



Date: 18th December 2024
SEA Gateway
Scottish Government
Area 2 H (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

PLACE, NEIGHBOURHOOD AND CORPORATE ASSETS
Land Planning and Development
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ
Telephone 0141 578 8600
Fax No: 0141 578 8575

Dear SEA Gateway and Consultation Authorities,

**SEA Screening Determination
New Economic Development Strategy**

I refer to your email dated 18th of December 2024 outlining the responses from the Consultation Authorities to the Screening Report that was submitted on 21st November 2024 in relation to the proposed New Economic Development Strategy.

The Consultation Authorities are in agreement with the Council that the Strategy and Delivery Plan are unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. On 18th December 2024 East Dunbartonshire Council made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Strategy and Delivery Plan are unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. Therefore, the Strategy and Delivery Plan will not be subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Environmental Report will not be prepared alongside the document.

In accordance with Section 10 of the Act, a copy of the screening determination along with the Screening Report and Consultation Authority responses will be made available on request as well as on the Council website at [Strategic Environmental Assessment - East Dunbartonshire Council](#). An advert will also be placed in the Kirkintilloch Herald and Milngavie and Bearsden Herald to publicise the screening determination.

If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact Lorena Gebran (Climate Change Policy and SEA Officer) via email on Lorena.Gebran@eastdunbarton.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Lorena Gebran
Climate Change Policy and Strategic Environmental Assessment Officer

SCREENING REPORT

STEP 1 DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

East Dunbartonshire Council

Title of the plan:

New Economic Development Strategy (EDS)

What prompted the plan:

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

Economic Development is a key priority for East Dunbartonshire Council. Local Outcome 1 of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) defines a vision where “East Dunbartonshire has a sustainable and resilient economy with busy town and village centres, a growing business base, and is an attractive place in which to visit and invest”. The Economic Development Strategy (EDS) has been the main policy document created to achieve this outcome in the area, articulating at the same time national and regional aims.

The previous EDS for East Dunbartonshire covered the period 2017-2020. By the time this strategy was expected to be updated, the world faced the Covid-19 outbreak, which resulted in the need for a tailored response to the specific socioeconomic challenges posed by the pandemic. Due to this disruption, instead of updating the EDS, the council prepared an Economic Recovery Plan in 2021, including targeted actions for the economic recovery of businesses and communities, with an emphasis in providing support to vulnerable populations who were severely affected by the pandemic. Notably, the ERP was structured following the four pillars of capital proposed by the Scottish Wellbeing Economy monitor.

Considering the time elapsed since the publication of this plan, the fact that the world has currently moved to a recovery and restructuring phase after the pandemic, as well as the emergence of new economic thinking and policy developments, it is now a priority of the Council to update and refresh the local economic policy, so that it responds to the most recent conditions and needs in the area.

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

Economic Development

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:

An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

Contact details:

Lorena Gebran
Climate Change Policy and SEA Officer
Email: lorena.gebran@eastdunbarton.gov.uk
Sustainability Policy Team
East Dunbartonshire Council
Southbank House
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Date:

21.11.2024

STEP 2 CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

The New Economic Development Strategy (EDS) will provide an up-to-date policy to guide the economic action in East Dunbartonshire ensuring that the economy contributes to the wellbeing of the people and the planet in our local area in a balanced and fair way.

It is planned to be a long-term strategy, providing a transformative vision for the local economy and a structured working framework for the Council and its Partners to deliver coordinated interventions.

This policy will update the preceding Economic Recovery Plan (2021) in line with strategic national, regional and local policy aims and it is informed by a review of the local economic baseline. It will identify a clear set of actions with interim goals and targets to address the current economic strengths, challenges, opportunities and weaknesses, while allowing flexibility for adaptation to the rapidly changing economic context and emerging priorities of the future.

In preparing this update, careful consideration will be taken to align with the National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) for Scotland, while building and contributing to the delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) for Glasgow City Region, which addresses the joint challenges of the eight local authorities of East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City Council, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire.

Description of the Plan:

The objectives of the Strategy are:

- An up-to-date policy to guide the economic action in East Dunbartonshire ensuring that the economy contributes to the wellbeing of the people and the planet in our local area in a balanced and fair way.
- An updated the Economic Profile of East Dunbartonshire, understanding current scenario and needs of the area incorporating the consequences of the pandemic, cost of living crisis, key challenges, but also the comparative advantages and unique assets that can be shared and enhanced.
- A developed Vision for Economic Development at local level in line with national and regional guidance.
- Strategic Economic Development Outcomes informed by policy, evidence and consultation with key stakeholders and communities and prepare an action plan to achieve them.
- A monitoring plan to measure the success of the strategy based on a set out ambitious but realistic targets.

What are the key components of the plan?

As part of the policy development process, a strategic vision and detailed outcomes will be defined to guide the Economic Development Strategy (EDS). While this is still underway, the following vision and outcomes are temporarily suggested, based on the initial review of the policy framework and best practices. These aims will help shape the direction of the EDS and ensure alignment with both local needs and broader policy.

Overarching vision: Promote the transformation of the local economy so that it flourishes and grows in a way that contributes to the wellbeing of the people and the planet in a balanced and fair way.

Outcomes:

- Enhancing the local economic productivity – Contribute to the economic prosperity, growth and productivity in the local area, supporting the existing business base and facilitating the development of new opportunities.

Potential topics include: Business base, startups, entrepreneurship, industry and innovation, new markets and high growth sectors, foundational economy, investment and finance, vacant and derelict land, etc.

- Benefitting and including people and communities- Encourage inclusive actions at local level that contribute to the reduction of inequalities and deliver wellbeing for people and communities.

Potential topics include: Reduction of inequalities and poverty, community wealth building, employment opportunities, skills development, fair and healthy work, community owned assets, social enterprises and cooperatives, culture and creativity, etc.

- Protecting the environment and supporting net zero - Support the local economy to stay within ecological limits, contribute to net zero transition and deliver wellbeing for the planet.

Potential topics include: Accelerating climate action, natural assets and resources, sustainable tourism, town centres and neighbourhoods, waste and circular economy, energy, green businesses, green infrastructure and nature-based solutions, etc.

It is relevant to note that these three outcomes are not separated pillars, but interlinked dimensions. Many of the preliminarily identified topics overlap between each other, impacting on more than one single outcome. A more detailed identification, organisation and prioritisation of topics/action areas will be developed during the preparation of this strategy.

Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?

There are a number of components of the EDS that have been considered as part of previous SEA work. This includes relevant actions that have been brought forward from Council PPS, including the Climate Action plan (CAP), Local Development Plan (LDP), Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), the Open Space Strategy, the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP), and the emerging Greenspace Strategy. All of these PPS have or are in the process of going through a full SEA process. Furthermore, a number of practices carried out by the Council and its partners as well as actions within the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework (SCCF) and existing Carbon Management Plan

(CMP) will inform the outcomes of the EDS. It is intended that the content of the EDS will inform any updated PPS where appropriate including the Circular Economy Strategy (CES) and CAP.

The majority of the PPS mentioned above have undergone a full SEA or have at minimum been screened to determine the likely significant impacts, any relevant planning components set out in the EDS will be considered as part of future SEA work.

In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:

It is considered that the overarching vision and key proposed outcomes will be screened within this report to determine the likely significance of effects identified.

**STEP 3 IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Error! Reference source not found.)**

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues		
<p>Overarching Vision: Promote the transformation of the local economy so that it flourishes and grows in a way that contribute to the wellbeing of the people and the planet in a balanced and fair way.</p>	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<p>The primary focus of the vision is on population and human health, aiming to enhance wellbeing through improved local economic opportunities. However, due to the sustainable dimension of the strategy, other environmental topic areas such as biodiversity, flora, and fauna soil, water, and climate factors, could have secondary impacts but are uncertain at this stage and completely dependent on the type of proposals through the Strategy, identified locations in terms of sensitivity to the environment and focus.</p> <p>The identified primary and secondary effects noted are unlikely to be significant. Any potential impacts from a site-specific perspective will be addressed through the implementation of the Local Development Plan 2 (emerging LDP3) and development application process.</p>	
<p>Outcome One: Enhancing the local economic productivity – Contribute to the economic prosperity, growth and productivity in the local area, supporting the</p>	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<p>The primary impact of this outcome will be on population and human health, since the strategy will contribute to the creation of jobs, a more prosperous economy and new opportunities within the area. Considering that the strategy is a long-term plan, this positive impact has the potential to be important from an economic growth perspective within the area but unlikely to be significant from an environmental perspective. A secondary positive impact can be in relation to soil and geology through the encouragement for investment in vacant and derelict land sites, however</p>	

<p>existing business base and facilitating the development of new opportunities. Covering: Business base, Startups, entrepreneurship, Industry and innovation, New markets and high growth sectors, Foundational economy, Investment and finance, Vacant and derelict land, etc.</p>												<p>this will be addressed through NPF4, LDP2 (emerging LDP3) in terms of a robust policy framework and site assessment methodology.</p>
<p>Outcome Two: Benefitting and including people and communities- Encourage inclusive actions at local level that contribute to the reduction of inequalities and deliver wellbeing for people and communities. Covering: Reduction of inequalities and poverty, Community Wealth Building, Employment opportunities Skills development, Fair and Healthy Work, Community</p>	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<p>The primary impact of this outcome will be on population and human health since the strategy will focus on equitable opportunities, reducing inequalities and on inclusive actions at the local level. Considering that the strategy is a long-term plan, this positive impact will be of importance regarding community skills development and primarily community empowerment. However, this is unlikely to be of a significant level of impact on the environment to require further assessment.</p>

owned assets, Social enterprises and cooperatives, Culture and creativity, etc.											
Outcome Three: Protecting the environment and supporting net zero - Support the local economy to stay within ecological limits, contribute to net zero transition and deliver wellbeing for the planet. Covering: Accelerating climate action, Natural assets and resources, Sustainable tourism, Town centres and neighbourhoods, Waste and circular economy, Energy, Green businesses, Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions, etc.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<p>In response to the intensifying climate crisis, the EDS focusses on ways in which sustainable economic growth is ensured, with a particular emphasis on adaptation to a more sustainable model.</p> <p>However, while the strategy promotes protecting the environment and supporting net zero, the direct environmental impacts – such as reductions in air pollution, promotion of biodiversity, soil health, water quality – are primarily assessed within other relevant PPS, notably the emerging CAP, SCCF, and LDP2 (emerging LDP3). All the environmental topic areas affected in this case will be assessed through their corresponding assessments through SEA and in alignment with the PPS frameworks.</p>

STEP 4 STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING

Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:

(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

It is anticipated that the EDS will identify opportunities to target economic recovery at a local level, which is likely to present short, medium and long-term benefits to the local economy, business, employment and wellbeing as well as opportunities to explore green recovery in line with wider sustainability ambitions. However, it has been determined that, due to the lack of significance of identified environmental effects and the influence of other PPS, which have been subject to (or are currently going through) the SEA process, a full SEA is not required to be carried out in relation to the Economic Development Strategy.

When completed send to: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.



NatureScot
NàdarAlba

Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

Lorena Gebran
Climate Change Policy and SEA Officer
Sustainability Policy Team
East Dunbartonshire Council
Southbank House
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Our Ref: CEA178033
Date: 25 November 2024

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Economic Development Strategy
Screening Determination**

Dear Lorena,

Thank you for your screening report submitted on 21 November 2024 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan.

NatureScot has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act. In terms of our interests, we agree that the above Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects.

Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the plan or programme to have significant environmental effects. We cannot comment on whether or not the plan or programme meets other criteria determining the need for SEA as set out in the Act.

Should you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact Jimmy Hyslop on jimmy.hyslop@nature.scot or via NatureScot's SEA Gateway at sea_gateway@nature.scot.

Yours sincerely,

Lyndsey Kinnes
Operations Manager – West Central Scotland

Cadzow Court, 3 Wellhall Road, Hamilton ML3 9BG
Cùirt Cadzow, 3 Rathad Wellhall, Hamilton ML3 9BG
01738 457037 nature.scot

NatureScot is the operating name of Scottish Natural Heritage

Lorena Gebran

From: Sea Gateway <sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk>
Sent: 27 November 2024 14:30
To: SEA gateway
Cc: Lorena Gebran; SEA Gateway Nature Scot; SEA Gateway HES
Subject: PCS-20003793 SEPA Response to SEA01919

Dear Lorena,

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
SEA01919
New Economic Development Strategy (EDS)
East Dunbartonshire Council

Thank you for consulting SEPA on this Screening Report by way of your email of 21 November 2024.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 we have reviewed the screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the Act. In regard to our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets and climatic factors) **we agree with the conclusions of the screening report** that the proposed PPS is **unlikely to have** significant environmental effects.

Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are unlikely, it is for the Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received.

If you would like to discuss this consultation response, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

I trust these comments are of assistance - please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards,
Georgia Burborough
Senior Planning Officer



For the future of our environment

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi am fiosrachadh sa phost-d seo agus ceanglachan sam bith a tha na chois dìomhair, agus cha bu chòir am fiosrachadh a bhith air a chleachdadh le neach sam bith ach an luchd-faighinn a bha còir am fiosrachadh fhaighinn. Chan fhaod neach sam bith eile cothrom fhaighinn air an fhiosrachadh a tha sa phost-d no a tha an cois a'

phuist-d, chan fhaod iad lethbhreac a dhèanamh dheth no a chleachdadh arithist. Mura h-ann dhuibhse a tha am post-d seo, feuch gun inns sibh dhuinn sa bhad le bhith cur post-d gu postmaster@sepa.org.uk. Togalach Aonghais Mhic a' Ghobhainn, 6 Craobhraid Parklands, Eurocentral, Baile a' Chuilinn, Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath, ML1 4WQ. Faodar conaltradh còmhla ri SEPA a sgrùdadh no a chlàradh no a sgaoileadh gus obrachadh èifeachdach an t-siostaim a ghlèidheadh agus airson adhbharan laghail eile.



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
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By email: sea_gateway@gov.scot

Lorena Gebran
Climate Change Policy & SEA Officer
East Dunbartonshire Council

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Enquiry Line: 0131 668 8716
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Our case ID: 300076800
Your ref: 01919 – Screening

17 December 2024

Dear Lorena Gebran

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 01919 - East Dunbartonshire Council - Economic Development Strategy SEA Screening Report

Thank you for consulting us on this screening report for the Economic Development Strategy, which we received on 21 November 2024. We have reviewed this report in our role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act. This is in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). To do this we have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment.

Our View

The screening report states that there are **unlikely** to be significant environmental effects for the historic environment. We **agree** with this assessment.

Next Steps

The [Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#) requires you as the Responsible Authority to determine whether an environmental assessment is required. You must then notify the Consultation Authorities within 28 days of making this determination. You can do this via the SEA Gateway (sea_gateway@gov.scot).

We hope this advice helps to you to make this decision. Please do contact us if you have any questions about our response. The officer managing this case is Cailee Mellen. You can contact them by email at cailee.mellen@hes.scot.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**

VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**