

SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 1

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

PART 2

An SEA Screening Report is attached for the strategy entitled:

North East Scotland Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP)

The Responsible Authority is:

Aberdeen City Council (ACC)

PART 3

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

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

PART 4

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

PART 5

None of the above apply. We have prepared this screening report because:
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SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 6

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PART 7

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Date	<input type="text" value="18/09/ 2017"/>

SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority	Aberdeen City Council
Title of PPS	North East Scotland SEAP
Purpose of PPS	This SEAP is a key document that shows how Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Moray Council and Angus Council will work together to reduce carbon emissions across the region. Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) and the carbon reduction plan is part of this commitment. The SEAP defines emission reduction and renewable energy measures, together with time frames and assigned responsibilities, which translate the long-term strategy into action.
What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	Development of a SEAP is a commitment of CoM which Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council are signatories of and Moray Council and Angus Council are considering signing. The CoM is a European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories. By their commitment, Covenant signatories aim to meet and exceed the European Union 20% carbon dioxide (CO ₂) reduction objective by 2020. http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index_en.html
Subject	SEAP covers many subjects including emissions reduction and renewable energy.
Period covered by PPS	2018-2023
Frequency of Updates	SEAP is a flexible document which should be reviewed continuously. The CoM requires reporting every 2 years – including enhanced SEAP development and submission of a Monitoring Emissions Inventory (MEI) which reports progress against the Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI). Public Bodies Duties requires reporting on an annual basis.

Area covered

The areas covered by Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray and Angus

Summary of nature/Content of PPS

The key parts of a SEAP, irrespective of scale, include:

- Baseline Emissions Inventory
- Monitoring Emissions Inventory
- Scenario modelling
- List of actions/measures to be implemented to achieve the targets.
- Completed CoM templates.

The CoM provides comprehensive guidance on what is required of a SEAP to ensure approval. This is available within section 1.7 at:

http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/IMG/pdf/seap_guidelines_en-2.pdf

Are there any proposed PPS Objectives?

Yes **No**

Copy of PPS attached?

Yes **No**

Date

SCREENING REPORT

TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

TITLE OF PPS

North East Scotland SEAP

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

Aberdeen City Council (on behalf of the Partnership)

<p>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p>Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</p>
<p>1(a) The degree to which the PPS sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>The North East Scotland SEAP is likely to have significant positive effects on the environment through climate change mitigation, reduction of emissions and waste. Projects will cover the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects as well as planning, construction activity, transport, local electricity generation/production, local district heating/cooling, waste management, and behavioural change.</p> <p>The PPS could also have significant negative effects on the environment such as through transport developments, disrupting habitats and potential development of wind and hydro power which can have a negative effect on birds and marine wildlife.</p>
<p>1(b) The degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>This framework will influence other PPS' such as the Local Development Plans (LDP) of the Partnership, Local and Regional Transport Strategies of the Partnership, City Waste Strategies of the Partnership and North East Regional Economic Strategy and other Strategies and Plans of the Partnership.</p>

1(c) The relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	YES	This PPS promotes sustainable development as it will devise positive actions from a range of partners on energy efficiency, transport, renewable energy and waste. Delivering the actions set out in the SEAP could have both positive and possible negative effects on promoting sustainable development if this issue is not appropriately considered.
1(d) Environmental problems relevant to the PPS	YES	The PPS could create environmental problems such as disruption to wildlife and habitats through potential developments including renewable energies across the North East Region. The PPS could also have significant positive impacts on the environment by reducing emissions, reducing climate risk and improving air quality.
1(e) The relevance of the PPS for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, PPS linked to waste management or water protection)	YES	The PPS is relevant for the implementation of a number of EU Directives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europe 2020 – looking toward smart, inclusive, sustainable growth with targets of 20% reduction in emissions, 20% energy produced from renewables, 20% improvement in energy efficiency by 2020; • EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 which prioritises integrated sustainable urban development; • Energy Performance of Buildings Directive – 2002/91/EC – which sets energy performance standards for buildings; • EU Directives, 93/116/EC, 2009/28/EC, 2003/30/EC and 2006/32/EC – setting conditions for fuel consumption in vehicles, promotion of renewable energy, biofuels in transportation and energy end use efficiency and services; • 2030 Climate Energy Policy looking towards secure energy provision and a low carbon economy. • The Waste Framework Directive.
<p>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</p> <p>(1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</p> <p>YES/NO</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</p>
2 (a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	NO	It is unlikely that the effects of the PPS would have a significant and permanent effect on the environment. Potential projects such as

		hydro and wind energy would have an effect on the landscape and wildlife while also reducing emissions in the area. Any such projects will be assessed individually for their implications.
2 (b) The cumulative nature of the effects	YES	Given that this is joint PPS between Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray, the cumulative nature of the effects could be significant when considering potential and combined interaction effects projects and actions likely to flow from this Strategy.
2 (c) Transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	YES	<p>The potential effects both beneficial and adverse can cross over boundaries of the Partnership. Besides, the PPS is likely to have potential significant transboundary effects in the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Since emission increase or reduction transcend local boundaries, the effect of this PPS is likely to have transboundary effects.</p> <p>For example, any renewable projects such as wind farms within the 4 Council areas could adversely affect migratory species much the same way as tidal power could affect seals in the region.</p>
2 (d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	NO/YES	<p>It will depend on the nature of projects flowing from the PPS as well as how they are implemented across the region.</p> <p>The proposals in the framework are more likely to have significant positive effects on human health through improved air quality and a more stable climate.</p>
2 (e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	YES	This PPS covers 4 Council areas with huge spatial extent. The combined effects of all the interventions and projects in the combined area could be of significant effects – whether positive or negative.
2 (f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to- (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use.	YES	<p>There is potential that projects arising from this PPS could affect a number of designations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen City is affected by the following SACs within and outwith Aberdeen City: Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC, Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC, Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC, Isle of May SAC, Moray Firth SAC, River Dee SAC. The following SPAs affect Aberdeen including Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA, Fowlsheugh SPA, Montrose Basin SPA, Angus: The following SPAs affect Angus. They are Caenlochan, Cairngorms Massif, Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary, Loch of Kinnordy, Loch of Lintrathenm, Lochnagar, Montrose Basin, Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex. The following are SACs affecting Angus Special Area of

		<p>Conservation, Caenlochan, Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary, River South Esk and RiverTay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moray is affected by the following SPAs: Cairngorms, Cairngorms Massif, Darnaway and Lethen Forest, Loch Spynie, Moray Firth, Moray and Nairn Coast and Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor. SACs affecting Moray may include Creag nan Gamhainn, Culbin Bar, Hill of Towanreef, Ladder Hills, Lower Findhorn Woods, Lower River Spey - Spey Bay, Moidach More, Moray Firth, River Spey • Aberdeenshire (including the Cairngorms National Park) have important SACs like: Ballochbuie, Buchan Ness to Collieston, Caenlochan, Cairngorms. , Dinnet Oakwood, Garron Point, Glen Tanar, Green Hill of Strathdon, Hill of Towanreef, Ladder Hills, Morrone Birkwood, Mortlach Moss, Morven and Mullachdubh, Muir of Dinnet, Red Moss of Netherley, Reidside Moss, River Dee, Sands of Forvie, The Maim and Turclossie Moss. The important SPAs include Ballochbuie, Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast, Caenlochan, Cairngorms, Cairngorms Massif, Fowlsheugh, Glen Tanar, Loch of Skene, Loch of Strathbeg, Lochnagar, Moray Firth, Muir of Dinnet, Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor, Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads, Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch, Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch (extension) <p>A full SEA (and potential HRA) enables us to look into this.</p>
2 (g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Yes	There a number of recognised landscapes within these 4 Local Authority Areas. Insensitive implementation of this PPS could have adverse effects on these landscapes.

SEA SCREENING REPORT

A summary of our considerations of the significant environmental effects of North East Scotland SEAP

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The actions/projects/interventions that will arise from the development of North East Scotland SEAP will have social, economic and environmental impacts. All of which would need to be addressed through the scoping and implementation phases of each of the actions/projects/interventions. These actions will cover a wide range of subjects including energy efficiency, waste, transport, renewable energy and construction.

There is potential for significant positive effects associated with reduced emissions and improved air quality, although there is recognition that each project will need to be reviewed in terms of their own positive/negative impacts. There may be significant effects that have the potential to affect landscapes, habitats and wildlife of the North East Region. For these reasons an SEA is required.

A summary of our considerations of the significant environmental effects of North East Scotland SEAP is given below.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF COMMENTS FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES

GUIDANCE NOTE

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

TITLE OF PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY

North East Scotland SEAP

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

Aberdeen City Council (on behalf Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Councils)

DATE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES

tbc

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

(Historic
Scotland)

If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. landscape and cultural heritage)

SEA SCREENING REPORT

TABLE 4 – RECORD OF POST SCREENING ACTION

GUIDANCE NOTE

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

TITLE OF PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY (PPS)

North East Scotland SEAP

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

Aberdeen City Council

1
Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS *is* likely to have significant environmental effects

Date of determination

2
Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS *is not* likely to have significant environmental effects

Date of determination

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

Date referred to the Scottish Ministers

4
Scottish Ministers' determination

Date of determination

5
Publicity requirements met

Yes

No

6
Signature

Date

Appendix 1 Aims and Strategic outcomes

Area	Aims	Strategic Outcome
Leadership and Behaviour change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a robust governance structure for the management of Empowering the North East • To incorporate the reduction of emissions and energy consumption into strategic decision making • To develop and support programmes that encourage behaviour change • To develop a framework for the engagement of wider stakeholders in delivering Empowering the North East 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective collaboration between the LAS • Clear decision making processes around joint projects • Incorporation of emissions and energy consumption into strategic plans. • Active business network involved in reducing emissions • Evidence of behaviour change in NE citizens
Renewable generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase renewable generation in the region • To encourage the development of the power network to support increased generation • To support and develop opportunities around energy storage to help balance the network • To support and support funding for innovative new technology • To support the development of renewable energy community projects • To increase employment in the renewable energy sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More low carbon energy generation in the region • Increased energy security • A growth in innovative technology • Diversification of the economy • More jobs in renewable energy • An increased number of community energy projects • Greater awareness in the community and business around renewables.
Decarbonisation of Heat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify opportunities to deliver low carbon heat in the region • To understand the role that district heating could play in heat decarbonisation • To support the development of low carbon heat solutions • To promote a wider understanding of the low carbon heat solutions amongst potential users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in availability of low carbon heat in the region • A greater understanding and acceptance of low carbon heat solutions by potential users
Sustainable transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote and encourage active travel • To improve the active travel network-in particular cycle paths and walking paths • To encourage greater use of public transport • To increase the number of vehicles that operate on alternative fuels • To extend the existing electric and hydrogen fuelling infrastructure • To increase car sharing and car club usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the proportion of journeys undertaken by active modes • Increase in bus and rail patronage • Extensions to the cycle network and core paths • An increase in the number of alternative fuelled vehicles • Growth in the refuelling infrastructure sufficient to support the growth in vehicle usage.
Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement area based energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in fuel poverty

	<p>efficiency programmes in line with the Scottish Energy Efficiency programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the opportunities afforded by improving energy efficiency to both householders and business. • To build the supply chain for energy efficiency services in the North East. • To promote funding and advisory services to encourage wider uptake of energy efficiency measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher quality housing • Improved energy efficiency across the building stock • An active supply chain in energy efficiency services
<p>Partnership and Integration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify joint projects to take forward to deliver the aims of Empowering North East • To develop joint infrastructure and connectivity to promote active travel • To ensure Integration of the electric charging and alternative fuelling infrastructure across the local authority areas. • To identify opportunities to share resources and expertise • To work together to ensure the power network can support increased renewable generation • To identify opportunities to work together to promote innovation and bring new low carbon technology to the region • To establish the role of an Energy service Company and the best way to develop this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in joint projects that derive benefits across the region. • Integration of low carbon infrastructure across the region • Shared resource and expertise working on reducing emissions and improving energy efficiency.

