

# **Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination**

**Notice of the Determination that the proposed  
East Dunbartonshire Council: Air Quality Planning Guidance  
will not be required to go through the full  
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 Air Quality Planning Guidance.

East Dunbartonshire Council has made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Planning Guidance is unlikely to result in any significant environmental effects. The Air Quality Planning Guidance will therefore not be subject to a full 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 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- Screening Report submitted to Consultation Authorities on 15<sup>th</sup> 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)



**East Dunbartonshire Council**

[www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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

**PLACE, NEIGHBOURHOOD AND CORPORATE  
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**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 Air Quality Planning Guidance**

I refer to your letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 outlining the responses from the Consultation Authorities to the Screening Report that was submitted on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in relation to the proposed Air Quality Planning Guidance.

The Consultation Authorities are in agreement with the Council that the Planning Guidance is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 East Dunbartonshire Council made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Air Quality Planning Guidance is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. Therefore, the Planning Guidance will not be subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Environmental Report will not 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/S-E-A](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/S-E-A). 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:**

Air Quality Planning Guidance

**What prompted the plan:**

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

The Planning Guidance will be developed to support the new Local Development Plan, which was adopted in February 2017.

**Plan subject:**

(e.g. transport)

Environmental Protection – Air Quality

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

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

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**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

**Tel:** 0141 578 8615

**Email:** [Neil.Samson@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.Samson@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

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

**Date:**

12<sup>th</sup> January 2018

## STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

### Context of the Plan:

This Planning Guidance (PG) will sit alongside the Council's Local Development Plan. The PG will be used by developers and the development applications team within the Council to determine the scale of likely impacts of development on local air quality.

The overall aim of the guidance is to set out when developers will be required to complete an air quality assessment as part of the planning process. This air quality assessment will be used by environmental health officers and development application officers in determining the suitability of new development in terms of its likely impacts on air quality.

The guidance can also be used to determine what, if any, mitigation measures can be introduced to the local area to maintain or improve local air quality.

### Description of the Plan:

The key policy driver is the Local Development Plan (LDP), which sets the policy framework for consideration through Policy 4 – Sustainable Transport, Policy 15-Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Technology and Policy 16-Managing Waste. Note that the Air Quality PG will form non-statutory PG in support of the LDP. This means that the guidance will not form part of the development plan, however it will be a material consideration in the Development Management decision-making processes. This also means that the PG may be updated quickly as required, should any further issues arise during the lifecycle of the Plan. It will not be subject to scrutiny by Scottish Ministers.

The PG itself will sit underneath the Local Development Plan, Local Transport Strategy, and Active Travel Strategy in the Council-wide strategic hierarchy and work in conjunction with the Air Quality Management Area Action Plans and other Supplementary/Planning Guidance.

### What are the key components of the plan?

At this early stage, the components for the proposed PG are the following draft objectives:

#### Objectives

1. Deliver Planning Guidance for air quality
2. Assist officers in determining the suitability of proposed development in terms of its likely impact on local air quality
3. Set out criteria for air quality assessments
4. The guidance can also be used to determine what, if any, mitigation measures can be put in place via development to maintain or improve local air quality

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

The intended outcomes of the proposed PG will be directly related to the Local Development Plan (Policy 4-Sustainable Transport, Policy 15-Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Technology and Policy 16-Managing Waste), Planning Obligations Supplementary Guidance, Air Quality Strategy and Local Transport Strategy (LTS) which have all been subject to SEA. The LTS has been subject the full SEA process, which includes EDC's aim to support the national 42% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Through the implementation of measures to reduce road based emissions, East Dunbartonshire will demonstrate a commitment to national reduction targets and also improve air quality.

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

At this stage, the components known are the proposed objectives. The proposed objectives are likely to require screening at this stage as they will be the strategic direction for the proposed PG. The proposed draft objectives are stated 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		
<b>Objective 1</b> Deliver Planning Guidance for air quality	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	The proposed Air Quality PG is likely to provide secondary benefits to the environment in relation to <b>population and human health, air quality and climatic factors</b> . The PG will not set a framework for development. Instead it will essentially be a procedural document to give clarity to developers and landowners as to what circumstances an additional air quality assessment would be required and this will form an additional material consideration during the planning approval process. The PG will assist Development Management practitioners in determining any proposed development sites suitability, depending on the proposed uses, in terms of likely impacts on local air quality.	
<b>Objective 2</b> Assist officers in determining the suitability of proposed development in terms of its likely impact on local air quality	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x		
<b>Objective 3</b> Set out criteria for air quality assessments	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x		
<b>Objective 4</b> Provide any other criteria such as design considerations.	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x		
<b>Objective 5</b> The guidance can also be used to determine what, if any, mitigation measures can be put in place via development to maintain or improve local air quality	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x		

## 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.)

The proposed Air Quality Planning Guidance will support the implementation of the Local Development Plan, while not forming statutory guidance. As outlined in the above initial components assessment, it is likely that the PG will provide secondary positive impacts in relation to **population and human health, air quality and climatic factors** through a contribution to carbon emissions reductions and improved local air quality. However, it is essentially a procedural document to ensure that all development proposals are reviewed and assessed appropriate at the project level to determine potential air quality and provide mitigation measures where necessary through a separate air quality assessment.

Whilst it is anticipated that the PG will have a positive impact, to an extent, the overall environmental impacts of the PG itself are unlikely to be significant. Therefore, it has been determined that, under Section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, a full SEA is not required.

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



Local Government and Communities Directorate  
Planning and Architecture Division

T: 0131-244 9571 F: 0131-244 7555  
E: [SEA.Gateway@gov.scot](mailto:SEA.Gateway@gov.scot)

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

**Our ref: 01348 Screening - East Dunbartonshire Council - Air Quality Planning  
Guidance - screening request received in gateway - 15 January 2018**  
8<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the Screening document you submitted on 15 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	No
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	No
Scottish Natural Heritage	No
<b>OVERALL VIEW ON LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS</b>	<b>No</b>

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](mailto:sea.gateway@gov.scot)

Mr Neil Samson  
Sustainability Policy Team  
East Dunbartonshire Council  
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets  
Southbank House  
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Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716  
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[HMConsultations@hes.scot](mailto:HMConsultations@hes.scot)

Our ref: AMN/23/183  
Our case ID: 300025795  
Your ref: 01348 Screening  
08 February 2018

Dear Mr Samson

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
01348 Screening - East Dunbartonshire Council - Air Quality Planning Guidance

### Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 15 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 supplied screening report is that the Air Quality Planning Guidance will give support and advice in relation to the policy framework of the Local Development Plan (LDP). As the related policy framework has been subject to environmental assessment through the LDP SEA we note that it is the council's view that environmental effects as a result of the guidance are unlikely. In light of this and further information presented within the screening report we are content to agree that the guidance in itself is unlikely to have significant effects on the historic environment.

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](mailto:andrew.stevenson2@hes.scot).

Yours faithfully

**Historic Environment Scotland**

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

Our ref: PCS/156980  
SG ref: SEA01348/SCR

Neil Samson  
Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets Directorate  
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If telephoning ask for:  
Nicki Dunn

25 January 2018

By email only to: [SEA\\_Gateway@gov.scot](mailto:SEA_Gateway@gov.scot)

Dear Sir

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
Air Quality Planning Guidance - Screening Report**

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 16 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 guidance is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are not likely, it is for the East Dunbartonshire Council as 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. 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](#) for those issues which fall within our remit. Further information on scoping can be found in the [Scottish Government SEA Guidance](#) (sections 3.4 to 3.8 in particular).

We are committed to providing early and focused advice and supporting continuous engagement and therefore if it is determined that SEA is required we would 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](mailto:sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk).

Yours faithfully  
Nicki Dunn  
Senior Planning Officer  
Ecocy: [sea.gateway@hes.scot](mailto:sea.gateway@hes.scot); [sea\\_gateway@snh.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:sea.gateway@gov.scot)

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

Date: 19 January 2018  
Our ref: CNS/SEA/SSEA/01348

Dear Mr Samson

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005:**  
**East Dunbartonshire Council – Air Quality Planning Guidance**  
**Screening Determination**

Thank you for your screening report submitted on 15 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. In terms of our interests, we agree that the above Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects.

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

Should you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact Graeme Heenan on 0131 314 6750 or via SNH's SEA Gateway at [sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

Lyndsey Kinnes  
Operations Manager  
Strathclyde & Ayrshire

CC [sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk); [sea.gateway@hes.scot](mailto:sea.gateway@hes.scot)

Scottish Natural Heritage, Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, G81 2NR  
Tel: 0131 3146750 [www.snh.gov.uk](http://www.snh.gov.uk)

Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba, Taigh Caspian, 2 Cùirt a' Mharaiche, Pàirc Gnothachais Bhruach Chluaidh,  
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