

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination

Notice of the Determination that the proposed East Dunbartonshire Council: Food Growing Strategy will require to go through the Strategic Environmental Assessment process

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

As required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, East Dunbartonshire Council has reviewed the likely significance of the environmental effects of the proposed Food Growing Strategy.

East Dunbartonshire Council has made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Strategy is likely to result in significant environmental effects. The Food Growing Strategy will therefore be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Neil Samson

Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer

Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets
Land Planning and Development
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Relevant Documents:

- SEA Screening Determination Notification to Consultation Authorities on 26th October 2017
- Screening Report submitted to Consultation Authorities on 4th October 2017
- Responses from the Consultation Authorities:
 - Covering Letter from Scottish Government SEA Gateway
 - Response from Historic Environment Scotland
 - Response from Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
 - Response from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

Date: 26th October 2017

SEA Gateway
Scottish Government
Area 2 H (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

**PLACE, NEIGHBOURHOOD AND CORPORATE
ASSETS**
Land Planning and Development
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Telephone 0141 578 8600
Fax No: 0141 578 8575

Dear Sirs,

**SEA Screening Determination
East Dunbartonshire Council Food Growing Strategy**

I refer to your letter dated 24th October 2014 outlining the responses from the Consultation Authorities to the Screening Report that was submitted on 4th October 2017 in relation to the proposed Food Growing Strategy.

The Consultation Authorities are in agreement with the Council that the Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects. On 26th October 2017 East Dunbartonshire Council made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Food Growing Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects. Therefore, the Strategy will be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Environmental Report will be prepared alongside the document.

A copy of the screening determination will be available for inspection during normal office hours at Southbank House, Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch, G66 1XQ and on the Council website at www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk. An advert will also be placed in the Kirkintilloch Herald and Milngavie and Bearsden Herald to publicise the screening determination.

In accordance with Section 10(1) of the Act, a copy of the screening determination is enclosed and I would be obliged if you could forward this onto the Consultation Authorities.

If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact Neil Samson (SEA Officer) on 0141 578 8615.

Yours faithfully,



Neil Samson
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer

SCREENING REPORT

STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

East Dunbartonshire Council

Title of the plan:

Food Growing Strategy

What prompted the plan:
(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

New legislation to fulfil the duties of Part 9 Section 119 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for each local authority in Scotland to prepare a Food Growing Strategy.

Plan subject:
(e.g. transport)

Land Use – Community Food Growing

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

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



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



Section 5(3)



Section 5(4)



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



Section 5(3)



Section 5(4)

Contact details:

Neil Samson
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer
Sustainability Policy Team
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Date:

4th October 2017

STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

As set out in Section 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, every local authority in Scotland has a duty to prepare a Food Growing Strategy for its area. The Food Growing Strategy intends to identify suitable land for allotments and for other food growing provisions, describe what reasonable steps will be taken to increase food growing opportunities throughout East Dunbartonshire, with a focus on whether there is scope to provide food growing opportunities in socio-economic disadvantaged areas, and identify how the Council will support and encourage community food growing.

The Strategy will be developed in line with the Council's emerging Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans. The Strategy will also inform the spatial strategy for the Local Development Plan process.

Description of the Plan:

The vision and objectives for the Food Growing Strategy will be dependent on the production of secondary guidance in relation to Section 119 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. However, general intentions for the Strategy include:

- A local approach to the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015;
- Supporting healthier lifestyles by engaging people in food growing projects;
- Increased community buy-in and ownership of allotments and community growing spaces through greater engagement;
- Greater social cohesion and inclusiveness in communities;
- Greater support for biodiversity as well as contributions to sustainable food supply and food security;
- Contributions towards national carbon and waste reduction targets, including zero waste initiatives, at a local level;
- Training/skills development opportunities; and,
- Identification and provision, where appropriate, of suitable land for allotments and other types of food growing for the cultivation of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers.

What are the key components of the plan?

The key components of the Strategy are intended to be:

Vision (proposed text below)

East Dunbartonshire is a place where all people have access to opportunities to Grow-Your-Own fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers through the provision of allotments and community growing spaces that are sustainable and can flourish. Opportunities to grow the healthy, nutritious and local food that people need will encourage community empowerment and promote skills development to improve social cohesion and inequalities, contribute to local climate change adaptation and mitigation and reduce food waste production.

Objectives (Proposed content of Objectives below)

- Supporting healthier lifestyles by engaging people in food growing projects;
- Increased community buy-in and ownership of allotments and community growing spaces through greater engagement;

- Greater social cohesion and inclusiveness in communities;
- Greater support for biodiversity as well as contributions to sustainable food supply and food security;
- Contributions towards national carbon and waste reduction targets, including zero waste initiatives, at a local level;
- Training/skills development opportunities; and,
- Identification and provision, where appropriate, of suitable land for allotments and other types of food growing for the cultivation of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers.

A site assessment / Fit for purpose criteria assessment will also be developed and be an integral part in the decision making process for the allocation and support of community growing spaces throughout East Dunbartonshire.

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

The content of the Strategy will be new information that has not been considered as part of previous SEA work for any other PPS.

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

The components that are likely to require screening are the draft proposed Vision and Objectives (set out in box 7 above).

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

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues		
Vision (draft)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	<p>The draft Vision and Objectives could result in a number of impacts, some more significant than others with regards to the environmental topic areas. These impacts and their significance are outlined below.</p> <p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – There is unlikely to be any impacts of designated sites for biodiversity value through the development and implementation of this Strategy. The potential removal / re-development of man-made barriers (such as blaze pitches or other infrastructure) could reduce or avoid habitat fragmentation. Positive impacts are also anticipated with regards to the allocation of community growing spaces in terms of pollination and the inclusion of pollinating species within allotments. The significance of these impacts and other potential impacts identified will be determined at the site assessment and consideration stage.</p> <p>Population and Human Health – The allocation of community growing spaces could potentially be on areas of land which are already available for public use as an area of open space or recreational provision but could also be on private land. The new functions for the allocated sites will provide community growing space and be developed for the public good. Therefore, the overall impact is likely to be positive on this factor, particularly through the potential improvements to community involvement into projects and the health and wellbeing aspects related to community food growing, participation and healthy eating.</p> <p>Soil – The impacts on this factor are uncertain at this stage. Although the draft strategy Vision and Objectives will provide an opportunity to utilise and/or remediate potentially contaminated land sites. These potentially significant positive impacts will be further considered through a fit for purpose / criteria assessment which will be undertaken for each potential community growing location.</p>	
Objective 1:	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Objective 2:	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓		

Objective 3:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>x</td><td>✓</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td> </tr> </table>	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<p>Water – Potential impacts are anticipated on the water table, groundwater and/or water course within the vicinity of potentially contaminated land sites or due to the development and construction of community growing assets and the related infrastructure provision. At this stage it is uncertain whether these impacts are likely to be significant but this will be determined at the review of all proposed community growing sites.</p>
x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Objective 4:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>✓</td> </tr> </table>	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	<p>Air – Impacts on air quality through this strategy are unlikely to be significant particularly in terms of the scale of community growing spaces and from a traffic perspective, the anticipated frequency of use and the number of journeys to such assets.</p>
✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓			
Objective 5:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>x</td><td>✓</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>✓</td> </tr> </table>	x	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	<p>Climatic Factors – The overall strategy is unlikely to have any impact on greenhouse gas outputs in terms of significant changes in travel or transport modes to food growing locations, impacts on woodland habitats or integration of renewable energy technologies. However, there may be potential for the community growing spaces and allotments to play a flood attenuation function and provide climate change adaptation measures. This will be a significant consideration when identifying suitably located community growing spaces throughout East Dunbartonshire. Alignment of the Food Growing Strategy with the Councils emerging Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will be an important consideration.</p>	
x	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓				
Objective 6:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>x</td><td>✓</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td><td>x</td> </tr> </table>	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<p>Material Assets – There will be a number of infrastructure provision requirements for community growing spaces and allotments in terms of utilities, access roads, toilets, office/dry space, storage spaces for plots and composting facilities. There may also be potential for parking provision at allotments sites. The strategy has the potential to utilise vacant and derelict land / brownfield sites. There will be a presumption for underused, brownfield land to be a high priority on the criteria/suitability assessment.</p>	
x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Objective 7:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>x</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>x</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td> </tr> </table>	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	<p>Cultural Heritage – No impacts have been identified in relation to cultural heritage through the development and implementation of this strategy.</p> <p>Landscape – Through the proposed Vision and Objectives, there is potential for positive impacts on landscape character and scenic value depending on the varying forms of community growing being considered and their location.</p>	
✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓				
Objective 7:	<p>Greater social cohesion and inclusiveness in communities</p> <p>Greater support for biodiversity as well as contributions to sustainable food supply and food security</p> <p>Contributions towards national carbon and waste reduction targets, including zero waste initiatives, at a local level</p> <p>Training/skills development opportunities</p> <p>Identification and provision, where appropriate, of suitable land for allotments and other types of food growing for the cultivation of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers.</p>												

STEP 4 – STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING

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

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

As outlined in the above initial components assessment (Box 10), there is potential for the Strategy to provide significant positive impacts and a number of potential negative impacts on the environment, particularly in relation to **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Soil, Water Quality, Climatic Factors, Landscape** and **Material Assets**.

It is the Councils view that the overall environmental impacts of the Strategy are likely to be significant. Therefore, it has been determined that, under Section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, a full SEA is required.

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



T: 0131-244 9571 F: 0131-244 7555
E: SEA.Gateway@gov.scot

Neil Samson
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer
Sustainability Policy Team
Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets Directorate
East Dunbartonshire Council
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G68 1XQ

Our ref: 01328 Screening - East Dunbartonshire Council - Food Growing Strategy - screening request received in gateway - 4 October 2017

24 October 2017

Dear Neil

With reference to the Screening document you submitted on 4 October 2017.

The Consultation Authorities have now considered your screening request as per Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. For convenience I have set out, in the table below, their individual views on whether there is a likelihood of significant environmental effects.

Please note, these are the views and opinions of the Consultation Authorities on the likelihood of significant environmental effects arising from the plan or programme and not a judgement on whether an SEA is required. It is therefore for the Responsible Authority to determine whether an SEA is required in the circumstances. I have attached the individual letters from the Consultation Authorities, outlining their views and opinions. Where possible the Consultation Authorities may have offered supplementary information and/or advice for you to consider, which you should find helpful.

CONSULTATION AUTHORITY	LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS
Historic Environment Scotland	Yes
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Yes
Scottish Natural Heritage	Yes
OVERALL VIEW ON LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	Yes

As the Consultation Authorities have now notified you of their views, you should now refer to the 2005 Act to consider your next step. You should of course take into account the advice offered by the Consultation Authorities.

You should note, as per Section 10 of the 2005 Act, within 28 days of your determination about whether an SEA is required or not, a copy of the determination and any related statement of reasons must be passed to the Consultation Authorities. This may be done via the SEA Gateway.

If you have any queries or would like me to clarify any points, please call me on 0131 244 9571.

Yours sincerely

Melissa Shields
SEA Gateway Administrator



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

By email to: sea.gateway@gov.scot

Mr Neil Samson
Sustainability Policy Team
East Dunbartonshire Council
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600
HMC consultations@hes.scot

Our ref: AMN/23/128
Our case ID: 300023859
Your ref: 01328 Screening
24 October 2017

Dear Mr Samson

[Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)
[East Dunbartonshire Council - Food Growing Strategy](#)

Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 04 October 2017 about the above screening report. We have reviewed the screening report in our role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act, in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). In doing so we have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment. Please note that our view is based on main area of interest for the historic environment.

We understand that the Food Growing Strategy will identify suitable land for food growing provisions, and increase, support and encourage community food growing. You consider that the Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects. On the basis of the information provided, we are content to agree with this view.

In considering the interactions of the Strategy with the environment, you have not identified any potential impacts for cultural heritage. However, we note that for other topic areas, the change of land use, the development and construction of community growing assets, and related infrastructure are all aspects of delivery of the Strategy considered likely to have effects. The historic environment can be affected by change of use of land, development and infrastructure provision, and consequently we recommend that, in the event that you determine that environmental assessment is required, potential interactions and effects (and the likely level of significance) for the historic environment are explored further at scoping stage.

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH
Scottish Charity No. SC045925
VAT No. GB 221 8680 15



However, as you will be aware, it is the responsibility of East Dunbartonshire Council as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the guidance requires an environmental assessment and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Virginia Sharp who can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8704 or by email on Virginia.Sharp@hes.scot.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland

Our ref: PCS/155362
SG ref: SEA/01328scr

Neil Samson
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer
Sustainability Policy Team
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

If telephoning ask for:
Susan Haslam

10 October 2017

By email only to: SEA_Gateway@gov.scot

Dear Mr Samson

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
Food Growing Strategy - Screening Report**

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 4 October 2017.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 we have considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. Having reviewed the Screening Report, we consider that in respect of our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets (of which we have a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the Strategy could have significant environmental effects.

Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are likely, it is for the Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received. If it is formally determined that SEA *is* required, you will be aware that the next stage requires the Responsible Authority to consult the Consultation Authorities on the proposed scope and level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report. This can be undertaken through preparation of a concise Scoping Report; further information on which can be found in the [Scottish Government SEA Guidance](#) (sections 3.4. to 3.8 in particular). To assist with this process we have also produced [SEA topic guidance](#) on those issues which fall within our remit.

We would encourage you to use the scoping process to focus the assessment on those SEA issues upon which there are likely to be significant environmental effects, to outline the baseline information you consider as most relevant and explain your proposed method of assessment.

For example, based on the information available to date we agree that significant effects on local air quality are not likely and therefore this topic could be scoped out.

One of the ways that the SEA process can be especially useful is to assess sites. The Responsible Authorities have developed a [Local Development Plan Site Assessment and SEA checklist](#) which may be a useful basis from which to develop your own approach. Proposals for site assessment should be outlined in the scoping report.

Should you wish to discuss this letter please do not hesitate to contact me on 01349 860359 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Susan Haslam
Senior Planning Officer
Planning Service

Ecopy: sea.gateway@hes.scot; sea_gateway@snh.gov.uk



Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

By e-mail only to: sea.gateway@gov.scot

Neil Samson
Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets Directorate
East Dunbartonshire Council
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Date: 11 October 2017
Our ref: CNS/SEA/SSEA/01328

Dear Mr Samson

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: East Dunbartonshire Council - Food Growing Strategy Screening Determination

Thank you for your screening report submitted on 4 October 2017 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan.

We have considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act. In terms of our interests, we agree that the Food Growing Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects. Although we agree with the conclusion of the screening report, we offer the following comments on the detail of the assessment.

Whilst the provision of additional land for allotments and other types of food growing could have positive impacts on biodiversity, there could also be negative impacts (e.g. through the loss of existing habitats of biodiversity value). As a consequence, we recommend that impact of Objective 7 on *Biodiversity, flora and fauna* is assessed as being uncertain and that the selection criteria used to identify additional allotments/food growing sites are considered further through the SEA process.

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

Should you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact Graeme Heenan on 0141 951 4488 or via SNH's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Scottish Natural Heritage, Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, G81 2NR
Tel: 0131 3146750 www.snh.gov.uk

Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba, Taigh Caspian, 2 Cùirt a' Mharaiche, Pàirc Gnothachais Bhruach Chluaidh,
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Lyndsey Kinnes
Operations Manager
Strathclyde & Ayrshire

CC sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk; sea.gateway@hes.scot