

Aberdeen Local Development Plan SEA Interim Environmental Report

PART 1

To Sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

PART 2

An SEA Environmental Report is attached for the plan entitled

Aberdeen Local Development Plan

The Responsible Authority is:

Aberdeen City Council

PART 3

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Non-Technical Summary

This Non-Technical Summary introduces SEA and summarises the contents of the full technical report, which begins on **Page 7**.

Purpose of this Environmental Report and Key Stages

We (Aberdeen City Council) have written this environmental report (“the report”) for the Aberdeen Local Development Plan (LDP) under the Environmental Assessment [Scotland] Act 2005. The process taken to write this report is called Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The reason for undertaking SEA is to address all the effects that a plan, programme or strategy (PPS) will have on the environment. The overall aim of the process is to protect the environment. Throughout this SEA process we have taken the views of others into account before coming to final decisions.

The key stages of this SEA are pre-screening, screening, scoping, environmental report and post-adoption statement. An explanation of these stages can be found below:

[Pre-screening]

We do a pre-screening of a plan, as the first stage, when we show that a plan is not likely to have any effect on the environment, or if it has any effects at all, they will be minimal. After a pre-screening, the plan, programme or strategy will not be subject to any further SEA. This stage does not apply to the Local Development Plan.

Screening

We screen the plan to determine whether we should be doing an SEA for the plan. When a plan is likely to have significant (i.e. very bad, damaging, large or long-lasting) effects on the environment, we will do an SEA. (If the effect is not significant, no further action is taken and a pre-screening report would be prepared). In this case, it is clear that the environmental effects of the LDP will be significant and therefore a full SEA is required.

Scoping

At the scoping stage, we set out how much information should be in the actual Environmental Report, how we plan to assess the effects of the different aspects of the plan, and how long we will consult with others on the report. We then consult with Key Agencies on the contents of the Scoping Report, and their recommendations help us to improve our approach.

Environmental Report

In the Environmental Report, we assess the effects of a plan on the environment and explain how we could address those effects through a process called mitigation. We also describe how we will monitor any significant effects of the plan on the environment.

This version of the report is an *Interim Environmental Report*, which has been prepared alongside the Main Issues Report. It will need to be revised and re-published at Proposed

Plan stage, to take account of any material changes in the Plan itself. We aim to publish a finalised Environmental Report to go with the Proposed Plan in 2020.

Post-adoption Statement

Once we have addressed and resolved the representations received through consultation before adopting the plan, we must inform everyone about what difference the SEA process and their views have made to the final plan. And we do this through a Post-adoption Statement as the last stage.

The Context of the Strategy

The Main Issues Report will be used to engage with the public. The Main Issues Report forms the main focus for discussions on the options for sites that would be developed in Aberdeen and for the policies that will guide development. We are consulting on the MIR in early 2019.

The 2017 LDP allocates land for housing and employment over two phases in line with the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2014. This has been replaced by the Proposed Strategic Development Plan 2018, which asks the next Local Development Plan to allocate a limited amount of housing land. These allocations should take place on brownfield sites and utilise the current “constrained” supply in the first instance. Therefore, the amount of land we need to allocate has changed. It is proposed that most of the policies and some of the land allocations included in the 2017 LDP will be carried forward to the next Plan, and the Main Issues Report reflects this. The Main Issues Report also includes draft policies where new policies or significant changes to existing policies have been proposed.

To guide and help us deliver what we plan to do in the LDP and other related strategies like the Local Housing Strategy and the Local Transport Strategy, we have made use of high-level documents and statements. These documents and statements include the Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan (2016) and the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (HNDA, 2017).

This Environmental Report covers the key issues, outcomes, topics and processes of the SEA process listed at paragraph 1-9 of Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act. We have used many different documents or pieces of legislation to influence how we have written this strategy, which affects Aberdeen, the North East, Scotland or Europe. These documents cover:

- Climate and water
- Plant and animal life on the land and in the water
- Noise
- Town centres
- Old buildings
- How we use energy
- How we throw away waste
- How we travel, walk and cycle
- Exercise and health

Baseline/Evolution, Characteristics of Areas & Environmental Problems

We have identified a number of problems and issues in Aberdeen. In this section, we list the significant environmental problems and issues that we have considered in this report.

Appendix 3 Baseline Data, Targets and Trends also shows the baseline information, giving a picture of the state of the environment in Aberdeen. These issues show the challenges we must deal with through this Plan:

- We have serious air quality problems in Aberdeen. The increasing number of cars, trucks and vehicles that pass through the City worsens this.
- We burn a lot of fuel to heat our homes and to drive our cars. This is releasing more CO₂ into the air and causing our carbon and ecological footprints to rise.
- Future climate change will affect how much water we will have and how stable our soils will be.
- Petrol stations, factories, and other industries have all affected how good or bad our soil and water is.
- How we deal with waste also affects our soils, water and climate.
- Aberdeen is rich in cultural heritage and landscape, but the houses we have built in the past are putting pressure on these resources.
- New buildings are putting pressure on animal and plant life (biodiversity).
- When we have good parks or open spaces, people will want to build and live around them.
- Increasing house prices
- The make up of the population is an issue that needs to be considered for future development. For example, there are a range of ages living in Aberdeen, but because we are living longer there will be an increased proportion of older people, and there is an increase in people coming to live here from other parts of the UK, Europe and the world.

Assessment of Effects

A summary of how the LDP as discussed in the Main Issues Report affects the environment can be found in Table A below. The full Assessment of Effects can be found in **Section 6: Assessment, Mitigation and Monitoring**.

Table A: Assessment of Effects

SEA Issue	Plan Impact
Air and Climatic factors	We found that the effects of the plan on the environment are mixed (i.e. positive, negative & neutral). Building new homes and workplaces will mean more vehicles on the roads which emit greenhouse gases. On the other hand, the plan also includes policies to help promote sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling. Development on

	existing green space may also increase surface water run-off, and increase vulnerability to flooding.
Water	The overall effects of the plan on water are negative, because all new development requires more water be taken from the River Dee. Some developments also physically impact on watercourses themselves and may result in pollution of streams and burns. On the other hand, the plan includes policies to promote water-saving technologies in buildings.
Soil	When we build houses, shops, places of work and roads, the soil on which we put these buildings up can be damaged. Increased waste will lead to more landfill, which pollutes the soil. However, the development of contaminated sites will benefit soil because it will have to clean up the pollution.
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	The overall effects of the plan on plants and animals are neutral. Because if we develop 700 new houses in Aberdeen, almost all of these will be on brownfield sites. Some of the sites being carried forward are on green field sites. Development on greenfield sites may destroy the places where plants and animals are found. The River Dee is the home to special fish and animals and development may harm them.
Population and Health	The overall effects of the plan on people are positive, because it provides for attractive, warm and affordable homes in pleasant places for people to live, and also encourages the development of new employment opportunities. However, traffic from new development and other polluting uses make air quality worse and it may have a negative affect on human health.
Cultural Heritage	We found that the effects of the plan on special or old buildings are mixed (i.e. positive, negative & neutral). Policy protects these buildings from damage or loss in all but the most exceptional circumstances, meaning negative effects are likely to be very small. Design policies will help to make the impact small.
Landscape	The overall effects of the plan on our surroundings are mixed – some positive and others negative. Development that can be seen from lots of places can have negative affects on views and scenery.
Material Assets	The overall effect of the plan on the creation of new buildings, facilities, infrastructure and equipment is very good.

Broad Mitigation Measures

A summary of the broad measures which will be taken to help mitigate the negative (or enhance the positive) effects of the preferred options can be found in Table B below. The full Mitigation Measures can be found in **Section 6.4** of the full report.

Table B: Mitigation Measures

SEA Issue	Mitigation Measures
Air and Climatic factors	We will seek to enhance (i.e. add value to) the positive impacts as we work with our partners. We will look to reduce car dependence and provide people with choice on how they travel. We will have a mix of houses, jobs, shops and schools close together so that the buildings will not damage our climate and air. We will avoid building on land which floods. We will make sure buildings need less heat and electricity.
Water	We will work with Scottish Water to make sure that the houses built will have sufficient water. We will work with builders to ensure that the buildings will not use too much water. We will require soft structures (called 'SUDS') to be built and maintained to manage surface water from the new development. We will make sure that areas which flood when it rains will be avoided or zoned as an open space.
Soil	We will require new developments to clean up harmful pollution where appropriate. We will recycle more waste and reduce waste going to landfill.
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	When we are building SUDS to take surface water from urban areas, we will make sure that they can encourage biodiversity (i.e. some plant and animal life) to live and grow within the SUDS system. We will also encourage the provision of open spaces, including wildlife areas, in new developments. We will also protect special areas where we find plants and animals (small and large). We will keep areas for animals to move from place to place.
Population and Health	We will encourage the provision of services, jobs, houses and facilities that cater for all sectors of society, old and young. We will avoid building where there are risks to health like areas of bad air quality or smell.
Cultural Heritage	We will look to protect our most valued features wherever possible and encourage good design in new developments so they do not affect the setting of existing special buildings.

Landscape	We will look to protect our most valued landscapes and landscape features and encourage good master planning and design. We will not build on the areas that are easily seen from lots of different places.
Material Assets	We will make sure that roads, schools, hospitals, utilities and jobs required for new developments are put in place. We would make sure that the plan supports all of this.

Monitoring

We will monitor the significant negative and positive affects of the plan through the monitoring plan that we have set out in the environmental report. We have stated what actions we must carry out, who must carry out each of the actions and when we must carry them out. The full Monitoring Plan can be found in **Table 6.3: Monitoring Plan**.

How to Comment on the Report

If you would like to express your views on the contents of this Interim Environmental Report, please send written comments to the following address:

By e-mail
LDP@aberdeencity.gov.uk

By post:
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The Main Issues consultation period is planned to run for 10 weeks from March to May 2019. Please ensure your comments reach us by the end of this period.

Environmental Report

1 Introduction

The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment Interim Environmental Report is to provide an assessment of the preferred and alternative policy and site options set out in the Main Issues Report for the Local Development Plan, a consultation document which precedes the production of the Proposed Plan. This Environmental Report will be revised and republished alongside the Proposed Plan, reflecting any changes which have taken place. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Table 2.1 tabulates the key facts about the LDP and Section 3 describes the SEA process to date. Section 4 offers a brief description of the content of the Main Issues Report, while Section 5 outlines the issues that set the context for the Plan- such as other plans, policies and strategies (PPS) and environmental protection objectives, baseline data and environmental problems in Aberdeen. Section 6 examines the scope and level of the assessment and explains the assessment framework, SEA objectives, cumulative effects assessment, mitigation and monitoring. The 'next steps' for the SEA process are outlined in Section 7, while the full assessments, baseline and description of relevant PPS can be found in Section 8: Appendix 3: Baseline Data, Targets and Trends.

2 Key Facts and Description of PPS Content

Table 2.1: Key Facts relating to the Local Development Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Aberdeen City Council
Title of the PPS	Aberdeen Local Development Plan
What Prompted the PPS	Planning & etc. (Scotland) Act 2006
Subject	Land Use
Period Covered by the PPS	To 2031
Frequency of Updates	Every five years
Area covered by the PPS	Aberdeen City
Purpose and/or objectives of the PPS	To set the framework for the development of land in Aberdeen City
Contact Point	Sandra Omondi Planner (Development Plan) Strategic Place Planning Aberdeen City Council Business Hub 4 Marischal College Broad Street Aberdeen AB10 1AB

3 SEA Activities to Date

Table 3.1 summarises the SEA activities to date in relation to the Environmental Report for the Aberdeen City Local Development Plan Main Issues Report. **Appendix 1 – Analysis of Consultation Responses at Scoping Stage** shows the comments we received from the Consultation Authorities on the Scoping Report and what we have done to address them.

Table 3.1: SEA Activities to Date

SEA Action/Activity	When carried out	Notes (e.g. comment on data availability, particular issues or any advice from the Consultation Authorities that has now been taken into account)
Scoping the consultation periods and the level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report for the Main Issues Report	Scoping Report: May 2018	Feedback from SEPA, SNH and HES considered; assessment methodology with objectives and questions implemented.
Environmental baseline established		
Outline and objectives of the PPS		
Relationship with other PPS and environmental objectives		
Environmental problems identified		
Assessment of future of area without the PPS	Draft Interim Environmental Report: December 2018	
Alternatives considered		
Environmental assessment methods established		
Selection of PPS alternatives to be included in the environmental assessment		
Identification of environmental problems that may persist after implementation and measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects		
Monitoring methods proposed		

Preparation and Consultation on the Environmental Report for the Main Issues Report	Main Issues Report Consultation Feb- Apr 2019	
Taking account of the consultation outcome in the revised Environmental Report for the Proposed Plan	Preparation of Proposed Plan and final Environmental Report Apr 2019- onwards	
Agreeing on the alternatives and options to be used in the final environmental report		
Assessing the effects of the LDP, mitigating effects, firming monitoring measures and strategic flood risk assessment.		
Consultation timescales 1. Timescale for Consultation Authorities 2. Timescale for public 3.		
Notification/publicity action		

4 Description of PPS – Content of LDP Main Issues Report (MIR)

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes “an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme”. The purpose of this section is to explain the nature, contents and timescale of the LDP Main Issues Report. It contains strategic, policy and site-specific options, and a small number of proposals for land allocations. The MIR is a consultation document and Aberdeen City Council is engaging with the public and key stakeholders on its contents. A summary of the content of the MIR and its options and alternatives can be found below.

It should be noted from the outset that the Proposed Strategic Development Plan (2018) does not contain significant changes to the spatial strategy introduced in the Strategic Development Plan (2014) to which the current LDP conforms. The current LDP (2017) took a long term view to the identification of land for future development, and therefore many aspects are proposed to be ‘carried forward’ with no change.

However, there are anticipated changes to the planning system through the Planning Bill, so the Plan must be updated to reflect these changes. The next plan will also be required to address new and emerging issues that have not previously been considered, or adjust its approach where it is clear that change would be beneficial. These are the ‘Main Issues’. The MIR sets out the officers’ preferred options for change (or continuity), as well as alternatives. It also contains draft policies which are proposed to be part of the Plan.

4.1 Vision and Objectives

The vision for the ALDP has been taken from the Proposed Strategic Development Plan vision. It states:

“By 2040 Aberdeen City and Shire will have grown and evolved to become an even more attractive, prosperous, resilient and sustainable European city region. It will be an excellent place to live, visit and do business. We will be recognised for:

- our enterprise and inventiveness in the knowledge economy and high value markets – with a particular focus on energy, biopharmaceuticals, tourism, and food, drink and the primary industries; and,
- the City Region’s unique built, historic and natural environment, which will be protected and, where appropriate, enhanced as key asset in underpinning a high quality of life and place.

Decision makers will have acted confidently and taken courageous decisions necessary to further develop a robust and diversified economy.

Both Councils will have taken a proactive approach towards development that: ensures the sustainable use of natural resources, the ability to live within the area’s environmental capacity, can deal with climate change, and creates a more open, inclusive society.”

4.2 Main Issues

There are 12 main issues. The main issues have been identified through a process of internal and external consultation and monitoring. Each main issue has a preferred and alternative option; some address brand new issues but some build upon existing policy positions. Table 4.1 – Main Issues summarises the main issues and their alternatives considered.

Table 4.1 Main Issues

Main Issues (Options)	Description and Implications
<p style="text-align: center;">Issue 1 Living in the City Centre</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This issue is about finding ways to encourage more people to live in the city centre, in accordance with the City Centre Masterplan (CCMP) which encourages city centre living and aims to add 3,000 new residents (1,500 homes) to the city centre by 2040.</p>	
<p>Preferred Option</p>	<p>Include in policy the support for residential use in the city centre, and the conversion of upper floors to residential accommodation in the Local Development Plan and identify opportunity sites with residential uses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The support for residential use will be within the main body of the local development plan, therefore more visible. • The approach supports the aims of the CCMP.
<p>Alternative 1</p>	<p>There is no need for a policy within the local development plan or other planning documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing text showing support for residential use in the city centre may reduce the awareness that is encouraged and supported. • The approach will not support the aims of the CCMP.
<p style="text-align: center;">Issue 2: Evening and Night-time Economy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This issue is about supporting and encouraging the growth of Aberdeen’s evening and night time economy.</p>	
<p>Preferred Option</p>	<p>Establish the requirement to support and encourage the evening and night time economy through policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and enhance the existing evening and night time economy ensuring a mix of day, early evening and night time economy. • Amenity will need to be assured to balance the needs of city centre residents.

Alternative 1 (Current Approach)	<p>High footfall generating developments are supported by Policy NC1: City Centre-Regional Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening and night time economy is supported within the network of centres.
<p>Issue 3: Visitor Attractions This issue is about supporting existing visitor attractions, and protecting and growing visitor attractions.</p>	
Preferred Option	<p>Establish a new policy to support and encourage visitor attractions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages and enhances support for these uses. • The approach supports the aims of the CCMP.
Alternative 1 (Current Approach)	<p>High footfall generating developments are supported by Policy NCI: City Centre-Regional Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitor attractions are supported within the network of centres. ▪ The approach supports the aims of the CCMP.
<p>Issue 4: Minimum Internal Space Standards for New Residential Development This issue is about introducing clear requirements for all new residential development to meet a minimum level of internal floor space.</p>	
Preferred Option	<p>Set minimum internal space standards for new residential development (including conversions) in line with the 'Nationally Described Space Standard'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is considered that this approach will ensure that minimum standards are being achieved across the city. • Ensuring consistency in decision making and outcomes. • Sets out clear expectations to the development industry. • May impact on the viability of some proposals.
Alternative 1	<p>Better the minimum internal space standards set out in the Preferred Option and/or tailor these to contextual expectations associated with city centre, inner city and outer city (suburb) locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would ensure that applied standards offer a degree of flexibility and are appropriate to local circumstances and area characteristics. • May impact on the viability of some proposal, however, a degree of flexibility could be applied in certain circumstances, for example with city centre conversions.

Alternative 2 (Current Approach)	<p>Rely on the market to deliver development that caters to demand, and to allow space standards to be set through applying other policy requirements and material planning considerations, such as access to light, outlook and general amenity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No minimum space standard requirement would allow developers to provide homes with little or no restriction in respect of internal space standards. • The absence of space standard policy would make it difficult to ensure minimum space standards in new residential development.
<p style="text-align: center;">Issue 5: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure This issue is concerned with providing infrastructure to support changes in transport technologies.</p>	
Preferred Option	<p>Increase the requirement for electrical vehicle charging infrastructure for all new developments that provide parking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively encourage electrical vehicle charging infrastructure. • Gives confidence to public that there is sufficient infrastructure and in turn encourages modal shift to electrical vehicles. • Likely to be more costly to implement and maintain. • Ultimately helps to meet Scottish Government aim to decarbonise road transport by 2050.
Alternative 1 (Current Approach)	<p>Acknowledge and support alternative fuel vehicles within policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad hoc infrastructure provision for electric vehicles. • Weaker policy stance.
<p style="text-align: center;">Issue 6: Low and Zero Carbon Generating Technologies and Water Efficiency This issue is concerned with reducing energy use and a fabric first approach to construction and a cleaner energy sector.</p>	
Preferred Option	<p>Follow the targets set out in the current Supplementary Guidance (Resources for New Development) and transcribe these into the Local Development Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This approach would allow for the development of a coherent plan across the city and provide clarity to developers over the requirements expected from them.
Alternative 1	<p>Increase the levels of expected carbon reduction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This approach is likely to have a significant financial impact on new developments and may prevent developments from coming forward.

Alternative 2 (Current Approach)	<p>Maintain the current level of carbon emissions reduction target, 20% for the period of the next Local Development Plan (2022-2027).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is likely that small networks will still be developed but these will be isolated and often difficult to connect together. • This reduces the ability to develop these individual islands, into a city wide cohesive heat network, or networks.
<p>Issue 7: Heat Networks</p> <p>This issue is concerned with moving heat networks in Aberdeen in a coherent planned way by possibly having a specific policy.</p>	
Preferred Option	<p>Include a policy supporting the development of heat networks across the city. The policy would identify key areas of the city where existing networks exist, or where new networks should be developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This approach would allow for the development of a coherent plan across the city and provide clarity to developers over the requirements expected from them. transport and planning issues need to be resolved
Alternative 1	<p>Include a policy requiring all new development within the city to connect to, or develop a new heat network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This approach is likely to have a significant financial impact on new developments and may prevent developments from coming forward. ▪ Where development did come forward it may increase delivery of heat networks across the city.
Alternative 2 (Current Approach)	<p>No policy requirement is in place, but support will be shown to the development of heat networks where they are brought forward by a developer or landowner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is likely that small networks will still be developed but these will be isolated and often difficult to connect together, reducing the ability to develop these individual islands, into a city wide cohesive heat network, or networks.
<p>Issue 8: West End Office Area</p> <p>This issue concerns encouraging a mix of uses in the West End Office Area.</p>	
Preferred Option	<p>Relax the current policy and encourage a mix of uses (including housing, offices, small business units, hotels, food and drink premises) in this area.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brings vacant buildings back into use. • Encourages vibrancy by having a more diverse range of uses.
Alternative 1	<p>Encourage a return to only residential uses in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brings vacant buildings back to use. • Challenge of incorporating existing rear extensions within residential development.
Alternative 2 (Current Approach)	<p>Encourage and promote the continued development of this area as a focus for office development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good, accessible office location with off-street car parking provision and space for expansion. • Possibility of further vacant buildings.
<p>Issue 9: Inclusive Housing Mix (Housing for the Elderly and Accessible Housing) This issue concerns achieving a greater mix of housing types in new developments.</p>	
Preferred Option	<p>Policy H4 would be updated to set a minimum requirement for a housing mix to be achieved in most new residential developments. Mix can be agreed with Planning Authority to respond to individual site context. Units that can be demonstrated as ‘adaptable’ for varying needs, or designed for lifetime living, would be supported in principle, subject to other policies. Further guidance/ design guide could be prepared to support this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New developments would be required to add choice to the City’s market offer. This would be a targeted effort to address the findings of the HNDA, whilst allowing flexibility to respond to site context. • Likely to be argued that this would impact on the viability of some proposals, however flexibility could be applied in certain circumstances where this is deemed satisfactory by the Authority, for example proposals for fewer units or affordable housing schemes.
Alternative 1	<p>Set minimum requirement for all new residential developments. This minimum requirement would also define the type/ size of units required. Further guidance/ design guide would be prepared to set out requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would be a delivery-focused approach to address the findings of the HNDA. • Likely to impact on the viability of some proposals.
Alternative 2 (Current Approach)	<p>Policy H4 of the adopted LDP required developments of greater than 50 units to achieve ‘<i>an appropriate mix ...</i></p>

	<p><i>including smaller 1 and 2 bedroom units</i>'. This is to be reflected in both market and affordable housing units.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relies on the market to deliver development. Allows larger sites to be developed with some variety of house type/size. • Only applicable to larger sites. No real standard or percentage set by the Policy.
<p>Issue 10: Residential Care Facilities This issue concerns the creation of a new policy to cater for proposals relating to Residential Care Facilities.</p>	
<p>Preferred Option</p>	<p>A new policy dedicated to Residential Care Facilities. Such development should be fully accessible by most transport modes and satisfy all other relevant policies that apply to residential development, principally with regards to design and amenity.</p> <p>There would be a presumption in favour of retaining such facilities in terms of redevelopment/ Change of Use proposals. Where a proposal is justified to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, all other relevant policies would apply to the proposed development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures Development Management processing of proposals for new development are supported by a relevant policy. • Difficult to predict nature and location of future proposals to accommodate right level of flexibility.
<p>Alternative 1</p>	<p>Restrict new Residential Care Facilities to H1 areas only, or within Opportunity Sites, where transport links and adjacent uses would likely be most satisfactory.</p> <p>General presumption against redevelopment/ Change of Use proposals in order to retain Residential Care Facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater level of predictability for the handling of future applications. • Does not allow a large degree of flexibility to meet market demands and may result in less facilities being built.
<p>Alternative 2 (Current Approach)</p>	<p>Consider planning applications as they arise, in line with other relevant policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relies on other policies and zonings to make assessment of new proposals. • No dedicated policy. Little guidance on potential redevelopment/change of use proposals.

Issue 11: Student Accommodation

This issue concerns the creation of a new policy to cater for proposals relating to Student Accommodation.

<p>Preferred Option</p>	<p>A new policy dedicated to Student accommodation. Such development should be fully accessible by most transport modes and satisfy all other relevant policies that apply to residential development, principally with regards to design and amenity.</p> <p>There would be a presumption in favour of retaining such facilities in terms of redevelopment/ Change of Use proposals. Where a proposal is justified to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, all other relevant policies would apply to the proposed development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures Development Management processing of proposals for new development are supported by a relevant policy. • Difficult to predict nature and location of future proposals to accommodate right level of flexibility.
<p>Alternative 1</p>	<p>Restrict new student accommodation development to H1 areas only, or within Opportunity Sites, where transport links and adjacent uses would likely be most satisfactory.</p> <p>General presumption against redevelopment/ Change of Use proposals in order to retain student accommodation development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater level of predictability for the handling of future applications. • Does not allow a large degree of flexibility to meet market demands.
<p>Alternative 2 (Current Approach)</p>	<p>Consider planning applications as they arise, using other relevant policies in the adopted Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relies on other policies and zonings to make assessment on new proposals. • No dedicated policy. Little guidance on potential redevelopment/change of use proposals.

Issue 12: Houses in Multiple Occupation

This issue is about how the local development plan can support sustainable mixed communities, with regards to houses in multiple occupation.

<p>Preferred Option</p>	<p>A new policy dedicated to HMOs. A policy would seek a certain standard of design and amenity for proposed development or change of use to HMO use. Safeguarding for existing communities to protect neighbours from any adverse impact of HMO overprovision would be a priority.</p>
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	<p>There would need to be reference to the HMO licensing process, which is separate to the planning process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures planning applications for new HMOs are assessed properly through Development Management. • Renewed HMO licenses are not handled through the planning system, therefore difficult to monitor overprovision via Planning. Challenges in defining geographical areas and thresholds for monitoring 'overprovision'.
<p>Alternative 1</p>	<p>An 'Overprovision' policy. Restrict HMOs to specific areas. Set a specific threshold within walking distance radius of higher education facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater level of predictability for the handling of new applications for HMOs.
<p>Alternative 2 (Current Approach)</p>	<p>Consider planning applications as they arise, using other relevant policies in the adopted Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relies on other policies and zonings to make assessment of new proposals. • No dedicated policy. Not much support when considering cumulative impacts from overprovision.

4.3 Policies Carried Forward from the Existing LDP

At present, we are likely to ‘carry forward’ many of the policies in the 2017 LDP with very little change. Table 4.2 provides a summary of the main policy areas as they stand in the existing LDP.

There may be some minor updates to existing policy areas (those which are not the subject of a Main Issue), to provide extra clarification, further detail, corrections or technical updates. In the Main Issues Report, we are asking the open question of whether anything about these policies needs to change.

We have not re-assessed the existing policies here. Their full assessment can be found in the previous Environmental Report for the 2017 LDP. Each individual policy will be fully reassessed at Proposed Plan stage when the final wording is settled - any changes (or brand new policies) will be taken into account at this stage and subject to an assessment. As part of the Main Issues Report, proposed new policies and those where there have been significant changes have been assessed.

Table 4.2: Summary of Main Policy Areas in the Existing LDP

Policy Area	Main Objectives
Spatial Strategy	The Spatial Strategy promotes the City Centre as a major regional centre for retail, commercial and leisure development. It also promotes the regeneration of brownfield sites across the city. The plan also identifies significant areas of greenfield land to be released for housing and employment.
Infrastructure, Transport and Accessibility	Policy provides for developer contributions towards infrastructure requirements. New developments are required to demonstrate that sufficient measures have been taken to minimise traffic generation and promote sustainable and active travel. Land is also safeguarded for identified strategic transport projects.
Design	Design policy states that new development must be of a high quality in terms of architecture and place-making, and ensure that it benefits from appropriate amenity. The policy encourages the retention of traditional granite buildings, and ensures designated built heritage is protected from inappropriate development. Proposals must also consider their impact on landscape.
Business & Industrial Development	Business and Industrial policy sets out what types of uses are appropriate in the different zonings, and seeks to protect the role of the West End as a high status office area. The policy also addresses issues relating to the operation and development of the Harbour and Airport. Pipelines and Major Accident Hazards are also covered.

Housing and Community	LDP policy seeks to meet housing needs and create sustainable communities by setting out requirements for density, mix and affordable housing in new developments. It explains what factors development proposals must consider in residential areas, mixed use areas and those which are close to the airport. Policy provides guidance on new Gypsy and Traveller Sites and existing and new community facilities.
Retail Centres	Retail policy outlines the sequential testing approach which will be applied to all retail, commercial and leisure proposals according to the Hierarchy of Retail Centres. It addresses proposals in out-of-town centres, local shops and new development areas.
Natural Environment	This section addresses appropriate uses in the Green Belt, as well as the position on Green Space Network, Urban Green Space policy zonings and requirements for open space in new development. Other policies seek to protect trees, the coast and natural heritage from inappropriate development. It also addresses flooding and drainage, and access and recreation issues.
Using resources sustainably	Resources policy relates to the development of mineral resources and also sets out planning policies for new waste management facilities and requirements. It also addresses standards for low and zero carbon buildings and new energy developments for renewable and low carbon energy developments.

4.4 Site Allocations Considered in the Proposed LDP

The existing LDP has already allocated a significant area of land to accommodate housing and employment development up to 2035 consistent with the current Strategic Development Plan (SDP). This affects how the MIR deals with this issue.

The MIR identifies some preferred greenfield sites, which include allocations to be rolled forward from the existing LDP. There is a commitment to the development of sites contained in the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2017, and the alternatives identified in this Main Issues Report would provide a land supply over and above the Strategic Development Plan requirements. Therefore, there is no numerical justification to support additional housing or employment allocations on greenfield sites. One preferred greenfield option has also been identified for other uses (stadium and training facilities). Where a site is preferred, but there are still some constraints to its development, mitigation measures have been identified.

The MIR also identifies preferred brownfield sites which include allocations to be rolled forward from the existing LDP as well as new options from 2018 development bids (see Table 4.3: Summary of Allocations and Alternatives). There is broad support for brownfield development because these sites avoid the need to increase land take for development, they are located in the most sustainable locations and their reuse assists

regeneration and supports existing services and facilities. Identifying new brownfield opportunities for housing, employment or other uses is consistent with the SDP. Therefore, development bids have been identified as alternative because they are constrained by significant planning or environmental factors. Where a site is preferred, but there are still some constraints to its development, mitigation measures have been identified.

Table 4.3: Summary of Allocations and Alternatives

Sites	Description	
Desirable Sites	1.1	New allocations for the proposed LDP 2022-2040 which have been identified from the new Development Bids submitted during the pre-Main Issues Report consultation in May 2018. Detailed assessments are at Appendix 5 – Desirable Sites .
	1.2	Existing allocations in the adopted LDP which are proposed to be carried forward into the next LDP 2022-2040 have been reassessed these sites within the context of the Main Issues Report. Detailed assessments are at Appendix 5 – Desirable Sites .
Alternative Sites	2.1	These are new Development Bids that have been rejected. The SDP does not require us to identify any more greenfield land for housing or employment. It may also be argued that many of the bids are beyond the capacity of the Strategic Development Plan to deliver in terms of the supporting infrastructure, environmental resources (e.g. water) environmental safeguards, mitigating and monitoring measures. For this reason, the allocations are likely to have significant adverse effects on the environment cumulatively. Detailed assessments are at Appendix 6 – Undesirable Sites .
Possible Sites	2.1	These are new sites which could be included in the next LDP. These have emerged from the Development Bids, an updated Brownfield Urban Potential Study and the City Centre Masterplan. Detailed assessments are at Appendix 7 – Possible Sites .

5 Plan, Programme or Strategy Context

5.1 Relationship with other PPS and Environmental Objectives

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes an outline of the PPS relationships with other relevant PPS and how environmental protection objectives have been taken into account in the PPS preparation. This section covers these issues and describes the policy context within which the PPS operates, and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the PPS. Table 5.1 summarises how the Aberdeen Local Development Plan affects, and is affected by, other relevant PPS and environmental protection objectives. Appendix A shows a more detailed analysis of each relevant PPS and its implications for the LDP.

Table 5.1: Other relevant PPS & environmental protective objectives of the LDP

Name of Plan, Programme, Strategy or Environmental Protection Strategy	
International Level	
Nature Conservation	
	The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC
	The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC
	European Biodiversity Framework
Water	
	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
	Nitrate Directive 91/43/EC
Waste	
	The Landfill Directive 99/31/EC
	The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC
	Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste (2005)
Climate Change	
	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
	The Second European Climate Change Programme (currently in preparation)
National Level	
Overarching Planning Policy	
	National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (NPF3) (2014)
	Scottish Planning Policy 2014
Cross- Sectoral	
	Scotland's National Transport Strategy (2006)
	Strategic Transport Projects Review (2009)
	The Government's Economic Strategy (2007)
	Choosing Our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)
	Natural Resource Productivity (2009)
	Getting the best from our land: A land use strategy for Scotland 2011

Name of Plan, Programme, Strategy or Environmental Protection Strategy	
	Building a Better Scotland Infrastructure Investment Plan: Investing in the Future of Scotland (2005)
Air and Climate Change	
	Scottish Climate Change Delivery Plan (2009)
	UK Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - Volume 1 (2011)
	Clean Air Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future (2015)
	A Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland (2010)
	Changing Our Ways- Scotland’s Climate Change Programme (2006)
	Planning Advice Note 84 Reducing Carbon Emissions in New Development (2008)
Heritage, Design and Regeneration	
	Historic Environment Policy Statement (HESPS 2016)
	The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1997
	Creating Places - A policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland (2013)
	Designing Streets: A Policy Statement for Scotland (2010)
	People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement (2006)
	Green Infrastructure: Design and Placemaking (2011)
Soil and Landscape	
	The Scottish Soil Framework (2009)
	Scottish Landscape Forum: Scotland’s Living Landscape (2007)
	Fitting Landscapes
Homes, Population and Health	
	Homes Fit for the 21 st Century: The Scottish Government’s Strategy and Action Plan for Housing in the Next Decade 2011-2020 (2011)
	All Our Futures: Planning for a Scotland with an Ageing Population (2007)
	Reaching Higher- Building on the Success of Sport 21 (2007) (Scotland’s Sport Strategy)
	Let’s Make Scotland More Active: A Strategy for Physical Activity (2003)
	Let’s Get Scotland Walking – The National Strategy
	Cycling Action Plan for Scotland 2013
	A Long-Term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland 2030
	Equality Act 2010
	Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005
Natural Conservation	
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
	The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
	Scotland’s Biodiversity Strategy- Its in your hands (2004)
	2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity - A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland (2013)
	The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)
	The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2007
	Making the Links: Greenspace for a more successful and sustainable Scotland (2009)
Water	
	Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005
	Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003
	Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009
	The river basin management plan for the

Name of Plan, Programme, Strategy or Environmental Protection Strategy	
	Scotland river basin district: 2015–2027 (2015)
	Scottish Water Strategic Asset and Capacity Development Plan (2012)
	SEPA Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland v3: Environmental Policy 19 (SEPA)
	Action Programme for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (Scotland) Regulations 2008)
Waste	
	Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (2010)
	SEPA Guidelines for Thermal Treatment of Municipal Waste
Marine and Coastal	
	SEAS The Opportunity: A Strategy for the Long Term Sustainability of Scotland's Coasts and Seas (2005)
	Marine (Scotland) Act 2010
	Our Seas- a Shared Resource. High Level Marine Objectives (2009)
Cross- Sector Guidance	
	PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage
	PAN 61: Planning and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
	Planning and Waste Management Advice (2015)
	PAN 65: Planning and Open Space
	PAN 75: Transport and Planning
	PAN 76: New Residential Streets
	PAN 77: Designing Safer Places
	PAN 78: Inclusive Design
Regional Level	
Overarching Planning Policy	
	Proposed Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2018
	Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2014
Cross- Sectoral	
	Regional Economic Strategy – Securing the Future of the North East 2015
	The Economic Action Plan for Aberdeen City and Shire to 2025
	NESTRANS Regional Transport Strategy Refresh (2013)
Nature Conservation	
	North East of Scotland Biodiversity Partnership - Action Plan 2014 - 2017
	River Dee Catchment Management Plan (2007)
Local Level	
	Draft Aberdeen Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023
	Aberdeen City Local Transport Strategy 2016 - 2021
	Aberdeen City Air Quality Action Plan
	Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26
	Aberdeen Nature Conservation Strategy 2010-2015
	Open Space Audit and Strategy 2011-2016
	Aberdeen City Core Paths Plan
	Landscape Character Assessment of Aberdeen
	Contaminated Land Strategy
	Aberdeen City Waste Strategy 2014-25

From the analysis of the relevant environmental protection objectives contained in these plans, programmes and strategies, the key points arising from this analysis are that the Local Development Plan should:

- Avoid adverse impacts on both statutory and non-statutory protected sites for natural heritage interests i.e. habitats, species, earth science interests and landscape interests
 - Internationally important Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the terms of the Conservation Regulations 1994
 - Nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) notified under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
 - Nationally important areas for landscape and visual amenity e.g. Designed Landscapes
 - Locally important wildlife sites e.g. Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Local Nature Conservation Sites.
- Ensure compliance with statutory provisions for statutory protected species and with regional biodiversity plans e.g.
 - EPS (e.g. otters and bats), Wildlife and Countryside Act schedule 1 species (e.g. golden eagle),
 - Wildlife and Countryside Act schedule 5 species (e.g. red squirrel and water vole),
 - the Protection of Badgers Act, and with objectives of North East Scotland Biodiversity Action Plan (e.g. aspen hover fly and wych elm)
- Promote biodiversity, maintain and restore natural habitats and habitat networks.
- Maintain and support landscape character and local distinctiveness.
- Promote the provision of access links to adjacent access routes e.g. core path network, or existing footpaths.
- Promote sustainable use of water and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts;
- Support strategies that help to limit or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases;
- Encourage increased use of renewable energy resources and more efficient use energy and water
- Support strategies that help to limit or reduce the emissions of pollutants;
- Protect wildlife from disturbance, injury intentional destruction;
- Promote good design, safe environment, clean environment and good quality services;
- Promote sustainable alternatives to car and reduce congestion traffic pollution through walking, cycling and the location of sports facilities;
- Promote economic growth, social inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety;
- Promote strategies that do not degrade the coastal environment;
- Promote the economy, support the community and the public service;
- Set the framework for development consents for major sport facilities development;
- Help to promote protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment;
- Seek to promote watercourses as valuable landscape features and wildlife habitats;
- Ensure that the water quality and good ecological status of the water framework directive are maintained.

5.2 Relevant Aspects of the Current State of the Environment

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Schedule 3 requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the PPS, and “the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected”. This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the PPS operates and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the PPS. The detailed analysis of the baseline data is presented in **Appendix 3**.

5.3 Likely Evolution of the Environment Without the LDP

It is important to clarify that this is a review of the extant LDP adopted in January 2017 and that without review the current LDP would remain. With this in mind the likely evolution of the environment without the LDP is likely to focus on anything that is likely to change between the plans. There are also other PPS listed in Table 4.1 under “Regional” and “Local”, for example the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2014, Local Transport Strategy, the Draft Local Housing Strategy and the Core Paths Plan, will involve physical development which will have environmental consequences; both positive and negative. It is envisaged that future changes to the environment are inevitable due to natural processes, but also due to human interventions that are unconnected with the LDP. The existing environmental problems described in the previous section would likely persist in the absence of an LDP.

Potential changes to the environmental baseline without the LDP are listed in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2: Potential Environmental Changes without the LDP

SEA Topic	Possible Changes without the Local Development Plan
Biodiversity, flora & fauna	The effects on biodiversity predicted due to the plan would not occur and adverse effects on biodiversity caused by other activities would remain. This includes the loss and fragmentation of habitats caused by unplanned development promoted by the Strategic Development Plan and Local Development Plan.
Landscape	Impacts on landscape character resulting from the plan are not expected to be significantly changed as the major greenfield allocations have been made in the 2017 Local Development Plan. There would be a greater risk of unplanned sporadic development affecting landscape character without an up-to-date Local Development Plan. Those impacts associated with proposals within other plans and human activities would remain.
Cultural Heritage	The effects on the historic environment. Impacts resulting from the LDP are not expected to be significantly changed as the 2017 Local Development Plan has identified the major development opportunities and has set the principles for development. There may be opportunities to enhance the policies on design and cultural heritage that would be lost without reviewing the Local Development Plan.

SEA Topic	Possible Changes without the Local Development Plan
Air Quality & Climatic Factors	The current 2017 Local Development Plan has identified major allocations to 2031 and there are not anticipated to be any major changes. Without the review these allocations would remain and there would be no change. However, the review provides the opportunity to revise policies and proposals to reduce the environmental impact further, drawing on lessons learnt.
Water	Adverse effects on water quality would remain in the absence of the strategy. There is the opportunity to further refine policies on water to minimise the environmental impact Construction associated with other plans would still occur and agricultural run-off would continue to cause pollution of water bodies.
Population & Human Health	There is no change anticipated as a result of this Local Development Plan, although we may be looking at issues of food growing in the review of the LDP, which do not feature in the current plan.
Soil & Material Assets	The current 2017 Local Development Plan has identified major greenfield allocations to 2031 and there are not anticipated to be any major changes in these. Without the review these allocations would remain and there would be no changes to the impacts on soil. Opportunities for brownfield development will also continue to be identified, and this will provide further opportunities to clear contaminated land. Other PPS being implemented in the City, such as the Aberdeen Housing Strategy are likely to affect material assets and the soil.

5.4 Characteristics of Areas Likely to be Significantly Affected

The analysis of the baseline information (**Appendix 3 – Baseline Data, Targets and Trends**) indicates that the Local Development Plan is likely to have more significant effects on certain areas than others. This is due to the sensitivity of those areas in terms of international, national and local designation. Although other areas may not be designated, the effects on those sites from the Plan could be cumulative. Appendix 3.1 Climatic Factors to Appendix 3.10 Landscape contain sites which are most likely to be significantly affected.

5.5 Environmental Problems

Environmental problems that affect the PPS were identified through discussions with sustainability officers, sports and culture officers; analysis of baseline data relevant to Aberdeen City and previous SEAs. Some of the problems relating to the City are taken up in the Core Paths Plan, and Aberdeen Local Housing Strategy. The main issues relevant to this strategy are summarised below.

Table 5.3: Environmental Problems relevant to the Local Development Plan

SEA topics	Environmental Problem	Implications for the Local Development Plan
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential disturbance to protected species from new development • Potential loss of green space to develop housing and employment areas • Disturbance to species from new development • Potential loss of green linkages and wildlife corridors • Pressure on the River Dee SAC • Pressure on Local Nature Conservation Sites. • Pressure on Protected Species from new development through disturbance or loss of resting places and habitats. • Loss of biodiversity action plan species and habitats as a result of new development. • Potential loss, fragmentation or inadequate supply of green networks and wildlife corridors as a result of new development. • Alteration in the management of green space as a result of new development. • Introduction of alien species of animals or plants as a result of new development. 	<p>The Local Development Plan should protect biodiversity through minimising the impact on protected and non-protected designations and provide opportunities to enhance biodiversity.</p>
Air & Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary release of particulate matter in constructing new development • Substantial energy consumption in new developments and in transport • Lack of renewable energy use in new developments • Continuing car dependence with high CO2 emissions • Energy consumption with respect to transport – including consideration of alternative fuels to petrol & diesel • Energy consumption of new development – including consideration of district heating 	<p>The Local Development Plan should encourage the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures in buildings. It should also encourage consideration of district heating in new developments, and alternative fuels to petrol and diesel for vehicles. The implementation of the strategy should minimise car dependence, air pollution and nuisance.</p>
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of run-off from hard surfaces and new development 	<p>The Local Development Plan should ensure that</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil sealing and compaction arising from new development • Substances used in construction, cleaning and redevelopment could potentially contaminate the soil • Increase in the amount of waste arising from new development 	<p>SUDS are delivered in new development.</p> <p>The implementation of developments should avoid soil contamination. The waste hierarchy should be promoted.</p>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential pollution from new developments, especially industrial areas • Disturbance to qualifying features in River Dee from new development • Increased need to abstract water during the construction of, and servicing new development • Flooding events are predicted to increase in frequency and severity due to the effects of climate change; consequently, any future development below 5m datum is liable to flooding 	<p>The Local Development Plan should minimise water pollution and avoid disturbance to qualifying features of the River Dee.</p> <p>The implementation of the Local Development Plan should avoid the risk of flooding</p> <p>The implementation of the Local Development Plan should improve water quality and ensure sustainable use of water</p>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development reducing public open space and green space in the City • New development harming the landscape setting of the city • New developments harming landscape features • New development resulting in coalescence and urban sprawl 	<p>The Local Development Plan must ensure that playing fields and public open spaces are protected</p> <p>The Local Development Plan must take into account landscape setting when setting the allocations.</p> <p>The Local Development Plan should safeguard character</p>
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development activities around certain parts of the City, declared air quality management areas, affecting people's health. • Inadequate provision of open space and sporting facilities; • Severance of links between residential areas and recreational sites limiting healthy sporting activities • Lack of family housing leading to a decline in the number of younger people 	<p>The Local Development Plan must recognise air quality management areas.</p> <p>The Local Development Plan should provide adequate sport facilities, open spaces, affordable housing and family housing.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing demographics – loss of population and ageing population • Lack of affordable housing • Energy and consumption with respect to transport – including consideration of alternative fuels to petrol & diesel. • Energy consumption of new development – including consideration of district heating. 	The Local Development Plan should take into account the needs of all sectors of society.
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development can potentially impact on historical features. • Development activities can damage historical features 	The Local Development Plan should protect and where appropriate enhance the historical environment. It should manage the conflict between modern requirements and historic buildings.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate housing land, employment land and community facilities to meet the needs of people in Aberdeen City • Lack of adequate infrastructure to accommodate the scale of housing proposed for the city • Limited use of recycled building materials • New infrastructure / major developments require improvements • Impacts on River Dee and the water environment due to infrastructure • New infrastructure – AWPR/other infrastructure improvements • Major development not identified in the development plan • Public water supply requirements on the River Dee • Rainwater and waste water infrastructure including impacts on water environment. 	The Local Development Plan should promote the development requirements of the Strategic Development Plan. It should support regular maintenance and improvement of key infrastructure projects including rainwater and waste water infrastructure, while at the same time protecting key water environments.

6 Assessment, Mitigation and Monitoring

6.1 Alternatives to which SEA was Applied

The SEA assessments set out the likely significant environmental effects arising from both the preferred and alternative components of the strategy, as set out in the Main Issues Report (summarised in Section 2). The scope of the assessment of the Main Issues Report sections are set out below and the full assessments can be found in **Appendix 8**. As a whole the Main Issues Report will have mixed effects on the environment. The following paragraphs summarise the reasons for selecting the preferred options in the Main Issues Report.

Vision

The vision has been taken from the Proposed Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan, and appears unchanged in the Local Development Plan, which has been subject to SEA and there has not been a need to assess the vision in this Environmental Report.

Main issues

There are 12 brand new Main Issues which all have at least one alternative. These have all been subject to a full SEA assessment.

In Appendix 8 main issues and preferred options and alternatives have been identified on the basis of their planning and environmental merit, as informed by the SEA.

Greenfield Sites

In considering the greenfield allocations, it is anticipated that many allocated sites will be carried forward into the next plan with no change. The sites that have been selected fit with the spatial strategy in the Strategic Development Plan and minimise the overall impact on the environment, as informed by the SEA. Where preferred site options result in a likely significant environmental effect, a requirement for mitigation has been highlighted. The Proposed SDP does not require us to identify any further greenfield land for housing or employment uses and the vast majority of new development bids have been identified as alternative based on this justification.

The sites within the current Local Development Plan have been subject to SEA and were selected as the most suitable sites for development. The alternative sites in some instances have a significant impact on the environment or do not fit with the spatial strategy and would be beyond the capacity of the SDP to deliver in terms of the supporting infrastructure, environmental resources (e.g. water), environmental safeguards, mitigating and monitoring measures. For this reason the alternative allocations are likely to have significant adverse effects on the environment cumulatively if allowed. However, the Main Issues Report identifies a limited number of preferred greenfield options for other uses: housing, a stadium and community facilities. Allocations which already have planning consent will not be assessed but are considered in the Cumulative Assessment

Brownfield Sites

We have identified as a preferred option brownfield sites for development. These sites include allocations to be rolled forward from the existing LDP, as well as new options from 2018 development bids. There is broad support in the strategy for brownfield development because these sites avoid the need to increase land take for development and they are located in the most sustainable locations and their reuse assists regeneration and supports existing services and facilities. Identifying new brownfield opportunities for housing, employment or other uses is consistent with the SDP. Therefore, alternatives have been identified as such because they are not suitable in planning or environmental terms. Where a site is preferred, but there are still constraints to its development, mitigation measures have been identified.

Policies

There may be some minor updates to existing policy areas (those which are not the subject of a Main Issue), to provide extra clarification, further detail, corrections or technical updates. In the Main Issues Report, we are asking the question about whether anything needs to change.

We have not re-assessed the existing policies here. Their full assessment can be found in the previous Environmental Report for the 2017 LDP. Where policies have undergone significant changes or brand new policies have been introduced, these have been assessed as part of the Main Issues Report. Each individual policy will also be fully reassessed at Proposed Plan stage when the final wording is settled.

Note on Habitats Regulations Appraisal

This Interim Environmental Report does not contain a Habitats Regulations Appraisal. We will be completing a full Appraisal for the LDP at a later stage, which will be incorporated into the Environmental Report for the Proposed Plan. This is because we do not yet know for certain which sites are going forward, and what the nature of the detailed proposals are likely to be. At Proposed Plan stage, we will be able to assess the effect of the Plan on European Sites more accurately and in more detail.

6.2 Framework for Assessing Environmental Effects

We have assessed the main issues, policies and allocations considered under the Main Issues Report against SEA topics. We have predicted whether these effects are negative, positive, uncertain, mixed or neutral effects. We have further evaluated their significance on the receptors in relation to reversibility or irreversibility of effects, risks and duration (permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term). We have also assessed cumulative effects in a separate table. Comments from the Consultation Authorities (SNH, SEPA and The Scottish Ministers (Historic Environment Scotland)) have been taken into account regarding the methods, scope and level of detail in this Environmental Report.

To help the assessment process and ensure consistency we set questions based on the SEA topics, the questions used are set out in **Table 6.1: Environmental Objectives and Questions**.

Where we answered 'yes' to some or all of the questions, but the effect was not considered to be very significant, we gave a single minus in the score. Where we

answered 'yes' to some or all of the questions, but the effect was considered to be very significant, we gave a double minus in the score.

Table 6.1: Environmental Objectives and Questions

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
<p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable use of water and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts Ensure that the water quality and good ecological status of the water framework directive are maintained. Maintain water abstraction, run-off and recharge within carrying capacity 		
<p>Could the option result in a change of status of a water body or significantly affect a designated water body as identified in the Scotland River Basin Management Plan?</p>	<p>Water</p>	<p>Increase development that physically impacts on a watercourse or the coastline?</p> <p>Result in the release of water-borne pollution into watercourses, groundwater or reservoirs during construction or longer term?</p> <p>Increase the amount of surface water run-off into water bodies?</p>
<p>Could the option have a direct impact on the water environment (for example result in the need for watercourse crossings or a large-scale abstraction or allow the de-culverting of a watercourse?)</p>		<p>Increase the need to abstract water during the construction of, and servicing new development?</p> <p>Result in the release of water-borne pollution into watercourses, groundwater or reservoirs during construction or longer term?</p> <p>Increase the area at risk from flooding, or result in increased flooding in other areas?</p> <p>Increase the area vulnerable to the effects of changes in climate, including increased rainfall and extreme weather events?</p>
<p>Can the option connect to the public foul sewer?</p>		<p>Allow or encourage connection to the public sewerage system?</p>
<p>Does the option avoid impact on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) i.e. are there any wetlands and boggy areas on the site?</p>	<p>Water and Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora</p>	<p>Does the development harm any existing wetlands/boggy areas?</p>
<p>For large scale developments are there any private or public water supplies within 250m of the site which may be affected?</p>	<p>Water and Human Health</p>	<p>Will the development be connected to the public/private water supplies?</p> <p>Is there capacity?</p>

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
<p><i>Flood Risk</i></p> <p>Is the site thought to be at risk of flooding or could its development result in additional flood risk elsewhere?</p> <p>Could the development of the site help alleviate any existing flooding problems in the area?</p>	<p>Water, Climatic Factors and Human Health</p>	<p>Increase the area at risk from flooding, or result in increased flooding in other areas?</p> <p>Increase the area vulnerable to the effects of changes in climate, including increased rainfall and extreme weather events?</p> <p>Locate development in areas at risk from flooding?</p> <p>Ensure adequate space is provided for surface water drainage including SUDS to be implemented?</p>
<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve, protect and enhance the diversity of species and habitats and natural heritage of Aberdeen. • Maintain and enhance the populations of protected species, including European Protected Species, including protection of their resting places or roosts. • Maintain or enhance existing green networks and Improve connectivity/function and create new links where needed. 		

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
<p>To what extent will the proposal affect biodiversity, flora and fauna interests? In particular:</p> <p><i>International designation (SAC/SPA)</i></p> <p><i>Other designation (SSSI, NNR and LNRs)</i></p> <p><i>Non-designated (TPOs, hedges, woodlands, species rich grasslands)</i></p> <p><i>Habitat connectivity, wildlife corridors</i></p> <p>To what extent will the proposal affect protected species? – e.g. bats, otters, etc.</p>	<p>Bio flora and fauna</p>	<p>Protect, provide and improve habitats to enhance biodiversity?</p> <p>Affect the conservation objectives of any international, national or locally designated site? If yes, HRA required.</p> <p>Result in any negative impacts or place pressure on the conservation objectives of the River Dee SAC? If yes, HRA required.</p> <p>Protect and enhance areas of existing trees, woodland and hedges?</p> <p>Affect populations of any protected species, their habitats and resting places or roosts?</p> <p>(Protected species include Otters, Bats, Red Squirrels, water Vole, Badgers and species in the North East Scotland Biodiversity Action Plan)</p>
<p>Are there any local geodiversity sites or wider geodiversity interests that could be affected by the proposal?</p>		<p>Geodiversity sites incl Bay of Nigg (Balnagask to Cove).</p>
<p>Climate Change mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases and promote the production of renewable energy • Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change 		
<p>What is the proposal overall impact in terms of carbon emissions (using SPACE - Spatial Planning Assessment of Climate Emissions)?</p>	<p>Climatic Factors</p>	<p>Promote sustainable and active travel?</p> <p>Significantly increase energy consumption (proposed use and volume of users compared to existing)?</p> <p>Significantly increase production of waste?</p> <p>Promote the use of renewable energy and the efficient use of energy and water?</p>

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
		Result in the development of peat rich soils?
Air Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit or reduce the emissions of pollutants 		
Could the option lead to Local Air Quality Management thresholds being breached in Aberdeen's existing Air Quality Management Areas?	Air	Impact on or be affected by the Air Quality Management Areas (City Centre, Anderson Drive, Wellington Road)?
Could the option lead to the designation of a new Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)?		Result in the temporary release of particulate matter in constructing new development? Increase vehicle traffic increasing carbon footprint and negatively impacting on air quality?
Will the option lead to a sensitive use being located close to a site regulated for emissions to air by SEPA?	Air and Human Health	Is it in close proximity to a landfill site, factory, waste water treatment works, MERF, energy from waste site?
Service Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance outdoor access opportunities and access rights Protect and enhance human health Promote economic growth, social inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety; 		
Education capacity - Secondary School Catchment Area/ Primary school catchment area Health provision	Population and human health or material assets	What is the capacity? Is there enough capacity? Is there a GP surgery nearby?
To what extent will the proposal affect the quality and quantity of open space and connectivity and accessibility to open space or result in a loss of open space?		Reduce public open space and green space in the City? Improve and make provision of open space and sporting facilities? Result in the severance of links between residential areas and recreational sites, limiting healthy sporting activities?

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
To what extent will the proposal affect core path links or other key access networks such as cycle paths, coastal paths and rights of way?		<p>Are these things present?</p> <p>Remove or sever any core path or right of way?</p> <p>Provide improved access to natural and built assets?</p>
Will the proposal have the opportunity to enhance the green network through for example the green infrastructure on site?		<p>Remove or sever existing green network in or around the development?</p> <p>Improve existing green networks?</p>
<p>Soils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce contamination, safeguard soil quantity and quality 		
Is the option on greenfield or brownfield land?	Material Assets and Soils	<p>Is it greenfield or brownfield land?</p> <p>Does it result in soil sealing and compaction?</p>
Are there any contaminated soils issues on the site and if so, will the option reduce contamination?		<p>Result in the release of substances during construction, cleaning or redevelopment that could potentially contaminate the soil?</p> <p>Ensure that possible contamination will be properly remediated and not impact upon sensitive receptors such as human health or the water environment?</p>
Is the proposal on peatland and could the development of the site lead to a loss of peat?	Climatic Factors and Soils	Result in the development of peat rich soils?
Does the proposal result in the loss of the best quality agricultural land?	Soils	Check Land Capacity for Agricultural Data
<p>Deliverability/sustainability constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote good design, safe environment, clean environment and good quality services Protect and enhance outdoor access opportunities and access rights 		

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
<p>Will the site be delivered within the LDP timeframe?</p> <p>Other site servicing constraints, e.g. electricity pylons, underground gas pipelines etc.</p>	Material assets	<p>Provide adequate housing land, employment land and community facilities to meet the needs of people in Aberdeen City within the Plan timeline?</p> <p>Is there a connection to existing utilities?</p>
<p>Site aspect – does the site make best use of solar gain? Is the site protected from prevailing winds?</p>	Climatic factors	<p>Is the site north facing, east or west facing or south-west, south, south-east facing?</p> <p>Does the site have shelter from northerly winds through topography, vegetation and/or presence of frost pockets likely to occur?</p> <p>Does any part of the site have steep slopes or undulations?</p>
<p>Vehicular Access constraints or opportunities -</p> <p>Road network capable of accommodating traffic generated?</p>	Material assets and climatic factors?	Can the road network cope?
<p>Is the site close to a range of facilities? Can these be accessed by public transport?</p>	Climatic factors and human health	<p>Proximity to bus/rail network (400m)</p> <p>Proximity to car clubs</p> <p>Shopping, health or recreation spaces (800m)</p> <p>Proximity to significant employment opportunities (1.6km)</p> <p>Promote the provision of safe pedestrian access links?</p> <p>Remove or sever any core path or right of way?</p>
<p>Landscape Designated sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and support landscape character and local distinctiveness. 		
<p>Non-designated landscape features and key landscape interests</p>	Landscape	<p>Detract from or harm the landscape setting of the city?</p> <p>Result in coalescence of settlements or urban sprawl?</p>

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
Does the proposal ensure that development does not exceed the capacity of the landscape to accommodate it? Such as current settlement boundaries, existing townscape and character of surrounding area?		
To what extent will the proposal affect features of landscape interest, including the distinctive character of the landscape and the qualities of wild land?		<p>Impact Valleys, Coasts, Hills?</p> <p>Detract from or harm the landscape setting of the city?</p> <p>Impact on any landscape or geological features?</p> <p>Degrade the coastal environment?</p> <p>Impact on any landscape or geological features?</p>
Material assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise waste 		
Will the option minimise demand on primary resources e.g. does the development re-use an existing structure or recycle or recover existing on-site materials / resources?	Material Assets	<p>Is it a brownfield site?</p> <p>Are materials being reused/converted?</p> <p>Allow for the sustainable use of resources including waste and energy?</p>
Is the option in the vicinity of a waste management site and could therefore compromise the waste handling operation?	Material Assets and Human Health	<p>MERF and Energy from Waste Plant operational in Aberdeen.</p> <p>Promote more sustainable waste facilities to divert it away from landfill?</p> <p>Ensure adequate space for kerbside collection or recycling facilities in new development?</p>

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
For potential waste management activity sites (includes allocation for employment, industrial or storage and distribution uses) - does the proposal comply with the locational criteria set out in Scottish Planning Policy – Planning for Zero Waste?	Material Assets	Does the proposal comply with Scottish Planning Policy (pg41-44)?
Cultural Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment 		
Will the option affect any archaeological sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, Conservation Areas (will it result in the demolition of any buildings), inventory historic battlefields, world heritage sites or their setting?	Cultural heritage, incl architectural and archaeological heritage (and links with landscape)	Conserve and enhance historic buildings, archaeological sites, conservation areas? Impact on the landscape setting of Aberdeen or any historic features or sites listed on GIS or the Canmore Database www.rcahms.gov.uk/canmore.html ?
Will the option affect any Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape?	Cultural heritage, incl links with landscape	Affect Duthie Park?
To what extent will the proposal result in the opportunity to enhance or improve access to the historic environment?	Cultural heritage, incl architectural and archaeological heritage and links with landscape	Does the proposal enhance or improve access to the historic environment?
Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth, social Inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety; 		

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
Promote economic growth, social Inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety;	Population	Provide a range of house types and sizes to support identified population needs? Support an aging population by providing appropriate type and location of housing, facilities and public transport? Deliver affordable housing?
Human health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance human health 		
Protect and enhance human health	Human health and air quality	Allow development activities around certain parts of the City that are declared air quality management areas, resulting in a negative affect on people's health?

6.3 Cumulative Effect Assessment

Paragraph 6 (e) of Schedule 3, of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that we assess the likely significant effects on the environment, including secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects. We have assessed cumulative effects of the Main Issues Report taking into account the information available to us. In doing so have considered the evolution of the environment without the plan, environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected as well as the assessment undertaken for this Main Issues Report. In this report, we have assessed direct/indirect/secondary, time crowding, time lag, space crowding, cross-boundary, nibbling and synergistic effects in gauging cumulative effects. We have presented the detailed assessment in **Appendix 10 - Cumulative, Synergistic and Secondary Environmental Effects**.

6.4 Proposed Mitigation Measures

The SEA Directive requires that through mitigation measures, recommendations will be made to prevent, reduce or compensate for the negative effects of implementing the strategy. The proposed framework to be adopted to mitigate significant environmental effects is Table 6.2. The individual assessments of the greenfield, brownfield and main issues also describe case- specific mitigation measures where relevant.

Table 6.2 Effects of Plan and Mitigation Measures

SEA Issue	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures	When should mitigation be considered?	Who is responsible for undertaking the mitigation?
Biodiversity	Greenfield sites which fall within the River Dee catchment area may have a negative impact on the conservation objectives and biodiversity of the SAC due to pathway effects	Policy will require HRA Appropriate Assessment where a proposal is likely to affect the River Dee SAC, which will outline site specific mitigation measures. HRA will also trigger a requirement for EIA. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP. This measure is consistent with the mitigation identified by the SDP (EIA and HRA will be required through policy and conditions as appropriate).	When producing LDP policy and Supplementary/ Non-Supplementary Guidance;	LDP Team; Development Management Team; Developers
	Greenfield development across the whole city will increase demand for water which is likely to be abstracted from the River Dee, which may have effects on the conservation objectives of the SAC.	Apply policy requirement for all new developments to install water saving technologies to help minimise abstraction from the River Dee. This should be introduced in the next LDP.	Through the Development Management process, including EIA and HRA as appropriate;	
	Development is not likely to maintain and enhance the populations of protected species which may be present, or their habitats and resting places unless required to do so through mitigation.	Policy will require Ecological Assessments to be completed where a development is likely to affect a designated site or protected species, with specific mitigation measures. Bat surveys will also be required where bats are suspected. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP. These measures are consistent with the mitigation identified by the SDP (LDP will have policies protecting the natural environment).	HRA of the LDP; Master Planning.	

<p>Development of greenfield sites provides an opportunity to enhance green networks and habitat networks, but in developing a site there will be barriers created and some existing networks may be lost resulting in habitat fragmentation.</p>	<p>Masterplanning of new developments will determine the location and extent of GSN in these areas. GSN policy will be applied so that proposals ensure habitat links are maintained and enhanced. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP. These measures are consistent with the mitigation identified by the SDP (LDP will consider the need to protect or enhance existing green networks).</p>		
<p>Where present, proposals do not automatically protect and promote watercourses as being important areas for biodiversity.</p>	<p>Watercourses will be maintained as naturalised channels with riparian buffer strips, and not subject to excessive engineering work. Where there are existing culverts, opportunities to reinstate them as open watercourses will be explored, which would enhance their biodiversity value. These policies should be maintained in the next LDP.</p>		
<p>Development of greenfield areas may result in the loss of trees, woodland, field margins and hedges.</p>	<p>Important areas of woodland will be zoned as Green Space Network. Apply policy presumption against all development that will lead to the loss or damage of established trees, which will be applied at planning application stage. Policy will require a Tree Protection Plan to be agreed before development commences. These policies should be maintained in the next LDP.</p>		
<p>The development of a new harbour at Nigg Bay will have a significant temporary and permanent impact on part of the Balnagask to Cove Local Nature Conservation Site. Part of the bay is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest, mainly due to its geological interest, although the built proposals do not include this area. Building and dredging operations could affect bottlenose dolphins and Atlantic salmon. These are qualifying species for the Moray Firth SAC and the River Dee SAC respectively.</p>	<p>A detailed Environmental Impact Assessment will require to be submitted by the proposer with specific mitigation measures outlined.</p>		

Air	<p>Development of a greenfield site is likely to increase traffic into the built up area and therefore have a long term impact negatively on air quality through vehicle emissions.</p> <p>In general, development does not increase the population directly affected by any Air Quality Management Area, which cover a very small area in Aberdeen.</p>	<p>Apply air quality policy, which states that planning applications which have the potential to have a detrimental impact on air quality will not be permitted unless measures to mitigate the impact of air pollutants can be agreed. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP.</p>	<p>When producing LDP policy and Supplementary Guidance/ Non-Supplementary Guidance;</p> <p>Through the DM and Planning Agreements processes;</p>	<p>LDP Team;</p> <p>Development Management Team;</p> <p>Transport Team;</p> <p>Developers</p>
	<p>Additional traffic generated by new development may have a negative impact on existing Air Quality Management Areas.</p>	<p>Developer contributions will be sought towards public transport and roads infrastructure improvements to help mitigate the traffic impact, as outlined in current Supplementary Guidance. This should be maintained in the next LDP.</p>	<p>Master Planning;</p> <p>When producing the Local Transport Strategy, SUMP.</p>	
		<p>A Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan will be prepared for the City Centre to promote more sustainable modes of transport, reduce congestion and improve air quality in the City Centre. This should form part of the next LDP as Supplementary Guidance/Non-Supplementary Guidance.</p>		
Climate	<p>The operation and management of new buildings will also increase resource use and energy consumption, although may also promote renewable energy and efficient use of energy and water.</p>	<p>Apply policy to require all new buildings to install low and zero carbon generating technologies to reduce the predicted carbon dioxide emissions against 2007 building standards. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP, with more ambitious targets.</p>	<p>When producing LDP policy and Supplementary Guidance/ Non-Supplementary Guidance;</p>	<p>LDP Team;</p> <p>Development Management Team;</p> <p>Transport Team;</p>
	<p>There are areas around Aberdeen that are at risk from flooding and there are smaller watercourses that could result in a flood risk. As more land is developed in Aberdeen, there is greater pressure to build on sites that may be affected by flooding. Development in these areas will increase vulnerability to climate</p>	<p>Development will not be permitted in areas at risk of flooding or where it would increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. Through Masterplanning, any parts of sites at risk of flooding will be maintained as Green Space Network, with watercourses maintained as naturalised channels with riparian buffer strips.</p> <p>Flood Risk Assessments and Drainage Impact Assessments will be required, along with provision of SUDS where appropriate. Planning conditions will also require that watercourses are regularly</p>	<p>Through the DM and Planning Agreements processes;</p> <p>Master Planning;</p>	<p>Developers;</p> <p>Building Standards;</p> <p>Flood Team</p>

<p>change and will reduce ability to introduce flood prevention measures, particularly upstream.</p> <p>Sites close to areas currently identified as being at risk of flooding on SEPA's flood maps may be vulnerable to the effects of future changes in climate, for example increased rainfall or more extreme weather events.</p> <p>Development on green space may also increase surface water run-off, and increase vulnerability to flooding.</p>	<p>maintained if appropriate. Any existing culverts will require to be restored if possible and appropriate. These policies should be maintained in the next LDP.</p> <p>Policies requiring SUDS to be incorporated into all new developments will be applied in accordance with Supplementary Guidance/Non-Supplementary Guidance on Flooding and Drainage. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP.</p> <p>Specific sites for upstream flood prevention measures, such as retention basins will be identified in the LDP as appropriate. This should be included in the next LDP as Non-Supplementary Guidance.</p> <p>These measures are consistent with the mitigation identified in the SDP (LDP should have policies on flooding and drainage and SG/NSG on SUDS, DIA and Buffer Strips).</p>	<p>Through the production of Local Transport Strategy, SUMP.</p>	
<p>The housing and employment proposals the Main Issues Report are likely to lead to an increase in traffic movements and the Main Issues Report would have secondary impacts on climate as a result of this increased energy use. The cumulative impact is significant considering the allocations that are promoted are both greenfield and brownfield.</p>	<p>Apply policies in the Local Development Plan to encourage a modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>Apply policies in the LDP which promote sustainable mixed communities with areas of high density housing to support local services and facilities, and reduce the need to travel. These policies should be maintained in the next LDP. These measures are consistent with the mitigation identified in the SDP (LDP will work to ensure sustainable mixed communities and higher densities).</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OP21 Rowett South is a flood risk category D site and it could be vulnerable to future climate changes. 	<p>Maintain the area at risk of flooding as Green Space Network designation in the plan, to be protected against development.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site OP18 Craibstone has watercourses running through the site, category B and D flood risk, and it could be vulnerable to future climate changes. 	<p>Maintain the area at risk of flooding as Green Space Network designation in the plan, to be protected against development.</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site OP19 Rowett North is a Flood Risk Category B and D and may be vulnerable to the effects of climate change in future. 	<p>Maintain the area at risk of flooding as Green Space Network designation in the plan, to be protected against development.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site OP33 Greenferns is a flood risk category C site, and the Bucks Burn passes through the site. This is a largely natural watercourse in this locality which carries high flows, and is subject to bank erosion and minor flooding, development may have a significant impact on climate. 	<p>Maintain the area at risk of flooding as Green Space Network designation in the plan, to be protected against development.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site OP31 Maidencraig is a Flood Risk Category B and D and may have a negative impact on climate. 	<p>Maintain boundary of the site which reflects the area at risk from flooding.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site OP30 West Huxterstone is a flood risk category D and may have a negative impact on climate. 	<p>Maintain the area at risk of flooding as Green Space Network designation in the plan, to be protected against development.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a potential for flood risk on site OP41 Friarsfield. 	<p>Maintain the area at risk of flooding around the Cults Burn as Green Space Network designation in the plan, to be protected against development.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site OP51 is adjacent to the Culter Burn and areas of the site are at risk from flooding and development may impact negatively on climate and water as a result of this. 	<p>In a future planning application, the area around Culter Burn will not be permitted to be developed for a 'hard' use, but will be naturalised green space.</p>		

Soil	<p>It is likely that soil quality, structure and morphology will be damaged by development.</p> <p>Redevelopment of a brownfield site may also have a positive effect on soil quality through remediation or decontamination works undertaken prior to development.</p> <p>However, development may also result in the release of substances during construction that could potentially contaminate the soil.</p> <p>More development will also lead to increased waste generation (including construction waste), some of which is likely to be sent to landfill which pollutes the soil.</p>	<p>Where already-existing contamination is suspected, a site investigation will be carried out and any contamination remediated as appropriate. Policy states that all land which is degraded or contaminated, including visually, is either restored, reclaimed or remediated to a level suitable for its proposed use. These policies should be maintained in the next LDP.</p> <p>LDP will identify sites for new waste management facilities identified as necessary by the Council. Policies on construction waste will also be applied. This will help to reduce waste sent to landfill. These policies should be introduced into the next Local Development Plan. This measure is consistent with mitigation identified in the SDP (LDP will have a spatial framework for new waste facilities, and should have policies to make use of construction waste).</p>	<p>Through the Development Management process;</p> <p>EIA and other investigations required as appropriate</p>	<p>Development Management Team; Contaminated Land Officer; Developers</p>
Water	<p>The development of a greenfield site is likely to release water borne pollution into watercourses, groundwater and reservoirs if present.</p> <p>All new development will increase the need to abstract water from the River Dee, with requirements agreed between Scottish Water and SNH. Development will not promote water saving measures and water efficiency unless required to do so through mitigation measures.</p>	<p>The City Council will liaise with SEPA where there is the potential for the pollution of the water environment. Apply policies and Supplementary Guidance/Non-Supplementary Guidance on Buffer Strips to protect and enhance water bodies. This measure is consistent with the mitigation identified by the SDP (future plans should have policies to improve the ecological status of water).</p> <p>Apply policy requiring all new developments to install water-saving technologies. This policy should be introduced in the next LDP.</p>	<p>When producing LDP policy and Supplementary Guidance/Non-Supplementary Guidance;</p> <p>Through the DM and Planning Agreements processes;</p> <p>Master Planning;</p>	<p>LDP Team; Development Management Team; Transport Team; Developers; Building Standards; Flood Team; SEPA</p>

	<p>The development of a general greenfield site will avoid an increase in development that physically impacts upon a watercourse or coastline; however, in some instances watercourses or coastlines may be impacted, this is highlighted in the general assessments.</p>	<p>Apply policy presumption against excessive engineering or culverting, with natural treatment preferred where possible. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP.</p>		
	<p>Aberdeen Harbour expansion will have an impact on the local coastal water environment.</p>	<p>A detailed Environmental Impact Assessment will require to be submitted by the proposer with specific mitigation measures outlined in this.</p>		
Landscape	<p>It is likely that development of a general greenfield site will have a permanent and negative affect on the landscape setting of the city. However, this may be particularly significant in some locations that are especially prominent across the whole city. Where relevant, this is highlighted in the individual assessments.</p> <p>Greenfield development is likely to have a negative affect on landscape features, setting and character, including any geological features which may be present.</p> <p>In general greenfield development has the potential to result in coalescence of settlements and/or urban sprawl. Development in the coastal area will impact on the undeveloped coastal environment.</p>	<p>Any sites which occupy an especially visible and prominent location within the context of the whole city will not be allocated. Landscape impact will be mitigated through screening or sensitive siting of buildings within the site where appropriate. Loss of consumption dykes will be minimised wherever possible through planning and design of the development. These policies should be maintained in the next LDP.</p>	<p>When producing LDP policy and Supplementary Guidance/Non-Supplementary Guidance;</p> <p>Through the DM Process;</p> <p>Liaison with Conservation Officer;</p> <p>Master planning Process</p>	<p>LDP Team;</p> <p>Master planning, Design and Conservation Team</p>

Population	LDP has the potential to impact positively on population by providing affordable housing and greater choice of housing types and sizes, as well as employment opportunities and community facilities.	<p>Apply policy requiring a set percentage of affordable housing in every new development. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP, with provision to deliver greater numbers of affordable homes.</p> <p>Apply policy, through the Masterplanning process, to require larger developments accommodate an appropriate mix of house types and sizes to provide choice and flexibility in meeting needs and demands. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP.</p>	When producing LDP policy and Supplementary Guidance; through the DM and Planning Agreements Process	LDP, DM and Planning Agreements teams
Human Health	Greenfield development should safeguard the quantity and quality of existing open space and may also be required to make contributions towards the improvement of existing open space.	Apply policy to safeguard existing open space and make developments provide new for new open space as appropriate. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP. This measure is consistent with the mitigation identified in the SDP (LDP should have policies protecting open space).	When producing LDP policy and Supplementary Guidance/Non-Supplementary Guidance;	LDP, DM and Planning Agreements teams; Environment team to provide advice
	Potential for the loss of green space as a result of development.	Permission will not be granted to use or redevelop any area of urban green space unless an equivalent and equally convenient and accessible area is laid out and made available in the locality for green space purposes. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP.	Through the DM and Planning Agreements Process;	
	Residential development close to Aberdeen Airport where noise levels are high could create an unacceptable environment where health is affected.	Policy states that residential development within the airport exclusion zone, or within certain noise levels, will not be permitted. This should be maintained in the next LDP.	Master planning	
	Development of the whole site could result in the loss of existing sports pitches; as in the case of the following site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OP25: Replacement sports pitches will be provided in an equally accessible and convenient location, according to policy which should be maintained in the next LDP. 		
Cultural Heritage	Development may affect the historic environment. There could be long-term and permanent negative effects on the site/setting of designated heritage assets such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, Conservation Areas, Designed Landscapes and	Proposals affecting Conservation Areas or Listed Buildings will require prior consent and will only be permitted where they comply with Policies protecting the historic environment.	When producing LDP policy and Supplementary Guidance/Non-Supplementary Guidance;	LDP, DM Master planning, Design and Conservation Teams; specifically, Conservation
		Opportunities will be taken for new development to enhance the setting of any heritage assets present. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP.		

	archaeological sites. These effects may weaken the sense of place, the identity of existing settlements and landscape character in places.	Where a site is deemed to be of archaeological interest, an archaeological survey will be required prior to development. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP.	Through the DM and Planning Agreements Process;	Officer; Tree Officers
		Apply Design and Heritage policy so that all new development will have due consideration for its setting. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP.	Master planning	
Material Assets	There may be an impact upon school rolls associated with new residential development. This may be either positive in terms of supporting schools with low rolls or negative in terms of placing extra demand for places on schools with limited capacity to accommodate them. Where relevant impacts are highlighted in the individual assessments.	Where there will be a negative impact on existing infrastructure, developer contributions will be required as appropriate. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP.	When producing LDP policy and Supplementary Guidance/Non-Supplementary Guidance;	LDP, DM, Planning Agreements teams
	Development may result in the loss of open spaces and areas of recreational value.	Apply policy requiring all new developments provide open space; and developer contributions will also be sought as appropriate, to enhance the quality of existing open spaces, as outlined in SG. This policy should be maintained in the next LDP.	Through the DM and Planning Agreements Process;	
			Master planning	

6.5 Monitoring

Aberdeen City Council is required to monitor the significant environmental effects when the plan is implemented. A monitoring report will be prepared to constantly monitor the significant effects. The framework for monitoring significant effect of the implementation of the plan is shown on Table 6.3 below. The monitoring data will be incorporated into the PPS.

Table 6.3: Monitoring Plan

Effects	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where will information be obtained from?	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?
Biodiversity	Impact on the qualifying features of the River Dee SAC	Dee Catchment Management Plan		Remedial action should be considered if water quality deteriorates or there is a decrease in water resource.	Aberdeen City Council Environment Team, SNH, SEPA, Dee Catchment Partnership, North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership	Annually	A review of land allocations through the Local Development Plan Process Review of Supplementary Guidance on Natural Heritage should a quicker response be required

Effects	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where will information be obtained from?	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?
	Habitat fragmentation	Open Space Strategy and Greenspace Network reviews		When Local Nature Conservation Strategy indicates a negative impact on habitats and species as a result of development pressure	Aberdeen City Council Environment Team, SNH, SEPA, Dee Catchment Partnership, North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership	Open Space Strategy Annual Monitoring	Review of Supplementary Guidance on open space and greenspace network
	Number of and land area of designated sites Number of biodiversity action plan species and habitats	Local Nature Conservation Strategy North East Scotland Biodiversity Action Plan		When Local Nature Conservation Strategy indicates a negative impact on habitats and species as a result of development pressure	Aberdeen City Council Environment Team, SNH, SEPA, Dee Catchment Partnership, North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership	Annually	Review of Supplementary Guidance on Natural Heritage
Air	Nitrogen dioxide emissions Air quality (PM ₁₀)	Aberdeen City Council Local Air Quality Management: Progress Reports		When new Air Quality Management Areas are declared. Planning Applications Review of Supplementary Guidance on Air Quality	Environmental Health	As part of the Air Quality Action Plan or As and when is necessary	Review Supplementary Guidance on Air Quality

Effects	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where will information be obtained from?	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?
Climatic factors	Increase in resource use from new development, carbon footprint	Monitoring of new development emissions, Building Standards Sustainability labels	Currently limited information on the overall global footprint of Aberdeen	When planning applications are being approved contrary to Policies.	LDP Team , Building Standards and Development Management,	Annually	Review of Supplementary Guidance if developments are not achieving desired outcomes
	Increase in car use and energy consumption in new developments	Local Transport Strategy Monitoring of modal shift in transport modes		When transport monitoring shows increases in congestion and a modal shift is not occurring, i.e. use of the car is increasing.	LDP Team and Transportation	Annual monitoring report	
	Area at risk from flooding and new developments at risk from flooding	Flood Risk Management Plans	This is currently in preparation and is not available.	If the areas at risk from flooding change there is a need to review the spatial strategy	Aberdeen City, Council, SEPA	In a finalised Flood Risk Management Plan	Review allocations and flooding policies and the need for flood defences through the review of the Local Development Plan
Soil	contaminated land Meeting landfill allowance targets Soil erosion	Contaminated land strategy Aberdeen City Council Waste Strategy Flood monitoring data from SEPA.		If the number of contaminated sites/land increases If the level of biodegradable Municipal waste sent to landfill increases When flood events increase	Contaminated Land Unit, SEPA	As and when	Prepare or revise Supplementary Guidance/Non-Supplementary Guidance.

Effects	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where will information be obtained from?	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?
Water	<p>Impact on water quality of River Dee SAC</p> <p>Impact of development on Flooding</p> <p>Impact of development on water pollution</p> <p>Physical impact of development on water bodies and the coast</p>	<p>Dee catchment management plan</p> <p>SEPA flood monitoring and local authority flood monitoring data</p> <p>SNH on the impact on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC</p>		<p>When data from SEPA and SNH indicate potential pollution in the Dee</p> <p>When data indicates that there has been an increase in flood incidents action should be taken</p>	SEPA, SNH and Aberdeen City Council	As and when flood risk and pollution increases	<p>Review the action programme of the local development plan</p> <p>Review Supplementary Guidance on flooding and drainage</p>
Landscape	<p>Impact of development on visually prominent areas</p> <p>Development adversely affecting the landscape and townscape setting.</p>	<p>Landscape appraisal</p> <p>Public complaints</p>		<p>When landscape appraisal indicates a negative impact on landscape and townscape setting</p> <p>When there is a large amount of opposition to development</p>	Development Management and developers	Annually	Review land allocations and/or prepare Supplementary Guidance/Non-Supplementary Guidance

Effects	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where will information be obtained from?	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?
	Loss of trees and landscape features	Information will be gained through the consultation responses to planning applications by the Council's Environment Team.	There is not currently any statistical data collected. This would not necessarily provide a good picture as replacement planting schemes will often be agreed.	If there is difficulty in implementing the policy to protect trees and landscape features then a review should be undertaken.	LDP Team and Environment Team	Local Development Plan Monitoring Statement	Review policy position or provide further advice or training for case officers and elected members.
Population	Increase in the range of house types and tenures	Housing land audit		When the plan is reviewed	LDP Team	Annually	Review Policies and allocations in ALDP and Supplementary Guidance
	Increase in the number of care homes built	Monitoring of planning applications		When the plan is reviewed	LDP Team	Annually	Review Policies and allocations in ALDP

Effects	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where will information be obtained from?	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?
Cultural Heritage	<p>Impact on Archaeological remains on Greenfield sites</p> <p>Reduced numbers of historic buildings registered as 'at risk'</p> <p>The impact of development on listed buildings and conservation areas</p>	<p>Archaeology – number of excavations and remains found on sites</p> <p>Scottish Civic Trust Buildings at risk register for Scotland</p>		<p>When there is an increase in Archaeological remains being discovered</p> <p>When the number of buildings on the 'at risk' register remains static or increases</p>	Scottish Civic Trust and LDP Team, Archaeology and developers	Annually	Review of prepare Supplementary Guidance/Non-Supplementary Guidance and revise land allocations
Material Assets	School capacities	School Roll Forecasts		Remedial action will have to be taken through the application process to take account of changes	Education, Development Management	Annually in School Roll Forecasts	Changes made to the requirements for infrastructure
	Quantity and quality of open space	Open Space Audit annual monitoring		Remedial action should be taken where there is a significant loss of open space as a result of new development	Environment Team	Annually in Open Space Audit Monitoring	Review the Supplementary Guidance on open space

7 Next Steps

7.1 Proposed Consultation Timescale

Aberdeen City Council will ensure an early and effective consultation on the different stages of the new Local Development Plan and the accompanying Environmental Report. In this connection, the minimum consultation period Aberdeen City Council intends to specify under Section 16(1)(b) and notify under Section 16(2)(a)(iv) is eight (8) weeks. We will be consulting for **10 weeks** between March and May 2019.

7.2 Anticipated Milestone

Table 7.1 shows the remaining steps needed for the SEA of Aberdeen Local Development Plan and how these steps would be carried out and described in the final environmental report.

Table 7.1: Proposed consultation timescale and methods

Expected time frame	Milestone	Comments
35 days	Consulting on the Scoping Report	Complete
3 weeks	Collating views on the Consultation and take the appropriate action on the Scoping Report and the plan as the result of the consultations	Complete
4 weeks	Finalise the Environmental Report	Complete
10 weeks	Consulting on the Environmental Report and the Main Issues Report	March to May 2019
3 weeks	Collating views on the Consultation	
3 weeks	Take the appropriate action on the environmental report and the plan as the result of the consultations	
10 weeks	Consult on Proposed Plan and Revised Environmental Report	
2 weeks	Finalise the Revised Environmental Report following examination	
2 weeks	Publish Revised Environmental Report	
2 weeks	Take post-adoption measures	

8 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Analysis of Consultation at Scoping Stage

Appendix 2 – Links to other PPS & Environmental Protection Objectives

Appendix 3 – Baseline Data, Targets and Trends

Appendix 4 – Maps

Appendix 5 – Strategic Environmental Assessment: Desirable Sites

Appendix 6 – Strategic Environmental Assessment: Undesirable Sites

Appendix 7 – Strategic Environmental Assessment: Possible Sites

Appendix 8 – Strategic Environmental Assessment: Main Issues

Appendix 9 – Strategic Environmental Assessment: Policies

Appendix 10 – Cumulative, Synergistic and Secondary Environmental Effects

Appendix 1 Analysis of Consultation at Scoping Stage

Organisation	Section	Comment	Aberdeen City Council Response
Scottish Natural Heritage	Scope of assessment and level of detail	Suggest a clear link between the SEA for the higher-level Aberdeen city/shire Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and this assessment, ensuring the requirements which the SDP ER identifies for LDPs are addressed i.e. mitigation measures referred to for LDPs.	Noted. The Environmental Report has taken into consideration the Proposed SDP requirements identified in its ER.
		Convey key findings of the SEA, including developer requirements, in the Main Issues Report for each site and policy.	Each development bid has been subject to a site assessment and SEA. Reference to this has been made in the Main Issues Report.
	Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)	Expect the HRA will be published alongside the Proposed Plan. HRA should be included as a separate appendix to the ER.	HRA will be included as a separate appendix to the ER at Proposed Plan stage.
	4.1 Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS) Context	Additional PPS to be included: Human Health: Let's Get Scotland Walking – The National Walking Strategy Cycling Action Plan for Scotland 2013 A Long-Term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland 2030 Landscape: Fitting Landscapes	Additional PPS have been included.
	4.4 Characteristics of Areas likely to	Short narrative in the main body of the ER identifying any significant baseline changes since the first LDP SEA would be helpful.	This will be our third LDP. A narrative of significant changes since the second

be significantly affected		LDP have been included within Section 4 of the Interim ER.
	Appendix 7.2.5 – some information is not available (biodiversity, flora and fauna information). Baseline gaps/trend should be acknowledged where possible and how it is proposed to obtain this.	Appendix 7.2.5 (biodiversity, flora and fauna) comprises the most recent available baseline figures. Data will be obtained from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology ‘Land Cover Map’. Link to this has been provided in the Appendix.
	Recommends the Scotland-wide maps (e.g. soils mapping) be replaced with location-specific maps for Aberdeen. SNH may be able to provide this data if required.	The report has been amended to reflect the location-specific map for peat soils in Aberdeen.
	Water (7.2.3): suggest a baseline of water flow would be useful if information is available, especially given the abstraction considerations for the River Dee SAC. For example: water flow – the quantity of water being affected (e.g. by abstraction, increase or impoundment).	Appendix 7.2.3 (water) comprises the most recent available baseline figures. Aberdeen City Council are in regular contact with SEPA and Scottish Water regarding abstraction levels.
	Soils (7.2.4): suggest the ‘carbon rich soil’ deep peat and priority peatland habitats 2016 dataset combined digital soil information is used, and the % and type of carbon rich soils is provided.	Digital link in the Appendix has been updated with the information reflecting this.
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna (7.2.5): are there any geodiversity sites in the local authority area?	Bay of Nigg (Balnagask to Cove) is the only geodiversity site in Aberdeen. SEA includes a question in relation to this.

		Landscape (7.2.9): recommend inclusion of a baseline on green networks – e.g. number of km.	The Appendix reflects the latest information that is readily available.
	4.5 Environmental Problems	Welcome the recognition of the pressures on the natural environment associated with increased development.	Noted.
	5 Scope and Level of Detail	Support the scoping in of the SEA issues for the Plan (Table 5.1).	Noted.
		Pg 17: SNH expect the SEA will assess the significant environmental effects of the sites technically capable of being delivered.	All sites are capable of being delivered, even though this may be at a delayed timescale. Significant environmental effects of all sites have been assessed through the SEA process.
		Welcome inclusion of those sites with planning consent in the baseline and support the assessment of those sites which do not have consent. Support the intent to include carried forward sites as part of the overall cumulative assessment.	Noted.
	Proposed assessment frameworks	Welcome the intent to assess all aspects of the plan. Examples of the proposed assessment for each part of the LDP are helpful. SNH are content with more generic assessment proposed for the spatial strategy, main issues and draft policy.	Noted.
		Table 5.4 proposes to assess existing policies with minor policy amendments, and Table 5.5 new policies and alternatives. Does the latter also need to state that	Existing policies with significant amendments will be classified as new policies. These have been assessed,

		it includes all other amendments (i.e. not minor) to existing policies?	together with any new policies and are included in Appendix 9.
Site Assessments (proposed Tables 5.8 and 5.9)		Welcome pre-LDP discussions including the SEA process.	Noted.
		SEA Consultation Authorities have recently produced a LDP: Site Assessment and SEA Checklist. Scoping Report proposes a format for site assessments which follows that of SEA in LDP1 rather than the combined checklist. If this format is proceeded with, SNH recommend the comments column is expanded to separate out the assessment of the individual SEA topics and their scoring.	Proposed site assessment format has been updated to include the most recent LDP: Site Assessment and SEA Checklist recommended by SEA Consultation Authorities. The checklist will be completed on a site by site basis.
		Scoping Report states that “all site-specific alternatives will be assessed against the SEA objectives” but we cannot locate these objectives – please advise where these can be found.	SEA objectives have been included in Table 6.1 within the Interim ER.
		For scoring, SNH recommend that the system (key) proposed for recording of cumulative effects (pg.29) is also used for the other elements of the assessment as this provides the scope to better reflect which environment effects are most significant.	Noted. All other elements of the assessment will be assessed using the key on Table 5.5.
5.6 Proposed mitigation measures		Table 5.11 only proposes generic mitigation in relation to the overall impact of the Plan. In order to be meaningful it is expected that mitigation be provided for each specific site. SNH refer to the specific mitigation column in the combined site/SEA checklist and seek inclusion of this for the individual site assessments,	The Combined site/SEA checklist recommended by the SEA Consultation Authorities has been used. It includes a mitigation for each specific site.

		along with a separate column for residual effects post-mitigation. Specific mitigation measures can be included as developer requirements for sites in the Plan to provide a clear audit trail of how the SEA findings inform the LDP. Consideration of environmental enhancement measures can also be included at this level.	
	5.8 Monitoring	Support continuation of monitoring from the adopted plan's SEA for this SEA for consistency.	Noted.
	6 Next Steps	Table 6.1 Note the 10-week consultation period proposed for the ER and the Plan. For avoidance of doubt, we would expect the interim ER to be submitted at the MIR stage. Suggest the interim and ER stages are made more explicit in the table.	This has been amended to include the word 'interim ER'. The interim ER will be submitted to SEA Gateway Consultation Authorities at the MIR stage.
Historic Environment Scotland	Scope and level of detail	Content and satisfied that the historic environment has been scoped into the assessment. Welcome the opportunity to comment on any changes to policies for the historic environment	Noted. As a key agency HES will be consulted on any changes made to policies relating to the historic environment.
	Framework for assessing environmental effects	Welcome the example frameworks provided to report the findings of the assessment. It's unclear why the cumulative assessment is the only one to ascribe significance to effects. Would advise that significant positive/negative scores should be available for these tables.	Noted. All other assessments have been amended to include significant positive/negative effect scores.

Sc ot t is h En vir		It is beneficial to the delivery of identified mitigation that actions that have been put forward to mitigate/enhance specific issues for the spatial strategy are brought through to plan itself in the form of developer requirements. This process adds clarity to all stakeholders as to what is required to deliver the aspirations contained within the plan.	Mitigation actions put forward within the SEA would be brought through in the form of developer requirements through Policy and Supplementary/Non-Supplementary Guidance.
		The Consultation Authorities have produced a site assessment pro forma with the aim of bringing together the site assessment and SEA in order to streamline the process. The questions contained within the pro forma can help focus the assessor when considering sites and the questions may be utilised to underpin the finding to be presented in the assessment tables provided.	Noted. The Combined site/SEA checklist recommended by the SEA Consultation Authorities has been used.
	Environmental baseline	The environmental baseline identified in Section 7.2.8 is appropriate for the assessment. The data source address for spatial information on designated historic environment assets is no longer in use. These downloads are available here https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/spatialdownloads .	Noted. Where relevant, the web address has been updated on Table 7.2.8.
	Consultation period for the Environmental Report	Section 6.1 in the Next Steps Chapter states that the Council intends to consult on the ER for a minimum of 8 weeks while Table 6.1 states that the consultation period will be for 10 weeks. HES are content with a minimum of 8 weeks consultation.	Noted. For clarity, Section 6.1 has been amended to read 10 weeks, to correspond with Table 6.1.
	4.1 Relationship with other Plans,	Some of the PPS included have been subject to SEA. Where this is the case it may be useful to prepare a	The Proposed Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan ER has

	Policies and Strategies (PPS)	summary of the key SEA findings that may be relevant to the ALDP. This may assist with data sources and environmental baseline information and also ensure the current SEA picks up environmental issues or mitigation actions which may have been identified elsewhere.	been considered and reviewed in the preparation of this Interim ER.
	Baseline information	SEPA holds significant amounts of environmental data which may be of interest in preparing the environmental baseline, identifying environmental problems, and summarising the likely changes to the environment in the absence of the PPS.	Noted. Where necessary, we will endeavour to contact SEPA to gather any additional data required to update the baseline information.
	4.5 Environmental problems	<p>The following issues are also of relevance to the environmental problems section of the assessment.</p> <p>Air & climatic factors/Population & human health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy consumption with respect to transport – including consideration of alternative fuels to petrol & diesel; • energy consumption of new development – including consideration of district heating; <p>Material assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new infrastructure – WPR/other infrastructure improvements; • major developments not identified in the development plan – including Kingsford Stadium; • public water supply requirements & infrastructure including impacts on the River Dee; 	Table 5.3 has been amended to include the issues raised for air & climatic factors/population & human health, and material assets.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rainwater and waste water infrastructure including impacts on water environment and flooding. 	
5.1 Alternatives	Reasonable alternatives should be considered as part of the Plan preparation. These should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings should inform the choice of the preferred option. This should be documented in the ER. Such alternatives may include alternative strategic directions, policies or proposals that are being considered as part of the plan-making process.	As part the Plan preparation, alternative policies and sites will be considered, and assessed as part of the SEA process. The ER will document all alternative sites/policies that have been assessed during the plan-making process.	
5.2 Scoping in/out of environmental topics	SEPA agree that in this instance all environmental topics should be scoped into the assessment.	Noted.	
5.3 Methodology for assessing environmental effects	Including a commentary section within the matrices in order to state the reasons for the effects cited and the score given helps to fully explain the rationale behind the assessment results.	The Combined site/SEA checklist recommended by the SEA Consultation Authorities has been used. Each SEA includes a commentary highlighting reasons for the effects and the scores.	
	Where it is expected that other plans, programmes or strategies are better placed to undertake more detailed assessment of environmental effects, this should be clearly set out in the ER.	Noted.	
	SEPA expect all aspects of the PPS which could have significant effects to be assessed.	All aspects of the local development plan that could have significant effects have been assessed (policy and strategy, site-specific and cumulative).	

		SEPA support the use of SEA objectives as assessment tools as they allow a systematic, rigorous and consistent framework with which to assess environmental effects.	Noted.
		When setting out the results of the assessment in the ER please provide enough information to clearly justify the reasons for each of the assessments presented. Setting out assumptions that are made during the assessment and difficulties and limitations encountered would also be helpful. It is helpful if the assessment matrix directly links the assessment result with the proposed mitigation measures such as in the tabled example given.	The Combined SEA site/checklist used makes provision for enough information to clearly justify the assessment results. It also includes a column for the assessment result and one covering specific mitigation measures.
		SEPA recommend that the proposed SEA objectives to be used in the assessment are clearly identified.	SEA objectives have been included in Table 6.1 within the Interim ER.
		On assessment of the effects of allocations or sites, SEPA advocate a rigorous methodology which clearly assesses potential effects on all environmental topics. It can be a much easier and useful exercise for the plan-maker if the assessment is made against a range of related questions, rather than directly against the environmental topics. The joint SEA and development plan site assessment proforma sets out the issues which are required to be assessed in more detail.	The site assessment pro forma has been used to help inform the SEA checklist that was used as part of the site assessments.
	5.6 Mitigation and enhancement	Encourage using the assessment as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final option. SEPA support proposals for	Noted.

		enhancement of positive effects as well as mitigation for negative effects.	
		It is useful to show the link between potential effects and proposed mitigation/enhancement measures in the assessment framework. Encourage the ER to be very clear about mitigation measures proposed as a result of the assessment. These should follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate).	Table 6.2 - Proposed Mitigation Measures links the potential Plan impact and to the mitigation measures. Mitigation hierarchy has been followed.
		An important way to mitigate significant environmental effects identified through the assessment is to make changes to the plan itself so significant effects are avoided. The ER should identify any changes made to the plan as a result of the SEA.	Changes made to the plan as a result of the SEA have been identified within Table 6.2 -Proposed Mitigation Measures.
		Where the mitigation proposed does not relate to modification to the plan itself then proposed mitigation measures should be set out in a way clearly identifying: (1) the measures required, (2) when they would be required and (3) who will be required to implement them. Inclusion of a summary table in the ER such as the example provided will help to track progress on mitigation through the monitoring process.	Noted. Table 6.2 has included this.
	5.8 Monitoring	Monitoring is a requirement of the Act. It would be helpful if the ER included a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the Plan.	Noted. This has been included within the Interim ER.

	6.1 Consultation period	SEPA is satisfied with the proposal for an 8-week consultation period for the Environmental report.	Noted. The consultation will be for 10-weeks – the relevant section has been updated to reflect this.
	Outcomes of the Scoping exercise	It would be helpful if the ER included a summary of the scoping outcomes and how comments from the Consultation Authorities were taken into account.	A summary of Aberdeen City Council's response to comments from the Consultation Authorities have been included in the Interim ER.

Appendix 2 Links to other PPS & Environmental Protection Objectives

Name of PPS / Environmental protection objective	Main Requirements of the PPS	Implications of the PPS for Local Development Plan
INTERNATIONAL		
Nature Conservation		
The Habitats Directive	Protects habitats and species. Gives basis to classify SACs and SPAs	Strategies should ensure the protection of all wild, rare and vulnerable birds, their nests, eggs and habitats.
The Birds Directive	Protection of wild birds and their habitats	
European Biodiversity Framework	Promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity	The LDP should support the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
Water		
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	Safeguard the sustainable use of surface water; transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. Supports the status of aquatic ecosystems and environments; Addresses groundwater pollution; flooding and droughts; river basin management planning.	The Local Development Plan should consider sustainable use of water and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts.
The Nitrates Directive 91/43/EEC	Reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources; and preventing further such pollution.	The spatial strategy should not increase water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from point source/ pollution sources.
Waste		
The Landfill Directive 99/31/EC	Sets a framework for waste management and sets out demanding targets to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal landfilled up to 2020.	The Plan should reflect the needs of the Landfill Directive, including the infrastructure required to meet the municipal biodegradable waste targets to 2020.

The Waste Framework Directive 2006/12/EC	<p>Requires the planning system to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide policies and sites for waste disposal. • Recover or dispose of waste without endangering human health and without processes or methods which could harm the environment. • Liaison between planning authorities and SEPA. <p>Provide the right infrastructure for the new thematic strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste.</p>	The Plan should identify suitable locations for large-scale waste management facilities to meet the Directive (and Landfill Directive and Area Waste Plan) whilst safeguarding the natural and built environment including designated areas, green belts, open countryside and the coast.
NATIONAL		
Overarching Planning Policy		
National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (2014)	<p>The Framework promotes sustainable growth and development, and the vision for Scotland is to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a successful, sustainable place • a low carbon place • a natural, resilient place • a connected place 	<p>The Plan should take account of the spatial and environmental issues set out in the NPF, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting the concepts of sustainable development, community regeneration, transportation infrastructure, and other environmental issues; & • ensuring land required to meet the city region's needs (e.g. infrastructure and affordable housing) is delivered.
Scottish Planning Policy (2014)	Identifies the Scottish Government's central purpose at sustainable economic growth. SPP sets out the main purpose and tasks of the planning system and national policies across all policy sectors.	LDP policies on topic areas must accord with the national policies set out by SPP.
Cross-Sectoral		
Scotland's National Transport Strategy (2006)	Sets out a long- term vision for transport, identifies reduction of emissions, improved quality, accessibility and affordable as key aims.	The LDP should seek to integrate with the aims of strategies. It should reduce the need to use private transport and assist in the reduction of emissions.

Strategic Transport Projects Review (2009)	Sets out recommendations for land-based strategic transport interventions in Scotland's national transport network from 2012.	Although the LDP is not tasked with delivering the interventions set out in this document, but should have regard to the strategic aims it has for the future of Scotland's transport system.
The Government Economic Strategy (2007)	Identifies strategic priorities critical to achieving sustainable economic growth.	LDP should support sustainable economic growth whilst meeting the differing needs of a diverse population.
Choosing Our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	It highlights the need to build a sustainable future taking account of public well-being (e.g. quality of life, food, economic opportunities), travel, natural resources and waste.	It should aim to conserve Scotland's biodiversity whilst reducing resource depletion and encouraging responsible use of our natural resources. Consider objectives (and policies) that will lead to sustainable communities.
Natural Resource Productivity (2009)	Sets out a vision for the future direction of agriculture in Scotland in a way which is sustainable but delivers the maximum economic and public benefit.	SDP should consider the impact on Scottish agriculture when considering its strategy or development proposals.
Building a Better Scotland Infrastructure Investment Plan: Investing in the Future of Scotland (2005)	Sets out the delivery plan for achieving significant investment in transport, education, health, water, waste management, sports, business, flood prevention and regeneration programmes in Scotland.	LDP should support investment that would boost sustainable economic growth, and regeneration programmes that will help achieve sustainable communities.
Air and Climate Change		
Environment Act 1995	Provides the legal basis for the local air quality management (LAQM) regime, secondary legislation and the UK Air Quality Strategy.	The Local Development Plan should include measures to improve local air quality.
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	Introduces the public body duty to contribute towards Scotland's climate change targets and the adaptation framework. Sets a target for the year 2050, an interim	The Local Development Plan must contribute to meeting national climate change targets.

	target for the year 2020, and provides annual targets, for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It discusses mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, energy efficiency, including provision enabling council tax discounts, reduction and recycling of waste. It aims to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, with at least 42% reduced by 2020. Set annual targets include emissions from international aviation and shipping.	
Scottish Climate Change Delivery Plan (2009)	Sets out high level measures required to meet Scotland's statutory climate change targets to 2020.	LDP should include measures to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases considering methods of adaptation, diversification and mitigation.
UK Air Quality Strategy (2007) SEPA's National Air Quality Report (2008)	Seeks to "render polluting emissions harmless". Sets objectives for protecting human health to be included in regulations for the purposes of Local Air Quality Management relating to concentrations of, amongst others, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone and particulates. SEPA's report provides information on emission levels of key pollutants and ambient air quality monitoring data.	The Local Development Plan should improve local air quality.
A Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland	Sets out the Scottish Government's plans to move towards a low carbon economy in Scotland.	The SDP must contribute to the promotion of development which helps to reduce Scotland's carbon footprint and help meet carbon saving targets for Scotland.

Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future (2015)	The national cross-government strategy that sets out how the Scottish Government and its partner organisations propose to reduce air pollution further to protect human health and fulfil Scotland’s legal responsibilities.	The LDP should include measures to reduce air pollution.
Planning Advice Note 84 Reducing Carbon Emissions in New Development	Provides information on low and zero carbon development through the use of energy efficient and renewable energy systems.	LDP should include measures encouraging new development to incorporate low carbon and renewable sources of energy.
Heritage, Design and Regeneration		
Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the overarching policy statement for the historic environment, covering all types of designations and consents. • It provides a framework for more detailed strategic policies and operational policies that inform the day to day work of a range of organisations that have a role and interest in managing the historic environment. • They are intended to sit alongside and complement the Scottish Planning Policy series and other relevant Ministerial policy documents. 	<p>The plan should promote the management of the historic environment in a sustainable way which avoids adverse impacts as a result of new development.</p> <p>The Plan should take account of the vision statements in the HESPS by managing the historic environment in a sustainable way.</p>
The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1997	Prescribes the approach to be taken in planning for listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens.	The Plan should ensure that listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens are not adversely affected by new development.
Creating Places: A Policy Statement on Architecture and Place for Scotland (2013)	<p>Development plans should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out the council’s distinctive vision for how its area will develop. It should summarise its 	The plan should set out concisely the local authorities’ priorities in relation to creating successful places and vibrant communities.

Designing Streets: A Policy Statement for Scotland (2010)	<p>appraisals of the most important features of the area's character and identity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have effective design policies, and urban design frameworks, development briefs and master plans to provide planning and design guidance; and • explain how the plan's priorities are distinctly different from those of other places, and not just say that the council is committed to good design, or that development should respect its context. 	The LDP should include measures encouraging high quality design at all times.
Scottish Executive (2006) People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement	Sets out a forward looking strategic framework and priorities for regeneration in Scotland encouraging proactive and integrated approaches.	The plan should take account of changing regeneration priorities and provide support where possible.
Scottish Government: Green Infrastructure, Design and Placemaking	Provides practical tips on incorporating green infrastructure in masterplans to help achieve successful places.	The plan should promote the use of green infrastructure in development.
Landscape and Soil		
The Scottish Soil Framework (2009)	Promote the sustainable management and protection of soils consistent with the economic, social and environmental needs of Scotland. Protection of soil as an asset- for the future of the Scottish economy as well as a contributor to challenges of climate change.	The LDP should promote the sustainable management of soils.
Getting the best from our land: A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016 – 2021	Long term vision and objectives relating to the economy, environment and communities, and the principles for sustainable land use, to guide policy and decision making. Where land is highly suitable for a primary use (for example food production, flood management, water catchment management and	The LDP should promote sustainable land use and acknowledge land that is highly suitable for specific uses.

	carbon storage) this value should be recognised in decision making.	
Scottish Landscape Forum' (2007) Scotland's living landscapes (2007) Scotland's Living Landscapes: Places for People (2007)	The Scottish Landscape Forum has published a report entitled <i>Scotland's Living Landscapes – places for people</i> . It considers how to promote good management of all landscapes, to secure benefits for all. It provides seven key recommendations to the Scottish Government and other public bodies as first steps to delivering better care for Scottish landscapes. This includes preparing a European Landscape Convention action plan.	Consider how the Plan can maintain and restore natural habitats to ensure biodiversity and landscapes
Homes, Population and Health		
Homes Fit for the 21 st Century: The Scottish Government's Strategy and Action Plan for Housing in the next Decade (Scottish Housing Strategy)	Key aims: to increase the effective supply of housing across all tenures and to increase flexibility and choice within the system, and improve homes and neighbourhoods.	LDP must support Scotland's Housing Strategy and the Aberdeen Draft Local Housing Strategy by ensuring there is enough land for housing.
All Our Futures: Planning for a Scotland with an Ageing Population (2007)	Provides a strategic approach which considers how best to respond to and plan for a Scotland with an ageing population.	The LDP should consider the housing and other needs of an ageing population.
Good Places Better Health	Recognises that the physical environment has a significant impact on people's health and that action is required to create health-nurturing environments for everyone. The Place Standard is a way of assessing places whether the place is well-established, undergoing change or is still being planned. The tool provides a simple framework to structure conversations around place.	The LDP should promote creation of better places so as to positively affect people's health.

<p>Reaching Higher- Building on the Success of Sport 21 (2007)</p>	<p>This is the national strategy for sport in Scotland and sets out the long-term aims and objectives for sport until 2020 and plans for its delivery and evaluation.</p> <p>It has been produced following a scheduled review of <i>Sport 21: 2003-2007</i>. The strategy maintains a vision of Scotland as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a country achieving and sustaining world class performances in sport; • a country where sport is more widely available to all; and • a country where sporting talent is recognised and nurtured. 	<p>The Plan should contribute to implementing the strategy.</p>
<p>Let's Make Scotland More Active: A Strategy for Physical Activity (2003)</p>	<p>Aims to increase and maintain the proportion of physically active people in Scotland setting out targets to 2022.</p>	<p>The LDP should promote physical activities.</p>
<p>Equalities Act 2010</p>	<p>Sets out a framework which prevents individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a more equal society.</p>	<p>The LDP should build the needs of people with protected characteristics into its strategic actions.</p>
<p>Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 & 2005</p>	<p>Ensures that discrimination law covers all the activities of the public sector; and requires public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. Aims to end the discrimination that many disabled people face and gives disabled people rights in the areas of employment, education, access to goods, facilities and services and buying or renting land or property.</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan should build the needs of disabled persons into its strategic actions.</p>

Community Empowerment Act 2015	Provides a framework to increase community empowerment and engagement. Targets regeneration and community participation. Requires local authorities to produce a Food Growing Strategy.	The Plan should promote community empowerment and engagement, and support any subsequent Food Growing Strategy produced by the local authority.
Nature Conservation		
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Gives protection to listed species from disturbance, injury intentional destruction or sale.	The Local Development Plan should protect wildlife from disturbance, injury and intentional destruction.
The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	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. Places a general duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity.	The Local Development Plan should promote and protect biodiversity.
Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy- It's in Your Hands (2004) 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity - A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland (2013)	Is a 25 year strategy, which sets out a vision for the future health of Scotland's biodiversity to 2030. It highlights the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • look at the bigger picture: reconnecting and extending habitats and reducing barriers; • think in terms of landscapes and ecosystems (not just in terms of species and habitats), which it says can be better delivered through strategic planning; and • encourage more engagement with people in biodiversity conservation. <p>The 2020 Challenge document shows how Scottish Government, its public agencies, Scottish businesses and others can contribute to the European Biodiversity</p>	The Plan's strategy needs to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the protection and conservation of biodiversity; • to assist in reversing the decline of important species and habitats; and • to maximise habitat linkage in both urban and rural areas and minimise further fragmentation.

	Strategy's aim as well as supporting sustainable economic growth. Both documents comprise the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.	
The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)	<p>These Regulations implement the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives. The Regulations provide for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designation and protection of 'European sites' (e.g. SACs); • protection of 'European protected species' from deliberate harm; and • adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European sites. <p>The Habitats Regulations only apply as far as the limit of territorial waters (12 nautical miles from baseline).</p>	The Plan should not adversely affect habitats and species protected under the Wild Birds and Habitats Directives.
The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2007	<p>The amended Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simplifies the species protection regime to better reflect the Habitats Directive; • provides a clear legal basis for surveillance and monitoring of European protected species (EPS); • toughens the regime on trading EPS that are not native to the UK <p>ensures that the requirement to carry out appropriate assessments on water abstraction consents and land use plans is explicit.</p>	An appropriate assessment will be required where the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.
Making the Links: Greenspace for a more successful and sustainable Scotland' (2009)	Sets out the key actions that are needed to ensure that greenspace delivers for people, communities and places across the whole of urban Scotland.	The SDP should take account of the actions required to deliver quality greenspace to shape better places and increase quality of life for those working and living in the SDP area.
Water		
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Ensures that all human activity that can have a harmful impact on water is controlled.	The plan should not promote development that would have adverse impacts on the

		water environment, and lead to the authorities failing to ensure water bodies achieve good ecological status, as required in the Water Framework Directive by 2015.
Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005	Implements the obligations of section 20 of the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS Act), and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). Sets out the framework for protecting the water environment that integrates the control of pollution, abstractions, dams and engineering activities in the water environment.	Same as above.
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	Creates a framework in which organisations involved in flood risk management can co-ordinate actions to deliver sustainable and modern approaches to flood risk management.	The LDP should not create flood risks (from the sea or rivers) and should actively promote sustainable flood risk management.
River Basin Management Plan for Scotland (2009)	Details the strategy and requirements for River Basin Management Planning in Scotland.	The LDP should not conflict with River Basin Management Plans for the area (River Dee).
Scottish Water Strategic Asset and Capacity Development Plan (2009)	Provides a description of Scottish Waters processes and systems for calculating capacity available, at waste/ water treatment works in Scotland.	The Local Development Plan should take into account existing infrastructure and provide for new infrastructure if required.
SEPA (2003) Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland: Environmental Policy	To protect groundwater quality by minimising the risks posed by point and diffuse sources of pollution, and to maintain the groundwater resource by influencing the design of abstractions and developments, which could affect groundwater quantity.	The spatial strategy should not adversely affect ground water supplies, principally from water abstraction and point source pollution.
Waste		

Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (2010)	The plan outlines Scotland's key objectives in relation to waste prevention, recycling and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill on the journey to a zero waste Scotland. The plan proposes targets for Scotland's waste	The LDP should have regard to the Scottish Government's targets for 70% of all waste to be recycled by 2025. The Scottish Gov also intends to establish sector specific programmes of work to deliver the Zero Waste Plan.
SEPA Guidelines for Thermal Treatment of Municipal Waste	Sets out SEPA's approach to permitting thermal treatment of waste facilities and her role as a statutory consultee of the land use planning system.	The Plan must have regard to and apply SEPA guidelines when it comes to thermal treatment of waste facilities.
<p>The landfill Directive 99/31/EC</p> <p>The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC</p> <p>Taking sustainable use of resources forward: A thematic Strategy on the prevention and Recycling of Waste (2005)</p>	<p>The plan outlines Scotland's key objectives in relation to waste prevention, recycling and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill on the journey to a Zero Waste Scotland.</p> <p>Provides a vision for Scotland where all waste is seen as a resource; Waste is minimised; valuable resources are not disposed of in landfills, and most waste is sorted, leaving only limited amounts to be treated</p>	The LDP should promote waste reduction and recycling.
Marine and Coastal		
Scottish Executive Marine & Coastal Strategy (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance and conserve the overall quality of the coasts and seas, their natural processes and their biodiversity. • To integrate environment and biodiversity considerations into the management of marine activities. • To promote wider public awareness, on the value of the marine and coastal environments and the pressures on them. • To identify means of working with natural processes to protect against coastal flooding and to maintain 	Promote objectives that promote clean, safe, healthy and productive coastal and water environments.

	inter-tidal and coastal habitats of importance for biodiversity.	
Marine (Scotland) Bill 2010 UK Marine Policy Statement	<p>Expresses outcomes for the UK marine area and underpins the development of the joint Marine Policy Statement (MPS) guides development of national and regional marine plans.</p> <p>The MPS builds and expands upon 'Our Seas - a Shared Resource. High Level Marine Objectives (2009)' and provides a framework which will help balance competing demands on Scotland's seas and introduces duties for sustainable development, protection and enhancement of marine areas, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, marine planning and conservation and measures to encourage economic investment.</p>	Although the LDP is not tasked directly with delivering Marine Plans or the High Level Marine Objectives, the LDP should support them.
National Planning Advice & Guidance		
PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage	<p>Provides advice on how development and the planning system can contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of Scotland's natural environment.</p> <p>Encourages developers and planning authorities to be positive and creative in addressing natural heritage issues.</p>	The Local Development Plan should contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of the natural environment.
PAN 61: Planning & sustainable urban drainage	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 Local Development Plan should consider the role of sustainable urban drainage.

	the parties and guiding them to solutions which can make a significant contribution to sustainable development.	
Planning and Waste Management Advice 2015	<p>Complements NPF3, SPP and Scotland's Zero Waste Plan. Ensures that development plans consider all forms of waste from all types of development, as well as waste management infrastructure.</p> <p>Ensures that development plans reflect the land use requirements for the delivery of an integrated network of waste management facilities.</p> <p>Provides a basis for more informed consideration of development proposals for waste management facilities.</p> <p>Provides developers seeking planning permission for waste management facilities with advice on the issues taken into consideration when determining applications.</p>	The Local Development Plan should consider waste management from the inception process. It should promote integrated waste management.
PAN 65: Planning and Open Space	<p>Raises the profile of open space as a planning issue. Provides advice on the role of the planning system in protecting and enhancing existing open spaces and providing high quality new spaces.</p> <p>Sets out how local authorities can prepare open space strategies and gives examples of good practice in providing, managing and maintaining open spaces.</p>	The Local Development Plan should promote conservation and environment protection.
PAN 75 Transport and Planning	<p>Provides good practice guidance which planning authorities, developers and others should carry out in their policy development, proposal assessment and project delivery.</p> <p>Creates greater awareness of how linkages between planning and transport can be managed.</p>	The Local Development Plan should promote the use of existing transportation networks and develop new cycling and walking alternatives.

	Highlights the roles of different bodies and professions in the process and points to other sources of information.	
PAN 76 New Residential Streets.	<p>Aims at creating attractive, safe residential environments, which reflect the needs of people, rather than cars.</p> <p>Requires that street design should reflect local character, be appropriate to the built form and linked to surrounding areas by direct pedestrian, cycle and car routes; that the character of the street should be determined by space requirements of people and vehicles, street furniture should fit with its surroundings and streets should use high quality materials, be well maintained and may employ signage to reinforce its sense of place; and that streets should provide easy movement within and beyond the site, street design itself should be used to limit traffic speed and home zones, prioritising pedestrian and cycle needs over car users, should be considered for residential streets.</p>	The Local Development Plan should safeguard safe and high standard design of streets.
PAN 77 Designing safer places	<p>Highlights the positive role that planning can play in helping to create attractive, well-managed environments which help to discourage antisocial and criminal behaviour.</p> <p>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.</p>	The Local Development Plan should safeguard safety.

PAN 78 Inclusive Design	Seeks to deliver high standards of design in development and redevelopment projects; and widens the user group that an environment is designed for. Makes it a legal requirement to consider the needs of disabled people under the terms of Disability Discrimination legislation.	The Local Development Plan should promote high standard of design.
REGIONAL		
Overarching Planning Policy		
Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2014	Creates a long-term sustainable framework of settlements in a hierarchy, which focuses major development on the main settlements in the North East. Sets the strategic context for Aberdeen City Local Development Plan which in turn sets the framework for land use development.	The Local Development Plan should support the vision and spatial strategy of the Strategic Development Plan, and should support its objectives of economic growth, population growth, high quality environment, sustainable mixed communities and accessibility.
Cross-Sectoral		
Regional Economic Strategy – Securing the Future of the North East Economy 2015	Sets the context for economic prosperity in the North East. The four key strands are investment in infrastructure innovation, inclusive economic growth and internationalisation.	The Local Development Plan should support sustainable economic growth.
Economic Action Plan for Aberdeen City and Shire to 2025	Sets out objectives identifying actions to be undertaken towards the longer term economic ambitions for Aberdeen City and Shire.	The LDP should support sustainable economic growth.
Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) Refresh 2013	Sets the long-term framework to improve the transport network in the North East. The objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance and exploit the north east’s competitive economic advantages, and reduce the impacts of peripherality; • To enhance choice, accessibility and safety of transport for all in the north east, particularly for 	The Plan should contribute to meeting objectives set out in the RTS.

	<p>disadvantaged and vulnerable members of society and those living in areas where transport options are limited;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conserve and enhance the north east's natural and built environment and heritage and reduce the effects of transport on climate, noise and air quality; • To support transport integration and a strong, vibrant and dynamic city centre and town centres across the north east; 	
Building on our Strengths 2013-2020: Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Tourism Strategy	The vision is to make Aberdeen City and Shire a sustainable destination of choice, with skilled and passionate people delivering value for money and memorable customer experiences, by the region's outstanding assets. The Strategy notes the need to improve and expand accommodation provision, improve access to IT infrastructure, develop leadership and management skills, improve the customer journey, reduce seasonality and ensure the area is accessible.	The LDP should support the tourism strategy.
Nature Conservation		
North East of Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2017	Ensures the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity in the north east through the development of effective, local, working partnerships; Ensure that national targets for species and habitats, as specified in the UK Action Plan, are translated into effective local action.	The Local Development Plan should promote and protect biodiversity.
Forestry and Woodlands Strategy 2017	The Strategy provides a framework for woodland development and management, and aims to:	Although the Plan does not need to conform to the Strategy, as it is a management tool, the Plan can ensure that new development does not conflict with forest and woodland

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote trees and woodlands as a means to aid Scotland in mitigating and adapting to climate change; • Promote and support the forest industry; • provide opportunities for recreation and tourism; and • protect and enhance biodiversity and the environment. <p>This means encouraging multi-benefit forestry in new planting and through re-structuring, balancing forestry against other land uses, protecting sensitive areas and identifying priority areas for expansion of a variety of forest and woodland types.</p>	<p>priorities (e.g. sustaining ancient woodlands, enhancing popular recreation areas, and linking wildlife corridors).</p>
River Dee Catchment Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records the current state of the Dee catchment, including water quality, the type and extent of habitats and species in the catchment, and important land management activities. • Identifies key issues and puts forward potential solutions through a series of actions. 	<p>The Plan should contribute to delivering the actions proposed in the Catchment Management Plan.</p>
LOCAL		
Draft Aberdeen Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023	<p>The LHS sets the strategic direction for housing in the city over the next five years. The LHS takes into regard Aberdeen City and the Aberdeen Housing Market Area (AHMA) providing scope for joint working on some issues with Aberdeenshire Council.</p>	<p>The Plan should contribute to delivering both Aberdeen's and Aberdeenshire's LHS in terms of provision of land, need, tenure, affordability, location, and reducing deprivation.</p>
Aberdeen City Local Transport Strategy 2016 - 2021	<p>Makes the Local Development Plan to take full account of the environment, social and economic implications of transport; Promotes the maximisation of accessibility for all to services and jobs; sustainable and active travel,</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan should support sustainability, environment protection, accessibility and safety and reduce social exclusion.</p>

	efficient resource use, as well as safety in delivering transportation.	
Aberdeen City Air Quality Action Plan	To reduce nitrogen dioxide within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Aberdeen City Centre, and to a lesser extent reduce particulates (PM ₁₀) through short, medium and long term infrastructure and other projects.	The Plan should contribute to delivering the actions proposed in the Action Plan in order to improve air quality with the AQMA and ensure land required to implement the Action Plan is provided timeously.
Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2016 - 2026	The vision is for Aberdeen to be ‘a place where all people prosper’. Four themes are set out: Prosperous Economy, Prosperous People, Prosperous Place and Enabling Technology. It focuses on four priority areas for strategic partnership working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen prospers • Children are our future • People are resilient, included and supported when in need • Empowered, resilient and sustainable communities • Creating a digital place 	The Local Development Plan should support the themes and priority aims set out in the LOIP.
Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan 2015	A regeneration blueprint that aims to transform Aberdeen city centre while conserving its heritage. 50 projects have been identified within these eight objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing perceptions • Growing the city centre employment base • A metropolitan outlook • A living city for everyone • Made in Aberdeen • Revealing waterfronts • Technologically advanced and environmentally responsible 	The LDP should support the City Centre Masterplan and should promote development within the city centre that above all conserves its heritage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally distinctive 	
Aberdeen City Nature Conservation Strategy 2010-2015	Aims to control and maintain remaining natural habitats and associated wildlife through the identification of designated sites and additional non-statutory sites. This will benefit both biodiversity and the citizens that live, work and visit the City of Aberdeen.	The Local Development Plan should promote biodiversity.
Forestry Commission Scotland Management Plans: Aberdeen Woods and Dyce Woods	This plan covers the thirteen woodland blocks that were formerly covered by three land management plans (Maryculter woods, Peterculter woods and Countesswells woods). It details how the Forestry Commission Scotland will manage these woodlands for social, economic and environmental benefits. The plans include objectives for timber harvesting, recreational use, creation of diverse habitats, and management regimes to benefit red squirrels, control of deer populations and control of diseases.	The Local Development Plan should take account of the Management Plan and support the right management of Aberdeen and Dyce Woods.
Open Space Audit and Strategy 2011-2016	This Strategy sets out a strategic vision, aims and objectives for open space in Aberdeen. Its main purpose is to ensure the city has enough accessible and good quality open space. The Strategy is based on the findings of the Aberdeen Open Space Audit 2010.	Ensure that the LDP incorporates the findings of the audit and supports the aims of the strategy.
Aberdeen City Core Paths Plan	Core Paths Plans are required under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 for each council area <i>sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area</i> . They set out the core paths network. The Plans are developed in consultation	The plan should support the aims of the Core Paths Plans.

	<p>with local communities, user groups, land managers and other stakeholders. Drafts are expected in 2008. Their aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • connecting residential areas, green-spaces, amenities, other attractions and the wider countryside; • forming a basic, safe framework for outdoor recreation and sustainable and active travel; • assisting people to lead healthier lifestyles; • promoting environmental protection and foster the development of a more sustainable city; and • being well integrated in policy and usage terms, encouraging access opportunities for all. 	
Landscape Character Assessment of Aberdeen.	<p>Seeks to maintain a balance between landform, geology, ecology, and vegetation despite human influences.</p> <p>Encourages development in existing settlements; avoiding coalescence between settlements and discouraging isolated development in the open countryside unless it is clearly identified in development plan.</p>	The Local Development Plan should take account of landscape character and promote good landscape design.
Aberdeen Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2001)	The Contaminated Land Strategy sets out how local authorities deal with potentially contaminated land.	Unknown at present.
Aberdeen City Council Waste Strategy 2014-25	Sets out the long term plans to reduce the social, economic and environmental consequences of waste. It aims for Aberdeen to see waste a resource and not a problem, and for it to be a zero waste city, providing long term social, economic and environmental benefits to all.	The LDP should promote zero waste.

<p>Powering Aberdeen – Aberdeen Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2016</p>	<p>Plan for Aberdeen to increase energy efficiency and move towards greater use of renewable energy. Sets targets for reducing carbon emissions. It sets out our plans to reduce emissions across the city through a combination of measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Greater uptake of alternative energy *Implementation of new technology to reduce resource use and improve efficiency *Improvements to energy efficiency *Greater move towards sustainable transport *Leadership and engagement. <p>The Plan briefly notes the role of plants and soils in sequestering emissions.</p>	<p>The LDP should promote greater use of renewable energy and reduction of carbon emissions.</p>
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Appendix 3 Baseline Data, Targets and Trends

Appendix 3.1 – Climatic Factors

Appendix 3.2 – Air

Appendix 3.3 – Water

Appendix 3.4 – Soil

Appendix 3.5 – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Appendix 3.6 – Human Health

Appendix 3.7 – Population

Appendix 3.8 – Cultural Heritage

Appendix 3.9 – Landscape

Appendix 3.10 – Material Assets

Appendix 3.11 – Employment Land