 36 LNRs on 9410 hectares of land and	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004.</i> <i>Battleby: SNH</i>

		this represents 0.12% of the total land area.			
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	2.2% of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 6 NNRs which occupy 14225 hectares of land	1.5 % of Scotland's land area accommodates 63 NNRs which occupy 111913 hectares of land	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004.</i> <i>Battleby: SNH</i>
Ramsar sites	There are 4 Ramsar sites in Aberdeenshire occupying 1239 hectares representing 0.2% Aberdeenshire's land take.	There are 51 Ramsar sites in Scotland occupying 313181 hectares representing 4.2% Scotland's land take.	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004.</i> <i>Battleby: SNH</i>
Number of access issues logged	<p>Banff & Buchan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 0 • Mar 07 - 0 • Sept 07 - 1 <p>Buchan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 2 • Mar 07 - 1 • Sept 07 - 5 <p>Kincardine & Mearns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 14 • Mar 07 - 2 • Sept 07 - 12 <p>Marr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 5 • Mar 07 - 7 • Sept 07 - 5 <p>Garioch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 2 • Mar 07 - 2 • Sept 07 - 9 	No comparators	Improving		To be dealt with under the Land Reform or Countryside (Scotland) Act

	<p>Formartine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sept 06 - 1• Mar 07 - 1• Sept 07 – 1 <p>Aberdeenshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sept 06 - 24• Mar 07 - 13• Sept 07 – 33				
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Table 6.2.6: SEA Topic: Climatic Factors

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Proportion of heat and electricity generated from renewable energy sources and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little uptake in renewable energy developments. • Only a handful of planning applications have been received for CHP and biomass heating systems. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> • Things are likely to improve in the future through Aberdeenshire Council's SPG on Renewables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient grid connections and constraints with certain types of renewable energy 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> • <i>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 6: Renewable Energy</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>The Renewable Energy Strategy</i>: • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) Use of micro-renewable energy in Aberdeenshire
Carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire an average dwelling house produces 6,318 kg CO₂, • Total road traffic is forecast to grow by between 22%-34% for the period 2002-2011. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeen an average dwelling house produces 5,175 kg CO₂. • 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. • 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). • Materials with high CO₂ levels are still increasingly popular (e.g. concrete and tarmac). 	<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 • http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/050921132_1_Reghg_report_2003_Main_Text_Issue_1.doc, • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Energy</i>, Aberdeenshire Council

Areas affected by flooding (sea)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,743 properties in Aberdeenshire are located within the indicative floodplain or coastal area below 5 meters Ordnance Datum (OD). Settlements likely to be affected by rising sea levels are Harbours of Haserburgh, Peterhead, Stonehaven & the town centre of Stonehaven, Cowie; & Banff (east side) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 571 properties in Aberdeen are located within the indicative floodplain In Scotland, the number of residential properties in coastal areas below 5m OD is 86,793 The number of commercial properties in coastal areas below 5m OD is 7,037. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 because 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 200 year flood event)
Areas affected by flooding (fluvial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,219 properties in Aberdeenshire (out of 95,174) are located within the indicative floodplain. Those settlements that are most likely to be affected by fluvial flooding (1 in 200yr) are: Fraserburgh, Turriff, Longside, Huntly, Kintore, Banchory, Newtonhill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 309 properties in Aberdeen (out of 104,543) are located within the indicative floodplain. In Scotland, the number of residential properties within inland floodplains is 71,402. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compared with the rest of Scotland, far fewer properties in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are at significant risk from flooding. The implementation of National guidance (SPP7: <i>Planning and Flooding</i>) will improve the situation 	Effects of climate change will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> create greater need for SuDS and local flood defensive schemes restrict location of new developments 	<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
Areas affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 72% of flood problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only a handful of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewers designed to a 	Effects of climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Aberdeenshire Council (2005)

by flooding (pluvial)	<p>reported relate to urban drainage problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settlements in Aberdeenshire that are affected by pluvial flooding include Huntly, Turriff and Westhill. 	<p>sites in Aberdeen are affecting by pluvial flooding, due to culverts being too small for surface water run-off during heavy rain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . 	<p>1:30 year return period will be over stretched resulting in an increased requirement of SuDS in all development schemes.</p>	<p>change will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> create greater need for SuDS in urban areas. 	<p><i>Flooding in Aberdeenshire: Fifth Biennial Report</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i>, Aberdeenshire Council
Priority Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 North East Local Biodiversity Action Plans are required to safeguard priority habitats and priority species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . 	<p>Effects of climate change is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is pushing some bird and fish species further north. Birch species may increase in pinewoods, and the tree line may shift from its current line (650m). Arctic-alpine habitats and arctic species, such as the snow bunting may disappear 	<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. 	<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/habactionplan.htm
Impact on natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire's annual global footprint: Total: 5.60gha/p Energy consumption: 1.09ha/person (19%) Food and drink: 1.11ha/person (20%) Land travel: 0.74ha/p (13%) Other: 2.7gha/p (48%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen's annual global footprint (in global hectares per person (gha/p): Total: 5.80gha/p Energy consumption: 1.14gha/p (20%) Food and drink: 1.07gha/p (19%) Land travel: 0.81ha/p (14%) . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main contributors to the NE's global footprint are energy consumption, food and drink, and land travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire footprint is increasing and this cannot be sustained in the long-term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North East Global Footprint Project http://www.scotlandfootprint.org/the_project/north_east.php Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Scotland's Global Footprint Project - Reduction Report for North East Scotland Global Footprint Project</i>,

Impact on year-round services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rise in sea level will affect services and maintenance works, and costs the Council height to 4.7m (a spring tide is 4.5m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i>
Perception that Aberdeenshire Council is environmentally friendly	<p>2004 – 51%* 2006 – 51%</p> <p>Council's help to others to behave in an environmentally friendly-</p> <p>2004 – 33% 2006 – 37%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	The Residents' Survey published in October 2006

Table 6.2.7: SEA Topic: Human Health

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/ constraints	Data source(s)
Quality and availability of public open space in urban and rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for larger areas of open spaces, including civic or town parks. • There is pressure to reduce the size of open spaces in residential developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City has development pressure as well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pressure from private developers to develop on open space will continue. • There is growing demand for safer and more accessible areas of open space, which has promoted the creation of PAN65. 	There is a lack of government funding to allow local authorities to continuously manage areas of open space.	<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 • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>Planning Advice Note 65: Planning and Open Space</i> • .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 ranks high 31st out of 32 councils in terms of multiple deprivation*. • The most deprived areas are Banff and Buchan, aserburgh Peterhead and Huntly • 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. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen ranked 23rd* in terms of multiple deprivation. • 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"> • The trend is improving 	<p>Poor access to services in rural areas; centralisation of service provision, & low job opportunities and income could be</p>	<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%20Abs%20Key%20Findings%202004.pdf • Aberdeen City: Community Planning Regeneration Masterplans (2006/7) http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Web/Site/Internet/RegenerationMasterplans.asp
<p>Sport and recreation facilities in areas of identified need</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire, there is still an outstanding need for: • 16.66m x 8.5m pool at Mintlaw; • 6 Badminton Court Hall at Peterhead and Fraserburgh • 56m x 26m ice rink at Peterhead. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeen, there is still an outstanding need for: • sports facilities in Cove; • junior golf course; • a new Stadium and Soccer Academy; • one water based pitches and 2 sand based pitches; and • 50m swimming pool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive steps have been made to ensure everyone has access to sport, leisure and recreation facilities, however limited progress has been made to provide • : • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sportscotland strategy sets out 11 targets to be achieved by 2007, which focus on: • ensuring that most of the population is taking part in sport at least once a week; 	<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> • sportscotland (2003) <i>Sport 21: 2003 – 2007:</i>

				•	<i>The National Strategy for Sport – Shaping Scotland's Future</i>
Cause of mental health (especially of poorer communities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowding: • Aberdeenshire – 12,536 (6%) • Private rented sector and Council stock are higher than in RSL stock or owner-occupied housing • Quality of life/health: • Aberdeenshire – Good: 73% • Fairly good: 20% • Not good: 7% • *Most common house type: Aberdeenshire - semi-detached (30%); • *Most common house type granted planning consent (units over 20): • Aberdeenshire - detached (74%); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowding: • Aberdeen – 5,054 (13%) • Private rented sector and Council stock are higher than in RSL stock or owner-occupied housing • Quality of life/health: • Aberdeen – • Good: 70% • Fairly good: 21% • Not good: 9% • *Most common house type: Aberdeen – flats (49%) • *Most common house type granted planning consent (units over 20): • Aberdeen – flats (76%) • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences in housing stock between the City and Shire will become more extreme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is envisaged that future structure plan will make more provision for housing 	<p>NHS Grampian (2004) <i>Mental Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment</i>, Public Health Unit</p> <p>Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the Housing Stock</i></p> <p>Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council <i>Housing Needs Assessment 2004: Housing Market Area Report</i></p> <p>Shelter: http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/advice/advice-4035.cfm Register for General Scotland (2006) <i>Mid-2005 Population Estimates</i></p>

<p>% of residents feeling safe after dark</p>	<p>October 2006 - 62% January 2008 - 87%</p>	<p>No Comparators</p>	<p>Improving</p>	<p>In the Citizens Panel consultation results published in January 2008 the top 3 issues for agencies to tackle were: Antisocial driving; Teenagers/ children causing a nuisance; Graffiti/vandalism.</p>	<p>(based on Residents Survey)</p>
<p>Number of casualties on the road</p>	<p>% change in killed and seriously injured based on 1994-1998 average 219</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 22.4% • March 06 – 24.2% • Sept 07 – 37.4% <p>% change in all child casualties based on 1994-1998 average 115</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 – 50.4% • March 06 – 44.3% • Sept 07 – 58.3% 	<p>National Target 40% by 2010</p>	<p>Worsening</p>	<p>National Targets relate to 1994-1998 averages. Figures shown based on accidents in previous 12 mths.</p>	<p>In the Citizens Panel consultation results published in January 2008, 79% of those consulted saw Road Safety as a priority for the Community Safety Partnership.</p>

Table 6.2.8: 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"> • Aberdeenshire household figures: • 2003 – 93,800 • 2021 – 104,300 • Aberdeenshire household size figures: • 2003 – 2.41 • 2021 – 2.24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen household figures: • 2003 – 98,380 • 2021 – 107,610 • Aberdeen household size figures: • 2003 – 2.04 • 2021 – 1.83 • Average household size in Scotland is 2.27. • 	<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&SID=332 • 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> 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 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.aberdeency.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&slD=332
Years of healthy life expectancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy in Aberdeenshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male 75.5 years Females 80.2 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy in Aberdeen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male 73.6 years Females 78.9 years Life expectancy in Scotland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male 73.8 years Females 79.1 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aging population will create demand for certain types of houses (e.g. bungalows and services (increasing the need for more land) and care homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Aberdeenshire population figures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2003 - 229,330 2021 - 229,353 Average age in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire – 39 (m), 41 (f) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen population figures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2003 - 206,600 2021 - 202,636 Average age in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen – 38 (m), 41 (f). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 2% decrease within the City, and 0.01% decrease within Aberdeenshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</i>: http://www.aberdeency.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&slD=332

Migration change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration loss 2002-05: Aberdeenshire is losing its population to Scotland. • Migration gain 2002-05: Aberdeenshire is gaining its population from Aberdeen and outside Scotland. • The relative age of those migrating to Aberdeen is 15-19 yrs; and Aberdeenshire are 0-14yrs and 30yrs plus. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration loss 2002-05: Aberdeen is losing its population to Aberdeenshire and outside Scotland. • Migration gain 2002-05: Aberdeen is gaining its population from Scotland. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The migration trend in the Aberdeenshire is slow growth to 2016 and then a slow decline thereafter. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-migration will create greater demand for houses and services in Aberdeenshire . • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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/05mype-cahb-booklet.pdf
Listening and Involvement	<p>Level of perception that the Council listens genuinely to local communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree (2004) – 25% • Agree (2006) – 18% <p>Level of is involvement in the communities it serves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree (2006) – 28% • Don't know (2006) –25% • Neither/Nor (2006) –27% • Could do more – 70% 	No Comparators	Perception is worsening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Residents' Survey published in October 2006

<p>Care assessment and provision</p>	<p>% Home care clients aged 65yrs receiving personal care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005/2006 - 91.1% • 2006/2007 – 93.8% <p>% Home care clients aged 65yrs receiving personal care as % of clients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-73.7% • Mar 07-97.8% • Sept 07-75% <p>Number of home care clients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-38 • Mar 07-46 • Sept 07-44 <p>% of over 65 yr olds receiving care in the evenings/overnight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005/2006 – 29.5% • 2006/2007 –32.2% <p>% of over 65 yr olds receiving care at weekends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005/2006 – 56.0% • 2006/2007 –58.2% 	<p>No comparators</p>	<p>Improving</p>	<p>The agreed timescale from initial contact is 14 days. The Social Work service is developing a performance management framework in which all indicators will be reviewed. Targets and tolerances will also be considered as part of this review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
<p>Support for young and vulnerable</p>	<p>The percentage of children/families offered/provided with a service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-93.2% • Mar 07-93.8% • Sept 07-98.4% <p>No of Children/Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-44 • Mar 07-48 • Sept 07-61 	<p>No comparators</p>	<p>Improving</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This can include assessment within 28 days of referral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

School placements	<p>% of children with fewer than 3 placements during the current period looked after</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-76.5% • Mar 07-72.5% • Sept 07-75.4% <p>Number of children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-200 • Mar 07-193 • Sept 07-191 	No comparators	<p>Improving</p> <p>Over the past 18 months, the Council has consistently maintained 75% of all children/young people accommodated away from home in stable placements with only a quarter of children experiencing more than 3 changes in placement during the period of care.</p>	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
Fuel Poverty Assistance	<p>In 2006/7 Aberdeenshire Council Energy Efficiency Advice Project had 305 new cases and dealt with 8,164 enquiries of which a high proportion was fuel poor households.</p> <p>SCARF Cosy Homes project targeting fuel poor had 51% of its referrals from Aberdeenshire and installed 121 energy efficiency measures. SCARF Fuel Cost Campaign for winter 2006/7 across 6 Local Authority areas including Aberdeenshire, resulted in a 49% increase in enquiries on the cost of fuel and other campaign issues.</p>	<p>The information on Scottish fuel poverty statistics is from a survey of 2004/5, which shows that between 2002 and 2004/5 the number of Scottish households in fuel poverty had increased 293,000 (13% of households) to 419,000 (18.2% of households).</p>		•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

<p>Care and support for homeless</p>	<p>Time taken between presentation and completion of duty by the Council for those cases assessed as homeless or potentially homeless 2005/2006 -15.3 weeks 2007/2008 - 17.6 weeks The percentage of households in temporary accommodation in temporary bed & breakfast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-38.9% • Mar 07-35.4% • Sept 07-36.7% <p>Number of households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-226 • Mar 07-246 • Sept 07-248 	<p>Scottish average of 21 weeks.</p>	<p>No significant improvement</p>	<p>Housing availability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
<p>Recreational and leisure facilities</p>	<p>2005/06 percentage in use (number of berths/number in use)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer - 103% (228/234) • Winter - 60% (187/112) <p>2006/07 percentage in use (number of berths/number in use)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer -90% (326/293) • Winter – No data 	<p>No comparators</p>	<p>The percentage of berths in use was lower in 2006/07 than in the previous summer season although the actual number of berths in use is up from 234 to 293. There were fewer berths available in summer 2006 with Banff Marina closed for improvements. In summer 2007 silt movement reduced the available berths in Johnshaven harbour and the repositioning or mooring chains reduced the number of berths at Rosehearty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

Number of visitors to country parks	2006/07 March - 56000 September – 71000 2007/08 March – No data September - 70,000	The target for visitors to country parks in 2007/08 is to achieve a 1% increase on the previous year, the monthly average for 2006/07 was 66,000.	No trend	•	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
Secondary School - role and capacity	Aberdeenshire Total Role • 2006 –15,948 • 2007 –15,848 • 2008 –15,635 Total Capacity • 2006 – 16,210 • 2007 – 16,210 • 2008 – 16,210	To comparators	No significant trend	•	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
Primary School - role and capacity	Aberdeenshire Total Role • 2006 –19573 • 2007 –19267 • 2008 –19045 Total Capacity • 2006 – 24965 • 2007 – 24943 • 2008 – 24943	To comparators	No significant trend	•	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

Achievement and attainment	<p>Aberdeenshire 2006 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • top 3 local authorities in Scotland • 5 out of the 21 recognised measures of attainment for S4, S5 and S6; • top 6 in 19 of the 21 measures; and, • top 10 in all 21 of the measures. • one of the top 6 local authorities in all but one of these measures. 	When benchmarked against the family of comparator authorities, Aberdeenshire was first on ten of the measures, and second on the other six.	No trend	•	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
	<p>Aberdeenshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96% of adult participants thought they had gained a new skill; • 73% of adult participants were likely to continue learning; • 57% of young participants felt they were more confident as a result of having joined a group; • 81% of adult participants said that their learning had helped them to be more active in their community. 	No comparators	No trend	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report by the Scrutiny & Audit Committee on Community Learning and Development in Aberdeenshire (SAC Report No. 12
The number of media issues to the public (new indicator introduced April 2007)	<p>Aberdeenshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 07 -104,877 (Monthly average over six months = 104,211) 	No Comparators	No trend	•	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

The number of hits on the online reference database (new indicator introduced April 2007)	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 07 - 1,547 (Monthly average over six months = 1,423) 	No Comparators	No trend	•	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
The number of hits on the ALIS online catalogue (new indicator introduced April 2007)	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 07 - 112,272 (Monthly average over six months = 100,810) 	No Comparators	No trend	•	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
Number of visits to Aberdeenshire Arts website	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 07 - 11,200 (Monthly average over six months = 10,566) 	No Comparators	No trend	•	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
The number of attendances at council swimming pools	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar 07 - 384,951 Sept 07 - 376,608 	No Comparators	No trend	•	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
The number of attendances at council indoor sport and recreation facilities	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar 07 - 104,869 Sept 07 - 115,963 	No Comparators	No trend	•	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

Table 6.2.9: SEA Topic: Cultural Heritage

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	Aberdeenshire • 476	Aberdeen City- • 37	Development is putting pressure on this feature	The location of new developments will be constrained by this factor	http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/scheduled-monuments.pdf
Listed Buildings	Aberdeenshire • Category A - 198 • Category B - 1608 • Category C(s) - 1906	Aberdeen City • Category A - 69 • Category B - 680 • Category C(s) - 462	No trend	New housing should take this into account	Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <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>
Conservation Areas	Aberdeenshire • 36	Aberdeen City • 11	No trend	The location and design of developments will be constrained by this factor	http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/site/Planning/SL/pla_ConservArea.asp http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/devservices/index.asp
Archaeological sites	Aberdeenshire • 17935	Aberdeen City • 699	Development is putting pressure on this feature	The location of new developments will be constrained by this factor	Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i> Scottish Executive (1998) <i>NPPG5: Archaeology and Planning</i>

<p>Numbers of listed buildings sites at risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of buildings at risk • Aberdeenshire: 117 (6 under restoration) • 3% of listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk register for Aberdeenshire: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of buildings at risk • Aberdeen: 10 (1 under restoration) • 0.62% of listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk register Aberdeen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No trend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only a small number of buildings at risk are undergoing restoration. • The majority of the buildings at risk are in rural areas, with few undergoing restoration. 	<p>Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i></p> <p>Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland (Scottish Civic Trust) http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/browse.asp</p> <p>Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment</i></p>
<p>Number of attendances at North East Arts Touring</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2007 - 11,900 Number of visitors to Aberdeenshire Council's museums were • March 2007 - 1,106, and September 2007 - 7,200 • Directly managed Council museums achieving registration/accreditation - (11) • Indirectly managed Council museums achieving registration/accreditation Two-thirds (6) • 	<p>No Comparators</p>	<p>No trend</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Accreditation and Registration by 'Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. panel members were very positive about cultural events in Aberdeenshire, with comments such as "it is easy for me to travel to and from events", "it is easy to find out about activities/events", "the range of activities/events is as good as elsewhere in Scotland", and "the quality of venues is as good as elsewhere in Scotland". The top three potential venues were village halls (80%), community centres (74%) and local schools or colleges (73%). The cultural and historical environment is protected: The Council runs 11 museums and 3 heritage centres, in addition there are 3,718 listed buildings</p>

					in Aberdeenshire.
No. of sites in Aberdeenshire	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 -17,313 • Mar 07 - 17,511 • Sept 07 - 17,737 	No Comparators	Improving	•	
No. of planning applications, etc., the Archaeology Service commented on	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 -41 • Mar 07 - 49 • Sept 07 - 55 	No Comparators	Improving	•	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
No. of excavations, evaluations, etc., the Archaeology Service instigated to mitigate against the loss of sites	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 27 • Mar 07 – 24 • Sept 07 - 31 	No Comparators	Improving	•	Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

Table 6.2.10: SEA Topic: Landscape

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
National Scenic Areas (NSA)	There is 1 NSA in Aberdeenshire occupying 43300 hectares of land and representing 6.8% of land take	There are 40 NSAs in Scotland occupying 1, 001, 800 hectares of land. This represents 12.5% of Scotland's land area.	No trend 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 Aberdeenshire. Housing development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004</i> . <i>Battleby</i> : SNH
Townscape quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 conservation areas in Aberdeenshire. • 7 Aberdeenshire Towns Partnerships (ATP) in Ellon, Banff and Macduff, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverurie, Peterhead and Stonehaven have develop plans to maintain and enhance the continued social, economic and environmental vitality of these settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 conservation areas in Aberdeen City • 6 regeneration masterplans are being drafted in the City 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of the departures in Aberdeenshire have been approved against structure plan Policy 20 (Built and cultural environment), mostly for replacing old-fashioned windows and doors with the modern equivalent replacement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership http://www.atap.org.uk/home.htm • Aberdeen City: Community Planning Regeneration Masterplans (2006/7) http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Web/Site/Internet/RegenerationMasterplans.asp • Scottish Executive (1997) <i>PAN 52: Planning in small Towns</i>
Landscape setting		•	•	•	•
Landscape character		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The four Landscape Character Assessments that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPPG 14 states that particular care is needed when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inappropriate scale and insensitive siting of enabling development may 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG14: Natural Heritage</i>

		cover the North East provides a brief overview of past land use practices and discusses potential land uses for existing landscapes.	considering proposals for new development at the edge of settlements or in open countryside. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAN44: <i>Capacity for housing in the landscape</i> 	adversely affect landscape characteristics (e.g. changing it's landscape character type, not respecting local topography/contours). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>Landscape character assessment of Aberdeen</i>, Review No 80
Gardens and Designated Landscapes (GDL)	0.9 % of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 32 GDLs which occupy 5745 hectares of land	Aberdeen City – 1 GDL 0.83% of Scotland's area accommodates 386 HGDLs which occupy 66765 hectares of land	No trend	Housing development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004. Battleby: SNH</i>

Table 6.2.11: SEA Topic: Material Assets

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Number of vacant dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of vacant dwellings and second homes in 2005: 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 Aberdeenshire fell by 250 (-5.1%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of vacant dwellings and second homes in 2005: Aberdeen: 5,574 (5.1% increase since 2001) and 5.2% of the total housing stock. Between 2004 and 2005 the number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeen increase by 315 (6%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of vacant dwellings in Aberdeen is increasing, while in Aberdeenshire the figure is falling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population increases into Aberdeenshire is causing the difference between the City and the shire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Register for Scotland: Vacant dwellings and second homes (2001-2005) http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/he-05-table3.pdf
Number of degraded buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of dwellings in disrepair in 2002: Aberdeenshire: 63,000 (70%) against 27,000 that are not in disrepair. Number of dwellings where their disrepair is classified as "urgent" in 2002: Aberdeenshire: 28% Number of dwellings (by tenure) failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2002 in: Aberdeenshire: rented (LA/HA) - 50% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of dwellings in disrepair in 2002: Aberdeen: 76,000 (81%) against 18,000 (19%) that are not in disrepair. Number of dwellings where their disrepair is classified as "urgent" in 2002: Aberdeen: 43% Number of dwellings (by tenure) failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2002 in: Aberdeen: rented (LA/HA) - 60% owner-occupied/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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/SHQ_Sreport.pdf#sear

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> owner-occupied/ private rented – 55% (HA=Housing Association) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> private rented – 64% (HA=Housing Association) 			ch=%22Scottish%20House%20condition%20survey%20SHQS%22_
Derelict and vacant land (and buildings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Aberdeenshire: 21 sites totalling 9ha is derelict; and 25 sites totalling 27ha is vacant. 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"> In Aberdeen: 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. Since 1996, the total area of derelict and urban vacant land in Aberdeen has remained steady (2005 figures stand at 180ha). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area of derelict and urban vacant land in Aberdeenshire has decreased significantly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

Existing flood defences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> • 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 •
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Existing pumping stations and sewage works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<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. 	<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
Water treatment works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the exception of areas in and around Peterhead, Banchory, Ellon, and Torphins, 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. 	
Supply of affordable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire: Net requirement of 915 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The demand for affordable housing per annum in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The supply affordable homes in the North 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to review the proportion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Aberdeen Council and

housing	<p>affordable housing units (this represents two-thirds of the estimated new build in the area).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Aberdeen is a net requirement of 897 affordable housing units;</p>	<p>East are not meeting the demand, even with additional Scottish Executive grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main shortfall is for one bedroom and larger (4 plus) bedroom dwellings. 	<p>of affordable housing in new build in both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>Communities Scotland (2005) <i>2004 Housing Needs Assessment</i>,</p> <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
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Supply of holiday homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of second/holiday homes: • Aberdeenshire (excluding the coast) • 1 to 5%: southern Aberdeenshire (e.g. Mid Deeside and the Mearns area), and coastal areas excluding Peterhead 5 to 10%: Donside Valley • 10-20%: Portsoy coast (Banff) and Aberdeen • 20%+: Upper Deeside (Cairngorms) • In Aberdeenshire second/holiday homes account for 2% of the housing stock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of second/holiday homes: • 0 to 1%: Aberdeen, central and northern • In Scottish rural areas, the proportion of housing stock accounted for by second/holiday homes is over seven times greater than in urban areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire, only a small fraction of the total housing stock accounted by second/holiday homes. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of second homes rented out by oil companies could be sold off as the oil sector declines. • A shortage of holiday homes will adversely affect the tourist trade in Aberdeenshire's most popular areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank of Scotland House Price Database; ONS http://www.hbospic.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>
Access to good quality affordable housing	<p>Percentage of vacant housing properties offered to new tenants within less than 10 working days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 -87.9 % • Mar 07 -97.7 % • Sept 07 -93 % 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Comparators 	Improving	Funding	<p>The Residents' Survey published in October 2006 reported that 54% of those responding were satisfied with Housing services, this compares with 47% in 2004.</p>
Proportion of building materials from sustainable sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire, work on increasing the energy efficiency and use of materials from sustainable sources in new dwellings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of • SPP1 - sustainable development; PAN 67 - layout, design and materials to be used, 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP1: The Planning System</i> • Scottish

	<p>are being researched in a project entitled Index 21. The outcome of this work will be incorporated into the next local development plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although Aberdeenshire councils encourage and support the use of buildings constructed of sustainable materials, there are only a few examples of this actually happening. 		and to a lesser extent in SPP2 and SPP3 will improve the situation.		<p>Executive (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)
Number of new businesses	<p>VAT registered businesses 2005 - 9,980 2008 - 10,110. Rate of businesses formation- 48 VAT registrations per 10,000 working age people in Aberdeenshire</p>	Rate of businesses formation in Scotland- 36 VAT registrations per 10,000 working age people	There were increases in the manufacturing, construction, hotels/restaurants, transport/ communications, finance, real estate/renting/ business activities, and education/ health sectors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
Business survival rate	<p>% of business formed in 2001 still trading 3 years later</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire –75% 	<p>% of business formed in 2001 still trading 3 years later</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen City – 75% Scotland – 71% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
Supporting facilities for enterprises	<p>Fully occupied council-owned serviced industrial sites - 41 Fully occupied council-owned business centres – 12</p>	No comparators	Improving	The Council work with Rural Partnerships to help them win contracts to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

	<p>No. of contracts being won by rural partnerships, for the delivery of local services, from Aberdeenshire Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 -8 • Mar 07-11 • Sept 07-14 			<p>carry out work for different services of the Council to support the development of viable and sustainable local rural partnerships.</p>	
Employment land supply	<p>The level of Established Employment Land Supply 2006 - 395 hectares 2007 - 393 hectares Potential industrial land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 ha land at Portlethen added to the Moss-side Audit. There is additional land at Formartine added in line with the Aberdeenshire Local Plan at Balmedie (Eigie Farm South); • 2 further 150 ha sites pending production of development briefs to be used at the former RAF base at Edzell Woods • 5.1 ha land at Rosehall in Formartine 	No Comparators	<p>The future trend will see improvements</p> <p>The Council actively provides further industrial land at MacDuff, Fraserburgh, Ellon and Balmedie.</p>	<p>A reduction of 2 hectares (-0.5%). This is predominantly because of land being developed across Aberdeenshire but in particular at Inverurie and Kintore.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
Perception of Council contribution to the economy	<p>Proportion of people believing that the Council has a positive impact on the economy of the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2004-35% • 2006 - 44% 	No comparators	Improving		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Residents' Survey published in October 2006

<p>Perception of transport service and road</p>	<p>Frequency of public transport (2006)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor / Very Poor - 23% • Good /Very Good –77% <p>Cost and convenience of public transport (2006)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor / Very Poor -24% • Good /Very Good – 76% <p>Dissatisfaction with winter gritting/snow clearing and road maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer residents <p>Fundamental road surfaces in good condition' (2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good/Very Good – 62% <p>Top three aspects of road maintenance - Repair undertaken in good time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Good/Good – 67% • Very Poor /Poor - 27% <p>Winter maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Good/Good – 63% • Very Poor /Poor - 34% <p>Repairs of good quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Good/Good – 67% • Very Poor /Poor - 28% 	<p>The percentage of roads identified by national condition survey, which should be considered for maintenance treatment, is an annual figure. The current percentage stand at 39%, which is slightly higher than the previous year's figure of 33.2%. In 2006/07, the Council completed 6% more road resurfacing and surface dressing than planned. The roads in Aberdeenshire are currently rated as 3rd best in Scotland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents' Survey published in October 2006 • • • Residents' Research published in November 2007
<p>Quality of life</p>	<p>In 2006 Aberdeenshire – 3rd best quality of life in Scotland's 32 local authorities. In 2007 Aberdeenshire - best quality of life in Scotland's 32</p>	<p>No comparators</p>	<p>No trend</p>	<p>The factors taken into account included employment, the housing market, environment, education, and health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2007 Quality of Life Study commissioned by the Bank

	local authorities.			Aberdeenshire was found to have 81% employment, one of the highest life expectancies and low crime rates. A Bank of Scotland spokesperson noted "A strong economy, along with good schools and a low crime rate have helped Aberdeenshire to become the area with the best quality of life in Scotland in 2007".	of Scotland.
Efficient provision of Council services	<p>Administration of housing and council tax benefits</p> <p>Processing time (days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 – 31 • Mar 07- 34 • Sept 07 – 36 <p>Percent accurate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 – 97.6% • Mar 07- 96.8% • Sept 07 – 98.4% <p>Percentage of consumer complaints dealt with within 14 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005/06- 60.8% • 2006/07 - 75.3% 	No comparators	No trend		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
	<p>Gross Internal Floor Area (GIA) of Operational Buildings in satisfactory condition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2006/07-34% <p>Percentage of operational buildings suitable for their</p>	No comparators	No trend		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

	<p>current use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2006/07. 40.3% 				
High standard of financial management	<p>Cost of Council Tax collection (per household)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2006/07-£11.68 • 2005/06-£11.24 <p>Percentage of Council Tax collected in year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2006/07-95.9% • 2005/06-95.8% <p>Cost of business rates collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2006/07-£32 • 2005/06-£30.89 <p>Percentage of business rates collected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2006/07-97.5% • 2005/06-96.9% <p>Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days of receipt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2006/07-88.3% • 2005/06-87% 	No comparators	No trend		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008
Planning permission determined in accordance with agreed standards.	<p>% of householder applications determined within 2 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 73% (139) • Mar 07 - 70% (176) • Sept 07- 46% (193) <p>% of non-householder applications determined within 2 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 34% (222) • Mar 07 - 32% (229) • Sept 07-46%193 	No comparators	No trend		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008

Planning Gains	Incoming funds (Planning Gains) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06- £1,479,620 • Mar 07 -£972,281 • Sept 07-£1,294,485 	No comparators	No trend		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from the Planning Gain Service shows a total of incoming funds of £3.7m for the 18 month period covered by the baseline report
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Appendix 6.3: Implementation of Consultation Opinion

Table 6.3.1 below shows the analysis of the opinion of Scottish Environment Protection Authority (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Scotland (HS) on the scoping report and the action taken to address the issues raised.

Table 6.3.1: Analysis of Comments

Organisation	Issue	Concern/ Comments	How addressed in SEA Process	Page in Report
HS	Plan Context	Consider adding SHEP 2	Added	40
HS	Plan Context	Review NPPG 18 Planning & Historic Environment, which includes environmental protection objectives for the historic environment	Added	40
SEPA	Plan Context	Add PAN 51 Planning, Environmental Protection and Regulations	Added	16, 40
SEPA	Plan Context	Add PAN 79 Water and Drainage	Added	16, 40
SEPA	Plan Context	Note that SPP 6 Renewable Energy is now published	Noted	
SEPA	Plan Context	Add the EC Waste and Landfill Directive	Added	16, 40
SEPA	Plan Context	Add Aberdeenshire Local Plan	Added	16, 40
SEPA	Plan Context	Include Aberdeenshire Renewable Energy Strategy in the listing.	Added	16, 40
SEPA	Plan Context	SEPA Policy 19: Groundwater Protection	Added	16, 40

		Policy for Scotland		
SEPA	Plan Context	SEPA Policy 26: Culverting of Watercourses	Added	16, 40
SEPA	Plan Context	SEPA Policy 55: policy and Supporting Guidance on Provision of Waste Water in Settlements	Added	16, 40
HS	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment	Cultural heritage topic at Appendix 3 should include the numbers of each type of historic feature in designated landscapes, conservation areas and archaeological sites included in the sites and monuments records	Corrected	53
HS	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment	Buildings at Risk Register may not include all buildings that are potentially at risk in a particular area	Noted	N.A
HS	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment	Replace “architectural remains” with “archaeological remains”	Edited out	53
HS	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment	Provide numbers for conservation areas in Aberdeenshire.	Added	53
HS	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment	Note that “Inventory of Gardens and Designated Landscapes” was re-issued in March 2007. Thus there are 32 gardens and designated landscapes in Aberdeenshire and 386 in Scotland.	Corrected	53

HS	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment	Consider reasonable alternatives in the environmental report as the strategy develops	Corrected	53
SEPA	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment	Expanded air quality baseline significantly in the ER. Give consideration to other components of local air quality. SEPA recommends that reference should be made to Aberdeenshire's 2007 Local Air Quality Management Progress Report for information on components such as nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide PM10 rather than dust;	Considered	53
SEPA	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment	Mainly information on water quantity rather than quality is provided in the "Water quality in SAC and SPA" row;	Amended to correspond	53
SEPA	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment	It would seem that some of the information relates to Aberdeen City rather than Aberdeenshire;	Amended	53
SEPA	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment	Appendix 3 (?) and Appendix 4 (watercourses at 'poor' status) do not seem to have been provided.	Amended	53
SEPA	Environmental problems	Note the definition of health in the context of SEA to "be relevant and proportionate to the type of PPS being prepared; and be considered in the context of the other issues outlined in Schedule 3(6) of the Act, <i>thereby focusing on environmentally-related health issues such as significant health effects arising</i>	Amended appropriately	18, 141

		<i>from the quality of air, water or soil.”</i>		
		Other ‘problems’ could more usefully be related to the environment. For example, ‘meeting recycling and landfill diversion targets’ is not really an environmental problem; the production of waste and need to dispose of it is.	Amended appropriately	18, 141
SEPA	Alternatives	A clearer explanation of the limitation on alternatives would be welcome in the ER.	Corrected	20
SEPA	Methodology	Assess the strategic priorities, key actions vision and the six options.	Assessed as appropriate	22, 116
SEPA	Methodology	Add comments column to Table 11,	Amended as appropriate	22, 116
		While a number of the assessments may result in ‘uncertain effect’, enough consideration should be given to each assessment to make a likely prediction. Where there is uncertainty then the aspects of the assessment which are uncertain should be outlined, accompanied with how this will be taken into consideration in other, probably lower level, plans.	Amended as appropriate	22, 116
		Use the assessment of effects as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the Plan, such as individual actions as well as the Plan as a	Amended as appropriate	22, 116

		whole		
SEPA	Methodology	The assessment should follow the precautionary principle; where significance is uncertain, more rather than less significance should be assumed for negative effects, and less rather than more significance should be assumed for positive effects.	Amended as appropriate	22, 116
SEPA	General	For your information SEPA would wish the ER to make it clear how carrying out SEA has impacted upon the related Plan. One of the most important mitigation measures to consider in the ER is the way in which the Plan itself has been modified as a result of the environmental assessment process	Noted	
HS	Methodology	The assessment of should consider ALL features of historic environment	All features considered	116
SNH	Plan Context	This section should cover relations with other plans and the environmental objectives that should be taken on board.	Amended as appropriate	16, 40
SNH	Plan Context	Could add The European Landscape Convention	Added	16, 40
SNH	Plan Context	Could add SPP 15 Planning for Rural Development	Added	16, 40
SNH	Plan Context	Could add SPP 17 Planning for Transport Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)(as amended)	SPP 17 Added Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)(as amended) would not add	16, 40

			anything new	
SNH	Plan Context	Could add Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy – Choosing Our Future (2005)	Would not add anything new	
SNH	Plan Context	Could add Scotland's Climate Change Programme – Changing Our Ways (2006)	Would not add anything new	
SNH	Environmental Problems	The environmental problems presented should reflect those identified in the Baseline data in Appendix 2.	Corrected	18, 141
SNH	Environmental Problems	<u>Population and Human Health</u> - what are the environmental problems relating to an increasing and aging population? It would be helpful if the implications of this on the natural environment were picked up more clearly, such as the resource implications of an increase in infrastructure requirements as a result of increasing population. It is not clear what significant environmental problems relate to meeting the needs of vulnerable children as compared to meeting needs of the population as a whole. Could impacts relate to an increase in car usage for transporting vulnerable children or adults, for example, and would this be <i>significant</i> ?	Amended	18, 141
SNH	Environmental Problems	<u>Material assets</u> – it is not clear what the environmental problem in relation to the ' <i>challenge of refurbishing and replacing most Council properties</i> ' is. It may relate to the resource requirements of new buildings and recycling the old building materials, or may	Amended	18, 141

		relate to the fact that older Council properties are not energy efficient and are therefore resource greedy. The implications for the PPS should surely be that the plan should consider how to provide for refurbishment with minimum or no carbon footprint or to meet a sustainable audit requirement, or similar.		
SNH	Environmental Problems	<u>Air and Climatic factors</u> – again we are not sure that the problem is in relation to ‘ <i>It is challenging to meet the Council’s commitment to carbon neutrality....</i> ’. There may be issues around air pollution or the quantity of carbon emissions from transport and industry.	Amended	18, 141
SNH	Environmental Problems	<u>Water</u> – Is the environmental problem the ‘ <i>need to drive sustainable water supplies across Aberdeenshire</i> ’? Or should the environmental problem table pick up issues such as water quality and water supply in sensitive catchments. There are issues of diffuse pollution in the Ythan and River Dee catchments and concerns over water supply at times of low flow – these issues are identified in the baseline data. It is not clear whether the strategy simply relates to issues within the development sphere, or whether it hopes to influence other industry sectors such as agriculture and forestry. There may be coastal issues in relation to pollution from marine transport fuels and noise pollution and disturbance to species from sea based freight movements.	Amended	18, 141

SNH	Environmental Problems	<u>Soil and water</u> – again the environmental problem is not really ‘ <i>Meeting recycling and landfill diversion targets</i> ’ but is in relation to the generation of waste and the impacts of this on the environment – it would be helpful if this was more clear.	Amended	18, 141
SNH	Environmental Problems	<u>Landscape</u> – this section does not identify the landscape issues in relation to the strategy and SNH is not sure from this what the environmental problems relating to landscape are within Aberdeenshire. This needs to be clearer as it will not be possible to assess any policies or mitigation measures against the SEA objectives if it is not clear what environmental problems the Strategy could affect. “ <i>Access to the natural heritage</i> ” is not really a landscape issue.	Amended	18, 141
SNH	Environmental Problems	<u>Biodiversity</u> – The concept of biodiversity has not been fully grasped here. The Council should articulate its own biodiversity duty here and what this means for development, rather than focusing on stakeholder interest. Biodiversity issues in relation to designated sites and LBAP have been identified in the baseline data.	Noted	
SNH	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment Baseline	The Environmental Report should include a description of the baseline environmental information relevant to all of the environmental problems and issues scoped into the assessment. The information in Appendix 2 provides the baseline data and we have provided some comments below. The	Noted	

		Environmental Report should also include a description of the likely evolution of the environment without the plan to provide a frame of reference for the assessment of the plan.		
SNH	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment Baseline	<p>Significant issues</p> <p>Attention should be given to: protected species, designated sites and nationally and internationally protected areas. The issues of sustainable use of biodiversity, ecosystem level diversity, networks and wildlife corridors, threats of alien species and the importance of non-protected biodiversity should also be given attention as should matters relating to landscape, access, open space and informal recreational provision. It is possible that significant effects in relation to locally valued landscape and wildlife sites may also be identified.</p>	Noted, These issues will be addressed in Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan and other lower tier plans	
SNH	Baseline information and the evolution of the environment Baseline	<p>Significant issues</p> <p>Where there are any potential significant effects on Natura, it should be noted that these would be required to be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. The sites, the reason for their designation and comments on any likely effects of the plan should therefore be noted. Any potential threats / benefits of the Plan's activities to named species should also be noted.</p>	Noted	

SNH	SEA Objectives	SNH considers that the use of SEA objectives is good practice and that they increase clarity over the aspects of the topics being considered in the assessment. Therefore, it would be helpful if a section were included clarifying SEA objectives against which the Strategy aims and objectives will be tested	Noted – The strategic nature of the plan demands the method chosen	
SNH	Alternatives	Clarify alternatives. It seems that the 'do nothing' alternative has not been explored.	Clarified	20
SNH				
SNH	Scoping in and out of SEA issues	Link this with environmental problems	Noted	18
SNH	Methodology	The tables in this section require some clarification. Many of the results are "uncertain effects" and it is not clear why this is the case. It may be that the plan, given its high level strategic nature, with its Vision and Priorities, is insufficiently detailed or specific to allow assessment through SEA in the manner proposed. It may be that the potential effects are more appropriately assessed at lower levels through associated plans. Alternatively, it may be that the environmental problems have been insufficiently well identified and that this has caused problems with identifying cause and effect of the strategy.	Amended as appropriate	22
SNH	Methodology	It is not clear how the "options" relate to the Vision, sub-themes, strategic priorities and key actions; they do not appear to be the same. SNH would prefer to see all of these levels addressed by the SEA, not just the "options". Of the following "sub-themes", only the last	Amended	20

		<p>occurs in the list of “options” to be assessed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of modern transport links. • Improve the viability of working harbours in coastal communities. • Encourage energy conservation, including the use of green fuels and small scale renewables 		
SNH	Methodology	<p>While SNH would support the development of modern transport links in principle, the development of new transport infrastructure can have significant effects on the environment, including the marine environment, landscape, biodiversity, water quality etc. Likewise, depending on what is proposed by “improving the viability of working harbours” this could have significant effects on protected marine wildlife including cetaceans, which are both European Protected Species and qualify as features of the Moray Firth Special Area of Conservation. Given the potential of this objective to have a significant effect on the SPA, an appropriate assessment should be undertaken.</p>	Noted	
SNH	Methodology	<p>Finally, in the table there is an objective in relation to energy conservation, green fuels and small-scale renewables. While SNH is broadly supportive of this type of objective, it should be noted that biofuels in particular can have significant effects on biodiversity and landscape, and small-scale renewables can have landscape and visual impacts in sensitive</p>	Noted	

		landscapes.		
SNH	Report Structure	The proposed report structure is not provided, however if the environmental report follows the structure provided in the Scottish Executive Toolkit this would be acceptable	Noted	
	Appendix 1	Reference to the “EC Birds and Habitats Directive” (Line 2) is unnecessary and these Directives are presented in lines 3 and 4. The “Birds” Directive ⁴ requires the notification of Special Areas of Conservation and the “Habitats” Directive ⁵ requires notification of Special Conservation Areas. The “Habitats Regulations” ⁶ should be listed under “National	Noted	
SNH	Appendix 2	<u>Water</u> Work is being undertaken at the moment by the planning section of Aberdeenshire Council into appropriate assessments at various levels, including planning applications, local planning and strategic priorities over the impacts of development on sites in Aberdeenshire, including both the River Dee Special Area of Conservation and the Sands of Forvie and Ythan Estuary Special Protection Area. There are issues of both water quality, associated with phosphates from sewerage and runoff, and with water quantity, particularly at low-flow periods.	Noted	53

⁴ Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds

⁵ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

⁶ The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

		<p>The 3rd Bullet column 4 should say that although the Ythan Project showed some improvement, SNH's monitoring is showing patchy breeding success by some of the SPA species and there is also evidence that the algal mats are spreading onto the mussel beds on which some of these species are entirely dependant.</p> <p>There may be difficulties with additional development in the Dee and Ythan catchments due to water quality and water quantity issues, and the appropriate assessment for the Strategic Development Plan should resolve this question. However, it should be noted that if the Strategic priorities identifies the need for housing, including in the Ythan and Dee catchments, this would raise issues of likely significant effects and trigger the need for appropriate assessment.</p> <p>Water quality (biology & chemistry) – Bullet 9, column 2 and Bullet 4, column 5, again, the Ythan estuary is an SPA, so the sensitivity of the area is greater and therefore the overall effect is likely to be more significant than this implies.</p>		
SNH	Appendix 2	<p><u>Coastal Impacts</u></p> <p>Climate change and sea level rise may make coastal developments more vulnerable, from increasing storm activity and increased rain events combined with higher tides – it is not</p>	Noted	

		only prime agricultural land that is likely to be affected, but other land uses as well.		
SNH	Appendix 2	Prime agricultural land and also section on <u>soil erosion</u> – is there no baseline information on soil loss through erosion (wind and rain). Anecdotally this would seem to be significant at times and can lead to additional, localised, load in rivers, which is especially important in river Special Areas of Conservation like the river Dee.	Noted	
SNH	Appendix 2	<u>NEBAP</u> – column 1 - in so far as loss still continues to result from inappropriate habitat “creation” i.e. the creation of a relatively large pond in an area of wet grassland/marsh, which will already, be very biodiverse. Reference should also be made to the survey work being done by the Council, using the Integrated Habitat Survey (IHS) which will give a much more accurate picture of the state of biodiversity. Equally, a constraint would be the loss of funding/support to complete that work.	Added to data	53
SNH	Appendix 2	<u>Designated Areas</u> –It should be noted that there are 28 Natura sites in Aberdeenshire, such as the Dee SAC, which have implications for development. Again, the Area of Aberdeenshire designated as Natura sites is roughly half the total Scottish figure (SNH Facts and Figures 04/05 http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/online/corporate/factsandfigures/0405/index.htm but those mentioned above are more up to	Added to data	53

		date than those on SNH Internet)		
SNH	Appendix 2	<u>Non-designated areas</u> – see comment above in NEBAP re IHS. Also, brownfield sites should not just be seen as suitable for built development – if built development can take place on greenfield sites, some brownfield sites could be considered for development as recreational or environmental open space	Noted	0
SNH	Appendix 2	<u>SSSIs</u> – the national comparator figures are not quite right. Most recent data from Facts and Figs is 1455 SSSIs occupying 1,036,553ha – 12.92% (as at end July 2007).	Corrected	53
		<u>SACs</u> - SACs in Scotland occupy 9.9% of the country	Corrected	53
		<u>SPAs</u> - 142 SPAs in Scotland occupying 8% of the country. 29,926 ha in Aberdeenshire. 63,0305 ha in Scotland.	Corrected	53
		<u>NNRs</u> – 14,225 ha in Aberdeenshire, 111,913 ha in Scotland – only 63 NNRs in Scotland 2.2% of Aberdeenshire is NNR.	Corrected	53
		<u>Ramsar</u> – take up 4.2% of Scotland and 313181 ha in Scotland.	Corrected	53
SNH	Appendix 2	Historic gardens and designed landscapes and National Scenic Areas are landscape rather than Biodiversity designations.	Item transferred to the “Landscape” section	53

Appendix 6.4: Detailed Assessment of Effects

Table 6.4.1: Assessment of Effects - Options

	Business As Usual	Do Minimum 1 – SF and No Efficiency	Do Minimum 2 – SP and No Efficiency	Do Maximum 1 – SF and Efficiency	Do Maximum 2 – SP and Efficiency	Overall Effects	Comments reversibility, irreversibility, risks, duration, permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term, cumulative effects
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	0	0	--	-	--	--	All the options encourage housing development and economic growth. They will have a long-term negative effect in biodiversity, with the options driven by the proposed structure plan having the greatest negative effects.
Climatic factors & air	0	0/+	0/+	+	+	+	While options 3 and 4 will promote efficiency in the existing housing stock, options 1 and 2 will not promote efficiency. If the proposed renewable energy development proposed by the priorities, go ahead, the combined effects of the priorities are long-term positive effects on climatic factors and air.
Soil	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	While the developments promoted under all the options are likely to have some short-term negative effects on soil, decontamination of sites for regeneration is likely to promote long-term positive effects. Housing development process is likely to generate its own constructional wastes.
Water	0	-	-	-	-	-	The proposed developments promoted through these strategic priorities are likely to have some indirect negative impacts on water abstraction. Housing could potentially have short-term negative impacts on water through a change in water table, stream flows, site water budgets, localised flooding, silt deposition, and water-borne pollution. Inevitably, some localised impacts on watercourses, on drain capacity, and flooding would occur due to the development.
Landscape	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Promotion of new housing, industry, and renewable facilities is likely to have long-term mixed effects on

							landscape. There is a scope for improving landscape in new developments and designing developments to conform to townscapes. Development of housing and renewables may also adversely affect the landscape character of the areas if not properly managed.
Cultural heritage	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	While all the options could have negative effects for the historic environment, the protective aspects of the priorities will safeguard the historic environment from damage.
Material asset	0	+	+	+	+	+	Increased prosperity, housing, and jobs promoted through the options will increase the asset base of the people of Aberdeenshire. The options are therefore likely to have long-term positive effects on this receptor.
Population and human health	0	+	+	++	++	++	Increased prosperity, housing, jobs and efficiency promoted through the options will promote the wellbeing of the people of Aberdeenshire
+ + Very positive effect + Positive effect 0 Neutral effect # it depends - - Very negative effect - Negative effect ? Uncertain effect							

Table 6.4.2: Assessment of effects – Community Wellbeing

	Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	Climatic factors & air	Soil	Water	Landscape	Cultural heritage	Material asset	Population and human health	Comments reversibility, irreversibility, risks, duration, permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term, cumulative effects
Enhancing community safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the number of casualties on our roads and to improve the safety and environment for those living in small communities. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	There is no discernible short-term or long –term environmental effects on most environmental receptors. This strategic priority and action are likely to have a long-term positive effect on population and human health.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to identify and tackle anti-social behaviour, particularly vandalism, neighbour difficulties, and anti-social behaviour in public places. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to identify and tackle problems in communities caused by abuse of drugs and alcohol. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention and protection from domestic abuse. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in Multi Agency Public Protection arrangements to supervise dangerous offenders 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	As above
Delivering services for children, young people and adults <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with partners to ensure the needs of Aberdeenshire’s children are met. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure child protection measures are in place to protect vulnerable children across Aberdeenshire. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	As above

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with Partners to ensure the needs of vulnerable adults are met. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	As above
Delivering health and care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to improve the health of the people of Aberdeenshire 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with the Aberdeenshire Community Health Partnership (NHS Grampian) to deliver integrated health and care services across Aberdeenshire. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	As above
Providing quality housing services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure there is sufficient diversity in housing types and sizes to meet the changing needs of Aberdeenshire's residents. 	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	<p>The strategy is not likely to have any direct effect on the receptors. However, during implementation phases through the local housing strategy, the action is likely to have mixed effects. There is potential negative impact on greenfield habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and vegetation removal resulting from land take. Long-term positive effects on biodiversity is possible particularly if new developments incorporate soft landscaping and planting of new trees into the design of new homes.</p> <p>Housing is also likely to have some short-term negative effects including on soil erosion, desegregation, compaction, and pollution during construction phases.</p> <p>Housing could potentially have short-term negative impacts on water through a change in water table, stream flows, site water budgets, localised flooding, silt deposition, and water-borne pollution. Inevitably, some localised impacts on watercourses, on drain capacity, and flooding would occur due to the development. Depends on the site, situation, and context. Negatively, housing can adversely encroach onto primary landscape, the hierarchy, and proportion of strategic open spaces, strategic green linkages, and urban landmarks. Developments may also restrict some views. These effects may weaken the sense of place, the identity of existing settlements and landscape character in places. Positively, where the quality of the landscape and view are poor in places, housing can improve the</p>

									quality.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the Council's housing stock meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard 	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	Ensuring that the Council's housing stock meets the Scottish housing Quality Standard requires improving the efficiency of the housing stock. Efficiency measures are likely to have long-term positive effects on climatic factors and air quality, population and human health. Potential savings through the measures is likely to have positive affects on people's asset base.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the needs of homeless people are met in line with national policy 	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on the well being of the people of Aberdeenshire.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the number of households in Aberdeenshire in fuel poverty. 	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	Ensuring that the Council's housing stock meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard requires improving the efficiency of the housing stock. Efficiency measures are likely to have long-term positive effects on climatic factors and air quality, population and human health. Potential savings through the measures is likely to have positive affects on people's asset base.
Community Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the Council's approach to engagement and consultation with communities and residents so that it is effective and coordinated. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/+ +	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
Promoting Inclusiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with communities and partners to regenerate priority areas. 	0	0	0/+	0	0	0	0/+ +	0/+ +	Engagement is likely to have positive effects on population and human health. If the engagement is translated into regeneration particularly of decontaminated brownfield sites, the effects are likely to be positive on soil quality. Regenerating priority areas is also likely to have positive effects on material asset and the wellbeing of population.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to integrate migrant workers and other ethnic minority groups into Aberdeenshire communities. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/+ +	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that services are accessible to all members of the community. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/+ +	0/+ +	This action is likely to have positive effects on, material asset, population, and human health.
Providing Good Public Spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with communities and partners to provide recreational opportunities in well-maintained public 	0	0	0	0	0	0/+	0	0/+ +	This action is likely to have positive effects on, material asset, population, and human health. If recreational activities include outdoor activities, it

spaces.									is possible that people will take the opportunity to understand and enjoy the historic environment.
Overall Effects	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	
<p>Key</p> <p>+ + Very positive effect + Positive effect 0 Neutral effect # it depends</p> <p>- - Very negative effect - Negative effect ? Uncertain effect</p>									

Table 6.4.3: Assessment of Effects - Option 2 Jobs & the Economy

	Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	Climatic factors & air	Soil	Water	Landscape	Cultural heritage	Material asset	Population and human health	Comments reversibility, irreversibility, risks, duration, permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term, cumulative effects
<p>Promote Aberdeenshire locally, nationally and internationally as a location for employment, living and leisure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver “Building on Energy” the Economic Manifesto for Aberdeen City and Shire. 	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	The manifesto aims to deliver a fully integrated transport network, maximise intellectual capital; deliver city centre redevelopment; internationalise the oil and gas industry; attract and develop skilled people; improve efficiency of decision making; and make Aberdeen City and Shire a preferred location of choice for company headquarters. If the implementation of this action leads to the development of transport links, the development of more industries, commerce and houses some negative effects are likely on biodiversity, climatic factors, air, water, soil, landscape, cultural heritage. Depending on the mode of implementation, the action is also likely to lead to positive effects on all the receptors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Council’s Economic Development and European Policy Strategies. 	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	0/-	0/+	+	+	The strategy will promote biomass/bio fuel production and related technology. It will promote innovative, energy-related and hydrogen fuel technology; recreational tourism and creative industries; supply marketable industrial land and units; encourage vertically integrated agriculture and fisheries industries; and promote self-sufficient and inclusive communities. This action may lead to some developments including industries, retail

									business, and houses, which are likely to have some negative effects on biodiversity, climatic factors, air, water, soil, landscape, cultural heritage. Depending on the mode of implementation, the action is also likely to lead to positive effects on all the receptors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the Scottish Government and national agencies recognise the importance of investment in the Aberdeenshire area. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/+	0/+	Recognising the importance of investment in Aberdeenshire area in itself is not likely to have any significant positive or negative effects the receptors. However, if these effects are translated into investment, the material asset base will improve and the wellbeing of the people of Aberdeenshire will improve.
Attract and Support Businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure an adequate supply of employment land and business premises across Aberdeenshire. 	0/-	0/-	0/-	-	0/-	0	+	+	The supply of employment land in itself is not likely to have any effects on the receptors. If the supplied land becomes developed in commercial and industrial premises, there are potential negative effects on biodiversity, landscape, soil, water, climatic factors, and air quality. Increased business opportunities will increase the well being of the people of Aberdeenshire and their asset base.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the necessary skills and workforce are available to sustain economic growth and attract high value enterprise to Aberdeenshire. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	This action is likely to have significant positive effects on the well being of the people of Aberdeenshire and their asset base
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist the “vertical integration” from producer to consumer of agriculture, fishing and forestry industries to ensure higher value products and jobs. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	These action is likely to have significant positive effects on the well being of the people of Aberdeenshire and their asset base
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of innovative products and technologies. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/+	0/+	This action is likely to have significant positive effects on the well being of the people of Aberdeenshire and their asset base if the action is implemented.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage diversification into new areas and niche markets. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/+	0/+	This action is likely to have significant positive effects on the well being of the people of Aberdeenshire and their asset base if the action is implemented.
Improve the transport network. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby the Scottish Government to deliver the necessary strategic transport links to the rest of Scotland, Europe and beyond. 	0/-	0/-	0/-	0	0/-	0/-	0/+	0/+	Lobbying the Scottish Government in itself is not likely to have any effects on the receptors. If the lobbying translates into the delivery of the necessary transport links, and this

										involves the development of new transport routes, then there is the potential for the envisaged projects to have some negative effects on biodiversity, soil, water quality, and landscape. Good access that reduces traffic may improve the air quality. Improved transport links may encourage an increased use of the motorcar, and hence worsening of air quality and more CO2 emissions. Development of new transport links may also negatively damage historical remains if not properly managed. However, improved access and excellent links will improve business opportunities, thereby have significant positive effects on material asset base and the well being of the people of Aberdeenshire.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through NESTRANS, support the delivery of the Regional Transport Strategy. 	0/-	0/-	0/-	0	0/-	0/-	0/+	0/+	<p>If the support for the delivery of Regional Transport Strategy translates into the delivery of the necessary transport links, and this involves the development of new transport routes, then there is the potential for the envisaged projects to have some negative effects on biodiversity, soil, water quality, and landscape. Good access that reduces traffic may improve the air quality. Improved transport links may encourage an increased use of the motorcar, and hence worsening of air quality and more CO2 emissions. Development of new transport links may also negatively damage historical remains if not properly managed. However, improved access and excellent links will improve business opportunities, thereby have significant positive effects on material asset base and the well being of the people of Aberdeenshire.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the actions in the Council's Local Transport Strategy. 	0/-	0/-	0/-	0	0/-	0/-	0/+	0/+	<p>If the delivery of the Local Strategy translates into the delivery of the necessary transport links, and this involves the development of new transport routes, then there is the</p>	

									potential for the envisaged projects to have some negative effects on biodiversity, soil, water quality, and landscape. Good access that reduces traffic may improve the air quality. Improved transport links may encourage an increased use of the motorcar, and hence worsening of air quality and more CO2 emissions. Development of new transport links may also negatively damage historical remains if not properly managed. However, improved access and excellent links will improve business opportunities, thereby have significant positive effects on material asset base and the well being of the people of Aberdeenshire.
Maintain road infrastructure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the public road network is maintained to a high standard that enhances accessibility and supports commercial, industrial and residential development. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	Improved access and excellent links will improve business opportunities, thereby have significant positive effects on material asset base and the well being of the people of Aberdeenshire
Overall Effects	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	
Key + + Very positive effect + Positive effect 0 Neutral effect # It depends - - Very negative effect - Negative effect ? Uncertain effect									

Table 6.4.4: Assessment of Effects - Option 3 Lifelong Learning

	Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	Climatic factors & air	Soil	Water	Landscape	Cultural heritage	Material asset	Population and human health	Comments reversibility, irreversibility, risks, duration, permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term, cumulative effects
Effective targeting of resources • Review staffing allocations in schools.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
• Improve management and maintenance of education, leisure and learning buildings and facilities.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
• Increase funding to improve the quality of our assets.	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on material asset, population and human health.
• Implement the Recruitment, Retention and Succession Planning initiative to address the particular difficulties with the supply of teachers (see also 'the best workforce' under Corporate Improvement).	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
• Improve access to, and the use of, computer technology in education and learning services.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
Improved early years opportunities • Enhance the early years provision for children and families provided by the Council.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
Improved achievement for all • Improve attainment and achievement for all users of the service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
• Review the 3-18 Curriculum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.

Improve inclusion and participation across the service • Improve youth work and youth participation.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
• Enhance Additional Support Needs provision.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
• Increase the involvement of parents in schools.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
Improved access to sport and cultural activities • Promote cultural opportunities for people of all ages	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health; it will enable more people to enjoy and appreciate the historic environment
• Promote cultural heritage	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health; it will enable more people to enjoy and appreciate the historic environment
• Preserve, and enhance the display of, artefacts and historical collections.	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health; it will enable more people to enjoy and appreciate the historic environment
• Meet the leisure needs of disabled people.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
• Increase participation in sport and leisure activities.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
• Improve performance in sport.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
Enhanced community learning and development • Enhance achievement through learning for adults.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
• Promote achievement through learning for young people.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human

									health.	
• Encourage achievement through building community capacity.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	This action is likely to have positive effects on population and human health.
Overall Effects	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+		
Key + + Very positive effect + Positive effect 0 Neutral effect # it depends - - Very negative effect - Negative effect ? Uncertain effect										

Table 6.4.5: Assessment of Effects - Option 4 Sustainable Environment

	Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	Climatic factors & air	Soil	Water	Landscape	Cultural heritage	Material asset	Population and human health	Comments reversibility, irreversibility, risks, duration, permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term, cumulative effects
<p>Reduce Aberdeenshire’s global footprint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce reliance on goods and services from non-sustainable sources. 	+	+	+	+	0	0	+/- (0)	+/- (0)	Reducing Aberdeenshire’s global footprint through the reduction of their reliance on goods and services from non-sustainable sources is likely to have a long-term positive effect on biodiversity, climatic factors, air quality, water consumption, and soil quality if the priority and action are implemented. If substantial financial resources will have to be sacrificed or invested to achieve the desired footprint reduction, some short-term negative effects on material asset and population is likely. In the long term, the action will bring improvements in efficiency and cost savings in energy bills and positive effects of material asset, population, and human health.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address carbon management in relation to the Council's own activities to become a carbon neutral organisation in the short to medium term e.g. by the year 2020. 	+	+	0	+	0	0	+/- (0)	+/- (0)	Making Aberdeenshire Council a carbon neutral organisation by 2020 is likely to have a long-term positive effect on biodiversity, climatic factors, air quality, and water consumption. If substantial financial resources will have to be sacrificed or invested to achieve the desired footprint reduction, some short-term negative effects on material asset and population is likely. In the long term, the action will bring improvements in efficiency and cost savings in energy bills and positive effects of material asset, population, and human health.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instigate a dialogue with local partners to agree what needs to be done to achieve the aim of the geographical area of Aberdeenshire becoming a carbon neutral region in the medium 	+	+	0	0	0	0	+/- (0)	+/- (0)	Making Aberdeenshire a carbon neutral area by 2030 is likely to have a long-term positive effect on biodiversity, climatic factors, air quality, and water consumption. If substantial financial resources will have to be sacrificed or invested to achieve the

term e.g. by the year 2030.									desired footprint reduction, some short-term negative effects on material asset and population is likely. In the long term, the action will bring improvements in efficiency and cost savings in energy bills and positive effects on material asset, population, and human health.
Achieving Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage energy conservation, including the use of green fuels and small scale renewables 	0/-	+	0	0/-	0/-	0/-	0/+	0/+	Promotion of energy conservation, including the use of green fuels and small scale renewables, will in the long term have positive effects on climatic factors, enable savings in cost savings, and have positive effects on material asset, population, and human health if the actions are implemented. Some forms of small-scale renewables may potentially have short-term negative effects on biodiversity, water and the landscape, and this should be addressed during the implementation stages through other plans and strategies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising Awareness. 	0/+	0/+	0/+	0/+	0/+	0/+	0/+	0/+	Raising awareness on environmental issues is only likely to have positive effects on all the receptors if it changes behaviour.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop sustainable communities where residents can live, work, play and access services all within the local area. 	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	Developing sustainable communities will essentially have long-term positive effects on all the receptors. However, depending upon the extent to which land will be taken, water will be used, contamination will be cleaned, landscape and the historic environmental will be managed, some negative effects are possible.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage sustainable development through effective land use planning. 	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	This action is likely to have long-term positive effects on the receptors. However, to the extent that sustainable planning will not prevent development, land take, water use, resource use, some negative effects are also likely.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable construction. 	+/-	+	0	0	0/-	0/-	+	+	This action will promote energy efficiency. It is therefore likely to have long-term positive effects on climatic factors, air quality, material asset, population, and human health. Depending on the design of the construction and it setting in the landscape, some negative effects are also likely.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve a modal shift towards more sustainable travel methods throughout Aberdeenshire. 	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	This action is likely to have long-term positive effects on climate change and air quality. If the travel options include less expensive modes of travel, cost

									savings are likely; thus having some positive effects on material asset, population, and human health.
Protect and promote the historical environment	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0/+	The action is likely to have long-term positive effects on this cultural heritage as a receptor. It will enable people visit the area and enjoy Aberdeenshire's historic environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and promote Aberdeenshire's cultural heritage and historical environment. 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek, where possible, to retain and reuse old buildings in Aberdeenshire. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	This action is likely to have positive effects on material asset.
Natural Environment	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	Access to the natural environment will promote health and enable people to appreciate and enjoy the historic environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage access to our natural environment 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect & promote our biodiversity 	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	This action is likely to have long-term positive effects on biodiversity, attract tourists, and raise income; and thus positively affecting material asset.
Waste	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	This action will have a long-term positive effects on climate, air quality, soil, and reduce leakages into water bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceed national 30% recycling target by 2008 and landfill diversion targets by 2010. 									
Overall Effects	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	
Key ++ Very positive effect + Positive effect 0 Neutral effect # it depends -- Very negative effect - Negative effect ? Uncertain effect									

Table 6.4.6: Assessment of Effects - Option 5 Developing our Partnerships

	Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	Climatic factors & air	Soil	Water	Landscape	Cultural heritage	Material asset	Population and human health	Comments reversibility, irreversibility, risks, duration, permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term, cumulative effects
Community Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further develop our approach to Community Planning at Board, Executive and local level 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Whereas there are no discernible short-term or long-term effects of this priority and action on the SEA receptors, developing an approach to Community Planning at Board, Executive and local levels is likely to have long-term positive effects on this SEA receptor.
Partnership Working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that each partnership and joint working arrangement is effective and provides benefits to the Council and Aberdeenshire residents. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Effective and beneficial partnership and joint working arrangements are likely to have long-term positive effects on this SEA receptor.
Shared Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver efficiency savings and strengthen collaborative working through the development of shared services. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	Efficiency in savings and strong collaborative working are likely to have long-term positive effects on material asset and population.
Overall Effects	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	
Key ++ Very positive effect + Positive effect 0 Neutral effect # it depends -- Very negative effect - Negative effect ? Uncertain effect									

Table 6.4.7: Assessment of Effects - Corporate Improvement

	Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	Climatic factors & air	Soil	Water	Landscape	Cultural heritage	Material asset	Population and human health	Comments reversibility, irreversibility, risks, duration, permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term, cumulative effects
Resource Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise the Council's financial resources. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	There are no short-term or long-term discernible effects of this priority and action on the SEA receptors, except for material asset. Savings made through resource optimisation will be available for improvement elsewhere.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workforce Management 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Proper workforce management is likely to have a positive long-term effect on the staff and their well-being.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management 	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	Proper management of the resources of the Council will have positive effects on the material asset base of the Aberdeenshire Council and well being of staff.
Customer Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise the ease with which customers are able to contact and interact with the Council. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Whereas there are no discernible short-term or long-term effects of this priority and action on the SEA receptors, improvement in customer relations is likely to have long-term positive effects on this SEA receptor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capture the views of our stakeholders and use the information we gather to enhance and prioritise service delivery. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Whereas there are no discernible short-term or long-term effects of this priority and action on the SEA receptors, improvement in customer relations is likely to have long-term positive effects on this

										SEA receptor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve communications with stakeholders 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Whereas there are no discernible short-term or long-term effects of this priority and action on the SEA receptors, improvement in customer relations is likely to have long-term positive effects on this SEA receptor.
Performance Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the Council's performance management arrangements. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Whereas there are no discernible short-term or long-term effects of this priority and action on the SEA receptors, improvement in the Council's performance management arrangements is likely to have long-term positive effects on this SEA receptor.
Efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce systems and procedures to facilitate more efficient and cost effective ways of working. 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	Improving efficiency into cost of service delivery is likely to have positive effects on the material asset base of the Aberdeenshire Council.
Overall Effects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	
Key ++ Very positive effect + Positive effect 0 Neutral effect # it depends -- Very negative effect - Negative effect ? Uncertain effect										

Table 6.4.8 Natura 2000 Screening for Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Priorities

Policies, Objectives, Actions	Generate development	Water abstraction	Habitat loss/ Land Take	Generate Pollution	Generate Soil erosion	Cause disturbance	Protect the environment	Passive	Screen out/screen in
Community Wellbeing									
Enhancing Community Safety	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Out
Delivering services for children, young people and adults	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Out
Delivering health and care	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Out
Providing quality housing services	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Possible	Yes	Yes (HECA)	No	In
Community engagement	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Out
Promoting inclusiveness	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Out
Providing good quality public spaces	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Out
Jobs and Economy									
Promote Aberdeenshire locally, nationally and internationally as a location for employment, living and leisure.	Possible through the economic manifesto	Possible	Possible	No	Possible	No	No	Yes	In

Attract and support businesses.	Possible through the provision for employment land and housing	Possible through the provision for employment land and housing	Possible	No	Possible through the provision for employment land and housing	Possible	No	Yes	In
Improve the transport network.	Possible through Regional Transport Strategy and local Transport Strategy	No	Possible through Regional Transport Strategy and local Transport Strategy	No	No	Possible through Regional Transport Strategy and local Transport Strategy	No	Yes	Out
Maintain road infrastructure.	No	No	No	Possible through leakages from road maintenance	No		No	Yes	Out
Lifelong Learning									
Effective targeting of resources	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Out
Improved early years opportunities	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Out
Improved achievement for all	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Out
Improve inclusion and participation across the service	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Out
Improved access to sport and cultural activities	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Out

Enhanced community learning and development	No	Yes	Out						
Sustainable Environment									
Reduce Aberdeenshire's global footprint	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Out
Achieving sustainable development	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Out
Protect and promote the historical environment	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Out
Protect and promote the natural environment	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Out
Managing waste	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Out
Developing our partnerships									
Developing community planning	No	Yes	Out						
Working in partnership	No	Yes	Out						
Sharing services	No	Yes	Out						
Community Councils	No	Yes	Out						
Corporate Improvement									
Efficiency	No	Yes	Out						
Outcome focus	No	Yes	Out						
Delivering high quality customer service	No	Yes	Out						
Effective corporate communications	No	Yes	Out						
The best workforce	No	Yes	Out						
Managing our buildings and facilities	No	Yes	Out						
Managing financial resources	No	Yes	Out						

Appendix 6.5: Detailed Assessment of Effects – Ecological Footprint

Table 6.5.1: Biodiversity, flora and fauna

	Nature of Effect	BAU SP	DM1	DM2	DMX1	DMX2
		EF (gha/cap)				
Agriculture; forestry and fishing	Indirect	0.031986	0.034001	0.034929	0.034001	0.034929
Crop Land		0.624986	0.664310	0.682416	0.664210	0.682333
Pasture land		0.238035	0.253012	0.259915	0.252974	0.259618
Forest land		0.277733	0.294940	0.303031	0.294025	0.299740
SEA land		0.213532	0.226990	0.233193	0.226932	0.232901
Land footprint		1.386271	1.473253	1.513483	1.472143	1.509522
Biodiversity Land @ 15%		0.020794	0.022099	0.022702	0.022082	0.022643

Table 6.5.2: Air & Climatic factors measured in kt/cap

	Nature of Effect	BAU SP	DM1	DM2	DMX1	DMX2
Greenhouse gases (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.011884	0.011884	0.011884	0.011884	0.011884
Acid rain precursors (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000049	0.000049	0.000049	0.000049	0.000049
Carbon dioxide (CO2) (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.009841	0.009841	0.009841	0.009841	0.009841
Methane (CH4) (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000032	0.000032	0.000032	0.000032	0.000032
Nitrous oxide (N2O) (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000002	0.000002	0.000002	0.000002	0.000002
Sulphur dioxide (SO2) (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000019	0.000019	0.000019	0.000019	0.000019
Nitrogen Oxides (Nox) (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000029	0.000029	0.000029	0.000029	0.000029
Ammonia (NH3) (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000005	0.000005	0.000005	0.000005	0.000005
Particulate matter (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000002	0.000002	0.000002	0.000002	0.000002
Carbon monoxide (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000064	0.000064	0.000064	0.000064	0.000064
Volatile organic compounds (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000018	0.000018	0.000018	0.000018	0.000018
Benzene (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
1-3 Butadiene (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Lead (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000002	0.000002	0.000002	0.000002	0.000002
Cadmium (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Mercury (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Arsenic (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Chromium (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000001	0.000001	0.000001	0.000001	0.000001
Copper (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000001	0.000001	0.000001	0.000001	0.000001
Nickel (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000005	0.000005	0.000005	0.000005	0.000005
Selenium (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000001	0.000001	0.000001	0.000001	0.000001
Zinc (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000007	0.000007	0.000007	0.000007	0.000007
Vanadium (kt/cap)	Indirect	0.000024	0.000024	0.000024	0.000024	0.000024

Table 6.5.3: Air and climatic factors measured in gha/cap

	Nature of Effect	BAU SP	DM1	DM2	DMX1	DMX2
Air transport	Indirect	0.009132	0.009707	0.009972	0.009707	0.009972
Domestic fuel and land consumption	Indirect	0.524158	0.532545	0.539803	0.445233	0.452231
Electricity	Indirect	0.016859	0.017921	0.018410	0.017921	0.018410
Electricity and gas distribution	Indirect	0.601756	0.610997	0.618995	0.514792	0.522503
Extraction - oil and gas	Indirect	0.018910	0.020101	0.020650	0.020101	0.020650
Gas	Indirect	0.003145	0.003343	0.003434	0.003343	0.003434
Private transport (car fuel)	Indirect	0.435859	0.463319	0.475958	0.463319	0.428703
		1.609821	1.657933	1.687223	1.474416	1.455904

Table 6.5.4: Material Asset measured in gha/cap

	Nature of Effect	BAU SP	DM1	DM2	DMX1	DMX2
Actual rentals for housing	Indirect	0.022262	0.023665	0.024310	0.023665	0.024310
Audio-visual, photo and inf. processing equipment	Indirect	0.070714	0.075169	0.077220	0.075169	0.077220
Clothing	Indirect	0.029709	0.031581	0.032442	0.031581	0.032442
Construction	Indirect	0.010608	0.011277	0.011584	0.011277	0.011584
Financial intermediation	Indirect	0.026341	0.028001	0.028765	0.028001	0.028765
Financial services n.e.c.	Indirect	0.032921	0.034995	0.035949	0.034995	0.035949
Footwear	Indirect	0.011261	0.011970	0.012297	0.011970	0.012297
Furniture, furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings	Indirect	0.061306	0.065168	0.066946	0.065168	0.066946
Glassware, tableware and household utensils	Indirect	0.009058	0.009629	0.009891	0.009629	0.009891
Goods and services for routine household maintenance	Indirect	0.008169	0.008683	0.008920	0.008683	0.008920
Household appliances	Indirect	0.139296	0.148072	0.152112	0.148072	0.152112
Household textiles	Indirect	0.012515	0.013303	0.013666	0.013303	0.013666
Imputed rentals for housing	Indirect	0.050201	0.053364	0.054820	0.053364	0.054820
Insurance	Indirect	0.036924	0.039250	0.040321	0.039250	0.040321
Machinery and equipment	Indirect	0.004856	0.005162	0.005303	0.005162	0.005303
Maintenance and repair of the dwelling	Indirect	0.062034	0.065942	0.067741	0.065942	0.067741
Operation of personal transport equipment	Indirect	0.142858	0.151858	0.156001	0.151858	0.140455
Other land transport	Indirect	0.012276	0.013050	0.013406	0.013050	0.013406
Other manufacturing	Indirect	0.008823	0.009379	0.009635	0.009379	0.009635
Personal effects n.e.c.	Indirect	0.108564	0.115404	0.118552	0.115404	0.118552
Postal Services	Indirect	0.001655	0.001759	0.001807	0.001759	0.001807
Purchase of vehicles	Indirect	0.113239	0.120373	0.123657	0.120373	0.121782
Rail transport	Indirect	0.000609	0.000648	0.000665	0.000648	0.000665
Real estate, renting, business activities	Indirect	0.098178	0.104363	0.107211	0.104363	0.107211
Retail trade	Indirect	0.046876	0.049830	0.051189	0.049830	0.051189
Roads	Indirect	0.008474	0.009008	0.009253	0.009008	0.009253
Telephone and telefax equipment	Indirect	0.000480	0.000510	0.000524	0.000510	0.000524

Telephone and telefax services	Indirect	0.020687	0.021991	0.022590	0.021991	0.022590
Textile and leather products	Indirect	0.001787	0.001899	0.001951	0.001899	0.001951
Transport equipment	Indirect	0.013892	0.014767	0.015170	0.014767	0.015170
Transport services	Indirect	0.266099	0.282864	0.290580	0.282864	0.293159
Valuables	Indirect	0.002208	0.002347	0.002411	0.002347	0.002411
Wholesale trade	Indirect	0.038131	0.040534	0.041640	0.040534	0.041640
	Indirect	1.473012	1.565811	1.608529	1.565811	1.593687
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Table 6.5.5: Landscape measured in gha/cap

	Nature of Effect	BAU SP	DM1	DM2	DMX1	DMX2
Tools and equipment for house and garden	Indirect	0.024066	0.025582	0.026280	0.025582	0.026280
Cost of maintenance	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Material needed for establish landscape	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Energy required to establish landscape	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Material needed for maintain landscape	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Energy required to maintain landscape	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Materials & resources needed to maintain townscapes	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
	Indirect	0.024066	0.025582	0.026280	0.025582	0.026280

Table 6.5.6: Population & Human Health measured in gha/cap

	Nature of Effect	BAU SP	DM1	DM2	DMX1	DMX2
Alcoholic beverages	Indirect	0.053382	0.056745	0.058293	0.056745	0.058293
Catering services	Indirect	0.356562	0.379025	0.389366	0.379025	0.389366
Education	Indirect	0.017870	0.018996	0.019514	0.018996	0.019514
Food	Indirect	0.634385	0.674352	0.692749	0.674352	0.692749
Health and social work	Indirect	0.014903	0.015842	0.016274	0.015842	0.016274
Health services (local)	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Hospital services	Indirect	0.004379	0.004655	0.004782	0.004655	0.004782
Medical products, appliances and equipment	Indirect	0.009620	0.010226	0.010505	0.010226	0.010505
Non-alcoholic beverages	Indirect	0.048073	0.051102	0.052496	0.051102	0.052496
Other recreational items & equipment	Indirect	0.181682	0.193128	0.198397	0.193128	0.198397
Out-patient services	Indirect	0.004487	0.004769	0.004899	0.004769	0.004899
Personal care	Indirect	0.030306	0.032215	0.033094	0.032215	0.033094
Recreational services (local)	Indirect	0.006696	0.007118	0.007312	0.007118	0.007312
Social protection	Indirect	0.022206	0.023605	0.024249	0.023605	0.024249
Social work (local)	Indirect	0.026121	0.027767	0.028524	0.027767	0.028524
Tobacco	Indirect	0.027538	0.029273	0.030071	0.029273	0.030071
	Indirect	1.488632	1.582416	1.625587	1.582416	1.625587

Table 6.5.7: Soil measured in gha/cap

	Nature of Effect	BAU SP	DM1	DM2	DMX1	DMX2
Soil	Indirect	BAU SP	DM1	DM2	DMX1	DMX2
Other mining and quarrying	Indirect	0.001650	0.001754	0.001802	0.001754	0.001802
Sanitary services (local)	Indirect	0.013280	0.014119	0.014900	0.014119	0.010916
Sewage and refuse disposal	Indirect	0.017573	0.018680	0.019713	0.018680	0.014442
	Indirect	0.032503	0.034553	0.036415	0.034553	0.027160

Table 6.5.8: Water measured in gha/cap

	Nature of Effect	BAU SP	DM1	DM2	DMX1	DMX2
Water	Indirect	0.007289	0.007748	0.007960	0.007748	0.007960
Water supply and miscellaneous dwelling services	Indirect	0.001466	0.001558	0.001601	0.001558	0.001601
Water transport	Indirect	0.002103	0.002236	0.002297	0.002236	0.002297
	Indirect	0.010858	0.011542	0.011857	0.011542	0.011857

Table 6.5.9: Cultural Heritage measured in gha/cap

	Nature of Effect	BAU SP	DM1	DM2	DMX1	DMX2
Recreational and cultural services	Indirect	0.042476	0.045152	0.046384	0.045152	0.046384
Other major durables for recreation and culture	Indirect	0.007947	0.008448	0.008678	0.008448	0.008678
Material needed for maintain architectural heritage	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Energy required to maintain archaeological heritage	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Materials & resources needed to maintain designated sites	Indirect	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
	Indirect	0.050423	0.053600	0.055062	0.053600	0.055062

Appendix 6.6 Summary of Environmental Problems from the Baseline Data.**Table 6.6.1: 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.

Table 6.6.2: Significant environmental problems: water quality

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
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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)
	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.
	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 Aberdeenshire 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 6.6.3: Significant environmental problems: soil quality

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
Soil quality	There are 5,900 potentially contaminated sites recorded in Aberdeenshire 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 6.6.4: Significant environmental problems: biodiversity

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
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Biodiversity	Native species and habitats are increasing, and the Aberdeenshire 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 6.6.5: 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).
	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 6.6.6: Significant environmental problems: human health

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
Human health	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 northern Aberdeenshire.
	There will still be a need for a significant proportion of new housing to be larger properties.
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Table 6.6.7: 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).

Table 6.6.8: 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.
	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 6.6.9 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"> o the setting of settlements; and o townscapes (e.g. conservation areas).
	There is an increased need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o assess a settlement's key features(s); o reinforcing a sense of place; and o 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.

Table 6.6.10: Significant environmental problems: material assets

SEA Topic	Significant environmental problems
Material assets	
	More than half of the housing stock in the Aberdeenshire is failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.
	More retrofitting of dwellings is required to bring them back into habitable use.
	Works have been identified in the Aberdeenshire to ensure that properties are safeguarded from flooding.
	<p>Need to ensure that:</p> <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 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 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 Aberdeenshire.	