

Aberdeen City Council Beachfront Development Framework Strategic Environmental Assessment (Scoping Report)



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0BAberdeen City Council Beachfront Development Framework Strategic Environmental Assessment (Scoping Report)

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Work has begun on a review of the Beachfront Development Framework. The main purpose of the Beachfront Development Framework is to provide certainty through the provision of a spatial framework for decision making and to manage the development and use of land in the long-term public interest. The purpose of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be to provide an assessment of any significant environmental effects resulting from the Framework.

1.2 Purpose of this Report

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

This scoping report is therefore provided for consultation and is circulated to the Consultation Authorities designated for SEA (NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Historic Environment Scotland (for Scottish Ministers)).

Responses will be used to help shape the scope of the Beachfront Development Framework and the assessment of its potential effects on the environment.

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1.3 Structure of the Scoping Report

This report sets out the proposed approach to the SEA. The report is structured as follows;

Section 2 presents an overview of the Development Framework, setting out the key facts about the plan and characteristics of the area.

Section 3 sets out the context for the development framework including a review of the strategic context of the plan, an outline of the environmental baseline and analysis of relevant problems and opportunities in the Aberdeen Beachfront area.

Section 4 sets out the proposed SEA objectives.

Section 5 addresses the environmental assessment, reviewing alternatives to the framework, setting out the findings of the scoping appraisal and presenting the proposed appraisal framework for the environmental assessment which will be reported in the Environmental Report.

Section 6 presents commentary on the next steps for the SEA.

2 KEY FACTS ABOUT BEACHFRONT DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

2.1 Key Facts

The key facts relating to the Beachfront Development Framework are set out below, based upon the draft Framework prepared by Keppie Design:

Table 2-1: Key Facts relating to the Beachfront Development Framework

Name of Responsible Authority	Aberdeen City Council
Title of the of the PPS	Beachfront Development Framework
What Prompted the PPS	Planning & etc. (Scotland) Act 2006
Subject	Land Use (Sister Document to the City Centre Masterplan (CCMP))
Period Covered by the PPS	Annual review of progress and delivery
Frequency of Updates	The development framework sets out the aspirations for planning applications which will be submitted to Aberdeen City Council. It is not anticipated that the framework will be updated.
Area covered by the PPS	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework Area is located to the north-east of the city centre connected by the primary route of Beach Boulevard which links the Beachfront to Justice Street and on to Castlegate. The site is bounded to the east by the North Sea; to the south is Codona's amusement park and a mixture of commercial, hospitality and retail uses; to the west of the site there are existing hotel and leisure units with a mix of residential typologies beyond; and to the north is the Kings Links Golf Course. The area of the proposed site is approximately 50 hectares.</p> <p>The site is currently occupied by existing entertainment and leisure facilities, namely Aberdeen Beach Ballroom, Linx Ice Arena, and the Beach Leisure Centre; public space, Queens Links including Queens Links Play Park and Crescent Cricket Club's Cricket Pitch; existing landscape features such as the beach and Broad Hill; and a series of existing vehicular routes including Beach Boulevard, Esplanade and Links Road. There are a number of separate uses bordering the Development Framework area which will require consideration as part of the proposals: to the west of the area are two sites owned by Aberdeen City Council but on long term leases to a hotel operator and extreme sports venue; to the north is a site under separate ownership which is operating as golf driving range; to the south is an amusement park owned and operated by Codona's. There are a series of small-scale structures and pavilions situated across the Development Framework area which will also need to be considered as part of the proposals.</p> <p>The Development Framework area figures prominently within the current leisure and public space provision of Aberdeen City (Figures 2-1 and 2-2).</p>
Purpose of PPS	The Development Framework (a sister document to the City Centre Masterplan (CCMP)) is one of the tools under the 'masterplanning' umbrella and will set out a two-dimensional framework of development principles and parameters for

the way in which the wider site is to be developed in the future. It is proposed that, following the approval of the Development Framework by the Council, detailed planning applications for the constituent parts of the Beachfront proposals would be submitted. As such, the Development Framework will also include a visual assessment of the indicative three-dimensional forms of proposed development from several viewpoints. It is important to stress that the final approved Development Framework will set out principles and parameters to be followed and will not be 'set in stone' or represent a final design solution for the Beach or any of the constituent developments, which may require ongoing detailed design development in advance of any detailed planning applications in the future.

Figure 2-1: Beachfront Development Framework Boundary

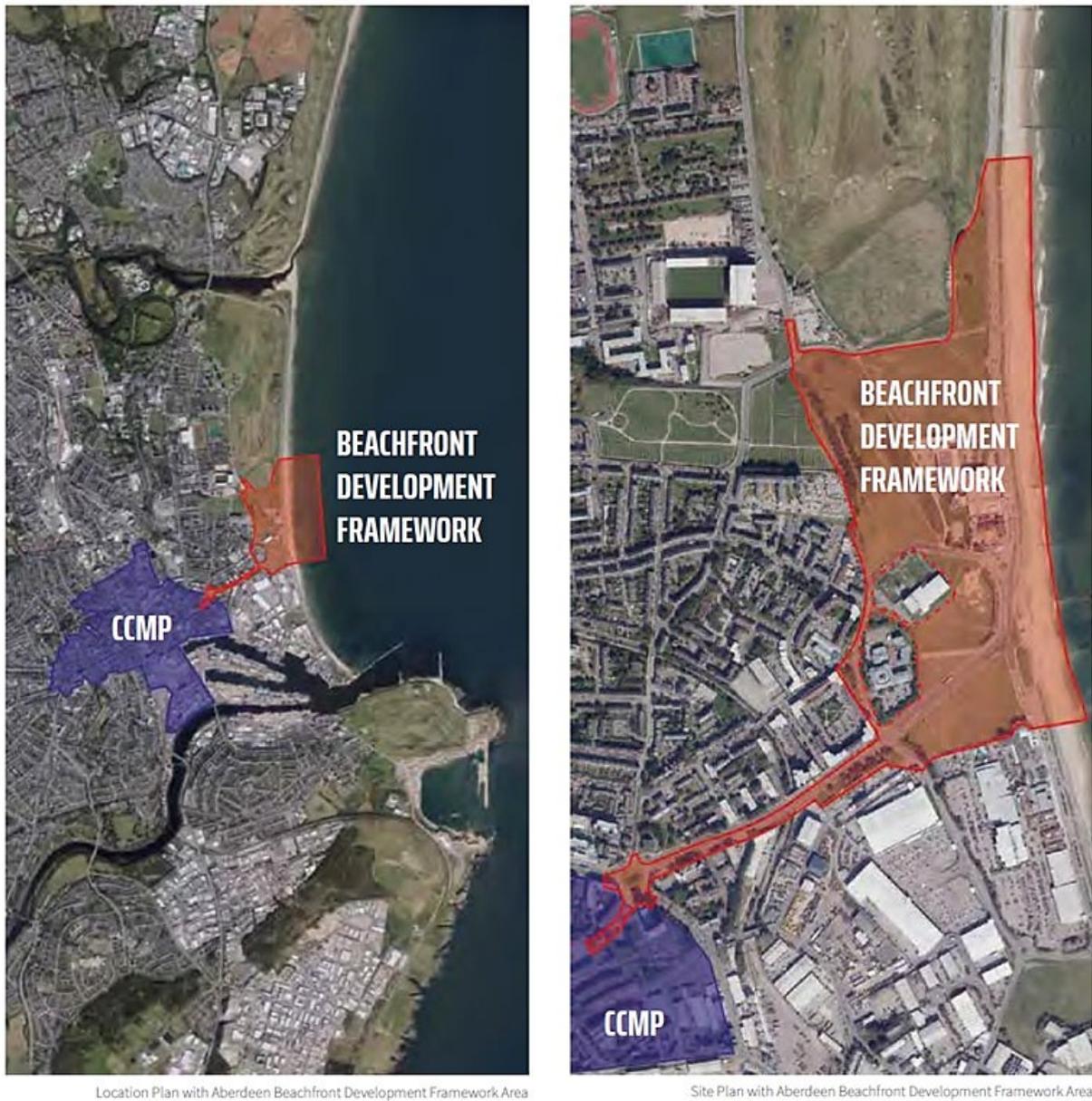
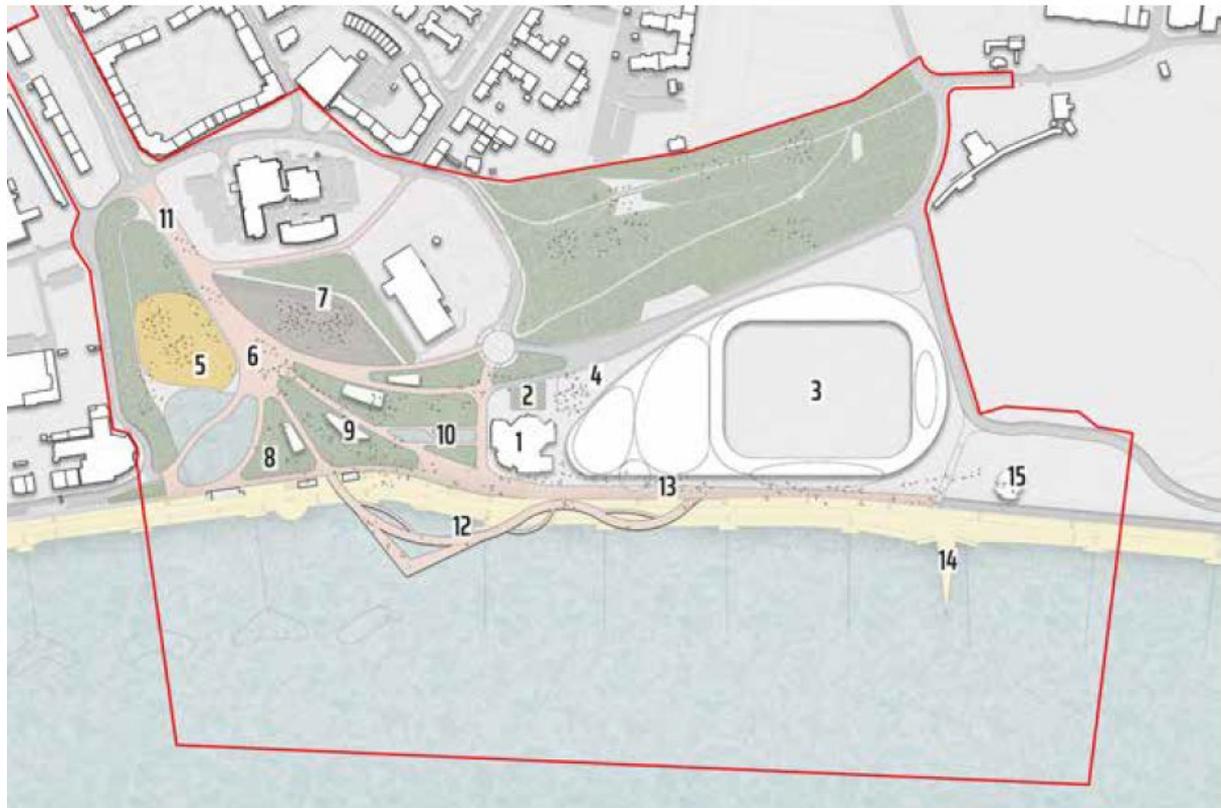


Figure 2-2 provides a visual representation the proposed component parts of the Beachfront Development Framework.

Figure 2-2: Component Parts of the Beachfront Development Framework



- KEY:
1. BEACH BALLROOM
 2. HIDDEN GARDEN
 3. POTENTIAL STADIUM & LEISURE
 4. PUBLIC PLAZA
 5. URBAN PARK
 6. PUBLIC SPACE
 7. AMPHITHEATRE
 8. MOUNDING
 9. PAVILION
 10. WATER FEATURE
 11. PEDESTRIANISED BOULEVARD
 12. PIER
 13. ESPLANADE
 14. SLIPWAY
 15. SURF PAVILION

2.2 Beachfront Development Framework Aims

Key aims of the initial Beachfront project Brief as identified with Aberdeen City Council include:

- The importance of the re-imagined Beach Ballroom, including a desire to return it to its former glory when it was known as the 'People's Ballroom'. This needs to recognise the buildings heritage and historic significance whilst equipping it for the future as a modern events venue;
- The potential to share/link facilities associated with the potential new Stadium and Leisure facilities to support joint funding with the potential Stadium Anchor tenant and realise economies of scale;
- A desire for a dynamic waterfront making the most of the beach and considering support facilities such as changing accommodation/beach huts and a potential pier structure;
- Excellent, high quality public realm;

- Leisure activities that are inclusive and accessible to all income groups that may visit the Beachfront;
- Access and Connectivity between the Beachfront and the City Centre;
- Infrastructure, including traffic management that reduces the impact of the existing road network to promote alternative forms of travel, including cycling, whilst improving public realm; and
- Co-ordination with potential flood/sea defence works planned for the area.

2.3 Beachfront Development Framework Options and Consultation

Given the scale and importance of the site, a number of options were developed to test out initial thoughts for the concept masterplanning approach for the Beachfront. This testing process has been crucial in allowing the development of a preferred Development Framework approach, along with alternative options, which is viable, deliverable and which will maximise the potential of the area. This iterative process was undertaken by the design team alongside Aberdeen City Council to ensure the benefits and drawbacks of the potential design solutions were understood and the most appropriate proposal agreed by consensus.

The concept masterplan work and the development optioneering that has been undertaken to date for the Beachfront has moved at a significant pace since the initial reporting to the City Growth and Resources Committee. This work to date, and the masterplan concepts and indicative development options that have subsequently emerged for consideration, have been directly influenced by the significant public engagement exercise undertaken between June- July 2021 on “The Future of Aberdeen City Centre and the Beach”, to which there were 7,697 responses, the largest response that the Council has received to any such consultation (Beachfront Projects Feasibility Report (25.06.21)). A number of further engagement and consultation approaches have already been undertaken with the local community and key stakeholders. This consultation has been key in shaping the Development Framework proposals so far:

- A series of stakeholder engagements have taken place with those associated with the core Beachfront facilities – Beach Ballroom, Beach Leisure Centre and Stadium;
- Discussions also took place with a range of organisations that use and/or have an interest in the Beachfront, including the Chamber of Commerce, the Cricket Club, and the Surf Club;
- Workshop sessions were also held with key stakeholders associated with the Beachfront facilities forming the basis of this review – The ballroom management, Sport Aberdeen, and Aberdeen Football Club. During these sessions’ outputs from the Option Appraisal exercise were presented and confirmed as an agreed recommendation;
- An extensive consultation and engagement was undertaken with children and young people. The exercises included the following:
 - Workshops with P6 Primary School children followed by a presentation of their ideas to members of the design team.
 - A ‘creative postcard exercise’ undertaken with secondary school students.
 - Consultation through a QR code and online survey;
- Further consultation has also taken place with local bus operators, with taxi and cycle groups also approached;
- Several technical workshops have been undertaken with ACC technical teams in order for the Development Framework proposals to respond to their queries and feedback
- Attended stakeholder meetings with Accessible City Transport Users Partnership (ACTUP) and Disability Equity Partnership (DEP), including User Journey Mapping, undertaken with members of DEP; and
- HES, SEPA, Scottish Water, and NatureScot were also consulted as part of the initial consultation and engagement process.

2.4 Phasing

The proposals documented within the Beachfront Development Framework are still at an indicative stage however the adjacent phasing diagrams illustrate the desired direction of growth as envisaged at this stage of the process.

Phase 1 - Urban Park & Broad Hill

Phase 2 - Esplanade

Phase 3 - Beach Ballroom

Phase 4 - Potential Stadium and Leisure

Phase 5 - Beach Village

Phase 6 - Beach Boulevard

A key consideration of the developing phasing & delivery strategy will be attempting to mitigate any disruption to ACC's existing events schedule and the current on site/neighbouring facilities operation as much as possible.

This phasing is only indicative and there are likely to be elements of work, be that character area specific or across a number of character areas simultaneously, which will be carried out concurrently or to enable certain other works to be undertaken.

3 CONTEXT OF THE BEACHFRONT DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

3.1 The Beachfront Development Framework

The Beachfront Development Framework seeks to set forth an overall design approach and key design principles which form a coherent strategy for Aberdeen Beachfront (Refer to Appendix A). When complete, this area will be a unique and world leading leisure destination and as such it's important strategic location must be considered and a long-term vision for the area created.

The Framework has been developed in accordance with the guidance contained within Aberdeen City Council's 'Masterplanning Process' document in order to ensure an appropriate process of consultation and feedback is developed and is incorporated as the document evolves. Key to the process has been the creation of a clear organisational principle, The Rope Works, based on a clear vision for the development of the area.

Due to the nature of masterplanning and the scale of the proposals, the detail of the individual elements of the design will inevitably evolve over time, however by establishing a clear structure these changes can be accommodated whilst retaining an overall clarity and coherence to the place. The Framework provides the basis for more detailed proposals to come forward in the future.

The Beachfront Development Framework:

- Provides an overall vision for the area whilst also allowing for flexibility and differing approaches;
- Establishes a clear and coherent spatial structure which can accommodate change in the long term as detailed proposals emerge;
- Describes character areas and areas of potential intervention;
- Sets out strategic transport proposals in terms of access and connectivity; and
- Illustrates the general directions and phasing of development within the area.

3.2 The Framework Vision

The Beachfront proposals offer a unique opportunity to create a transformational new waterfront destination for the City of Aberdeen. At the heart of the proposals is the redevelopment of the iconic Beach Ballroom – the 'jewel in the crown' of the Beachfront redevelopment. The framework also promotion an enhanced public realm setting for the re-imagined Ballroom, integrated with a potential new Stadium and Leisure complex, will create a dynamic new Urban Park character area which connects back into the City Centre. This people-focussed environment will be inclusive for all, creating a real community asset and bringing the 'Wow' factor back to the Beachfront.

3.3 Relationship with other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes an outline of the Beachfront Development Framework relationships with other relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies (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 4.1 summarises how the Beachfront Development Framework affects, and is affected by, other relevant PPS

and environmental protection objectives. Appendix B provides a more detailed analysis of each relevant PPS and the implications for the Beachfront Development Framework.

The Beachfront area which is identified within the Beachfront Development Framework contains a number of relevant planning policies which have shaped the approach to the site. A summary of the policy context is outlined below:

3.4 Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026 (LOIP) (Including Locality Plans)

The LOIP sets out Community Planning Aberdeen's plan for ensuring that, regardless of their background or circumstance, everyone in Aberdeen has access to the same opportunities. The ten-year plan is led by Community Planning Aberdeen in partnership with local people, communities, and other relevant organisations.

A supporting document 'Aberdeen City – Central: Locality Plan 2021-2026' links to the LOIP and identifies work which is already happening, building on positive partnerships and identifies priority neighbourhoods including Tillydrone, Seaton and Woodside. The three key themes which are covered by the LOIP are: Economy, People and Place. The proposals within the Development Framework will seek to contribute to the improvement of the 'Economy' through increasing employment opportunities; providing a public focussed space which will aid in creating areas which have a positive impact on 'People's' health and well-being, in particular for children and young people, contributing to Aberdeen's goal of gaining UNICEF Child Friendly Status; and creating a net zero development with active travel at its core which will create a key sense of 'Place' to the Beachfront.

3.5 Net Zero and Sustainability Policies

The Aberdeen City Council Climate Change Plan 2012-25: Towards a Net Zero and Climate Resilient Council sets out the approach, pathway, and actions towards net zero and climate resilient Council assets and operations, by 2045. Energy-efficient design proposals will be required to be incorporated within any design proposals and concept masterplan alongside renewable and low carbon energy sources, with consideration necessary to understand how further decarbonisation could be achieved in the future. Any future development will require to be cognisant of and heed the recommendations of the suite of Aberdeen City Council guidance.

Key Guidance

- ACC A Climate-positive City at the Heart of the Global Energy Transition: A Vision & Prospectus for Aberdeen – April 2020
- Aberdeen Adapts: Aberdeen's Climate Adaptation Framework
- ACC Climate Change Plan 2021-2025: Towards a Net Zero and Climate Resilient Council
- ACC Energy and Climate Plan 'Routemap' -
- ACC Powering Aberdeen: Aberdeen's Sustainable Energy Action Plan – October 2016
- ACC Strategic Infrastructure Plan – Energy Transition – April 2020

The *Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap - towards becoming a net zero emissions city by 2045* outlines how the city will adapt to changing climate conditions in the coming decades, focusing on six key theme strategies: mobility; buildings and heat; the circular economy; energy supply; the natural environment; and community empowerment.

Key Guidance should also reference a number of recently approved documents

- Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and 6 supporting/ enabling strategies
 - Mobility Strategy
 - Buildings & Heat Strategy
 - Circular Economy Strategy
 - Energy Supply Strategy
 - Natural Environment Strategy
 - Empowerment Strategy

Aberdeen Adapts was refreshed in 2022 and is included in Appendix 2 of the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap

3.6 City Centre Masterplan (CCMP) Context

Aberdeen City Council have made a commitment to update the Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan (CCMP) (2015) to align with the Aberdeen economic policy panel report (November 2020) and other recent key strategic commitments. These strategies focus on the desire to develop a holistic Aberdeen City Vision to support economic recovery and growth (post Covid) and to support the continuing diversification from oil and gas-based industries to green infrastructure, emerging technologies and renewables alongside optimising the remaining off-shore opportunities.

Investment in skills, health and wellbeing and quality of life through the utilisation of “place based” strategies will also support the development of “Aberdeen the place” – a vibrant city where people choose to live, work, do business and invest.

Masterplans that cover such an ambitious scope and with long-term programmes are by necessity dynamic, responding to evolution of demand, priorities, market conditions and trends. This has been particularly evident during 2020/21 with changes to how people interact and use the City Centre and surrounding areas during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Beachfront Development Framework document will sit as a ‘sister’ document to the updated CCMP document. The Beachfront proposals will align and complement the wider CCMP strategy.

3.7 Local Development Plan (LDP)

The Aberdeen Local Development Plan was adopted by Aberdeen City Council on the 20th January 2017. It was confirmed with Aberdeen City Council Planning officers that the emerging Proposed LDP policy position in relation to the site remains largely unchanged, and therefore, going forward the proposals should be considered against the Adopted LDP. The Adopted 2017 LDP identifies land at the Beachfront for Beach and Leisure use (Policy NC9 – Beach and Leisure). Within the defined Beach and Leisure area identified within the adopted LDP it is noted that proposals will be permitted provided they:

- Contribute to the range and quality of the existing uses, facilities and activities of the wider beach area;
- Are of an appropriate scale;
- Do not have an unduly adverse effect on the character of the area, or cause negative visual or environmental impacts or affect the amenities of nearby residents; and
- Do not result in the significant generation of car borne journeys, nor additional pressure for car parking.

The following Key policies are likely relevant to the principle of development, with other policies of the plan to be taken into consideration at the detailed design stages. Provided below is some initial

commentary on the key policies as discussed with Council Planning officers (see Appended meeting note), plus a note of further policies which will need to be considered at future detailed design stages.

Key Policies

- Policy NC9 – Beach and Leisure
- Policy NE1 - Green Space Network
- Policy NE3 - Urban Green Space
- Policy NE7 - Coastal Planning

Policies to be Considered Further

- Policy NE4 - Open Space Provision in New Development
- Policy NE6 - Flooding, Drainage and Water Quality
- Policy NE9 - Access and Informal Recreation
- Policy D4 - Historic Environment
- Policy I1 - Infrastructure Delivery and Planning Obligations
- Policy T2 - Managing the Transport Impact of Development
- Policy T3 - Sustainable and Active Travel
- Policy T5 – Noise

Table 3-1 summarises how the Beachfront Development Framework 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 Framework.

Table 3-1: 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
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
Climate Change	
	International UN Agreements - Kyoto Protocol (2005)
	UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) (Glasgow)
National Level	
Overarching Planning Policy	
	Planning (Scotland) Act 2019
	National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (NPF3) (2014)
	Scottish Planning Policy 2014
Cross- Sectoral	
	Transport (Scotland) Act 2019
	National Transport Strategy 2 (2020)
	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 2016-2021

	Building a Better Scotland Infrastructure Investment Plan: Investing in the Future of Scotland (2005)
Air and Climate Change	
	Environment Act 1995
	Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019
	UK Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - Volume 1 (2011)
	Climate Ready Scotland: climate change adaptation programme (SCCAP2) 2019-2024
	Update to the Climate Change Plan 2018 – 2032
	Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) Progress Report 2018
	Climate Change Plan: Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032 (RPP3)
	Scottish Climate Change Delivery Plan (2009)
	Clean Air Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future (2015)
	A Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland (2010)
	Scottish Energy Strategy 2017
	Planning Advice Note 84 Reducing Carbon Emissions in New Development (2008)
Heritage, Design and Regeneration	
	The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1997
	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
	Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS 2019)
	Planning Advice Note (PAN) 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology
	Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2014)
	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)
Population and Health	
	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 Make Scotland More Active: A Strategy for Physical Activity (2003)
	Let's Get Scotland Walking – The National Strategy
	Cycling Action Plan for Scotland 2017-2020
	A Long-Term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland 203
	Equality Act 2010
	Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005
	Community Empowerment Act 2015
Natural Conservation	
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
	The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
	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)

	The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)
	The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2007
Water	
	Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, as amended
	Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003
	Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009
	The river basin management plan for the 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)
	Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012
	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
	UK Marine Policy Statement
	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	
	Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2020
Cross- Sectoral	
	Regional Economic Strategy – Securing the Future of the North East 2015
	Regional Economic Strategy: Action Plan (2018-2025)
	The Economic Action Plan for Aberdeen City and Shire to 2025
	NESTRANS Regional Transport Strategy Refresh (2013)
	Aberdeen Rapid Transit
	Destination Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Tourism Strategy (2018-2023)
Nature Conservation	
	North East of Scotland Biodiversity Partnership - Action Plan 2014 - 2017
	River Dee Catchment Management Plan (2007)
	Forestry and Woodlands Strategy 2017
Local Level	
	Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2017

	Aberdeen City Council Supplementary Guidance
	Aberdeen City Local Transport Strategy 2016 - 2021
	Aberdeen City Air Quality Action Plan
	Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap - towards becoming a net zero emissions city by 2045
	Aberdeen Socio-Economic Rescue Plan 2020/21
	ACC Open Space Strategy 2011-2016
	Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26
	Aberdeen Nature Conservation Strategy
	Open Space Audit and Strategy 2011-2016
	Aberdeen City Air Quality Action Plan
	Aberdeen City Core Paths Plan
	Ellon to Garthdee Study
	Bridge of Don to City Centre Active Travel Study
	Aberdeen Rapid Transit
	Healthy Cities Agenda
	Landscape Character Assessment of Aberdeen
	Contaminated Land Strategy
	Aberdeen City Waste Strategy 2014-25
	Powering Aberdeen – Aberdeen Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2016

3.8 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.

3.9 Environmental Baseline

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 environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected. An Environmental Appraisal report providing baseline environmental information for this Scoping Report is in Appendix C

Likely evolution of the environment without the Beachfront Development Framework

Without the implementation of the Beachfront Development Framework, the following scenarios could occur:

- Without sufficient strategic overview e.g., for habitat mapping and networking, there is potential for habitat degradation and the loss of associated ecosystem services;
- There could be a lack of coordinated planning for development within the framework area and associated infrastructure. This could limit the chances for the Council to contribute to climate objectives and projects through mitigation methods;
- There are cultural heritage assets (Aberdeen Ballroom) and core paths which host a variety of biodiversity and habitats. If the Beachfront Development Framework is not adopted, this could have a detrimental effect on local flora and fauna due to a lack of maintenance, planned protection and active enhancement of the sites, including woodlands;

- Fragmentation of the access network and failure to review gaps in connectivity will not deliver best value for Active Travel;
- It could depreciate the value of the sites across the area, resulting in reduced access and uptake by locals and tourists to visit;
- It could result in the lack of quantity and quality recreational sites, the authority would not meet the criteria for sufficient provision;
- The future direction of open space/recreational planning and management may not be coordinated with other Services in the Council and external agencies and stakeholder groups.
- Resources will potentially be allocated on an ad-hoc basis, without a structured framework of priorities and actions;
- Without community consultation as part of the development of the framework, there might be less engagement with the plans throughout the lifetime of the strategy; and
- The framework will aim to be aspirational in creating accessible and inclusive open spaces, recreational provision and green network for Aberdeen Council. Without the development of the framework, this may not be achieved.

These scenarios could lead to adverse environmental impacts that could be avoided, or reduced, by the implementation of the Framework.

Baseline Environmental Data

The early stages of SEA, such as describing the baseline, identifying environmental problems/issues and analysing the links and relationships between other strategic actions, should be carried out concurrently and they should inform each other throughout the process. This approach has been adopted within this Scoping Report.

In order to measure the significant environmental effects of the Beachfront Development Framework the current state of the environment must be known. Sufficient information to provide the current state of the environment, or an Environmental Baseline, utilising GIS mapping where possible will be gathered to show the geographical location and scale of key environmental designations and assets. The potential effects (including, cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects) of the information contained within the Plans and their alternatives will be measured against this baseline.

The environmental baseline provides a 'snapshot' of Aberdeen Beachfront's urban and natural environments and allows appropriate draft Objectives and Indicators

The Environmental Report will identify the current environmental issues that impact on Aberdeen Beachfront, utilising the information that has been identified through an analysis of the baseline environmental data to determine the potential environmental implications. When undertaking the assessment of the Framework, Aberdeen Council will be capable of predicting whether the identified environmental issues will worsen, stabilise or improve through the implementation of the Framework.

3.10 Environmental characteristics of the framework area

Fundamental to the environmental assessment, and as specified by the SEA Directive, data is required in order to establish the relevant baseline conditions. Data will principally be sourced from publicly available sources and Aberdeen City Council. Such data provides the basis upon which the potential impacts of the development can be predicted. The section below presents preliminary information on the baseline environmental conditions for the proposed development framework area and opportunities. The preliminary appraisal of the development has been undertaken to identify the potential for significant environmental effects. Significant impacts will be reported further in the Environmental Report and mitigation measures set out accordingly.

3.10.1 Population

On 30th June 2020, the population of Aberdeen City was 229,060¹ over an area of 186 km² (18,600 ha). This results in a population density of 12.3 people per hectare.

There was an increase of 0.2% from 228,670 in 2019. Aberdeen City had the 8th highest population in 2020, out of all 32 council areas in Scotland.²

Between 1998 and 2020, the population of Aberdeen City has increased by 6.2%. This is the 16th highest percentage change out of the 32 council areas in Scotland. Over the same period, Scotland's population rose by 7.7% (Table 3.2).

Table 3-2: Total population, Aberdeen City, 1998-2020

Year	Population	% change from 1998	Scotland % change from 1998
1998	215,650	0.0	0.0
1999	214,630	-0.5	-0.1
2000	213,340	-1.1	-0.3
2001	211,910	-1.7	-0.3
2002	210,680	-2.3	-0.2
2003	209,280	-3.0	-0.2
2004	207,820	-3.6	0.1
2005	208,690	-3.2	0.7
2006	209,630	-2.8	1.1
2007	212,470	-1.5	1.8
2008	214,020	-0.8	2.5
2009	217,020	0.6	3.0
2010	219,730	1.9	3.6
2011	222,460	3.2	4.4
2012	224,910	4.3	4.7
2013	227,070	5.3	4.9
2014	228,920	6.2	5.3
2015	230,350	6.8	5.8
2016	229,840	6.6	6.5
2017	228,800	6.1	6.8
2018	227,560	5.5	7.1
2019	228,670	6.0	7.6
2020	229,060	6.2	7.7

In 2020, there were more females (50.2%) than males (49.8%) living in Aberdeen City. There were also more females (51.2%) than males (48.8%) living in Scotland overall.

Between 2018 and 2028, the population of Aberdeen City is projected to increase from 227,560 to 230,170. This is an increase of 1.1%, which compares to a projected increase of 1.8% for Scotland as a whole.

¹ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2020>

² <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/aberdeen-city-council-profile.html#:~:text=Population%20Estimates,-Last%20updated%3A%20June&text=On%2030%20June%202020%2C%20the,of%20Scotland%20increased%20by%200.0%25.&text=Aberdeen%20City%20had%20the%208th,32%20council%20areas%20in%20Scotland.>

Over the next 10 years, the population of Aberdeen City is projected to increase by 0.1% due to natural change (more births than deaths). Total net migration (net migration within Scotland, from overseas and from the rest of the UK) is projected to result in a population increase of 1.0% over the same period.

Between 2018 and 2028, the 0 to 15 age group is projected to see the largest percentage decrease (-3.2%) and the 75 and over age group is projected to see the largest percentage increase (+16.1%). In terms of size, however, 25 to 44 is projected to remain the largest age group.

The development framework proposals will provide long term significant benefits for the area that will arise through the provision of high quality amenities. The development principle is to develop a world class sport, leisure and tourism destination which would revitalise the Beachfront area and reconnect it to the city centre. Other benefits include the provision of employment and community facilities, integrated transport links, environmental improvements and contributions to the regeneration of related areas. This will ensure the key elements of a sustainable community are looked at holistically.

Migrant Population

In 2019-20, Aberdeen City had the 12th highest level of net migration out of the 32 council areas in Scotland, with a net total of 500 people. This is a decrease of 310 from 810 people in 2018-19³.

Net migration is the difference between in-migration (those coming into an area) and out-migration (those leaving an area). Positive net migration means in-migration is higher than out-migration. Negative net migration means out-migration is higher than in-migration.

In Aberdeen City, the net migration rate decreased from 3.5 people per 1,000 population in 2018-19 to 2.2 in 2019-20. In comparison, the rate in Scotland overall decreased from 5.5 to 3.1 people per 1,000 population.

In 2019-20, Aberdeen City was the council area with the 17th highest net migration rate, out of all 32 council areas in Scotland. Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, 24 councils saw a decrease in net migration rates per 1,000 population and 8 councils saw an increase.

In the period 2019-20, net migration in Aberdeen City was higher for females (322) than for males (180). The age group with the highest level of total net migration was 15 to 19 (1,034). In contrast, the age group with the lowest level of net migration was 30 to 34 (-310).

3.10.2 Ageing Population

In terms of overall size, the 25 to 44 age group was the largest in 2020, with a population of 75,582. In contrast, the 75 and over age group was the smallest, with a population of 16,241. In 2020, more females than males lived in Aberdeen City in 4 out of 6 age groups.

Between 1998 and 2020, the 16 to 24 age group saw the largest percentage decrease (-16.5%). The 45 to 64 age group saw the largest percentage increase (+16.4%).

Between 2018 and 2028, the 0 to 15 age group is projected to see the largest percentage decrease (-3.2%) and the 75 and over age group is projected to see the largest percentage increase (+16.1%). In

³ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/aberdeen-city-council-profile.html#migration> (Accessed 15/05/2022)

terms of size, however, 25 to 44 is projected to remain the largest age group (Figure 3-1 and Table 3-3).⁴

Figure 3-1: Aberdeen City: Birth by Age Group by Year 2018 and 2028

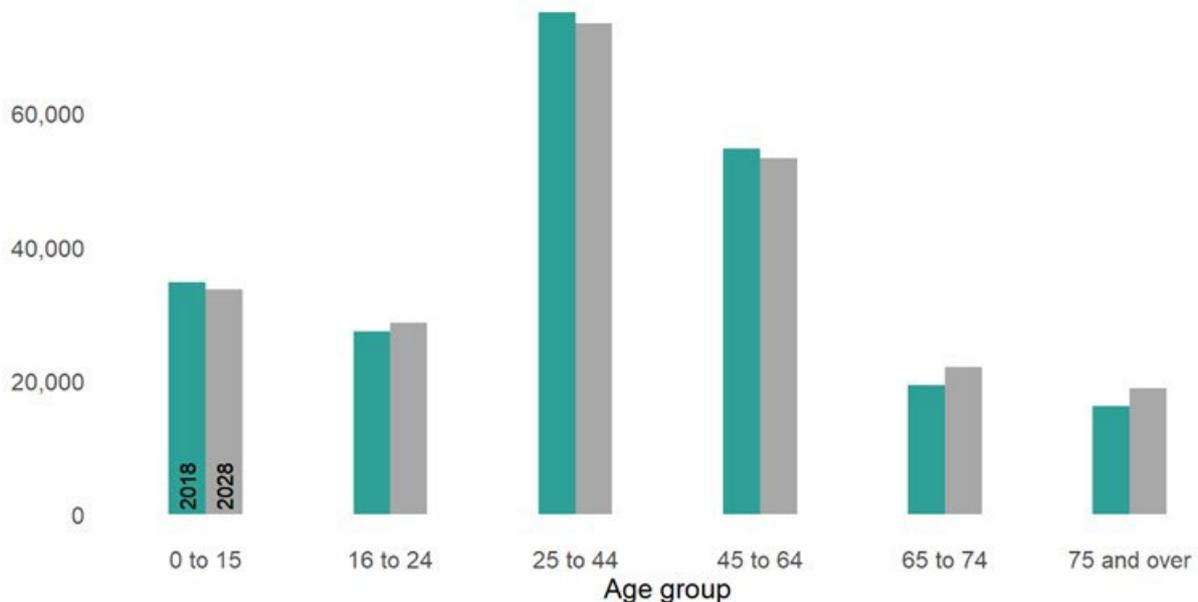


Table 3-3: Projected population change by age group, Aberdeen City, 2018 and 2028

Age group	2018	2028	% change	Scotland % change
All people	227,560	230,170	1.1	1.8
0 to 15	34,833	33,702	-3.2	-6.0
16 to 24	27,357	28,713	5.0	-0.9
25 to 44	75,101	73,500	-2.1	3.1
45 to 64	54,737	53,329	-2.6	-5.5
65 to 74	19,297	22,077	14.4	14.4
75 and over	16,235	18,849	16.1	25.4

In Aberdeen City, life expectancy at birth was higher for females (81.3 years) than for males (76.9 years) in 2018-20.⁵

In Aberdeen City, life expectancy at birth is higher than at Scotland level for both females and males.

Over the period between 2001-03 and 2018-20, female life expectancy at birth in Aberdeen City has risen by 1.6%. This is the 2nd lowest percentage change out of all 32 council areas in Scotland and this is lower than the percentage change for Scotland overall (+2.7%).

Over the period between 2001-03 and 2018-20, male life expectancy at birth in Aberdeen City has risen by 3.8%. This is the joint 20th highest percentage change out of all 32 council areas in Scotland and this is lower than the percentage change for Scotland overall (+4.5%).

In Aberdeen City, life expectancy at age 65-69 was higher for females (20.0 years) than for males (17.3 years) in 2018-20. Male life expectancy at age 65-69 has increased more rapidly than female life expectancy at age 65-69 between 2001-03 and 2018-20.

⁴ https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/aberdeen-city-council-profile.html#table_pop_proj_age (Accessed 15/05/2022)

⁵ https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/aberdeen-city-council-profile.html#life_expectancy (Accessed 15/05/2022)

In Aberdeen City, female life expectancy at age 65-69 is higher than at Scotland level and male life expectancy at age 65-69 is lower than at Scotland level.

Over the period between 2001-03 and 2018-20, female life expectancy at age 65-69 in Aberdeen City has risen by 6.6%. This is the 29th highest percentage change out of all 32 council areas in Scotland and this is lower than the percentage change for Scotland overall (+9.2%).

Over the period between 2001-03 and 2018-20, male life expectancy at age 65-69 in Aberdeen City has risen by 11.3%. This is the 2nd lowest percentage change out of all 32 council areas in Scotland and this is lower than the percentage change for Scotland overall (+16.3%).

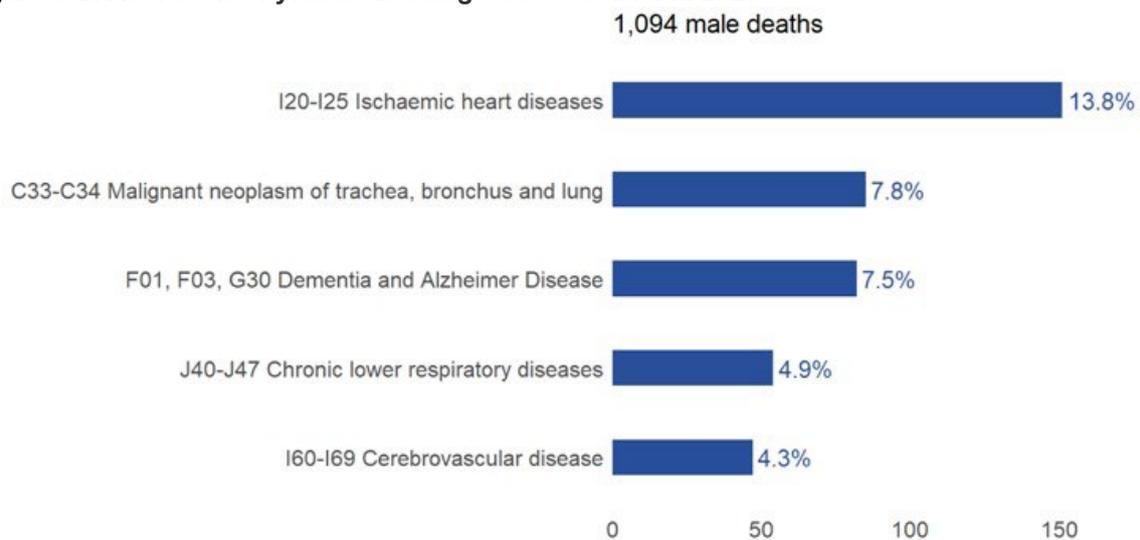
Health

In Aberdeen City, the standardised death rate increased from 10.8 per 1,000 population in 2019 to 11.0 in 2020. In comparison, the rate in Scotland overall increased from 10.6 to 12.0.

In 2020, Aberdeen City was the council area with the 27th highest standardised death rate. Between 2019 and 2020, 2 councils saw a decrease in standardised death rate and 30 councils saw an increase.

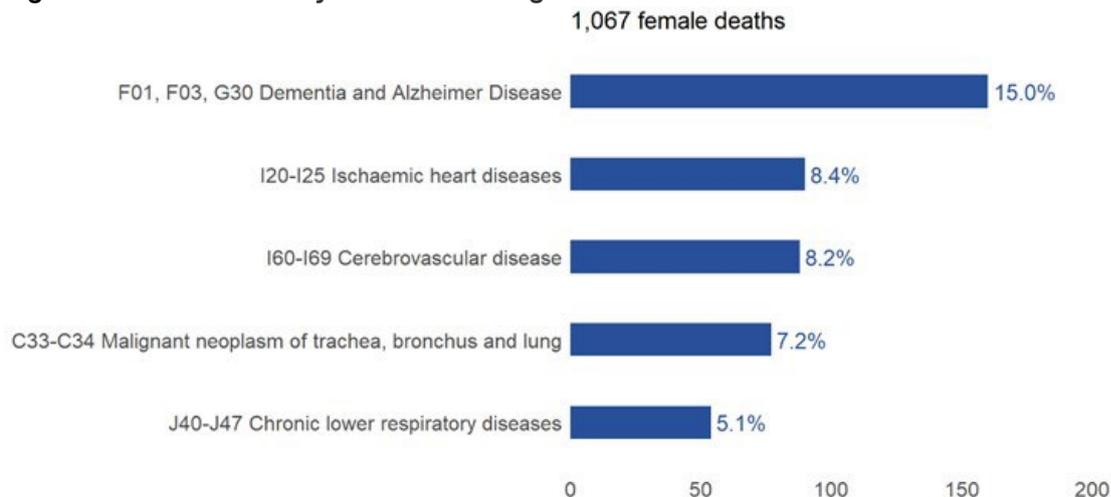
In Aberdeen City, the leading cause of death for males in 2020 was ischaemic heart diseases (13.8% of all male deaths), followed by lung cancer (7.8%). In Scotland overall, the leading cause of death for males was also ischaemic heart diseases (14.1%), followed by dementia and Alzheimer's disease (7.7%) (Figure 3-2).⁶

Figure 3-2: Aberdeen City: Male Leading Causes of Death. 2020



In Aberdeen City, the leading cause of death for females in 2020 was dementia and Alzheimer's disease (15.0% of all female deaths), followed by ischaemic heart diseases (8.4%). In Scotland overall, the leading cause of death for females was also dementia and Alzheimer's disease (14.2%), followed by ischaemic heart diseases (8.6%) (Figure 3-3).

⁶ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/aberdeen-city-council-profile.html#deaths> (Accessed 15/05/2022)

Figure 3-3: Aberdeen City: Female Leading Causes of Death. 2020

Scotland has seen increasing levels of obesity over the past ten years and currently one in four adults (25%) in Aberdeen City are obese.⁷ Clinical obesity increases the risk of ill-health and premature death, and is therefore an important driver of life expectancy.

3.10.3 Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

The development framework area is of intrinsic low ecological and nature conservation value. Loss of the land within area for development framework are will not be significant. The development framework proposal will have a positive impact by providing new green networks, particularly SUDs which will benefit biodiversity. The Environmental Report will detail these measures further.

Special Protection Area

SPAs are areas which have been identified as being of national and international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds.

The Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch Special Protection Area (SPA) is located 100m to the east of the site. It supports bird populations including Sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), little tern (*Sterna albifrons*), pink-footed geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), eider (*Somateria mollissima*) and provides a foraging zone for these species. It is ecologically connected to the site via the North Sea.

Special Area of Conservation

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are strictly protected high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the habitats and species.

The River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is located 1.5km south of the site. It contains populations of Otter (*Lutra lutra*), Freshwater pearl mussels (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) and Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*). It is ecologically connected to the site via the North Sea to the east and the green residential garden habitats to the south and west of the site.

⁷ Source: Scottish Health Survey, local authority results 2014-17 inclusive, published 2017
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-health-survey-results-local-areas-2014-2015-2016-2017/> (Accessed 15/05/2022)

Other Natura 2000 Sites

Due to the projection of the boardwalk and slipway into the marine environment there may be effects on mobile species and other more distant sites may require to be included, including:

- Moray Firth SAC;
- Fowlsheugh SPA;
- Montrose Basin SPA;
- Isle of May SAC; and
- Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC.

National Nature Reserves

National Nature Reserves (NNR) to protect sensitive features and provide suitable areas for research, managing habitats, rare species and significant geology. No NNRs will be effected by the Beachfront Development Framework.

Local Nature Reserves

The Donmouth Local Nature Reserve 2km north of the site supports waterfowl and seal populations. It is connected to the site via the parkland and green residential garden habitats to the north of the site and the North Sea to the east.

The Aberdeen - Inverness - Kittybrewster Railway Line, a Local Nature Conservation Site, crosses under the beach boulevard in the west of the site. It helps provides a green corridor through the city as it contains grassland, tall ruderal, scrubs and woodland. It is ecologically connected to the site via the green residential garden habitats found to the west of the site.

Ancient Woodland

No areas of ancient woodland are present within the site or within close proximity. The nearest ancient woodland to the site is the long-established (of plantation origin) woodland at Seaton Park 2km northwest of the site. It is ecologically connected to the site by the parkland and green residential garden habitats present to the north and west of the site.

UK Habitat Classification (UKHAB) Survey

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was carried out by EnviroCentre Limited in April 2022 which included a desk study, UK Habitat Classification and Protected and Notable Species Survey. The PEA will be used to inform the SEA Environmental Report.

The UKHab is a flexible hierarchical system for rapidly recording and classifying habitat and was used to identify ecologically sensitive features/habitats, to inform relevant species surveys and, aid in the recommendation of mitigation and enhancement measures in connection with a proposed development.

Initial findings of the UKHab Survey indicates the site comprises the following habitats:

- | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| g3c – | Other neutral grassland; |
| g4 – | Modified grassland; |
| h3 - | dense scrub; |
| u1b – | Developed land; Sealed surface; |
| u1b5 – | Buildings; |
| u1e - | Built linear features; |
| s3a – | coastal sand dunes; |

t2 – littoral sediment; and
w1g6 - Line of trees

No groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE's) were identified during the April ecology survey.

Faunal Interest

Faunal interest within the development framework area is limited to the presence of badger and bat roost potential. The potential impact on these species will be reported in the SEA Environmental Report and mitigation measures included as required. The development framework includes landscaping proposals for woodland planting to provide screening and ecological enhancement. These measures will have beneficial impacts and will assist in increasing biodiversity interest of the area in the long term.

The badger sett and foraging area needs to be protected and disturbance kept to a minimum.

Carefully designed planting should be considered for both badgers and bats to create natural screens and buffer zones to minimise disturbance, whilst providing a green network corridor

Confirmed roost sites should be identified along with important commuting lines and foraging areas. Any lighting should avoid bat roosts and commuting lines. Transport and active travel links should be sited well away from areas used by bats to avoid any conflict with lighting.

Carefully designed planting should be considered for both badgers and bats to create natural screens and buffer zones to minimise disturbance, whilst providing a green network corridor.

3.10.4 Soil

The Scotland's Soil Website indicates that the majority of the development framework area incorporates immature soils with the dominant soil group being regosols formed of windblown sand⁸. The western portion of the Beachfront Development Framework area does not have an identified classification. The soil is identified as mineral soil with no peatland vegetation.

With respect to land capability considerations the majority of the development framework area is identified as having an agricultural capability of 4.1 (*Land capable of producing a narrow range of crops, primarily grassland with short arable breaks of forage crops and cereal*) with a small area of 5.1 (*land capable of use as improved grassland. Few problems with pasture establishment and maintenance and potential high yield.*) The remainder is classified as Urban.

The whole of the Beachfront Development Framework area is not identified as having significant capability with respect to forestry.

The majority of the development framework area is identified as having an average topsoil organic content concentration of 2.1% and is noted to range from extremely vulnerable to very vulnerable with respect to risk from subsoil compaction and a moderate risk of topsoil compaction.

The development framework area is identified as Class H2 with respect to potential risk from leaching of contaminants impacting ground or surface water (deep, permeable, coarse textured soils with little ability to retain potential pollutants)

⁸ <https://soils.environment.gov.scot/>

3.10.5 Water

As noted in Goodson Associates Report "*AECC City Vision - Aberdeen Beach Regeneration, Drainage Strategy Plan (2022)*" the site forms part of the catchment of the River Don/North Sea confluence.

For the purposes of this section, geology and hydrogeology are included due to their interactions.

From the available Ordnance Survey data the following geographical features have been identified as important to the existing and proposed drainage of the site:

1. The development area occupies a gently sloping, slightly dished, plateau adjacent to the shoreline that sits at approximately 5m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
2. A narrow, steep-sided, sand hill, known locally as Broad Hill, alters the fall along the western boundary. Rising to 28m AOD, the feature separates the site from the residential and commercial areas associated with Park Street.
3. A steep-sided berm running along the backshore elevates the Esplanade above the level of the site and the shoreline.

From the publicly available borehole data published by the British Geological Survey and the Geological Survey of Scotland map series, the following sequence of strata is anticipated:

1. Topsoil – Ranging in thickness from 0.15m to 0.40m.
2. Made ground – Typically silty sand, ash and gravel, with fragments of burnt shale. Where encountered depths vary from 1.5m to 4.1m.
3. Sand and Gravel – Dense, becoming very dense, fine to coarse sand and fine to coarse angular to subrounded gravel.
4. Bedrock – conglomerate and sandstone bedrock.

The Hydrogeological Map of Scotland shows that the quaternary sands and gravels that underlie the site are locally important aquifers, the yields are significant and can range from 10l/s to 15l/s in exceptional circumstances, although it should be noted that the site is denoted as an area where the chloride ion concentration within the groundwater exceeds 100mg/l.

Because of the coastal location and the permeable sub-soils it is anticipated that groundwater will likely be shallow and affected by the tidal system.

Given the topography of the site and the prevailing ground conditions, it is likely that run-off from the undeveloped parts of the development site drain to the natural water environment through groundwater percolation.

An intrusive site investigation will be required to confirm the findings of the preliminary desk study and inform the development of the detailed drainage management plan.

The developments adjacent to the western and southern boundaries are generally served by a combined sewerage system that feeds into the trunk sewer that flows through the site – although, some of the more modern developments have separate systems internally.

A combined sewer overflow, discharging to the River Dee at adjacent to the Abercromby Jetty, provides relief to the combined sewerage network during periods of intense rainfall.

The development framework surface water management strategy will be based on the principles of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) and green infrastructure to incorporate best management practices for the treatment of surface water. The design of the SUDs scheme and green infrastructure will be developed closely with the environmental engineers and landscape architects to ensure that, as

well as creating an efficient and sustainable drainage system, the landscape quality and opportunity for habitat enhancements in the area form an integral part of the Beachfront Development Framework.

Flood Risk

SEPA flood risk maps were reviewed to ascertain whether the site was located in an area at risk from flooding.⁹

Rivers

With reference to SEPA flood maps, there is no specific likelihood of river flooding identified for this area.

Surface Water

The SEPA flood maps show that parts of the site have a probability of surface water flooding of between 0.1% and 10%.

It is anticipated that this will be alleviated by:

1. Designing the proposed drainage system to cope with the range of rainfall events prescribed by the ACC supplementary planning guidance, which will reduce overland flow.
2. Designing the drainage system to cope with overland flow from the surrounding higher ground.

Coastal

SEPA flood maps indicates each year the esplanade has a 10% chance coastal flooding. The SEPA flood map shows coastal flooding limited to the east of the road corridor.

Water Quality

The Don Estuary to Souter Head (Aberdeen) is a coastal water body (ID: 200105), in the Scotland river basin district. It is 50.2 square kilometres in area. The water body has been designated as a heavily modified water body on account of physical alterations that cannot be addressed without a significant impact on navigation and from an increased risk of subsidence or flooding.

With reference to the SEPA Water Classification Hub, the coastal waters from the Don Estuary to Souter Head has been classified under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) scheme as having good ecological potential, and good water quality (Table 3-4).¹⁰

Table 3-4: Water Classification

Parameter	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Overall status	Good ecological potential				
Pre-HMWB status	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Overall ecology	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Biological elements	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Invertebrate animals	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Imposex assessment	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Benthic invertebrates	High	High	High	High	High
Phytoplankton	High	High	High	High	High

⁹ <https://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmaps/FloodRisk/Risk>

¹⁰ <https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/> (Accessed 12/05/2022)

Hydromorphology	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Morphology	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Water quality	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good

Groundwater

The Beachfront Development Framework is within “Aberdeen groundwater” (ID: 150491) which covers approximately 37.8 square kilometres in area which is classified as being Good.¹¹

Bathing Water

SEPA has undertaken an assessment of the bathing waters in Scotland. This assessment compares the water quality against the standards in the European Bathing Water Directive. The bathing water assessments relevant to Aberdeen City were either sufficient to Good (Table 3-5).¹²

Table 3-5: Aberdeen Bathing Waters

ID	Name	2018	2017	2016	2015
PAUKS761601	Aberdeen	Good	Sufficient	Good	Good

The SEA Environmental Report will include geomorphology and morphological erosion pressures.

3.10.6 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

The development framework area has a complex pattern of overlapping use that reflects the establishment, development and growth of the adjacent burghs.

World Heritage Sites

A review of Pastmaps¹³ and Scotland’s Environment¹⁴ identified there were no World Heritage Sites within the proximity of the area covered by the Beachfront Development Framework.

Scheduled Monuments

A review of Pastmaps and Scotland’s Environment identified there were no Scheduled monuments within the proximity of the area covered by the Beachfront Development Framework.

Conservation Areas

There are eleven Conservation Areas in Aberdeen. Three are in proximity to the area covered by the Beachfront Development Framework including, Old Aberdeen/Balgownie Conservation, City Centre Conservation Area and Footdee Conservation area, All are located outwith the boundary of the area covered by the Beachfront Development Framework.

Garden & Designed Landscapes

There are no ‘Garden & Designated Landscapes’ within the proximity of the area covered by the Beachfront Development Framework.

¹¹ <https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/> (Accessed 16/05/2022)

¹² <https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/> (Accessed 15/05/2022)

¹³ <https://pastmap.org.uk> (Accessed 21/01/2022)

¹⁴ <https://map.environment.gov.scot/sewebmap> (Accessed 21/01/2022)

Battlefields

There are no battlefields within the proximity of the area covered by the Beachfront Development Framework.

Historic Marine Protected Areas

There are no 'Historic Marine Protected Areas' within the proximity of the area covered by the Beachfront Development Framework.

Protected Military Remains, Wrecks

There are no 'Protected Military Remains, Wrecks' within the proximity of the area covered by the Beachfront Development Framework

Listed Buildings

The Beach Ballroom is a Category B listed building located within the area covered by the Beachfront Development Framework.

The Beach Ballroom is an Art Deco large, single storey and raised basement, octagonal ballroom with set-back pantiled (vernacular) pyramidal roof crowned by arcaded lantern, and 3 projecting flat-roofed single storey wings with main entrance to south, bowed bay at south east and Northern Lights Suite below later Star Ballroom to the east. Prominently sited on the Esplanade overlooking Aberdeen Bay. Brick and stone construction with buff faience cladding; harled with raised margins to lesser elevations. Deep contrasting granite base course, mutuled eaves cornice and stepped blocking course raised into block pediment over Ionic columned door pieces; stylised Ionic capitalised dividing pilasters and architraved keystone windows.

The Aberdeen Ballroom will be sympathetically renovated, as highlighted in the Beachfront Development Framework. Significant impacts on historic buildings from the development framework proposals will be reported further in the Environmental Report.

Other Points of Interest

The following items have also been identified as points of interest on the Aberdeen City Council HER map and Canmore:

- Boundary stones and battery gun remains on Broad Hill;
- Large proportion of Queens Links used as late 19th to early 20th century bottle dump and tip;
- Lighthouse / rocket house;
- Remains of a tramway;
- Site of gunpowder magazine;
- Site of Aberdeen rope works;
- Queen's Links, Bathing Station; and
- WW2 heavy anti-aircraft gun battery.

3.10.7 Landscape

There will be a permanent change to the landform in the area as a result of the Beachfront Development Framework proposals set out in Section 2. The longer term landscape impacts will be determined by the nature, scale and extent of development submitted as part of future planning applications. Applications will be supported by an environmental impact assessment.

This is an area of small scale commercial development and recreational open space where the quality of the scenery ranges from the western edge classed as having low scenic quality, through to medium, medium high and high quality in the east.

The beach is an important asset for the City of Aberdeen and is a popular location with both local residents and tourists as a recreational attraction for activities such as surfing, swimming, running, walking and cycling (amongst others).

Groynes and blockwork revetments were installed perpendicular to the shoreline of the coast, to reduce longshore drift to limit sediment movement and trapping sediments thus protecting the beach from coastal erosion. The shoreline has hard engineered bank protection which varies in type and scale.

Built development in the form of new buildings and infrastructure may cause change to the existing landscape character and quality.

A key aspect of the Beachfront Development Framework will be the provision of green networks which will strengthen the linkages to the surrounding area. These will complement existing landscape features and provide connections between new areas of formal / informal open space. This will have a positive impact by providing quality path networks and habitats and in turn meet the objective of sustainable places.

The Beachfront Development Framework and Environmental Report will set out measures to improve the quality / quantity of publicly accessible open spaces and protect and enhance biodiversity in the area.

There will be an overall impact on visual amenity which will range from disturbance of an already changing urban environment, enhancement of existing habitats and creation of open spaces within the Beachfront Development Framework area. The Environmental Report will set out the measures to mitigate adverse visual impacts.

3.10.8 Air

In order to inform the Scoping Report, the 2017 Air Quality Annual Progress Report (APR) for Aberdeen City Council (the most up-to-date report available) was reviewed. The main pollutants of concern associated with road traffic emissions are NO₂ and PM₁₀

Aberdeen City Council has declared three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) (Table 3-6).

Table 3-6: Aberdeen City Council AQMA

AQMA	Description	Pollutants
Aberdeen City Centre AQMA	Market St, Union St, King St between Castle St and Roslin Terrace, Virginia St, Commerce St, Guild St, Bridge St, Holburn St between Great Southern Road and Union St, Victoria Rd, Torry between Queen Elizabeth II bridge and Crombie Rd and West North Street King St to 100m north of junction with Littlejohn St.	Nitrogen dioxide NO ₂ , Particulate Matter PM ₁₀
Anderson Drive AQMA	All of Anderson Drive from the Bridge of Dee including Haudigan roundabout, part of Gt Northern Road from 815 GNR to Auchmill Road, part of Auchmill Rd from GNR to the junction with Howes Road.	NO ₂ , PM ₁₀
Wellington Road AQMA	From the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge to Balnagask Road.	NO ₂ , PM ₁₀

The closest AQMA to the boundary of the Beachfront Development Framework is the Aberdeen City Centre AQMA.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

The NO₂ levels at the continuous monitor at Union Street continues to exceed the annual mean air quality objective of 40 µg/m³. However, the level of 43 µg/m³ is the lowest recorded in the last 5 years. Diffusion tubes located along Union Street and the top end of Holburn Street also suggest exceedances of the objective throughout this area of the city centre AQMA. Levels recorded in these locations are generally lower than the previous 5 years and it appears the downward trend of levels towards the objective continues.

The continuous monitor at Market Street located within the city centre AQMA, recorded its lowest level since 2012 and is below the annual mean objective. However, diffusion tubes DT9, DT10 and DT16 located in the Market Street area recorded levels above the objective suggesting exceedances of the annual mean continues at more congested or enclosed areas. Levels at these sites are the lowest since 2012 and there is downward trend towards objective levels.

Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

There were no exceedances of the annual mean or 24 hour mean objective at any of the continuous monitoring sites in 2016. Measured concentrations are the lowest recorded since 2012 and there is a downward trend in concentrations at measurement locations across the city. The fitting and advancement of diesel particulate filters fitted to diesel vehicles may be a contributory factor in reducing emissions. Reasonably mild winter weather in the last few years may also have contributed to the downward trend due to less likelihood of congestion that can occur during episodes of bad weather.

Due to the nature of the aims of the proposed Beachfront Development Framework, there is potential to decrease traffic volumes on the road network. The Beachfront Development Framework aims to encourage infrastructure, including traffic management that reduces the impact of the existing road network to promote alternative forms of travel, including walking and cycling, whilst improving public realm.

Air quality levels will be assessed and reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment. Report (EIAR) The EIA aim to ensure future development within the Beachfront Development Framework area does not cause deterioration of air quality within Aberdeen's three Air Quality Management Areas, most notable the City Centre AQMA to the north.

Air quality impacts associated with the Beachfront Development Framework proposals will be reported further in the SEA Environmental Report.

3.10.9 Noise

There are no Candidate . Management Areas (closest being, 8- Littlejohn Street, Mealmarket Street, King Street) or Candidate Quiet Areas (closest being 4 - Seaton Playing Field), within the proposed development boundary

The Beachfront Development Framework proposals have the potential to change the noise levels compared to the existing situation due to changes in traffic flow on existing roads. Detailed noise assessments of the effects the Beachfront Development Framework proposals will be undertaken during the detailed design. Mitigation measures to minimise the effects of possible increases in noise will be provided, for example, environmental barriers, such as earth mounding or acoustic fencing.

3.10.10 Climatic Factors

Climate change has taken a prominent position within policy and legislation at a national level, with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 creating a long-term framework for ensuring reduction in Scottish greenhouse gas emissions of 80% by 2050.

CO₂ emissions data for Aberdeen is set out in Figure 3-4, with the change in CO₂ emissions from 2005 to 2019 indicated by sector in Table 3-7.

Figure 3-4: UK Government, Local Authority CO₂ emissions 2005-2019 national statistics

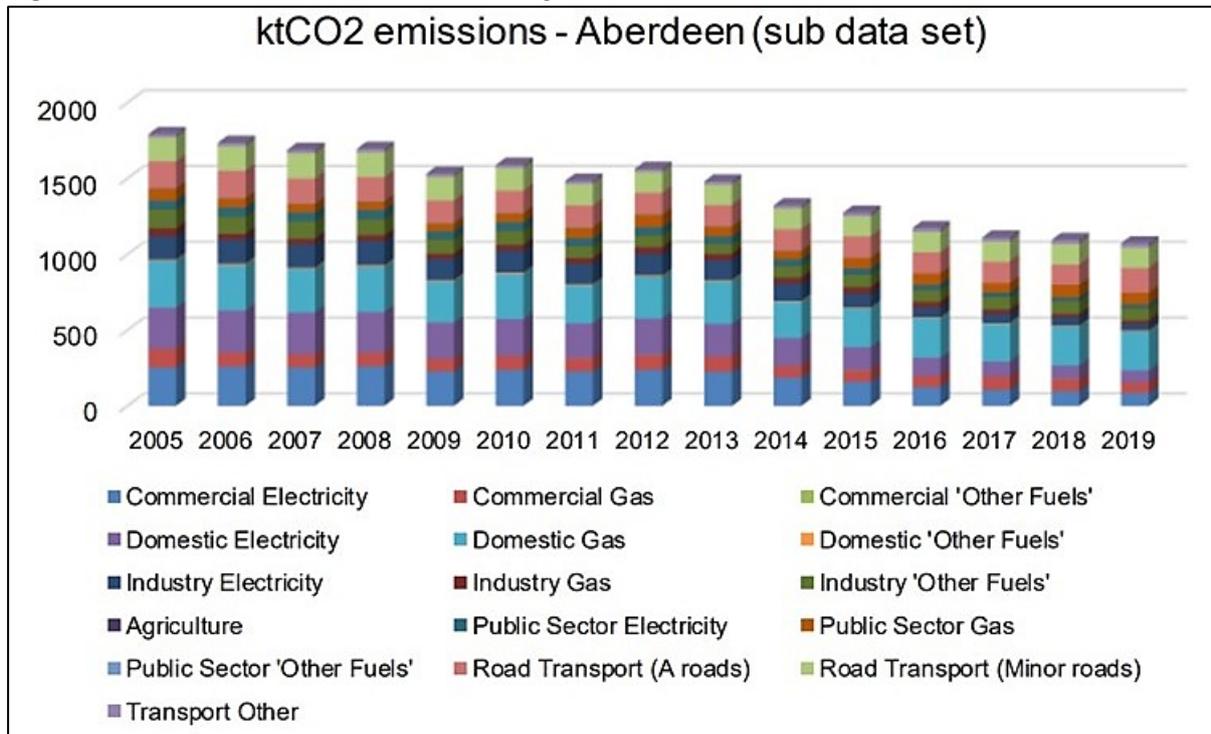


Table 3-7: CO₂ emission estimates for the City of Aberdeen, all measures in ktCO₂

Sector	Breakdown	2005 Baseline	2019 Measure	%Change
Industrial	Electricity	154.15	42.84	-72%
	Gas	52.19	24.14	-54%
	Other Fuels	125.2	81.75	-35%
	Agriculture	3.32	3.23	-3%
	Total	334.87	151.96	-54.6
Commercial	Electricity	252.59	84.34	-67%
	Gas	124.13	70.58	-43%
	Other Fuels	0.81	0.62	-23
	Total	377.54	155.54	-58.8%

Opportunities for renewable energy provision and low/zero carbon technologies will be explored during the implementation of the Beachfront Development Framework. This may include small scale renewables/micro generation and the identification of sites for local energy generation.

Further opportunities will be explored and overall, where possible the development will be future proofed to meet the requirements of Aberdeen City Council Climate Change Plan 2021-25: Towards a Net Zero and Climate Resilient Council and the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap (2022) which outlines the city wide approach to net zero..

It should be noted that key buildings in the wider area are connected to District Heating networks. The Aberdeen Heat & Power website¹⁵ indicates that the use of thermal storage within the network also allowed this increase in capacity, enabling the connection of buildings (among others) including:

- Aberdeen Beach Leisure Centre;
- Aberdeen Health Village;
- Beach Ballroom;
- Hanover School;
- Hanover Community Centre; and
- Constitution Court sheltered housing complex.

The area has good access to bus, walking and cycling routes and will provide an excellent opportunity for the provision of new infrastructure. The enhancements will benefit the wider area. Viewed in the context of conventional appraisal techniques and when compared to many other UK cities, Aberdeen Beachfront is not physically distant from the city centre or the key transport corridors that serve it. Contemporary journey planning software shows the Beach Ballroom, a prominent feature of the Beachfront area, to be 1.7km from the junction of Union Street and Union Terrace Gardens – a location that may be judged to represent Aberdeen city centre. At typical walking speed, a distance of 1.7km equates to a journey time of 24 minutes, matching the journey time on foot from Aberdeen railway and bus stations at Union Square. A wider accessibility appraisal shows that the Beachfront is located within 700m of the King Street corridor, equating to a journey time on foot of approximately 15 minutes.

3.10.11 Material Assets

The land on which the site is situated is a material asset. It has been zoned for development through the appropriate Development Plan process and as such the use of this material asset in a manner compatible with the zoning designation and the Beachfront Development Framework, is entirely appropriate.

Other material assets in terms of water services, electricity, and other utilities are locally and the proposed developments within the Beachfront Development Framework can readily connect to same.

The construction and operation of the proposed development elements will utilise material assets (access road and construction materials) but given the scale of the development this will be considered at the project level.

Significant progress has been made in recent years with regard to waste management in Aberdeen. The Zero Waste Plan and the European Council Landfill Directive establish a framework for reforming the waste management system in Scotland and sets targets for improving the sustainability of waste management up until the year 2025. In 2013 Aberdeen recycled 37% of waste. By 2020 this figure had risen to 45.6%.

In addition, Aberdeen City Council area also generates 192,155 tonnes of business waste.¹⁶ This is selected businesses waste in Scotland, including factories, utility and transport companies, shops, offices, hotels, restaurants, schools and hospitals. As there is no statutory duty for businesses to report to SEPA on the waste they generate, SEPA derives the information from statutory waste data received from operators of licensed and permitted waste management sites, and from operators of activities exempt from full waste management licensing.

An initial Environmental Appraisal covering the topics above is included in Appendix C

¹⁵ <https://www.aberdeenheatandpower.co.uk/>

¹⁶ <https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/waste/waste-data/waste-data-reporting/business-waste-data/>

Environmental problems

The main environmental considerations are outlined in Table 3-8 below. These issues will be reviewed in more detail during the SEA and discussed in the Environmental Report.

Table 3-8: Data Sources for Providing Baseline Environmental Assessment

SEA Topic	Environmental Issue	How the Framework contributes to tackling the problem?	Relevant Data
Population & Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to social and community facilities and the amenity of the area will have an impact of general wellbeing. The Beachfront Development Framework can influence the relationship between facilities, amenity and the general vitality of communities. The form and location of new development within the Beachfront Development Framework area can contribute to social integration and improved wellbeing opportunities for the whole community. 	<p>Promoting access to employment, supporting accessibility and health improvement.</p> <p>Framework aims to identify open space to improve health through increased physical activity, reduce pollution by encouraging walking and cycling as an alternative to the car. Positive effects on mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>National Records of Scotland (NRS).</p> <p>Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO).</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Profiles (life expectancy and mortality by cause).</p> <p>Access to outdoors / open space Sport and recreation participation Physical activity levels Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.</p> <p>Core paths Aberdeen City Council LDP.</p>
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential impact on nature conservation designations. Potential impacts on protected species and priority habitats. Potential loss of green linkages and wildlife corridors. Pressure on Protected Species from new development through disturbance or loss of resting places and habitats. 	<p>Protection and enhancement of designated areas, and important habitats.</p> <p>Safeguard and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>NatureScot Sitelink.</p> <p>Regionally and locally designated sites.</p> <p>Scotland's Environment.</p> <p>Protected Species data.</p> <p>UK BAP & LBAP priority habitats and species.</p> <p>Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory.</p>
Soils & Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential impact from loss of organic matter or compaction/ structural degradation within soil. The potential impact related to soil sealing 	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework should ensure that SUDS and green infrastructure are delivered in new development.</p>	<p>Land Capability for Agriculture classifications.</p> <p>James Hutton Institute.</p>

	<p>associated with the proposed development design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential for impact associated with existing soil contamination. • Consider the impacts of the proposals on soil erosion. • The potential for changes in soil biodiversity as a result of the development. 		<p>Scotland's Soils website Contaminated land.</p> <p>Geology of Britain viewer, Scotland's Environment.</p>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on existing water and wastewater infrastructure. • The surface water management strategy for the Beachfront Development Framework will be based on the principles of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) and green infrastructure to incorporate best management practices for the treatment of surface water. • Geomorphology and morphological erosion pressures. 	<p>Protection and enhancement of water status and avoidance of flood risk areas and areas which would contribute to increased flood risk.</p>	<p>SEPA flood maps.</p> <p>SEPA Water Classification Hub.</p> <p>Scottish Water.</p> <p>Local water quality data.</p> <p>SEPA River Basin Management Plan Maps</p> <p>SEPA – RBMP Data.</p>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area may have a direct impact on the quality of the landscape/seascape. • Landscape character. • Design quality and layout. • Sites within the framework area will provide access to open space and recreation facilities and encourage walking and cycling through the provision of designated paths and will thus contribute to health promotion. 	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework should seek to ensure that development takes account of the important landscape characteristics within the Beachfront area.</p>	<p>Local Development Plan.</p> <p>Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>Designated landscape areas.</p> <p>Inventory and non-inventory Gardens and Designed landscapes.</p>

Archaeology & Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to examine impacts of the proposals on cultural heritage sites and settings in adjacent areas. • The Beachfront Development Framework can contribute to the overall conservation of the cultural heritage through the protection of listed buildings and sites of historic or archaeological interest conservation areas 	The Beachfront Development Framework should support the protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage resource, including through consideration of the locations and impacts on specific resources and the wider historic landscape.	Local Development Plan. Pastmap. Canmore. Scotland's Environment.
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with national and international standards. • Road traffic movements. 	One of the main sources of nitrogen dioxide emissions is road traffic; road traffic is also a contributor to NO ₂ and PM ₁₀ emissions. Sustainable transport will be a key issue for the Beachfront Development Framework.	LAQM Annual Progress Report. Scottish Air Quality (website).
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Beachfront Development Framework proposals could change the noise levels compared to the existing situation due to changes in traffic flow on existing roads, new recreations facilities and stadia. 	The Beachfront Development Framework will encourage minimising noise levels.	https://noise.environment.gov.scot
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change could have different impacts on the environment including water resources, flooding, biodiversity, population and health and wellbeing. • Long-term climate trends for Scotland indicate hotter/drier summers and milder/wetter during autumn & winter, in addition to sea level rises. Issues such as 	The extent of the sites identified should seek to minimise contributions to the emissions of greenhouse gases and seek to avoid locations vulnerable to the effects of climate change.	Local temperature levels. UKCIP09 Climate Change Projections Indicative SEPA river and coastal flood maps. Flood defences. UKCP18 - https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp

	<p>flooding and landslips are potential issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Beachfront Development Framework has the potential to affect levels and form of transport use and levels of energy consumption in buildings. • The Beachfront Development Framework will include measures to enhance existing transport links and accessibility in the area through additional bus services, cycling and walking with associated infrastructure improvements. • Development will be laid out to allow direct and frequent connections throughout the area, to points of interest, neighbourhood centres and public transport. • Opportunities for renewable energy provision and low/zero carbon technologies will be explored. 		
<p>Material Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space and recreational facilities. • Roads and pavements • Waste minimisation and management. • Drainage and wastewater capacity. 	<p>Waste disposal incurs significant transport implications. Support for increased levels of recycling and composting and waste minimisation.</p> <p>The Beachfront Development Framework will ensure that maximum use is made of existing infrastructure where practicable (roads, pavements, water treatment, drainage). Where this is at capacity sustainable system will be put in place.</p>	<p>Open Space Audit and Strategy 2011-2016 (amount / type of space).</p> <p>Core Paths.</p> <p>Walking and cycle routes.</p> <p>SEPA data.</p> <p>Transport and infrastructure data.</p>

4 PROPOSED SEA OBJECTIVES

4.1 SEA Objectives

Through the undertaking of the scoping tasks listed above, some initial existing environmental problems and sensitive areas within the Aberdeen Beachfront boundary area have been identified and allows appropriate draft Objectives (Table 3-2) to be developed as assessment tools against which strategy, policies and proposals contained within the Beachfront Development Framework can be assessed.

A draft list of key SEA Receptors organised by SEA topic, and objectives identified as relevant to Aberdeen Beachfront are summarised and presented in Table 4-1. Comments are invited from the Consultation Authorities and interested stakeholders. These will be further refined in subsequent stages of the SEA process as and in discussion with Aberdeen City Council and other appropriate stakeholders. The key receptors and objectives will be considered throughout the SEA process and used to inform the development of the draft Aberdeen Beachfront Framework at key decision making stages.

Table 4-1: Key Environmental Receptors and SEA Objectives

SEA Topic	Objectives	Indicators
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect or conserve and, where possible, restore and enhance biodiversity and valued nature conservation habitats and species. 	Condition of designated sites Loss of designated sites Habitat fragmentation LBAP species/habitats stable or increasing
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguard soil quality and prevent any further degradation of soils. Reduce the amount of Vacant and Derelict Land in the Aberdeen Beachfront boundary area. 	SUDS are delivered in new development. Developments should avoid soil contamination. The waste hierarchy should be promoted.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance landscape character, local distinctiveness and promote access to the wider environment. 	Impact on visually prominent areas Development adversely affecting the landscape/ townscape/ seascape setting.
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment. 	Number and condition of designated/non-designated sites
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent deterioration and enhance water quality. Reduce risk of flooding. Provide adequate drainage and sewerage. 	Impact on Flooding Impact on water pollution. Impact on water bodies and the coast
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and improve air quality and reduce emissions of key pollutants. 	Air quality trends
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good and to reduce the 	Minimise noise where necessary/ practicable and maintain environmental noise quality.

	number of people affected by noise in the longer term.	
Climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce emissions of greenhouse s in line with Scottish Government targets. • Promote sustainable transport. • Reduce risks from climate change problems in the Aberdeen City Council area include increased flood risk of coastal and fluvial sources. • Promote renewable energy sources. 	<p>Electricity generated from renewable energy sources.</p> <p>SUDS.</p> <p>Flood risk</p>
Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the sustainable use of community assets, natural resources and material assets. • Promote quality urban design. • Promote sustainable waste management and the circular economy. 	Enhancing positive effects
Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve human health and community wellbeing, while promoting a range of outdoor and recreational attractions. • Encourage physical activity. • Creation of community facilities. 	Enhancing positive effects

5 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY PROPOSED FOR THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

There is potential for all of the SEA issues to be significantly affected by the review of the Beachfront Development Framework, so all will be scoped in to the SEA.

5.2 Scoping of Likely Significant Environmental Effects

It should be noted that none of the SEA issues have been scoped out of the assessment for the scoping report as it is too early in the Beachfront Development Framework making process to meaningfully scope SEA issues in or out (Table 5-1).

Table 5-1: SEA Topics for Scoping

SEA Topic		Scoped In	Scoped Out	Justification
Biodiversity, flora and fauna		✓		Development has the potential to affect habitats and species through loss of habitat and disturbance.
Soil		✓		Development will result in changes to soils and geology.
Landscape		✓		Proposed development has the potential for significant effects on landscape/ seascape quality and character.
Cultural heritage		✓		There are sites such as Aberdeen Ballroom, within the area which the proposals have the potential to affect.
Water		✓		Increased run-off from development areas may increase flood risk albeit SUDS/ green infrastructure measures are proposed.
Air		✓		New development may result in traffic at certain times of the day. These indirect effects may give rise to changes in local air quality and noise along affected routes.
Climatic factors		✓		Indirect effects on carbon emissions from increases buildings. The proposals offer an opportunity to build with very low carbon emissions through energy efficiency, insulation and microgeneration.
Material assets		✓		The proposals provide an opportunity for sustainable construction methods and materials to minimise waste. The Beachfront Development Framework will enhance recreational and open space provision.
Population and human health		✓		The Beachfront Development Framework incorporates open space, formal recreation and community facilities which offer potential benefits for the population.

5.3 Framework for Assessing the Beachfront Development Framework

The SEA Regulations require that the Environmental Report identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant environmental effects of the Beachfront Development Framework. The Environmental Report will also include measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate any significant effects of the Beachfront Development Framework.

The Beachfront Development Frameworks objectives and proposals will be assessed against the SEA objectives to be agreed through the scoping process. Significant environmental effects of the plan will be predicted to determine whether the Beachfront Development Framework has negative, positive, uncertain or neutral effects. The proposed approach for the assessment is summarised in Table 5-2 below.

Table 5-2: Assessment sub-tasks and their purpose

Assessment Sub-Tasks	Purpose
1. Taking account of scoping responses	To refine the approach to the SEA and fill essential gaps identified in the environmental baseline.
2. Alternatives	To assist in the development and refinement of the alternatives for achieving the draft Beachfront Development Framework objectives.
3. Testing the draft Beachfront Development Framework objectives against the SEA objectives	To ensure that the overall objectives of the draft Beachfront Development Framework are in accordance with environmental principles and provides a framework for developing options.
4. Predicting and evaluating the effects of the draft Beachfront Development Framework, including alternatives	To predict and evaluate the effects of the draft Beachfront Development Framework and its alternatives and assist in the refinement of the draft Framework
5. Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects & proposing measures to monitor the environmental effects of draft Beachfront Development Framework implementation	To ensure all potential mitigation measures and measures for maximising beneficial effects are considered and, as a result, residual effects identified. To propose a monitoring framework to assess the environmental performance of the draft Beachfront Development Framework.

5.3.1 Taking account of scoping responses

The initial stage of the assessment process will involve taking on-board the responses from the scoping consultation which may involve:

- Refinement of the proposed approach to assessment outlined below
- Suggestions for essential data gaps to be filled in the environmental baseline
- Comments on the proposed approach to consultation on the Environmental Report

5.3.2 Draft SEA Objectives and Indicators

The draft SEA objectives, for each identified SEA topic is provided in Table 4-1. It is likely that these will be further refined in subsequent stages of the SEA process, as more detail is available on the significance of environmental effects.

The key goals, strategies and objectives of the plan will be based on current national Planning Regulations.

In addition to an environmental commentary, the likely significant environmental effects of the key options/ alternatives will be predicted and evaluated. This will be informed by the development of significance criteria and the results will be recorded in an assessment matrix. The purpose of this will be to inform decision-making over selection of options/ alternatives with regards to their potential environmental effects. Proposed criteria with which to assess the significance of predicted effects is shown below in Table 5-3.

Table 5-3: SEA significance criteria

Score	Description
Major positive effect (++)	An action very likely to lead to significant improvement, or a series of long term improvements, leading to large scale and permanent benefits to the SEA objective being appraised. A major effect is also likely to have cumulative and indirect beneficial effects and is also likely to have positive transboundary effects.
Positive effect (+)	An action likely to lead to moderate improvement in both short and long-term, leading to large scale temporary, or medium scale permanent benefits to the objective being assessed, Even when beneficial effects are felt to be temporary, they should not be easily reversible in the long-term (to detriment of the SEA Objective).
Neutral effect (0)	An action which is unlikely to have any beneficial or negative effects on the SEA objective being assessed in either the short or long-term. Neutral scoring should only be used when it is very unlikely that the effect will be neither positive, nor negative. A neutral score is not the same as uncertain where an appraiser is not sure if an effect is likely to be positive or negative, or 'mixed/. Where the appraiser feels that the effects are likely to be both positive and negative(see below for more details).
Negative effect (-)	An action is likely to moderate or loss in both shorth and long-term, leading to large scale temporary, or medium scale permanent negative effect on the objective. An action which may also have limited cumulative and indirect detrimental effects and/or limited degradation of conditions outside the specific strategy area. It is also likely that it will be possible to mitigate or reverse a minor negative effect through policy or project intervention.
Major negative effect (--)	A scheme/measure likely to lead to a significant or severe damage or loss, or series of long term negative effects, leading to large-scale and permanent negative effects on the SEA objective being assessed. A scheme/ measure which may also have significant cumulative and indirect detrimental effect and/or degrade conditions outside the specific scheme area, so will have negative transboundary effects. A scheme/measure which is likely to threaten environmental thresholds or capacities in areas already under threat. The detrimental effects of a scheme/measure which will be hard to reverse and are unlikely to be easily mitigated through policy or project intervention. Any damage or detrimental effect in or to environmentally sensitive areas, issues or landscapes which are recognised and/or protected locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.
Mixed effect (++)/- +/- etc.)	The effect is likely to be a combination of beneficial and detrimental effects, particularly where effects are considered on sub-issue, areas or criterion. For example, a scheme/measure mat enhance the viability of certain protected species or habitats (such as native woodland) but through this, damage existing (non-native) habitats which may themselves be important. Such mixed effects will be hard to predict, but could be significant in the long term, or when taken with others e.g., cumulative or synergistic which may have.
Uncertain effect (?)	The effect of an action is not known, or is too unpredictable to assign a conclusive score. The appraiser is not sure of the effect. This may be the case where an action covers a range of issues, or where the manner in which the action is implemented will have material impact on the effects it will have.

5.3.3 Predicting and evaluating the potential effects of the Beachfront Development Framework, including alternatives

The SEA Regulations require that the Environmental Report identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant environmental effects of the Beachfront Development Framework. The Environmental Report will also include measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate any significant effects of the Beachfront Development Framework.

The Beachfront Development Framework's objectives and proposals will be assessed against the SEA objectives to be agreed through the scoping process. Significant environmental effects of the plan will be predicted to determine whether the Beachfront Development Framework has negative, positive, uncertain or neutral effects.

In addition, the effects will further be evaluated to determine damage or otherwise to the receptors in relation to reversibility or irreversibility of effects, risks, duration (permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium term) and cumulative (direct, indirect, secondary and synergetic). Table 5.4 shows the assessment framework that will be used to assess effects of the Beachfront Development Framework. This will be reported in the Environmental Report.

Proposals will be assessed against the SEA Objectives, in accordance with guidance in planning advice note 1/2010.

To assist assessment against the objectives identified within Table 4-1, the following questions will be considered in relation to site proposals (Table 5-4 and Table 5-5).

Table 5-4: SEA Questions

Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Does the site impact on designated sites?
Does the site impact on priority habitats or species?
Does the site create habitat fragmentation?
Population and human health
Is the site connected to the local core path network?
How does the site relate to areas with high SIMD?
What is the relationship of the site with existing open space resources?
Water
Is the site at risk of flooding?
Are there water courses within the site or which would be affected by increased levels of pollution, or other pressures, from development within the site?
Are there water courses within the site or which would be affected by increased levels of flooding resulting from development of the site?
Are there opportunities to improve the status of water courses?
Will the Beachfront Development Framework increase geomorphology and morphological erosion pressures.
Soil
Does the site include areas of vacant or derelict land?
Is the site prime agricultural land?
Does the site include carbon rich soil?
Air Quality and Transport
Is the site easily accessible by the core path network, and provide access to settlements and services?
Does the site lie within an area where levels of air pollution are close to current limit values?

Would development on the site contribute to higher traffic flows along transport routes or at key junctions (potentially outwith the local authority area) where levels of air pollution are close to current limit values
Climatic Factors
Does the location of the development reduce the need to travel?
Is the site at risk of increased flooding or instability as a result of climate change?
Does the framework promote efficient use of energy?
Does the framework promote efficient use of water?
Does the framework increase resilience of people, material assets and natural environment
Cultural Heritage
Would development impact on the integrity of sites, monuments, buildings or areas designated for their cultural heritage value?
Would development impact on the setting of sites, monuments, buildings or areas designated for their cultural heritage value?
Would development within the site impact on archaeological remains?
Landscape
Does the site lie within an area designated for its landscape value?
Would development within the site impact on settlement setting and identity?
Would development within the site impact on key views to landscape features or from key transport routes
Material Assets
Is the site located close to existing transport, services, water and energy infrastructure?
Is the site located to make best use of shelter, solar gain and reduce the need to travel?
Does the site reduce waste generation and promote waste recovery, recycling and composting?

Table 5-5: Assessment matrix for plan, strategy and policy issues, and site assessment

Description / summary of option / element / action	
SEA theme	Mitigation/ enhancement
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
Climatic factors	
Air	
Water	
Material assets	
Soil	
Cultural Heritage	
Landscape	
Population and human health	
Key	
++	Major positive effect
+	Positive effect
0	Neutral effect
-	Negative effect
--	Major negative effect
++/- +/- etc.	Mixed effect
?	Uncertain effect
S	Short term effect
M	Medium term effect
L	Long term effect
Imp	Effect will depend on how the Beachfront Development Framework is implemented

In line with the requirements of the requirements for SEA, there are various different types of environmental effects that require consideration in SEA. Predicting and evaluating the potential effects of the draft Business Plan may include consideration of the following types of environmental effects:

- Short/ Medium/ Long-term
- Permanent/ Temporary
- Positive/ Negative
- Secondary/ Cumulative/ Synergistic
- Transboundary

5.4 Reporting

An Environmental Report will be produced for consultation with the Beachfront Development Framework. The Environmental Report will document the entire SEA process and will include the following:

- Non-technical summary;
- An introduction describing the purpose of the Environmental Report ;
- Background information on the draft Beachfront Development Framework and how it developed;
- A description of the approach taken to the SEA of the draft Beachfront Development Framework;
- A detailed summary of the findings of the SEA tasks described in the Scoping Stage (Relevant PPS, Environmental Protection Objectives, SEA Objectives, Key Environmental Problems and Sensitive Areas, etc.);
- A detailed summary of the environmental baseline specific to the Aberdeen Beachfront area including a consideration of how this would be likely to change in the absence of the draft Beachfront Development Framework;
- An assessment of the draft Beachfront Development Framework objectives, aims and actions and any reasonable alternatives to the proposed actions and types of projects;
- A description of any proposed mitigation and enhancement measures; and
- A description of the approach that will be taken to monitoring the effects of implementing the Beachfront Development Framework.

5.5 Mitigation and Monitoring

The Environmental Report will consider measures to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects as far as possible, before measures are considered to mitigate residual adverse effects. Mitigation measures could include changes to alternatives, changes to a specific proposal, inclusion of new provisions, technical measures to be applied, identifying issues to be addressed at a subsequent stage and proposals for changing other relevant plans, programmes or strategies.

Monitoring is an integral part of SEA and if there are any, significant environmental effects should be monitored to check the predictions made during the assessment. A monitoring framework will be developed with input from the Beachfront Development Framework stakeholders described above. The choice of indicators for monitoring will be informed by the baseline environment study and outcomes from the evaluation. Responsibility for monitoring will also be determined. The key monitoring tasks and their purpose are summarised below in Table 5-6.

Table 5-6: Monitoring tasks and their purpose

Monitoring Tasks	Purpose
1. Post Implementation Review	To measure the environmental performance of the draft Beachfront Development Framework in order to determine whether its effects are as anticipated, and thereby inform future revisions.
2. Learning on predictions	Ensure that the adverse effects identified inform future revisions of the Beachfront Development Framework.

6 NEXT STEPS

The next steps of the SEA will involve:

1. Taking into account the responses to this scoping report;
2. Refining baseline information;
3. Preparing the Environmental Report;
4. Consulting on the draft Environmental Report;
5. Taking account of consultation responses;
6. Updating the assessment where appropriate; and
7. Preparing the Post-Adoption Statement.

6.1 Proposed Consultation Timescales and Methods

Publication of the Environmental Report for public consultation is currently programmed for Late October 2022 and this will be followed by a proposed 6 week period for consultation on the Environmental Report. Following public consultation, the comments received from the SEA Consultation Authorities and other representatives from the public will be taken into account in the final drafting of the Beachfront Development Framework, which Aberdeen City Council anticipate being adopted by **tbc** together with the Post Adoption SEA Statement.

6.2 Anticipated Milestones

The key milestones in the development of the SEA are as follows:

- Submission of SEA Scoping Report to the SEA Gateway – end June 2022
 - The Consultation Authorities have **35 days** in which to respond.
- Consultation Authorities scoping response to this document Mid-August 2022
- Preparation of Environment Report – August 2022 to October 2022
- Publication of the Environmental Report – Mid October 2022
- Consultation on Environmental Report and Beachfront Development Framework – **tbc**
- Amendments to the Beachfront Development Framework (and Environmental Report if required) – **tbc**
- Submission of SEA Environmental Report to the SEA Gateway – **tbc**
 - Typical consultation periods range from 6 to 12 weeks depending on the scale and nature of the plan being assessed.
- Adoption of the Beachfront Development Framework and publication of the Post Adoption SEA Statement – Early January 2023

APPENDICES

A BEACHFRONT DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

B RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PPS

Other Relevant Plans, Policies and Strategies to be analysed in the Environmental Report for their Relationship to the Beachfront Development Framework

Level	Main Requirements of the PPS	Implications of the PPS for Beachfront Development Framework
International Level		
Nature Conservation		
International UN Agreements - Kyoto Protocol (2005)	Commitment by industrialised countries to reduce four greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulphur hexafluoride) plus two groups of gases (hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons).	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC or FCCC) protocol aimed at fighting climate change.
UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) (Glasgow)	The COP26 climate change conference took place in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November 2021. The main goal was to secure global net zero by mid-century and keep a maximum of 1.5 C degrees of warming within reach.	Net zero aligns with the aims of both the Scottish Government and Aberdeen City Council.
The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC	Protects habitats and species. Gives basis to classify SACs and SPAs	The Beachfront Development Framework will aim to protect and enhance the natural habitats of associated flora and fauna.
The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC	Protection of wild birds and their habitats	The Beachfront Development Framework is designed to protect and conserve ecosystem and biodiversity, specifically rare or vulnerable birds.
Water		
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	The purpose of the Directive is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater. It will ensure all aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands meet 'good status'. Addresses groundwater pollution; flooding and droughts; river basin management planning.	Through the development of the Beachfront Development Framework, account will be taken to protect water bodies from fragmentation, pollution and degradation.
Waste		
The Landfill Directive 99/31/EC	The Landfill Directive aims to reduce, as far as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the negative effects of landfilling waste; and sets targets and timescales for reducing the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) sent to landfill 	The Framework should reflect the needs of the Landfill Directive, including the infrastructure required to meet municipal biodegradable waste targets.
The Waste Framework Directive 2006/12/EC	Requires the planning system to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide policies and sites for waste disposal. 	The Framework should ensure it utilises waste management facilities identified under higher-tier

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Provide the right infrastructure for the new thematic strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste. 	plans whilst safeguarding the natural and built environment including designated areas, green belts, open countryside and the coast.
National Level		
Overarching Planning Policy		
Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	This is the principle piece of legislation governing the use and development of land in Scotland.	The Council must adhere to the requirements of the Act in the preparation and production of the Beachfront Development Framework.
Planning Etc (Scotland) Act 2006	Amends certain aspects of the 1997 Act, relating to both Development Planning and Development Management. Introduces a new development plan hierarchy: National Planning Framework; Strategic Development Plans; Local Development Plans.	The Council must take account of the requirements of the Act in the preparation and production of the Beachfront Development Framework, in protecting and enhancing the environment and biodiversity and promoting low carbon economic growth.
National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (NPF3) (2014)	Provides a framework to guide sustainable growth and development of Scotland. Identifies priorities for strategic investment which will be a material consideration in making sustainable planning policy. It sets out key planning outcomes for Scotland: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A successful sustainable place – supporting economic growth, regeneration and the creation of well-designed places 2. A low carbon place – reducing our carbon emissions and adapting to climate change 3. A natural resilient place – helping to protect and enhance our natural cultural assets and facilitating their sustainable use 4. A connected place – supporting better transport and digital connectivity 	The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to each of these planning outcomes: through developing a more coordinated Beachfront Development Framework, this could create well designed places, such as regenerating natural and cultural assets, this should enhance the area and increase visitor numbers. Additionally, the role of green infrastructure, vegetation and water bodies will help create carbon sinks which contribute to the aesthetics of the natural environment and the variety of biodiversity.
Scottish Planning Policy 2014	Economic development should raise the quality of life of the Scottish people through increasing economic opportunities for all, on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis. The planning system should provide strong support for economic development, to both new and expanding businesses, where it is consistent with other national and local policies, in particular	The Beachfront Development Framework should take account of the principles set out in the SPP, and as a result the Beachfront Development Framework should incorporate elements of the SPP where appropriate.

	the promotion of social justice and sustainable development.	
The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997	Primary legislation which sets out the legal requirements for the control of development and alterations that affect buildings that are listed, and the framework by which control is maintained.	If appropriate, the Beachfront Development Framework should take account of this legislation in relation to Listed Buildings.
Cross- Sectoral		
Transport (Scotland) Act 2019	The Act aims to make Scotland's transport network cleaner, smarter and more accessible by empowering local authorities and establishing consistent standards to tackle current and future challenges. The Act seeks to deliver a more responsive and sustainable transport system for everyone.	The Beachfront Development Framework shall consider the requirements of the ACT.
National Transport Strategy 2 (2020)	The National Transport Strategy sets out a vision for Scotland's transport system for the next 20 years. The vision is underpinned by four priorities: Reduces Inequalities, Takes Climate Action, Helps Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth and Improves our Health and Wellbeing, each with three associated outcomes.	The Beachfront Development Framework should consider the integration of LTS objectives, actions and committed projects into project.
Getting the best from our land: A land use strategy for Scotland 2016-2021	Scotland's first land use strategy, which identifies key principles for sustainable land use which reflect Government policies on the priorities which should influence land use choices. Sets out a long term vision towards 2050 with three clear objectives relating to economic prosperity, environmental quality and communities.	The Beachfront Development Framework should aim to conserve Scotland's biodiversity whilst reducing resource depletion and encouraging responsible use of our natural resources.
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 Beachfront Development Framework should include measures to improve local air quality.
Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019	The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045.	The Beachfront Development Framework should promote measures to reduce minimise carbon emissions
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017	The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report is the most up-to-date and comprehensive analysis of the risks and opportunities posed by climate change to the UK	The Beachfront Development Framework should promote measures to reduce minimise carbon emissions
Climate Change Plan 2018-2032	This is the third report on proposals and policies (RPP3). It sets out the path to a low carbon economy while helping to deliver sustainable economic growth and secure the wider benefits to a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland in 2032.	The Beachfront Development Framework will contribute to delivering on the policies and proposals set out in the plan.

Climate Ready Scotland: climate change adaptation programme 2019-2024	The second Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme sets out policies and proposals to prepare Scotland for the challenges that we will face as our climate continues to change in the decades ahead. The Programme is a requirement of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and addresses the risks set out in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (UK CCRA) 2017, published under section 56 of the UK Climate Change Act 2008	The Beachfront Development Framework will reflect the changes in the greenhouse gas emissions targets and outline how the Council will contribute to meeting them
Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 - update	This update to Scotland's 2018-2032 Climate Change Plan sets out the Scottish Government's pathway to new and ambitious targets set by the Climate Change Act 2019. It is a key strategic document on Scotland's green recovery from COVID-19.	The Beachfront Development Framework will incorporate the updates in the plan
UK Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2011)	The Strategy sets a number of air quality objectives for pollutants to improve and protect ambient air quality in the UK including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone.	The Beachfront Development Framework should provide actions that contribute to reducing air pollution and improving air quality.
Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 (CAFS2) strategy (2021)	Scotland's second air quality strategy, setting out how the Scottish Government and its partner organisations propose to further reduce air pollution to protect human health and fulfil Scotland's legal responsibilities over the period 2021-2026.	The Beachfront Development Framework 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	The Beachfront Development Framework should include measures encouraging new development to incorporate low carbon and renewable sources of energy.
Heritage, Design and Regeneration		
Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS 2019)	HEPS should be taken into account whenever a decision will affect the historic environment. This includes in plans and policies that deal with funding decisions or estate management, or other specific topics such as agriculture or energy. It is also a material consideration for planning proposals that might affect the historic environment, and in relation to listed building consent and scheduled monument consent ('material consideration' means that decision-makers should take it into account when coming to a decision). Decisions on scheduled monument consent are made in line with Historic Environment Scotland's policy for determining	The HEPS shall be taken into consideration when developing the Beachfront Development Framework to ensure it serves to promote and improve the historic environment, where relevant.

	consents at scheduled monuments.	
Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2014)	A high-level framework produced by the Scottish Government which sets out a 10-year vision for the Scotland's historic environment.	The Beachfront Development Framework should consider the role of carrying forward this strategy at a local level in order to protect and/or enhance of Scotland's historic environment, particularly listed buildings and other locally important sites.
Creating Places - A policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland (2013)	The policy statement sets out the Scottish Government's overarching position on architecture and place. Architecture and place has an established, strong relationship with planning. Therefore, the policies contained in the document are material considerations in determining planning applications and appeals.	The policy framework for how design issues will be considered in relation to development and the different ways of doing things. The design factors and overarching objectives will be considered when selecting sites for play, open space projects and coordinating green network developments as part of the Beachfront Development Framework.
Designing Streets: A Policy Statement for Scotland (2010)	Sets the context for good street design and the policies for implementation, planning considerations and embraces the six qualities of successful places as promoted in Designing Places	The policy framework for how design issues will be considered in relation to development and the different ways of doing things. The design factors and overarching objectives will be considered when selecting sites for play, open space projects and coordinating green network developments as part of the Beachfront Development Framework.
Green Infrastructure: Design and Placemaking (2011)	Provides practical guidance to help achieve successful places.	The Beachfront Development Framework should promote the use of green infrastructure in development.
Soil		
Scottish Soil Framework (2009)	The main aim of the Framework is to promote the sustainable management and protection of soils consistent with the economic, social and environmental needs of Scotland	The Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of soil outcomes.
Landscape		
Scottish Landscape Forum: Scotland's Living Landscape, Places for People (2007)	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.	Consider how the Beachfront Development Framework can maintain and restore natural habitats to ensure biodiversity and landscapes
All Our Futures: Planning for a Scotland with an Ageing Population (2007)	The strategy covers topics such as the role of public services, increased opportunities for older people, better intergenerational	The Beachfront Development Framework should consider the needs of an ageing population.

	relationships, improving health and providing lifelong learning opportunities.	
Let's Make Scotland More Active: A Strategy for Physical Activity (2003)	Aims to increase and maintain the proportion of physically active people in Scotland setting out targets to 2022.	The Beachfront Development Framework should promote physical activities.
Let's Get Scotland Walking – The National Strategy (2014)	Let's Get Scotland Walking - the National Walking Strategy sets out a vision where everyone benefits from walking as part of their everyday journeys, and everyone has access to welcoming and safe environments to walk in.	The Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of the national walking strategy and improved opportunities to access both formal and informal greenspaces.
Cycling Action Plan for Scotland 2017-2020	The Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS), sets out a framework aiming to increase cycling across Scotland.	The should encourage cycling and improved opportunities to access cycling infrastructure.
A Long-Term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland 2030	This document sets out how we hope Scotland will look in 2030 if more people are walking and cycling for short, everyday journeys allowing us to reap the benefits of active travel. I would like to offer my thanks to members of the working group and the many stakeholders who have helped develop this vision. However, having a vision is only the first stage, our next challenge is to implement it. I am confident that, with our delivery partners, we will be able to achieve this.	The Beachfront Development Framework should align with the objectives of the long term vision where practicable.
Equality Act 2010	Sets out a framework which prevents individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a more equal society.	The Beachfront Development Framework should build the needs of people with protected characteristics into its strategic actions.
Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005	Ensures that discrimination law covers all the activities of the public sector; and requires public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. Aims to end the discrimination that many disabled people face and gives disabled people rights in the areas of employment, education, access to goods, facilities and services and buying or renting land or property.	The Beachfront Development Framework should build the needs of disabled persons into its strategic actions.
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 Beachfront Development Framework should encourage and promote community involvement in the development of the framework, where appropriate.
Natural Conservation		

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is the primary legislation which protects animals, plants and habitats in the UK.	The Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of the Act.
The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a duty on public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity and increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	The Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of the Act.
2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity - A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland (2013)	The 2020 Challenge is a supplement to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (2004), focused on desired outcomes for 2020. It shows how the Scottish Government, its public agencies, Scottish business and others can contribute to the Strategy's aims as well as supporting sustainable economic growth.	The Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of this strategy.
The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)	In Scotland, the Habitats Directive is translated into specific legal obligations by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994.	The Beachfront Development Framework will comply with the Regulations by not adversely affecting Natura 2000 sites or any species listed under the Directive.
The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations	The Habitats Regulations have been amended in Scotland, most recently in 2019 as a result of the UK leaving the EU. These amendments mean that we must continue to apply the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives to how European sites are designated and protected	
Water		
Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, as amended	Outlines the different levels of authorisations to allow for proportionate regulation depending on the risk an activity poses to the water environment. Some activities require authorisation including point source discharges, impoundments and abstractions.	The Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of these regulations
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Sets out the framework for protecting the water environment that integrates the control of pollution, abstractions, dams and engineering activities in the water environment.	The Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of the importance of the water environment
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 Beachfront Development Framework must take into account the provisions of the Act, in particular the assessment of flood risk and the preparation of flood risk management plans.
Scottish Planning Policy - Planning and Flooding	The central purpose is to prevent further development which would have significant probability of being affected by flooding, or which would increase the probability of flooding elsewhere	The Beachfront Development Framework will contribute to meeting the overall aim of reducing the negative effects of all sources of flooding on the environment.

The river basin management plan for the Scotland river basin district: 2015–2027 (2015)	River basin management plans (RBMPs) set out how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to improve the water environment.	The Beachfront Development Framework will support the protection and enhancement of water bodies.
Scottish Water Strategic Asset and Capacity Development Plan (2012)	Provides a description of Scottish Waters processes and systems for calculating capacity available, at waste/ water treatment works in Scotland.	The Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of the importance of the Plan.
SEPA Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland v3: Environmental Policy 19 (SEPA)	This policy aims to provide a sustainable future for Scotland’s groundwater resources by protecting legitimate uses of groundwater and providing a common SEPA framework to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect groundwater quality by minimising the risks posed by point and diffuse sources of pollution; • Maintain the groundwater resource by authorising abstractions and by influencing developments, which could affect groundwater quantity. 	The Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of the Policy.
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 Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of this plan and the importance of a circular economy in tackling climate change.
Marine and Coastal		
SEAS The Opportunity: A Strategy for the Long Term Sustainability of Scotland's Coasts and Seas (2005)	Presents the marine strategy for Scotland's coast and marine environment.	The Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of this plan and the importance of a circular economy in tackling climate change.
Marine (Scotland) Act 2010	The Act provides a legislative and management framework for the Scottish marine environment, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a marine planning system; • a licensing system; • powers to establish marine protected areas that protect natural and cultural marine features. 	The Beachfront Development Framework must take into account the provisions of the Act, as they relate to marine planning and protected areas/species.

	<p>The Act also introduces a regime for seal conservation and provides for Scottish marine enforcement officers to ensure compliance with the new licensing and conservation measures.</p> <p>This is a very detailed Act and the following Parts are of particular relevance:</p>	
UK Marine Policy Statement	The UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) provides the policy framework for the marine planning system and taking decisions affecting the marine	The Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of policy statement.
Cross- Sector Guidance		
PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage	Provides advice on how the land use planning system can contribute to the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's natural environment. It describes the planning system in Scotland as it was at the time when it was published and makes reference to the way that Natural Heritage is considered in both plan-making and decision-making.	The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of the natural environment.
PAN 61: Planning and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	Describes how planning policy should set the framework for implementing Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) through the development control process.	The Beachfront Development Framework should consider the role of sustainable urban drainage.
Planning and Waste Management Advice (2015)	The Planning Advice complements the National Planning Framework (NPF3), Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) and Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (ZWP). A low carbon place and 'circular economy' are alternatives to the 'make, use, dispose' culture which means re-using products and materials continually and growing a low carbon economy. The advice provides step-by-step advice on development planning and development management.	The Beachfront Development Framework should consider waste management from the inception process. It should promote integrated waste management.
PAN 65: Planning and Open Space	<p>Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65 provides advice on the role of the planning system in protecting and enhancing existing open spaces and providing high quality new spaces. Raises the profile of open space as a planning issue.</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 Beachfront Development Framework aims to improve the quality of open spaces in the city and will set out measures to improve the quality / quantity of publicly accessible open spaces.
PAN 75: Transport and Planning	The PAN aims to create greater awareness of how linkages between planning and transport can be managed. It highlights the roles of different bodies and professions in the process and points to other sources of information.	The Beachfront Development Framework should promote the use of existing transportation networks and develop new cycling and walking alternatives.

	Establishes linkages between planning and transport and how it can be managed.	
PAN 77: Designing Safer Places	Planning Advice Note (PAN) 77 provides advice on how planning can help to create attractive well-managed environments which help to discourage antisocial and criminal behaviour.	The Beachfront Development Framework should safeguard safety.
PAN 78: Inclusive Design	Looks at how to improve the design of places so that they can be used by everyone - regardless of age, gender or disability. Makes it a legal requirement to consider the needs of disabled people under the terms of Disability Discrimination legislation	The Beachfront Development Framework should promote high standard of design.
Regional Level		
Overarching Planning Policy		
Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2020	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.	By setting the spatial development strategy and supporting policies at a regional level, the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan aims to achieve alignment with the Scottish Governments national outcomes and helps to direct and inform the local interpretation for planning. This will need to be fully reflected within the Beachfront Development Framework.
Cross- Sectoral		
Regional Economic Strategy – Securing the Future of the North East (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 Beachfront Development Framework should support sustainable economic growth.
The 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 Beachfront Development Framework should support sustainable economic growth.
Nestrans 2040 Regional Transport Strategy (RTS)	The Regional Transport Strategy is a long-term strategy for the areas of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, which sets the vision and direction for transport in the region up to the year 2040.	The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to meeting objectives set out in the Regional Transport Strategy.
Nestrans Aberdeen Rapid Transit	A competitive, affordable and efficient mode of public transport, offering an alternative to private vehicle travel.	The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to meeting objectives of Aberdeen Rapid Transit.
Nature Conservation		
North East of Scotland Biodiversity Partnership - Action Plan	North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) takes action to conserve important species and habitats for our benefit and for future generations.	The Beachfront Development Framework should promote and protect biodiversity.

River Dee Catchment Management Plan (2007)	The management plan 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, and identifies key issues and puts identifies potential solutions through a series of actions.	The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering the actions proposed in the Catchment Management Plan.
Local Level		
Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2017	The Aberdeen LDP sets the framework for the growth and development and establishes a presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development as defined in Scottish Planning Policy.	The policies set out within the LDP have a direct influence on the development and implementation of the Beachfront Development Framework in regard to connecting green networks and developing active travel routes.
Policy NC9 – Beach and Leisure	<p>Within the defined Beach and Leisure area development proposals will be permitted provided they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. contribute to the range and quality of the existing uses, facilities and activities of the wider beach area; 2. are of an appropriate scale; 3. do not have an unduly adverse effect on the character of the area, or cause negative visual or environmental impacts or affect the amenities of nearby residents; and 4. do not result in the significant generation of car borne journeys, nor additional pressure for car parking. There is a presumption against retail development in this area. 	The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering Policy NC9
Policy NE1 - Green Space Network	<p>the Council will protect, promote and enhance the wildlife, access, recreation, ecosystem services and landscape value of the Green Space Network, which is identified on the Proposals Map. Proposals for development that are likely to destroy or erode the character and/or function of the Green Space Network will not be permitted.</p> <p>Where major infrastructure projects or other developments necessitate crossing the Green Space Network, such developments should maintain and enhance the coherence of the network. In doing so, provision should be made for access across roads for wildlife and outdoor recreation.</p> <p>Masterplanning of new developments should consider the existing areas of Green Space Network and identify new areas incorporating Green Space Network. Masterplans will determine the location,</p>	The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering Policy NE1

	<p>extent and configuration of the Green Space Network within the area, and its connectivity with the wider network. Development which has a negative impact on existing wildlife habitats and connections, or other features of value to natural heritage, open space, landscape and recreation, should be mitigated through enhancement of the Green Space Network.</p>	
<p>Policy NE3 - Urban Green Space</p>	<p>Permission will not be granted to redevelop any parks, playing fields, sports pitches, woods, allotments or all other areas of urban green space (including smaller spaces not identified on the Proposals Map) for any use other than recreation and sport. Exceptions will be made when an equivalent and equally convenient and accessible area for public space is laid out and made available in the locality by the applicant for urban green space purposes, for example through the replacement of school buildings. In all cases, development will only be acceptable provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no significant loss to the landscape character and amenity of the site and adjoining area; 2. Public access is either maintained or enhanced; 3. The site is of no significant wildlife or heritage value; 4. There is no loss of established or mature trees; 5. Replacement green space of similar or better quality is located in or immediately adjacent to the same community, providing similar or improved health benefits to the replaced area and is accessible to that community, taking into account public transport, walking and cycling networks and barriers such as major roads. 6. They do not impact detrimentally on lochs, ponds, watercourses or wetlands in the vicinity of the development; and 7. Proposals to develop outdoor sports facilities, including playing fields and sports pitches should also be consistent with the terms of Scottish Planning Policy. 	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering Policy NE3</p> <p>With reference to Section 3.10.3 the badger sett and foraging area needs to be protected and disturbance kept to a minimum.</p> <p>Carefully designed planting should be considered for both badgers and bats to create natural screens and buffer zones to minimise disturbance, whilst providing a green network corridor.</p>
<p>Policy NE4 - Open Space Provision in New Development</p>	<p>The Council will require the provision of at least 2.8ha per 1,000 people of meaningful and useful open space in new residential development. Please see relevant Supplementary Guidance Open Space & Green Infrastructure, detailed below, for information on how to calculate open space requirements, as well as different</p>	<p>Policy NE4 does not only apply to residential developments, but also covers green space network and general open space in non-residential developments.</p>

	<p>types of provision and the expected accessibility and quality standards. Public or communal open space should be provided in all residential developments, including on brownfield sites. However, on some brownfield sites it may not be possible to increase the amount of open space, for example where existing buildings on the site are being retained. In these cases, commuted sums towards off-site provision or enhancement of existing open spaces will be sought instead. In areas where the Open Space Audit has shown that existing open space is of poor quality, contributions may be sought to enhance existing provision instead of new provision being required</p>	<p>Within Supplementary Guidance section 12 it mentions masterplanning/development frameworks that they should make use of the open space typologies set out in the Planning Advice Note 65 wherever possible. An open space plan with the functions and types could be useful.</p>
<p>Policy NE6 - Flooding, Drainage and Water Quality</p>	<p>Development will not be permitted if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would increase the risk of flooding: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) by reducing the ability of the functional flood plain to store and convey water; b) through the discharge of additional surface water; or c) by harming flood defences. 2. It would be at risk itself from flooding; 3. Adequate provision is not made for access to waterbodies for maintenance; or 4. It would require the construction of new or strengthened flood defences that would have a significantly damaging effect on the natural heritage interests within or adjacent to a watercourse. 5. Development on the functional floodplain will only be permitted where its location is essential for operational reasons, and it must be designed and constructed to remain operational during floods and not to impede water flow. Applicants will be required to provide a Flood Risk Assessment where a development is likely to result in a material increase in the number of buildings at risk of flooding, or where it has been indicated in the opportunity sites schedule that one will be prepared. Windfall sites may also require a Flood Risk Assessment. Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) will be required for new development proposals comprising 5 or more homes or 250 square metres non-residential floorspace. DIA will also be required for developments of any size that affect sensitive areas. DIA should 	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering Policy NE6</p>

	<p>detail how surface water and waste water will be managed. Surface water drainage associated with development must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Be the most appropriate available in terms of SuDS; and 7. Avoid flooding and pollution both during and after construction. <p>There is a presumption against excessive engineering and culverting of waterbodies. Natural treatments of floodplains and other water storage features will be preferred wherever possible. There will be a requirement to restore existing culverted or canalised water bodies to a naturalised state where this is possible. Where the Council agrees that culverts are unavoidable for technical reasons, they should be designed to maintain existing flow conditions and aquatic life. Any proposals for new culverts should have a demonstrably neutral impact on flood risk and be linked to long term maintenance arrangements to ensure they are not the cause of flooding in the future. Connection to the public sewer will be a prerequisite of all development where this is not already provided. Private wastewater treatment systems in sewered areas will not be permitted. In areas not served by the public sewer, a private sewer treatment system for individual properties will be permitted provided that the developer demonstrates that there will be no adverse effects on the environment, amenity and public health.</p>	
<p>Policy NE7 - Coastal Planning</p>	<p>Development will only be permitted in undeveloped coastal areas if it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A coastal location is necessary given the purpose and operation of the development; 2. There is no other suitable site, including the re-use of brownfield land; and 3. It respects the character and value of the natural and historic environment, as well as the recreational value in the surrounding area; or 4. There is an overriding environmental benefit. <p>In all cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development will not be permitted in areas at risk from coastal erosion and flooding. New developments which require new defences against coastal erosion or flooding will not be 	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering Policy NE7</p>

	<p>supported except where there is clear justification to avoid development in areas at risk.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required to accompany applications for development in coastal areas. 3. Public access to and along the coast will be protected and promoted wherever possible. <p>Development proposals will be required to demonstrate through appropriate marine noise modelling that adverse impacts on bottlenose dolphins and Atlantic salmon are avoided.</p>	
<p>Policy NE9 - Access and Informal Recreation</p>	<p>New development should not compromise the integrity of existing or potential recreational opportunities including general access rights to land and water, Core Paths, other paths and rights of way. This includes any impacts on access during the construction phase of a development. Applicants should provide detail on how public access and safety will be maintained during construction, for example through temporary diversions.</p> <p>Wherever possible, developments should include new or improved provision for public access, permeability and/or links to green space for recreation and active travel.</p>	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering Policy NE9</p>
<p>Policy D4 - Historic Environment</p>	<p>The Council will protect, preserve and enhance the historic environment in line with Scottish Planning Policy, SHEP and its own Supplementary Guidance and Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Plan. There will be a presumption in favour of the retention and reuse of listed buildings and buildings within conservation areas that contribute to their character. High quality design that respects the character, appearance and setting of the historic environment and protects the special architectural or historic interest of its listed buildings, conservation areas and historic gardens and designed landscapes, will be supported.</p> <p>The physical in situ preservation of all scheduled monuments and archaeological sites will be supported. Developments that would adversely impact upon archaeological remains, including battlefields, of either national or local importance, or on their setting will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where there is no practical alternative site and where there are imperative reasons of over-riding public need.</p> <p>In any such case, the applicant must at their own expense:</p>	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering Policy D4</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take satisfactory steps to mitigate adverse development impacts; and • where the preservation of the site in its original location is not possible, arrange for the full excavation and recording of the site in advance of development and the publication/ curation of finding 	
<p>Policy I1 - Infrastructure Delivery and Planning Obligations</p>	<p>Development must be accompanied by the infrastructure, services and facilities required to support new or expanded communities and the scale and type of developments proposed. Where development either individually or cumulatively will place additional demands on community facilities or infrastructure that would necessitate new facilities or exacerbate deficiencies in existing provision, the Council will require the developer to meet or contribute to the cost of providing or improving such infrastructure or facilities.</p> <p>Infrastructure requirements relating to Masterplan Zone sites and other allocated sites outwith the Masterplan Zones are set out in Appendices 3 and 4. Actions for delivering infrastructure are described in the Local Development Plan Action Programme. Infrastructure requirements and the level of contributions for other development will be assessed using the criteria set out in Supplementary Guidance.</p> <p>The precise level of infrastructure requirements and contributions will need to be agreed with the Council, in consultation with other statutory agencies where appropriate. The level of provision or contribution required will relate to the development proposed either directly or to the cumulative impact of development in the area and be commensurate to its scale and impact.</p> <p>Masterplans will be expected to reflect the infrastructure requirements and contributions identified and should include a Delivery Statement setting out details of how the proposed development and supporting infrastructure will be delivered. New infrastructure will either be provided by the developer or through financial contributions. It will need to be compatible with other Local Development Plan policies.</p>	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering Policy I1</p>

<p>Policy T2 - Managing the Transport Impact of Development</p>	<p>Commensurate with the scale and anticipated impact, new developments must demonstrate that sufficient measures have been taken to minimise traffic generated and to maximise opportunities for sustainable and active travel.</p> <p>Transport Assessments and Travel Plans will be required for developments which exceed the thresholds set out in Supplementary Guidance.</p> <p>The development of new communities should be accompanied by an increase in local services and employment opportunities that reduce the need to travel and include integrated walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure to ensure that, where travel is necessary, sustainable modes are prioritised. Where sufficient sustainable transport links to and from new developments are not in place, developers will be required to provide such facilities or a suitable contribution towards implementation.</p> <p>Further information is contained in the relevant Supplementary Guidance which should be read in conjunction with this policy.</p>	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering Policy T2</p>
<p>Policy T3 - Sustainable and Active Travel</p>	<p>New developments must be accessible by a range of transport modes, with an emphasis on active and sustainable transport, and the internal layout of developments must prioritise walking, cycling and public transport penetration. Links between residential, employment, recreation and other facilities must be protected or improved for non-motorised transport users, making it quick, convenient and safe for people to travel by walking and cycling. Street layouts will reflect the principles of Designing Streets and meet the minimum distances to services as set out in the Supplementary Guidance.</p> <p>Existing access rights, including core paths, rights of way and paths within the wider network will be protected and enhanced. Where development proposals impact on the access network, the principle of the access must be maintained at all times by the developer through provision of suitable alternative routes.</p> <p>Recognising that there will still be instances in which people will require to travel by car, initiatives such as like car sharing, alternative fuel vehicles and Car Clubs will also be supported where appropriate.</p>	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering Policy T3</p>

<p>Policy T4 - Air Quality</p>	<p>Development proposals which may have a detrimental impact on air quality will not be permitted unless measures to mitigate the impact of air pollutants are proposed and agreed with the Planning Authority. Planning applications for such proposals should be accompanied by an assessment of the likely impact of development on air quality and any mitigation measures proposed. Supplementary Guidance sets out the likely circumstances in which applicants must submit an assessment of the potential impact of particular types of development on existing and future air quality, particularly in and around Air Quality Management Areas. It also provides guidance on the process of air quality assessment and how mitigation measures will be assessed and implemented.</p>	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering Policy T4</p>
<p>Policy T5 – Noise</p>	<p>In cases where significant exposure to noise is likely to arise from development, a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) will be required as part of a planning application.</p> <p>There will be a presumption against noise generating developments, as identified by a NIA, being located close to noise sensitive developments, such as existing or proposed housing, while housing and other noise sensitive developments will not normally be permitted close to existing noisy land uses without suitable mitigation measures in place to reduce the impact of noise. Development within or near to Candidate Noise Management Areas (CNMAs) and Candidate Quiet Areas (CQAs) will not be permitted where this is likely to contribute to a significant increase in exposure to noise or a deterioration of noise conditions in these areas, or where this will reduce the size of, or cause an increase in the noise level within, the CQA.</p> <p>Further information on NIAs, CNMAs and CQAs, including maps of these areas, can be found in the relevant Supplementary Guidance which should be read in conjunction with this policy.</p>	<p>The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering Policy T5</p>
<p>Aberdeen City Council Supplementary Guidance</p>	<p>To provide guidance on policy implementation and forms part of the Development Plan and is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.</p>	<p>Much of the Supplementary Guidance are relevant to the Beachfront Development Framework. A full list can be found on the Aberdeen City Council website at https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building/local-development-plan/aberdeen-</p>

		local-development-plan/supplementary-guidance-and-technical-advice#995
Destination Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Tourism Strategy (2018-2023)	Destination Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Tourism Strategy 2018-2023 outlines the region's tourism ambition.	The Beachfront Development Framework used in the Tourism Strategy.
Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan	The Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan (CCMP) is a regeneration blueprint that is transforming the city centre while conserving its heritage. The goal is greater prosperity and a better quality of life for all.	The Beachfront Development Framework should contribute to delivering the actions proposed in the City Centre Masterplan
Aberdeen City Local Transport Strategy 2016 - 2021	Ensures the Local Development Plan takes 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, efficient resource use, as well as safety in delivering transportation.	The Beachfront Development Framework should consider the integration of LTS objectives, actions and committed projects into project.
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 Beachfront Development Framework 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
Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2019-2022	Obesity is one of the contributing factors to the development of type 2 diabetes which can lead to other negative impacts on a person's health. Promoting a healthy diet and weight and increasing opportunities for physical activity will go some way to offsetting these effects.	The Beachfront Development Framework will contribute to the encouragement of physically activity.
Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26	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 Beachfront Development Framework should support the themes and priority aims set out in the LOIP.
Aberdeen Socio-Economic Rescue Plan 2020/21	The Plan is an immediate and dynamic response to the impact of Covid19, and aligns to the LOIP strategic themes of Economy,	The Beachfront Development Framework will take cognisance of the Rescue Plan.

	People and Place. While it focuses on immediate actions, it informs the scheduled refresh of the LOIP in 2021.	
Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap - towards becoming a net zero emissions city by 2045	The Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap - towards becoming a net zero emissions city by 2045 outlines how the city will adapt to changing climate conditions in the coming decades, focusing on six key theme strategies: mobility; buildings and heat; the circular economy; energy supply; the natural environment; and community empowerment.	The Beachfront Development Framework should support the theme strategies set out in the Net Zero Routemap
Aberdeen City Council Climate Change Plan 2012-25	The Plan sets out the approach, pathway and actions towards net zero and climate resilient Council assets and operations, by 2045.	The Beachfront Development Framework should support the themes and priority aims set out in the Climate Change Plan.
Aberdeen Nature Conservation Strategy	The strategy aims To conserve Aberdeen City's natural heritage for the benefit of our biodiversity, citizens and visitors, for current and future generations	The Beachfront Development Framework will promote biodiversity.
Open Space Audit and Strategy 2011-2016	Aberdeen City's Open Space Strategy sets out a vision and aims to improve the quality of our open spaces in the city. There is growing evidence that quality and accessible open spaces contribute towards improving health, economy, environment and wellbeing. It promotes sustainable development and helps in mitigating the impacts of climate change such as flooding and air pollution and provide green networks by linking various habitats benefiting bio diversity.	Ensure that the Beachfront Development Framework incorporates the findings of the Open Space Strategy audit and supports the aims of the strategy.
Aberdeen City Core Paths Plan (CPP)	The vision for Aberdeen's CPP is to "form a complete paths network throughout the City, encouraging healthy and sustainable access opportunities.	The objectives of the CPP should be considered in the Beachfront Development Framework and opportunities to enhance local core paths and active travel routes. The Core Paths Plan identified core paths within the Beachfront Development Framework boundary
Landscape Character Assessment: Aberdeen City - Landscape Evolution and Influences	This document provides information on how the landscape of the local authority area has evolved. It complements the Landscape Character Type descriptions of the 2019 dataset. The original character assessment reports, part of a series of 30, mostly for a local authority area.	The Beachfront Development Framework should take account of landscape character and promote good landscape design.
Aberdeen City 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	The Beachfront Development Framework could attract an increase quantity of visitors and tourists which makes it more prone to litter and waste. The

	city, providing long term social, economic and environmental benefits to all.	Beachfront Development Framework should be cognisant of the objectives outlined in the ZWS plan, and adapt accordingly in order to contribute to them.
Powering Aberdeen – Aberdeen Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2016	Powering Aberdeen is Aberdeen's first Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). It is a key document that outlines Aberdeen's aspirations to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 and establish alternative forms of energy.	The Energy Action Plan will have interactions for some strands of the Beachfront Development Framework. These areas include, sustainable economic growth, climate change mitigation and adaptation, transport and developing green energy in green spaces.

**C BEACHFRONT DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL REPORT**