



East Dunbartonshire Council

Open Space Strategy

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Scoping Report

SEA SCOPING TEMPLATE – COVER NOTE

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
SEA Gateway
Scottish Executive
Area 1 H (Bridge)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

PART 2

An SEA Scoping Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy

The Responsible Authority is:

East Dunbartonshire Council

PART 3

Please tick the appropriate box

- The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. **or**
- The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. **or**
- The PPS does not require an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, as this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 5 week timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

SEA SCOPING TEMPLATE – COVER NOTE

PART 4

Contact name

Gillian Telfer

Job Title

Team Leader, Neighbourhood Services Strategy

Contact address

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

Contact tel no

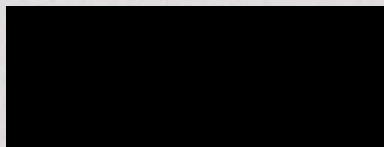
0141 574 5615

Contact email

Gillian.Telfer@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

PART 5

Signature
(electronic
signature
is acceptable)



Date

22 November 2012

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

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 150), 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 original Strategy launched in 2005. It will build on the actions undertaken in the original Greenspace Strategy and taking into account the current Council vision. The Council wish 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) 11 – Open Space and Physical Activity 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 2013 - 2018.

The Open Space Strategy is the second part of a process, the first being the re-auditing of approximately 234 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 is being undertaken in late 2012 and includes assessments of parks, play provision, green networks and amenity open space.

1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment is required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 to assess the likely significance of environmental effects of public sector strategies, plans and programmes. The objective of the Act is “to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development”.

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
- Thereivel, R., 'Strategic Environmental Assessment in Action' Earthscan Publications Ltd, 2004.

1.3 Report Purpose

The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report is to determine the scope of the environmental assessment of the Open Space Strategy, in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

This report will seek to identify the key environmental considerations to be addressed by the SEA of the Strategy and provide the following information:

- SEA legislative background, requirements and processes
- The proposed scope and content of the subsequent environmental report
- The proposed SEA Objectives and assessment methodology
- The proposed Open Space Strategy
- The potential impacts of implementing the Strategy on the environment
- The key environmental considerations for the Open Space Strategy
- Possible mitigation measures including future EIA and SEA
- Summary of potential monitoring frameworks and suitable indicators

The scoping seeks to identify the 'Significant Environmental Impacts' which may result from adoption and implementation of the Open Space Strategy. In addition the information presented in this report aims to allow the Consultation Authorities to:

- Form a view on the level of detail required for the subsequent Environmental Report;
- Review and make comment on the acceptability of the proposed SEA Objectives and methodology for the assessment of the potential impacts of the implementation of the Programme on the environment; and
- Form a view on the period of consultation.

1.4 Study Area

The East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy focuses on parks and open spaces in urban and urban fringe areas, which includes approximately 234 sites. The broad study area includes the four main towns (Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch / Lenzie, Milngavie and Bearsden) and a number of villages (including Twechar, Lennoxton, Torrance and Milton of Campsie). The Strategy focuses primarily on the following core areas of open space provision as detailed within Scottish Government's PAN 65 typology, together with locally agreed sub-categories:

PAN 65 Category	Sub-category
Public Parks and Gardens	Country Park, Town Park, Neighborhood Park, Local Park
Amenity Greenspace	Residential, Business, Transport
Play Space for Children & Teenagers	Equipped Playspaces
Sports Areas	Playing Fields, Golf Courses, Tennis Courts, Bowling Greens and other sports
Green Corridors	Green Access Routes, Riparian Routes
Natural/ Semi-natural Greenspaces	Woodland, Open Semi-natural, Open Water
Allotments & Community Growing Spaces	Allotment, Community Growing Area
Civic Space	Civic Space
Burial Grounds	Churchyard, Cemetery
Other Functional Greenspaces	Other Functional Greenspace

Table 1.1: PAN 65 Typology

The Strategy is based within the East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC) area, which covers 66.3 square miles. However, improvement in open spaces may result in higher levels of community engagement both within EDC and its neighbouring councils and promotion of habitat and access linkages between areas of open space. 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.

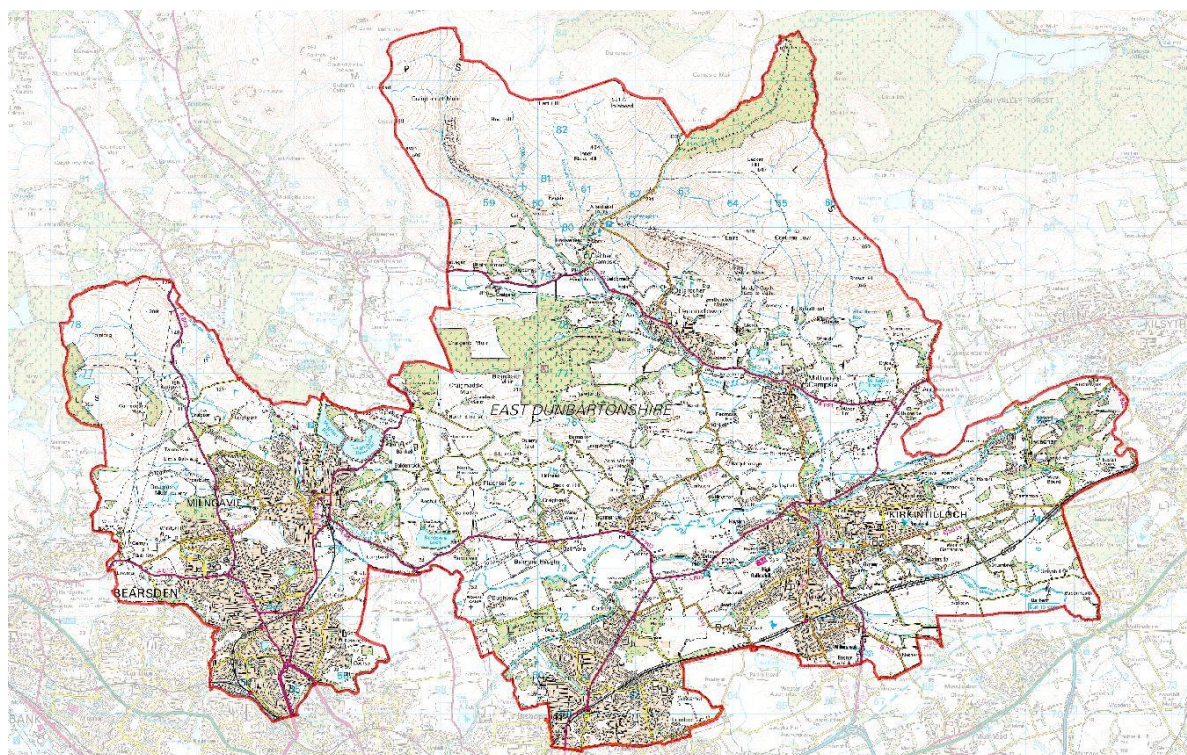


Figure 1: East Dunbartonshire Council map and boundary

1.5 Key Facts

Table 1.2: Key Facts of the East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy

Name of Responsible Authority	East Dunbartonshire Council
Reason for Programme	The Strategy fulfils a requirement set out in the Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note - Planning and Open Space (PAN 65) and SPP: Open Space and Physical Activity
Programme Subject	Planning and Open Space
Period Covered by Programme	5 years (2013 – 2018)
Frequency of Updates	Updates will be made every 5 years
Programme Area	The Strategy focuses on the open spaces in the East Dunbartonshire Council administrative area. The core areas of open space have been assigned as detailed within Scottish Government's PAN 65.

Programme Purpose	East Dunbartonshire's revised Open Space Strategy will build on the actions undertaken in the original Greenspace Strategy and take into account current thinking on quality open space developed since 2005 to deliver, through partnership, open spaces that are 'fit for purpose' increasing the quality of life of the residents of East Dunbartonshire.
Summary of nature/ content	The strategy is intended to help inform decisions regarding the provision, development and management of open space over the period of 2013 - 2018. The aim of the study is to review the strategic framework, the vision for the management, protection and enhancement of open space, establish standards for the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space as well as delivery mechanisms that will ensure those standards can be delivered.
Key Contact	Gillian Telfer Team Leader, Neighbourhood Services Strategy East Dunbartonshire Council Broomhill Industrial Estate Kilsyth Road Kirkintilloch G66 1TF Gillian.Telfer@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

2.0 EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

2.1 Requirement for an Open Space Strategy

Scottish Planning Policy: Open Space and Physical Activity sets out the Government's policy on open space provision. The key objectives of the SPP include a requirement of local authorities to undertake an open space audit and prepare an open space strategy. The policy emphasises the need for local authorities to take a strategic and long term view of open space and sports provision, ensuring that the current and future needs of communities are met.

East Dunbartonshire Council responded to these requirements and commissioned a Greenspace Audit in 2003, followed by a Greenspace Strategy, which was launched in 2005. This review of the East Dunbartonshire Greenspace Strategy will build on the actions undertaken since the 2005 Strategy was prepared and will take into account current thinking on quality greenspace developed by Greenspace Scotland, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership and other public agencies since 2005.

The Open Space Audit and Strategy have been prepared according to guidance produced by the Scottish Government including PAN 65 Planning and Open Space, which underpins Scottish Planning Policy.

2.2 Open Space Strategy Aims and Objectives

The Strategy sets out a vision for East Dunbartonshire's greenspaces through suggested actions and through the co-ordination of a number of service delivery providers. The East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy is based on the following vision:

"East Dunbartonshire Council, in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sectors and local people will aim to ensure an interlinked network of high quality greenspaces."

"The spaces will be biologically and functionally diverse, sustainable, accessible and fit for purpose and will meet the needs and aspirations of the whole community while generating economic benefit through increased visitor numbers and inward investment."

The study represents an important opportunity to review the 2005 Strategy. Building on the actions undertaken in the original Greenspace Strategy and taking into account the current Council vision, the Council aims to deliver, through partnership working, a high level of open space which is multifunctional, fit for purpose and accessible to all, thereby increasing the quality of life of residents in East Dunbartonshire. The protection and improvement of good quality open space is therefore considered to be of vital importance.

East Dunbartonshire's open spaces make a significant contribution to the character of East Dunbartonshire's towns. The provision, design and management of a network of public open spaces encompass the environmental social and economic principles of sustainability. A key component of the Strategy is to positively address the challenges posed by environmental sustainability through recommendations and actions addressing the long term sustainable management of open space.

The themes in the existing 2005 Strategy will be used as a baseline for developing the vision, themes and objectives for the revised strategy:

- Establish effective, co-ordinated partnership working for the delivery of high quality open space;
- Provide a network of well designed multi-functional, clean, safe and accessible open spaces that are well resourced and managed and meet the needs and aspirations of the community;

- Encourage a sense of 'ownership' and involve local communities in the planning and management of open spaces through meaningful community engagements;
- Extend functionality and maximise the open space resource; and
- Raise awareness of open spaces through education, interpretation, signage and events.

The Open Space Strategy will be implemented through an Action Plan, which provides detailed objectives and associated tasks. The Strategy is intended to provide the Council's Open Space Managers with a "tool" to improve the management structures and practices, ensuring that the Council has a clear strategic direction to its open space investment and asset management. The Action Plan will identify processes by which tasks will be achieved, identifying the organisations and lead partners who will be responsible for taking the actions forward.

3.0 RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

3.1 Plans, Policies and Strategies with Links to Open Space Strategy

A list of relevant plans, programmes, policies and legislation are presented below in terms of International, National, Regional and Local importance.

International

- EC Birds Directive 79/409/EEC
- EC Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC
- European Biodiversity Framework

National Plans and Programmes

- Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2000)
- Scottish Rural Development Plan 2007 – 2013
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)
- Climate Change: The UK Strategy (2000)
- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (2004)
- Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)
- A Smart Successful Scotland
- Social Justice Strategy & Community Regeneration Statement
- Let's Make Scotland More Active: A Strategy for Physical Activity
- Changing our Ways: Scotland's Climate Change Programme
- National Programme Improving Mental Health & Well-Being Action Plan
- Volunteering Strategy 2004-2009
- People and Place – Regeneration Policy Statement

Regional Plans and Programmes

- Emerging Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan
- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Area Waste Plan 2003
- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan 2005
- Joint Transport Strategy for Western Scotland to 2025
- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership
- Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Framework 2005
- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Integrated Habitat Networks 2008

Local Plans and Programmes

- EDC Corporate Development Plan 2008
- EDC Community Plan 2006 - 2011
- East Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2 2011
- EDC Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2010 - 2013
- EDC Sustainable Development Strategy
- EDC Greenspace Strategy 2005 - 2010
- East Dunbartonshire Core Path Plan 2009
- EDC Access Strategy 2003
- EDC Joint Local Transport Strategy and Bishopbriggs Air Quality Action Plan 2008
- EDC Local Housing Strategy
- EDC Waterspace Strategy 2006
- EDC Sports Pitch Strategy
- EDC Joint Health Improvement Plan 2009 – 11
- EDC State of the Environment Report

- EDC Single Outcome Agreement 2012 - 2013
- Kirkintilloch Town Centre Master Plan 2012
- Campsie Fells Strategic Review and Action Plan

Legislation

Legislation applicable to the adoption and implementation of the Open Space Strategy includes the following:

- National Planning Framework 2 (NPF2)
- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2010
- European Habitats Directive
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994
- Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

3.2 Planning Guidance

The Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) is the statement of the Scottish Government’s policy on nationally important land use planning matters.

The SPP sets out:

- 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.

Alongside policy on development plans, development management, community engagement, sustainable development, climate change and sustainable economic growth, the SPP sets out policy on open space and physical activity. The contents of the SPP of relevance to this proposal are listed in Table 3.1.

Relevant Contents of SPP		Paragraph
Introduction		1-7
Development Plans		10-18
Development Management		22-30
Community Engagement		31
Sustainable Economic Growth		33 - 41
Subject Policies	Rural Development	92
	Historic Environment	110
	Landscape and Natural Heritage	125
	Open Space and Physical Activity	149

Table 3.1 Relevant Contents of the SPP

Planning Advice Notes

Planning Advice Notes (PANs) provide advice and information on technical planning matters. Those which are of relevance to the Open Space Strategy are listed in Table 3.2 below.

Number / Date	Title
PAN 51/ Revised 2006	Planning and Environmental Protection
PAN 58/ 1999	Environmental Impact Assessment
PAN 60 / 2000	Planning for Natural Heritage
PAN 65/ 2008	Planning and Open Space
PAN 81/ 2007	Community Engagement – Planning with People

Table 3.2 PAN Schedule

In addition, the following key references and guidance address issues of open space:

- Greenspace Quality a Guide To Assessment, Planning and Strategic Development 2008
- Re-thinking Open Space 2001
- Minimum Standards for Open Space 2005
- Green Spaces, better Places 2002
- Greenspace: A Guide to Assessment, Planning and Strategic Development
- Health Impact Assessment of Greenspace - A Guide
- Quality of Life Indicators

3.3 Likely Changes to the Environment without the Strategy

The Strategy will set out the requirements for adequate resourcing to secure outputs that can capture both 'best value' and an enhanced community benefit from the Open Space resource. It will include an Action Plan detailing the projects, activities and timescales for the achievement of the Strategies aims and objectives.

The current open space resource is under increasing pressure from development and the demands placed upon it by rising population and changes in the leisure activities of today. Therefore this strategic document is key to the effective coordination, management, resourcing and future enhancement of the open space resource.

Without the PPS, it is possible that the following issues may arise:

- The future direction of open space planning and management may not be coordinated with other Services in the Council, including Development Team, Neighborhood Services, Planning Control, Countryside Services etc. and external agencies and stakeholder groups
- Green networks will become fragmented and will not deliver best value
- Open space management and maintenance will be un-coordinated and will not fully satisfy the expectations of local communities
- Resources will be allocated to open spaces on an ad-hoc basis, without a structured framework of priorities and actions
- The opportunities for local people to influence the way that open space is managed in the future will be limited

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE INFORMATION

4.1 Environmental Characteristics

In 2003 East Dunbartonshire Council, with assistance from Ironside Farrar, completed a GIS based Greenspace Audit of all significant open space assets within the administrative area of the Council. The Council's Greenspaces Strategy was produced in 2005 and a Sports Pitch Strategy in 2005. The Audit was prepared to inform the production of the Open Space Strategy for East Dunbartonshire that focused primarily on the regeneration, connectivity and enhancement of urban parks, open spaces and other linear corridor spaces.

The 2012 Audit will review the 2003 audit and update the database, based on site visits and inspections. A review of related Council reports and audits will inform the audit, providing valuable contextual information. The Audit will include an analysis of the existing open space resource, in terms of its quantity, quality, distribution and role in the hierarchy of open space. The data will form the baseline information on the open space sites included in the audit. Approximately 234 sites exist in the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) database.

The following datasets will be used for the preparation of the Strategy mapping:

- 234 open space audit sites (parks, open spaces, green corridors etc.)
- Play area locations (point data)
- Land Use Characterisation data (SNH commissioned study)
- Local Plan designations
- Information on designated sites, species and habitats from SNH (SSSI, SPA, Ancient Woodland, Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Conservation Sites, LNR, Gardens and Designed Landscapes)
- Information on the Integrated Habitat Network

The Open Space Audit study will quantify, map and qualitatively assess the open spaces, providing a suitable baseline from which to establish and assess the current environmental conditions encompassed by the Open Space Strategy and identify existing issues. This information will also allow for the setting of the benchmark against which the forecast and monitored levels of environmental effects will be evaluated.

4.2 Environmental Baseline

The environmental baseline for the SEA is required to take into account the topic listed at Schedule 2 of the regulations. Information has been sourced from East Dunbartonshire Council. This section summarises the environmental information that the Council already holds or intends to gather in support of the Environmental Assessment.

Table 4.1: Baseline Information Sources

SEA Topic	SEA Sub-topic	Information Sources
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Designated sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNH records eg. Ramsar boundaries, wildlife sites, SSSI site boundaries, Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) • EDC Planning Services for local statutory conservation designations
	Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient Woodland Inventory • Local Biodiversity Action Plan for important species and habitats, distribution of LBAP habitats, Priority Habitats, indicator species and native species at risk • Total woodland area, coniferous, broadleaved, ancient – Council GIS system

SEA Topic	SEA Sub-topic	Information Sources
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 Habitat Survey SNH SSSI site condition monitoring reports EDC information on Wildlife Sites and Local Biodiversity Sites Biodiversity on Council managed sites - Annual Reports on areas under Management Plans Forestry Commission and GCV Green Network Partnership on Integrated Habitat Network
Human Health	Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic information including levels of public health and the numbers engaged in physical activity within East Dunbartonshire Information on current provision and use of existing publicly accessible areas for outdoor recreation
Population	-	Scoped out (refer to table 5.1)
Soil	-	Scoped out (refer to table 5.1)
Water	-	Scoped out (refer to table 5.1)
Air Quality & Climate	-	Scoped out (refer to table 5.1)
Material Assets	-	Scoped out (refer to table 5.1)
Cultural Heritage	-	Scoped out (refer to table 5.1)
Landscape	Designated sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDC Planning Services for local statutory conservation designations Country Park boundaries from EDC
	Landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of SNH guidance on Landscape Character Assessment, and designated sites such as National Scenic Areas/ Regional Scenic Areas for East Dunbartonshire

4.3 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.

The key environmental problems are listed below.

Table 4.2: Current Environmental Issues

SEA Topic	SEA Sub-topic	Issues
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Designated sites	<p>There are no European designated sites, i.e. Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or RAMSAR sites in East Dunbartonshire. However, the area contains a rich, diverse tapestry of nationally and locally important landscape features and wildlife habitats, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 in Bishopbriggs and Manse Burn in Bearsden. The effects on areas or landscapes that have a recognised national, Community or international protection status is likely to be significant. There could be effects on Mugdock Wood SSSI. Effects on other SSSIs are less likely. • Local designations within East Dunbartonshire include 66 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), which in accordance with national policy will be newly designated as Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS). In addition to these sites, 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 also a vast network of Important Wildlife Corridors (designated as LNCS Wildlife Corridors in the Local Plan 2), Local Geodiversity Sites (34) and undesignated open spaces throughout East Dunbartonshire. <p>Potential risks apply in terms of disturbance to sensitive habitats and species from visitors to open spaces located near these protected areas.</p>
	Habitats	<p>Potential risks apply in terms of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating biodiversity requirements with the pressure for development • Considering damage, disturbance and fragmentation of habitats due to increased urbanisation • Protecting areas of woodland from inappropriate development • Ensure that SUDS are incorporated into all new developments, to create new wetland habitat • European Protected Species may be present on or adjacent to sites identified in the Strategy • Protecting existing urban greenspace networks from loss through inappropriate development • Ensure that new urban greenspace is designed to fit into wider wildlife and greenspace networks as appropriate
Human Health	Demographics	<p>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.</p> <p>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;</p>

SEA Topic	SEA Sub-topic	Issues
		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Landscape	Designated sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic landscapes/ townscapes and Conservation Areas • 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 <p>Designated sites and features are highly valued by the community for their contribution to the general amenity and character of the area as well as for their leisure and recreational opportunities.</p>
	Landscape character	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire has a large proportion of greenspace provision and content. The overall condition of the greenspace resource is generally of a 'good' standard. The majority of East Dunbartonshire's greenspace is connected by important wildlife corridors, including river valley and canal systems.</p> <p>Open space provision has capacity to negatively impact on landscapes, including designated landscape protection areas, if siting, management and materials are not given due consideration. Potential risks apply in terms of changes in the landscape due to pressure for development of housing, employment and transport infrastructure.</p>

5.0 SCOPE OF STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

The main purposes of scoping are:

- To focus the SEA on the environmental issues and potential impacts which need the most thorough attention;
- To identify those which are likely to need detailed study; and
- To identify those which are unlikely to need detailed study.

The methodology used involves a qualitative risk assessment approach to identify key impacts potentially arising from the Open Space Strategy. Potential impacts were considered for a full range of environmental receptors and topics.

5.2 Screening Opinions

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

In response to the Screening Report submitted to the SEA Gateway, SEPA considered that in respect of the main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health and climatic factors) the plan is likely to have positive significant strategic environmental effects.

Historic Scotland

Historic Scotland considered there may be positive benefits to the historic environment features within greenspaces, through recognition and greater protection afforded to undesignated sites. However, whilst there may be positive benefits at the local level, strategically significant effects for the historic environment are unlikely.

Scottish Natural Heritage

Through consultation with SNH the following points were raised:

- The Open Space Strategy will also influence East Dunbartonshire Council's Access Strategy and Core Paths Plan.
- The Strategy will be relevant to the implementation of Community legislation on the environment. There are no European nature conservation sites (SPAs, SACs) in or adjoining East Dunbartonshire. However, greenspace works under the Strategy could be relevant with regard to positive or negative effects on:
 - Links between nature conservation features (Habitats Regulations Part II)
 - European Protected Species (possibly bats, otters, and great crested newts) (Habitats Regulations Part III)
 - Aquatic feature condition under the Water Framework Directive
- Although species and habitats might be disturbed or damaged through greenspace works, the net effect on them is likely to be significantly positive and therefore the risks to human health or the environment are not considered to be significant.
- The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical areas and size of the population likely to be affected) is not likely to be significant. The main environmental effects (including enhanced recreational access) would be generally restricted to within the greenspaces. Also, greenspaces are already established at a higher level by the Local Plan.
- The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: special natural characteristics or cultural heritage is considered to be significant. It is likely that value of local natural heritage sites would be enhanced and some vulnerabilities reduced. i.e. positive effects.
- The effects on areas or landscapes that have a recognised national, Community or international protection status is likely to be significant. To the extent that Mugdock

Country Park falls within the Strategy, there could be effects on Mugdock Wood SSSI. Effects on other SSSIs are less likely.

5.3 Issues to be addressed – SEA Objectives Scoped In/ Out

In accordance with Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, East Dunbartonshire Council, in consultation with statutory authorities, has considered whether the environmental effects (both positive and adverse) of the Open Space Strategy are likely to be significant. Those SEA issues not thought to be significantly affected by the Strategy have been scoped out, whilst those where environmental impacts are likely have been scoped in. The Open Space Strategy will be assessed against the SEA topics scoped-in as part of the Environmental Report.

Table 5.1: Scoping Matrix

SEA Topic	Scoped In or Out?	Reasoning behind scoping in/out
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.
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.
Population	✗	The Strategy is unlikely to have any effect on the population of East Dunbartonshire.
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.
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.
Air Quality & Climate	✗	The Strategy is not considered likely to have significant strategic environmental effects on air quality or climate. 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.
Material Assets	✗	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.

SEA Topic	Scoped In or Out?	Reasoning behind scoping in/out
Cultural Heritage	✘	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 vulnerabilities reduced i.e. positive effects. However, it is considered that these are unlikely to be strategically significant for the historic environment.
Landscape and Visual	✔	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.

5.4 Detail of Assessment

The Open Space Strategy is broadly a strategic document, setting an Action Plan for directing the future resources and management of the open spaces included in the Strategy. It includes a wide range of types of open space, from parks to semi-natural greenspace. Each category has been examined in detail and priorities set appropriate to type. The Strategy has addressed some types of open space as part of the strategic hierarchy of greenspace (eg. Green Corridors and Semi-natural greenspace), whilst others have been addressed on a local level (eg. playspace). Similarly, the SEA assessment will examine the strategic objectives of the Strategy, along with the more detailed policies.

The Strategy will set out the requirements for adequate resourcing to secure outputs that can capture both 'best value' and an enhanced community benefit from the Open Space resource. It will include an Action Plan detailing the projects, activities and timescales for the achievement of the Strategies aims and objectives.

6.0 REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

6.1 Assessment of Alternatives

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'.

Considering the requirements for preparation of an Open Space Strategy as stated in the Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 65, there are currently no real alternatives to the Strategy. Furthermore, Greenspace Scotland has prepared guidance on the preparation of Open Space Audits and Strategies, to which the plan conforms. Alternatives to the Strategy will therefore not be considered in the Environmental Report.

6.2 Mitigation

Mitigation can be applied at many different levels either within the Strategy and accompanying SEA or within other planning regimes:

- Alterations to the Open Space Strategy
- Consultation with Statutory Consultees to establish potential recommendations for implementing mitigation measures or environmental assessment
- Method statements for any potential maintenance works on open spaces or construction of access facilities to avoid potential impacts to protected species/ habitats.

6.3 Monitoring

Monitoring of the Strategy is a key requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The purpose of monitoring is to ensure that the prediction of impacts was correct. It is therefore a process of recording change in the baseline and highlighting any unforeseen issues that may have arisen. Monitoring is likely to be applied to the following environmental topics:

- Biodiversity and Nature Conservation
- Human Health

Monitoring potentially significant environmental effects will form part of the approach to monitoring the successful implementation of the Open Space Strategy and will also provide information for future updates to Strategy.

6.4 Monitoring Framework

Suggestions for monitoring indicators are given in Table 6.1. Monitoring will be an ongoing process for the East Dunbartonshire area and will provide a good source of environmental baseline data for future SEA assessments.

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. A suitable monitoring framework will be detailed in the SEA Statement post adoption of the Strategy.

Table 6.1: Proposed Monitoring of the Open Space Strategy

SEA Topic	Monitoring Proposed	Review Timescale
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with East Dunbartonshire Neighbourhood Services Strategy Team (Biodiversity) 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. 	Annual. Data from the SNH Sitelink should be used to maintain the database of protected sites in the region to ensure that these are updated as required. The Strategy should seek to enhance the biodiversity of the region.
Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics on health and wellbeing of the East Dunbartonshire area. • Changes in numbers of the local population involved in outdoor recreation within and attributed to the improvements in open spaces throughout East Dunbartonshire. 	Statistics obtained from NHS on health in the region. Monitoring timescales to be agreed with East Dunbartonshire Council and Statutory Consultees.

7.0 ASSESSMENT APPROACH

7.1 SEA Activities to Date

The initial stages required of the SEA process have already been undertaken for the Strategy, as detailed below.

Table 7.1: Initial SEA stages undertaken to date

SEA Stage	Date Completed	SEA Process
Screening Report	November 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening report submitted to the SEA Gateway to determine the need for SEA SEA Gateway responded to confirm that Consultation Authorities agree with screening report – SEA is required
Screening Determination	15 th October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDC responded to SEA Gateway confirming that SEA will be undertaken on the Open Space Strategy
Scoping Report Submission	End November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scoping report (this report) is submitted to the SEA Gateway to confirm the scope of the Environmental Report

7.2 Future SEA Activities

The next stages in the development of the East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy and the accompanying SEA are set out in Table 7.2 below.

Table 7.2: Future SEA Activity

SEA Activity	Proposed Dates	Comments
Consultation on SEA Scoping	End November – Beginning January 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultation Authorities (CA's) will provide a response on the scoping report via the SEA Gateway. The CA's will advise on the scope of the Environmental Report. Statutory 35 day consultation period
Confirming Consultation Period for the Environmental Report	January 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ironside Farrar would contact the SEA Gateway to confirm the timescale for consultation on the Environmental Report following receipt of consultation responses on the SEA Scoping.
Drafting of Environmental Report	January 2013 – End February 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses from the SEA Scoping consultation exercise will be discussed with EDC as changes to the draft Strategy may be required. Any changes will be produced as part of an ongoing iterative process to minimise the possible negative environmental effects of the Strategy whilst maximising the benefits and considering environmental enhancement.

SEA Activity	Proposed Dates	Comments
Submission of Final Draft of the Open Space Strategy and Environmental Report to EDC	Beginning March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives and indicators will be refined as part of the SEA Scoping report consultation feedback, wider consultation and will be further developed in view of the baseline information gathered. Assessment of Strategy against the environmental objectives Any alternatives to the Strategy are also assessed against the SEA Objectives and Indicators. Mitigation, environmental enhancement and monitoring will be detailed.
Submission of Final Draft of the Open Space Strategy and Environmental Report for consultation	Beginning March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultation Authorities will provide a response on the environmental report via the SEA Gateway by the period of consultation agreed at scoping stage. Statutory consultation period as agreed with Consultees The CA's will advise on the content of the Environmental Report and the acceptability of the PPS and proposals. This will include public consultation.
Collation of responses	Mid April 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All consultation responses will be reviewed and changes to the Strategy / Environmental Report made where required.
Adoption	Following completion of Statutory Consultation Late April 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	Following completion of Statutory Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SEA Statement sets out the changes made to Strategy as a result of the environmental assessment. Commitments to monitoring of the environment and timescales for this monitoring and review will be set out.
Mitigation and Monitoring	Following adoption of Open Space Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A suitable mitigation and monitoring programme would be agreed.

7.3 Consideration of 'Environment' During Preparation of the Strategy

One of the most important roles of SEA is to ensure that environment is considered at all stages and tiers within the Strategy itself.

- Environmental protection must be a key consideration and should be carried through from the Open Space Strategy aims and objectives to the Strategy's outcomes.

Tables 7.3 Environmental Protection within each Element of the Open Space Strategy

Element of The Open Space Strategy	Question Asked	Answer	Comment
Vision	Does the Strategy vision include environmental protection/ enhancement	Yes	The vision is committed achieving high quality open spaces that contribute to the quality of environment.
Aims	Do the aims of the strategy seek to protect and enhance the existing environment?	Yes	All the Aims of the Open Space Strategy focus on protecting, enhancing and continually managing existing and new open spaces across East Dunbartonshire.
Recommendations	Are the recommendations for achieving each aim sustainable and is there potential for adverse environmental impacts?	To be assessed as part of the SEA Environmental Report.	

7.4 Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects

At this stage, assessment of secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects of the Open Space Strategy have not been made. Potential for impacts will be assessed as part of the Environmental Report.

As per the Guidance from the Scottish Executive Toolkit on SEA (2006)¹, cumulative, synergistic and secondary environmental effects can be defined as follows:

- *Secondary effects are effects that are not a direct result of the PPS, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway. An example of secondary effects is a development that changes a water table and thus affects the ecology of a nearby wetland.*
- *Cumulative effects arise, for instance, where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect, or where several individual effects of the PPS have a combined effect. An example is the gradual loss of natural areas such as woodlands or Green Belt through discrete developments.*
- *Synergistic effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects, so that the nature of the final impact is different to the nature of the individual impacts. An example is the combination of SO_x and NO_x to produce smog.*

¹ Scottish Executive SEA Toolkit (September 2006)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/0>

7.5 Proposed SEA Objectives

The SEA objectives for those SEA Topics that have been 'scoped-in' are shown in Table 5.2 below and detailed in Appendix 1:

Table 7.4: Proposed SEA Objectives

SEA TOPIC	PROPOSED SEA OBJECTIVES
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	To protect the natural environment with particular consideration of protected sites and species (Local, National and European) and to maintain and conserve the existing biodiversity through enhancement schemes and mitigation where necessary.
Human Health	To promote accessibility, healthy living, prosperity and quality of life benefits through an accessible and enhanced network of outdoor recreation areas and open spaces.
Landscape & Visual	To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the landscape and visual amenity of the East Dunbartonshire area.

7.6 The Environmental Report

The Environmental Report will include an assessment of all of the issues identified through the scoping and consultation period and will follow the guidance given on the scope, detail and consultation requirements. It will set out the issues that require additional assessment as well as those which were 'scoped out'.

The resulting Environmental Report will take the form advised in the Scottish Executive SEA Templates.

The environmental report will include:

- Non technical summary
- Introduction to outline purpose of SEA in relation to the Open Space Strategy
- Assessment of Open Space Strategy in relation to other plans, environmental objectives, baseline and issues including the impact of the Programme on the environment
- Assessment of Open Space Strategy and its components against the objectives of the SEA (see example matrix in Appendix 2).
- Mitigation for possible environmental effects arising from implementation of Open Space Strategy
- Proposals for monitoring of environmental impacts following adoption of Open Space Strategy

The Environmental Report will be fully supported by graphics as required to aid interpretation of the SEA assessment.

7.7 Submission of the Environmental Report to the SEA Gateway

Copies of the Environmental Report will be submitted electronically through the SEA Gateway. Paper copies of the Environmental Report will also be submitted to the Consultation Authorities via the SEA Gateway at this point to aid interpretation.

7.8 Advertisement of the Environmental Report

In accordance with Section 16 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, East Dunbartonshire Council will publish a notice to inform the public of the publication of Open

Space Strategy and the period for public consultation. On submission of the Environmental Report and Open Space Strategy to the SEA Gateway copies will be placed on deposit at suitable locations within East Dunbartonshire Council with electronic copies made available on East Dunbartonshire's Council's website.

7.9 Impact Assessment Methodology

An assessment of Open Space Strategy will be based on a matrix approach (see Appendix 2) as per recommendations from The Strategic Environmental Assessment Tool Kit (September 2006)².

The assessment will consider:

- 1) The compatibility of the Open Space Strategy Objectives against SEA Objectives
- 2) The environmental performance of the proposals within the Open Space Strategy against SEA Objectives
- 3) The environmental performance of the alternatives (i.e. do-nothing approach) to the Open Space Strategy

The methodology for this assessment is discussed below.

7.10 Overall Assessment Criteria

Assessment of the overall predictions of impact will include a view on whether impacts can be reduced, prevented or mitigated for. Measures for mitigation will be detailed in the Environmental Report.

The purpose of this assessment is to highlight the potential impacts of the individual actions in relation to the SEA Objectives. This matrix scoring considers both the magnitude and importance of the potential receptor to gauge the level of impact significance of the proposed Strategy against the SEA objectives.

Magnitude of Impact

Magnitude	Description of Impact
No Effect	No change from the baseline.
Minor (+ve or -ve)	Slight change in the baseline scenario. Impacts would be either direct or indirect, predicted, short-term/temporary or local.
Moderate (+ve or -ve)	Moderate change in the baseline scenario. Impacts would be defined as direct or indirect local to regional, medium term, semi-permanent or temporary but reversible.
Major (+ve or -ve)	Major change to baseline. Impacts would be described as definite, direct, Regional/National or International, long-term or permanent/irreversible.

Sensitivity of Receptor

In order to assess the overall significance of an impact on the site or area, the importance of the receptors need to be defined:

² Scottish Executive SEA Toolkit (September 2006)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/0>

Sensitivity of Receptor	Description of Receptor
Minor	No statutory designations, minimum sensitivity to change.
Moderate	Locally designated site, medium sensitivity to change.
Major	International, national or regional designation, high sensitivity to change.

Significance Matrix

The significance of the impact of a development on an area or site is assessed through a combination of the magnitude of impact and sensitivity of receptor.

The following matrix has been developed to determine the significance of the impact the Programme would have on the environment.

		Magnitude			
		No Effect	Minor	Moderate	Major
Sensitivity of Receptor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Minor	Minor/Moderate
	Moderate	Negligible	Minor/ Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/Major
	Major	Negligible	Moderate	Moderate /Major	Major
		Significance			

The following symbols will be used in the matrix style assessment of the Open Space Strategy, an example of which is provided in Appendix 2.

Symbol	Description
✓✓✓	Positive major
✓✓	Positive moderate
✓	Positive minor
0	Neutral/ Negligible/ Not Applicable
x	Negative minor
xx	Negative moderate
xxx	Negative major

7.11 Consideration of the Environmental Report and the SEA Statement

The SEA statement follows the adoption of the Open Space Strategy. The statement will outline the following information:

- How environmental considerations were incorporated into the Strategy as it was updated
- How consultation outcomes were incorporated into the Strategy
- Justification for choice of alternatives/options within the Strategy
- Mitigation/monitoring proposed for the Strategy

The SEA Statement will be submitted to the Consultation Authorities via the SEA Gateway on completion.

8.0 CONSULTATION PERIOD

8.1 Suggested Consultation Period for Environmental Report

As described in further detail in Chapter 5, Historic Scotland confirmed in their formal screening response that whilst they anticipate that there may be positive effects for the historic environment on an individual site basis, such effects would not be strategically significant to the historic environment. SEPA's response concluded that the plan is likely to have positive significant strategic environmental effects on air, water, soil, human health and climatic factors, although it is anticipated that these effects will be at a local level. It is therefore proposed that the scope of the SEA is narrowed to focus solely on the environmental issues identified during consultation with SNH.

Considering this narrowed scope, it is proposed that a reduced consultation period of 4 to 5 weeks is sufficient for consultation with Statutory Consultees (SNH, SEPA, HS) and public consultation. East Dunbartonshire Council would welcome feedback from the Consultation Authorities via the SEA Gateway as to the acceptability of this timescale for responses.

APPENDIX 1 – DETAILED SEA OBJECTIVES

DETAILED SEA OBJECTIVES & INDICATORS (DRAFT)

The SEA objectives will be used to determine the likely impacts of the Open Space Strategy and will inform the choice of alternatives.

SEA Topic	Open Space Strategy SEA Objectives	Indicators
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Prevent damage to designated wildlife sites from visitors to open spaces located near these protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Strategy have a negative impact upon any 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? • Are there any impacts on European Protected Species? • Do management plans for individual nature conservation sites include regular inspections for damage to designated sites/ species? • Does the Strategy contain schemes aimed at improving the local environment and therefore enhancing the natural heritage of the region? • Will the Strategy proposals promote the achievement of LBAP targets?
	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	
	Promote co-ordinated stakeholder action, in partnership with the East Dunbartonshire LBAP	
	Integrate a biodiversity requirement within planning applications, where appropriate	
	Promote community gardening and allotment projects	
Human Health	Provide a range of outdoor sports facilities close to peoples homes, to increase levels of physical activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Strategy promote a healthy lifestyle through promotion of outdoor activities and sports? • Does the Strategy actively plan for access to community amenities, including open spaces and areas of recreation? • Will there be increases in the proportion of the population located within 400m of a green network/ open space?
	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	

SEA Topic	Open Space Strategy SEA Objectives	Indicators
Landscape	Conserve and enhance the landscape character and visual amenity of open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Strategy seek to protect and enhance existing landscape and amenity quality in East Dunbartonshire? • Does the Strategy include regular qualitative assessments of public open space to ensure that quality standards are maintained?
	Protect and enhance the East Dunbartonshire landscape, particularly in designated areas	
	Improve the quality of publicly accessible open space (in existing and new developments) and ensure that quantity meets local standards	

APPENDIX 2 – PROPOSED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

PROPOSED ASSESSMENT MATRIX (DRAFT)

The following table sets out an example of part of the assessment matrix that will be developed in the Environment Report.

Open Space Strategy Strategic Aims & Recommendations	SEA Objectives			Comments
	Biodiversity	Human Health	Landscape	
Aim 1 – Establish effective, co-ordinated partnership working for the delivery of high quality open space				
Recommendation a) – Establish broad consultation and encourage closer integration with Development Plan and Community Plan policies and the parallel strategies for Play Space, Sports Pitch Facilities and Local Recreational Access.	O / ✓	✓✓	O / ✓	This recommendation is likely to ensure greater protection of open space sites as integration with the local Community and Development Plans will provide a robust and comprehensive policy framework. This will lead to benefits for all three SEA objectives both in terms of retention of habitats and landscape and retention of places for the local community to participate in outdoor recreation. Broad consultation will also increase public awareness of open space provision further benefiting population and human health objectives.
Recommendation b) – Establishment of an Open Space Forum to help co-ordinate the progression of the OSS and build effective partnership both internally within the Council and externally with key agencies and partner organisations.				