

Our ref: PCS/113113
Your ref: SEA00587/sco

If telephoning ask for:
June Dawson

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By email only to: sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Sir

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Renfrewshire Local Development Plan - Scoping consultation

Thank you for your Scoping consultation submitted under the above Act in respect of the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan. This was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 1 April 2011.

As required under Section 15(2) of the Act, we have considered the document submitted and provide our detailed comments in respect of the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report (ER) in Annex 1. In general we found the report to be clear and easy to follow. It appears to reflect the nature of the Plan and looks to address some emerging issues.

As you are aware, the Scottish SEA Toolkit (available for download at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/0) provides guidance to Responsible Authorities about the type of information that is expected to be provided at each SEA stage.

On completion, the Environmental Report and the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan to which it relates should be submitted to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway (sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) which will forward it to the Consultation Authorities.

Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01355 574200 or via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk

Yours sincerely

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Senior Planning Officer



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Appendix 1: Comments on the Scoping consultation

General comments

We consider the scoping report provides clear and detailed information on the proposed scope and level of detail of the assessment and covers most of the aspects that we would wish to see addressed at this stage. The use of tables to draw together the relevant points is considered to be particularly helpful. Subject to the comments below, we are generally content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the ER.

For clarity, we would welcome the inclusion of a summary describing how the comments provided by the Consultation Authorities have been taken into account in the preparation of the ER.

Detailed comments

For ease of reference the following comments are provided in the same order as the scoping report.

1. Relationship with other Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS)

- 1.1 We consider that the PPS listed in Annex1 and Figure 1 provides a good background framework to the development of the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (RLDP). It is noted that this list may expand at the preparation of the RLDP progresses.
- 1.2 It is considered that the inclusion of the column *Issues for the Local Development Plan* in the table in Annex 1 is useful to keep the strategic direction of the RLDP on track.
- 1.3 Following a recent update, Annex 1 should now include reference to the **Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011** which replaced the 2005 Regulations.
- 1.4 It is noted that reference to the **Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2000** has been included and that development resulting from the LPD must comply with it. You may wish to consider expanding this by illustrating the influence the RLDP can exercise.
- 1.5 It is understood that the **Glasgow & Clyde Valley Area Waste Plan (2003)** has been superseded by Scotland's Zero Waste Plan and therefore this reference may no longer be valid.
- 1.6 In addition to those provided in the scoping report, we bring the following PPS relating to climate change, human health and material assets to your attention for consideration.
 - **Changing Our Ways – Scotland's Climate Change Programme (2006)** which provides national interpretation of broader climate change objectives (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/30091039/0); the **Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009** which places duties on public bodies to contribute to the delivery of the targets set in the Act in exercising its functions
 - **Planning Advice Note 84 Reducing Carbon Emissions in New Development (PAN 84)** provides advice on moving towards low and zero carbon developments (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/214728/0057273.pdf);
 - **Planning Advice Note 45 Renewable Energy Technologies (PAN 45)** provided advice for both large and small scale renewable proposals (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/publications/pans/Q/editmode/on/forceupdate/on).

1.7 Material Assets (including waste management)

- Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste (EU, 2005), one of several sector-focused strategies produced under the Environmental Action Programme (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/pdf/sec_2005_1682_en.pdf);
- Building a Better Scotland Infrastructure Investment Plan: Investing in the Future of Scotland, (2005) sets out the delivery plan for achieving significant investment in transport, education, health, water, waste management, sports, business, flood prevention and regeneration programmes in Scotland (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/02/20756/53560);
- SEPA Guidelines for Thermal Treatment of Municipal Waste (www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_regulation/energy_from_waste.aspx);
- EC Framework on Waste 75/442/EEC Waste Framework Directive which establishes a framework for the management of waste across the European Community (www.wasteonline.org.uk/resources/InformationSheets/Legislation.htm#75442);
- Planning Advice Note 63 Waste Management Planning, which provides advice in support of SPP10 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/publications/pans/Q/editmode/on/forceupdate/on).

1.8 Human Health

- A comprehensive list of primary and some secondary legislation on human health is available from the following SNIFFER publication - www.sniffer.org.uk/project-search-results.aspx?searchterm=UKCC02
- In relation to human health and waste the following reports: Incineration of Waste and Reported Human Health Effects (www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/news/2009/report_on_incineration_of_wast.aspx) and The Impact on Health of Emissions to Air from Municipal Waste Incinerators www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1251473372218 .

2. Baseline information and objectives

- 2.1 It is noted that a State of the Environment Report has been prepared by the Council and this will be used to inform the Environmental Report.
- 2.2 Table 2 is again considered to be a useful tool for the SEA process. The summary of the current baseline factors along with the implications for the MIR and objectives for SEA sets a clear path for future work and should ensure that the outcomes are focussed on the issues which the RLDP can deliver.
- 2.3 Please note that the reference to quality in the Water section should be updated to status to reflect the new monitoring and classification system for water bodies which was introduced by the Water Framework Directive. This is based on the ecological status rather than just water quality. The ecological status of a water body takes account of biological, physico-chemical, hydrological and morphological properties. For further details on the new classification system please refer to our website (www.sepa.org.uk/water/monitoring_and_classification.aspx).
- 2.4 It is obvious from the information provided that you are already aware that much of the information we hold is readily available from our website. However, if you find difficulty locating anything please contact our Access to Information team (Telephone: 01786 457700).

3. Environmental problems

- 3.1 We consider that the environmental problems described generally highlight the main issues of relevance for the SEA topics within our remit.

4. Scoping of issues to be considered in the assessment

- 4.1 We agree that in this instance all environmental receptors should be scoped into the assessment.

5. Alternatives

- 5.1 It is noted that alternatives will be developed through the Main Issues Report though the environmental assessment may also propose alternatives in order to reduce potential impacts or promote potential environmental enhancements.

6. Assessment Methodology

- 6.1 We note that the SEA process will include the assessment of all policies, proposals and reasonable alternatives and we are content with this. Please note that the environmental assessment should be carried out on all aspects of the RLDP that are likely to result in significant environmental effects. This may include the plan's themes, objectives, policies and proposals/actions as well as alternatives.
- 6.2 We are content with the proposed detailed assessment matrix and would recommend the inclusion of a commentary box to fully explain the rationale behind the assessment results.
- 6.3 We welcome the consideration of potential cumulative and synergistic effects and the potential short, medium, long-term, temporary or permanent nature of the effects. Appendix 2 Identifying possible cumulative and synergistic linkages is again considered to provide a useful framework for the SEA process.
- 6.4 The provision of adequate drainage infrastructure to support new development will be a key consideration for the assessment of potential adverse effects of development on the water environment. For your information we would consider any allocations which do not connect to the public sewage system as having a significant negative effect against the water environmental receptor.
- 6.5 We would also consider that any allocations which, following the strategic flood risk assessment, have been determined to be potentially at risk of flooding to have a significant negative effect against the water environmental receptor. Any mitigation would have to be clearly in line with the requirements of Scottish Planning Policy and the principles of sustainable flood management.

7. Assessment of land allocations

- 7.1 When it comes to assessing the effects of allocations or sites we advocate a rigorous methodology which clearly assesses potential affects on all environmental receptors. Our experience in relation to assessment of allocations is that it can be a much easier and useful exercise for the plan-maker if the assessment is made against a range of related questions, rather than directly against the environmental receptors. This allows a very practical assessment to take place which clearly highlights the environmental benefits and costs of each individual allocation.
- 7.2 A number of Responsible Authorities have successfully adopted such an approach; including for example Highland Council for the Sutherland Local Plan and Orkney Island for the Stromness Urban Design Framework.

- 7.3 As an example, assessing the allocation against the question “Can the allocation connect to public sewage infrastructure?” gives a clear practical view on how this allocation is likely to affect the water environment.
- 7.5 Other questions relating to our interests could include:
- is there adequate space for surface water drainage to be implemented?
 - will the allocation physically impact on a watercourse or the coastline?
 - is there adequate space for kerbside collection or recycling facilities?
 - will the allocation ensure that possible contamination will be properly remediated and not impact upon sensitive receptors such as human health or the water environment?

7. Mitigation

- 7.1 It is noted that mitigation is included within Table 5 *Assessment Matrix*.
- 7.2 One of the most important ways to mitigate significant environmental effects identified through the assessment is to make changes to the plan itself so that significant effects are avoided. The Environmental Report should therefore identify any changes made to the plan as a result of the environmental assessment.
- 7.1 Where mitigation proposed does not relate to modifications to the Plan itself then the assessment should be clear how the mitigation will be achieved and by whom. These should follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate). It would be extremely helpful to set out all mitigation measures in a way that clearly identified: (1) the measures required, (2) when they would be required and (3) who will be required to implement them. A summary table could be included as part of the preparation of the ER. We provide an example below which may be helpful:

Issue / Impact Identified in Environmental Report	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale
Insert effect recorded in Environmental Report	Insert mitigation measure to address effect	Insert as appropriate	Insert as appropriate
etc	etc	etc	etc

This table is cited as an example, but demonstrates how measures could be clearly identified, allocated to lead authorities and then, through the monitoring process, tracked regarding progress.

8. Monitoring

- 8.1 It is noted that this issue will be addressed in the Environmental Report and Post Adoption Statement.

9. Next steps

- 9.1 We are satisfied with the proposal for an 8 week consultation period for the ER.