

SEA Scoping Report: PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Or

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

SEA Scoping Report: PART 2

An SEA Scoping Report is attached for:

Local Biodiversity Action Plan

The Responsible Authority is:

East Dunbartonshire Council

Please tick (✓) either Part 3 or 4 which relates directly to the specific PPS

SEA Scoping Report: PART 3

Information on the scope of the environmental report is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

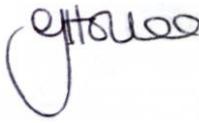


SEA Scoping Report: PART 4

The PPS does not require an SEA under the Act. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, because this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 28 day timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

SEA Scoping Report: PART 5

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Date	8 April 2015

STRATEGIC
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT:
**SCOPING
REPORT**

Local Biodiversity Action Plan



sustainable thriving achieving

East Dunbartonshire Council

www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Introduction

East Dunbartonshire Council will be preparing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) which will play an important role in contributing towards the national targets for biodiversity set out by the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) to prevent further biodiversity loss and restore the essential services for a healthy natural environment by 2020. The targets of the SBS are due to be updated in 2020. As a result it is proposed the LBAP will run from 2016-2020 and then be reviewed to reflect any changes emerging from the review of the SBS targets. It is recognised that East Dunbartonshire has a rich and varied biodiversity, which is important to improving health and wellbeing, addressing the effects of climate change and supporting the local economy. The LBAP will help to prevent further loss of biodiversity through the protection of Scotland's priority species and habitats that are present in East Dunbartonshire, and those of local importance.

Section 1: Key Facts	This section provides some key facts about the Local Biodiversity Action Plan including a brief summary of the Plan and the draft objectives.
Section 2: Strategic Action Context	This section provides an overview of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the main issues it is likely to address. In addition, this section provides the draft environmental baseline data collected to be used to assess the Plan.
Section 3: Scope & Level of Detail Proposed for Environmental Assessment	This section outlines how the SEA process incorporates the identification of reasonable alternatives; assessment methodology, scoping in and out of issues, SEA objectives and the mitigation and monitoring of information.
Section 4: Next Steps	This section sets out the concluding stages proposed for the Environmental Report.
Appendix 1: Influence of key legislation & PPS	This appendix lists key legislation, plans, programmes, policies and strategies that influence or are influenced by the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
Appendix 2: Recognised Protected Species (including those with Action Plans), Priority Species, Lesser Priority Species and Invasive Non-Native Species in East Dunbartonshire	This appendix lists relevant species to East Dunbartonshire that are Protected, species of concern and Invasive Non-Native Species.

Section 1: Key Facts

Responsible Authority	East Dunbartonshire Council
Title of PPS	Local Biodiversity Action Plan

<p>Purpose of PPS</p>	<p>In response to the requirements for Scotland to contribute to meeting the targets set by the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for East Dunbartonshire intends to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contribute to the (relevant) objectives and targets of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy through effective, co-ordinated local action ➤ Identify nature conservation priorities for East Dunbartonshire, and targeted actions for the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species that are important at the local level ➤ Contribute to a forum for the Biodiversity Partnership to work together on preparation of the LBAP, share ideas and collaborate on projects/actions which can be developed and maintained over the long term ➤ Raise awareness of biodiversity/ecosystem services and its importance in the local context and encourages local communities to get involved in the actions in their area ➤ Ensure opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity are promoted and embedded in local policies and decision making processes ➤ Identify opportunities for and facilitates strategic, landscape scale, cross boundary initiatives for nature conservation ➤ Encourage greater biological recording in the area ➤ Realise the social and economic benefits of biodiversity through education and action ➤ Provide a framework for the monitoring and evaluation of local biodiversity actions/activity against both local and national targets and objectives/priorities, preferably incorporating the use of the UK-wide Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS).
<p>What prompted the PPS (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)</p>	<p>Although the LBAP is not a statutory requirement, the LBAP was prompted by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan commitment, the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. The Act places a duty on all local authorities and public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity in carrying out their functions.</p>
<p>Subject (e.g. transport)</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p>
<p>Period covered by PPS</p>	<p>2016-2020</p>
<p>Frequency of updates</p>	<p>The Strategy will be reviewed annually and updated in 2020</p>
<p>Area covered by</p>	<p>The Plan will cover the whole area covered by East Dunbartonshire Council, and also include Mugdock Country Park which lies within the</p>

<p>PPS (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)</p>	<p>Stirling Council area. Cross-boundary issues for biodiversity into neighbouring authorities will be given recognition.</p>
<p>Summary of nature/ Content of the PPS</p>	<p>The LBAP will take a strategic approach to protecting biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire and Mugdock Country Park (Stirling Council and the Joint Committee for the Park will be involved in issues related to the Park) to recognise the importance of biodiversity at a national and a local level. At this stage in the development of the LBAP, the structure and scope of the LBAP have not been decided. The Steering Group will assess a Habitat and Species Approach which is the more traditional focus for an LBAP as well as an Ecosystems Approach which is in line with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 2020 Challenge.</p> <p>The Habitats and Species Approach would provide an overview of the habitats and species in East Dunbartonshire, and highlight those that are a priority for concern. These will be established prior to developing the LBAP by the Biodiversity Partnership and steering group. The aims and outcomes for the LBAP will be discussed, and objectives for long term protection of East Dunbartonshire’s biodiversity will be outlined. The objectives will focus mainly on habitat type and the associated species of concern, although the benefits of environmental education and improved awareness of the importance of biodiversity will also be discussed.</p> <p>An Ecosystem Approach would focus on the reversal of biodiversity decline, alongside the relevant economic and social issues. Overall, the approach would ensure that a multitude of sustainable benefits are considered, using the five appropriate themes outlined in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Healthy Ecosystems ➤ Natural Capital ➤ Biodiversity, Health and Quality of Life ➤ Wildlife, Habitats and Protected Places ➤ Land and Freshwater Management <p>Regardless of the approach taken, the LBAP will encourage improved awareness and understanding of the need for actions to prevent the loss of, and enhance biodiversity. Objectives will be set and delivered within the next 4 years through a range of actions. The LBAP will also establish a monitoring and evaluation framework using the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS).</p> <p>Given that the LBAP is being prepared at the same time as the Green Network Strategy and an Active Travel Strategy for East Dunbartonshire, it would be beneficial to align these documents as they are closely linked.</p>

Are there any proposed PPS objectives?	Yes		No	
Copy of objectives attached	Yes		No	
Date	8 April 2015			

Draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan Objectives

The aims and objectives will be determined and agreed by the Biodiversity Partnership over the course of the production of the LBAP. The objectives will be focussed on identified priority species and habitats and the role of education and awareness. The draft outcomes of the LBAP include:

- Biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire is protected and enhanced with clear evidence for the reversal or slowing of declines
- Improved health and quality of life for the people of East Dunbartonshire, through protection and enhancement of greenspaces, protected areas, nature and landscapes
- The intrinsic value and importance of East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity and the additional social and economic benefits it provides are understood by all
- Ecosystems in East Dunbartonshire are healthy and functioning well so they are able to provide ecosystem services to residents and businesses

Section 2: Strategic Action Context

This section provides an overview of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the main issues it is likely to address.

This section contains the following information

2.1	Relationship with other Plans, Programmes and Strategies
2.2	Baseline Environmental Data
2.3	Sources of Baseline Data
2.4	Environmental Issues for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan
2.5	Evolution of the Environmental Baseline in the Absence of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

2.1 Relationship with other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

There are a number of other strategies and plans internationally, nationally, regionally and locally that the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) needs to be integrated with. These include:

International and European

- Kyoto Protocol 1997
- Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
- Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- European Biodiversity Strategy
- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
- EU Birds Directive
- EU Habitats Directive

National

- UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework
- Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- Scottish Forestry Strategy (2006)
- A Five Year Species Action Framework: Making a difference for Scotland's species (2007)
- Conserving Biodiversity – The UK Approach (2007)
- Scottish Planning Policy

- National Planning Framework 3
- Planning Advice Note (PAN) 60
- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands (2004) and The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013))
- Scottish Biodiversity List
- River Basin Management Plan for Scotland

Regional

- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan
- Glasgow & Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy
- Emerging Clyde & Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Plan

Local

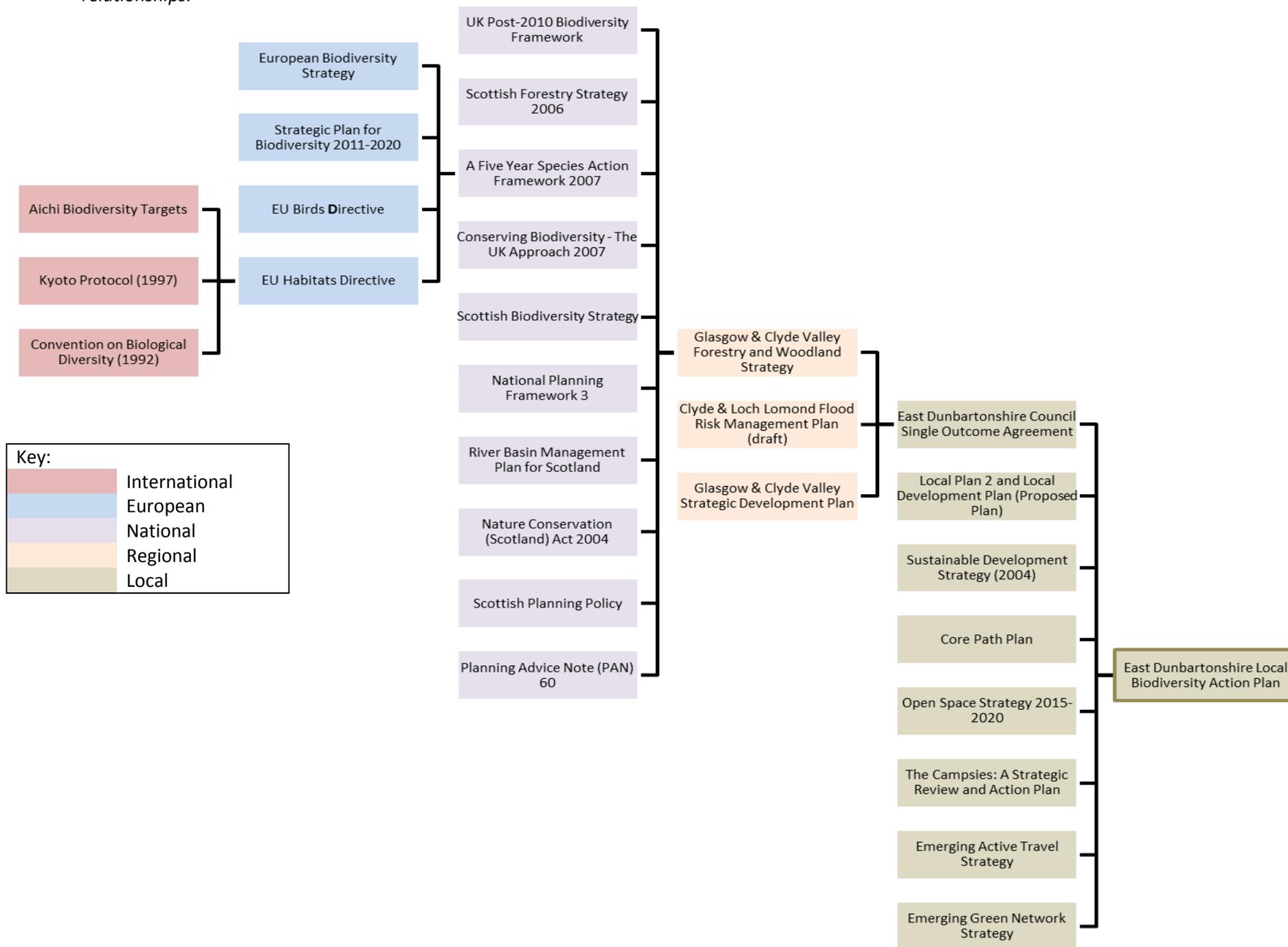
- East Dunbartonshire Single Outcome Agreement
- East Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2
- East Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan (Proposed Plan)
- East Dunbartonshire Council's Core Path Plan
- Emerging East Dunbartonshire Green Network Strategy
- Emerging Active Travel Strategy
- Sustainable Development Strategy (this will be replaced by the emerging Sustainability and Climate Change Framework during the preparation period of the LBAP)
- The Campsies: A Strategic Review and Action Plan (2011)
- East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy 2015 – 2020

2.1.1 Cross-boundary effects with neighbouring authorities will be considered through the integration of the LBAP and the consideration of Plans and Strategies produced by the neighbouring authorities. This will be particularly important in relation to Mugdock Park, which lies within the Stirling Council area. However, it is not expected that the LBAP will require consideration of transboundary effects with neighbouring EU Member States.

2.1.2 **Appendix 1** lists key legislation, plans, programmes, policies and strategies that influence or are influenced by the LBAP. This list includes documents that refer to international, European Community, and national environmental objectives; regional and local objectives. Their content, where appropriate, has been used to inform the environmental objectives for the SEA of the Plan.

Figure 1: Interrelationship of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan with Other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This is a diagrammatic representation and does not include every one of the plans listed. The template below is useful for demonstrating such relationships.



2.1.3 The **Environmental Protection Objectives** that are contained within international, European, UK and Scottish legislation, as well as national guidance which are considered to be of the greatest relevance to the LBAP will be taken into account when preparing the Plan. These are set out in [Appendix 1](#).

2.2 Baseline Environmental Data

2.2.1 The early stages of SEA, such as describing the baseline, identifying environmental problems/issues and analysing the links and relationships between other strategic actions, should be carried out concurrently and they should inform each other throughout the process. This approach has been adopted within this Scoping Report.

2.2.2 In order to measure the significant environmental effects of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan the current state of the environment must be known. East Dunbartonshire Council will gather sufficient information to provide the current state of the environment, or an Environmental Baseline, utilising GIS mapping where possible, to show the geographical location and scale of key environmental designations. The potential effects (including, cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects) of the information contained within the LBAP and their alternatives will be measured against this baseline.

2.2.3 For the purposes of this Scoping Report, a broad summary of baseline environmental information has been collated. **Table 1** below summarises the main baseline environmental features and the environmental implications for the preparation and development of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

2.2.4 **Table 1** also contains the suggested overall objectives for the assessment. These have been developed taking into account the summary baseline data and environmental implications for the LBAP. The SEA Objectives will be used to assess the LBAP and they will provide the basis for the development of the questions and indicators in **Table 5**.

Table 1: Proposed Environmental Baseline Data

Environmental Receptor	Summary of baseline Environmental Data	Environmental Implications for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Baseline Data to be collected	Sources of baseline Data	Proposed SEA Objectives
<p>Population & Human Health</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire has a total population of 105,860 (2013); a decrease in population of approximately 3% since 2001. Population Projections forecast this trend to continue during the period between 2010 and 2035 with a reduction of 9.8% expected.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire has a decreasing and ageing population. This is highlighted through the population projections in 2010 that by 2035 East Dunbartonshire’s population will be 94,343 with a large increase in the 75+ age group and a projected decline of 22.8% of the under 16 age group in comparison to the 2010 population statistics. The number of people aged over 65 years old is forecast to increase by 11,000 people between 2010 and 2035.</p> <p>Areas of Hillhead and Lennoxton are within the top 15% most deprived SIMD data zones in Scotland.</p> <p>Generally the health of the residents</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire hosts various areas within the top 15% of deprived areas in Scotland and is showing an increase in non-economically active population and older people.</p> <p>Through community engagement, there will be opportunities for these groups of people to become involved in biodiversity projects. This can result in improved quality of environment and will have a potentially positive impact on their wellbeing.</p> <p>There is scope to improve the number of people partaking in walking and cycling through active encouragement of the natural environment and outdoor activities. Enhancements to biodiversity and habitats</p>	<p>Population statistics</p> <p>Trends in health from 2001 to 2011.</p> <p>Life expectancy</p> <p>Physical activity levels, particularly through walking and cycling to work.</p> <p>Information related to SIMD area and economic statistics</p> <p>Access to open space, health and recreational facilities.</p> <p>Community-led projects in East Dunbartonshire</p> <p>Number of volunteers, particularly with interest in biodiversity</p>	<p>General Register Office for Scotland</p> <p>Census 2001 – for health data</p> <p>Census 2011 data</p> <p>National Records of Scotland, October 2014</p> <p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Scottish Government SIMD data for East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics</p> <p>NOMIS (Economically active population & Average weekly wage)</p> <p>Scottish Household Survey (walking/ cycling to work)</p>	<p>To improve human health and community wellbeing</p>

<p>Population & Human Health (continued)</p>	<p>of East Dunbartonshire is good with nearly 73% of the residents being generally healthy, in comparison to the average of Scotland (68%) according to the 2001 census. 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> <p>In terms of walking and cycling to work in 2012/13, East Dunbartonshire had low rates of walking (5.1%) when compared with the Scottish national average (13.2%). Walking to work rates in East Dunbartonshire represent the 2nd lowest rates in Scotland against all other Council areas. There are similarly low levels of cycling to the Scottish national average (2.3%).</p> <p>The percentage of economically active people living in East Dunbartonshire has decreased over recent years; however, this percentage is still higher than both the Scottish and British national averages.</p>	<p>are likely to promote cycling and core path routes in East Dunbartonshire. This will potentially lead to supplementary positive outcomes in reducing car travel.</p> <p>The associated conflicts between the rights for public access to the environment and the need to protect biodiversity will need to be considered.</p> <p>Of those who are economically active in East Dunbartonshire, 0.2% of this population work in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry. The management and protection of biodiversity for both preserving biodiversity and the livelihoods of those who are involved in this industry is vital.</p>		<p>2012/13</p> <p>Glasgow Centre for Population Health 2011. (Briefing Paper 28)</p>	
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire has: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 UNESCO World Heritage Site; Antonine Wall. A buffer zone has been identified around the Wall to help protect its setting, in Supplementary Planning 	<p>Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas contribute to the character of the streets in East Dunbartonshire. Through appropriate management and enhancement, where</p>	<p>Review of designated sites, areas and resources, including, Listed Building, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments.</p>	<p>Historic Scotland</p> <p>Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p>	<p>To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment</p>

<p>Cultural Heritage (continued)</p>	<p>Guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 43 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. In particular the Forth & Clyde Canal is made up of a series of Scheduled Ancient Monuments. ➤ 181 Listed Building, including five bridges, five mileposts, one horse trough and Milngavie Railway Station. The Luggie Water Aqueduct and Bridge, Kirkintilloch, is Category A. ➤ 15 Conservation Areas (4 of which are designated as outstanding) ➤ 21 Townscape Protection Areas ➤ 3 sites recommended as having the potential for meeting national inventory standards as Gardens and Designed Landscapes. 30 such sites have also been identified as having local value. ➤ There are no transport structures in the area identified in the Buildings at Risk Register. 	<p>necessary, the character of these assets can be further promoted.</p> <p>The varied and rich historic built and natural environment in East Dunbartonshire should be a vital consideration for the LBAP.</p> <p>The LBAP should consider the role and importance of biodiversity to the setting and value of the Antonine Wall.</p> <p>The requirements to protect Forth and Clyde Canal, both as a main water body and Scheduled Ancient Monument, will be influential to the LBAP.</p>	<p>Archaeological resources.</p> <p>Record progress on the Antonine Wall access project, associated with the Forth & Clyde Canal access strategy, to 2017.</p>	<p>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation – World Heritage Site Designation</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage</p> <p>Scottish Canals Heritage Strategy 2013-38</p>	
<p>Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire has: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) 	<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna directly influence the LBAP. The implementation of the LBAP will have a direct positive impact on</p>	<p>Priority Species and Habitats.</p> <p>Regionally and locally designated sites.</p>	<p>Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage</p>	<p>To protect, enhance, create and, where necessary, restore biodiversity and encourage habitat</p>

<p>Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 Regional Scenic Areas ➤ 66 Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) ➤ There are a Network of Local Nature Conservation Areas and Important Wildlife Corridors in East Dunbartonshire. Significant ones include the Forth & Clyde Canal, The John Muir & Thomas Muir Way from Kirkintilloch to Clachan of Campsie, the Main Line Railway and disused railway lines such as Balmore to Torrance to Kirkintilloch. LNCS and Important Wildlife Corridors will be reviewed 2015/2016 so these designations are subject to alteration. ➤ 350 Tree Preservation Orders ➤ 3 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) which include Merkland LNR, Lenzie Moss LNR and Kilmardinny Loch. <p>There are a number of Protected Species identified in East Dunbartonshire (including those with former Species Action Plans, priority species and lesser priority species) (Appendix 2). This includes a number of European Protected Species such as Otters, Badgers and Water Vole.</p> <p>Several Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) have been identified in East</p>	<p>protecting and enhancing the species and habitats in East Dunbartonshire. This will be particularly significant to those that are vulnerable/protected.</p> <p>Where specific projects are highlighted in the LBAP to achieve the aims, native species should be considered in order to enhance natural resources that are specific to the local area.</p> <p>The importance and impact of Protected Species and INNS for biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire should be considered through the LBAP.</p> <p>The variety of biodiversity, flora and fauna in East Dunbartonshire contributes to its scenic value. This possesses a valued interest for economic benefits in terms of increased tourism to the area.</p> <p>Woodland resources in East Dunbartonshire have the potential to be a vital consideration for the LBAP, especially if an ecosystems approach is taken.</p> <p>It is important that native</p>	<p>Links to the Green Network</p> <p>Record areas and levels of planting</p> <p>Results of the review of LNCS and Important Wildlife Corridor designations</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Native Woodland Survey of Scotland report for East Dunbartonshire, October 2010</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council Local Development Plan Main Issues Report, 2013</p>	<p>connectivity</p>
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<p>Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna (continued)</p>	<p>Dunbartonshire (Appendix 2).</p> <p>Woodland in East Dunbartonshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Native woodland in East Dunbartonshire comprises 22.1% of the total woodland area (4.8% of the total land area). ➤ 95ha of woodland is present on ancient woodlands, which makes up 34% of native woodland ➤ The main native woodland types in East Dunbartonshire are lowland mixed deciduous woodland (34%), wet woodland (25%) and upland birchwoods (21%). 	<p>woodland is managed.</p> <p>Enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna has the potential to significantly contribute to and enhance existing or new habitat networks and connectivity in East Dunbartonshire.</p>			
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<p>Soil & Geology</p>	<p>Despite three quarters of the land in East Dunbartonshire being utilised for agricultural processes, the district has a small percentage (5%) of prime agricultural soil.</p> <p>Currently East Dunbartonshire has not designated any areas of land as contaminated land as defined in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. However, a list of potential contaminated sites has been created based on previous land use. On this list 626 potentially contaminated sites (to varying degrees of contamination) have been identified.</p> <p>There are currently 25 sites of Vacant and Derelict Land within East</p>	<p>Reductions in both the level and quality of biodiversity can have significant adverse effects on soil quality and functions. Where this is the case, soil is more likely to be exposed to elements, causing erosion and potential soil acidification.</p> <p>The LBAP has the potential to positively impact on the quality of soil for growing in terms of contributing to soil functionality and nutrients.</p> <p>Development on Vacant and Derelict land has the potential to result in the</p>	<p>Agricultural land classification data - location and area of land by settlement.</p> <p>Contaminated land – Number, size and location of sites.</p> <p>Areas of Peat deposits. Minerals extraction and data.</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>EDC Local Plan 2</p> <p>EDC Local Development Plan</p> <p>Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Register 2013</p> <p>James Hutton Institute</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage</p> <p>British Geological Survey</p>	<p>To protect and, where appropriate, use high quality and sensitive soils in a sustainable manner and conserve recognised geodiversity assets</p>
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<p>Soil & Geology (continued)</p>	<p>Dunbartonshire with a total area of 62 hectares. These and other Brownfield land locations within East Dunbartonshire may have potentially contaminated land, depending on their historic uses.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire also has 1 RIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site) at Clachan of Campsie. It has 36 sites representing geological diversity, and 34 are recommended as Local Geodiversity Sites (LGS).</p>	<p>removal of habitats or INNS, although this would relieve pressures in green belt locations.</p>		<p>UKRIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site)</p>	
<p>Landscape</p>	<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 two Local Landscape Areas; the Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills to the North and West of the district respectively.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire has a total of 973.46 hectares of urban open space; the greatest proportion of which is classified as semi-natural greenspace and Regional Greenspace.</p>	<p>Valued biodiversity and habitats can potentially impact positively on the setting and improve visual amenity.</p> <p>Any significant actions discussed to deliver the Biodiversity Action Plan will need to consider any designations within East Dunbartonshire in order to prevent effects to the landscape.</p> <p>Habitat connectivity within East Dunbartonshire should be considered in the LBAP for improvements to reduce fragmentation across the various landscapes.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire has a</p>	<p>Woodland resources, ancient and semi-natural within East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>Local landscape character at a settlement level.</p>	<p>EDC Local Plan 2</p> <p>British Geological Survey</p> <p>UKRIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site)</p> <p>Glasgow & Clyde Valley Landscape Character Assessment, 1999</p>	<p>To protect and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value</p>

Landscape (continued)	The green belt is a Development Plan policy which covers the East Dunbartonshire area, with the exception of the upland areas; its objectives include maintaining the character and distinctiveness of the areas settlements.	strong local distinctiveness and genetic diversity that has the potential to be lost without the interventions of the LBAP.			
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Water Quality	<p>The main watercourses within East Dunbartonshire are the River Kelvin, Glazert Water, Allander Water, Luggie Water, Forth and Clyde Canal and Bothlin Burn. East Dunbartonshire also has two reservoirs in Milngavie and a number of other small dams in various locations throughout East Dunbartonshire, which are of significant value to the surrounding area.</p> <p>From the 2009-2015 River Basin Management Plan cycle, East Dunbartonshire had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 5.52 km of good quality watercourses ➤ 33.82 km of watercourses with good ecological potential ➤ 16.01 km of moderate quality watercourses ➤ 19.88 km of watercourses with moderate ecological potential ➤ 48.19 km of watercourses with 	<p>The water in East Dunbartonshire is a vital resource. The management and control we have over this resource has major implications on a number of factors, including, water quality, biodiversity and human health. These are important considerations for the LBAP.</p> <p>Potential pollution of water from sources such as transport emissions in the atmosphere and in soil can result in eutrophication. This can result in algal blooms and alter the quality of the water and have a negative impact on biodiversity.</p> <p>Biodiversity has shown to have positive impacts on improving water quality. In particular, many species have cleansing abilities. The LBAP is likely to present options/opportunities for</p>	<p>River Basin Management Plans</p> <p>Local water quality data</p> <p>Drinking water quality</p>	<p>SEPA – RBMP Data</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies</p>
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<p>Water Quality (continued)</p>	<p>poor ecological potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 17.32 km of poor quality watercourses ➤ 28.31 km of watercourses with bad ecological potential <p>All groundwater resources were also assessed in 2008 and found to be of good ecological status.</p> <p>*Flooding is discussed in Climatic Factors</p>	<p>this.</p> <p>The requirements of the Water Framework Directive should be taken into account.</p>			
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<p>Air Quality</p>	<p>A significant concern for air quality in East Dunbartonshire is transport which is the main contributor of air pollutants such as NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide) and PM10 (particulates).</p> <p>The busiest routes that are of concern in relation to air quality within East Dunbartonshire are the A803 and B812 in Bishopbriggs; the A81 through Milngavie; and the A809 and A739 through Bearsden.</p> <p>There are currently two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) declared within East Dunbartonshire, Bishopbriggs (2005) and Bearsden Cross (2011), both of which were declared an AQMA after several years of exceeding national NO₂ and PM10 objective levels.</p> <p>Whilst traffic levels across the Council area have been shown to be</p>	<p>Contributing factors that can lead to increased emissions and result in air pollution, include, transport (both private and public) and developments which generate traffic flows and general movement to and from areas.</p> <p>There are possible transboundary effects of air pollution to neighbouring Local Authorities such as Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and Stirling that should be taken into account in the development of the LBAP.</p> <p>In areas of particularly poor air quality, emissions in the atmosphere as well as</p>	<p>Air Quality statistics for major routes and settlements within east Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>Rail patronage and bus services and frequencies – see climatic factors below.</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>National Air Emissions Inventory</p> <p>Scottish Government</p> <p>DEFRA</p> <p>Scottish Transport Bus and Coach Statistics No. 32, 2013</p> <p>Local Transport Strategy 2013 - 2017</p>	<p>To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality</p>
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<p>Air Quality (continued)</p>	<p>decreasing since 2009, which can be attributable to a number of factors including the promotion of sustainable travel and influencing economic factors, levels still remain relatively high (approx. 190,000 vehicles).</p>	<p>potential acid rain can adversely alter and affect biodiversity. Ecosystem services are also likely to be changed as a result.</p> <p>Planting can be beneficial for improving air quality through the removal of pollutants in the soil and in the air. Woodland and forestry will also contribute to this as carbon capture assets.</p>			
<p>Climatic Factors</p>	<p>A significant source of carbon dioxide in East Dunbartonshire is attributable to vehicular transport emissions, which contributes towards climate change, although the largest proportion of CO2 emissions is attributable to domestic emissions.</p> <p>Travel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The level of public transport access varies across the area. Kirkintilloch is served by bus services that provide access to towns and villages in East Dunbartonshire and adjacent local authorities such as Glasgow. However, there are areas that do not have services that are frequent or operate out-with peak travel periods and daytime hours. ➤ Although rail patronage has increased by approximately 10% 	<p>There are many areas within East Dunbartonshire that are currently within Flood Risk Areas. Climate change is resulting in an increase of flash flooding events in Scotland which is having an adverse effect on habitats, biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p> <p>The effects of climate change, including an increase in temperature, can disrupt breeding and growth for species, which has the potential to reduce numbers or even eradicate species from the local area.</p> <p>Ecosystem services can be both positively and negatively impacted as a</p>	<p>Flood Risk Assessments.</p> <p>Flood defences.</p> <p>Emissions levels within East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>Flooding and storm information and events.</p> <p>Renewable energy potential.</p>	<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>SEPA</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>UK Climate Impacts Programme</p> <p>Online Handbook of Climate Trends across Scotland 2006 (as updated) (SNIFFER Guidance)</p> <p>Scottish Household Survey 2013 (access to cars per household)</p> <p>Office of Rail Regulation (rail patronage by region,</p>	<p>To contribute towards the reduction of Scottish greenhouse gas outputs in line with Government targets</p> <p>To reduce or prevent the overall effects of climate change including those related to flood risks</p>

<p>Climatic Factors (continued)</p>	<p>from the period 2012/13 to 2013/14, accessibility to such services means there is a significant reliance on car-based travel in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The number of bus passenger journeys in Strathclyde and South West Scotland has decreased since 2007/08 to 2012/13, which equates to a decrease of 21%. The total distance travelled by buses 2007/08 to 2012/13 decreased by 17%. This can be attributable to a reduction in the number of services that operate or alterations to routes. This trend is reflected in trends across Scotland which has seen a decrease in 4% in bus and coach journeys between 2012 and 2013. ➤ Traffic levels have decreased during recent years from the particularly high volumes experienced during the mid-2000s. This may be a result of the economic downturn. ➤ In 2013, 86% of households in East Dunbartonshire had access to at least 1 car. ➤ Glasgow is a key attraction for both employment and high education opportunities for the population of East Dunbartonshire which increases the need for travel. <p>CO2 emissions associated with the expenditure of energy from</p>	<p>result of influencing climatic factors. Where the effects of climate change alter ecosystem services, climate regulation can be less effective which will have additional negative impacts on biodiversity.</p> <p>Climate change is contributing to flash flooding events in Scotland.</p> <p>Adaptation to the effects of climate change can present opportunities for biodiversity to adapt to a changing environment and circumstances.</p>		<p>2013/14)</p> <p>Scottish Transport Bus and Coach Statistics No. 32, 2013</p> <p>SEPA Flood map</p> <p>Scotland's Climate Change Declaration 2013-14 Report (SSN; Keep Scotland Beautiful; EDC)</p> <p>'Local and Regional CO2 Emissions Estimates for 2005-2012', Department of Energy and Climate Change</p>	
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<p>Climatic Factors (continued)</p>	<p>industrial/commercial (including agriculture) and domestic buildings accounts for 142.7 ktCO₂ and 271.6 ktCO₂ respectively in 2012. Such energy use has a significant impact on air quality.</p> <p>Flooding has been an issue in the Kelvin Valley for many years with the most recent flood events occurring in 1994 and 2005. The main areas of concern for potential flooding are the River Kelvin and its tributaries – the Allander, Glazert and Luggie Waters.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire only has one operating landfill (Inchbelle Quarry, Kirkintilloch) but is only used for the disposal of inert materials, mainly construction materials. All household and commercial municipal waste is transferred to landfills in North Lanarkshire. Therefore, there is minimal methane produced from landfill within East Dunbartonshire to impact on climate change.</p>				
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<p>Material Assets</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire is supplied by various levels of transport infrastructure, through well serviced rail networks, bus routes encompassing the whole district and the various road networks that link settlements within East Dunbartonshire together with providing routes out with the district.</p> <p>There are 54km of A class roads, 47 km of B class roads and 34km of C</p>	<p>The LBAP is likely to encourage the enhancement or creation of core paths with connections to the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire. This would also provide opportunities for, and encourage, active travel.</p> <p>Natural resources in East Dunbartonshire should be</p>	<p>Transport and infrastructure data.</p> <p>Core Path Network and Rights of Way.</p> <p>Walking and cycle routes</p> <p>Public open spaces and accessibility.</p>	<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Transport Scotland</p> <p>SPT</p> <p>Local Development Plan for large scale development</p>	<p>To promote the sustainable use of community assets in East Dunbartonshire</p>
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<p>Material Assets (continued)</p>	<p>class roads. This amounts to 27% of the road network. There are 369 km of unclassified roads.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire has a network of Core Paths and public open spaces which provide opportunities for recreation. Some of these also provide active travel routes from residential areas to services and businesses.</p> <p>Studies into housing requirements have indicated that East Dunbartonshire has one of the highest net needs for affordable housing, compared to other Scottish Local Authorities. The Local Plan and emerging Local Development Plan identifies the location of new development proposals with potential for changes to transport infrastructure/routes.</p>	<p>used sustainability and at a limited rate to reduce pressures on biodiversity. Use of such resources has the potential to negatively impact on biodiversity, either by reducing the assets or restricting resources that will help manage biodiversity.</p> <p>The LBAP has the potential to influence planning decisions. Biodiversity should be integral to the planning process.</p> <p>The LBAP will need to consider the location of roads/paths/networks to sensitive habitat areas to prevent disturbance or harm to biodiversity.</p>		<p>proposals.</p>	
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2.3 Environmental Issues¹ for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

2.3.1 The Environmental Report will identify the current environmental issues and problems that affect East Dunbartonshire, utilising the information that has been identified through an analysis of the baseline environmental data and potential implications, which are contained within Section 2.2 of this Report. When undertaking the assessment of the Plan, the Council will be able to predict whether the identified environmental problems and issues will worsen, stabilise or improve through the implementation of the Plan. The main environmental issues and problems facing East Dunbartonshire are outlined in **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Environmental Issues Relevant to the East Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Environmental issues were identified through discussions with the appropriate Consultation Authorities and an analysis of the baseline data available.

SEA Topic	Relevant Environmental Issues
Population & Human Health	With areas of deprivation in East Dunbartonshire and an increasing ageing population, there is a significant reliance on public transport to access facilities such as town centres, retail parks, healthcare and leisure. To reduce this need and pressure, there is significant evidence that core path networks can be integrated with interventions that enhance and promote biodiversity. This will provide further health benefits to deprived or vulnerable members of the community. However, conflicts may arise between increasing public access within East Dunbartonshire and the need to conserve biodiversity. This will be a vital consideration for the LBAP to address and prevent such conflicts.
	Local pollution and atmospheric emissions, from sources such as transport and domestic emissions, can aggravate asthma and cause/exacerbate other health issues such as respiratory disease. There is a link between the presence of diverse, and often plentiful, flora and improvements to air quality. The LBAP has the potential to encourage this and therefore improve health conditions.
	It is vital that awareness of biodiversity is prioritised through the LBAP to address the lack of awareness amongst the population of East Dunbartonshire.
	Although the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry has the smallest proportion of economically active people working within this sector in East Dunbartonshire, the role of biodiversity for the livelihood of those involved is vital to ensure sustained incomes and for the delivery of quality goods (e.g. locally sourced produce) to the local communities.
	Encouraging the involvement of the community in biodiversity projects has the potential to benefit health and wellbeing. There is scope for this to be promoted through the LBAP.
Cultural Heritage	There are a number of cultural heritage assets in East Dunbartonshire including the Antonine Wall (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Forth and Clyde Canal which require protection and management.

¹ The term “environmental issues” is the name collectively given to air, water, soil, biodiversity, climatic factors, landscape, material assets, population and human health as well as cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage) in the EU Directive 2001/42/EC. In practice they are referred to as “SEA topics”.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	East Dunbartonshire has a wide range of designated and non-designated sites, including those of ecological importance and protected species. This is seen through a number of Local Nature Conservation Sites and Important Wildlife Corridors, Tree Preservation Orders and Local Nature Reserves. East Dunbartonshire also has 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Management of biodiversity through the LBAP will have significant impacts on these sites.
	River and canal corridors in East Dunbartonshire contribute significantly to wide ranging habitats and biodiversity. However, habitat connectivity requires addressing. The LBAP has the potential to improve the connectivity of habitats where these concerns exist.
	Invasive Non-Native Species in East Dunbartonshire have been identified which should be recognised through the LBAP.
	There are a number of protected species and habitats within East Dunbartonshire which will need to be considered as part of the LBAP. The BAP provides the scope for continued enhancement and protection of such species to avoid any loss.
Soil & Geology	There are a number of potentially contaminated land areas in East Dunbartonshire. The management and enhancement of biodiversity can result in potential opportunities to remediate such land.
	There are several sites in East Dunbartonshire that have been identified as peatland. The LBAP should consider the role of biodiversity in managing ecosystem services including carbon storage, drainage and to alleviate flooding.
	There are 36 sites identified as being geologically diverse, of which 34 have been assigned as Local Geodiversity Site (LGS). The area also hosts 1 RIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site) and 1 SSSI of geological importance. The LBAP should consider these designations in terms of the role of biodiversity in their protection and enhancement.
Landscape	The varying landscapes within East Dunbartonshire, including the green belt, make up a series of habitats. However, many of the habitats networks are disconnected. Enhancing biodiversity through the LBAP will help to ensure habitat connectivity.
	East Dunbartonshire has a number of areas with high/moderate scenic value as well as specific landscape characters and settings across the Council area, including the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills. Enhanced biodiversity can contribute to protecting and promoting valued landscapes. The LBAP should take into account the specific landscape features to ensure that biodiversity is sensitive to the local landscape and to retain East Dunbartonshire's local distinctiveness.
	Where biodiversity projects are developed, the cumulative effects on the landscape of their implementation should be accounted for.
Water Quality	There are a number of good/moderate quality watercourses in East Dunbartonshire including the Forth and Clyde Canal which is a Scheduled Monument. These assets require protection to which the LBAP can contribute in order to reduce, prevent or offset any adverse impacts to biodiversity.
	Enhanced and managed biodiversity has potential opportunities for improving water quality.

Air Quality	Unacceptably high levels of air pollution can be harmful to the environment and human health. East Dunbartonshire currently has two designated Air Quality Management Areas (Bishopbriggs and Bearsden Cross). These are managed through Air Quality Management Plans and the emerging Air Quality Strategy.
	Changes to air quality can have a significant impact on ecosystems, which can affect biodiversity.
Climatic Factors	Domestic emissions account for the largest proportion of carbon dioxide in East Dunbartonshire, although emissions from transport account for the largest proportion of NO ₂ and PM10 emissions. This contributes to the effects of climate change which include changing temperatures and rainfall patterns, and increased incidences of extreme weather events. . Where appropriate, all options contained within the LBAP should consider its role in mitigating or adapting to the effects of climate change.
	The role of biodiversity for carbon sequestration should be maximised through the LBAP.
	Climate change has a direct link to flood risk. The SEPA Flood Risk Map has identified several locations within the East Dunbartonshire Council area which could have a significant impact on species and habitats.
	The effects of climate change can alter natural processes for flora and fauna, and the effects that changes to ecosystem processes can have on biodiversity has the potential to be both negatively or positively affected.
Material Assets	As a result of the spatial strategy of the impending Local Development Plan there is potential for a rise in developments in East Dunbartonshire over the life of the Plan. Through required infrastructure improvements for new developments there may be the potential for disturbance to species, including fragmentation of habitats, which may result in potential significant impacts on East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity assets.
	It is important that natural resources in East Dunbartonshire are managed sustainably.
	There are a series of Core Path Networks and open spaces in East Dunbartonshire which create recreational opportunities, promote active travel and provide a sense of community. Enhanced biodiversity has the potential to contribute to the value of these assets in East Dunbartonshire's environment and contribute to improvements to network connectivity. However, where paths are located within or pass close to sensitive habitat areas, consideration should be given to mitigating any potential disturbance or harm to wildlife.

2.4 Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

- 2.4.1 The SEA process is also required to assess the likely impact on the environment if the LBAP was not implemented.
- 2.4.2 Without a Local Biodiversity Action Plan covering East Dunbartonshire, it is likely that an opportunity would be lost to halt biodiversity loss and contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity in the area. Although the main aim of the LBAP is to ensure the environmental protection of biodiversity and habitats, it is also intrinsically linked to social inequalities, such as

health and wellbeing, and contributions to the local economy. In the case that an LBAP was not developed, a sustainable approach to biodiversity would not be considered. In terms of the SEA topics, the evolution of the environment without the influence of a LBAP include:

Biodiversity: It is likely that key species and habitats will not be managed in a coordinated way and a proactive approach to enhancing biodiversity would not be practiced. This has the potential to result in a decline of species and habitats in terms of quantity and quality, at both a local level and in neighbouring communities. There would also be concerns over the future of a number of identified protected species in East Dunbartonshire. It is unlikely that the Biodiversity Partnership and steering group would be able to contribute to a number of biodiversity, or related, projects to the same extent as when these were promoted through the LBAP.

Population and Human Health: It is likely that awareness of biodiversity will be lower without the influence of the LBAP and so the benefits of biodiversity for human health and wellbeing as well as the role our communities can play in protecting biodiversity will not be encouraged.

Cultural Heritage: With East Dunbartonshire having a rich and varied range of cultural heritage assets, including the World Heritage Site Antonine Wall, it is vital that the role of biodiversity in protecting and enhancing these assets is recognised. It is less likely that this opportunity will be present without the LBAP. The linkage between biodiversity and cultural heritage will be lost, and the benefits of biodiversity in delivering cultural services in East Dunbartonshire will not be promoted.

Soil and Geology: Without the implementation of the LBAP, there is less likely to be actions developed in terms of protecting and enhancing the effects of biodiversity on soil in East Dunbartonshire, as well as the role of quality soils for species and habitats.

Landscape: Habitat connectivity in East Dunbartonshire is likely to be promoted through the LBAP. Without it, fragmented habitat networks can become more prevalent in East Dunbartonshire or the opportunity to enhance them would not be available. The LBAP and emerging Green Network Strategy have the potential to promote and enhance habitat connectivity. In addition, the areas of East Dunbartonshire that are valued for their amenity and wildlife would be less likely to be enriched without an LBAP.

Water Quality: The LBAP would present an opportunity for a coordinated approach to managing biodiversity in relation to the water bodies in East Dunbartonshire. In the absence of a LBAP, it is unlikely that actions will be developed to protect particular water species or to enhance the role of biodiversity in water quality improvements. Despite the existence of River Basin Management Plans, there would be an increased risk of deterioration in the ecological quality of water courses without the LBAP.

Air Quality and Climatic Factors: Evidence shows that biodiversity plays a minor role in suppressing air pollutants, thus presenting opportunities to improve air quality. Likewise, biodiversity plays a role in carbon sequestration, including benefits to the protection of peatland. If a LBAP is not developed, awareness of the benefits of biodiversity for climate change and air quality improvements will not be promoted and there would be a reduced

opportunity to maximise these roles. However, air quality in East Dunbartonshire will predominantly be managed through the Air Quality Strategy.

Material Assets: The LBAP would present an opportunity to further promote the sustainable use of materials and contribute to improvements to Core Path Networks through habitat improvements in East Dunbartonshire. Although the sustainable use of materials is promoted by other legislation, and the Green Network Strategy will have a direct influence on Core Path and Habitat Networks, the absence of a LBAP will limit this opportunity and reduce the influence of biodiversity for benefits to the relevant material assets.

2.4.3 Although many of these factors will potentially improve or be managed with the influence of other Council Plans and Strategies including the Local Plan 2, the emerging Local Development Plan, Green Network Strategy, Active Travel Plan and Sustainability and Climate Change Framework for East Dunbartonshire, as well as influencing regional and national targets, the value of biodiversity is likely to decline and biodiversity may be lost without intervention from the options discussed in the LBAP to mitigate and monitor the effects to biodiversity.

Section 3: Scope & Level of Detail Proposed for Environmental Assessment

This section outlines how the SEA process incorporates all reasonable alternatives; scoping in and out of issues and the assessment, mitigation and monitoring frameworks.

This section contains the following information

3.1	Scope In/ Out of Environmental Factors
3.2	Assessment Framework
3.3	Identification of Alternatives
3.4	SEA Objectives
3.5	Mitigation and Monitoring

3.1 Scope In/ Out of Environmental Factors

3.1.1 In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 East Dunbartonshire Council has considered whether the environmental effects (positive and negative) of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan are likely to be significant.

3.1.2 There is no statutory definition of 'significance' in the context of SEA. However the Council considered the following issues in determining the significance of impacts (both positive and negative) on the Annex 1 environmental factors:

- Scale of impact (geographic)
- Duration of impact (short, medium or long term)
- Reversibility of impact
- Sensitivity of environment
- Potential for significant cumulative effect

3.1.3 A summary of our conclusion is given in **Table 3** below.

Table 3: Scope In/ Out of Environmental Factors

Environmental Factors	Scoped In / Out	Rationale
Population and Human Health	In	Through the implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, enhancement to open space provision and habitats has the potential to have a direct and indirect positive impact on the health and wellbeing of communities in East Dunbartonshire. Enhancements to the environment and protection of biodiversity can encourage outdoor leisure activities and are vital for sustaining related industries in East Dunbartonshire. In addition, the LBAP has the potential to raise public awareness and encourage local communities to become involved in biodiversity projects.
Cultural Heritage	In	Habitats considered as part of the LBAP will potentially fall within historic designations (e.g. the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Antonine Wall). Consequently, the LBAP is likely to have a significant effect on cultural heritage assets.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	In	There is a direct link between the requirements for a LBAP and this environmental factor. Through the implementation of the LBAP there will be a significant positive impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna.
Soil & Geology	In	The LBAP will represent potential opportunities to prevent soil degradation and enhance soil resources in East Dunbartonshire in the future. It is also likely that improvements to biodiversity will have positive impacts to soil quality.
Landscape	In	The landscape features and distinctiveness is varied in East Dunbartonshire. The LBAP has the potential to enhance the landscapes and contribute to improving local distinctiveness.
Water Quality	In	The water resources in East Dunbartonshire provide a number of opportunities which are considered to be vital assets. The LBAP will consider the role of biodiversity in protecting and enhancing water bodies and their ecological quality.
Air Quality	In	There is evidence that poor air quality can have a negative effect on biodiversity, and that biodiversity can be beneficial to suppressing emissions in the air. The effects may not be significant, depending on the approach taken in the development of the LBAP. If an Ecosystem Approach is determined to be the preferred approach for the LBAP, it is likely the

		effects of air quality for biodiversity will be more significant. As such, Air Quality has been scoped in to the assessment.
Climatic Factors	In	Through the implementation of the LBAP, there is potential for a positive impact on peatland in East Dunbartonshire and significant impacts to reducing the impact of climate change (e.g. carbon sequestration and flooding), particularly with long-term positive benefits.
Material Assets	Out	Although there is the potential for positive impacts to factors considered under Material Assets including the sustainable use of natural resources and contributing to Core Path and Habitat Networks, it is unlikely that the impacts will be significant. Consequently, material assets have been scoped out of the assessment.

3.2 Assessment Framework

- 3.2.1** The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Environmental Report to assess and evaluate the likely significant impacts that the Local Biodiversity Action Plan will have on the environment. It is essential to SEA that the assessment process and reporting of the findings are unbiased, robust, objective, transparent and ultimately easy to follow and understand.
- 3.2.2** The assessment will focus on the aims and planned vision of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan in order for issues related to biodiversity to be addressed and improved in East Dunbartonshire. It should be noted that only the significant environmental impacts will be identified and assessed through the SEA process.
- 3.2.3** In addition to this, the assessment will evaluate the plan as a whole in terms of the potential cumulative effects (direct, indirect, secondary and synergistic) associated with the implementation of the Strategy. **Table 4** gives an indication to each of the stages as part of the assessment framework.

Table 4: Assessment Framework

This table specifies the assessment methodology which will be employed in order to assess the environmental effects of each part of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Assessment Stage	Assessment Method
Vision	The SEA assessment questions and indicators will be used to establish whether the strategic approach in order to deliver the vision of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan is compliant with the proposed SEA objectives. Overall, the preferred strategic approach to deliver the LBAP will be justified.
Objectives	The objectives of the Plan, and alternatives to them, will be tested against the proposed SEA objectives for alignment and compliance. The outcome of this assessment will guide the refinement of the LBAP objectives throughout its development.
Actions/Options	The LBAP will detail actions or options for the enhancement of local biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire. These are assessed against the SEA assessment questions as well as any reasonable recommendations.
Cumulative effects	Using the assessments of options outlined in the LBAP and with the use of GIS mapping, where appropriate, the cumulative effects of the Plan are tested. Any impacts for neighbouring Authorities will also be considered as part of the assessment.

3.3 Identification of Alternatives

3.3.1 Through the development of East Dunbartonshire's Biodiversity Action Plan there may be alternatives as to how the Plan is delivered or implemented. An Options Assessment was undertaken by East Dunbartonshire Council's Greenspace and Biodiversity Policy Officer in order to highlight the benefits and risks of each Option and to determine the preferred approach to delivering a Local Biodiversity Action Plan. These alternatives include:

- a) **Replacing and updating the LBAP to cover the same areas as the existing LBAP (West Dunbartonshire and East Dunbartonshire)** – This option to deliver the LBAP would involve updating the existing LBAP for Dunbartonshire. Although it would encourage a landscape-scale approach to managing biodiversity across both WDC and EDC, the areas are distinct in character which could result in a number of challenges. This approach would present opportunities for larger levels of funding from external contributors, particularly for joint projects. However, WDC does not have the same resources as EDC in terms of a dedicated officer for biodiversity, which would increase a reliance on the EDC Biodiversity officer to co-ordinate and manage the development and implementation of the LBAP. Replacing and updating the existing LBAP will ensure that the current state of the environment and relevant biodiversity issues are accounted for.
- b) **A LBAP covering East Dunbartonshire Council area only** – This option would be focussed solely on East Dunbartonshire and would be primarily co-ordinated and managed by the EDC Biodiversity officer. Although limiting the LBAP to East Dunbartonshire can reduce

the scope of the LBAP compared to the existing document, there is potential to work in partnership with neighbouring authorities, such as Stirling Council on the Campsie Fells and Mugdock Country Park, North Lanarkshire Council on the Forth and Clyde Canal and West Dunbartonshire Council on the Kilpatrick Hills. Through a partnership with other local authorities, environmental charities, community groups and other interested bodies, there is greater potential for funding opportunities. It would also encourage community grants for smaller, local-level projects.

- c) **A LBAP prepared jointly with a different adjoining local authority** - This option would result in similar positive and negative effects as option 1, but there would be differences depending on the local authority involved. This option would need to consider a number of factors including; the need for a LBAP in the adjoining authority, the resources available, interest in developing a joint LBAP and ease of management and deliverability.
- d) **Retain the existing Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action Plan with no revision** – This option would involve continuing with the existing Plan for West Dunbartonshire and East Dunbartonshire, including the existing actions and monitoring. However, there would be limited scope for actions and projects to respond to current changes to the local environment.
- e) **Disregard the existing DBAP with no replacement** – This option would result in the existing DBAP being disregarded, including the actions and monitoring framework outlined within it. By not replacing the DBAP, it is likely that biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire would not be improved in a coordinated approach, although there are other factors including other PPS, charity work and projects by SNH, for example, which would have a positive impact on biodiversity in the area.

3.3.2 The environmental assessment will also, where appropriate, propose further alternatives to the proposed objectives and options discussed in the LBAP in order to reduce any potential negative/adverse impacts or to suggest enhancements to those receptors that provide potential positive impacts to East Dunbartonshire.

3.4 SEA Objectives

3.4.1 To assist in assessing the impact of the LBAP on the environment, either beneficially or adversely, the following table (**Table 5**) has been produced. This details the proposed SEA objectives and associated questions and indicators against which we will monitor what, if any, effects (positive, negative or neutral) the Plan will have on the environment.

3.4.2 The Proposed SEA objectives relate to the specific SEA environmental receptors and the monitoring and evaluation will relate solely to the environmental issues that were felt to have the potential to significantly impact on the environment.

3.4.3 The Proposed SEA objectives, questions and indicators are fully compliant with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. It is important to note that these SEA objectives and assessment questions are provisional and may be modified as a

result of comments from the Consultation Authorities or as a result of changes in the baseline data when it is fully collected.

Table 5: Proposed SEA Objectives, Assessment Questions and Indicators

Please note that this table also includes sample questions and indicators that will be refined as part of the assessment process. They are included here to give an indication of the type of information that will be derived from the objectives to assess the content of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Population & Human Health		
Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision / objectives / actions...	Draft Indicators
To improve human health and community wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demonstrate the benefits of a healthy environment on the health and wellbeing of communities? ➤ Promote an environment that is both sustainable and safe? ➤ Contribute to reducing social, economic and environmental deprivation in East Dunbartonshire? ➤ Reduce health-related illnesses? ➤ Encourage active travel and outdoor leisure? ➤ Encourage local communities/volunteers to become involved in biodiversity projects? ➤ Increase awareness of biodiversity? ➤ Support related industries? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Changes in deprivation levels in 15% SIMD areas ➤ Access to safe and sustainable active travel routes ➤ Number of community/volunteer-led biodiversity projects ➤ Number of people who utilise the natural environment for leisure activities
Cultural Heritage		
Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision / objectives / actions...	Draft Indicators
To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage visitors to cultural heritage assets in East Dunbartonshire? ➤ Enhance natural heritage sites such as 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of cultural heritage assets (see Table 1) affected (positive and negative) by projects in the LBAP

	<p>Gardens and Designed Landscapes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage improvements to the setting and value of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ % change in visitors to the Antonine Wall (leisure) ➤ % change in visitors to the Forth and Clyde Canal (leisure) ➤ % change in visitors to East Dunbartonshire to visit cultural heritage assets
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Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment <i>Will the proposed vision / objectives / actions...</i>	Draft Indicators
<p>To protect, enhance, create and, where necessary, restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote the importance of biodiversity for the local environment in East Dunbartonshire? ➤ Seek to reduce the negative impact on valued biodiversity including non-protected and protected species? ➤ Prevent the loss of biodiversity, flora and fauna? ➤ Contribute to improved ecosystems? ➤ Encourage habitat connectivity by decreasing the number of fragmented habitat networks? ➤ Encourage native planting, including hedgerows? ➤ Seek to contribute to the management of woodland in East Dunbartonshire? ➤ Address the impacts on grassland (and other habitats/protected species) as a result of woodland planting? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Changes to the presence of different species and habitats ➤ Total area of protected sites (priority species) and changes to protected sites as a result of the LBAP ➤ Quality and connectivity of the green network in East Dunbartonshire ➤ LBAP Action Plans ➤ Number of biodiversity projects undertaken involving the local community/volunteers ➤ Ecosystem specific indicators, such as area of woodland habitats improved/changed ➤ Number of habitat/green networks improved/created as a result of the LBAP ➤ Number of grasslands improved through projects and woodland management

Soil & Geology

Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision / objectives / actions...	Draft Indicators
<p>To protect and, where appropriate, use high quality and sensitive soils in a sustainable manner and conserve recognised geodiversity assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Protect and improve areas of peatland? ➤ Seek to prevent and improve soil degradation? ➤ Protect habitats and species that have Protected Species status, including Invasive Non-Native Species? ➤ Result in improvements to areas of contaminated land? ➤ Protect and enhance sites of geodiversity importance? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Area of existing contaminated land altered by biodiversity actions/projects ➤ Changes to number of Vacant and Derelict Land sites in East Dunbartonshire ➤ % of peatland improved/deteriorated

Landscape

Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision / objectives / actions...	Draft Indicators
<p>To protect and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Utilise biodiversity for positive benefits to landscape setting and visual amenity? ➤ Contribute to and enhance local distinctiveness in East Dunbartonshire? ➤ Protect and enhance landscape designation (e.g. the Campsie Fells, green belt)? ➤ Seek to improve habitat connectivity? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of habitat/green networks improved/created as a result of the LBAP ➤ Number of actions in the LBAP that are linked to the actions in the Campsies Action Plan

Water Quality

Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision / objectives / actions...	Draft Indicators
To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote the importance of biodiversity for the quality of water? ➤ Seek to contribute to enhancing the ecological status of water bodies in East Dunbartonshire? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kilometres of river likely to, or have had, their classification affected due to actions in the LBAP ➤ Changes to the classification of water bodies in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive ➤ Changes to flooding and drainage, particularly in areas where biodiversity projects are undertaken (SEPA Flood Risk Map)

Air Quality

Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision / objectives / actions...	Draft Indicators
To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote the role of biodiversity for the suppression of emissions in the air? ➤ Seek to manage air quality for benefits to ecosystem services? ➤ Seek to improve woodland assets in East Dunbartonshire for carbon capture? ➤ Contribute to the management and improvements of ecosystem services? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emissions levels in East Dunbartonshire- % change ➤ Number of AQMAs ➤ Number of woodland enhancement projects

Climatic Factors

Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision / objectives / actions...	Draft Indicators
<p>To contribute towards the reduction of Scottish greenhouse gas outputs in line with Government targets</p> <p>To reduce or prevent the overall effects of climate change including those related to flood risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote a change in culture and behaviour to ensure that the local community are aware of the issues associated with climate change? ➤ Promote biodiversity as a means to mitigate potential risks to flooding? ➤ Include adaptation measures in light of a changing climate and local environment? ➤ Seek to protect, create or enhance natural resources such as trees? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Loss/creation of tree assets in East Dunbartonshire ➤ Changes to areas at risk of flooding ➤ Greenhouse gas output trends in East Dunbartonshire

3.5 Mitigation and Monitoring

- 3.5.1** The adopted Local Biodiversity Action Plan may have environmental impacts which require to be mitigated as a result of the options discussed to protect and enhance biodiversity within the Plan. Where possible, the Council will seek to, firstly, avoid significant negative environmental impacts. If this is not possible, mitigation measures will be proposed which will aim to reduce, remedy or compensate the overall impact to an acceptable level.
- 3.5.2** The adopted LBAP will be subject to ongoing monitoring. It is intended to create a set of indicators to measure the impacts that the Plan may have on the environment during its lifespan. The indicators will be based on the baseline information and the existing environmental issues and problems in the area. These indicators will be developed during the Plan preparation and environmental assessment processes.
- 3.5.3** Monitoring measures and a review of the LBAP will be discussed in the Environmental Report and will form the Post-Adoption Statement after the Strategy is fully implemented.

Section 4: Next Steps

This section sets out the concluding stages and proposed consultation timescales for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

This section contains the following information

4.1	Proposed Consultation Timescale, Anticipated Milestones and Consultation
4.2	Proposed Framework for Analysing Consultation Responses

4.1 Proposed Consultation Timescale, Anticipated Milestones and Consultation

4.1.1 The Environmental Report for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan will be available alongside the Plan for a proposed public consultation period for a minimum of six to eight weeks. It is anticipated that the SEA process will align with the LBAP preparation stages. **Table 6** below illustrates this alignment and provides the anticipated timescales for each.

4.1.2 Please note that the anticipated timescales for the completion of further SEA stages and the Plan may require to be extended if contributions from the Partnership for the preparation of the LBAP are delayed or are reallocated due to failure of Partners to deliver them.

Table 6: Proposed Timescale & Milestones

Strategy Preparation Stages	SEA Stages	Anticipated Timescale & Consultation Period, if required
Preliminary Assessment and Survey / Research work	Scoping Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collate and forecast baseline environmental information ➤ Adopt SEA environmental objectives and criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ February/March 2015 (research and draft) ➤ Scoping Report submitted to the SEA Gateway on 8th April 2015 ➤ 5 week period of Consultation with the Consultation Authorities.

Prepare Draft Plan	<p>Environmental Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assess the plan's aims and vision ➤ Assess alternatives to the LBAP ➤ Prepare Draft Environmental Report 	April-December 2015 (see paragraph 4.1.2 above)
Publish & Consult on Draft Plan	Publish & Consult on Draft Environmental Report	Consultation with the public and Consultation Authorities (minimum of 6 weeks) in March/April 2016
Adopt Plan	Publish Post-Adoption Statement along with the adopted Finalised Local Biodiversity Action Plan	End of June 2016
Monitor & Review	Monitor and Review	On-going/Annual review

4.2 Proposed Framework for Analysing Consultation Responses

Organisation/ Individual	Issue	Concern/ Comment	How it has been addressed within the SEA Process	SEA Report Reference (Page No. & Section)

Appendix 1: Initial List of the International, European Community, and National Environmental Protection Objectives; Regional and Local Objectives

Please note that this appendix lists key legislation, plans, programmes, policies and strategies that influence or are influenced by the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Their content, where appropriate, has been used to inform the environmental objectives for the SEA of the Plan.

Relevant PPS to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Local Biodiversity Action Plan
International		
Rio Declaration (1992)	The Declaration sets out 27 principles to enable the global community to work towards international agreements that respect the interests of all and protect the integrity of the global environmental and developmental system. The Declaration highlighted the necessity to protect and enhance the environment, economics and social aspects in both developed and developing countries, which includes protecting our biodiversity and nature assets.	The outcomes proposed for the LBAP for East Dunbartonshire should be in line with a number of the principles set out in the Rio Declaration. The LBAP will contribute to the protection of biodiversity at a local level.
Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	The Convention on Biological Diversity responded to the increasing commitment worldwide for sustainable development. As part of the Convention, a number of objectives and outcomes were highlighted including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The conservation of biological diversity, ➤ The sustainable use of natural resources, and ➤ Fair and equitable use of biological and natural resources. The Convention encouraged the development of National Biodiversity Action Plans and, consequently, Local Biodiversity Action Plans.	The Convention is a key driver for the requirement of LBAPs. The Convention urged the need for Biodiversity Action Plans across participating countries, which was translated into the UK Biodiversity Action Plan in 1994. The LBAP should be aligned with the objectives and outcomes of the Convention, and the actions outlined in the LBAP will contribute to them at a local level.
Kyoto Protocol (1997)	The UK has committed itself to a 12.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2008-2012. It has also set its own domestic target of a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide by 2010.	The role of biodiversity in suppressing atmospheric emissions is likely to be promoted through the LBAP. As a result, the LBAP will contribute to the aims of the Kyoto Protocol and have an influence on reducing greenhouse emissions.
Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	This Plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity for all of the United Nations involved in order to encourage the engagement of biodiversity management and policy development. This international framework was agreed by Parties to be translated through biodiversity action plans and Strategies. It also outlines the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (see below).	Like the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, the LBAP will also encourage biodiversity management and will contribute to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets therein. In particular, the LBAP will seek to reduce the rate of loss to natural habitats and encourage biodiversity projects for conservation and restoration.
Aichi Biodiversity Targets	The Aichi Biodiversity Targets are outlined within the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and include 5 Strategic Goals, in which 20 different targets are set. The Strategic Goals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society ➤ Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use ➤ Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity ➤ Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services ➤ Enhance implementation through participatory management and capacity building. The targets set are intended to be achieved or exceeded by 2020.	The LBAP will play a vital role in ensuring that the goals and targets set out in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are delivered, taking into account the needs and priorities at a level specific to East Dunbartonshire. In its duty to ensure the targets are met, East Dunbartonshire Council will also contribute to the wider issues at a regional, national and international level for biodiversity.
European		
Directive 2009/147/EC pm the Conservation of Wild Birds (EU Birds Directive)	The Birds Directive protects all wild birds, their nests, eggs and habitats within the European Community. It gives EU member states the power and responsibility to classify Special Protection Areas (SPA's) to protect birds which are rare or vulnerable in Europe as well as all migratory birds which are regular visitors.	The EU Birds Directive outlines the requirement for the protection of specific species, as outlined in the Directive. These species are considered to be the highest priority for protection. The LBAP will adhere to these requirements and support the protection of these species and ensure there are no cross-boundary impacts on SPA designated sites

		within adjacent authorities.
Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EU Habitats Directive)	The Habitats Directive builds on the Birds Directive by protecting natural habitats and other species of wild plants and animals. Together with the Birds Directive, it underpins a European network of protected areas known as Natura 2000. This network includes SPA's classified under the Birds Directive and a new set of international nature conservation areas introduced by the Habitats Directive, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's).	Although there are currently no designated sites in East Dunbartonshire under the Directive, The EU Habitats Directive outlines the requirement for the protection of specific habitats, as outlined in the Directive. These habitats are considered to be the highest priority for protection. The LBAP will adhere to these requirements and support the protection of these habitats.
Directive 92/43/EEC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (The Water Framework Directive)	<p>The Water Framework Directive aims to protect and improve the water environment in order to contribute to achieving sustainable development. It sets out specific objectives and targets for committed parties to work towards and achieve. The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Achieving 'Good' status across all water bodies by 2015. ➤ The status achieved should not deteriorate ➤ Protected area requirements should be met through the achievement of standards and objectives ➤ Any identified increasing trends in pollutants in groundwater, specifically, should be remediated and reversed ➤ A continuous and progressive reduction of pollution (particularly priority substances) in order to phase out hazardous substances and ultimately prevent/reduce pollution of groundwater. <p>The Directive also sets the requirements for Member States to develop River Basin Districts and River Basin Management Plans for them.</p>	In order to protect and improve the water environment in East Dunbartonshire, the LBAP will outline the management of biodiversity in its role in protecting the local water environment. The LBAP should also comply with the requirements of the Directive by ensuring that projects do not increase the risk of flooding. It is likely that the Framework will contribute to the delivery of the outcomes through the Biodiversity Partnership. In particular, the roles of SNH and SEPA in this will guide the LBAP's consideration of water-related biodiversity issues.
EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy	<p>The Strategy seeks to protect Europe's Biodiversity, and the ecosystem services it provides. The vision of the Strategy is '<i>By 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided</i>'. It establishes a framework for action which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conserving and Restoring Nature ➤ Maintaining and Enhancing Ecosystems and their Services ➤ Ensuring the sustainability of agriculture, fisheries and forestry ➤ Combating invasive alien species ➤ Addressing the global biodiversity crisis 	Through the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity at a local level, the LBAP for East Dunbartonshire should show the Council's commitment to the protection of biodiversity at a national and international level. The LBAP will be compliant with the framework for action as stated in the Strategy.
National		
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	The Wildlife and Countryside Act is the primary legislation for the protection of animals, plants and certain habitats in the UK. It sets out the requirements of protection and associated fines where the Act is not adhered to in relation to the specific species/habitats identified in the legislation. It requires any land that is identified as being of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features to be classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and afforded certain protection against damaging measures.	The objectives of the LBAP should be compliant with the Wildlife and Countryside Act as they will contribute to the requirements of the Act. The main purpose of the LBAP and the Act should be aligned.
The Protection of Badgers Act	This Act specifies the requirement for the protection of Badgers in the UK which includes any offences that would disrupt, endanger or kill a badger sett.	The protection of badgers, and their habitats, will need to be considered in the LBAP, and the actions included in the Plan should be considerate of the requirements of the Act.

(1992)		The LBAP has a key role in ensuring the protection of badgers in East Dunbartonshire.
The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 as amended	The Habitats Regulations require competent authorities to carry out appropriate assessments in certain circumstances where a plan or project affects a Natura (European) site. Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) refers to the whole process, including the appropriate assessment step.	In alignment with the biodiversity duty set by the Regulations, the LBAP will be the primary document in East Dunbartonshire that ensures the duty to protect and enhance biodiversity is complied with.
National Planning Framework 3	The National Planning Framework 3 is the Scottish Government's Strategy for the long term development of Scotland's towns, cities and the countryside. In the NPF3, the importance of biodiversity for Scotland is highlighted including the necessity to protect its value in both rural and urban locations. The NPF3 supports the 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity by promoting and enhancing nature and ensuring that communities are better connected to the natural environment. The NPF3 states that <i>"we will implement the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, including completing the suite of protected places and improving their connectivity through a national ecological network centred on these sites"</i> .	The LBAP and the NPF 3 should be aligned in their commitment to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. The LBAP will represent opportunities in East Dunbartonshire to ensure the protection of biodiversity.
Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)	<p>The consolidated SPP provides a shorter, clearer and more focused statement of national planning policy. The SPP and NPPG series has been replaced by a single SPP. As part of the commitment to proportionate and practical planning policies, the Scottish Government has rationalised national planning policy.</p> <p>The SPP sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the Scottish Government's view of the purpose of planning, ➤ the core principles for the operation of the system and the objectives for key parts of the system, ➤ statutory guidance on sustainable development and planning under Section 3E of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, ➤ concise subject planning policies, including the implications for development planning and development management, and ➤ The Scottish Government's expectations of the intended outcomes of the planning system. <p>Alongside policy on development plans, development management, community engagement, sustainable development, climate change and sustainable economic growth, the SPP sets out policies related to the delivery of low carbon communities and natural heritage.</p>	The LBAP will need to consider the requirements of SPP throughout its development, including the impact of development for biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire. The LBAP will contribute to a number of policies set out within the SPP in relation to biodiversity and the natural environment.
Planning Advice Note (PAN) 60	Planning Advice Note (PAN) 60 sets out advice on how development and planning can be used efficiently to ensure the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of the natural environment in Scotland. It encourages positive and creative thinking to address such issues. PAN60 complements the SPP.	The LBAP will put into practice the requirements of PAN 60, and will be a proactive measure for the encouragement and understanding of the natural environment. The proposed outcomes of the LBAP are in line with the requirements of PAN 60.
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	The Act places duties on public bodies in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), amends legislation on Nature Conservation Orders, provides for Land Management Orders for SSSIs and associated land, strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and requires the preparation of a Scottish Fossil Code.	Through the production of the LBAP, East Dunbartonshire will contribute towards the requirements set out in the Act, which includes East Dunbartonshire showing its commitment to the duty as a public body.
Scottish Forestry Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Using forestry, and adapting forestry practices, to help reduce the impact of climate change and help Scotland adapt to its changing climate 	The Scottish Forestry Strategy will guide woodland and forestry related issues discussed in the LBAP, and sets out the requirements for woodland and forestry which will be

<p>(2006)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Getting the most from Scotland’s increasing and sustainable timber resource ➤ Strengthening forestry through business development to underpin sustainable forest management and support economic growth and employment across Scotland ➤ Improving the quality of life and wellbeing of people by supporting community development across Scotland ➤ Making access to, and enjoyment of, woodlands easier for everyone – to help improve physical and mental health ➤ Protecting the environmental quality of our natural resources (water, soil, air) contributing to and improving our scenery, and helping to make the most of our unique historic environment ➤ Helping to restore, maintain and enhance Scotland’s biodiversity, and increasing awareness and enjoyment of it. 	<p>adhered to in the Plan. The biodiversity themed aims of the Strategy will be delivered through the LBAP at a local level.</p>
<p>A Five Year Species Action Framework: Making a difference for Scotland’s species (2007)</p>	<p>The Species Action Framework identifies certain species where targeted management action in Scotland is required. It highlights requirements for the protection of Scotland’s species in order to secure their future through effective management.</p>	<p>The Framework highlights the requirements for a focus effort to protect and manage certain species which will be translated through the LBAP to represent the species specific to East Dunbartonshire at a local level. The LBAP should contribute to the implementation of the Framework where possible.</p>
<p>Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach (2007)</p>	<p>This is a shared vision for the approach to conserving biodiversity in the UK. The shared priorities for action outlined in the Report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ protecting the best sites for wildlife; ➤ targeting action on priority species and habitats; ➤ embedding proper consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all relevant sectors of policy and decision-making; ➤ engaging people, and encouraging behaviour change; ➤ developing and interpreting the evidence base; and ➤ ensuring that the UK plays a proactive role in influencing the development of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and contributes fully to their domestic delivery. 	<p>The vision of Conserving Biodiversity- the UK Approach will be directly linked to the vision of the LBAP. The priorities for action expressed in the LBAP share similar outcomes.</p>
<p>Climate Change (Scotland) Act (2009)</p>	<p>The Climate Change (Scotland) Act commits the Scottish government to establishing a zero-carbon economy through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Within the Act, a number of targets were set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A 42% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 ➤ An 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 <p>The Act intends Local Authorities to adhere to the requirements and targets set in order to contribute to Scotland’s emission reduction progress as well as reductions locally.</p>	<p>The promotion and enhancement of ecosystem services will be expressed in the LBAP. This has the potential to have an influence over the effects of climate change. The LBAP will consider, and contribute to, the Climate Change Act.</p>
<p>‘Climate Ready Scotland’- Scotland’s Climate Change Adaptation Programme</p>	<p>The Programme addresses the impacts identified for Scotland in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). It sets out the Scottish Ministers’ objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, and their proposals and policies for meeting those objectives. Aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensuring a productive, healthy and diverse natural environment which is able to adapt to change, including promotion of green infrastructure and development of the ecosystem approach; and implementation of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy ➤ Ensuring well-managed, resilient infrastructure and buildings providing access to the amenities and services we need; ➤ Ensuring strong, healthy, resilient communities which are well informed and 	<p>The LBAP will promote the role of biodiversity for climate change adaptation which is in line with this Programme. The Programme expresses the requirement for productive natural environments and an ecosystem approach to drive the implementation of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. The focus of the LBAP is linked to this.</p>

	<p>prepared for a changing climate, including increased awareness of the importance of flood risk management</p>	
<p>Scottish Government National Outcomes (2007)</p>	<p>Fifteen National Outcomes were set for the Scottish Government, and were updated in 2011. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe. ➤ We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people. ➤ We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation. ➤ Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. ➤ Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed. ➤ We live longer, healthier lives. ➤ We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society. ➤ We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk. ➤ We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger. ➤ We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need. ➤ We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others. ➤ We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations. ➤ We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity. ➤ We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production. ➤ Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it. ➤ Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs. 	<p>The LBAP should contribute towards each of the National Outcomes, where possible. The National Outcomes particularly relevant to the LBAP, although not limited to, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens ➤ We live longer, healthier lives ➤ We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society ➤ We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need ➤ We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others ➤ We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations ➤ We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity ➤ We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production
<p>Low Carbon Scotland-Meeting the Emissions Reduction Targets 2010-2020</p>	<p>Low Carbon Scotland identifies policies that will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland. It was designed to address the duty placed on the Scottish Government by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to provide policies and measures for addressing the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In support of targets set to reduce emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 levels by 42%, Low Carbon Scotland focusses its vision on energy supply, homes and communities, business and the public sector, transport, rural land use and waste. Within the document, the benefits of a low carbon society are set out including the benefits to biodiversity. Biodiversity has been identified as vital to the restoration of peatland and wetland habitats, protection of woodlands and natural heritage, and improving the value of Scotland's environment.</p>	<p>The LBAP should contribute to Low Carbon Scotland, and the targets set therein, by highlighting the role of biodiversity in carbon capture and the importance of biodiversity as a natural resource. In doing so, it is likely that the LBAP will play a role in achieving the targets set at a local level. The LBAP should reflect the benefits of biodiversity for low carbon communities, as set out in the Low Carbon Scotland document.</p>
<p>UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework</p>	<p>The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework succeeds the UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1994 and was developed in response to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Framework details the requirements for the UK to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The requirements needed by each of the 4 UK countries are outlined in terms to the activities needed to contribute to international obligations. The</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire's LBAP should be developed as a local response to the requirements of the Framework. By doing so, it will show its commitment to achieving the targets and highlight the preferred actions for East Dunbartonshire for nature conservation.</p>

<p>Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011</p>	<p>Framework reflects a revised direction for nature conservation.</p> <p>The Act amends existing legislation relating to the protection of certain birds, species, habitats and activities, aiming to make law on wildlife and the natural environment more effective and proportionate. Issues covered in the Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deer management, ➤ Species licencing, ➤ Protected areas, ➤ Game species, ➤ Wildlife crime, and ➤ Invasive Non-Native species. 	<p>The Act highlights the requirements for a focus effort to protect and manage certain species which should be translated through the LBAP to represent the species specific to East Dunbartonshire at a local level.</p>
<p>Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 2004 (Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands) and The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013)</p>	<p>The Scottish Government's Strategy document, published in 2004: <i>'Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands'</i> has an aim to "conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future." The Strategy represented Scotland's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Scottish commitment to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. This Strategy was later augmented by <i>The 2020 Challenge</i> in 2013 in response to new international targets and builds upon the original Strategy.</p> <p>The Vision of the Strategy is to present Scotland as a recognised world leader in biodiversity conservation by 2030 by involving everyone in order to appreciate the benefits and ensure that 'the nation is enriched'.</p> <p>The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Protect and restore biodiversity on land and in our seas, and to support healthier ecosystems. ➤ Connect people with the natural world, for their health and wellbeing and to involve them more in decisions about their environment. ➤ Maximise the benefits for Scotland of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, contributing a sustainable economic growth. 	<p>The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy is key to the development of the LBAP. The LBAP will deliver the aims of the Strategy at a level that is specific to East Dunbartonshire and support the targets set within The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity.</p>
<p>Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009</p>	<p>The Act provides a more sustainable and modern approach to flood risk management, taking in to account the impact of climate change. The Act will also create a more joined up and coordinated process to manage flood risk at a national and local level. Specific measures within the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A framework for coordination and cooperation between all organisations involved in flood risk management; ➤ Assessment of flood risk and preparation of flood risk management plans; ➤ New responsibilities for SEPA, Scottish Water and Local Authorities in relation to flood risk management; ➤ A revised, streamlined process for flood protection schemes; ➤ New methods to enable stakeholders and the public to contribute to managing flood risk, and; ➤ A single enforcement authority for the safe operation of Scotland's reservoirs. 	<p>The Act is likely to influence the LBAP in terms of the development of measures to mitigate the effects of flooding through the management of biodiversity. Biodiversity plays a significant role in the delivery of flood risk management. SEPA's involvement in the Biodiversity Partnership will be crucial for this aspect of the LBAP.</p>

Scottish Biodiversity List	The Scottish Biodiversity List details the animals, plants and habitats determined to be of principle important for the conservation of biodiversity in Scotland. Its purpose is to guide public bodies in the protection of the species outlined in the List.	The LBAP plays a vital role in ensuring that East Dunbartonshire Council carries out their Biodiversity Duty and should consider the species in the List as well as showing its compliancy with the appropriate action needed to protect these species.
River Basin Management Plan for Scotland	Produced as a result of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plan for Scotland sets out a Plan for integrating land and water management for effective protection and improvement to the water environment in Scotland. The Plan details the current condition of waterbodies and sets objectives to be achieved by 2015 and beyond to prevent deterioration.	The RBMP is vital in the development of the LBAP. The requirements of the RBMP should be taken into account in the LBAP and should express its commitment to meeting the targets for the waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire.
Regional		
Glasgow & Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (SDP)	<p>The Scottish Ministers approved, with modifications, the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan on 29.5.12.</p> <p>The SDP together with the LDP forms the Development Plan in city region areas. It is prepared under Scottish Parliamentary Law, the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.</p> <p>The key aim of the SDP is to set out a long term Spatial Vision and related spatial development strategy. This will determine the future geography of development in the city region to 2035, which will support economic competitiveness & social cohesion, set within a sustainable environmental approach. It is about creating quality of place by focusing on the continued regeneration and transformation of the city region's communities whilst securing positive action on its key asset, its natural environment. It seeks to minimise the development and carbon footprints of the city region, meet climate change emissions targets and above all, support a drive towards a sustainable low carbon economy.</p>	The SDP provides the overall geographical framework for development in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Region. The LBAP should consider its role in the delivery of the SDP and be compliant with its vision.
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy	<p>The Strategy recognises the role of trees, woods and forests as essential to the environment, livelihood and culture. It also supports the delivery of woodland based opportunities as part of the wide green network in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley region and establishes a framework to guide local level interventions.</p> <p>It aims to <i>'increase the economic, social and environmental contribution that forests and woodlands make to Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. This requires us to make the most of both our existing woodlands and to created opportunities for new ones where they add most value to the environment, local communities and society as a whole'</i>. The Vision is intended to be delivered with a 25 year life span.</p>	The LBAP should support the vision of the G&CV Forestry and Woodland Strategy by recognising the role of woodland in East Dunbartonshire in delivering a range of opportunities at a local level including ecosystem services and improvements to quality of life.
Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Plan (draft)	<p>raft Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Plan provides a short overview of the Local Plan District and the flood risk authorities involved (of which there are 16 local authorities that are completely within or overlapping the district boundary; Argyll and Bute Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, East Ayrshire Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council, Falkirk Council, Glasgow City Council, Inverclyde Council, North Ayrshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Renfrewshire Council, Scottish Borders Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Stirling Council, West Dunbartonshire Council and West Lothian Council).</p> <p>The Plan sets out actions for flood risk management within the Clyde and Loch Lomond District, which are summarised separately for each District. The overall objective of the Plan</p>	Although the Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Plan (C&LLFRMP) is currently at a consultation stage, it will be an important consideration for the LBAP once it is fully implemented, particularly since East Dunbartonshire lies within or overlapping the district boundary of the C&LLFRMP. The LBAP should consider the impacts of the actions discussed in the C&LLFRMP, particularly those detailed as part of the area outlined in PVA 11/04 for biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire. The LBAP should also consider how its actions can have a positive influence to meet the objectives of the C&LLFRMP. Giving the wide-range of the Flood Risk District, the LBAP will also need to understand the impact of actions within neighbouring authorities for East Dunbartonshire.

	<p>is to <i>reduce overall flood risk</i>. To achieve this general objective, a set of actions are outlined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Self-help – individuals have the responsibility for protecting themselves and their property from flooding ➤ Awareness raising – SEPA and the responsible authorities have a duty to raise public awareness of flood risk ➤ Flood forecasting ➤ Emergency planning and response ➤ Watercourse maintenance/clearance and repair ➤ Maintenance/asset management <p>In addition to the general objective and actions for the management of floods in the Clyde and Loch Lomond district, Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVA) have been identified, each with a set of objectives and potential actions for the delivery of the Plan. PVA 11/04 Kilsyth to Bearsden – North of Glasgow City is relevant to the area of East Dunbartonshire.</p>	
<p>Antonine Wall Management Plan 2007 - 2012</p>	<p>The Management Plan sets out the significance of the proposed Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, and provides a vision and a framework for an integrated and consensual approach to the management of the Site while ensuring outstanding universal values are conserved.</p> <p>The Plan's aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To review the importance of the Antonine Wall ➤ To review its state of survival ➤ To determine the requirements for its long-term protection and conservation ➤ To establish its management requirements and set out policies to fulfil them ➤ To review the requirements of a visitor strategy ➤ To establish the importance of the Antonine Wall in modern Scotland ➤ To provide the basis for an integrated and consensual approach to all activities on the Antonine Wall. 	<p>The LBAP will need to consider the requirements set out in the Antonine Wall Management Plan to ensure the protection and conservation of the WHS within East Dunbartonshire. It should ensure that any actions proposed within the Plan are sensitive to the setting and value of the Antonine Wall.</p>
<p>Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 2011 - 2016</p>	<p>The area that is covered by the SPG includes Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, Glasgow City, West Dunbartonshire and East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>The policy emphasis of the SPG is upon protection and conservation of the authenticity and integrity (and the Outstanding Universal Value underpinning its inscription) of the World Heritage Site.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Neighbouring Authority Strategic Actions</p>	<p>The neighbouring authorities to which this would relate include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ West Dunbartonshire Council ➤ Stirling Council ➤ North Lanarkshire Council and ➤ Glasgow City Council <p>This will include documents that could potentially impact on East Dunbartonshire, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local Plan (Local Development Plans) ➤ Local Biodiversity Action Plans 	<p>The LBAP will need to consider neighbouring authorities strategic plans in the development of East Dunbartonshire's LBAP.</p>

	➤ Local Transport Strategies	
	Local (East Dunbartonshire Council)	
The Campsies: A Strategic Review and Action Plan (2011)	<p>The Campsies Action Plan is a key document for a number of local authorities to which the Campsie Fells are a significant landscape feature; Stirling Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council and Falkirk Council. The purpose and vision of the Action Plan is:</p> <p><i>'Contributing towards realising sustainable economic, social and ecological development in the Campsies through the delivery of strategically significant actions and initiatives. These should support communities living and working within the Campsies, promote responsible access for all, develop visitor interest, use and understanding of the mixed land use resource whilst conserving the area's landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity features'.</i></p> <p>The Action Plan is focused around <i>access, tourism and recreation, marketing, economic development and business support, and biodiversity and geodiversity</i> as key themes to meet the objectives and vision of the Plan over a 10 year timescale.</p>	<p>The Campsie Fells is significant to the landscape of East Dunbartonshire. There is significant potential to integrate the actions of the LBAP with the actions set out in the Campsies Action Plan in terms of protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The LBAP should reflect East Dunbartonshire's commitment to protecting biodiversity assets that are linked to the Campsie Fells and improving biodiversity for benefits to ecosystem services. The LBAP should also encourage biodiversity as having an important role in benefiting the landscape.</p>
EDC Community Planning Partnership - Single Outcome Agreement (2014-2017)	<p>EDC Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Working together to achieve the best with the people of East Dunbartonshire <p>Local Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ East Dunbartonshire has an expanding economy with a competitive and diverse business and retail base ➤ Our people are equipped with knowledge, skills and training to enable them to progress to employment ➤ Our children and young people are safe, healthy and ready to learn ➤ East Dunbartonshire is a safe and sustainable environment in which to live, work and visit ➤ Our people and communities enjoy increased physical and mental wellbeing and health inequalities are reduced ➤ Our older population are supported to enjoy a high quality of life and our more vulnerable citizens, their families and carers benefit from effective care and support services. 	<p>The delivery of the LBAP will contribute to the SOA for East Dunbartonshire. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ East Dunbartonshire has an expanding economy with a competitive and diverse business and retail base ➤ Our people are equipped with knowledge, skills and training to enable them to progress to employment ➤ East Dunbartonshire is a safe and sustainable environment in which to live, work and visit ➤ Our people and communities enjoy increased physical and mental wellbeing and health inequalities are reduced
Local Plan 2 2011-2016	<p>The Local Plan 2 is primarily concerned with the use and development of land in East Dunbartonshire. The Plan contributes towards sustainable development by providing clear guidance on what developments will be acceptable and where they will be permitted.</p>	<p>The LBAP will help to guide developments, as set out in the Local Plan 2, in order to reduce, prevent or offset the effects of development on biodiversity.</p>
Local Development Plan (2015)	<p>The emerging LDP for East Dunbartonshire sets the framework for the growth and development of East Dunbartonshire up to 2025 and beyond and establishes a presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development as defined in Scottish Planning Policy (2014).</p>	<p>As above- the emerging LDP is currently material consideration.</p>
EDC Core Path Plan	<p>The East Dunbartonshire Council Core Path Plan objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To improve the health and wellbeing of our communities by delivering a path 	<p>The Core Path Plan promotes the enhancement of the wider countryside in East Dunbartonshire, with a particular focus around the natural environment and the associated benefits of improvements to these assets. The LBAP is closely aligned to the</p>

	<p>network that gives everyone opportunities for uncomplicated everyday physical exercise,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To support the reduction of traffic congestion and pollution by providing everyone with opportunities to make journeys on foot and by bike, ➤ To support local business by bringing visitors to the area, using our key routes such as the West Highland Way, the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Campsie Hills as destinations, linked with encouraging walking and cycling, and ➤ To support good farming and land management and minimise irresponsible behaviour by proactively managing access to the countryside. 	<p>objectives of the Core Path Plan.</p>
<p>Sustainable Development Strategy (2004)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To promote a strong local economy ➤ To ensure the social wellbeing of everyone in the community ➤ To protect the natural environment <p>The Sustainable Development Strategy for East Dunbartonshire will be replaced by the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework over the course of the preparation of the LBAP.</p>	<p>The LBAP will contribute, in parallel, to the aims of the Sustainable Development Strategy. In particular, the LBAP should show its commitment to the sustainable use of the natural environment to ensure that it is protected. The LBAP should also take into account the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework once it has been implemented.</p>
<p>EDC Open Space Strategy 2015 - 2020</p>	<p>The Open Space Strategy sets a framework for current and future open space provision in East Dunbartonshire, which includes an updated Audit. The OSS will contribute to SPP, NPF3 and the Central Scotland Green Network as a tool to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve the management structures and practices; ➤ Help ensure that the Council has a clear strategic direction to its open space investment and asset management; ➤ Establish requirements for new open space from development proposals together with the scale and nature of any planning obligations; and ➤ Contribute to meeting the objectives of the Single Outcome Agreement. 	<p>The LBAP will contribute to the aims of the Open Space Strategy. Both are aligned in terms of expected outcomes to improve the open spaces in East Dunbartonshire and meeting the SOA targets. Improvements to the green network, as expressed in the OSS, are also key to the LBAP.</p>

Appendix 2: Recognised Protected Species (including those with former Species Action Plans) Priority Species, Lesser Priority Species and Invasive Non-Native Species in East Dunbartonshire

	Protected Species (including those with former Species Action Plans)	Priority Species	Lesser Priority Species	Invasive Non-Native Species
Mammals	Brown Long-eared Bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>)	Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>)	Brown Hare (<i>Lepus europaeus</i>)	American Mink
	Daubenton's Bat (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>)	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	Common Shrew (<i>Sorex araneus</i>)	Grey Squirrel
	Natterer's Bat (<i>Myotis nattereri</i>)	Water Vole (<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>)	Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)	
	Pipistrelle Bat (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> / <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)		Mountain Hare (<i>Lepus timidus</i>) Stoat (<i>Mustela erminea</i>) Water Shrew (<i>Neomys fodiens</i>)	
Birds	Black Grouse (<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>)	Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>)	
	Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)		Dipper (<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>)	
	Grey Partridge (<i>Perdix perdix</i>)		Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)	
	Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)		Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	
	Linnet (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>)		Goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)	
	Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)		Grasshopper Warbler (<i>Locustella naevia</i>)	
	Reed Bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>)		Great Spotted Woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos major</i>)	
	Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)		Green Woodpecker (<i>Picus viridis</i>) Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) Hawfinch (<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>) Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) House Martin (<i>Delichon urbica</i>) House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>) Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>) Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) Lesser Redpoll (<i>Carduelis carbaret</i>) Lesser Whitethroat (<i>Sylvia curruca</i>) Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	

			<p>Pink-footed Goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)</p> <p>Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)</p> <p>Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>)</p> <p>Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)</p> <p>Restart (<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>)</p> <p>Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)</p> <p>Sand Martin (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)</p> <p>Sedge Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>)</p> <p>Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)</p>	
<p>Plants and Trees</p>	<p>Adder's Tongue Fern (<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>)</p> <p>Bennett's Pondweed (<i>Potamogeton x bennetti</i>)</p> <p>Bog Rosemary (<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>)</p> <p>Round-leaved Sundew (<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>)</p> <p>Tufted Loosestrife (<i>Lysimachia thysiflora</i>)</p>	<p>Bluebell or Wild Hyacinth (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>)</p> <p>Greater Butterfly Orchid (<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>)</p> <p>Lesser Butterfly Orchid (<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>)</p>	<p>Aspen (<i>Populus tremula</i>)</p> <p>Devil's-bit Scabious (<i>Succisa pratensis</i>)</p> <p>Eight-stamened Waterwort (<i>Elatine hydropiper</i>)</p> <p>Globe Flower (<i>Trollius europaeus L.</i>)</p> <p>Oak (<i>Quercus robur L.</i> and <i>Quercus petraea</i>)</p> <p>Six-stamened Waterwort (<i>Elatine hexandra</i>)</p> <p>Spignel (<i>Meum athamanticum</i>)</p> <p>Sweet Woodruff (<i>Galium odoratum</i>)</p>	<p>Japanese Knotweed</p> <p>Giant Hogweed</p> <p>Himalayan Balsam</p> <p>Rhododendron</p> <p>Skunk Cabbage</p>
<p>Amphibians and Reptiles</p>	<p>Great Crested Newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)</p>		<p>Adder (<i>Vipera berus</i>)</p> <p>Common Frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>)</p> <p>Common Lizard (<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>)</p> <p>Palmate Newt (<i>Triturus helveticus</i>)</p> <p>Smooth Newt (<i>Triturus vulgaris</i>)</p>	
<p>Invertebrates</p>	<p>Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (<i>Boloria selene</i>)</p> <p>Mud Snail (<i>Lymnaea glabra</i>)</p>	<p>Bumble Bee (<i>Bombus spp.</i>)</p> <p>Common Blue (<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>)</p>	<p>Dragonfly spp. (<i>Odonata</i>)</p> <p>Green Hairstreak (<i>Callophrys rubi</i>)</p> <p>Ladybird spp. (<i>Coccinella spp.</i>)</p> <p>Large Heath (<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>)</p> <p>Seven-spot Ladybird (<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>)</p>	

			Six-spot Burnet (<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>)	
			Small Tortoiseshell (<i>Aglais urticae</i>)	
Fish		Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)		
		Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)		
		Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>)		
		River Lamprey (<i>Lapetra fluviatilis</i>)		