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1.0 Background and Introduction

In order to meet the statutory requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required to assess the likely significance of environmental effects of strategies, plans and programmes. With due regard to the Act, East Dunbartonshire Council has undertaken an SEA as part of the process for preparing the East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy 2015 - 2020.

An Environmental Report must be prepared in respect of the Open Space Strategy (OSS) detailing the significance of impacts as a result of the implementation of the Strategy. The purpose of the Environmental Report is to set out the findings of the SEA process and the proposed next steps. It provides information for stakeholders and consultees responding to the consultation on the draft Open Space Strategy by summarising the SEA process and identifying, describing and providing an evaluation of the potential significant effects on the environment as a result of implementing the Strategy.

1.1 East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy

The East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy is a response to the requirement set out in Scottish Planning Policy: Open Space and Physical Activity (Paragraphs 149 and 155), which states that local “authorities should prepare an open space strategy which sets out the vision for new and improved open space and addresses any deficiencies identified.”

The Strategy is an update of the East Dunbartonshire Greenspace Strategy which was launched in 2005. It will build on the actions undertaken in the original Greenspace Strategy 2005 - 2010, taking into account the current Council vision and the relevant local development plan. East Dunbartonshire Council wishes to maintain a high level of open space which is multifunctional, fit for purpose and accessible to all. The Council aims to deliver, through partnership working greenspaces that are ‘fit for purpose’ thereby increasing the quality of life of residents in East Dunbartonshire.

The overall aim of the Strategy is to set out a vision for new and improved space which is appropriate to local circumstances. In accordance with Scottish Planning Policy (SPP 2014) the Strategy will address:

- Deficiencies in different types of open space provision
- Safeguard valued open space
- Guide the allocation of resources for investment
- Justify seeking contributions from developers
- Consider how to best meet the needs and aspirations of community values

The Strategy and Action Plan will set out the strategic framework and will provide a basis upon which asset management, future capital and revenue funding and relevant planning decisions will be based. The reviewed Strategy will raise the profile of open space within the Council, wider community and external agencies. It will also provide a working document for the Council as a whole and act as the main facilitator for cross-departmental working for open space issues over the period of 2015 - 2020.

The Strategy is the second part of a process, the first being the re-auditing of approximately 973.46 hectares open spaces in the East Dunbartonshire towns and villages, with the aim of

securing a clearer understanding of current provision and future needs of local communities. The Audit was undertaken in late 2012 and includes assessments of parks, play provision, green networks and amenity open space.

1.2 Overview of the SEA

The SEA process is a systematic method for considering the likely significant effects on the environment and seeks to integrate environment factors and considerations into preparation of the Strategy and decision making. There are a number of stages of SEA as shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: SEA Process

SEA Stage	SEA Process
Scoping	Identification of the environmental issues to be addressed; the scope and the level of detail required for presentation within the scoping report. This report includes the proposed SEA and Open Space Strategy objectives for comment and review.
Scoping Consultation	The Consultation Authorities (CA's) must provide a response on the scoping report via the SEA Gateway within 35 days of receipt. The CA's advise on the scope of the Environmental Report. Ironside Farrar also contacted the SEA Gateway to set the timescale for consultation on the Environmental Report following receipt of consultation responses.
Environmental Report	The Open Space Strategy is assessed against the SEA Objectives. These objectives and indicators are refined from the SEA Scoping report and have been further developed in view of the baseline information gathered.
Environmental Report Consultation	The Consultation Authorities provide a response on the Environmental Report via the SEA Gateway during a 6 week consultation period. The CA's will advise on the content of the Environmental Report and the acceptability of the Open Space Strategy objectives and proposals. This consultation will include public consultation.
Adoption	The Open Space Strategy and the Environmental Report will be finalised taking into account the consultation responses. Once finalised, the strategy will be formally adopted.
Post-Adoption SEA Statement	The SEA Statement sets out the changes made to the Open Space Strategy as a result of the environmental assessment. Recommendations for monitoring of the environment and the responsibilities for East Dunbartonshire Council will be presented for scrutiny to the Consultation Authorities.
Mitigation and Monitoring	Following adoption, East Dunbartonshire Council would enter into liaison with the Consultation Authorities to establish a monitoring timetable and suitable indicators to establish any impacts which may arise as a result of the Open Space Strategy implementation.

The development of the Strategy has gone through a number of stages to date. A timeline for SEA activities undertaken to date is set out below in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of SEA stages for the Open Space Strategy

SEA Stage	Date Completed	SEA Process
Screening Report	Late October 2009	Screening report submitted to the SEA Gateway to determine the need for SEA. SEA Gateway responded to confirm that Consultation Authorities advised that SEA is required, as the Strategy gives rise to significant environmental effects.
Screening Determination	Mid November 2009	East Dunbartonshire Council determined that SEA will be required and notified the SEA Gateway
Scoping Report Submission	November 2012	The scoping report was submitted to the SEA Gateway to set out the proposed scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report
Consultation on SEA Scoping	Mid November – late December 2012	The Consultation Authorities (CA's) provided a response on the scoping report via the SEA Gateway. The CA's advised on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report. Statutory 35 day consultation period
Drafting of Environmental Report	August 2013 – November 2013	The Environmental Report incorporates the comments made in relation to approach and content of the assessment raised at scoping stage
Consultation on Environmental Report and Strategy	June 2014 - onward	East Dunbartonshire Council has confirmed a 6 week statutory consultation on the Environmental Report. The Open Space Strategy will also be subject to 6 weeks of Public Consultation. Feedback from consultation will be used to refine the Open Space Strategy

1.3 Consultation on the Environmental Report

Statutory Consultation – with Consultation Authorities

In accordance with Section 15 (3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, East Dunbartonshire wrote to the Scottish Ministers to confirm a 4-5 week Statutory Consultation period on the Draft Strategy and accompanying Environmental Report. SEPA confirmed that a period of 8 weeks was a more acceptable time period in their response to the SEA Scoping Report while SNH and Historic accepted the 4-5 week consultation period. It is considered that a 6 week consultation period should be undertaken. This request was sent to the SEA Gateway and agreed upon.

Statutory responses (Scottish Ministers/ Historic Scotland/ SEPA and SNH) should be submitted via the SEA Gateway:

SEA Gateway
Scottish Government
Area 1 J South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ
Email: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Public Consultation

The public consultation period will run for the agreed period of 6 weeks. The consultation exercise commences on 16 June 2014 and will run to the 15 August 2014.

Responses to the East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy and the supporting Environmental Report should be submitted to:

Gillian Telfer, Team Leader
Neighbourhood Services Strategy
East Dunbartonshire Council
Broomhill Industrial Estate
Kilsyth Road
Kirkintilloch
G66 1QF

All responses received as part of the consultation will be recorded, analysed and considered by East Dunbartonshire Council.

Copies of Documentation

The Draft East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy and Environmental Report are available online at www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk.

Hard Copies of the Draft East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy and Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report may be inspected free of charge at East Dunbartonshire Council libraries and at:

East Dunbartonshire Council
Broomhill Industrial Estate
Kilsyth Road
Kirkintilloch
G66 1QF

2.0 Open Space Strategy in Context

2.1 Purpose of the Open Space Strategy

East Dunbartonshire's open spaces provide a wide range of benefits for communities, the environment and the local economy. They make an important contribution to the area, for reasons of biodiversity, character and recreational use.

The East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy (2015 – 2020) replaces the East Dunbartonshire Greenspace Strategy (2005 - 2010) and will set a framework for current and future open space provision in the Council area. The Strategy will be reviewed and updated every 5 years.

The Strategy will provide the Council's Open Space Planning team with a viable and enforceable tool to define Open Space requirements and will seek to:

- Improve the management structures and practices;
- Help ensure that the Council has a clear strategic direction to its open space investment and asset management;
- Establish requirements for new open space from development proposals together with the scale and nature of any planning obligations; and
- Contribute to meeting the objectives of the Single Outcome Agreement.

2.2 Study Area

East Dunbartonshire lies to the north of Glasgow and covers an area of 77 square miles. It embraces the towns of Bearsden, Milngavie, Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch and Lenzie and the villages of Twechar, Milton of Campsie, Lennoxton, Torrance and Balmore, along with clachans such as Haughhead and Clachan of Campsie, and has a population of 104,580 (GROS 2010 Mid Year Estimate).

East Dunbartonshire is encompassed by four other local authorities: Stirling to the North, North Lanarkshire to the East, Glasgow City to the South and West Dunbartonshire to the West. Figure 1 shows the main boundary for East Dunbartonshire Council.

The Strategy focuses on parks and open spaces in urban and urban fringe areas, which includes approximately 973.46 hectares. The Strategy focuses primarily on core areas of open space provision as detailed within Scottish Government's PAN 65 typology, together with locally agreed categories.

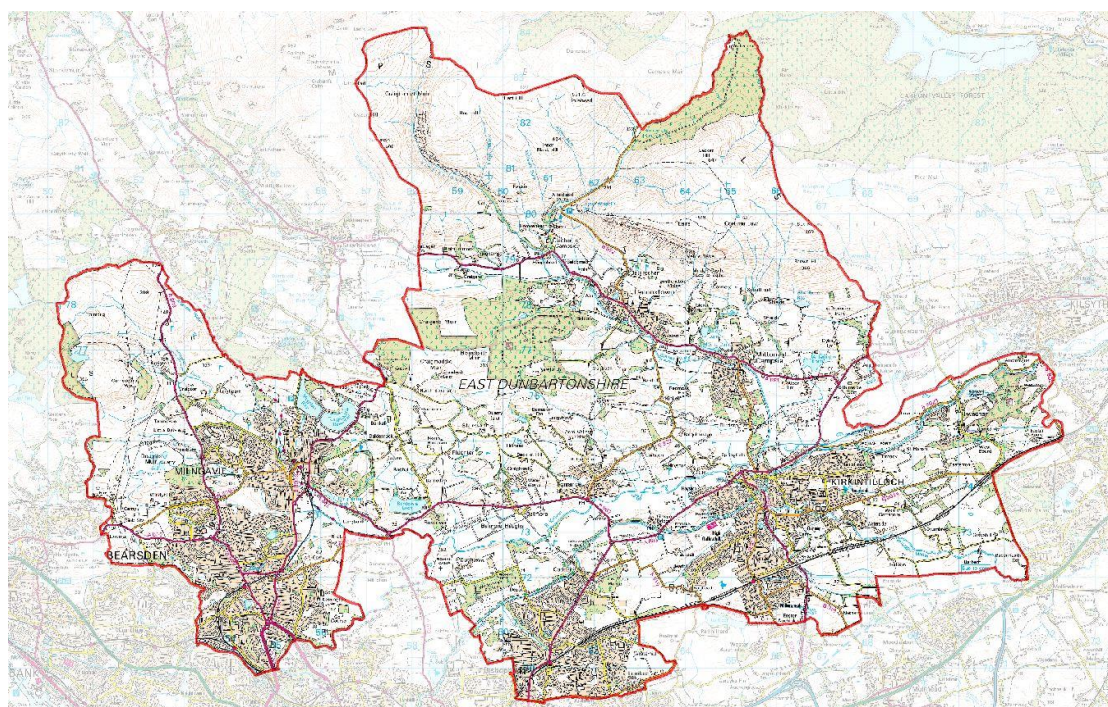


Figure 1: East Dunbartonshire Council map and boundary

2.3 Components of the Open Space Strategy

The Open Space Strategy comprises a number of component parts including an overall vision and strategy objectives.

Open Space Strategy Vision

The five year vision for the development of open space in East Dunbartonshire has been identified as:

“East Dunbartonshire will have an increasingly attractive and accessible built and natural environment for residents and visitors. Existing open spaces will be protected and enhanced to extend the Green Network in East Dunbartonshire, working together to achieve the best for the people of East Dunbartonshire.”

The Council wishes to maintain a high level of open space which is useable, multi-functional, fit for purpose and accessible to all, linked through a green network, thereby increasing the quality of life of residents in East Dunbartonshire. This is fundamental to healthy lifestyles, community integration, physical and mental well-being and for general amenity and contributes to mitigating and adapting to climate change.”

Open Space Strategy Strategic Objectives

In addition, the Draft Strategy has identified 6 strategic objectives which seek to help East Dunbartonshire to meet Scottish Government targets and national outcomes.

- Development of the Green Network in East Dunbartonshire working in partnership to plan, deliver and maintain open space
- Promote better health and help reduce inequalities by providing diverse opportunities in open spaces and green networks for physical exercise, sport and recreation
- Focus resources and interventions to provide a local network of well designed, useable, multi-functional, clean, safe and accessible open spaces that are fit for purpose, well resourced/ managed and meet the needs of the community
- Encourage a sense of local 'ownership' by involving communities in the planning and management of open spaces through meaningful community engagement
- Safeguard and enhance open spaces with historic importance and promote awareness and understanding of their regional significance
- Adapting to and mitigating for climate change through the delivery of a connected and integrated sustainable network, incorporating water management, restoration or enhancement of woodland, grassland and peatland areas with associated biodiversity benefits and by making maintenance more environmentally friendly

The Strategy has identified a number of Action Points which are tailored to help deliver those objectives detailed above. The Action Points are detailed in Table 3.

Table 3 Action Points

Ref	Action
Actions that involve the process of delivering the Open Space Strategy	
1	Open Space Steering Group
2	Prioritisation and Resourcing of Projects
3	Local Development Plan
4	Monitoring Statement
5	Linking EDC Strategic Priorities
6	Working with Communities
7	Community Events & Education Programme
8	Promotion and Marketing
Actions that involve the delivery of open space projects	
9	Green Networks Hubs, Corridors and Links
10	Strategic Multi Use Path Routes
11	Biodiversity Enhancements in Open Spaces
12	Natural Heritage
13	Climate Change Mitigation
14	Flood Prevention
15	Community Growing Space
16	Signage Provision

17	World Heritage Site
18	Forth and Clyde Canal
19	Historic Graveyards
20	Garden and Designed Landscapes
21	Local Nature Conservations Sites (designated for the Geodiversity interest)
22	Open Space Development – Cluster Priorities

3.0 Relationship with Plans, Programmes and Strategies

3.1 Relationship between the Open Space Strategy with other PPS

The 2005 Act requires that the Environmental Report includes an outline of the relationships between the plan, programme or Strategy (PPS) under assessment, and other relevant PPS.

The position of the Open Space Strategy within the tier of other PPS is detailed below:

Table 4: Relationship with Plans, Programmes, Strategies, Legislation and Guidance

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
International		
EC Birds Directive 79/409/EEC	Provides a framework for the conservation of wild birds in Europe. The Directive requires the identification of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) to conserve rare or vulnerable species. Aims to sustain populations of naturally occurring wild birds by sustaining areas of habitat in order to maintain populations at ecologically and scientifically sound levels.	The strategy includes measures that seek to promote natural heritage and biodiversity protection, including designated sites i.e. SSSI's and encourage the protection of populations of naturally occurring birds by protecting species and habitats in open space. The strategy also promotes increases in accessibility of open space, which may result in increased disturbance to biodiversity, however this is not likely to be significant.
EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC	Aims to ensure biodiversity by conserving natural habitats of wild flora and fauna. It requires Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to be identified which form a network of protected areas called Natura 2000 along with SPAs. Projects are only permitted on such sites under exceptional circumstances. Also aims to maintain or restore in a favourable condition designated natural habitat types and habitats of designated species listed in Annex I and II of the Directive respectively.	Although, there are no Natura sites within East Dunbartonshire Council, the strategy does aim to promote the protection of natural heritage as part of infrastructure design insofar that works and implementation do not adversely impact on the integrity of biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire. This will be of benefit to biodiversity and ecosystems not just in East Dunbartonshire but also neighbouring authorities.
European Biodiversity	The strategy seeks to protect Europe's Biodiversity, and the ecosystem services it provides. It establishes a framework for action which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving and Restoring Nature 	The strategy seeks to promote measures that can respond to climate change, inclusive of the protection of ecosystem services such as

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining and Enhancing Ecosystems and their Services • Ensuring the sustainability of agriculture, fisheries and forestry • Combating invasive alien species • Addressing the global biodiversity crisis 	water management. Biodiversity enhancement, particularly in terms of connected green networks and the protection of locally designated sites, is an important aspect of the Strategy.
National Plans and Programmes		
National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3)	<p>The National Planning Framework 3 is the Scottish Government’s Strategy for the long term development of Scotland’s towns, cities and the countryside. The NPF 3 details the importance of transport as a key sector in Scotland’ spatial framework, accounting for just under a quarter of Scotland’s greenhouse gas emissions, and is the fastest growing contributing sector. In terms of reducing emissions, the NPF 3 aims to promote measures to encourage more active and sustainable modes of travel, concurrent with efforts to induce a shift away from private car use. The Scottish Government has set a target for an increase in journeys made by bike from 1-2% at present to 10% by 2020. Simultaneously the NPF3 emphasises the importance of maintaining Scotland’s landscapes and natural heritage, including biodiversity and the cultural landscape.</p> <p>As identified in NPF3, the scenic qualities of Scotland’s landscapes are placed in high priority in terms of quality of life, local distinctiveness, cultural identity and the visitor economy. Key aims include the need to expand green networks, which will enhance the water environment, and will be an aid in terms of climate adaptation. Woodland and biodiversity are among the natural assets that have been identified for particular attention.</p> <p>Equally, other key objectives identified include reducing energy demand, as well as objectives that will seek to protect and enhance the natural and built heritage. Strengthening green infrastructure, improving water and soil quality are considered important in this regard. Sustainable Resource Management is also promoted.</p>	<p>The Open Space Strategy seeks to provide measures that will contribute to the policies detailed in NPF 3, particularly in terms of the expansion of green networks, biodiversity and climate change.</p> <p>The Strategy seeks to promote health, social, environmental and economic benefits through open space provision quality and accessibility within East Dunbartonshire and the surrounding region. In addition, aspects of the strategy seek to encourage biodiversity enhancement and the protection of natural heritage.</p>

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance	Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
<p>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2014</p> <p>The Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) sets out the Scottish government's planning Strategy guidance on a wide range of topic areas, including transport, protection of the environment, climate change, minerals, landscape and natural heritage, flooding and drainage etc.</p> <p>A key aspect of Scottish Planning Policy is the provision, protection and enhancement of open space which will help deliver principal policies of sustainable economic growth, sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaption and placemaking.</p> <p>The SPP sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Scottish Government's view of the purpose of planning, • the core principles for the operation of the system and the objectives for key parts of the system, • statutory guidance on sustainable development and planning under Section 3E of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, • concise subject planning policies, including the implications for development planning and development management, and • the Scottish Government's expectations of the intended outcomes of the planning system. <p>Included in the SPP, open space is regarded as key to the delivery of the aims for planning and development. It recognises the need for safe and pleasant open spaces which are accessible in order to improve connectivity and health within communities. The benefits of improve open space provision is also highlighted for the environmental benefits it offers including climate resilience.</p>	<p>The Strategy seeks to contribute to the policies outlined in SPP, particularly in terms of high quality open spaces which will offer a wide range of benefits for communities, the environment and the local economy. It will make an important contribution to the biodiversity and character of the region.</p> <p>The Strategy will seek to enhance and, where possible, improve the local environment with focus on biodiversity, green networks, climate change, minerals, natural heritage, flooding, and drainage.</p> <p>The Open Space Strategy seeks to work towards the aims of SPP by identifying deficiencies in types of open space and safeguards valued open space through auditing and will provide the Council's Open Space Planning team with a viable and enforceable tool to define Open Space requirements in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility.</p>

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
<p>Planning Advice Note 65</p>	<p>PAN 65 recognises the valuable asset that is open space and gives advice on the role of the planning system in protecting and enhancement open space. It supports SPP and proposes the creation of Open Space Strategies which should comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a strategic framework and vision for open space; • an audit of existing open space provision; • an assessment of current and future requirements; and • a strategy statement with a clear set of priorities and actions. 	<p>The Strategy meets the recommendations of PAN 65 by establishing an Open Space Strategy that constitutes a framework and vision for open space management. The Strategy has undertaken an audit of open space, as well as an assessment of requirements, and has established a set of priorities and actions. This is in line with PAN 65.</p>
<p>Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)</p>	<p>The (2005) is a development of the UK shared framework for sustainable development, <i>One future - different paths</i>. The strategy outlines the importance of sustainable development to Scotland, highlighting 4 key aspects of sustainable development in Scotland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a strong sustainable economy • Travel - Making the links • The well-being of Scotland's people • Protecting Scotland's natural heritage and resources • Supporting thriving communities <p>The strategy also identifies case studies and examples of good practice, and how the Scottish Executive will develop the strategy.</p>	<p>The general aim of the strategy identifies the importance of East Dunbartonshire's open space in terms of benefits for the community, human health, the environment and the local economy. The strategy sets a framework for current and future open space provision in a way that maximises open space in terms of social, health, landscape and natural heritage benefits.</p>
<p>A Smart Successful Scotland</p>	<p>Aims to set out a strategy by which Scotland can improve economically through the improvement of the skills, entrepreneurship and connections of Scotland's people and businesses. The vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing businesses - Scotland: a fast learning, high earning nation • Global connections - Scotland: a globally connected nation • Learning and skills - Every Scot ready for tomorrow's jobs <p>Also sets out the direction, the strategy, the priorities and the implications.</p>	<p>The strategy works towards measures that seek to make economic gains through increasing the quality of commercial developments, making them more appealing to investors while also retaining the ability to provide economic benefits in their own right through plantation, timber and allotments. The creation of well-designed and managed open spaces further increases the quality of</p>

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance	Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
	civic spaces, and in turn, enhancing their attraction for investment.
<p>Social Justice Strategy and Community Regeneration Statement</p>	<p>The Community Regeneration Statement intends to turn round disadvantaged communities and create a better life for those who live in them. The statements set out, under 4 broad headings, some of the key actions for implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joining up services • Building knowledge and expertise • Improving services • Raising skills • Charting progress and planning for change <p>Social Justice: transforming lives explains the government’s plans for giving individuals and families facing multiple disadvantages the support and tools they need to turn their lives around. Since its publication the government has also published ‘Social justice outcomes framework’ and social justice: transforming lives one year on</p>
<p>Let’s Make Scotland More Active: A Strategy for Physical Activity</p>	<p>A broad framework of objectives and priorities for the development of physical activity in Scotland. Strengthening the infrastructure is a key Strategy</p> <p>The strategy works to provide well managed and maintained open spaces. Measures that will see people of all ages benefit from safe and attractive environments in which to exercise and engage. Community activity is strongly promoted in the strategy.</p>
<p>UK Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>The purpose of this UK Biodiversity Framework is to set a broad enabling structure for action across the UK between now and 2020. The framework pulls together each individual country’s strategy and addresses biodiversity on a UK-wide scale.</p> <p>The strategy is heavily focused on the creation of green networks and corridors which can have a positive effect on biodiversity and the movement of wildlife</p>

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
		within open spaces.
Climate Change: The UK Strategy 2000	The strategy sets out the Government's and the devolved administration's approach to the challenges presented by climate change.	Key considerations involve the role trees and planting play in the control of air and water pollution. The strategy seeks to protect biodiversity and ecosystems, by specifically recognising the services they provide in terms of carbon sequestration and water management.
Changing our Ways Scotland's Climate Change Programme	Scotland's Climate Change Programme sets out the steps being taken both now and in future, to tackle climate change in Scotland. The programme details Scotland's current emissions and recent successes, also highlighting the use of Land Management Contracts (LMC) as a method to achieving their goals.	The strategy seeks to provide measures to improve open spaces, green networks, biodiversity and ecosystems, while also reducing the consumption of materials and energy. Allowing enhanced carbon sequestration associated with green networks.
Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach 2007	<p>This framework calls for cross-sector work on a variety of agreed goals and priorities for the greater good of biodiversity. A key underlying principle of this new framework is the Ecosystem Approach, defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity. Some of the main points of this approach are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ecosystem Approach should be undertaken at the appropriate spatial and temporal scales. The Ecosystem Approach should seek the appropriate balance between, and integration of, conservation and use of biological diversity; • The Ecosystem Approach should consider all forms of relevant information, including scientific and indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices; and <p>The Ecosystem Approach should involve all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines</p>	The strategy works towards enhancement of biodiversity through the creation and management of new habitats and green networks within open space which is in line with the Conserving Biodiversity Framework.
National Programme:	Aims to raise awareness and support for mental health and the improvement of mental health in Scotland. The programme identifies the key aims and priority areas. The key	The Open Space Strategy seeks to create good quality open spaces networked with

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
Improving Mental Health and Well Being Action Plan	<p>aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness and promoting mental health and well-being • Eliminating stigma and discrimination • Preventing suicide • Promoting and supporting recovery. 	<p>local countryside which can make major contributions to the physical and mental health of people. The strategy seeks to provide 'safe parks and recreational areas and facilities, cultural activities, play areas' all of which are goals of the National Programme.</p>
'Designing Places' Scottish Government	<p>The Strategy identifies six qualities – identity, safe and pleasant spaces, ease of movement, a sense of welcome, adaptability and good use of resources – that are at the heart of good design for urban and rural development.</p>	<p>The Open Space Strategy seeks to ensure that best practice design will be adopted, resulting in the creation of safe and attractive places which promote a sense of place and be a source of community pride. Developing green corridors and networks by encouraging people to travel safely through open spaces is also promoted.</p>
People and Place – Regeneration Strategy Statement	<p>Outlines Scotland's approach to regeneration, the identified challenges, the scale and scope of the Strategy and recent successes. The statement reiterates the importance of a relationship between physical and social development within regeneration. 'Although physical development on its own will not revive communities, land and property remain central to effective regeneration'.</p>	<p>The strategy seeks to support regeneration through both physical and social development. The strategy identifies measures that work towards the regeneration of open spaces with regard to the importance of a sense of place and community pride and inclusion.</p>
Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme (Currently preparing the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation	<p>The Programme addresses the impacts identified for Scotland in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). It sets out the Scottish Ministers' objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, and their proposals and policies for meeting those objectives. Aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring a productive, healthy and diverse natural environment which is able to adapt to change, including promotion of green infrastructure and development of the ecosystem approach; and implementation of 	<p>The Strategy seeks to provide measures that work to responding to climate change by protecting ecosystem services. There are also measures, for example, that seek to reduce the risk of flooding through eco-regime solutions.</p>

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
Programme which will replace the Programme)	<p>the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring well-managed, resilient infrastructure and buildings providing access to the amenities and services we need; • Ensuring strong, healthy, resilient communities which are well informed and prepared for a changing climate, including increased awareness of the importance of flood risk management 	
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 2013	<p>The Scottish Government's Strategy document: <i>'Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands'</i> has an aim to "conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future." This Strategy has been augmented by <i>The 2020 Challenge</i>, prepared to respond to the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2020.</p> <p>The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and restore all biodiversity to support healthy ecosystems • Ensure that people are connected with Scotland's natural resource which, in turn, will have benefits to health and well-being • Maximise the potential of the natural environment to contribute to sustainable economic growth. <p>The Strategy represents the Scottish commitment to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>The Strategy encourages the enhancement of biodiversity and further identifies its ability to better the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland. The emphasis of woodland and green networks, including habitat connectivity in the strategy will work towards the same objectives the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. However, the provisions of the Strategy that encourage increased accessibility to open space may result in some disturbance for biodiversity.</p>
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	<p>The Act establishes the statutory rights of access to land for recreational and other purposes, also makes provisions for rights of way and land purchasing, specifically crafting communities (community right to buy).</p>	<p>The strategy works to ensuring that communities and people have adequate access to open space, and efforts including the involvement of communities in the planning and management of open space are an integral aspect of the strategy.</p>
The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations	<p>The Habitats Regulations require competent authorities to carry out appropriate assessments in certain circumstances where a plan or project affects a Natura (European) site. Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) refers to the whole process,</p>	<p>Although, there are no Natura sites with East Dunbartonshire Council, the strategy does aim to promote the protection of natural</p>

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
1994 as amended	including the appropriate assessment step.	heritage as part of infrastructure design to ensure that works and implementation do not adversely impact on the integrity of the biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire. This will be of benefit to biodiversity and ecosystems not just in East Dunbartonshire but also neighbouring authorities.
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	The Act sets out a series of measures which are designed to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland. It imposes a wide ranging duty – “biodiversity duty” on Scotland’s Public Sector. In delivering this duty, public bodies and office holders must have regard to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Accordingly, the Act also requires that Scottish Ministers must designate as the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy one or more strategies for the conservation of biodiversity It increases the protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and wildlife through various legislative measures.	The Open space Strategy takes account of the provisions of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, and includes measure to protect biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems including the 6 SSSIs located in East Dunbartonshire.
Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	The Act amends existing legislation relating to the protection of certain birds, species, habitats and activities, aiming to make law on wildlife and the natural environment more effective and proportionate.	The strategy provides measures that seek to protect biodiversity and wildlife habitats for species in the management and planning of open space. However, the provisions of the strategy encourage increased accessibility to open space may result in some disturbance for biodiversity. However, this is not likely to be significant.
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) (1981)	Principal legislative mechanism for the protection of wildlife in Great Britain. Requires any land that is identified as being of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features to be classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and afforded certain protection against damaging measures.	The strategy works to protect sites of regional importance and for sites with important flora, fauna and geodiversity features, including SSSIs.

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
Scotland's Geodiversity Charter	Promotes the integration of geodiversity, and its sustainable management, in wider Strategy and decision frameworks.	The strategy works towards measures that reduce impacts on geodiversity including measures for the protection and enhancement of Local Geodiversity Sites and Local Nature Conservation Sites.
Central Scotland Green Network	The Central Scotland Green Network is being promoted through the National Planning Framework 3 as a national development. The aim is to create a strategic network of woodland and other habitats, active travel routes and greenspace links across the broad area of central Scotland. Other regions are also developing green networks in their Supplementary Planning Guidance.	The Open Space Strategy provides measures that seek to work towards an integrated approach to the provision of open space and habitat enhancement through green networks and corridors. East Dunbartonshire is located within Central Scotland's Green Network and will be closely linked with the NPF3.
Scottish Historic Environment Strategy (SHEP 2011)	Sets out Scottish Ministers' policies, providing direction for Historic Scotland and a Strategy framework that informs the work of a wide range of public sector organizations.	The Strategy recognises the importance of the historic environment and points of cultural heritage and includes objectives to safeguard and enhance open space with historic importance and promote awareness and understanding of their regional significance.
Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland Act 2011)	Influences the extent of public control to ensure the protection of scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings and other points of cultural heritage. It amended the following three acts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ancient Monument Acts 1953 - Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 - Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 	The strategy promotes measures that seek to protect the ancient environment and cultural heritage aspects of open space, particularly in relation to open space with important historic assets.
Regional Plans and Programmes		
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic	The SDP is a strategic level document comprising of bold and ambitious spatial visions, guiding the city and regions development to 2035. The plan recognises environment, along with infrastructure and energy, to be one of the 3 key aspects of the spatial	The strategy is committed to the improvement of open spaces and green networks and infrastructure, and will seek to work to

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
Development Plan	vision. Specifically focusing on green infrastructure: open space, formal and informal, green corridors and pathways, playing spaces, parks, tree and natural green spaces.	mitigate any adverse impacts on any environmental impacts throughout the process.
Joint Transport Strategy for Western Scotland to 2025	The strategy outlines the development of transport in Western Scotland to 2025. Setting out the 'management of and investment in the region's strategic transport network through the integration of transport policies and proposals with land use planning and its constituent development plans and policies'. The strategy is integrated with wider government Strategy including NPF, SPP, LDPs, etc and places importance on cycling and walking modes of transport.	The Strategy works towards maximising the accessibility of public space to provide opportunities for physical exercise, sport and recreation. This also encourages increased options for cycling and walking modes of transport.
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership	The partnership has been established to oversee the development of the current Glasgow and Clyde Valley green network. The programme has 4 main themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health improvement • Biodiversity and environment • Stronger communities • Enterprise development Intended outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the attractiveness of the region as a location for business • Creating opportunities for health improvement • Building stronger, better connected communities; and • Protecting and enhancing wildlife and the environment, by providing accessible quality greenspace 	The strategy objective can assist the goals of the GCVGNP, and shares a number of intended outcomes. The Open Space Strategy should seek to work closely with the partnership in order to achieve various goals, including biodiversity protection, health improvements, strong communities as well as protecting and enhancing wildlife and the environment, by providing accessible quality greenspace.
Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership <i>EDC - Green Network Mapping Report</i>	Since 2010 the Partnership has been working with our partner local authorities in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley (GCV) to provide the evidence they need to develop Green Network policies for their Main Issues Report, Local Development Plans and to justify the targeting of resources. The approach seeks to identify the spatial priorities at a local authority scale was immediately recognised by our partners.	The Open Space Strategy compliments the objectives of the partnership, through an audit of existing open space provision in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Integrated Habitat Networks	<p>The project identifies 'the thematic and locational priorities for habitat restoration through the development of an Integrated Habitat Network (IHN) in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley (GCV) area'. The programme's objective focused on identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal species within the scope area, and gain additional research on species • Key woodland and open ground restoration and expansion opportunities • Any potential land-use conflicts • Opportunities to enhance and expand the IHN 	The strategy places key emphasis on biodiversity particularly by identifying opportunities for connected networks and will work towards measures to protect habitats and biodiversity.
Local Plans and Programmes		
EDC Community Plan 2006-2011	The community plans aims to amalgamate the community's stakeholders and public bodies, and create an inclusive planning process through community planning and engagement. The plan addresses the key aspects of community life and how such aspects can be developed and improved.	Community inclusion and engagement is a key aspect of the framework and the Strategy will work to ensure community benefits are realised. Equally, the idea of 'ownership' whereby communities are involved in the planning and management of open space is a key objective of the strategy.
East Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2 2011	The local plan focuses on development of land in East Dunbartonshire, providing guidance on what, or will not be permitted and where development will be permitted. The plan comprises of policies and guidance, addressing; housing; town centres and retailing; community and leisure facilities; open space and physical activity; greenbelt; design quality; natural environment; as well as transport, environmental designations and others. Strategy OS1 seeks to protect and enhance open space, while OS2 seeks to establish appropriate level of open space.	The strategy provides measures to comply with the local plan, particularly in terms of land allocations, greenbelt, open space and natural environment policies. The strategy is interlinked with a number of the local plan aims for open space and works towards achieving positive outcomes in relation to open space, greenspace, biodiversity and active recreation.

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
EDC Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2013	<p>Gives an overview of current biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire and how the council aim to improve to local biodiversity, implementing the UK Biodiversity Action Plan on a local scale. The plan is divided into 4 parts;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the current biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire • A summary of the main landscapes types found in East and West Dunbartonshire, highlighting the key sites and areas • Details the four key groups that will the focus of the work done by Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Partnership - urban, rural, woodland and wetland areas • Information for local residents, schools and communities on how local people can get involved and help biodiversity in their local area. 	<p>The Open Space Strategy promotes biodiversity and encourages measures to mitigate against adverse effects where necessary. The strategy is committed to promoting and improving biodiversity including the role of ecosystem services. Additionally, there are measures that increase the community's involvement in the framework for managing open space, as part of the strategy.</p>
EDC Sustainable Development Strategy	<p>Strategy adopts a <i>What, Where, How, When, Who</i> approach, firstly explaining the strategy itself and then moving on to explain how sustainable development will be achieved in East Dunbartonshire. The strategy takes on a holistic approach, aiming to integrate sustainable development into communities (socially, economically and environmentally)</p>	<p>The general aim of the strategy identifies the importance of East Dunbartonshire's open space in terms of benefits for the community, the environment and the local economy. The strategy sets a framework for current and future open space provision in a way that maximises the benefits of open space in terms of social, health, landscape and natural heritage.</p>
EDC Greenspace Strategy 2005 - 2010	<p>The Greenspace strategy sets out East Dunbartonshire's vision for the improvement and development of greenspace on a local scale for a 5 year period 2005-2010. The strategy is based on SPP11 (Open Space and Physical Activity) and aims to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deficiencies in different types of open space provision • Safeguard valued open space • Guide the allocation of resources for investment • Justify seeking contributions from developers • How to best meet the needs and aspirations of communities and understand 	<p>The Open Space Strategy will replace the Greenspace Strategy 2005-2010 and see the continuation of key aspects of the greenspace strategy.</p>

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
	community values	
East Dunbartonshire Core Path Plan 2009	<p>The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 requires local authorities to publish a Core Path Plan that 'provides the basic framework of routes sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area. This basic framework of routes will link into and support wider paths'. Keys aims of the EDC Core Path Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing communities together • Improved signage and access to core paths • Ensure core paths are 'fit for purpose' • Create the foundation for building a path network with surrounding areas 	The strategy relies heavily on networks and corridors and will be closely linked to the core path plan in terms of access and travel. The strategy will seek to provide open space networks in partnership with the EDC Core Path Plan.
EDC Local Housing Strategy	The LHS outlines the East Dunbartonshire housing strategy over the 5 year period from 2011-2016. The strategy aims to strike a balance between housing need / demand and housing supply. It is the second LHS for East Dunbartonshire.	The Open Space Strategy will seek to work alongside the Local Housing Strategy, aiming to achieve an integrated network of open space networks and housing supply.
EDC Tourism Strategy and Action 2008	The strategy is derived as a result of a target set by the Scottish executive - <i>to increase visitor numbers and spend to increase revenue growth by 50% between 2005 and 2015</i> . The strategy and action plan will aim to play a part in achieving the national target. The plan specifically aims to develop the tourism industry in East Dunbartonshire in the prescribed period 2008-2011. The plan will aim to boost local tourism and tourism revenue through the engagement of public and private partners with collectively shared goals.	The strategy seeks to ensure that tourism remains a key outcome of the programme. Efforts to increase the accessibility to open space will result in greater numbers of visitors and will contribute to the targets of the EDC Tourism, Strategy and Action.
EDC Joint Health Improvement Plan 2009-2011	The third Joint Health Improvement Plan to be published by East Dunbartonshire, outlining the steps the council will take in order to maintain and improve the health of the people and the health services in East Dunbartonshire. The plan addresses the different aspects of health and lifestyle setting targets and methods of achieving such targets.	The strategy will seek to improve the health of those in the community through the provision of open space and green networks. The audit and strategy's key targets involve quality, quantity and accessibility of open space. The

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
		implementation of the strategy will works towards achieving both health and social benefits by providing the means that encourages healthier lifestyles and active travel modes, will is on line with the Joint Health Improvement Plan.
EDC State to the Environment Report	The report identifies the key indicators of the state of environment; population and human health; air; cultural heritage; biodiversity, flora and fauna, soil and geology, landscape, water, climate factors and material assets. Each indicator is broken down, detailing the relevant legislation, and current state of specific environmental aspect.	The strategy works towards measures that protect and enhance the state of the environment, including specific measures identified for environmental indicators in the EDC. The strategy recognises the importance of open space for biodiversity, climatic factors, cultural heritage and human health.
EDC Single Outcome Agreement 2012-2016	<p>The Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016 is the core plan for community planning in East Dunbartonshire. The agreement is linked into the Scottish Government's sixteen national outcomes and sets out how East Dunbartonshire will contribute to those 16 outcomes. The agreement sets out to achieve the vision - Working together to achieve the best with the people of East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>It includes the following local outcome, which open spaces can help deliver. <i>“Outcome 5 – Our people and communities enjoy increased physical activity and mental wellbeing and health inequalities are reduced”</i> this is in line with the National Priority – Health inequalities and physical activity. Open Space provides opportunities for walking and cycling networks and formal and informal recreation that benefit people's health</p>	Open space and the environment is a key aspect of community planning and the strategy seeks to help achieve the sixteen national outcomes and the EDC's vision. The idea of 'ownership' and building a partnership whereby communities are involved in the planning and management of open space is a key aspect of the strategy.
Kirkintilloch Town Centre Masterplan 2012	The masterplan delivers the vision and strategy for the regeneration of Kirkintilloch town centre, further providing a context for long term change and offering additional guidance along with the Local Plan. Aims to incorporate national and local level policies into one comprehensive masterplan.	The Open Space Strategy encourages open space provision and quality, better links and access and community inclusion. Kirkintilloch

Plans, Programmes and Strategies, Legislation and Other Guidance		Link to East Dunbartonshire OSS
		is included as a key settlement as part of the OSS and has been assessed in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility and the strategy.
Campsie Fells Strategic Review and Action Plan	The action plan is a product of the Campsie Fells Steering Group (EDC, Falkirk Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Stirling Council, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage). The partnership undertook a strategic review of tourism, recreation and economic development as well as a biodiversity review. The review aimed to enhance the sustainable, economic and ecological development within the Campsie Fells region.	The strategy recognises the importance of the Campsie Fells and the measures that seek to protect open space and enhance natural heritage are important aspects of the Strategy.

4.0 Environmental Baseline

4.1 Relevant Environmental Baseline Information

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 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 plan, strategy or programme", and "the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected".

In order to support the assessment and monitoring of the potential effects of implementing the Open Space Strategy, a description of the current environmental baseline, relevant to the objectives and scope of the OSS, has been compiled. A more detailed review of environmental baseline is included as part of the Draft Open Space Strategy which should be read in conjunction with this Environmental Report.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

International and European Statutory Conservation Designations

There are no European designated sites, i.e. Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or RAMSAR sites in East Dunbartonshire.

National Statutory Conservation Designations

The area contains a rich, diverse tapestry of nationally and locally important landscape features and wildlife habitats, including:

- A national designation providing statutory protection for flora, fauna and geological features are known as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are 6 such sites within East Dunbartonshire including: Cadder Wilderness, Bishopbriggs; Manse Burn, Bearsden; Sculliongour Limestone Quarry and South Braes, Lennoxton; Mugdock Woods, Milngavie; and Corrie Burn, Milton of Campsie.
- Local designations within East Dunbartonshire include 66 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), which in accordance with national Strategy will be designated as Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS). The following list is a draft list of sites proposed as the East Dunbartonshire LNCS network as part of the revision of the Council's Local Plan (LP2): Barraston Quarry Grasslands, Blairskaithe Quarry, Craigmaddie Plantation, Craigmaddie Muir/Craigend Muir/Blairskaithe Muir, Baldernock; Balmore Haughs, Glen Orchard/Blairnile Wood, Balmore; Allander Toll, Bardowie Loch and Wetland, Bardowie Woodland, Hutcheson Hill, St. Germain's Loch, Bardowie; Templehill Wood, Bearsden; Buchley Farm, Buchley Sand Pit, Cadder Grassland, Cadder Yard, Cawder Golf Course Woods, High Moss Plantation, Low Moss, Rookery Plantation, Old Ammunition Dump, Bishopbriggs; Barbeth Moss, Easterton Moss Complex, Gartshore Moss and Grayhill Woods, Gartshore Woods, Kennel Plantation, Heronryhill, Gartshore; Bridgend Marshes, Broomhill Ox-bow and Broomhill Hospital Marsh, Harestanes, Hayston Oxbows, Kenmure Marsh, Oxgang, Springfield Marsh, Waterside Bing, Waterside Flood Pool & Barbeth Pool, Kirkintilloch; Balgrochan Marsh, Campsie Glen, Campsie Glen Golf Course/Meikle Reive, Craigbarnet, Fin Glen/Almeel Burn, Fanniescroft, Glazert Wood, Lennox Forest, South Brae Marsh, Lennoxton; Millersneuk Wetland, Lenzie; Auldmurroch Burn and Woods, Carbeth Wood, Castlehill Grasslands, Craigdhu Wedge, Craigmaddie & Mugdock Reservoirs/Tannoch Loch, Craigmore Mire, Craighton Woods, Douglas Muir, Douglasston Estate and Loch, Mains Plantation, Mugdock Wood and

Drumclog/Cloberfield, South East part of Hilton Park Golf Course, Milngavie; Alloch Dam, Mount Dam, Antermony Loch, Ashenwell Dams, Birdston Meadows, Redmoss Grasslands, Spouthead, Woodburn Glen/Kierhill, Woodburn Reservoir, Milton of Campsie; West Balgrochan Marsh, Torrance; and Barhill and Twechar Marshes, Twechar.

- Tree Preservation Orders of which there are 350 within East Dunbartonshire are designated in order to protect the districts tree stocks and biodiversity.
- There is a vast network of Important Wildlife Corridors (designated as LNCS Wildlife Corridors in the Local Plan 2), such as the River Kelvin, Allander Water, Glazert Water and Luggie Water that run through the council area and serve as functional migratory and foraging routes.
- In 2009, nationally important geological sites were assessed in East Dunbartonshire by British Geological Survey to evaluate the geodiversity resource within the area. A systematic inventory and evaluation of the area's potential Local Geodiversity Sites was undertaken to create a LNCS system of geological sites. From this survey 34 sites were recommended as Local Geodiversity Sites chosen primarily for their geology, but also according to links with the character of the landscape, historical structures, ecology and the economic and cultural history of the area.

Human Health

Demographics

The total population in East Dunbartonshire stood at 108,243 in 2001. The population structure in East Dunbartonshire is ageing, with the greatest concentration of population currently in the 30-59 age categories. Life expectancy at birth in East Dunbartonshire for both males (77.7) and females (81.2) is higher than the national average of 74.2 and 79.2 respectively.

Unemployment in East Dunbartonshire is at the relatively low rate of 2.7% (2001 Census) compared to the Scottish average of 3.97%. Sixty percent of East Dunbartonshire's population were engaged in work or study at the time of the 2001 Census. Of that population, 43% live, work or study within East Dunbartonshire; while 57% live in the area but work or study out with the council area. Along with East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire was the only other local authority in Scotland whereby the majority of the population who worked or studied, did so out with their local authority area. Residents of East Dunbartonshire, who work or study out with the Council area, commute an average distance of 7.1 miles. This is due to the ease of access and short distances to commute from these local authority areas to Glasgow City as they both border the major conurbation.

The general perceived health of the population of East Dunbartonshire is slightly better than the levels gathered on a national wide scale for Scotland. Almost 73% of the resident population of East Dunbartonshire were found to be in 'good' general health compared to fewer than 68% for the rest of Scotland. The level of residents found to be in general health status of 'not good' within East Dunbartonshire and Scotland was 8% and 10% respectively.

Climatic Factors

Mitigation & Adaptation

Climate change is now widely acknowledged as one of the most serious threat facing the planet today. Climate change has been observed throughout Scotland, with minimum spring temperatures rising by 0.5 C between 1960 and 2000. Predicted climate change effects include: an increase in frequency and severity of flooding and storms, rise in sea levels, change in distribution of biodiversity, increase in pests, soil erosion and associated impacts on agriculture and food supply, more weather extremes, and an overall increase in temperature and growing seasons.

The climate of Dunbartonshire is milder than that of eastern Scotland due to the stronger influence of winds blown from the sea and the Gulf Stream. The annual mean temperature is around 9°C. January is the coldest month, with mean daily minimum temperatures between -3.4 and -0.9°C. July and August are the warmest months when the mean daily maximum temperature is around 18.5°C. Average annual rainfall is slightly less than 1000mm – rainfall is generally well-distributed throughout the year with autumn and early winter being the wettest seasons.

Open/ green spaces are particularly important in terms adaptation to climate change by maintaining green networks and habitats, therefore allowing ecosystems to help buffer the effect of climate change on local biodiversity. For example, woodlands and peat bogs act as “carbon sinks” that can help reduce the effects of climate change. Natural floodplains and coastal areas can lessen the severity of flooding, while wildlife corridors can facilitate the movement of species affected by the changes in the local climate. Resilient infrastructure and climate proofing adaptation techniques in the design and management of the open space is essential in enabling developments to be adaptable to change.

Landscape

Designated Sites

A survey was undertaken over 2005-2006, in order to record Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes in East Dunbartonshire. The survey found that 30 sites were of local value as Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and 3 sites were recommended as having the potential for meeting national inventory standards. As well as being part of the scenery of Scotland and helping to attract tourism, they illustrate unique artistic talent, house valuable and rare plant collections, protect undisturbed habitats and are an important historic and educational resource (Historic Scotland 2007i).

There are 5 Conservation Areas in East Dunbartonshire, including: Milngavie Town Centre, Milngavie Reservoir and Tannoch Loch, Bearsden Town Centre and part of Lenzie.

The Campsie Hills have been designated as a Regional Scenic Area.

There are no Regional Parks within East Dunbartonshire, however the Council is exploring the option of designating the Campsie Fells as a regional park. Mugdock Country Park, although situated within Stirling Council, is managed by East Dunbartonshire Council and is a major visitor attraction and biological resource within the area.

Landscape Character

East Dunbartonshire's landscape is diverse in terms of character and land uses. The district is characterised by five main types of landscape character: Drumlin Foothills; Rolling Farmland; Broad Valley Lowland; Rugged Moorland Hills; and urban areas.

The topography of East Dunbartonshire is generally low lying, undulating land with the exception of the Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills to the North and West of the district respectively. The Kilpatrick Hills are classified as Regional Scenic Areas (RSA) and the Campsie Fells are currently proposed as a Regional Park in the EDC Local Plan 2005 and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan.

East Dunbartonshire has a large proportion of open space provision and content. The overall condition of the open space resource is generally of a 'good' standard. The majority of East Dunbartonshire's open space is connected by important wildlife corridors, including river valley and canal systems.

4.2 Current Environmental Issues in East Dunbartonshire

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report should include a description of existing environmental problems, in particular those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance.

The Open Space Strategy itself is not the source of any environmental problems. Its function is to try and address existing or potential problems, and improve East Dunbartonshire's open space resource. Current environmental issues in East Dunbartonshire have been identified. They have been identified from reviewing existing published reports, including SEAs of other East Dunbartonshire strategies, plans and programmes including the draft Core Paths Plan, Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the Environment Strategy. The East Dunbartonshire State of the Environment Report provides the environmental baseline data for EDC within this SEA. It aims to describe the environmental context within which the Open Space Strategy operates and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on this plan.

Key environmental problems and opportunities identified in the SEA process include the following:

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The Strategy is likely to impact positively on nature conservation interests, through habitat enhancement, open space retention and appropriate management. However, potential adverse impacts to biodiversity may also exist, associated with greater numbers of visitors accessing open spaces and the associated disturbance impacts on protected species and habitats.

Environmental challenges/ threats include the following:

- Integrating biodiversity requirements with the pressure for development
- Damage, disturbance and fragmentation of habitats due to increased urbanisation
- Protecting areas of woodland from inappropriate development
- Disturbance to sensitive habitats and species from visitors to open spaces located near protected areas
- Lack of maintenance that is detrimental to wildlife or unnecessary over-maintenance

- Lack of protection for urban sites of importance for nature conservation
- Lack of public information and awareness
- Overuse or inappropriate use of chemicals on open space sites
- Spread of invasive species
- European Protected Species may be present on or adjacent to sites identified in the Strategy

Environmental opportunities include the following:

- Ensure that new urban open space is designed to fit into wider wildlife and open space networks as appropriate
- Protection of statutory and non-statutory sites in the planning process
- Ensure that SUDS are incorporated into all new developments, to create new wetland habitat
- Integrated Habitat Network projects, in partnership with stakeholder groups
- Protecting existing urban open space networks from loss through inappropriate development
- Habitat restoration programmes
- Ensure that biodiversity is considered in the design of new allotments
- Creation of eradication programmes for invasive non-native species

Human Health

The Strategy is envisaged to lead to a number of potentially significant benefits. Encouraging outdoor activities, improving accessibility and quality of open space are all likely to allow the public to participate in activities that improve the opportunities for leading a healthy lifestyle. However, potential effects are likely to be localised in existing open space and green networks in the East Dunbartonshire area. The scale of the improvements is likely to be small scale.

Environmental challenges/ threats include the following:

- Damage, disturbance and fragmentation of habitats due to increased urbanisation
- Lack of maintenance that is detrimental to wildlife or unnecessary over-maintenance

Environmental opportunities include the following:

- Educational programmes and interpretation opportunities
- Restoration of open space and habitat projects through community involvement
- Use of volunteers in practical conservation projects, community clean-ups
- Designated sites, parks and open spaces are highly valued by the community for their leisure and recreational opportunities

Climatic Factors

The Open Space Strategy may have positive impacts on climatic factors, as a result of the possibility to influence the amount of vegetation in open spaces, therefore increasing carbon storage, moderating local temperature and humidity.

Environmental challenges/ threats include the following:

- Increase in greenhouse gas concentrations which contribute to climate change

Environmental opportunities include the following:

- Protection and enhancement of carbon sinks such as bog habitats
- Planting of broadleaf woodland through Forestry Commission incentives and investment programmes

Landscape

Through implementation of this Strategy, open space is likely to be retained and physical improvements achieved. This is likely to have positive landscape and visual amenity impacts. Cumulatively, the Strategy may have a significant positive effect on the local landscape throughout East Dunbartonshire's towns and villages.

Environmental challenges/ threats include the following:

- Changes in the landscape due to pressure for development of housing, employment and transport infrastructure
- Open space provision has capacity to negatively impact on landscapes, including designated landscape protection areas, if siting, management and materials are not given careful consideration
- Lack of maintenance that is detrimental to wildlife or unnecessary over-maintenance
- Lack of protection for urban sites of importance for nature conservation
- Lack of public information and awareness

Environmental Opportunities include the following:

- The Strategy will aid the delivery of the Central Scotland Green Network in terms of connectivity of open spaces, cross boundary links and how creation and enhancement of networks of open space for people and wildlife can be delivered
- Creation of an LNCS network with application of ecosystem based projects to improve quality of sites at a landscape scale
- Implementation of an IHN project focusing on woodland, wetland and grassland

4.3 Open Space Issues

For the purposes of the assessment it is also important to summarise the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space provision. The full audit of open space standards is provided for in the Draft Open Space Strategy. However, a summary is provided below:

- **Quantity:** In terms of quantity and provision, the East Dunbartonshire quantity standard for multi-functional Open Space concludes that all settlements meet the standard with larger settlements meeting the standard with some excess
- **Quality:** The majority of open space sites scored in the 50 to 60 percentile in terms of quality, with 112 of 222 considered to have excellent quality, 67 to have very good, 32 to have good, while 7 and 4 sites have fair and poor quality standards respectively. All settlements have access to high quality open spaces with average quality scores above 60%
- **Accessibility:** All settlements areas have good access to regional greenspace, and there is also good provision of strategic recreational walkways/ cycleways. Most

settlements have good access, with minor residential areas out with the 400m defined distances for access to open space

5.0 SEA Methodology

5.1 Approaches to SEA

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 sets out the requirements for the production of the Environmental Report in Section 14 and Schedule 3 but does not set specific methodology for undertaking the assessment. This section of the environmental report describes how the assessment of the strategy has been conducted.

The SEA needs to address and demonstrate an awareness of the balance of protecting, managing and directing change in a way that recognises the dynamic relationship that connect people, place and environment.

Environmental assessment adds value to the strategy making process through the following:

- Integrating environmental considerations leads to better strategy making i.e. can improve the strategy making process
- Ensuring environmental impacts are identified early in the strategy making process and enabling strategy modifications
- Identifying opportunities for promotion of environment through enjoyment of the outdoors and natural places and spaces
- Recognition of the benefits of the strategy through assessment against environmental objectives and indicators (criteria)
- Monitoring of the strategy implementation

5.2 SEA Guidance

The proposed methodology follows the guidance from the Scottish Government on undertaking SEA in addition to other available information sources:

- Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
- Scottish Executive SEA Toolkit, September 2006
- Scottish Government SEA Database – examples of recent SEA

5.3 Scoping of the Environmental Report

The report will take the form advised in the Scottish Executive SEA Templates. It is recommended within the SEA guidance that the following areas of potential impacts are assessed:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna,
- Population
- Human Health
- Geology, Geomorphology and Soils / Land Use
- Water
- Air Quality;
- Climatic Factors
- Material Assets
- Landscape
- Historic Environment

The SEA also needs to consider the potential for secondary, cumulative or synergistic impacts associated with the Open Space Strategy, as well as the interrelationship between the factors relating to biodiversity, landscape and human health.

5.4 SEA Topics Scoped In/Out

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, East Dunbartonshire Council has considered whether the environmental effects (both positive and negative) of the Strategy are likely to be significant. Those SEA issues, not thought to be affected by the Open Space Strategy have been scoped out, whilst those where impacts are considered to be likely have been scoped in.

Table 5: Scoping Matrix

SEA Topic	Scoped In or Out?	Reasoning behind scoping in/out	Are the Consultation Authorities in Agreement?
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	✓	Assessed by the SEA	Yes
Human Health	✓	Assessed by the SEA	Yes
Population	✗	The Strategy is unlikely to have any effect on the population of East Dunbartonshire.	Yes
Soil	✗	The Strategy is not likely to have significant strategic environmental effects on soil quality, although it is anticipated that there may be positive environmental improvements at a local level by improvements to soil quality.	Yes
Water	✗	The Strategy is not likely to have significant strategic environmental effects on water quality, although it is anticipated that there may be positive environmental improvements at a local level, through habitat enhancements and retention of open space.	Yes
Air Quality	✗	The Strategy is not considered likely to have significant strategic environmental effects on air quality. Whilst acknowledging that more trips by private vehicle may be made to open spaces and/ or some recreation activities may lead to adverse increases in emissions, overall it is anticipated that there will be positive environmental improvements at a local level.	Yes
Climatic Factors	✓	Assessed by the SEA	No SNH suggested that Climatic impacts are likely to be significant

SEA Topic	Scoped In or Out?	Reasoning behind scoping in/out	Are the Consultation Authorities in Agreement?
Material Assets	x	Any physical interventions will be minor, whilst improvements in landscape amenity are likely to lead to locally positive impacts including benefits to population health and wellbeing. Overall, the impacts are not considered to be significant at a strategic level.	Yes
Cultural Heritage	x	Improved management and retention of open space is likely to have positive local impacts on sites of cultural heritage importance. It is likely that value of local natural heritage sites would be enhanced and some vulnerability reduced i.e. positive effects. However, it is considered that these are unlikely to be strategically significant for the historic environment.	Yes
Landscape and Visual	✓	Assessed by the SEA	Yes

Copies of the Scoping responses are attached as Appendix B and these have been summarised in the table overleaf.

Table 6: Summary of the Consultation Authorities Responses (Scoping Report)

Consultee	Issue	Environmental Report Response	How Addressed
SNH	The Environmental Report will need to serve to emphasise various positive effects anticipated from the Open Space Strategy.	A Strategic Environmental Assessment will identify both negative and positive effects of the Open Space Strategy.	Noted
	The Scoping Report lacks clarity on the structure of the OSS, and this has therefore hindered the development of the Methodology, making it more difficult for the Consultee to advise.	The Environmental Report in its methodology has fully detailed the structure of the OSS in terms of vision, objectives and actions.	Noted, more comprehensive overview has been provided in respect of the structure of the OSS in this Environmental Report.
	Advised that the SEA be more closely aligned to the East Dunbartonshire LDP Scoping Exercise and that indicators and criteria are more consistent with those used at Scoping stage for the East Dunbartonshire Local Plan.	<p>The Criteria as set out in the East Dunbartonshire LDP SEA Scoping Report has been analysed for the specific topics that have been scoped in for the purposes of this Environmental Report.</p> <p>With respect to the Criteria, where appropriate, there has been more alignment of the criteria used in the East Dunbartonshire LDP SEA scoping, and these have been integrated with existing criteria for the purposes of this assessment. The most suitable Criteria/Indicators used for the LDP Scoping have been extracted for use in this assessment.</p>	Where appropriate the Criteria/ indicators used for Scoping for the Local Plan will be more closely aligned with the SEA Criteria for the Open Space Strategy.
	Content with the 4-5 week period of consultation for the proposed environmental report, once it makes allowance for public holidays.	A 6 week period of consultation is considered as most preferable in line with all consultation responses.	Noted
	Greater detail required is respect of existing environmental problems and their relevance to the OSS, for example particular types of open space that may be underutilised or considered deficient	A more detailed summary of the existing environmental issues has been prepared. A summary of the audit in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility of open space has been summarised in the Environmental Report. The OSS contains detailed summaries for each of the settlement clusters, providing a summary of the local	Noted, summary provided regarding open space standards, however the Environmental Report should be read in conjunction with

Consultee	Issue	Environmental Report Response	How Addressed
		application of the open space standards, identifying priority projects and proposed actions for addressing any deficiencies in quality, quantity and accessibility.	Draft OSS as means for indentifying comprehensive baseline information
	Suggest that Climatic Factors be scoped in due to positive effects associated	Climatic Factors have been scoped for the assessment in the Environmental Report	Noted and included in the environmental report.
	There is a need to provide and consider alternatives with respect to the SEA process and examples of possible alternatives were provided.	Alternatives have been considered as part of the Environmental Report, the overall assessment methodology and approach to the SEA process in respect of East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy	Noted and provided for as part of the assessment process.
	With regard to mitigation, it is emphasised by the Consultee that for all negative effects mitigation should be proposed.	Where required mitigation requirements have been identified.	Noted
	Regarding Monitoring, potential confusion and unnecessary duplication identified with respect to different monitoring and assessment SEA Objective Indicators.	Noted	Noted
	Concern over the applicability of sensitivity of receptor in the assessment process, as it is not useful when it comes to objectives particularly geared to countrywide and is inappropriate for certain topics i.e. human health. There is also a need to assessments that have 'no significant effect' and 'neutral effect' distinctive symbols.	The term sensitivity of receptor and the assessment methodology has been amended to ensure consistency of assessment across all SEA topic areas	Noted
	Recommends different assessment indicators (criteria) for assessing countrywide strategic policies to site specific Actions. Specific points relative to wording and indicators provided for topics scoped in.	Indicators and criteria have been aligned where appropriate with those used in respect of the Local Plan SEA process. The indicators/ criteria suggest has been integrated	Noted

Consultee	Issue	Environmental Report Response	How Addressed
SEPA	No detailed points on the report, however suggested a minimum period of 8 weeks to be allowed to consult all relevant parties.	A 6 week period of consultation is considered as the most preferable in line with all consultation responses.	Noted
Historic Scotland	<p>Agreed that significant effects on the historic environment are unlikely to be significant and that the topic – historic environment – is scoped out as part of the assessment.</p> <p>Content with the 4-5 week period of consultation for the proposed Environmental Report.</p>	<p>The SEA retains the position that there will be no likely significant impacts on the historic environment and the topic will remain scoped out for the purposes of the assessment process.</p> <p>A 6 week period of consultation is considered as most preferable in line with all consultation responses.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

5.5 SEA Objectives and Criteria

The SEA objectives for those SEA Topics that have been ‘scoped-in’ are shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7: SEA Objectives

SEA Topic	SEA Objectives	SEA Criteria/ Indicator
Biodiversity & Nature Conservation (Flora and Fauna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent damage to designated wildlife sites from visitors to open spaces near protected areas • Conserve and enhance the integrity of sensitive habitats within and adjacent to open space sites. • Encourage biodiversity in open spaces throughout the urban area through native species planting and low intensity management, where appropriate • Consolidate and develop networks of greenspace, identifying any missing links • Promote tree planting and habitat creation initiatives • Ensure the sustainable management of key wildlife sites • To protect, enhance, create and where necessary restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity. • Promote co-ordinated stakeholder action, in partnership with the East Dunbartonshire LBAP • Seek to establish biodiversity as a key consideration in terms of development/ planning applications • Promote community gardening and allotment projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will sites of environmental importance such as European Designated sites (Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar), Nationally designated (Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Locally designated sites such as Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Wildlife Sites and Local Biodiversity Sites be affected? • Will there be impacts on European Protected Species? • Work towards the achievement of LBAP targets? • Will there be connectivity of habits be directly or indirectly affected? • Will there be promotion of the importance of biodiversity within the local environment? • Will connectivity and integration of habitats be promoted? • Contribute to the establishment of the Central Scotland Green Network or lead to its enhancement?
Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a range of outdoor sports facilities close to people homes, to increase levels of physical activity • Maintain and improve opportunities to access public open space through path networks • Conserve and enhance the quality of open spaces • Improve and promote appropriate access to the natural and historic environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in healthy lifestyle choices through promotion of outdoor activities and sports? • Improved access to community amenities, including open spaces and areas of recreation? • Will there be increases in the proportion of the population located in close proximity to open space/ green network? • Will there be impact on the provision of open space including minimum

		<p>standards?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be improved accessibility to the local environment for community groups? • Increase in provision of formal and informal recreational green space and local amenities?
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the need to travel, reduce unsustainable travel and increase walking, cycling and use of public transport • To protect ecosystems which allows essential services • Provide measures that will reduce carbon emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be increased efforts to protect and enhance ecosystems in open space? • Will there be increases in green networks and enhancement of natural heritage? • Increased opportunities for active travel routes i.e. walking and cycling? • Will open space projects make settlements more resilient to climate change? • Will open space projects contribute to adaptation to climate change through open space projects? • Will measures be included that will contribute to the Scottish Government's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets? • Encourages flood prevention measures where appropriate? • Seek to protect and enhance natural resources, such as trees and soils?
Landscape and Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the landscape character and visual amenity of open spaces. • Protect and enhance the East Dunbartonshire landscape, particularly in designated areas • Improve the quality of publically accessible open space (in existing and new developments) and ensure that quantity meets local standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to protect and enhance existing landscape and amenity quality in East Dunbartonshire? • Impacts on the integrity of areas designated for their specific landscape value i.e. Regional Scenic Areas and Special Landscape Areas? • Promote community landscapes and open space that meet local needs and accessibility of the wider environment? • Promote the integration of green network provision across local communities within East Dunbartonshire?

In response to the Consultation responses in the Scoping Report, the SEA Criteria have been refined with the view to ensure stronger alignment with the East Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan SEA Scoping Report, where appropriate. However, it is considered that objectives specifically geared to open space that are comprehensive and identify key issues with open space quantity, quality and accessibility should be provided as part of this SEA and have been retained, where required.

5.6 Use of Assessment Matrix

Assessment of the components of the Strategy is based on a matrix based approach, as detailed below

Objective X:					
Discussion of the Environmental Considerations associated with the Vision:					
SEA Topic	Sea Objectives	Criteria/ Indicator	Type of Effect	Duration of Effect	Assessment
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna					
Human Health					
Climate Change					
Landscape & Visual					
Summary of Assessment Results:					

Symbol	Description of Impact
-, **, ***	Negative Effects
0	No Effect / Negligible Effect
+/-	Mixed Effects
+, ++, +++	Positive Effects

5.7 Reasonable Alternatives to the Open Space Strategy

Section 14(2) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 states that 'the report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing . . . b) reasonable alternatives to the plan or programme taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme'.

The process is designed to inform the selection of alternatives for assessment with the view to improving the East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy and its general impact/ effect on the environment.

The East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy (2015 - 2020) replaces the East Dunbartonshire Greenspace Audit and Strategy 2004 and will set a framework for current and future open space provision in the Council area. Three alternatives were considered and assessed using the SEA objectives, and these are listed below:

Alternative 1: Continued Implementation of the Green Space Audit and Strategy

This would see the continuation of the Green Space Audit and Strategy as the key approach to the provision, design, management and protection of a network of public greenspaces in towns and villages in East Dunbartonshire. It would be the key strategy for informing open space development. This would not see the establishment of the East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy (2015 - 2020).

This approach would not provide up to date information on the quantity, quality and accessibility of the current open space provision, and therefore important baseline information that informs the requirement for additional provision of open space to meet the community, environmental and economic requirements would be missing. This alternative would not adhere to the national Strategy guidance on open space, particularly Scottish Planning Policy, National Planning Framework 3, and Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65.

There would be little or no effect on biodiversity or landscape and visual as the current level of provision, standard of space quality, and accessibility would remain unchanged. There would be minor negative impacts on human health, as there would be no up to date audit strategy that is required to inform new development in East Dunbartonshire, which is essential if open space is to form part of new developments.

Alternative 2: An Open Space Strategy based on only large sites of formal recreation.

This alternative would concentrate solely on larger sites of open/ green space in East Dunbartonshire, particularly those used by the largest numbers of people, with a specific focus on formal green space provision.

Whilst acknowledging that this alternative will improve the management structure and practices, and aid the Council in having a clear strategic direction to its open space investment and asset management, this would solely concentrate on large sites of open space with significant patronage. Although there would be general benefits to biodiversity, flora and fauna, human health, climatic factors and landscape and visual, there would be elements of fragmentation in terms of habitat networks and connectivity between open spaces, as this would solely concentrate on large areas of open space. It would not recognise the importance of smaller sites of open/ green space particularly in the context of greater

connectivity for active travel routes and biodiversity (habitat connectivity and green networks). Resources would not be provided for smaller recreation sites, which could result in smaller spaces being underutilised by communities. This alternative may not allow for greater continuation in terms of landscape form, and result in fragmented open spaces and interrupted landscape and visual amenity.

An appreciation of open space in terms of adequate provision and the variety and function of open space would not be fully recognised.

Alternative 3: An Open Space Strategy that concentrates both smaller sites and larger spaces of open space provision.

This option would concentrate resources on both larger areas and smaller sites of open space, based on the current level of open space provision. An important feature of this approach would be linkages and connectivity between all types of open space. This would enable the Council to have a holistic and overarching direction in respect of open space investment and asset management, as well as establishing requirements for new open space from development proposals, and will contribute to meeting the objectives of the Single Outcome Agreement. A coordinated approach to open space planning, would contribute to biodiversity, green networks, community benefits, addressing climate change and encouraging active travel / recreation. It would also be in line with the relevant national Strategy frameworks.

This alternative provides a strategy that is coordinated between various stakeholder groups and instils a sense of community ownership in open space management and maintenance. Green networks will be fully connected allowing for greater habitat connections between various open space typologies, and resources will be allocated within a structured framework of priorities and actions. Generally this will result in benefits for landscape and climatic factors also and will ensure proper levels of quality open space which will be easily accessible to communities.

In assessing the reasonable alternatives that informed the development of the draft East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy, it was considered that that the third alternative was the preferred option. A summary of the assessment is provided in Table 8 below.

Table 8: Assessment of Alternatives

Alternatives assessed for the OSS	SEA Environmental Topics (As scoped in)				Comments
	Biodiversity flora & fauna	Human Health	Climatic Factors	Landscape & Visual	
Alternative 1: <i>Continued Implementation of the Green space Audit and Strategy</i>	0	-	-	0	There would be little or no effect on biodiversity or landscape and visual as the current level of provision, standard of space quality, and accessibility would remain unchanged. There would be minor negative impacts on human health, as there would be no up to date audit strategy that is required to inform new development in East Dunbartonshire, which is essential if open space is to form part of new developments. New planting and development of the green network would not be progressed in line with other environmental initiatives and in accordance with current guidance.
Alternative 2: <i>An Open Space Strategy based on only large sites of formal recreation.</i>	+/-	+	+	+	Although there would be general benefits to biodiversity, flora and fauna, human health, climatic factors and landscape and visual, there would be elements of fragmentation in terms of habitat networks and connectivity between open spaces, as this would solely concentrate on large areas of open space. Resources would not be provided for smaller recreation areas, which could result in smaller spaces being underutilised by communities. This alternative may not allow for greater continuation in terms of landscape form, and result in fragmented open spaces and interrupted landscape and visual amenity.
Alternative 3: <i>An Open Space Strategy that concentrates both smaller sites and larger spaces of open space provision.</i>	++	+++	++	+	This alternative provides a strategy that is coordinated between various stakeholder groups and instils a sense of community ownership in open space management and maintenance. Green networks will be fully connected allowing for greater habitat connections between various open space typologies, and resources will be allocated within a structured framework of priorities and actions. Generally this will result in benefits for landscape and climatic factors also and will ensure proper levels of quality open space which will be easily accessible to communities.

6.0 Assessment Methodology Framework

6.1 Introduction

The purpose of the SEA assessment is to highlight any parts of the Open Space Strategy which have the potential for significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative). The SEA then proposes mitigation to reduce any negative impacts (see Section 7). This process ensures that environment is a key consideration within the strategy making process.

The Strategy has been assessed against the SEA Objectives and their respective criteria/ indicators, and the SEA Topics that have been 'scoped' in as part of the SEA scoping undertaken as part of the Open Space Strategy. The SEA Objectives are based on the objectives/ criteria identified in the Scoping Report for the EDC Local Development Plan as well as specific objectives which have been refined to be more applicable to the Open Space Strategy.

Symbol	Description of Impact
-, **, ***	Negative Effects
0	No Effect / Negligible Effect
+/-	Mixed Effects
+, ++, +++	Positive Effects

The Strategy Vision, Objectives and Actions have been included in the assessment. A detailed assessment of the Strategy Vision and Objectives is contained in Appendix A.

The assessment of the Open Space Standards has not been included as the EDC Open Space Standards have been developed based on the Greenspace Quality – A Guide to Assessment, Planning and Strategic Development and across PAN 65 typologies. This guidance provides an established basis (as the defined three elements of quantity, quality and accessibility). The standards are based on established best practice guidance and have been used to fundamentally inform the vision, objectives and actions of the EDC OSS, through which the Strategy will be implemented.

Table 9: Vision, Objectives, Action Assessment

Strategy Vision	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Human Health	Climatic Factors	Landscape & Visual	Assessment
<p>East Dunbartonshire will have an increasingly attractive and accessible built and natural environment for residents and visitors. Existing open spaces will be protected and enhanced to extend the Green Network in East Dunbartonshire, working together to achieve the best for the people of East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>The Council wishes to maintain a high level of open space which is useable, multi-functional, fit for purpose and accessible to all, linked through a green network, thereby increasing the quality of life of residents in East Dunbartonshire. This is fundamental to healthy lifestyles, community integration, physical and mental well-being and for general amenity and contributes to mitigating and adapting to climate change.</p>	++	+++	++	++	<p>The vision for the OSS will generally have positive effects particularly in relation to landscape and visual, climatic factors, and human health. This will be as a result of increased use of open space for sports and recreational activities. Simultaneously, while the connecting of green networks in EDC will have positive effects, the increase in visitors to open space may cause some disturbance to species, but this is not likely to be considered significant.</p>
Strategy Objectives					
<p>1. Development of the Green Network in East Dunbartonshire working in partnership to plan, deliver and maintain open space</p>	+	++	+	+	<p>Generally this objective will have positive effects on human health, and will garner a greater sense of ownership for the local community in terms of participation in the management and provision of open space. A greater awareness of open space features and a joined up partnership may enable greater appreciation of the landscape value of open space. The impacts on biodiversity and climatic factors will be positive, with regard to the planning and coordination of projects in partnership with stakeholder groups and EDC Officers.</p>

<p>2. Promote better health and help reduce inequalities by providing diverse opportunities in open spaces and green networks for physical exercise, sport and recreation</p>	0	+++	+	0	<p>This objective will result in negligible/ no effects on biodiversity and landscape. There will be positive impacts on climatic factors as a result of greater opportunities for active travel therefore encouraging more people to cycle and walk. Overall there will be significant impacts on human health by allowing people to have greater access to sports and recreation facilities. This will lead to healthier lifestyles and increased physical activity in the general population.</p>
<p>3. Focus resources and interventions to provide a local network of well designed, useable, multi-functional, clean, safe and accessible open spaces that are fit for purpose, well resourced/ managed and meet the needs of the community</p>	+	+++	0	0	<p>Impacts on climate change and landscape and visual amenity are unclear and will generally and will depend on the individual project and the capacity of the project to address the issues related to climate change. The objective seeks to ensure quality open space and retain a good standard as a result of focusing resources and interventions that will ensure fit for purpose open space. Increased accessibility will result in greater physical activity and healthier lifestyles, therefore bringing positive benefits for human health.</p>
<p>4. Encourage a sense of local 'ownership' by involving communities in the planning and management of open spaces through meaningful community engagement</p>	0	+	0	0	<p>This objective will specifically gather greater community involvement and have positive impacts on human health as a result of increased physical and mental well being. There are generally unclear impacts as a result of this objective on biodiversity, climatic factors or landscape and visual.</p>
<p>5. Safeguard and enhance open spaces with historic importance and promote awareness and understanding of their regional significance</p>	+	++	0	++	<p>Overall there will be positive impacts on human health and biodiversity as a result of this objective. The protection of key points of historic importance, including designed landscapes will contribute to increased positive perceptions of open space for users whilst enhancing the visual amenity value of open space. This will result in increased patronage and significant benefits for human health and landscape & visual.</p>

<p>6. Adapting to and mitigating for climate change through the delivery of a connected and integrated sustainable network, incorporating water management, restoration or enhancement of woodland, grassland and peatland areas with associated biodiversity benefits and by making maintenance more environmentally friendly</p>	++	0	++	+	<p>This objective generally seeks to enable open spaces to be adaptable to climate change through water management measures to prevent flooding and the creation of greater woodland habitats which enables greater carbon storage. Simultaneously this will bring benefits to biodiversity and to the landscape value of open space, while also increasing the positive perception of open space.</p>
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Detailed assessment of the Strategy Vision and Objectives is contained in Appendix A.

Strategy Actions	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Human Health	Climatic Factors	Landscape & Visual	Assessment
<p>1. Open Space Steering Group: Set up an Open Space Steering Group with internal and external partners, with clearly defined aims, roles and responsibilities. To meet on a 6 month basis to approve the Action Plan / Priority Projects.</p>	+	+	+	+	<p>There will be minor positive effects on all of the SEA topics, primarily due to a greater identification of the aims and actions points that will respond to changing needs and requirements. This will enable greater accessibility to open space and an increase in quality standards.</p>
<p>2. Prioritisation and resourcing of projects: Review the Strategic Action Plan on a two year cycle, identifying the tasks required for implementation of the Strategy, in conjunction with Service Plans and the Community Plan. Establish a monitoring system to review delivery of tasks at each year end. Undertake a mid-term review of the Action Plan, along with stakeholder and community consultation on the selection of priority projects.</p>	+	+	+	+	<p>There will be minor positive effects on landscape and visual and human health. This action will result in greater accessibility to open space and an increase in quality standards, which will be amplified by enabling consultation and a review of actions, both of which will allow for clearer identification of open/ green space requirements. Likewise, the effects on biodiversity and climatic factors are as likely to be positively impacted, particularly due to the establishment of a management system.</p>

<p>3. Local Development Plan: The emerging Local Development Plan should contain policies and proposals to protect and enhance open spaces that take into consideration the findings of the open space audit and strategy, in line with Scottish Planning Policy.</p>	+	+	+	+	<p>The Open Space Strategy provides an audit of open space provision and its quality. The local plan provides a planning and policy framework for open space management which will result in positive benefits on landscape and visual, biodiversity, climatic factors and human health generally. By having due regard to the Open Space Strategy, the local plan can recognise the importance of open space in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna, providing diverse opportunities for recreational activity, landscape quality and climatic factors. Policy measures can be then devised that will benefit these through the protection and enhancement of open space. This will result in positive benefits generally for biodiversity, climatic factors, human health and landscape.</p>
<p>4: Monitoring Statement: Preparation of a monitoring statement, reviewing the implementation of the Strategy standards and targets to inform a future review of the Strategy. Timing of the production of the monitoring statements will be determined by the Open Space Steering Group.</p>	+	+	+	+	<p>Through monitoring the effects of implementing the Strategy and developing the open spaces, the Council will identify and respond to potential adverse effects and ensure that biodiversity and ecology are protected and, where practicable, enhanced. Reflective progress is likely to lead to positive benefits by creating the opportunity to identify elements of the Strategy which are working effectively and providing results and those which are not succeeding. Allowing for the continued benefits of enhanced local biodiversity, landscape and population health.</p>
<p>5: Linking EDC Strategic Priorities: Integrate settlement open space network with EDC Core Path network in line with the Access Strategy. Ensure that open space development optimises links with EDC Core Path Network through Access Officer input into the open space planning process</p>	0	++	+	0	<p>Establishing coherency with EDC strategies including linkages with the core path networks will enable greater connectivity for active travel routes. This will allow for greater levels of active travel modes which will simultaneously reduce the reliance of vehicular travel and act as a climate change mitigation measure. Active travel modes will also lead to healthier lifestyle choices in terms of recreation and travel. This will result in</p>

					significant positive effects on human health.
6. Working with Communities: Achieve effective community involvement through consultation, encouraging a sense of public 'ownership' and stewardship, through involvement in the design and management of major open space developments, ongoing improvements and specific open space issues. Encourage and support the formation of local volunteer groups, such as "friends of" or "in bloom" groups to support the enhancement of specific open space.	+	+	+	+	Consultation and engagement will identify issues relating to the management of open space which will have positive impacts. Working with communities will enable issues relating to biodiversity and access to be identified and overcome. Awareness and partnership working with the local community will be essential in increasing accessibility; therefore it is considered that there will be positive impacts generally on human health, landscape, climatic factors and biodiversity as a result of this action.
7. Community Events and Education Programmes: Continue to support the use of open spaces by local groups and organisations for holding appropriate local events and activities. Develop a dialogue between community groups and EDC Officers, Ranger Service, Sport & Leisure to support and encourage community initiatives and events, where appropriate. Promote within wider community education initiatives the awareness of the value and benefits of open spaces to help tackle anti-social behaviour and vandalism and reinforce community responsibility.	+	+	+	+	Greater awareness in relation to positive attributes of open space will have overall positive benefits for climatic factors, biodiversity, landscape and human health. The positive attributes of open space which includes landscape and visual amenity, ecosystem services and climate change mitigation, active travel and recreational opportunities and biodiversity and habitats will be further recognised. This will lead to a greater appreciation of open space, and therefore having positive effects generally.
8. Promotion and Marketing: Advertise and promote Green Flag and other awards or events on EDC website and other community newsletters. Identify a "Best Practice" project for each area on an annual basis to promote open space activities / achievements of EDC staff / community groups etc.	0	++	0	0	The promotion of open space through awards etc is likely to have positive impacts in terms of attracting more people to use open space. This will increase accessibility and therefore result in generally healthier lifestyles in the general population. The impacts on climatic factors, landscape & visual and biodiversity will be generally negligible/ no effect.
9. Green Networks Hubs, Corridors and Links: All residents should have access to networks of semi-natural greenspace/ green networks on their doorstep, providing access to the countryside. Ensure that open spaces are	+++	++	+++	+++	This recommendation is likely to lead to positive impacts to all four SEA objectives, whilst making positive contribution to the Central Scotland Green Network. Benefits to biodiversity include the integration of habitats

<p>“joined up” in coordinated green networks that reconnect existing open spaces, provide wildlife corridors and strengthen local identity. Protect the Green Network hubs and corridors and identify the potential Green Network Stepping Stones that would help to protect and expand the Green Network. Establish a pilot project for the to strengthen the Green Network links along the eastern edge of Kirkintilloch, to identify the feasibility of land owner participation, external funding and implications for the wider EDC Green Network.</p>					<p>and establishment of wildlife corridors. Potential benefits to both biodiversity and landscape may also arise should demand for open space require the provision of new sites in settlements.</p>
<p>10. Strategic Multi Use Path Routes: Protect and enhance the existing strategic path routes: Strathkelvin Railway Walkway (KL1, LTL1,MCL1, KL1), Thomas Muir Way (BBL1, LTL1) ML1 West Highland Way, John Muir Trail (opening April 2014) and the Forth & Clyde Towpath. Secure links to the wider core path network where possible. Develop the links to John Muir Way (planned for 2014) from adjacent open spaces.</p>	+/-	+++	0	+	<p>Action 10 will lead to positive benefits to human health with the increased accessibility of open spaces to the public. However, increased visitor numbers to sites and the requirement for visitor/ access infrastructure at some sites may lead to damage/ disturbance to habitats and species. Through monitoring the effects of implementing the Strategy and developing the open spaces, the Council will identify and respond to potential adverse effects and ensure that biodiversity and ecology are protected and, where practicable, enhanced.</p>
<p>11. Biodiversity Enhancements in Open Spaces: Implement a more naturalistic grassland management regime to encourage the growth of wildflowers and grasses in the semi-natural areas of the green network (e.g. native hedges, native planting, installation of bat and bird boxes). Trial the part-conversion of a traditional park management regime to an ‘eco-regime’, demonstrating best practice and reviewing overall maintenance costs (e.g. wildflower meadows, wild areas, reduction in the use of pesticides/ herbicides, creation of ponds / wetland restoration etc.)</p>	+++	0	++	+++	<p>An action specifically committing the Strategy to enhancing biodiversity is likely to lead to significant positive benefits to biodiversity through regular monitoring of the quality of habitats/ species diversity across East Dunbartonshire’s open spaces, which can then highlight and initiate positive management towards those areas that may be declining. There will also be positive benefits to climatic factors and to the overall landscape.</p>
<p>12. Natural Heritage: Protect the status of historic parks, Ancient Woodland, SSSI and Local Nature Conservation Sites and enhance the natural resource. Implement the recommendations of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	+++	0	+	+++	<p>The assessment of the Strategy has identified potential conflicts between the Strategy and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity within East Dunbartonshire, including the potential for increases in the numbers of</p>

<p>(LBAP) when setting management objectives for historic parks, wildlife sites, LNCS and other sites. Consultation between Countryside Team and Council Officers to ensure that any open space improvements adhere to the LBAP to safeguard target priority species and their habitats.</p>					<p>visitors to open spaces having an adverse effect on biodiversity. However, with appropriate mitigation through consideration and adherence to environmental legislation and guidance, impacts can be reduced to an acceptable level. Consideration of these impacts in relation to SSSIs, LNCs and specific sites / species identified in the LBAP has been made and no likely significant impacts are considered due to the type and scale of proposals/ actions and separation distances of the open space sites.</p>
<p>13. Climate Change Mitigation: Mitigate climate change through new woodland creation of appropriate tree species and provenance, in existing open spaces where appropriate and not to the detriment to existing grassland or wetland habitats. Protect existing woodland and identify locations where better management of existing woodland or planting of new woodland will aid natural flood management programmes at a catchment scale and enhance the nature conservation and habitat value of the resource. Review woodlands within the parks and prepare management plans for the future management of the woodland resource. Support opportunity for developing a significant biomass resource in open spaces and where there are concentrations of coniferous and productive woodland. Progress with restoration of peatlands and wetlands, and create species rich grasslands and meadows for carbon capture.</p>	+/-	0	+++	++	<p>This action is likely to lead to positive impacts to climate, biodiversity and landscape SEA objectives, whilst making positive contribution to the Central Scotland Green Network. Potential benefits to both biodiversity and landscape may arise should demand for open space require the provision of new sites in settlements, where SUDS principles are built into the design layouts from the off-set.</p> <p>Biomass plantations may have positive benefits on biodiversity and landscape if woodlands are well designed to accommodate wildlife and public access as well as timber production. However, planting of woodlands of single species, single aged trees could potentially have negative impacts on biodiversity and landscape.</p>
<p>14. Flood Prevention: Support opportunity for integration of sustainable urban drainage and flood risk management associated with open space. Maximise the potential of trees and woodlands to alleviate flooding and raise awareness of the importance of trees in urban areas, including street trees and greenspaces, in reducing localised flooding and surface water flow.</p>	++	0	+++	++	<p>As for Action 13, there are potential benefits to climate, biodiversity and landscape as measures to maximise the potential of trees and woodlands to alleviate flooding are considered in open space improvements and the design of new open spaces incorporating SUDS schemes is implemented.</p>

<p>15. Community Growing Space: Ensure that community growing space sites in East Dunbartonshire are of a sufficient quantity and quality to meet the needs and aspirations of local residents, where resources allow. Develop proposals in line with the proposals set out in the Local Development Plan (Craigfoot, Milton of Campsie: Ashburn Gardens, Milngavie and Woodhill Park, Bishopbriggs).</p>	+	+++	0	+	<p>Quality, functioning allotment sites provide benefits to population and human health through creating opportunities for physical activities, greater social cohesion, quality locally produced food and spaces to enjoy/ learn about biodiversity and horticulture. The Strategy seeks to meet the identified needs of local communities in this regard. There are minor positive benefits to biodiversity and the landscape.</p>
<p>16. Signage Provision: Provide, where appropriate, directional, interpretive and informational signage within public open spaces, for residents and visitors to increase awareness. Carry out an audit of existing signage and interpretation and make recommendations for future provision. Develop corporate style.</p>	0	+	0	0	<p>The promotion of open spaces will be improved through the use of signage and interpretation boards, where appropriate, and through the Council website. Action 16 will lead to positive benefits to population and health with the increased accessibility of open spaces to the public.</p>
<p>17. World Heritage Site: To safeguard and enhance the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Site by managing conserving and protecting its cultural and natural landscape. Implement the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the site in all planning, regulatory and policy documents which may affect it • Promote awareness and understanding of this outstanding universal value to local, regional, national and global audiences by improving physical and intellectual accessibility <p>Implement key recommendations in the approved interpretation plan and access strategy, including improving signage, interpretation, visitor information, access routes and visitor facilities at individual sites along the Wall.</p>	0	+	0	+	<p>The assessment of the Strategy has identified potential conflicts between the Strategy and the protection and enhancement of the World Heritage Site. However, with appropriate mitigation through consideration and adherence to environmental legislation and guidance, impacts can be reduced to an acceptable level. No likely significant impacts are considered due to the small number of sites that are included within the World Heritage Site and existing management practices in place to protect the historic site. Visitor information and signage will encourage greater understanding of this valuable historic feature, therefore managing visitor access around the open space sites.</p>
<p>18. Forth and Clyde Canal: Protect and enhance the Forth and Clyde Canal (KL2, BBL1) for historic interest as it is a scheduled monument and its recreation value.</p>	0	+	0	+	<p>As Action 17.</p>

<p>19. Historic Graveyards: Protect and enhance the historic graveyards of Old Aisle Cemetery Kirkintilloch (KF1) and the graveyard in Clachan of Campsie.</p>	+	+	+	++	<p>This action is likely to lead to positive impacts to all four SEA objectives. Benefits to biodiversity include the integration of graveyards in the wider green network, bringing benefits to human health through access provision. Protection and management of the trees and landscape in the historic graveyards will bring positive landscape and climatic benefits.</p>
<p>20. Garden and Designed Landscapes: Protect and enhance the Garden and Designed Landscapes of Campsie Glen (LTS2) and Milngavie Reservoirs (MF1) to preserve their scenic interest and garden and designed landscape heritage.</p>	+++	+++	++	+++	<p>This action is likely to lead to positive impacts to all four SEA objectives as the protection and enhancement of Campsie Glen and Milngavie Reservoirs will lead to significant benefits due to the size and characteristics of each of these important sites.</p>
<p>21. Local Nature Conservations Sites (designated for the Geodiversity interest): Protect and enhance the Nature Conservation Sites (designated for the Geodiversity interest) in East Dunbartonshire.</p>	++	0	0	+	<p>Consideration of the impacts in relation to LNCs (designated for the Geodiversity interest) has been made and no likely significant impacts are considered due to the location of the sites and distance to other open space sites.</p>
<p>22. Open Space Development – Cluster Priorities: Seek to address deficiencies in terms of quality of provision through a programme of open space upgrades, as resources and project coordination allow. On the basis of the priority projects identified in the settlement summaries, select sites from each of the settlements to develop a 5 year rolling programme of improvement works.</p>	+/-	+++	++	++	<p>A number of open space priority action projects have been identified within the Strategy to be addressed during the next five years. However, specific project level details are not available at this stage.</p> <p>For each project, potential impacts to biodiversity and landscape and visual amenity are likely to be minor at a strategic level. However, significant local improvements in biodiversity, landscape and population and human health benefits can be foreseen, especially with regards to enhancements of existing habitats, new footpaths/ access for public and tree planting.</p> <p>Potential also exists for local adverse impacts to landscape and biodiversity as a result of physical intervention projects such as drainage improvements, path construction and signage leading to disturbance to wildlife, loss of habitat, spread of non-native invasive</p>

					species etc. However, these adverse impacts can be mitigated through adherence to best practice, consultation, where appropriate, with SNH/ SEPA/ Historic Scotland and adherence to legislative guidance and requirements.
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6.2 Cumulative Assessment

A plan, programme or strategy (PPS) subject to SEA should include the cumulative nature of the effects as one of the criteria used to determine whether a significant environmental effect is likely to arise. Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 ('the Act') sets out the information to be included in Environmental Reports and this includes the likely significant effects on a number of environmental issues, including secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects.

This is specifically justified as individual impacts arising from the strategy, including vision, objections and specific actions, when combined may become significant. Cumulative effects can also arise from the interactions from a number of plans and programmes.

Although it is considered that there will be no significant adverse effects as a result of the implementation of the Strategy, there may be minor, mixed, or negligible effects as a result of disturbance to biodiversity impacts due to the increase of visitors to points of open space, or recreational amenity. Increased accessibility to open space may increase disturbance to ecosystems and species. However, this would be on a very specific project basis and impacts would be minor. In general, there would be positive impacts on both climatic factors and biodiversity from the overall implementation of the strategy.

Table 10: Cumulative Assessment Matrix

SEA TOPIC	Part of the Strategy							Potential Cumulative Effect of the Strategy
	Vision	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6	
Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	+	0	++	+	0	++	++	Positive overall impact in terms of synergies with other plans and strategies. The Strategy promotes green networks and connectivity, and recognises the importance of open space in terms of biodiversity and natural heritage. In terms of climatic factors, the strategy seeks to protect the vital services that ecosystems provide including temperature control, carbon sequestration and water management. There may be however, increased disturbance to biodiversity from an increase in visitors to open space; however this is not likely to be significant. Overall there will be positive effects on biodiversity.
Human Health	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	++	+	Positive overall effect on Human Health. Combined the vision and objectives of the strategy seek to provide better access to quality open space, particularly from a social and human health point of view. When cumulatively assessed in conjunction with other Plans, Programmes and Strategies, the OSS is likely to have largely positive effects by increasing healthier lifestyles, therefore contributing to improved mental and physical health in the general population.
Climatic Factors	+	0	+	0	0	+	++	General positive effect as a result of the strategy, as the strategy generally seeks to address climate change through the delivery of connected and integrated networks that incorporates water management, woodland areas and biodiversity benefits. Certain objectives and actions of the strategy are negligible in terms of climate impacts, but when combined, including an assessment in conjunction with other plans and programmes, there is likely to be cumulatively minor positive impacts overall.
Landscape & Visual	+	+	+	0	0	++	+	Overall, positive impact on landscape and visual. Open Space will be protected and enhanced where possible. The East Dunbartonshire Green Network, local plan policies etc, combined with the strategy's vision and objectives are likely to have positive impacts on the landscape (including the historic environment) and visual amenity of East Dunbartonshire generally.

7.0 Mitigation

7.1 Introduction

Schedule 3 (8) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that mitigation measures are integrated into the Strategy making process. The basis for mitigation and the Strategic Mitigation proposed in relation to the Open Space Strategy are detailed below.

7.2 Mitigation by SEA Topic

The Open Space Strategy comprises a framework for current and future open space provision in the East Dunbartonshire Council area. Environmental protection is afforded within the Strategy's vision, aims and recommendations and this assessment has concluded that there are likely to be mostly positive benefits arising from adoption of the Strategy. The Strategy recognises the importance of open space in terms of the local economy, human health and the environment, specifically in relation to its importance for green networks, as well as for cultural heritage, geodiversity and natural heritage. The Strategy has key objectives and provides an audit based on a hierarchy of open spaces, whilst assessing quantity, quality and accessibility of open space. The Strategy includes management structures and practices and will inform requirements for new open space provision from new developments.

Environmental protection is a key consideration within the Strategy's vision, aims and objectives and this assessment has concluded that there are likely to be mostly positive impacts, particularly in relation to human health and landscape and visual impacts. There will also be benefits on biodiversity and climatic factors particularly in terms of increased connectivity of green networks etc in the case of the former. There may however, be minor adverse impacts on biodiversity due to an increased number of visitors to open space. However, this is not likely to be significant and will be specific to particular projects/ actions.

Whilst at this stage the Strategy has been assessed to provide overall positive benefits to the three SEA topics, there exists the potential for adverse environmental effects with regards to upgrading of open space sites, changing maintenance regimes and physical interventions such as new paths, boundary features, drainage etc.

Although the implementation of the strategy will have overall positive impacts on Landscape and Visual, Human Health, Biodiversity and Climatic Factors any potential project specific stage impacts can be addressed through mitigation to avoid impacts on biodiversity as a result of increased patronage of open space, or disruption to landscape quality due to the provision of playing fields etc.

Such considerations will form an important feature of the design approach at project stage. The following mitigation table indicates generic mitigation measures to will reduce any potential impacts on landscape, human health and climatic factors at project level.

Table 11: Potential Mitigation Measures

Potential Environmental Impacts for Consideration	Mitigation
<p><i>Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna</i> Effects on biodiversity including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally and locally designated sites, habitats and species • European Protected Species and nationally protected species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early consultation with SNH on any proposals that may have a significant impact upon protected sites or species. Consultation with Statutory Consultees to establish potential recommendations for implementing mitigation measures or environmental assessment. • At specific open spaces, offsetting potential impacts of increased visitor numbers on Biodiversity by increasing the area (pockets) of semi-natural habitat • Offsetting the instances of greatest impact on Biodiversity by changing some open space typologies (e.g. amenity grasslands) to semi-natural greenspace • Tree, hedge and shrub felling and maintenance should be undertaken outwith bird breeding season • Management of open spaces should ensure levels of biodiversity are maintained and enhanced. • Maintenance of open spaces should adhere to good working practice in relation to use of chemicals, dealing with spillages etc should they occur. SEPA Guidance should be followed for work in and around water courses. • Method statements for any potential maintenance works on open spaces or construction of access facilities to avoid potential impacts to protected species/ habitats. • Good level of biodiversity supported by existing open spaces should be maintained and encouraged as far as possible through conservation of existing habitat. • Planting schemes should utilise native seed sources where possible to enhance the natural biodiversity of the area. • Interpretive signage could be used to inform visitors of site sensitivity and their responsibilities when using the open spaces to ensure that impact on protected habitats or species is minimised e.g. keeping dogs under close control. • Any open space works adjacent to a protected site should be undertaken in way which does not detrimentally affect the site, and should be screened for any legislative requirements of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and any licensing requirements complied with in full.
<p><i>Human Health</i> Local communities within East Dunbartonshire will benefit from the adoption of the Open Space Strategy through enhanced opportunities to access open spaces and engage in outdoor activities which have associated health and well-being benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only strategic positive impacts are envisaged through implementation of the strategy • However, consideration should be made to ensure no member of society is excluded, either physically or otherwise, from using the network. Where reasonably practicable provision for disabled access on all identified paths will be ensured.

Potential Environmental Impacts for Consideration	Mitigation
<p><i>Climatic Factors</i> Effects on climatic factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) capable of accommodating future increased water flows and enhancing water quality • Retain vegetation where appropriate and encourage further planting regimes in new open/ green space provision • Use of planting and landforms to reduce drifting of snow and formation of ice. • Provide for connected pedestrian and cycle routes in open space which encourages cycling and pedestrian movement.
<p><i>Landscape & Visual</i> Effects on Landscape and Visual Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of Special Landscape Control • Other Local Designations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure robust landscape schemes are in place to retain existing landscape features within open spaces, including mature trees, boundary features etc. • Elements for infrastructure should be appropriate in location, size, scale and use of quality materials to ensure impacts on the local landscape quality are minimised to an appropriate level. • Any planting proposals should seek to utilise plants of native provenance to ensure compatibility with the surrounding landscape. • Careful consideration should be given to landscape and visual in terms of access and provision of open space. This should be considered further at regional and project level.

8.0 Monitoring

8.1 Introduction

Monitoring of the Strategy is considered essential to its successful implementation and the proper approach to achieving the Strategy's key objectives. Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the responsible authority to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS. This needs to be done in such a way as to enable the responsible authority to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and to enable them to take appropriate remedial action.

8.2 Proposed Monitoring Framework and Indicators

For the purpose of SEA, monitoring involves the use of 'indicators'. An indicator is a measure of how the environmental baseline has changed. Indicators can comprise both quantitative (facts and figures) and qualitative (descriptive) information.

The indicators selected will monitor change that results from the interventions set out in the plan, but will also take account of changes as a result of other external factors. They will therefore provide a mechanism to highlight unforeseen as well as expected changes.

The proposed SEA monitoring indicators detailed in Table 12 below. Following consultation on the draft Open Space Strategy and this Environmental Report, a full monitoring framework will be developed in full liaison with the Statutory Consultees.

This monitoring framework will be included in the Post-Adoption Statement. The commitment to monitoring will be the responsibility of the East Dunbartonshire Council and will contribute to the production of SEA's for other plans, programmes and strategies in East Dunbartonshire by providing a source of updated baseline information.

Table 12: Monitoring/ Indicators

Potential Issues	Indicator/ Monitoring
Disturbance to biodiversity and ecosystems due to increase in visitors to open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor particular indicator species, if possible, and loss of habitat area Consultation with East Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Officer and appropriate statutory bodies on changes that may be attributed to the Open Space Strategy Consultation with SNH as to protection of European protected species and designated sites
Creation of open space sports facilities i.e. sports pitches, recreational grounds etc. may disrupt ecosystems/ biodiversity loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of habitats and disruption to ecosystems including contradictions to the targets of the LBAP Disruption to habitat connections
Potential landscape and visual impacts due to changes in open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual strategic review and full review as required Losses in woodland and open space Numbers of interventions taken forward under the Strategy with potential impacts on landscape designations e.g. through new signage, path upgrades etc. It is important to consider the sensitivity of the landscape setting.

Disruption to the water environment and carbon sequestration due to habitat and landscape alterations.	• Changes to landscape quality of open space
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9.0 Next Steps

9.1 Overall Environmental Impacts

The Open Space Strategy provides a framework for current and future open space provision in the East Dunbartonshire Council area, the key purpose of which is to provide management structures and practices and establish requirements for new open space from development proposals.

The Strategy recognises the importance of open space in terms of health and social, environmental and economic benefits, specifically in relation to accessibility to open space, natural heritage, cultural heritage, and geodiversity. The Strategy has key objectives and provides an audit based on a hierarchy of open spaces, whilst assessing quantity, quality and accessibility of open space.

Overall, the proposed strategy will have a positive impact, particularly in relation to human health. There will also be largely positive benefits for biodiversity, landscape and visual and climatic factors.

9.2 Next Steps

The SEA is being undertaken in parallel with the preparation of the Open Space Strategy. The Environmental Report documents the assessment and the consultation process and is being published in conjunction with the draft Strategy, both of which are subject to consultation. This allows for a full and meaningful consultation on its content and enables consultation comments to influence the Strategy.

Consultation responses and how these have been addressed within the Strategy will be detailed within the SEA Post Adoption Statement.

Appendix A

Assessment Matrices

Appendix A – Assessment Matrices

Key

Symbol	Description of Impact
-, --, ---	Negative Effects
0	No Effect / Negligible Effect
+/-	Mixed Effects
+, ++, +++	Positive Effects

Objectives and Indicators

SEA Topic	SEA Objectives*	SEA Criteria/ Indicator
Biodiversity & Nature Conservation (Flora and Fauna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevent Damage to designated wildlife sites from visitors to open spaces near protected areas - Conserve and enhance the integrity of sensitive habitats within and adjacent to open space sites. - Encourage biodiversity in open spaces throughout the urban area through native species planting and low intensity management, where appropriate - Consolidate and develop networks of greenspace, identifying any missing links - Promote tree planting and habitat creation initiatives - Ensure the sustainable management of key wildlife sites - To protect, enhance, create and where necessary restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity. - Promote co-ordinated stakeholder action, in partnership with the East Dunbartonshire LBAP - Seek to establish biodiversity as a key consideration in terms of development/ planning applications - Promote community gardening and allotment projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will sites of environmental importance such as European Designated sites (Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar), Nationally designated (Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Locally designated sites such as Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Wildlife Sites and Local Biodiversity Sites be affected? - Will there be impacts on European Protected Species? - Work towards the achievement of LBAP targets? - Will there be connectivity of habitats be directly or indirectly affected? - Will there be promotion of the importance of biodiversity within the local environment? - Will connectivity and integration of habitats be promoted? - Contribute to the establishment of the Central Scotland Green Network or lead to its enhancement?
Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide a range of outdoor sports facilities close to people homes, to increase levels of physical activity - Maintain and improve opportunities to access public open space through path networks - Conserve and enhance the quality of open spaces - Improve and promote appropriate access to the natural and historic environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in healthy lifestyle choices through promotion of outdoor activities and sports? - Improved access to community amenities, including open spaces and areas of recreation? - Will there be increases in the proportion of the population located in close proximity to open space/ green network? - Will there be impact on the provision of open space including minimum standards? - Will there be improved accessibility to the local environment for community groups? - Increase in provision of formal and informal recreational green space and local amenities?

<p>Climatic Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reduce the need to travel, reduce unsustainable travel and increase walking, cycling and use of public transport - To protect ecosystems which allows essential services - Provide measures that will reduce carbon emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will there be increased efforts to protect and enhance ecosystems in open space? - Will there be increases in green networks and enhancement of natural heritage? - Increased opportunities for active travel routes i.e. walking and cycling? - Contributes to the Scottish Government’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets? - Encourages flood prevention measures where appropriate? - Seek to protect and enhance natural resources, such as trees and soils?
<p>Landscape and Visual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conserve and enhance the landscape character and visual amenity of open spaces. - Protect and Enhance the East Dunbartonshire landscape, particularly in designated areas - Improve the quality of publically accessible open space (in existing and new developments) and ensure that quantity meets local standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Efforts to protect and enhance existing landscape and amenity quality in East Dunbartonshire? - Impacts on the integrity of areas designated for their specific landscape value i.e. Regional Scenic Areas and Special Landscape Areas? - Promote community landscapes and open space that meet local needs and accessibility of the wider environment? - Promote the integration of green network provision across local communities within East Dunbartonshire?

Vision

East Dunbartonshire will have an increasingly attractive and accessible built and natural environment for residents and visitors. Existing open spaces will be protected and enhanced to extend the Green Network in East Dunbartonshire, working together to achieve the best for the people of East Dunbartonshire. The Council wishes to maintain a high level of open space which is useable, multi-functional, fit for purpose and accessible to all, linked through a green network, thereby increasing the quality of life of residents in East Dunbartonshire. This is fundamental to healthy lifestyles, community integration, physical and mental well-being and for general amenity and contributes to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

SEA Topic	Type of Effect	Duration of Effect	Assessment
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	++	Long Term	The Vision is likely to result in benefits to biodiversity through the promotion of green network connectivity between habitats. However, the number of visitors to open space may disturb biodiversity and ecosystems including species and habitats, however this is not likely to be significant. The Strategy is likely to have no negative effects on designated sites, species or work contrary to targets in the LBAP. The overall vision of the strategy will see a net benefit to biodiversity as part of the local environment in terms of green space enhancement and protection generally.
Human Health	+++	Medium Term	The vision actively promotes increased accessibility to open space with the specific aims of increasing healthy lifestyles and recreational opportunities in terms of outdoor activities and sport. There are likely to be significant positive effects on human health generally as the vision works towards increasing accessibility of open space for the general population while ensuring good standards.
Climate Change	++	Medium/ Term	The strategy seeks to respond to climate change by integrating green networks which incorporate water management and biodiversity. This will enable vital ecosystem services to continue i.e. carbon sequestration, water management etc. In addition, fit for purpose open spaces are encouraged in the vision and the strategy seeks to protect and enhance green networks in EDC. This will increase opportunities for more active travel which will have benefits in terms of climate mitigation.
Landscape & Visual	++	Medium/ Term	The protection of green networks is likely to have landscape and visual impacts in terms of visual enhancement by maintaining quality standards of open space. It is unlikely that there will be adverse impacts on the integrity of sites designated for landscape value. There will be minor positive impacts overall as a result of the vision.
<p>Summary of Assessment Results: The vision for the OSS will generally have positive effects particularly in relation to landscape and visual, climatic factors, and human health. This will be as a result of increased use of open space for sports and recreational activities. Simultaneously, while the connecting of green networks in EDC will have positive effects, the increase in visitors to open space may cause some disturbance to species, but this is not likely to be considered significant.</p>			

Objectives

Objective 1: Development of the Green Network in East Dunbartonshire working in partnership to plan, deliver and maintain open space.			
SEA Topic	Type of Effect	Duration of Effect	Assessment
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	+	Long Term	There will be positive effects on biodiversity. There may be greater numbers of visitors to open space. A partnership for a joint initiative may also generate minor positive effects in terms of adopting an integrated approach to open space management. However this depends highly on the practical implementation of the objective and the coordination of projects in partnership with stakeholder groups and EDC Officers.
Human Health	++	Long Term	There will be likely significant impacts on human health as a result of an increase in accessibility to open space which will enable greater outdoor sports facilities etc. This will lead to benefits for the general population and human health as a result of greater activity due to the proper planning for the delivery and maintenance of open space.
Climate Change	+	Long Term	The implementation of this objective will have positive impacts on climatic factors, with regard to the planning and coordination of projects in partnership with stakeholder groups and EDC Officers.
Landscape & Visual	+	Long Term	An integrated partnership approach is likely to have some minor positive effects, which will promote a landscape and design quality that enhances open space/ green space quality.
<p>Summary of Assessment Results: Generally this objective will have positive effects on human health, and will garner a greater sense of ownership for the local community in terms of participation in the management and provision of open space. A greater awareness of open space features and a joined up partnership may enable greater appreciation of the landscape value of open space. The impacts on biodiversity and climatic factors will be positive, with regard to the planning and coordination of projects in partnership with stakeholder groups and EDC Officers.</p>			

Objective 2: Promote better health and help reduce inequalities by providing diverse opportunities in open spaces and green networks for physical exercise, sport and recreation.			
SEA Topic	Type of Effect	Duration of Effect	Assessment
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	0	-	The impact of this objective on biodiversity, flora and fauna is negligible/ no effect.
Human Health	+++	Long Term	There will be significant positive effects on human health, due to the increase in more diverse opportunities for sports and recreation. This is likely to lead to more social cohesion and healthier lifestyles as a result of an increase in physical activity and more utilisation of open space by the public.
Climate Change	+	Long Term	Open space is likely to provide more active travel routes which can reduce the use of vehicular travel. The promotion of green networks, green hubs and corridors will also bring positive benefits for climatic factors in terms of mitigation (carbon sequestration) and adaptation (flood risk attenuation/ water management).
Landscape & Visual	0	-	The impacts on landscape and visual will be negligible/ no effect.
Summary of Assessment Results: This objective will result in negligible/ no effects on biodiversity and landscape. There will be positive impacts on climatic factors as a result of greater opportunities for active travel therefore encouraging more people to cycle and walk. Overall there will be significant impacts on human health by allowing people to have greater access to sports and recreation facilities. This will lead to healthier lifestyles and increased physical activity in the general population.			

Objective 3: Focus resources and interventions to provide a local network of well designed, useable, multi-functional, clean, safe and accessible open spaces that are fit for purpose, well resourced/ managed and meet the needs of the community.			
SEA Topic	Type of Effect	Duration of Effect	Assessment
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	+	Long Term	There will be generally positive effects as a result of this objective. The promotion of clean and safe open spaces will result in biodiversity benefits. It is not considered that there will negative effects on designated sites, protected species or the connectivity of habitats as a result of this objective.
Human Health	+++	Long Term	There will be significant positive impacts for human health as a result of an increase in physical activity due to improvements of access to open space. This will include access through connected networks which will enable greater mobility. In general this objective seeks to increase access to community facilities and work towards proper quality standards to terms of open space provision. This will result in benefits for human health generally.
Climate Change	0	-	Impacts on climatic factors are negligible/ no effect and will depend on the individual project and the capacity of the project to address the issues related to climate change.
Landscape & Visual	0	-	Impacts on landscape and visual will be negligible/ no effect and will depend on the individual project and the capacity of the project to address the issues related to the overall landscape and visual qualities of the locality.
Summary of Assessment Results: Impacts on climate change and landscape and visual amenity are unclear and will generally depend on the practical implementation of the objective in terms of resources and interventions. The objective seeks to ensure quality open space and retain a good standard as a result of focusing resources and interventions that will ensure fit for purpose open space. Increased accessibility will result in greater physical activity and healthier lifestyles, therefore bringing positive benefits for human health.			

Objective 4: Encourage a sense of local 'ownership' by involving communities in the planning and management of open spaces through meaningful community engagement.			
SEA Topic	Type of Effect	Duration of Effect	Assessment
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	0	-	Impacts on biodiversity are negligible/ no effect.
Human Health	+	Long Term	A greater sense of community involvement will garner a greater sense of participation and ownership. This will allow for better identification issues relating to open space deficiency and ensure more accessible spaces. This will have positive benefits for human health, due to the increase in the accessibility of facilities for sports and recreational activity. This will result in healthier lifestyles and positive impacts on social cohesion
Climate Change	0	-	Impacts on climatic factors are no effect/ negligible effect
Landscape & Visual	0	-	Impacts on climatic factors are no effect/ negligible effect.
Summary of Assessment Results: This objective will specifically garner greater community involvement and have positive impacts on human health as a result of increased physical and mental well being. There are generally unclear impacts as a result of this objective on biodiversity, climatic factors or landscape and visual.			

Objective 5: Safeguard and enhance open spaces with historic importance and promote awareness and understanding of their regional significance.			
SEA Topic	Type of Effect	Duration of Effect	Assessment
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	+	Long Term	There will be positive impacts on biodiversity due to the promotion of the importance placed on sites of regional significance. This will support flora and fauna species and bring benefits to the natural heritage of East Dunbartonshire.
Human Health	++	Long Term	The protection of the historic importance of open space and spaces with strong regional significance will result in positive impacts on the perception of open space. This will result in an increase in patronage of open space, therefore healthier lifestyles, resulting in significant benefits for human health.
Climate Change	0	-	Impacts of this objective on climatic factors is unclear and will have negligible or no effects.
Landscape & Visual	++	Long Term	There will be considerable benefits for landscape and visual amenity as a result of this objective. The protection of key cultural heritage assets as well points of natural heritage will protect and enhance the landscape and visual amenity value of open space.
Summary of Assessment Results: Overall there will be positive impacts on human health and biodiversity as a result of this objective. The protection of key points of historic importance, including designed landscapes will contribute to increased positive perceptions of open space for users whilst enhancing the visual amenity value of open space. This will result in increased patronage and significant benefits for human health and landscape & visual.			

Objective 6: Adapting to and mitigating for climate change through the delivery of a connected and integrated sustainable network, incorporating water management, restoration or enhancement of woodland, grassland and peatland areas with associated biodiversity benefits and by making maintenance more environmentally friendly.			
SEA Topic	Type of Effect	Duration of Effect	Assessment
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	++	Long Term	The delivery of greater connected networks will result in positive impacts on biodiversity allowing for greater habitat connectivity. This objective will have moderate positive impacts on biodiversity in general. There will be no adverse impacts on species or designated sites.
Human Health	0	-	This objective will have no effect or negligible effects on human health.
Climate Change	++	Long Term	This objective specifically seeks to respond to climate change, by both encouraging woodland protection, biodiversity protection which provides vital ecosystem services and enables greater adaptation through water management to prevent flooding etc. This will result in positive impacts overall for climatic factors.
Landscape & Visual	+	Long Term	Greater woodland habitat creation and connectivity between networks will have minor positive effects on landscape and visual amenity of open space, allowing for enhancement of green networks which will increase the perception of open/ green space landscapes and their visual amenity value.
Summary of Assessment Results: This objective generally seeks to enable open spaces to be adaptable to climate change through water management measures to prevent flooding and the creation of greater woodland habitats which enables greater carbon storage. Simultaneously this will bring benefits to biodiversity and to the landscape value of open space, while also increasing the positive perception of open space.			

