

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination

**Notice of the Determination that the proposed
East Dunbartonshire Council: Low-Carbon Heat 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 Low-Carbon Heat 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 Low-Carbon Heat Strategy will therefore be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Lauren Hollas

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 8th February 2018
- Screening Report submitted to Consultation Authorities on 9th January 2018
- 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: 8th February 2018

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
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G66 1XQ

Telephone 0141 578 8600
Fax No: 0141 578 8575

Dear Sirs,

**SEA Screening Determination
East Dunbartonshire Council Low-Carbon Heat Strategy**

I refer to your letter dated 6th February 2018 outlining the responses from the Consultation Authorities to the Screening Report that was submitted on 9th January 2018 in relation to the proposed Low-Carbon Heat Strategy.

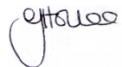
The Consultation Authorities are in agreement with the Council that the Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects. On 8th February 2018 East Dunbartonshire Council made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Low-Carbon Heat Strategy 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,



Lauren Hollas
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer

SCREENING REPORT

STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

East Dunbartonshire Council

Title of the plan:

Low-Carbon Heat Strategy

What prompted the plan:

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

Legislative drivers – Scottish Government Heat Policy Statement – ‘Towards Decarbonising Heat: Maximising the Opportunities for Scotland’ (2015) and climate change targets set in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

Low-carbon heat and energy efficiency

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:

Lauren Hollas
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Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Lauren.Hollas@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

0141 578 8532

Date:

9th January 2018

STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

The Low-Carbon Heat Strategy will identify drivers, specify key sites in which to take low carbon heat projects forward, make a business case for each site and set out project delivery arrangements and responsibilities. Preparatory work will be undertaken in association with partners to examine heat supply and demand data in order to generate an initial shortlist of sites to include in the Strategy and ultimately guide its development.

The Strategy will provide a context for the development of Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance on Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Heat and will align with the Council's Carbon Management Plan targets for a 20% reduction in corporate carbon emissions by 2020, based on 2012/13 levels, and local policy context for district heating in the Local Development Plan.

Description of the Plan:

Whilst the objectives of the Strategy are yet to be defined and will be dependent on contributions from Resource Efficient Scotland and Natural Power Consultants, the key ambitions of the Strategy are to:

- Reduce carbon emissions by creating efficient heat networks throughout East Dunbartonshire with potential to be powered by renewable/low-carbon energy;
- Tackle fuel poverty by providing lower-cost heating to local low-income households; and,
- Reduce the Council's energy and carbon-related costs.

It is also intended that, in examining options for delivery vehicles, the document will explore the potential for community empowerment, skill development and job creation; options for income generation for the Council will also be studied.

The initial intention is to link with the local policy context through the LDP and Scottish Planning Policy regarding the encouragement of heat networks throughout East Dunbartonshire. In parallel with the development of the Strategy, Supplementary Guidance on Low-Carbon Heat Technologies will also be produced within the life of the current LDP, which will provide a direct link into the land use planning system and support the implementation of the wider Strategy. The proposed Supplementary Guidance will be subject to a separate SEA Screening process.

Whilst the Strategy will look at feasible options for district heating, as identified at a national policy level as having a key role to play in the low carbon heat agenda, it is noted that in some cases it is not possible to simultaneously deliver carbon and financial benefits, especially if it is intended that the financial benefits are experienced by the wider community as well as corporately. In such cases, other ways of obtaining low-carbon heat may be more appropriate, and a growing range of options is becoming available for smaller-scale schemes ('individual low-carbon areas'), which will be explored and identified, where appropriate, in the Strategy.

What are the key components of the plan?

The components of the Strategy at this stage are the ambitions outlined in Box 6.

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

The components of the Strategy have not been previously considered in SEA work.

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

The proposed ambitions will be subject to Screening.

**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		
Reduce carbon emissions by creating efficient heat networks throughout East Dunbartonshire with potential to be powered by renewable/low-carbon technology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>Reducing carbon emissions through the creation and integration of heat networks throughout East Dunbartonshire will potentially have positive impacts to Climatic Factors, Air Quality, Population and Human Health. Potential effects include a reduction in carbon emissions and air pollution, contributions to ‘cleaner’ environments to live in and potential cost reductions in energy for local residents, a local contribution to climate change mitigation and a shift towards renewable and low-carbon technology.</p> <p>There is also the potential that this component will present potential negative impacts to Biodiversity,</p>	<p>It is likely that this component will present significant positive impacts in relation to Climatic Factors, Air Quality, Population and Human Health as well as significant negative impacts to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil, Water, Cultural Heritage and Landscape; however the significance of the impacts to each of the environmental factors will be dependent on the scale, local environment, route of proposed networks and type of technologies explored. In addition, the nature and significance of the effects have the potential to be short-term, for example infrastructure impacts.</p>

											Flora and Fauna, Soil, Water, Cultural Heritage and Landscape in terms of the impacts of integrating local renewable and low-carbon technically into the area, the receiving environment and the scale at which this is done.	
Tackle fuel poverty by providing lower-cost heating to local low-income households	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	The provision of lower-cost heating to local low-income households is likely to have impacts to Population and Human Health due to the Strategy's direct focus on improving the negative impacts faced as a result of fuel poverty amongst communities and individuals.	There is the potential that the effects will be significant in certain localities, especially those that are identified as socio-economically disadvantaged.
Reduce the Council's energy and carbon-related costs	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Reducing energy and carbon-related costs is likely to present direct positive impacts to Population and Human Health in terms of the effects to reduced spending and budget saving for the Council. This has the potential to have secondary effects on the wider Council area.	As with the first component, the significance of meeting this ambition is likely to be dependent on the scale, local environment, and type of technologies explored. This will determine the significance of savings and scope for empowering communities, skills development, job creation and Council income generation.
Explore the potential for community empowerment, skill development, job creation and options for income generation for the Council	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	There is the potential that community empowerment, skills development, job creation and income generation will present positive impacts to Population and Human Health .	

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.)

Given the potential for significant environmental effects to each of the environmental factors to some extent, it has been determined under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Low-Carbon Heat Strategy is likely to present significant positive and negative environmental effects and therefore, it is suggested that it qualifies to undergo a full environmental assessment.

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.



Lauren Hollas
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer
Sustainability Policy Team
Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets
East Dunbartonshire Council
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Our ref: 01344 Screening - East Dunbartonshire Council - Low Carbon Heat Strategy

6th February 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the Screening document you submitted on 9th January 2018.

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

Ms Lauren Hollas
Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets East
Dunbartonshire Council
East Dunbartonshire Council
Southbank House Strathkelvin
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G66 1XQ

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
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Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Our ref: AMN/23/181 Our
case ID: 300025702 Your ref:
01344 Screening
06 February 2018

Dear Ms Hollas

[Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)

[01344 Screening - East Dunbartonshire Council - Low Carbon Heat Strategy](#)

Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 09 January 2018 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.

Our understanding from the provided screening report is that the Low Carbon Heat Strategy will set out the Council's ambitions in this area including carbon emission reduction through heat networks and the identification of key sites for such projects. We note from the report that you consider that this component of the strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects. In light of the information contained within the report we are content to agree that significant effects on the historic environment as a result of the strategy are likely.

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 Andrew Stevenson who can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8960 or by email on andrew.stevenson2@hes.scot

Yours faithfully

Historic Environment Scotland

Our ref: PCS/156866
SG ref: SEA01344/SCR

If telephoning ask for:
Nicki Dunn

1 February 2018

Lauren Hollas
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer
East Dunbartonshire Council
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

By email only to: SEA_Gateway@gov.scot

Dear Madam

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Low Carbon Heat Strategy - Screening Report

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 9 January 2018.

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 is likely to 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).

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. To assist with this process we have produced [SEA topic guidance](#) on those issues which fall within our remit.

We are committed to providing early and focused advice and supporting continuous engagement and would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these issues prior to the formal consultation. Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation please do not hesitate to contact me on 01698 839000 or via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Nicki Dunn
Senior Planning Officer
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

Lauren Hollas

Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets

Land Planning and Development
Southbank House

Kirkintilloch G66
1XQ

Date: 19 January 2018

Our ref: CNS/SEA/SSEA/01344 Dear
Ms Hollas

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005:
East Dunbartonshire Council – Low Carbon Heat Strategy Screening
Determination

Thank you for your screening report submitted on 9 January 2018 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. It is difficult for us to make a judgement about the likelihood of significant environmental effects without further details of the type of technologies being considered and the likely scale/location of any installations. Given this uncertainty, and taking a precautionary approach, we agree that the above Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects relevant to our interests.

It would be helpful for the scoping report to contain further information on the type of technologies being considered and the likely scale/location of any installations.

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 0131 314 6750 or via SNH's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Lyndsey Kinnes Operations
Manager

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, Bruach Chluaidh G81 2NR

Fòn: 0131 3146750 www.snh.gov.uk/gaelic