

SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 1

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

PART 2

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

Scottish Land Use Strategy Regional Pilot - Aberdeenshire

The Responsible Authority is:

Aberdeenshire Council

COMPLETE PART 3 or 4 or 5

PART 3

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

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

PART 4

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

PART 5

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

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PART 6

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PART 7

Signature
(electronic
signature
is acceptable) Irina Birnie

Date 19 November 2013

SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority

Aberdeenshire Council

Title of PPS

Scottish Land Use Strategy Regional Pilot -
Aberdeenshire

Purpose of PPS

To pilot a mechanism which uses an ecosystems approach to consider existing and future land uses in a collective and integrated way

What prompted the PPS

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

Scottish Land Use Strategy

Subject

(e.g. transport)

Land Use

Period covered by PPS

2013 - 2023

Frequency of updates

As and when required

Area covered by PPS

(e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)

The whole of Aberdeenshire

**Summary of nature/
content of PPS**

PPS topics such as woodland, renewable energy, water, arable production, flood management, and connectivity within and between wetlands, grassland and woodland will be included, as well as issues related to community engagement. An ecosystems approach will be adopted in developing the framework.

**Are there any proposed
PPS objectives?**

YES

NO

Copy of objectives attached

YES (Appendix 1 below)

NO

Date

19 November 2013

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Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of Aberdeenshire Passenger Transport Strategy is set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

<p>TITLE OF PPS</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Scottish Land Use Strategy Regional Pilot - Aberdeenshire</div> <p>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Aberdeenshire Council</div>		
<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?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>It is not certain what projects are likely to flow from this framework. However, by its very nature, it could influence projects in many sectors including agriculture, water, forestry and renewable energy</p>
<p>1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This is a pilot project and lessons learned could be used to shape any future Land Use Strategy, as well as existing delivery mechanisms such as River Basin Management Plans, Forestry Strategies, National Park Plans, strategic development plans, local development plans, RPACs etc. These influences are likely to be significantly positive.</p>

1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	Yes	A workable land use framework that guides decision-making on land use affecting biodiversity, water resources, forestry, agriculture and how people engage with the land is likely to contribute to environmental improvement and sustainable development from social, economic and environmental perspectives.
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS	Yes	Conflicts already exist between different land uses, and climate change is likely to affect the suitability of land for competing uses in future. At the same time the effect of land use on carbon rich soils are likely to affect the capacity of our soils to store carbon – which will in turn affects the climate. Equally how we use forestry resources, utilise water and cultivate the soil are likely to affect the long-term sustainability the environment. It is envisaged that this pilot take an innovative approach to explore options for minimising environmental conflicts.
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	This PPS is likely to be relevant to the implementation of a number of EU Directives, including the Water Framework Directive, Climate Change Directive, Habitats and Birds Directive, Biodiversity Action Plan and the Common Agricultural Policy.
2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Yes	While it is not envisaged that this PPS is likely to have any significant negative effects on the environment, it is likely that the PPS will make significant positive contributions to how land may be used in Aberdeenshire. If the positive effects and measures are embedded into our land use practices, these are likely to endure.
2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects	Yes	There is a high level of interaction between different types of land uses, so any positive or negative effects arising from this PPS are likely to have significant secondary, indirect or induced environmental effects.

2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	Yes	Land use change, disturbance of carbon rich soils, use of forestry resources and how man engages with land are likely to affect climate change, which pervades national boundaries.
2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	Yes	Long-term adverse effects of human activity on the climate have unpredictable consequences such as unpredictable weather patterns, extreme heat or cold, flooding, landslides, natural disasters and variable rainfall patterns. These effects pose serious risks and threats to human health. Any measure that seeks to address these issues is likely to have significant positive effect on the climate.
2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	yes	The PPS is likely to have significant effect spread across Aberdeenshire
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	Aberdeenshire is home to many important local, national and international designations – including SACs and SPAs. Any framework that explores land use options could have positive or negative effects on these sites.
2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Yes	Aberdeenshire has some important landscapes. It is considered these sites will be part of future discussions on how we might optimise their use whilst protecting their valued features.

SEA SCREENING REPORT

A summary of our considerations of the significant environmental effects of Aberdeenshire Passenger Transport Strategy is given below.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

This PPS has a potential for influences on future PPS and projects. These effects are likely to be positively or negatively significant for the environment. The Framework has the potential to protect the environment and contribute significantly to sustainable development.

Transboundary and cumulative effects from the PPS cannot be overruled. It is also possible that exploration of options will consider the role of sensitive sites and landscapes. For this reason it is considered that the PPS is likely to have significant effects. Further steps will be taken to undertake strategic environmental assessment

SEA SCREENING REPORT

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

SCREENING TEMPLATE - GUIDANCE NOTE 2

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

Scottish Land Use Strategy Regional Pilot - Aberdeenshire

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

Aberdeenshire Council

DATE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES

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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 (Historic Scotland)	Significant environmental effects - YES/ NO
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. landscape and cultural heritage)

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TABLE 4 – RECORD OF POST SCREENING ACTION

SCREENING TEMPLATE - GUIDANCE NOTE 3

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)

Scottish Land Use Strategy Regional Pilot - Aberdeenshire

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

Aberdeenshire Council

1	
Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <u>is</u> likely to have significant environmental effects	<input type="text"/>
Date of determination	<input type="text"/>
2	
Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <u>is not</u> likely to have significant environmental effects	<input type="text"/>
Date of determination	<input type="text"/>
3	
Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities cannot reach agreement – referred to the Scottish Ministers for their determination	<input type="text"/>
Date referred to the Scottish Ministers	<input type="text"/>
4	
Scottish Ministers' determination	<input type="text"/>
Date of determination	<input type="text"/>
5	
Publicity requirements met	<input type="text" value="YES"/> <input type="text" value="NO"/>

6

Signature

Date

Appendix 1

The objectives of PPS will drawn from the following tentative key questions

- Where can we best accommodate 8, 300 hectares of new woodland?
- What are the implications of prioritising arable production on new prime agricultural land derived from 2050 medium climate change scenarios?
- What are the implications for other policy goals of implementing widespread sustainable flood management measures?
- Where are the opportunity for promoting connectivity between wetlands, woodlands and grasslands?
- What are the opportunities for creating community land use facilities, such as woodlands?