

**SEA SCOPING TEMPLATE – COVER NOTE**

**PART 1**

To [Sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)  
Or  
SEA Gateway  
Scottish Executive  
Area 1 H (Bridge)  
Victoria quay  
Edinburgh EH

**PART 2**

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

Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan

The Responsible Authority is:

Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan

**PART 3**

**Please tick the appropriate box**

The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and required an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. **Or**

**YES** The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and required an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. **Or**

The PPS does not require an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, as this is voluntary, the statutory 5-week timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

**SEA SCOPING TEMPLATE – COVER NOTE**

**PART 4**

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**PART 5**

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<b>Date</b>	22 August 2007

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## 1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report is to set out sufficient information on the Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan to enable the Consultation Authorities to form a view on the consultation period and scope/level of detail that will be appropriate for the Environmental Report. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

## 1.2 Key Facts

The key facts relating to this PPS are set out below. Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan, which covers the Council's operations in respect of the whole of Aberdeenshire area, sets out how Aberdeenshire Council intends to move forward during the next four years. The Council seeks to make Aberdeenshire the best area and the best Council in Scotland. This plan subject is essentially corporate management setting out the Council's strategic priorities for 2007-11, and the key actions they will take to achieve the priorities. The Strategic Priorities guides policy development, ensuring that resources are allocated appropriately and effectively. It also promotes continuous improvement. Aberdeenshire Council hopes that the publication of this document will promote accountability. The Council will keep the strategic priorities under review to ensure that they remain relevant. Progress towards achieving these priorities will be reviewed and reported regularly. Although there are key actions linked to each strategic priority, the strategic environmental assessment will be limited to themes and sub themes only so as to maintain the strategic nature of this plan.

## 1.3 Description of Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan 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 sub-themes, strategic priorities and key actions are developed**

Community Wellbeing - *Aberdeenshire Vision: Helping to create and sustain the best quality of life for all through safe, friendly and lively communities.*

- Reduce the number of casualties on our roads by 40%
- Continue to identify and tackle anti-social behaviour, particularly vandalism, neighbour difficulties, and anti-social behaviour in public places.
- Work with partners to ensure the needs of Aberdeenshire's children are met.
- Ensure child protection measures are in place to protect vulnerable children across Aberdeenshire.
- Ensure that the Joint Health Improvement Plan is implemented
- Co-ordinate and modernise services for older people in conjunction with the NHS
- Review strategies for client groups across Housing and Social Work
- Ensure there is sufficient diversity in housing types and sizes to meet the changing needs of Aberdeenshire's residents.
- Ensure that the Council's housing stock meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015
- Ensure the needs of homeless people are met alongside SE requirements in relation to national policy
- Reduce the number of households in Aberdeenshire in fuel poverty.

- Work with partners to take forward community regeneration activities
- Work to integrate migrant workers into Aberdeenshire communities.
- Complete the rolling programme of works to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and ensure that services are accessible to members of the public with a disability.
- Achieve better coordinated, more effective and responsive streetscene services

**Jobs and the Economy - *Aberdeenshire Vision*:** Helping to create and sustain the best quality of life for all through an enterprising and adaptable economy.

- Support the development of innovative products and technologies, such as renewable energies.
- Encourage diversification into green business techniques.
- Promote Aberdeenshire nationally and internationally as a location for employment, living and leisure.
- Develop an asset management plan for the industrial and commercial estate to ensure an adequate supply of employment land and business premises at appropriate locations.
- Support the development of modern transport links.
- Improve the viability of working harbours in coastal communities.
- Work with transport providers to develop an environmentally friendly public transport system that is responsive to the needs of Aberdeenshire residents.
- Continue to improve our roads maintenance services.

**Lifelong Learning - *Aberdeenshire Vision*:** Helping to create and sustain the best quality of life for all through happy, healthy and confident people.

- Extend and improve the services provided by the Library Service
- Improve Aberdeenshire's cultural education provision and facilities.
- Enhance the use of sports facilities and swimming pools
- Sustain, and raise where appropriate, levels of achievement and attainment in all our young people, reducing the gender gap at all levels.
- Improve community learning opportunities.
- Promote participation in community activities.

**Sustainable Environment - *Aberdeenshire Vision*:** Helping to sustain the best quality of life for all through our special environment and diverse culture.

- Reduce the Council's carbon emissions by 20% by 2012
- Reduce Aberdeenshire's global footprint
- Encourage energy conservation, including the use of green fuels and small scale renewables
- Encourage the development of sustainable water supplies
- Develop sustainable communities
- Manage sustainable development
- Protect & promote archaeology
- Protect & promote our cultural heritage
- Manage access to our natural environment
- Protect & promote our biodiversity
- Exceed national 30% recycling target by 2008 and landfill diversion targets by 2010.

**Developing Our Partnerships - *Aberdeenshire Vision*:** Working with our partners in the Northeast and beyond

- Further develop our approach to Community Planning at Board, Executive and local level
- Ensure that each partnership and joint working arrangement is effective and provides benefits to the Council and Aberdeenshire residents.
- Deliver efficiency savings and strengthen collaborative working through the development of shared services.

**Corporate Improvement - *Aberdeenshire Vision*:** Always looking to the future, finding new and more efficient ways of doing things, Involving, responding and enabling.

- Optimise the Council's financial resources.
- Workforce Management
- Asset Management
- Maximise the ease with which customers are able to contact and interact with the Council.
- Capture the views of our stakeholders and use the information we gather to enhance and prioritise service delivery.
- Improve communications with stakeholders
- Strengthen the Council's performance management arrangements.
- Introduce systems and procedures to facilitate more efficient and cost effective ways of working.

**Contact point**

If you require any further information, please contact

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#### 1.4 Context of Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan

#### 1.5 Relationship with other 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 Strategic Plan.

**Table 1. Plans, programmes, strategies and environmental objectives to be analysed in the Environmental Report for their relationship with Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan**

	<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>
1	Air Quality Framework Directive
2	Birds and Habitats Directive
3	EC Birds Directive 79/409/EEC
4	EC Habitat Directive
5	European Biodiversity Framework
6	European Framework on sustainable development 2001
7	European Spatial Development Perspective
8	Kyoto Protocol (1992)
9	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
10	Construction Products Directive 89/106/EEC
11	Limiting CO2 Emissions by Improving Energy Efficiency (SAVE) Directive 93/76/EEC
12	Boiler Directive 92/42/EEC
13	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive
	<b>NATIONAL</b>
14	BREEAM/ EcoHomes
15	Climate Change: The UK programme
16	Historic Scotland's Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas
17	Meeting the Needs, Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland (2002)
18	National Waste Framework (Scotland)
19	Scottish Executive Policy Statement for Scotland - Designing Places
20	Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act
21	Passed to the Future
22	Scotland's Transport Future: The Transport White Paper (2004)
23	Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 & 2005
24	Physical Activity Strategy
25	Scottish Executive Marine & Coastal Framework (2005)
26	Scottish Historic Environment Policy 1
27	NPP5 - Archaeology and Planning (1998)
28	NPPG10 - Planning and Waste Management
29	NPPG 11 -Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space (1996)
30	NPPG13 - Coastal Planning
31	NPPG14 - Natural Heritage
32	SPP 1 - The Planning System
33	SPP 2 Economic Development
34	SPP 3 Planning for Housing (2003)
35	SPP 6 Renewable Energy (Draft)
36	SPP 7 Planning and flooding (2004)
37	PAN 61 Planning & sustainable urban drainage
38	PAN 77 Designing safer places
	<b>REGIONAL</b>
39	Economic Growth Framework for North East Scotland
40	North East Scotland Together Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-2016
41	Joint Health Improvement Plan
42	North East Area Waste Plan

	North East of Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
43	<b>LOCAL</b>
44	Aberdeenshire Community Plan
45	Aberdeenshire Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Framework and Fuel Poverty Framework

From the analysis of the relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives at Appendix 1, the key points arising from this analysis are that the strategic plan 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

#### **1.6 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 Plan. The detailed analysis of the baseline data is in Appendix 2 below

#### **Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment**

The baseline data related to this PPS is discussed in detail at Appendix XXX below with respect to the environmental issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape where relevant.

#### **Likely evolution of the environment without the PPS**

Without this PPS it is envisaged that the likely future changes to the environmental receptors will include the following:

#### **1.7 Environmental problems**

Environmental problems that affect the PPS were identified through discussions with [name organisations with whom discussions were had] and an analysis of the baseline data. Relevant environmental problems are summarised at Table 3.



**Table 3. Environmental problems relevant to the Strategic Plan**

<b>SEA Issue</b>	<b>Problem</b>	<b>Supporting data (where available at this stage)</b>	<b>Implications for PPS</b>
<b>Population &amp; human health</b>	Increasing population and ageing population High road casualties, anti-social behaviour in public places Meeting the needs of children and protecting vulnerable children across Aberdeenshire	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	The strategic plan should address issues related to population increase and ageing population
<b>Material Assets</b>	The challenge of refurbishing and replacing most Council properties The need to diversify housing needs to meet changing housing needs Improving housing efficiency and fuel poverty Promoting inclusiveness 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.	HSW (2007) <i>Service Plan for Housing and Social Work</i> . Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council. T&I (2007) <i>Service Plan for Transport and Infrastructure</i> . Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council.	The Strategic plan to provide for the refurbishment of Council properties
<b>Air &amp; Climatic Factors</b>	It is challenging to meet the Council's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2020 in terms of cost and attitude change, behavioural change. It is also challenging pushing the Council's carbon management programme through and promoting car sharing schemes	AC (2007) <i>Scrutiny and Audit Committee Report</i> . Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council. P&ES (2007) <i>Service Plan for Planning and Environmental Services</i> . Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council	The strategic plan should promote carbon neutrality and encourage behavioural change
<b>Water</b>	The need to drive sustainable water supplies across Aberdeenshire It is also challenging accommodating future housing development without putting pressure on water abstraction from the Dee River.	P& ES (2007) <i>Service Plan for Planning and Environmental Services</i> . Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council	The strategic plan should promote sustainable use of resources such as water
<b>Soil &amp; Waste</b>	Meeting recycling and landfill diversion targets	P& ES (2007) <i>Service Plan for Planning and Environmental Services</i> . Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council	The strategic plan should encourage recycling
<b>Landscape</b>	The challenge of managing access to the natural environment Improving coordinated, effective and	P& ES (2007) <i>Service Plan for Planning and</i>	The strategic plan should encourage responsible and

	responsive streetscene services	<i>Environmental Services</i> . Aberdeen: Aberdeenshire Council	management of the natural environment and streetscene
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	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 plan should protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment
<b>Biodiversity</b>	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 plan should promote and protect biodiversity

## 2.1 Scope and Level of Detail Proposed for the Environmental Assessment

### 2.2 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. For example, the Aberdeenshire Community Plan provides the overarching framework for the Council's strategic planning, and the strategic priorities have been developed around the five Community Planning themes of Community Well Being, Jobs and the Economy, Lifelong Learning, Sustainable Environment, and Developing our Partnerships, with an additional Council theme of Corporate Improvement. The strategic priorities are also clearly linked to the Council's vision for Aberdeenshire. Furthermore, the strategic priorities are developed following consideration of national initiatives and local priorities, taking into account local circumstances and pressures, feedback from local communities in the form of Local Community Plans, and the views of customers and residents through customer feedback, Resident's Surveys and the Aberdeenshire Citizen's Panel. Services also agree operational priorities and actions linked to the six planning themes (Community Well Being, Jobs & the Economy, Lifelong Learning, Sustainable Environment, Developing our Partnerships, Corporate Improvement) in the same way as the strategic priorities. The strategic and operational priorities are linked to budgets, and reviewed and refined as necessary depending on the financial outlook. Under these broad considerations, a broad vision is developed setting the framework for alternative sub-themes, strategic priorities and action plans.

Option 1: Community Wellbeing: This option chooses its vision as "helping to create and sustain the best quality of life for all through safe, friendly and lively communities." Alternative sub-themes considered under this vision include community safety, children's services, health and care, housing, inclusiveness and public spaces and buildings. These alternatives undergird the SEA issue of population and human health.

Option 2: Jobs and Economy: This option chooses its vision as "helping to create and sustain the best quality of life for all through an enterprising and adaptable economy." Alternative sub-themes considered under this vision include attracting and supporting businesses, transport and roads maintenance. It is envisaged that this option will support material asset as an SEA issue.

Option 3: Lifelong Learning: The vision for this option is "helping to create and sustain the best quality of life for all through happy, healthy and confident people." It covers such themes as community learning, leisure, achievement and participation. The option will also support population and human health issues.

Option 4: Sustainable Environment: It has as its vision "helping to sustain the best quality of life for all through our special environment and diverse culture." Alternative issues of critical importance to the Council, and which are captured under this option, include carbon management, sustainability, the historical environment, the natural environment and waste management. This option seeks to have positive effects on issues such as cultural heritage, landscape, biodiversity, fauna and flora, air, climatic factors, water and soil among others.

Option 5: Developing our Partnerships: The vision that drives this option is "working with our partners in the Northeast and beyond." It considers the sub-themes of community planning; partnership working and shared services as key to the option.

Option 6: Corporate Improvement: It is envisioned that Aberdeenshire Council will "always be looking to the future, finding new and more efficient ways of doing things, Involving, responding and enabling." The alternatives considered under this vision are resource management, customer service, performance management and efficiency. To a limited extent this option will address material asset as an issue.

These 6 options are outlined here in order to set the context for the following two sections of this report, i.e. scoping of SEA issues and consideration of a framework for the assessment of environmental effects of the alternatives.

### **2.3 Scoping in/out of SEA issues**

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Aberdeenshire Council has considered whether the environmental effects (positive and negative) of Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan are likely to be significant. From the environmental problems listed in Table 3 there are problems and challenges relating to all SEA issues in varying degrees. Besides, in exception of option 6, the options also seek to influence all environmental issues during the implementation phases of the plan. For these reasons, we consider that the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects (positive or negative) on all environmental issues at a strategic level. A summary of our conclusions is given in Table 4.

**Table 4. Scoping of SEA issues**

SEA issues	Scoped in	Scoped out	If scoped out, why
Biodiversity, flora, fauna	Yes		
Population	Yes		
Human health	Yes		
Soil	Yes		
Water	Yes		
Air	Yes		
Climatic factors	Yes		
Material assets	Yes		
Cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)	Yes		
landscape	Yes		

## 2.4 Methodology for assessing environmental effects

The strategic plan 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 visions and strategic priorities 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 and population and human health.

**Table 5: Assessment of effects – Option 1 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
<b>Community Safety Strategic Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the number of road casualties on our roads by 40%</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	++	Overall the implementation of this priority is likely to have long-term positive effect on population and human health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to identify and tackle antisocial behaviour, particularly vandalism, neighbour difficulties and antisocial behaviour in public places</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	++	This will improve the quality of life for neighbours
<b>Children's Service Strategic Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with partners to ensure the needs of Aberdeenshire's children are met</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	++	This will have a long-term positive effect on children's quality of life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that child protection measures are in place to protect vulnerable children across Aberdeenshire</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?/+	Positive long-term effects if priority is implemented but uncertain if not implemented
<b>Health and care Strategic Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the Joint Health Improvement Plan is implemented</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?/+	Positive if implemented
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate and modernise services for older people in conjunction with the NHS</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	++	Likely to have long-term positive effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review strategies for client groups across Housing and Social Work</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?/+	Positive if review leads to improvements
<b>Key</b> + + Very positive effect    + Positive effect    0 Neutral effect    # it depends - - Very negative effect    - Negative effect    ? Uncertain effect									

**Table 6 Assessment of Effects - Option 1 - Community Wellbeing contd.**

	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
<b>Housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure there is sufficient diversity in housing types and sizes to meet the changing needs of Aberdeenshire's residents.</li> </ul>	--	+/-	+	-	+/-	+/-	+	+	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the Council's housing stock meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015</li> </ul>	?	+	?	0	0	0	0	+	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the needs of homeless people are met alongside SE requirements in relation to national policy</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	++	To be completed
<b>Inclusiveness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the number of households in Aberdeenshire in fuel poverty.</li> </ul>	?	+	?	?	?	?	+	++	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with partners to take forward community regeneration activities</li> </ul>	+/-	+	+	+/-	+	+/-	+	++	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work to integrate migrant workers into Aberdeenshire communities.</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the rolling programme of works to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and ensure that services are accessible to members of the public with a disability.</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	To be completed
<b>Public Spaces and Buildings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieve better coordinated, more effective and responsive streetscene services</li> </ul>	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	To be completed
<b>Key</b> ++ Very positive effect    + Positive effect    0 Neutral effect    # it depends -- Very negative effect    - Negative effect    ? Uncertain effect									

**Table 7 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
<b>Attracting and Supporting Businesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of innovative products and technologies, such as renewable energies.</li> </ul>	#	+	#	0	#	+/-	?	?	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage diversification into green business techniques.</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote Aberdeenshire nationally and internationally as a location for employment, living and leisure.</li> </ul>	#	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an asset management plan for the industrial and commercial estate to ensure an adequate supply of employment land and business premises at appropriate locations.</li> </ul>	--	#	#	?	?	?	+	+	To be completed
<b>Transport</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the Joint Health Improvement Plan is implemented</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	++	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate and modernise services for older people in conjunction with the NHS</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	++	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review strategies for client groups across Housing and Social Work</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	To be completed
<b>Roads Maintenance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to improve our roads maintenance services.</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	To be completed
<b>Key</b> ++ Very positive effect    + Positive effect    0 Neutral effect    # It depends -- Very negative effect    - Negative effect    ? Uncertain effect									

**Table 8 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
<p><b>Community learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend and improve the services provided by the Library Service</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve Aberdeenshire's cultural education provision and facilities.</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	#	?	#	To be completed
<p><b>Leisure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the use of sports facilities and swimming pools</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	To be completed
<p><b>Achievement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustain, and raise, where appropriate, levels of achievement and attainment in all our young people, reducing the gender gap at all levels.</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	To be completed
<p><b>Participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve community learning opportunities.</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote participation in community activities.</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	To be completed
<p>Key</p> <p>++ Very positive effect    + Positive effect    0 Neutral effect    # it depends            -- Very negative effect    - Negative effect    ? Uncertain effect</p>									



**Table 9 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
<b>Carbon Management</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the Council's carbon emissions by 20% by 2012</li> </ul>	?	++	?	+	?	?	#	+	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce Aberdeenshire's global footprint</li> </ul>	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+	To be completed
<b>Sustainability</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage energy conservation, including the use of green fuels and small scale renewables</li> </ul>	#	+	#	#	#	?	?	+	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the development of sustainable water supplies</li> </ul>	?	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop sustainable communities</li> </ul>	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage sustainable development</li> </ul>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	To be completed
<b>Historic Environment</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect &amp; promote archaeology</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	+	++	?	?	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect &amp; promote our cultural heritage</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	+	++	?	?	To be completed
<b>Natural Environment</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage access to our natural environment</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?/+	To be completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect &amp; promote our biodiversity</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	++	To be completed
<b>Waste</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceed national 30% recycling target by 2008 and landfill diversion targets by 2010.</li> </ul>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?/+	To be completed
<b>Key</b> ++ Very positive effect    + Positive effect    0 Neutral effect    # it depends - - Very negative effect    - Negative effect    ? Uncertain effect									

**Table 10 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
<b>Community Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further develop our approach to Community Planning at Board, Executive and local level</li> </ul>		?	?	?	?	?	?	++	To be completed
<b>Partnership Working</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that each partnership and joint working arrangement is effective and provides benefits to the Council and Aberdeenshire residents.</li> </ul>		?	?	?	?	?	?	++	To be completed
<b>Shared Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver efficiency savings and strengthen collaborative working through the development of shared services.</li> </ul>		?	?	?	?	?	?	++	To be completed
<b>Key</b> ++ Very positive effect    + Positive effect    0 Neutral effect    # it depends -- Very negative effect    - Negative effect    ? Uncertain effect									

**Table 11 Assessment of Effects - Option 6**

	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
<b>Resource Management</b>									
• Optimise the Council's financial resources.	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	To be completed
• Workforce Management	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	To be completed
• Asset Management	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	To be completed
<b>Customer Service</b>									
• Maximise the ease with which customers are able to contact and interact with the Council.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	To be completed
• Capture the views of our stakeholders and use the information we gather to enhance and prioritise service delivery.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	To be completed
• Improve communications with stakeholders	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	To be completed
<b>Performance Management</b>									
• Strengthen the Council's performance management arrangements.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	To be completed
<b>Efficiency</b>									
• Introduce systems and procedures to facilitate more efficient and cost effective ways of working.	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	To be completed
<p>Key            ++ Very positive effect + Positive effect 0 Neutral effect # it depends            -- Very negative effect - Negative effect ? Uncertain effect</p>									

## 2.5 Cumulative Effect Assessment

A further framework for assessing cumulative effect of the plan/programme/strategy is shown at Table 12 below

**Table 12 Assessment of Cumulative and Synergistic effects of the plan options/alternatives**

Policies	Option 0	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Cumulative impacts
SEA Objective					
Biodiversity (Habitat fragmentation)					
Climate (Climate change)					
Water (Flooding)					
Landscape (Tranquillity)					
Key: + positive, - negative, 0 = neutral =? = uncertain					

## 2.6 Proposed Mitigation Measures

The SEA Directive requires that mitigation measures that make recommendations to prevent, result of implementing the plan. The proposed framework to be adopted to mitigate significant environmental effects is at Table 13.

**Table 13 Proposed Mitigation Measures**

SEA Issue	Existing problem	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
Air			
Water			
Soil			
Climatic factors			
Biodiversity			
Population and Health			
Cultural Heritage			
Landscape			
Material Assets			

## 2.7 Monitoring Framework

The Aberdeenshire Council is required to monitor the significant environmental effects when the plan is implemented. A monitoring report will be integrated into the adopted plan to constantly monitor the significant effects. The framework for monitoring significant effect of the implementation of the plan is shown in Table 14 below. The monitoring data will be incorporated into the PPS

**Table 14 Monitoring Plan**

What needs to be monitored? (effects)	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where can the information be obtained ?	Are there gaps in the existing information and how can it be resolved?	When should the remedial action be considered ?	Who is responsible for undertaking the monitoring?	How should the results be presented ?	What remedial actions could be taken?

### 3.1 Next Steps

#### 3.2 Proposed consultation timescale

Aberdeenshire Council will ensure an early and effective consultation on the strategic plan 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 (a)(iv) in six (6) weeks.

#### 3.3 Anticipated Milestone

Table 15 shows the remaining steps needed for the SEA of Aberdeenshire Strategic Plan and how these steps would be carried out and described in the Final SEA Report.

**Table 15 Anticipated Milestone**

Expected date	Milestone	Comments
1/1/06-1/3/06	Consulting on the Scoping Report	
1/5/06- 1/6/06	Collating views on the Consultation	
1/6/06 – 1/7/06	Take the appropriate action on the Scoping report and the plan as the result of the consultations	
	Finalise the environmental report	
	Consulting on the Environmental Report and the Plan	
	Collating views on the Consultation	
	Take the appropriate action on the environmental report and the plan as the result of the consultations	
	Finalise the environmental report	
	Take post-adoption measures	

#### 3.4 Framework for Analysing Consultees & their comments

In order to track and analyse comments and suggestions from the consultation process, a framework for analysis is provided in Table 16 and Table 17 below

**Table 16 People Consulted on the initial draft of the report**

Source	List names

**Table 17: Analysis of Comments**

Organisation	Issue	Concern/ Comments	How addressed in SEA Process	SEA Report page

#### 4.1 Appendices

##### Appendix 1 Links to other PPS and Environmental Protection objectives

	Name of PPS/Environmental Protection Objectives	Requirements of the PPS	How it affects, or is affected by the Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Plan in terms of SEA issues at Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
		<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>	
1	EC Air Quality Framework Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets new air quality standards for previously unregulated air pollutants</li> <li>• Includes pollutants as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone pollutants.</li> </ul>	<b>Air &amp; Climatic factors</b> The Strategic Plan should limit or reduce the emissions of pollutants
2	EC Birds and Habitats Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protects all wild birds, their nests, eggs and habitats within the EC Gives basis to classify Special Protection Areas to protect rare and vulnerable birds Gives basis to classify Special Areas of Conservation.</li> </ul>	<b>Biodiversity, fauna</b> Strategic plan should ensure the protection of all wild, rare and vulnerable birds, their nests, eggs and habitats.
3	EC Birds Directive 79/409/EEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide for the protection, management and control of all species of naturally occurring wild birds;</li> <li>• Seeks to preserve habitats for naturally occurring, rare and migratory species</li> </ul>	<b>Biodiversity, Fauna and flora</b> The Strategic Plan should not hinder protection, management and control of species of naturally occurring wild birds
4	EC Habitat Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</li> <li>• Maintain or restore natural habitats</li> <li>• Take into account economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics</li> </ul>	<b>Biodiversity, Fauna and flora</b> The Strategic Plan should maintain and restore natural habitats to ensure biodiversity
5	European Biodiversity Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity</li> <li>• Emphasises education, training and awareness, research, identification, monitoring and exchange of information</li> </ul>	<b>Biodiversity, Fauna and flora</b> The Strategic Plan should support conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

6	European Framework on sustainable development 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote quality of life, coherent and costs effective policy-making; technological innovation; stronger involvement of civil society; and business in policy formulation</li> <li>Strategies for sustainable economic growth should support social progress and respect the local environment</li> </ul>	<p><b>All Issues</b> The Strategic Plan support social progress and respect local environment -</p>
7	European Spatial Development Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>It stresses more balanced competitiveness of the European territory</li> </ul>	<p><b>All Issues</b> The Strategic Plan should have a sustainable vision and provide sustainable spatial policies. This may encompass many issues</p>
8	Kyoto Protocol (1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourages reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases</li> <li>UK seeks to reduce emissions of six key greenhouse gases by 12.5% relative 1990 level over the period 2008 to 2012.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Air &amp; Climatic factors</b> The Strategic Plan should limit or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases Follow interpretations and targets interpreted into national, regional and local guidance</p>
9	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguard the sustainable use of surface water; transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater</li> <li>Supports the status of aquatic ecosystems and environments;</li> <li>Addresses groundwater pollution; flooding and droughts; river basin management planning;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Water</b> The Strategic Plan should consider sustainable use of water and that mitigate the effects of floods and droughts</p>
10	Construction Products Directive 89/106/EEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Population Human health, Climatic factors</b> The Strategic Plan should promote the use of construction materials that are stable, safe, efficient and minimises noise.</p>

11	Limiting CO2 Emissions by Improving Energy Efficiency (SAVE) Directive 93/76/EEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 sector, thermal insulation of new buildings, regular inspection of boilers and energy audits of undertakings with high energy consumption</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<b>Climatic factors</b> The strategic plan should promote energy efficiency in public buildings
12	Boiler Directive 92/42/EEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<b>Climatic factors</b> The strategic plan should promote the use of energy efficiency boilers in public buildings
13	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<b>Climatic factors</b> The strategic plan should promote energy efficiency in public buildings
		<b>NATIONAL</b>	
14	BREEAM/ EcoHomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This programme sets the standards for development schemes to minimise their environmental impact,</li> <li>• Seeks the implementation of energy and water efficiency techniques</li> </ul>	<b>Climatic factors, water</b> The Strategic Plan should ensure the environmental impact of buildings is minimised
15	Climate Change: The UK programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes local authorities central to more sustainable development and land use, energy efficiency, in housing provision, transport</li> <li>• Promotes well-being in communities through energy saving measures/low carbon technologies</li> <li>• Best Value Performance Indicator 180 requires local authorities to benchmark energy use in their operational property</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<b>All Issues</b> The Strategic Plan should promote sustainable alternatives to car and reduce congestion traffic pollution



16	Historic Scotland's Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides the context for listed buildings, conservation areas, as well as Gardens and Designated Landscapes</li> <li>• Clarifies the context for listed building consents and the intervention by planning authorities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should be consistent with designations</p>
17	Meeting the Needs, Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritises responsible resource use;</li> <li>• Encourages the generation of less energy and use power from renewable sources;</li> <li>• Ensures provision of affordable and encourage better land use planning, alternative service delivery and sustainable transport systems.</li> </ul>	<p><b>All Issues</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should promote efficient resource use, energy efficiency and the which reduces the need to travel</p>
18	National Waste Framework (Scotland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Soil, water, air</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should promote waste minimisation</p>
19	Scottish Executive Policy Statement for Scotland - Designing Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raises standards of urban and rural development.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Population and human health</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should promote the economy, support the community and the public service</p>
20	Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out a series of measures, which are designed to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland.</li> <li>• Places a general duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Biodiversity, flora &amp; fauna</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should promote biodiversity</p>

21	Passed to the Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is Historic Scotland's Policy for the sustainable Management of the Historic Environment</li> <li>• Stress the value of retaining and where possible and the right to do so, re-using existing structures and materials</li> <li>• Explains the continued relevance of traditional building materials and local craft skills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b> The Strategic Plan should encourage the re-use of existing and traditional structures and materials</p>
22	Scotland's Transport Future: The Transport White Paper (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports building, enhancing, managing and maintaining of transport services infrastructure and networks</li> <li>• Promote social inclusion; protect our environment and improve health</li> <li>• Improve safety of journeys</li> <li>• Improve integration by making journey planning and ticketing easier and working to ensure smooth connection between different forms of transport.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>All Issues</b> The Strategic Plan should promote economic growth, social Inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety</p>
23	Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 & 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures that discrimination law covers all the activities of the public sector; and requires public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Population and Human health</b> The Strategic Plan should build the needs of the disabled persons into its strategic actions</p>
24	Physical Activity Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aims to increase and maintain the proportion of physically active people in Scotland.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Population and Human health</b> The Strategic Plan should promote physical activities</p>

25	Scottish Executive Marine & Coastal Framework (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Biodiversity, Population &amp; human health</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should promote clean, safe, healthy and productive coastal environment</p>
26	Scottish Historic Environment Policy 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out the policy for the identification and designation of nationally important ancient monuments</li> <li>• Sets the context to conserve the evidence of Scotland's past based on their cultural significance.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should ensure the conservation of historic areas of cultural significance</p>
27	NPPG5 - Archaeology and Planning (1998)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeks to encourage the preservation of the heritage of sites and landscapes of archaeological and historic</li> <li>• Promotes the enjoyment and understanding of heritage,</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should take account of the fact that housing framework should preserve archaeological remains</p>
28	NPPG10 - Planning and Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a strategic view of waste management; identifies strategic areas suitable for waste treatment and disposal facilities while reducing waste movements</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<p><b>Soil, Air</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should safeguard the natural and built environment including designated areas, green belts, open countryside and the coast and promote waste minimisation</p>

29	NPPG11 - Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space (1996)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aims to address the land use implications of sport and physical recreation including golfing. The guidance also encompasses aspects of informal physical recreation that 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.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<p><b>Population and Human health</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should safeguard open spaces and promote recreation</p>
30	NPPG13 - Coastal Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeks the protection of areas of natural importance and along coastlines</li> <li>• 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;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Biodiversity, water, soil</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should avoid damage to coastal areas</p>

31	NPPG14 - Natural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Includes all National Scenic Areas, Sites of Specific Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves and National Parks as natural heritage designations of national importance</li> <li>• Seeks protection for species and habitats identified as priorities in Local Biodiversity Action Plans consistent with the UK Biodiversity Action Plan</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should protect species or habitats, safeguard and enhance the wider natural heritage beyond the confines of designated areas</p>
32	SPP1 - The Planning System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes sustainable economic Development in planning</li> <li>• Encourages and supports regeneration and social justice through the planning system</li> <li>• Maintaining and enhancing the quality of natural heritage and built environment</li> </ul>	<p><b>All Issues</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should pursue sustainable economic development, regeneration and social justice</p>
33	SPP2 Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeks a more close links between key business locations, transport and other development activity;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<p><b>Material Asset</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should promote sustainable economic development</p>

34	SPP3 Planning for Housing (2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages the planning system to create quality residential environments; guide development to the right places; and deliver an adequate supply of housing land.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Landscape, biodiversity, material asset</b> The Strategic Plan should seek to minimise adverse effects on natural heritage, including landscape character and biodiversity.</p>
35	SPP 6 Renewable Energy (Draft)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding sites with potential for renewable energy projects against sterilisation by development</li> <li>• Protecting areas of important natural and built heritage from inappropriate forms of development</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Climatic factors</b> The Strategic Plan should encourage renewable energy use in developments</p>
36	SPP7 Planning and flooding (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Encourages flood prevention and alleviation measures to respect wider environmental concerns and not lead to deterioration in the ecological status of the watercourse.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Water, biodiversity</b> The Strategic Plan should prevent flood and protects the environment</p>

37	PAN 61 Planning And Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<p><b>Water &amp; Soil</b> The Strategic Plan should consider the role of sustainable urban drainage</p>
38	PAN 77 Designing Safer Places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlights the positive role that planning can play in helping to create attractive, well-managed environments which help to discourage antisocial and criminal behaviour.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cultural heritage, Population &amp; human health</b> The Strategic Plan should safeguard safety</p>
		<b>REGIONAL</b>	
39	Economic Growth Framework for North East Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets the context for economic prosperity which will in turn drive housing development</li> <li>• Promote sustainable economic growth; sustainable competitiveness and inclusive communities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Material asset</b> The Strategic Plan should support sustainable economic growth</p>

40	Joint Health Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Supports action to suppress poverty, lack of physical activity and leisure facilities, poor housing and other factors that contribute to physical inequality;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Population &amp; human health</b></p> <p>Develop a strategic plan that support health and well-being</p>
41	North East Area Waste Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<p><b>Soil, air, water</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should promote waste minimisation and environmental protection</p>
42	North East of Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity in the north east through the development of effective, local, working partnerships;</li> <li>• Ensure that national targets for species and habitats, as specified in the UK Action Plan, are translated into effective local action;</li> <li>• .</li> </ul>	<p><b>Biodiversity, fauna &amp; flora</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should promote biodiversity</p>
43	North East Scotland Together Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a long-term sustainable framework of settlements in a hierarchy, which focuses major development on the main settlements in the North East,</li> <li>• Sets the strategic context for Aberdeen City Local Plan which in turn set the framework for land use housing development</li> </ul>	<p><b>All Issues</b></p> <p>The Strategic Plan should promote sustainable development</p>
		<b>LOCAL</b>	



44	Aberdeenshire Community Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Promotes Aberdeen as a forward-looking city that recognises its heritage and its internationally recognised institutions and services; and seeks to give Aberdeen a strong, positive image of itself both nationally and internationally.</li> </ul>	<p><b>All Issues</b> The Strategic Plan should support accessibility, health, Safety, and the environment</p>
45	Aberdeenshire Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Framework and Fuel Poverty Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Seeks to lift poor households from fuel poverty.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Air, Climatic factors</b> The Strategic Plan should promote energy efficiency</p>



**Appendix 2: Baseline data, targets and trends affecting Aberdeenshire Council**

**Table 18: SEA Topic: Air**

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

**Table 19: SEA Topic: Water**

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

	between 2002 and 2004 in the flood plain.				
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<p>Ground water and river levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water runoff is reduced by public water supply abstraction for rivers Dee and Dye (a tributary of the River Dee near Banchory).</li> <li>• Runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow for all rivers in the North East.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Data on ground water in Scotland was not available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By the 2080s summer precipitation decreases of 20-40% under the low emissions (Global Sustainability), and more than 40% under the high-emissions World Markets scenario are predicted in the south of Scotland</li> <li>• By the 2080s, summer precipitation decreases of 10-20% under the low emissions (Global Sustainability), and 20-30% under the high-emissions World Markets scenario are predicted in the north of Scotland.</li> <li>• In the Highlands, river runoff can be affected by hydro- power stations.</li> <li>• Data on ground water in Scotland was not available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rainfall levels are predicted to decline during the summer months, which may affect a rivers yield rate, but this will be less severe further north.</li> <li>• Rainfall in winter months is predicted to increase.</li> <li>• Increase in water consumption from industrial consumers and from increased residential development.</li> <li>• Increase in leakages from pipe infrastructure as it 'ages'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to start reducing water abstraction by incorporating water efficient technologies into new development (industrial and domestic) in light of the predicted decrease in summer rainfall.</li> <li>• A decrease in summer precipitation may lead to a decline in ground water levels in upland areas (resulting in private supplies running out), and reduce the likelihood of new development proposals in these areas.</li> <li>• Future development may put a constraint on this indicator.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centre for Hydrology and Ecology (River Flow – gauging stations) (2004): <a href="http://www.nwl.ac.uk/ih/nrfa/station_summaries/op/SEPA-north_map.html">http://www.nwl.ac.uk/ih/nrfa/station_summaries/op/SEPA-north_map.html</a></li> <li>• SEPA: <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/river_levels/data.htm">http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/river_levels/data.htm</a></li> <li>• Aberdeen City (2002) State of the Environment Report, <i>aberdeenfutures</i> <a href="http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&amp;slD=883">http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&amp;slD=883</a></li> </ul>
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<p>Water quality (biology and chemistry)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2006 all bathing water passed the European tests.</li> <li>• In 2005 there was 1 failure.</li> <li>• Overall, two areas (Stonehaven and Cruden Bay) have the poorest bathing water quality, last failing in 2005 (Stonehaven) and 2002 (Cruden Bay).</li> <li>• Groundwater vulnerability map from SEPA website indicates most of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire as vulnerable from pollutants that are not readily absorbed or transformed (class 4), except to the south of the Highland Boundary Fault (near Stonehaven) and along the Formartine/Buchan coast.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2006, all 63 sites in Scotland have satisfied European bathing water standards for the first time since monitoring began.</li> <li>• South West Scotland has the poorest bathing water quality principally due to leaching and runoff from agricultural practices (dairy).</li> <li>• Groundwater vulnerability map from SEPA website shows that the least vulnerable areas susceptible to pollutants is in the Central Belt and north of Scotland (John O' Groats).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated Scottish Water's sewage treatment works have greatly improved bathing water quality.</li> <li>• Water quality overall is good in Scotland.</li> <li>• Improved agricultural practices (e.g. runoff) have reduced water pollution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bathing water quality not meeting EC Guideline Standards in Stonehaven, Cruden Bay and Aberdeen.</li> <li>• Impacts on bathing water from future uses, such as the rise in water sports, which could have an adverse impact on water quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEPA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/bathingwaters/bw2006/north.asp">http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/bathingwaters/bw2006/north.asp</a></li> <li>○ <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/bathingwaters/bw2006/north.asp">http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/bathingwaters/bw2006/north.asp</a></li> <li>○ <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/groundwater/tools/vulnerability.pdf">http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/groundwater/tools/vulnerability.pdf</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Scottish Executive Statistics Environment: <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/15637/sesoSubSearch/Q/SID/82">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/15637/sesoSubSearch/Q/SID/82</a></li> <li>• Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i> <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47032/0014776.pdf">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47032/0014776.pdf</a></li> <li>• European Directive 76/160/EEC, which sets mandatory bacteriological and other health-related standards for bathing waters in Europe.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total length of poor rivers: 51km. Appendix 4, Table 1 provides a full list of those watercourses.</li> <li>• Total length of seriously polluted rivers: 2.1km.</li> <li>• There are 2 watercourses within the City with poor water quality.</li> <li>• There are 10 watercourses within Aberdeenshire with poor water quality.</li> <li>• A build-up of nitrates from diffuse pollution within the River Ythan catchment has enriched estuarine mudflats such that dense algal mats now affect invertebrate communities living in the mud.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Scotland, 717km of rivers are poor and 51km are seriously polluted.</li> <li>• The majority of the poor quality rivers are located in the Central Belt and Fife.</li> <li>• Watercourses that are seriously polluted are mostly located in Glasgow City.</li> </ul>	<p>Land based pollution from wastewater and sewage has been brought under stricter control, which has resulted in river quality throughout the North East slowly improving.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2005, 53.1km of water courses in the North East are classified as poor or seriously polluted as a result of poor chemistry and biology quality.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEPA (River Classification Stretch Data, 2005): <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm">http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm</a></li> <li>• Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i> <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47032/0014776.pdf">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47032/0014776.pdf</a></li> </ul>
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	<p>The shoreline along Sandford Bay &amp; Boddam (Peterhead Power Station) (4km) is classified as poor.</p>	<p>Other small sections along the coast (Gardenstown, River Don and Stonehaven) also have sections of coastline classified as poor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2000, industrial effluent pollutes a total length of 58km of coastline in Scotland, representing 22%.</li> <li>• Sewage effluent is the main cause of polluted coastlines (87%).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peterhead Power Station is likely to be contributing to the poor water quality.</li> <li>• In the North East, the main cause of poor quality coastline is the result of sewage effluent being released untreated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEPA (Coastal Classification Stretch Data, 2005): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm">http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm</a> and</li> <li>○ <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/data/classification/coastal_waters_classification.pdf">http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/data/classification/coastal_waters_classification.pdf</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Scottish Executive Environment Statistics: <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/15637/sesoSubSearch/Q/SID/103">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/15637/sesoSubSearch/Q/SID/103</a></li> </ul>
<p>the coastal impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes.</li> <li>• Balloon releases, and marine litter are damaging the marine environment.</li> <li>• In the North East, sea borne waste pollution is principally from urban sewage (although this is declining), chemical waste, and agricultural fertilisers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The North Sea was once considered to be the most contaminated sea in Europe.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are only a few places that allow quad-biking legally.</li> <li>• Sea-borne waste is a common problem throughout Scotland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major impact both on the sand dune erosion, wildlife and the enjoyment of other beach users.</li> <li>• Bathing water quality along the North East coast is improving.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Grampian Coastal Partnership (Annual Report 2005-06): <a href="http://www.egcp.org.uk/documents/Toc138674449">http://www.egcp.org.uk/documents/Toc138674449</a></li> <li>• Forth Estuary Forum: <a href="http://www.forthestuaryforum.co.uk/downloads/strategy.pdf">http://www.forthestuaryforum.co.uk/downloads/strategy.pdf</a></li> <li>• Marine Conservation Society <a href="http://www.mcsuk.org/mcsaction/pollution/introduction">http://www.mcsuk.org/mcsaction/pollution/introduction</a></li> </ul>

**Table 20: SEA Topic: Soil**

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

				including for instance local ecology.	
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<p>Prime agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Aberdeenshire, prime agricultural land is located principally in the central area (excluding Marr), and south of the Highland Boundary Fault (near Stonehaven).</li> <li>• Most Grade 2 prime agricultural land is found south of the Highland Boundary Fault, near Laurencekirk (approx 950ha).</li> <li>• Climate change is predicted to have an affect on precipitation (to increase in winter months and decrease during the summer), storm events, and sea level, which will affect prime quality agricultural land in the North East.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen contains very little prime agricultural land (300ha).</li> <li>• Prime agricultural land comprises around 5.8 % of Scotland's land surface, and is principally located in the eastern central belt and lowlands.</li> <li>• 6.7% of Scotland 's prime agricultural land is within flood risk areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net loss of Scottish agriculture land from roads, housing and industry has doubled from 588ha in 1989 to 1,402ha in 2003.</li> <li>• As a result of predicted increases in winter rainfall, all the major rivers in the North East are prone to meandering where flood defences have not been built.</li> <li>• Increase in storm events may increase the threat of soil erosion from the wind on low-lying areas, reducing the nutrient value of fields.</li> <li>• Sea level on the east coast is predicted to rise</li> </ul>	<p>Potential loss of prime agricultural land from climate change – precautionary approach may need to be applied in certain areas (e.g. on prime agricultural land near flood plains, along the coast, and on land of the highest quality).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Executive Statistics (2005): Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/2290402/05121">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/2290402/05121</a></li> <li>• Scottish Executive (2002) Climate Change: Flooding Occurrences Review: <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/kd01/lightgreen/ccfo.pdf">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/kd01/lightgreen/ccfo.pdf</a></li> <li>• Davidson, D.A. and Grieve, I.C. (2004) <i>Trends in soil erosion</i>, SNH Commissioned Report No. 054 (ROAME No. F00AC106) <a href="http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf">http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf</a></li> <li>• Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> <a href="http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal_Defence/Reports_and_Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf">http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal_Defence/Reports_and_Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf</a></li> </ul>
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			<p>34 to 55cm by the 2080s (rising 1.0mm per year).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air temperatures are also predicted to rise by a few degrees.</li> </ul>		
Waste disposal in landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2005 figures for landfill and recycling in Aberdeenshire stands at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ landfilled BMW: 83,222 tonnes; and</li> <li>○ recycled/ composted MSW: 15.1% (23,366).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• BMW landfill allowances for Aberdeenshire are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 54,917 tonnes in 2009/10;</li> <li>○ 36,611 tonnes in 2012/13; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2005 figures for landfill and recycling in Aberdeen stands at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ landfilled biodegradable municipal waste (BMW): 70,773; and</li> <li>○ recycled/ composted municipal solid waste (MSW):</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish recycling/composting rate in 2005 is 22.8% (778,809 tonnes).</li> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council is focussing on waste minimisation, and recycling second, hence the lower %.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough sites for recycling or composting biodegradable municipal waste (large, medium or small scale) to help the local authorities achieve their recycling and landfill targets, although funding is being sought from the Scottish Executive's Strategic Waste Fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North East Scotland Area Waste Plan (2003) <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/areas/north_east/awp/2.4.html">http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/areas/north_east/awp/2.4.html</a></li> <li>• Aberdeen City Council <a href="http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/site/Rubbish/rubbish/WasteStrategy.asp">http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/site/Rubbish/rubbish/WasteStrategy.asp</a></li> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council Waste Team</li> <li>• RPS (2006) <i>North of Scotland Strategic Option Review Group: Strategic</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 27,340 tonnes in 2019/20.</li> <li>• National recycling targets are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2006 – 25%</li> <li>2008 – 30%</li> <li>2020 – 55%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Aberdeenshire's recycling targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2005/06 – 17%</li> <li>○ 2006/07 – 22%</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>16.5% (22,500 tonnes) (this has increased to 22% in 2005/06).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMW landfill allowances for Aberdeen are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 53,004 tonnes in 2009/10;</li> <li>○ 35,336 tonnes in 2012/13; and</li> <li>○ 26,387 tonnes in 2019/20.</li> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>the lower %.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is expected that the level of recycling will continue to rise.</li> <li>• To meet the Waste Landfill Direct, the North of Scotland Strategic Options Review (includes Highland, Moray, Angus and City and Shire councils) is looking at several different methods to dispose of municipal waste, including incineration (energy from waste plant).</li> </ul>	<p>to build the necessary infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing, schools, and employment uses (e.g. retail and offices) are of inadequate design to maximise the storing and collection of waste to be recycled.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Review Group: Strategic Outline Case</i>  <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/113890/0027685.pdf">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/113890/0027685.pdf</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landfill Allowance Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2005 – Interim Guidance, Scottish Executive  <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/0012514.pdf">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/0012514.pdf</a></li> </ul>
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Soil erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From Berwick to Aberdeen, the coastline is eroding, but is stable where there are rocky coasts or coastal defences.</li> <li>• From Aberdeen to Inverness the coastline is largely eroding, but parts are being replenished with sand and gravel from larger rivers.</li> <li>• Greater rainfall is predicted in the winter months, and rivers will be more prone to meandering, increasing the level of silt in watercourses (including Inverurie, Kintore, Kemnay).</li> <li>• Predicted increase in winter precipitation and storms will increase soil erosion from the wind and surface water runoff.</li> <li>• Use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The north of Scotland is mostly stable with little erosion, but south of Mallaig, towards Carlisle, the coastline is predominantly eroding but stable where there are rocky coasts or coastal defences.</li> <li>• Precipitation will be greater in the west due to the west-east precipitation gradient.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The coastline is predominantly eroding along the east.</li> <li>• Autumn/Winter rainfall is predicted to increase, giving rise to winter storms and affecting runoff and (wind and water) erosion.</li> <li>• Upland schemes such as wind farm access roads and recreation tracks (e.g. mountain biking) on steep ground can increase surface water runoff and lead to significant soil loss (e.g. gullies).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal erosion mostly where there are no rocks or coastal defences</li> <li>• Increase silting of rivers from fluvial flooding</li> <li>• Increase in soil erosion from wind and water, which may also be exacerbated by bad land use practices, such as locating tracks/access roads on steep/upland ground.</li> <li>• Increasing use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes is contributing to coastal erosion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Strategic Flooding Issues Topic Paper</i></li> <li>• Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i></li> <li>• Aberdeen Council Natural Heritage Team</li> <li>• Davidson, D.A. and Grieve, I.C. (2004) <i>Trends in soil erosion</i>, Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 054 (ROAME No. F00AC106) <a href="http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf">http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf</a></li> </ul>
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**Table 21: SEA Topic: Biodiversity**

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
North East Biodiversity Action Plan (NE BAP) targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm intensification and specialisation practices have transformed habitats (e.g. removal of meadows and hedgerows) and reduced species numbers (e.g. barn owls).</li> <li>• Action plans have been prepared for 20 out of the 26 habitats identified in the NE BAP.</li> <li>• Action plans on upland species-rich grassland, coastal cliffs and heaths, marine habitats, broadleaf woodland, heathland, lochs and ponds, and wetlands are in development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of UK BAP priority species in Scotland in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stable: 56 (27%)</li> <li>○ Increase: 11 (5%)</li> <li>○ Extinct: 5 (3%)</li> <li>○ Declining (accelerating): 11 (5%)</li> <li>○ Declining (slowing): 18 (9%)</li> <li>○ Fluctuating: 3 (1%)</li> <li>○ Unknown: 90 (44%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Status of UK BAP priority habitats in Scotland in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stable: 8 (27%)</li> <li>○ Increase: 5 (13%)</li> <li>○ Declining</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NE BAP is meeting the targets for preparing action plans, as set out in the UK BAP.</li> <li>• UK BAP 2005 trends show that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10 habitats (22%) and 42 species (11%) are increasing.</li> <li>○ 17 habitats (39%) are thought to be declining, although this decline is slowing for 11 (25%) habitats.</li> <li>○ 102 species (27%) are thought to be declining, but the decline is slowing for 36 (10%) species.</li> <li>○ UK trend was unknown for 11 habitats (24%) and 47 species (13%).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Changes in farm practices have increased habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat of Alien Species effecting water quality and ecological status of the rivers.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Implementation of the NE BAPs is the key issue to enhancing biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Key Scottish Environment Statistics</i>: <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/921/0036584.pdf">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/921/0036584.pdf</a></li> <li>• DEFRA (2005) <i>The UK Biodiversity Action Plan – Highlights from the 2005 reporting round</i></li> <li>• UK BAP targets for Local Biodiversity Action Plans <a href="http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/brig/trgtargets/ScotlandLBAPTTargets.xls">http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/brig/trgtargets/ScotlandLBAPTTargets.xls</a></li> <li>• Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i></li> <li>• NE Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Plans</i>: <a href="http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm">www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm</a></li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(accelerating): 0</li> <li>o Decli</li> <li>ning (slowing):</li> <li>12 (30%)</li> <li>o Fluct</li> <li>uating: 0</li> <li>o Unkn</li> <li>own: 11 (28%)</li> </ul>	and species numbers.		
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<p>Designated areas</p> <p>For the number and location of natural heritage designations see Appendix 4, Table 2 and Figures 1, 2 and 3.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The River Dee's designation as a Special Area of Conservation will have a knock-on effect on future development within the river's catchment.</li> <li>• The lack of appropriate management of some designated natural heritage sites is affecting their underlying objective (of that designation) and overall integrity.</li> <li>• No monitoring of SINS has been undertaken, but they are under review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Moray Council's Monitoring report did not identify any adverse impacts on designated sites as a result of new development that would result in the need to amend it's environment policies on natural heritage designations.</li> <li>• The main targets to be achieved are the conservation and enhancement of designated sites, and permitting only those developments that will not adversely affect these designations directly and indirectly, unless the proposal will be of national benefit to the population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning policies have generally prohibited developments within International and national designations that may harm these sites, and indirect impacts are affecting some important wetland sites.</li> <li>• The River Dee's designation as a Special Area of Conservation will affect future development within the river's catchment, which includes Cults, Peterculter, Banchory Aboyne, and Tarland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International designations: the significance and purpose of SACs is that development in or adjacent to them, such as the River Dee catchment may cumulatively prevent the objectives of these designations being met, and prevent new development being developed.</li> <li>• Indirect impact of development on designated sites that are affecting their water table, and therefore the quality of wetland habitats.</li> <li>• Impact from large-scale leisure and recreation uses.</li> <li>• Increase of access to designated sites could be damaging to some sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure Plan (NEST) (2006) <i>Monitoring Environment Monitoring Paper</i>, Aberdeenshire Council</li> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council, Natural Heritage team</li> <li>• Moray Council (2003) <i>Development Plan Monitoring Paper</i> <a href="http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_42476.html">http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_42476.html</a></li> <li>• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Natural Heritage Topic Paper</i></li> <li>• Aberdeen City (2002) <i>State of the Environment Report</i>, aberdeen<i>utures</i> <a href="http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&amp;SID=883">http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&amp;SID=883</a></li> </ul>
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<p>Non-designated areas and enhancing biodiversity (reducing loss of habitat and species)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of monitoring of non-designated sites.</li> <li>• Land allocations for residential developments have been proposed in wooded areas in the Aberdeenshire Local Plan (e.g. Banchory).</li> <li>• Proposals for new dwellings have been granted consent on coastal sites and in urban green spaces.</li> <li>• Numerous planning applications have been received in the last 5 years for edge of town large-scale retail developments, but these have mostly been on farm or brownfield land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of the NE BAP will assist in safeguarding the North East biodiversity in non-designated sites through several habitat and species Action Plans.</li> <li>• About 10 per cent of the Scottish coastline has been affected by intensive urban or industrial use.</li> <li>• In the upper Forth estuary, it has been estimated that various forms of land uses and development have claimed 50% of the intertidal mudflats.</li> <li>• Research by the UK Biodiversity Partnership has shown that infrastructure development, coastal developments, housing, and more recently global</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development pressure remains constant around the edge of settlements. The Action Plans for the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species shows how much still needs to be done to ensure they are not lost.</li> <li>• Fragmented and/or incomplete networks of open space/wildlife corridors</li> <li>• The loss/fragmentation of sites or open space by new development on or within hospital (or other grounds), as these areas are often viewed as brownfield sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect impacts of development on non-designated sites.</li> <li>• Intensive and unsustainable resource use has resulted in much of the biodiversity lost in both terrestrial and marine environments.</li> <li>• Large-scale schemes around edge of towns are placing significant pressure on unprotected open spaces.</li> <li>• There is significant development pressure for new dwelling houses along the coast.</li> <li>• Incomplete networks of open space/wildlife corridors.</li> <li>• Need to enhance and augment habitats to avoid their decline within settlements.</li> <li>• Risk of increasing population near</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure Plan (NEST) (2005) <i>Monitoring Environment Monitoring Paper</i>, Aberdeenshire Council</li> <li>• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Natural Heritage Topic Paper</i></li> <li>• North East Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Updates</i> <a href="http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/updates.htm">http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/updates.htm</a></li> <li>• North East Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Plans</i> <a href="http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm">http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm</a></li> <li>• *Planning Resource article <i>Study detects key threats to wildlife</i>, 23/06/2006</li> <li>• Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i></li> </ul>
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		warming are the main threats to biodiversity.		sensitive natural heritage areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive use of land, and cumulative impact is resulting in the loss of biodiversity.</li> <li>• There are positive opportunities to enhance forestry and SuDS.</li> </ul>	
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.  16.3 % of Scotland's land areas accommodate 1,451 SSSIs occupying about 1,007,464 hectares of land	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts &amp; Figures 2003/2004. 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 9.6%	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts &amp; Figures 2003/2004. Battleby: SNH</i>

		Scotland's land take.			
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	There are 10 SPAs in Aberdeenshire occupying 29611 hectares representing 4.7% Aberdeenshire's land take.	There are 137 SPAs in Scotland occupying 624780 hectares representing 7.8% Scotland's land take.	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts &amp; Figures 2003/2004. Battleby.</i> SNH
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 &amp; Figures 2003/2004. Battleby.</i> SNH
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 this represents 0.12% of the total land area.	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts &amp; Figures 2003/2004. Battleby.</i> SNH
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	2.3 % of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 6 NNRs which occupy 14318 hectares of land	1.5 % of Scotland's land area accommodates 66 NNRs which occupy 117228 hectares of land	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts &amp; Figures 2003/2004. Battleby.</i> SNH

Ramsar sites	There are 4 Ramsar sites in Aberdeenshire occupying 1239 hectares representing 0.2% of Aberdeenshire's land take.	There are 51 Ramsar sites in Scotland occupying 313208 hectares representing 3.9% of Scotland's land take.	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts &amp; Figures 2003/2004</i> . Battleby: SNH
Historic Gardens and Designated Landscapes (HGDL)	0.9 % of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 27 HGDLs which occupy 5745 hectares of land	0.83% of Scotland's area accommodates 328 HGDLs which occupy 66765 hectares of land	No trend	Housing development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts &amp; Figures 2003/2004</i> . Battleby: SNH
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	Housing development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts &amp; Figures 2003/2004</i> . Battleby: SNH



**Table 22: SEA Topic: Climatic Factors**

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



<p>Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Aberdeenshire an average dwelling house produces 6,318 kg CO<sub>2</sub>,</li> <li>• Total road traffic is forecast to grow by between 22%-34% for the period 2002-2011.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Aberdeen an average dwelling house produces 5,175 kg CO<sub>2</sub>.</li> <li>• The average Scottish household produces 5,505 kg CO<sub>2</sub>.</li> <li>• Scotland contributed 10% to the total UK CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</li> <li>• In 2003, Scotland's main contributors to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 33.2% from power generation (30.5% is the UK average), an increase of 23.6%;</li> <li>○ 18% from road transport; and</li> <li>○ 13% from domestic households.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Kyoto Protocol (1997) CO<sub>2</sub> targets are 12.5% below 1990 baseline – Scottish emissions in 2002 were 6% lower.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall greenhouse gases are decreasing, but Aberdeenshire produces the highest amount of carbon dioxide in Scotland. This is most likely due to the areas high dependence on oil, as very little renewable energy electricity is generated in Aberdeenshire, and the gas pipeline runs only along the eastern side of the area.</li> <li>• The majority of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are from the burning of fossil fuels to generate power (principally electricity).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current layout of low density housing does not reduce energy use (e.g. reducing wind chill, maximising solar gain).</li> <li>• Few properties incorporate in their design resilience to extreme climate and weather conditions.</li> <li>• Materials with high CO<sub>2</sub> levels are still increasingly popular (e.g. concrete and tarmac).</li> <li>• Energy dependence on fossil fuels for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ heat and electricity;</li> <li>and</li> <li>○ transportation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Foot Forward (2006) <i>Domestic Carbon Dioxide Emissions for Selected Cities</i>, British Gas <a href="http://www.britishgasnews.co.uk/managed_content/files/pdf/greenCity.pdf">http://www.britishgasnews.co.uk/managed_content/files/pdf/greenCity.pdf</a></li> <li>• *DEFRA (2005) <i>Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990 – 2003</i> <a href="http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/0509211321_Reghg_report_2003_Main_Text_Issue_1.doc">http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/0509211321_Reghg_report_2003_Main_Text_Issue_1.doc</a>, National Environmental Technology Centre</li> <li>• UK Greenhouse gas inventory, 1990-2004 <a href="http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/0605231047_ukghgi_90-04_v1.1.pdf">http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/0605231047_ukghgi_90-04_v1.1.pdf</a></li> <li>• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Energy</i>, Aberdeenshire Council</li> </ul>
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<p>Areas affected by flooding (sea)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,743 in Aberdeenshire are located within the indicative floodplain or coastal area below 5 meters Ordnance Datum (OD).</li> <li>• The sea-level along the east coast is predicted to rise 34 to 55 cm by the 2080s.</li> <li>• Those settlements that are likely to be affected by rising sea levels are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fraserburgh harbour;</li> <li>○ Peterhead harbour;</li> <li>○ Stonehaven's harbour and the town centre;</li> <li>○ Cowie;</li> <li>○ Banff (east side)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 571 properties in Aberdeen</li> <li>• By the 2080s, the sea-level along the south-west of Scotland is predicted to rise by 31 to 52cm and 36 to 57cm for north-west Scotland.</li> <li>• 3,780 properties in Moray and 6,639 in Angus are located within the coastal area below 5 meters OD. In Glasgow City 14,904 properties will be affected.</li> <li>• In Scotland, the number of residential properties in coastal areas below 5m OD is 86,793</li> <li>• The number of commercial properties in coastal areas below 5m OD is 7,037.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By the 2080s, any part of a settlement below the 5m Ordnance Datum mark is likely to be affected by rising sea levels, high tides, and storm surges.</li> <li>• Rising sea levels will affect the whole of Scotland, especially low-lying areas.</li> <li>• Storm surges represent a less severe threat in the North East, as there are a high proportion of rocky coasts.</li> <li>• Storm surges are predicted to rise by 5m, although they will be much lower further north.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible need for a management retreat of those settlements below the 5m Ordnance Datum mark.</li> <li>• Sea defensive walls may be inadequate as sea levels rise as a result of climate change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i>  <a href="http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous%20Projects/Flood%20and%20Coastal%20Defence/Reports%20and%20Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf">http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous Projects/Flood and Coastal Defence/Reports and Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf</a></li> <li>• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i>, Aberdeenshire Council</li> <li>• SEPA's second generation Indicative Floodplain Maps (1 in 200year flood event)</li> <li>• New Zealand Climate Change Office (2004) <i>Local Communities: Planning for Climate Change</i>  <a href="http://www.climatechange.govt.nz/resources/local-communities-planning-may04/local-communities-planning-change-may04.pdf">http://www.climatechange.govt.nz/resources/local-communities-planning-may04/local-communities-planning-change-may04.pdf</a></li> </ul>
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<p>Areas affected by flooding (fluvial)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By the 2080s, summer precipitation decreases between 10-30% are predicted in the north of Scotland.</li> <li>• 2,219 in Aberdeenshire (out of 95,174) are located within the indicative floodplain.</li> <li>• Those settlements that are most likely to be affected by fluvial flooding (1 in 200yr) are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fraserburgh</li> <li>○ Turriff</li> <li>○ Longside</li> <li>○ Huntly</li> <li>○ Kintore</li> <li>○ Banchory</li> <li>○ Newtonhill</li> </ul>           See Appendix 4, Table 3 for the complete list.         </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By the 2080s summer precipitation decreases of 20-40% under the low emissions (Global Sustainability), and more than 40% under the high-emissions World Markets scenario are predicted in the south of Scotland.</li> <li>• 309 properties in Aberdeen (out of 104,543)</li> <li>• The frequency of extreme 48-hour rainfalls is likely to increase by the 2080s, especially in the west during the winter months when a stronger westerly airflow over Scotland is anticipated</li> <li>• In Scotland, the number of residential properties within inland floodplains is 71,402.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The decrease in summer precipitation will be less farther north compared with southern Scotland.</li> <li>• Compared with the rest of Scotland, far fewer properties in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are at significant risk from flooding.</li> <li>• Frequency of storm events will increase, although it will be less significant along the east of Scotland.</li> <li>• National guidance (SPP7: <i>Planning and Flooding</i>) requires no properties (e.g. dwellings) to be affected by flooding either by being developed in a flood-affected area, or from development upstream.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rise in soil erosion from storm events, which will create a greater need for SuDS, and an increase their water holding capacity.</li> <li>• Rising precipitation and storms will increase fluvial flooding (e.g. 1 in 200 year flood event), which will restrict where new development can be located for some settlements (see Appendix 4, Table 3).</li> <li>• The number of properties at risk from inland fluvial flooding is low, but local flood defensive schemes will still be required, as a result of climate change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> <a href="http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous%20Projects/Flood%20and%20Coastal%20Defence/Reports%20and%20Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf">http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous Projects/Flood and Coastal Defence/ Reports and Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf</a></li> <li>• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i>, Aberdeenshire Council</li> <li>• Scottish Executive (2004) <i>Scottish Planning Policy 7: Planning and Flooding</i></li> </ul>
<p>Areas affected by flooding (pluvial)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 72% of flood problems reported</li> </ul>	<p>Only a handful of sites in Aberdeen are</p>	<p>Sewers are generally designed to a 1:30 year</p>	<p>Rise in precipitation during the winter months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Flooding in</i></li> </ul>

	<p>relate to urban drainage problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Settlements in Aberdeenshire that are affected by pluvial flooding include Huntly, Turriff and Westhill.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>affecting by pluvial flooding, due to culverts being too small for surface water run-off during heavy rain. Pluvial flooding away from the floodplain is difficult to characterise in terms of flood risk. It typically occurs in built-up areas where the urban drainage system is poorly maintained or unable to cope.</p>	<p>return period and so extreme flood events will affect the sewerage network. As a result, there will be an increased requirement of SuDS in new (and even existing) development schemes.</p>	<p>and increase in storms will result in the need for SuDS to prevent pluvial flooding in urban areas.</p>	<p><i>Aberdeenshire: Fifth Biennial Report</i>  <a href="http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/flooding/report/5biennial.pdf">http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/flooding/report/5biennial.pdf</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council Flood Prevention Team</li> <li>• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i>, Aberdeenshire Council</li> </ul>
Priority Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 North East Local Biodiversity Action Plans are required to safeguard priority habitats (protecting priority species are included in these plans).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rise in air and sea temperatures is pushing some bird (e.g. kingfisher) and fish species (e.g. cod) further north.</li> <li>• Birch species may increase in pinewoods, and the tree line may shift from its current line (650m).</li> <li>• Arctic-alpine habitats and arctic species, such as the snow bunting</li> </ul>	<p>The following changes are predicted to affect biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air and sea temperatures are predicted to rise by as much as 2 to 3°C in the next 80 years.</li> <li>• East coast waters are predicted to warm at a greater rate than those in the west.</li> <li>• Wetter autumns and winters, drier, hotter summers and more unpredictable weather events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Climate change may result in existing lowland and upland habitats from disappearing, which will have an adverse affect on the species who live in these</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Executive (2004) <i>Scotland's Biodiversity: It's In Your Hands – A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland</i>  <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/25954/014583.pdf">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/25954/014583.pdf</a></li> <li>• NE Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Plans</i>:  <a href="http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm">www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm</a></li> </ul>

		may disappear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in precipitation will affect run-off and erosion.</li> </ul>	<p>habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to promote appropriate native species in new development schemes to enhance existing biodiversity and preventing the spread of non-native species.</li> </ul>	
Impact on natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aberdeenshire's annual global footprint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total: 5.64gha/p</li> <li>Energy consumption: 1.09ha/person (19%)</li> <li>Food and drink: 1.11ha/person (20%)</li> <li>Land travel: 0.74ha/p (13%)</li> <li>Other: 2.7gha/p (48%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aberdeen's annual global footprint (in global hectares per person (gha/p): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total: 5.80gha/p</li> <li>Energy consumption: 1.14gha/p (20%)</li> <li>Food and drink: 1.07gha/p (19%)</li> <li>Land travel: 0.81ha/p (14%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Other (Government, capital investment, holiday activities, consumables services, and housing): 2.35gha/p (47%)</li> <li>The Scottish average global footprint is 5.37gha/p, which is lower compared to the NE's average.</li> </ul>	The main contributors to the NE's global footprint are energy consumption, food and drink, and land travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aberdeenshire's footprint is increasing and this cannot be sustained in the long-term.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North East Global Footprint Project <a href="http://www.scotlandsfprint.org/the_project/north_east.php">http://www.scotlandsfprint.org/the_project/north_east.php</a></li> <li>Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Scotland's Global Footprint Project - Reduction Report for North East Scotland Global Footprint Project</i>, Joint Global Footprint Co-ordinator, Aberdeen City Council</li> </ul>

<p>Impact on year-round services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flash floods will affect services by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ increasing the maintenance and unblocking of gullies, including slow moving gullies, hecks (grills at the end of a burn), and ditches;</li> <li>○ increase in outlet blockages; and</li> <li>○ overflow of combined water and sewage pipes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sudden/heavy snow fall will affect services by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ melt water affecting drainage</li> <li>○ gritting capability (only able to grit priority routes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rise in sea level will affect services by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ high tides exacerbating tidal rivers and gullies;</li> <li>○ 1 in 19 years cycle of the moon which increases the tides height to 4.7m (a spring tide is 4.5m)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in winter precipitation, including snow melts and storms will affect drainage pipe, road and rail infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing need for service provision throughout the year (e.g. as flood events are predicted to increase during winter seasons).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> <a href="http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous%20Projects/Flood%20and%20Coastal%20Defence/Reports%20and%20Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf">http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous Projects/Flood and Coastal Defence/ Reports and Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf</a></li> <li>• Aberdeen City council</li> </ul>
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**Table 23: 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"> <li>• Significant development pressure on open spaces within settlements.</li> <li>• Development on open spaces limits the council's ability to establish networks of linked open space areas.</li> <li>• There is pressure from private sector developers to limit the extent of open space for new residential developments.</li> <li>• There is a lack of government funding to allow local authorities to continuously manage areas of open space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other urban areas like Dundee are under substantial development pressure.</li> <li>• Councils are required to take a long term and spatially strategic perspective on open space provision (NPPG 11), and under the draft SPP11 undertake an open space audit and prepare an open space strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pressure from private developers to develop on open space will continue.</li> <li>• The demand for public open space will continue to grow, and this must be reflected, and over the long term.</li> <li>• There is growing demand for safer and more accessible areas of open space, which has promoted the creation of PAN65.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant development pressure for urban open spaces.</li> <li>• There is pressure to reduce the size of open spaces in residential developments.</li> <li>• Need for larger areas of open spaces, including civic or town parks.</li> <li>• There is a lack of government funding to allow local authorities to continuously manage areas of open space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen City Council (2002) <i>State of the Environment Report</i> <a href="http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&amp;slD=883">http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&amp;slD=883</a></li> <li>• SNH <i>Scottish Natural Heritage in Dundee</i> <a href="http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/scottishparliament/eaflets/dundee.pdf">http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/scottishparliament/eaflets/dundee.pdf</a></li> <li>• Scottish Executive (1996) <i>NPPG 11: Sport, physical recreation and open space</i></li> <li>• Scottish Executive (2003) <i>Planning Advice Note 65: Planning and Open Space</i></li> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council's Information and Research team.</li> <li>• Scottish Executive (2006) Consultative draft <i>Scottish Planning Policy 11: Physical Activity and Open Space</i></li> </ul>



<p><b>Quality of life in currently deprived areas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeenshire is one of the least deprived areas in Scotland and is ranked 31<sup>st</sup> out of 32 councils in terms of multiple deprivation*.</li> <li>• The most deprived areas are Fraserburgh (education, income and health); Peterhead (income, jobs, and health); and Huntly (education, income, jobs, and housing).</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen ranked 23<sup>rd</sup>*. in terms of multiple deprivation</li> <li>• In Aberdeen City, the highest levels of deprivation are located in Woodside, Tillydrone, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park, Torry and Seaton neighbourhoods.</li> <li>• One of the main outcomes of Aberdeen’s Community Regeneration Strategy is six regeneration masterplans for Cummings Park, Middlefield, Tillydrone, Torry, Woodside and Seaton.</li> <li>• Glasgow City and West Dumbarton are the most deprived.</li> <li>• Dundee City is ranked 4<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeenshire is one of the least deprived area in Scotland.</li> <li>• Banff and Buchan and Buchan have the most deprived areas (known as datazones in the report*) in Aberdeenshire, with Garioch being the least deprived.</li> <li>• Datazones and wards in more urban areas tend to score higher under ‘geographical access to services’.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor access to services in rural areas.</li> <li>• Centralisation of service provision has and will continue to affect marginalised areas.</li> <li>• Pockets of deprivation through low job opportunities and income could be adversely affecting people’s mental health in Aberdeen and in northern Aberdeenshire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• * Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (Oxford Report) – Aberdeenshire: Key findings</i> <a href="http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/economic/SIMD%20Aberdeenshire%20Key%20Findings%202004.pdf">http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/economic/SIMD%20Aberdeenshire%20Key%20Findings%202004.pdf</a></li> <li>• Aberdeen City: Community Planning Regeneration Masterplans (2006/7) <a href="http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Web/Site/Internet/RegenerationMasterplans.asp">http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Web/Site/Internet/RegenerationMasterplans.asp</a></li> </ul>
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<p>Sport and recreation facilities in areas of identified need</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Aberdeenshire, there is still an outstanding need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 16.66m x 8.5m pool at Mintlaw;</li> <li>○ 6 Badminton Court Hall at Peterhead and Fraserburgh</li> <li>○ 56m x 26m ice rink at Peterhead.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ In Aberdeenshire, from the 14 sports facilities suggested in the 1990 Rural Sports Study to meet demand for swimming, halls sports, ice skating/ curling, hockey and athletics, only 3 remain to be built.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Aberdeen, there is still an outstanding need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ sports facilities in Cove;</li> <li>○ junior golf course;</li> <li>○ a new Stadium and Soccer Academy;</li> <li>○ one water based pitches and 2 sand based pitches; and</li> <li>○ 50m swimming pool.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(See Appendix 4, Table 4 for further information on Aberdeen City Council's sports strategy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in Aberdeen, to implement proposals outlined in their sports strategy, including the upgrading of facilities at Rubislaw sports pitches, development of an extreme sports centre; and improved hockey pitches.</li> </ul>	<p>Positive steps have been made to ensure everyone has access to sport, leisure and recreation facilities, however limited progress has been made to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sports facilities at Cove;</li> <li>• a swimming pool in Mintlaw; and</li> <li>• a 6 Badminton Court Hall in Peterhead and Fraserburgh,</li> </ul> <p>all of which were identified in the City's and Shire's sports studies.</p>	<p><b>Sportscotland</b> strategy sets out 11 targets to be achieved by 2007, which focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring that most of the population is taking part in sport at least once a week;</li> <li>• 70% of the Scottish population has access to a (sports) hall within a 20 minutes walk; and that every local authority's community planning process contributes to the targets of Sport 21: 2003-2007.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen City Council (2002) <i>Active Aberdeen 2002-2007: A sport, recreation and physical activity strategy for Aberdeen City</i></li> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Sports Facility Study Updated Report</i></li> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council (2002) <i>Sports and Active Lifestyles Strategy</i> (for the period 2002 to 2005).</li> <li>• <b>sportscotland</b> (2003) <i>Sport 21: 2003 – 2007: The National Strategy for Sport – Shaping Scotland's Future</i></li> <li>• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Sport and recreation</i></li> </ul>
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<p>Cause of mental health (especially of poorer communities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcrowding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeenshire – 12,536 (6%)</li> <li>○ Private rented sector and Council stock are higher than in RSL stock or owner-occupied housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Quality of life/health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeenshire – Good: 73% Fairly good: 20% Not good: 7%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• *Most common house type: Aberdeenshire - semi-detached (30%);</li> <li>• *Most common house type granted planning consent (units over 20): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeenshire - detached (74%);</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcrowding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeen – 5,054 (13%)</li> <li>○ Private rented sector and Council stock are higher than in RSL stock or owner-occupied housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Quality of life/health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeen – Good: 70% Fairly good: 21% Not good: 9%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• *Most common house type: Aberdeen – flats (49%)</li> <li>• *Most common house type granted planning consent (units over 20): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Overcrowding in</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Population density in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scotland: 65 persons per km<sup>2</sup></li> <li>○ Aberdeenshire: 37 persons per km<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> </li> <li>• In Scotland there is a relatively equal spread (20%) of new house types built, although the majority (36%) are built as flats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In terms of household type, lone parents and families with two or more children experience the highest levels of overcrowding.</li> <li>• Banff Buchan have the highest % of people who say their health is not good, and adults who are unable to work due to disability.</li> <li>• Relatively small % of new homes were semi-detached and none were terraced.</li> <li>• Differences in housing stock between the City and Shire will become more extreme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcrowding in Aberdeen is higher than the Scottish average and it could be affecting people's mental health.</li> <li>• Lack of variety in new house types granted consent.</li> <li>• There will still be a need for a significant proportion of new housing to be larger properties.</li> <li>• When considered in the context of the existing stock, planning permissions are being given which, over time, will lead to the differences between the housing stock in the City and Shire being more extreme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2001 Census (<a href="http://www.scot.gov.uk">www.scot.gov.uk</a>)</li> <li>• NHS Grampian (2004) <i>Mental Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment</i>, Public Health Unit</li> <li>• Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the Housing Stock</i></li> <li>• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2002) <i>House buyers survey</i></li> <li>• *Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council <i>Housing Needs Assessment 2004: Housing Market Area Report</i></li> <li>• Shelter: <a href="http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/advice/advice-4035.cfm">http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/advice/advice-4035.cfm</a></li> <li>• Register for General Scotland (2006) <i>Mid-2005 Population Estimates</i></li> </ul>
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**Table 24: 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"> <li>• Aberdeenshire household figures: 2003 – 93,800 2021 – 104,300</li> <li>• Aberdeenshire household size figures: 2003 – 2.41 2021 – 2.24</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen household figures: 2003 – 98,380 2021 – 107,610</li> <li>• Aberdeen household size figures: 2003 – 2.04 2021 – 1.83</li> <li>• Average household size in Scotland is 2.27.</li> <li>• Aberdeenshire and Highland showed the largest percentage increase in the number of households over the past year (1.9 per cent), due to a combination of more dwellings, and more of the existing dwellings being occupied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household numbers predicted to increase.</li> <li>• 16,040 more houses are required in the Aberdeen Housing Market Area</li> <li>• 6,880 more houses are required in the Rural Housing Market Area</li> <li>• Household size predicted to decrease.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing number of households is creating more demand for housing (and land).</li> <li>• Possibility that the need for more development land could put pressure on or near sensitive natural heritage areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</i>: <a href="http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&amp;slD=332">http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&amp;slD=332</a></li> <li>• General Register Office for Scotland: News Release – Household estimates for 2005 <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/press/news2005/drop-in-number-of-vacant-dwellings-and-second-homes-in-scotland.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/press/news2005/drop-in-number-of-vacant-dwellings-and-second-homes-in-scotland.html</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change in Aberdeenshire age structure of head of household between 2003 and 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30-44yrs: -6,660</li> <li>60+: +16,700</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average age in 2005 in Scotland is 38 (m) and 41 (f).</li> <li>Change in Aberdeen age structure of head of household between 2003 and 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30-44yrs: -2,870</li> <li>60+: +5,730</li> </ul> </li> <li>Scottish average age in 2005 is 38 (m) and 41 (f).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the North East, the number of households headed by people aged 60+ is predicted to increase by 50%.</li> <li>The number of households headed by people aged 30-44 is predicted to fall by 6,660, a decrease of 25%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</i>: <a href="http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&amp;SID=332">http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&amp;SID=332</a></li> </ul>
Years of healthy life expectancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life expectancy in Aberdeenshire: Male 75.5 years Females 80.2 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life expectancy in Aberdeen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Male 73.6 years</li> <li>Females 78.9 years</li> </ul> </li> <li>Life expectancy in Scotland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Male 73.8 years</li> <li>Females 79.1 years</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Life expectancy at birth for Scots continues to improve, and recent trends show a slight narrowing of the gap between males and females to around 5.3 years in 2002-2004.	Ageing population will create demand for certain types of houses (e.g. bungalows and services (increasing the need for more land) and care homes.	Scottish Executive Statistics (2006) <i>Life expectancy</i> <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/TrendLifeExpectancy">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/TrendLifeExpectancy</a>
Size of population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aberdeenshire population figures: 2003 - 229,330 2021 - 229,353</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aberdeen population figures: 2003 - 206,600 2021 - 202,636</li> <li>Estimated population in Scotland in 2005 is</li> </ul>	Approximately 2% decrease within the City, and 0.01% decrease within Aberdeenshire.		Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</i> : <a href="http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/s">http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/s</a>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North East population figures aged between 0 – 44 years: 2003 – 257,570 2021 – 216,333</li> <li>• North East population figures aged 45+ years: 2003 – 178,360 2021 – 215656</li> <li>• Average age in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeen – 38 (m), 41 (f).</li> <li>○ Aberdeenshire – 39 (m), 41 (f)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Scotland in 2005 is 5,094,800.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish average age in 2005 is 38 (m) and 41 (f).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the North East, the population aged 0 - 44 are predicted to decline by an average of 14% between 2003 and 2021.</li> <li>• The population aged 45 onwards is predicted to increase by 31%, with those aged 75+ increasing the most (49.7%).</li> </ul>		<a href="http://aveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&amp;SID=332">aveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&amp;SID=332</a>
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<p>Migration change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration loss 2002-05: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeenshire is losing it' population to Scotland.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Migration gain 2002-05: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeenshire is gaining its population from Aberdeen and outside Scotland.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The relative age of those migrating to Aberdeen is 15-19 yrs; and Aberdeenshire are 0-14yrs and 30yrs plus.</li> <li>• Only a slight net migration gain is predicted to 2016, with a decline post 2016.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration loss 2002-05: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeen is losing its population to Aberdeenshire and outside Scotland.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Migration gain 2002-05: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeen is gaining its population from Scotland.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The relative age of those migrating to Aberdeen is 15-19 yrs; and Aberdeenshire are 0-14yrs and 30yrs plus.</li> <li>• Only a slight net migration gain is predicted to 2016, with a decline post 2016.</li> <li>• Total net migration gain in Scotland during 2005 was 12,500 people from the rest of the UK, a net gain of around 7,300 from overseas (including asylum seekers).</li> <li>• Aberdeenshire, Highland and Falkirk had the largest percentage increases over the year at 1.1%</li> <li>• Midlothian and Aberdeen City had the second largest decrease at 0.5%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The migration trend in the North East is slow growth to 2016 and then a slow decline thereafter.</li> <li>• However, migration is a significant and difficult to forecast element of demographic change which occurs in response to international and national as well as local factors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In-migration will create greater demand for houses and services in Aberdeenshire.</b></li> <li>• <b>Possible need for services catering for 'non-Scotland' migrants, especially if from overseas (e.g. language and cultural issues/differences).</b></li> <li>• <b>Retiral 'stealth' in-migration may affect housing and service provision in Aberdeenshire (i.e. an increase need for).</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the housing stock</i></li> <li>• Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Population and household change</i></li> <li>• Register for General Scotland (2006) <i>Mid-2005 Population Estimates Scotland Population estimates by sex, age and administrative area</i>, A National Statistics publication  <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/05/mype-cahb-booklet.pdf">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/05/mype-cahb-booklet.pdf</a></li> </ul>
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**Table 25: SEA Topic: Cultural Heritage**

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



		buildings were on the buildings at risk register. However, little work has been carried out to investigate possible new candidates for the Register.			
Building functionality (e.g. use, access and space)	Index 21 project in association with Aberdeenshire Council and Robert Gordon University encourages the use and re-use of existing buildings, which so far has mostly been ignored in new developments.	PAN 75 promotes the importance of inclusive design for all types of buildings and spaces.	With the development of SPP20 and PANs on design issues, future developments (and development plans) will have to consider these issues in greater detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poorly designed buildings, especially for the disabled, elderly and children.</li> <li>• Lack of an existing policy on inclusive design in the Structure Plan.</li> <li>• Issue of conflicting requirements when ensuring the accessibility of existing buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (<a href="http://www.index21.org.uk">www.index21.org.uk</a>)</li> <li>• Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Planning and Building Standards Advice Note 75: Inclusive Design</i></li> <li>• Scottish Executive (2001) <i>A Policy Statement for Scotland - Designing Places</i></li> <li>• Scottish Executive (2005) <i>SPP 20: Role of Architecture and Design Scotland</i></li> </ul>

Impact from new build reflects: form and materials, internal environment, urban and social integration, character and innovation of existing historic buildings	Index 21 project encourages the integration of old and new building styles, which has been given little consideration in new developments.	NPPG 18 requires structure plans to identify priority locations where an integrated approach to the protection, conservation and positive management of the historic environment should be pursued.	PAN 75 promotes the importance of inclusive design for all types of buildings and spaces, and with the development of SPP20 and PANs on design issues, future developments (and development plans) will have to consider these issues in greater detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development adversely impacting on a community's' or settlement's 'sense of place' (e.g. historical perspective).</li> <li>• Safeguarding building functionality (e.g. use, access and space), which is not always considered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (<a href="http://www.index21.org.uk">www.index21.org.uk</a>)</li> <li>• Scottish Executive (2006) <i>PAN 75: Inclusive Design</i></li> <li>• Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment</i></li> </ul>
Listed buildings, designed landscape etc, and conservation areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Aberdeenshire, 17 proposals departed from the Structure Plan (14 planning applications were recommended for refusal by planning officers), principally for new windows.</li> </ul>	NPPG 18: Conservation policies should give a high priority to maintaining and enhancing the prosperity and vitality of historic areas.	The purpose of conservation areas designations is to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of such areas and the spaces between them, and care also needs to be taken regarding changes to the streetscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor design when incorporating modern materials.</li> <li>• Cumulative impact of proposals, which alone may not affect the conservation designation, but cumulatively affect it's overall objective.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment</i></li> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – environment Monitoring Paper</i></li> </ul>
Archaeological sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In recent times no schedules ancient monuments have been lost or significantly destroyed.</li> <li>• However, damage to remains of local</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route could adversely affect up to 10% of SMR sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strong presumption in NPPG5 on the preservation or recording (if preservation is not possible) of archaeological sites has, and will continue to encourage the safeguarding of sites throughout Scotland.</li> <li>• Damage to remains of local importance will</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of unknown and locally known architectural remains from new development and other practices, vandalism and coastal erosion.</li> <li>• Adverse impacts on the setting of archaeological remains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i></li> <li>• Scottish Executive (1998) <i>NPPG5: Archaeology and Planning</i></li> </ul>

	<p>importance, which are listed in the Sites &amp; Monuments Record (SMR) is mostly caused by vandalism, new developments, ploughing, forestry, activities of utility companies, rabbits, &amp; coastal erosion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the past, Aberdeenshire Council's Archaeology Service records show that 3670 sites have been lost or partially destroyed, with a further 2301 as documentary records only.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>		<p>continue unless solutions are found, e.g. funding agri-environment schemes.</p>	<p>from new developments.</p>	
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**Table 26: SEA Topic: Landscape**

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of inappropriate developments granted consent is unknown as several ALS designations include a number of major settlements.</li> </ul>		<p>landscape character assessment methodologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance has been developed by SNH to help local authorities refresh their approach to local landscape designations when reviewing them.</li> </ul>		<p>Heritage Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG14: Natural Heritage</i></li> </ul>
Townscape quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the North East, there are 47 conservation areas, 20 of which are outstanding.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Seven Aberdeenshire Towns Partnerships (ATP) in Ellon, Banff and Macduff, Fraserburgh, Huntly,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 regeneration masterplans are being drafted in the City (to be finalised in 2006/7)</li> <li>There are 17 conservation areas in Moray.</li> <li>Replacement of traditional windows and doors on non-listed buildings within conservation areas is a continuing case of concern for Moray.</li> <li>The Moray Development Plan has identified 40 urban renewal projects, most of which are now completed, and European funding was secured to upgrade several harbours and foreshores along the Coast.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almost 2 in 5 of the population live in towns with a population of between 1,000 and 20,000.</li> <li>Most small towns are under pressure from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>population change;</li> <li>economic restructuring;</li> <li>concentration of employment and services;</li> <li>traffic growth; and</li> <li>insensitive development.</li> </ul> </li> <li>PAN52 aims to encourage local councils and other public/private bodies to help reinforce the character and identity of small towns by restoring, enhancing,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The insensitive siting and design of new developments may individually or cumulatively adversely affect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the setting of settlements; and</li> <li>townscapes (e.g. conservation areas).</li> </ul> </li> <li>The increased need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assess a settlement's key features(s);</li> <li>reinforcing a sense of place; and</li> <li>involving local communities (which has started to happen in 7 towns under Aberdeenshire Council's ATP projects).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i></li> <li>Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership <a href="http://www.atap.org.uk/home.htm">http://www.atap.org.uk/home.htm</a></li> <li>Moray council (2003) Development Plan Monitoring Report: <a href="http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file43359.pdf">http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file43359.pdf</a></li> <li>Aberdeen City: Community Planning Regeneration Masterplans (2006/7) <a href="http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Web/Site/Internet/RegenerationMasterplans.asp">http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Web/Site/Internet/RegenerationMasterplans.asp</a></li> </ul>

	<p>Inverurie, Peterhead and Stonehaven have been prepared, which aim to maintain and enhance the continued social, economic and environmental vitality of these settlements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>		<p>improving and rehabilitating the best and worst areas of these settlements.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Executive (1997) <i>PAN 52: Planning in small Towns</i></li> </ul>
Landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five applications have been received in Aberdeenshire for the erection of houses (totalling 191 dwellings) as enabling development, and concern has been raised that in some cases the level of enabling development has had an impact on the setting of the buildings which development is intended to preserve.</li> <li>• 6 Settlement Capacity studies are being prepared by Aberdeenshire Council, which uses Index 21</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen City's finalised local plan includes a new designation – Green Space Network, which aims to improve access to the countryside, enhance valued landscapes, and improve wildlife habitats, and has been developed in the form of 'green fingers or wedges' along side the redrawn Green Belt.</li> <li>• The four Landscape Character Assessments that cover the North East provides a brief overview of past land use practices and discusses potential land uses for existing landscapes.</li> <li>• Dundee City Council's development plan aims to protect the landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPPG 14 states that particular care is needed when considering proposals for new development at the edge of settlements or in open countryside.</li> <li>• PAN44: <i>Capacity for housing in the landscape</i> demonstrates an understanding of traditional growth.</li> <li>• The Scottish Executive's design statement states that sensitive location and design is needed to avoid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ urban sprawl;</li> <li>○ ribbon development;</li> <li>○ new buildings on obtrusive sites;</li> <li>○ incongruous materials; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inappropriate scale and insensitive siting of enabling development may adversely affect landscape characteristics (e.g. changing it's landscape character type, not respecting local topography/contours).</li> <li>• New development not fitting in with the landscape's capacity to absorb new development (e.g. design, layout and sense of place) – need to promote suitable development capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – environment Monitoring Paper</i></li> <li>• Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG14: Natural Heritage</i></li> </ul> <p>Scottish Executive (2001) <i>Designing Places: A Policy Statement for Scotland</i>  <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/planning/dpps-00.asp">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/planning/dpps-00.asp</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Executive (1994) <i>PAN44: Capacity for housing in the landscape.</i></li> <li>• Scottish Natural Heritage (1997) <i>National programme of landscape</i></li> </ul>

	<p>Index 21 methodology to identify where new development should be sited (e.g. taking full account of the characteristics of the local landscape and townscape characteristics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>protect the landscape character along the prominent western side of the city by ensuring any new development is set within a “strong landscape framework”, which includes the planting of trees to allow new development to integrate with the surrounding landscape.</p>	<p>materials; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ house styles more characteristic of suburban than rural areas.</li> </ul>		<p><i>character assessment: Banff and Buchan</i>, Review No 37.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>South and Central Aberdeenshire: landscape character assessment</i>, Review No 102.</li> <li>• Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Cairngorms landscape assessment</i>, Review No 75.</li> <li>• Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Landscape character assessment of Aberdeen</i>, Review No 80</li> <li>• Aberdeen City Council (2004) finalised Local Plan: Green Spaces, New Places</li> </ul>
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**Table 27: SEA Topic: Material Assets**

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
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<p>Number of vacant dwellings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of vacant dwellings and second homes in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeenshire: 4,8681 (decrease of 15% since 2001) and 4.6% of the total housing stock.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In Aberdeenshire there are 749 (5%) vacant commercial properties.</li> <li>• Between 2004 and 2005 the number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeenshire fell by 250 (-5.1%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of vacant dwellings and second homes in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeen: 5,574 (5.1% increase since 2001) and 5.2% of the total housing stock.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Between 2004 and 2005 the number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeen increase by 315 (6%).</li> <li>• Number of vacant dwellings and second homes in 2005 (based on local authorities with a similar number of dwellings): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Highland: 9,444 (0.3% increase since 2001) and 8.9% of the total housing stock.</li> <li>○ Scotland: 107,250 (increase of 1.1% since 2001) and 4.5% of the total housing stock.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeen has increased by 270.</li> <li>• Number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeenshire has declined sharply by 827.</li> <li>• PAN 52 states that planning authorities should consider the potential contribution which vacant, derelict land, and obsolete or redundant buildings can make towards meeting development requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>The number of vacant dwellings in Aberdeen is increasing, while in Aberdeenshire the figure is falling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Register for Scotland: Vacant dwellings and second homes (2001-2005) <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/he-05-table3.pdf">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/he-05-table3.pdf</a></li> </ul>
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<p>Number of degraded buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of dwellings in disrepair in 2002: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeenshire: 63,000 (70%) against 27,000 that are not in disrepair.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number of dwellings where their disrepair is classified as “urgent” in 2002: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeenshire: 28%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number of dwellings (by tenure) failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2002 in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeenshire: rented (LA/HA) - 50% owner-occupied/private rented – 55% (HA=Housing Association)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of dwellings in disrepair in 2002: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeen: 76,000 (81%) against 18,000 (19%) that not in disrepair.</li> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number of dwellings where their disrepair is classified as “urgent” in 2002: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeen: 43%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number of dwellings (by tenure) failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2002 in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeen: rented (LA/HA) - 60% owner-occupied/private rented – 64% (HA=Housing Association)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The number of dwellings in a state of disrepair in Scotland during 2002 stood at</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Aberdeenshire, the number of properties in disrepair is better than the Scottish average, with far fewer dwellings in a state of “urgent” disrepair.</li> <li>• Both Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire have lower rates of stock failure than the Scottish average, although levels are still quite high.</li> <li>• Failure rates are slightly higher in the private sector than in the social rented sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than two-thirds of Aberdeen’s housing stock is identified as suffering some form of disrepair, with 43% (higher than the Scottish average) classified as “urgent”.</li> <li>• More than half of the housing stock in the North East is failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.</li> <li>• More retrofitting of dwellings is required to bring them back into habitable use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the Housing Stock</i></li> <li>• Communities Scotland (2004) <i>Scottish House Condition Survey 2002</i>, <a href="http://www.shcs.gov.uk/pdfs/SHQReport.pdf#search=%22Scottish%20House%20condition%20survey%20SHQS%22">http://www.shcs.gov.uk/pdfs/SHQReport.pdf#search=%22Scottish%20House%20condition%20survey%20SHQS%22</a></li> </ul>
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		<p>1,761,000 (80%), of which 41% of the housing stock is classified as “urgent”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Disrepair” is where parts of a building central to its weather proofing, and/or its structural integrity requires attention.</li> <li>• “Urgent” disrepair is defined as disrepair that, if not addressed, would cause the fabric of the building to deteriorate further and/or place the health and safety of residents at risk.</li> <li>• In Scotland, the number of dwellings (by tenure) failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2002: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ rented (LA/HA) - 70%</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
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		o owner-occupied/ private rented – 70% (LA=Local authority)			
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Derelict and vacant land (and buildings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Aberdeenshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 21 sites totalling 9ha is derelict; and</li> <li>○ 25 sites totalling 27ha is vacant.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In Aberdeenshire the total area of derelict and urban vacant land has declined significantly from 190ha in 1996 to 36ha in 2005.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Aberdeen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 18 sites measuring 72ha is derelict;</li> <li>○ 32 sites measuring 116ha is vacant; &amp;</li> <li>○ combined represents 2% of the total vacant and derelict land recorded in Scotland.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Since 1996, the total area of derelict and urban vacant land in Aberdeen has remained steady (2005 figures stand at 180ha).</li> <li>• Total derelict and (urban) vacant land in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Moray: 44 sites totalling 37ha;</li> <li>○ Angus: 51 sites totalling 172ha (2% of total vacant and derelict land recorded in Scotland);</li> <li>○ Dundee: 213 sites totalling 216ha (3% of total land area)</li> <li>○ Edinburgh: 64 sites totalling 179ha (2% of total land area)</li> <li>○ Glasgow: 853</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area of derelict and urban vacant land in Aberdeenshire has decreased significantly (especially since 2004).</li> <li>• In Aberdeenshire, all sites are less than 5ha (52% of sites are less than 0.5ha).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>Scottish Executive (2006)  <i>Statistical Bulletin: Scottish Vacant Derelict and Derelict Land Survey 2005</i>  <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/91002/0021846.pdf">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/91002/0021846.pdf</a></p>
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Existing flood defences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Aberdeenshire, flood studies have been carried out in Huntly, Inverurie, Rosehearty, Auchnagatt, Fyvie, Maryculter (Mill Inn), Alford and Aboyne.</li> <li>• Emergency works had to be carried out on Stonehaven's seawall foundations as coastal erosion caused part of it to collapse.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the impact of climate change is predicted to be less significant along the east coast, the frequency of storm events and the level of winter precipitation are forecast to increase, which will give rise to increasing 1 in 200 year flood events and soil/sand erosion.</li> <li>• As highlighted in the SEA indicator on climatic factors, the sea-level along the east coast is predicted to rise 34 to 55 cm by the 2080s.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood studies will continue to be commissioned whenever necessary to better understand and resolve flood-affected areas.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predicted rise in sea level may result in existing flood defences being inadequate.</li> <li>• 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).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Flooding in Aberdeenshire: Fifth Biennial Report</i> <a href="http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/flooding/report/5biennial.pdf">http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/flooding/report/5biennial.pdf</a></li> <li>• Halcrow (2006) <i>Aberdeen Bay Coastal Defence Scheme, Aberdeen city Council Project Appraisal Report</i>, Aberdeen City Council</li> <li>• Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> <a href="http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal_Defence/Reports_and_Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf">http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal_Defence/Reports_and_Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf</a></li> </ul>
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Existing pumping stations and sewage works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeenshire has significant constraints throughout most of the area, with the exception of a handful of settlements, including Westhill and Inch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The North East accounts for 5% of the Scottish total (£18.1m), which is mostly required in Aberdeenshire, as Aberdeen City was identified in the study as having no water or waste water constraints.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a significant wastewater constraint issue in most of Aberdeenshire, which may have adverse effects on water quality, especially on watercourses with a natural heritage designation, such as the River Dee, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Development Constraints (Water and Waste)</i></li> <li>• Scottish Water (2006) <i>Strategic Asset Capacity and Development Plan</i>  <a href="http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/portal/page?_pageid=627,4099564&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL">http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/portal/page?_pageid=627,4099564&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL</a></li> </ul>
Water treatment works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the exception of areas in and around Peterhead, Banchory, Ellon, and Torphins, Aberdeenshire require significant works upgrades.</li> <li>• Turriff and Banff and Macduff have been identified with severe water supply constraints.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a significant water supply constraint throughout most of the North East, with the exception of a handful of settlements.</li> </ul>	
Sufficient supply of affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *The demand for affordable housing per annum is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ in Aberdeenshire</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *The demand for affordable housing per annum is:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The supply affordable homes in the North East are not meeting the demand, even with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a significant shortfall of affordable housing in both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Aberdeen Council and Communities Scotland (2005) <i>2004 Housing Needs Assessment, Executive</i></li> </ul>

	<p>there is a net requirement of 915 affordable housing units (this represents two-thirds of the estimated new build in the area).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £150 million investment from Scottish Executive-funded Communities Homes (via the Devanha Group), which will result in 650 dwellings in both Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire over the next 4 years.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>○ in Aberdeen there is a net requirement of 897 affordable housing units;</p>	<p>additional Scottish Executive grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main shortfall is for one bedroom and larger (4 plus) bedroom dwellings.</li> </ul>	<p>Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, especially in one bedroom and 4 plus bedroom dwellings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need to review the proportion of affordable housing in new build in both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Summary</i>, Fordham Research <a href="http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2264&amp;SID=970">http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2264&amp;SID=970</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Aberdeenshire Council and Communities Scotland (2005) <i>2004 Housing Needs Assessment, Executive Summary</i>, Fordham Research <a href="http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/councilhousing/reports/aberdeenshire_hna_final_summary.pdf">http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/councilhousing/reports/aberdeenshire_hna_final_summary.pdf</a></li> </ul>
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<p>Sufficient supply of holiday homes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of second/holiday homes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aberdeenshire (excluding the coast)</li> <li>○ 1 to 5%: southern Aberdeenshire (e.g. Mid Deeside and the Mearns area), and coastal areas excluding Peterhead and areas north and south of Aberdeen</li> <li>○ 5 to 10%: Donside Valley</li> <li>○ 10-20%: Portsoy coast (Banff)</li> <li>○ 20%+: Upper Deeside (Cairngorms)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In Aberdeenshire second/holiday homes account for 2% of the housing stock.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of second/holiday homes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 to 1%: Aberdeen,</li> <li>• In Argyll and Bute second/holiday homes account for 11% of the housing stock (the highest of all rural authorities).</li> <li>• In Moray second/holiday homes account for 2% of the housing stock.</li> <li>• In the Highlands, second/holiday homes account for 6% of the housing stock.</li> <li>• On average, second/holiday homes account for 3.6% of rural housing stock, while second homes account for 0.5% of urban properties.</li> <li>• In Scottish rural areas, the proportion of housing stock accounted for by second/holiday homes is over seven times greater than in urban areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Aberdeenshire, only a small fraction of the total housing stock accounted by second/holiday homes, although the figure is the same for Moray</li> <li>• The majority of second/holiday homes are located along the coast or in upland areas (which follows a similar pattern across the whole of Scotland)</li> <li>• The number of second homes rented out by oil companies could be sold off as the oil sector declines.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">- 89 -</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of holiday homes will increase house prices as dwellings that would normally have been bought to live in are bought for the purpose of being a used as a second/holiday home, resulting in locals or those on low incomes being unable to purchase their own home.</li> <li>• A shortage of holiday homes will adversely affect the tourist trade in Aberdeenshire's most popular areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bank of Scotland House Price Database; ONS <a href="http://www.hbosplc.com/economy/includes/30-07-05FTBsPricedOutOfScottishCountryside.doc">http://www.hbosplc.com/economy/includes/30-07-05FTBsPricedOutOfScottishCountryside.doc</a></li> <li>• PRECiS (2005) <i>No.70 The impact of second and holiday homes on rural communities in Scotland</i>, Communities Scotland <a href="http://www.communitiesScotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/pubcs_011272.pdf#search=%22number%20of%20second%20homes%20in%20aberdeen%22">http://www.communitiesScotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/pubcs_011272.pdf#search=%22number%20of%20second%20homes%20in%20aberdeen%22</a></li> </ul>
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<p>Proportion of building materials from sustainable sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current structure plan and City and Shire local plans encourage and supports the use of sustainable materials and the adoption of Lifetime standards.</li> <li>• Improvement of design is also supported in general design guidelines and design briefs in the existing development plans.</li> <li>• In Aberdeenshire, work on increasing the energy efficiency and use of materials from sustainable sources in new dwellings are being researched in a project entitled Index 21. The outcome of this work will be incorporated into the next local development plan.</li> </ul>	<p>SPP1 promotes the use of sustainable development mechanisms in all new build, and is supported in PAN 67, which provides advice on good practice on the layout, design and materials to be used, and to a lesser extent in SPP2 and SPP3.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire councils encourage and support the use of buildings constructed of sustainable materials, there are only a few examples of this actually happening.</li> <li>• Work is underway in Aberdeenshire to increase the sustainability of dwellings (although this approach can be applied to other uses).</li> </ul>	<p>Very few commercial developments are using sustainable materials in the North East.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP1: The Planning System</i></li> <li>• Scottish Executive (2003) <i>PAN 67: Housing Quality</i></li> <li>• Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP2: Economic Development</i></li> <li>• Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP3: Planning for housing</i></li> <li>• Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (<a href="http://www.index21.org.uk">www.index21.org.uk</a>)</li> </ul>
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