

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination

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

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

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

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

Neil Samson
SEA Technical Officer
Broomhill Industrial Estate
Kilsyth Road
Kirkintilloch
G66 1TF

Relevant Documents:

- SEA Screening Determination Notification to Consultation Authorities on 1st October 2014
- Screening Report submitted to Consultation Authorities on 28th August 2014
- Responses from the Consultation Authorities:
 - Covering Letter from Scottish Government SEA Gateway
 - Response from Historic Scotland
 - Response from Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
 - Response from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)



East Dunbartonshire Council

www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Date: 1st October 2014

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

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Development & Regeneration

Broomhill Industrial Estate
Kilsyth Road
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Telephone 0141 578 8600

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Dear Sirs,

**SEA Screening Determination
Air Quality Strategy**

I refer to your letter dated 25th September 2014 outlining the responses from the Consultation Authorities to the Screening Report that was submitted on 28th August 2014 in relation to the proposed Air Quality Strategy.

The Consultation Authorities (SEPA and SNH) are in agreement with the Council that the Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects. On 29th September 2014 East Dunbartonshire Council made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the proposed Air Quality Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects. Therefore, the Strategy will be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Environmental Report will be prepared alongside the document.

A copy of the screening determination will be available for inspection during normal office hours at Broomhill Depot, Kilsyth Road, Kirkintilloch, G66 1TF and on the Council website at www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk. An advert will also be placed in the Kirkintilloch Herald and Milngavie and Bearsden Herald to publicise the screening determination.

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

If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to me on 0141 578 8615.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil Samson', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Neil Samson
SEA Technical Officer

STRATEGIC
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT:
**SCREENING
REPORT**

Air Quality Strategy



sustainable thriving achieving

East Dunbartonshire Council

www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

SEA Screening Report: PART 1

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

Or

SEA Gateway
Scottish Government
Area 2-J (South)
Victoria Quay
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SEA Screening Report: PART 2

An SEA Screening Report is attached for:

Air Quality Strategy

The Responsible Authority is:

East Dunbartonshire Council

Complete PART 3 or 4 where appropriate

SEA Screening Report: PART 3

Screening is required because the PPS falls under Section 5(3)(c) or Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that: -

(Tick (✓) the appropriate section)

An SEA is required because the PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects



An SEA is not required because the PPS is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects

SEA Screening 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 Screening Report: PART 5



Contact Details

Contact Name	Anne Prescott
Job Title	Environmental Health Officer
Contact Address	Environmental and Community Protection, Southbank House, Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch, G66 1XQ
Contact Telephone Number	0141 578 8814
Contact Email	Anne.Prescott@eastdunbarton.gov.uk
Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	 p.p. Neil Samson
Date	28 th August 2014

SEA Screening Report: PART 6

Screening Report – Key Facts

Responsible Authority	East Dunbartonshire Council
Title of PPS	Air Quality Strategy
Purpose of PPS	<p>The Strategy will set out how the Council intends to fulfil its statutory obligations for local air quality management within East Dunbartonshire with particular regard to the Environment Act, 1995 (Part IV) and work towards achieving the more stringent objectives set by the Scottish Government. This includes the monitoring and enforcement actions necessary to protect, improve and enhance air quality in East Dunbartonshire.</p>
What prompted the PPS (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	<p>The Environment Act, 1995 introduced legislation for local air quality management. Part IV of the Act introduced a statutory duty for local authorities to review and assess the air quality within their areas and to identify if the air quality objectives as stated in the Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2002 (as amended in 2003) are being met or likely to be met.</p> <p>Although an Air Quality Strategy is not a statutory requirement, it is recommended by guidance. Developing and implementing such a Strategy will assist the Council in fulfilling its obligations set out in the Environment Act, 1995.</p> <p>Where objectives are not being met an air quality management area (AQMA) must be declared. After an AQMA is declared, Section 84 of the Environment Act, 1995 requires local authorities to prepare an Action plan for the purpose of working towards achievement of the relevant air quality standards and objectives.</p> <p>The Council has declared two AQMAs within its area and is likely to be required to declare further AQMAs in coming years. Current Action Plans contain a number of common measures which are applicable to the wider Council area. The Air Quality Strategy will contain such common measures to improve air quality across the wider area, such that each Action Plan will remain specific to its AQMA.</p>
Subject (e.g. transport)	<p>The Strategy will focus on air quality and will include measures which will assist with reducing NO₂ and PM₁₀ concentrations within the East Dunbartonshire Council area.</p>
Period covered by PPS	<p>Air quality throughout the area will be reviewed on an annual basis to assess compliance with air quality objectives. The Strategy will be valid for an indefinite period, depending on the outcome of annual reviews.</p>
Frequency of updates	<p>The Strategy will be reviewed annually.</p>

Area covered by PPS (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	The Strategy will cover the whole geographical area of East Dunbartonshire but will have a particular focus on areas with poor air quality.			
Summary of nature/ Content of the PPS	The Air Quality Strategy will provide detail on how East Dunbartonshire Council will meet its legislative duties regarding air quality. It will set out an analysis of the current situation within East Dunbartonshire, will identify the air quality issues and areas of particular concern and the Council's priorities and approach to improving and enhancing air quality.			
Are there any proposed PPS objectives?	Yes		No	
Copy of objectives attached	Yes		No	
Date	28 th August 2014			

SEA Screening Report: PART 7

Considering the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

Title of PPS	Air Quality Strategy
Responsible Authority	East Dunbartonshire Council
Our determination regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment through the implementation of the Air Quality Strategy is set out in the table below.	

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (paragraph numbers refer to	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
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Schedule 2 of the Act)	(Yes / No)	
1(a) the degree to which the PPS sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	Yes	<p>Positive Effects</p> <p>The AQS allows the Council to fulfil its duties under the Environment Act 1995 to review and assess local air quality and ensure compliance with national air quality objectives. It provides direction on improving air quality through other strategies, plans and activities, for example, the Local Development Plan, the Sustainable Development Strategy, Local Transport Strategy and Route Corridor Studies.</p>
1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy.	Yes	<p>Positive Effects</p> <p>The AQS sits alongside a range of Council plans and strategies and both influences other plans and is influenced by them. These include the Local Development Plan, Local Transport Strategy, Local Housing Strategy, Sustainable Development Strategy and Air Quality Management Action Plans.</p>
1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Yes	<p>Positive Effects</p> <p>The AQS could help to promote sustainable development and influence decision making on a range of activities throughout the Council, including the planning process and transportation.</p>
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS	Yes	<p>Positive Effects</p> <p>Air quality is a recognised environmental issue and the AQS is intended to help reduce areas identified as having poor air quality. The AQS will seek to collate the Council's approach to identifying and dealing with a wide range of air quality issues, including the potential to mitigate against the degradation of air quality in areas adjacent to designated AQMAs.</p>

<p>1(e) the relevance of the PPS for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, PPS linked to waste management or water protection)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive Effects</p> <p>The Strategy itself has relevance to EU Ambient Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC and the proposed forthcoming revised EU Directive on air quality.</p>
<p>2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive Effects</p> <p>The aim of the Strategy is to improve and direct the short to long term management of air quality. The probability, duration and frequency of these effects are difficult to ascertain and may only be quantified upon implementation. These effects will generally be reversible.</p>
<p>2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive Effects</p> <p>Acting at a local level in areas identified as having poor air quality will have an overall positive cumulative effect across East Dunbartonshire as a whole.</p>
<p>2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive Effects</p> <p>Improvements to air quality within East Dunbartonshire will have a positive impact on air quality in neighbouring local authority areas and possibly beyond.</p>
<p>2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive Effects</p> <p>The AQS will help to improve human health, particularly respiratory illnesses, and the environment by setting out actions to tackle poor air quality, air pollution and nuisance. The AQS will seek to mitigate identified negative effects from related Strategies, such as the Local Transport Strategy and Local Development Plan.</p>
<p>2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive Effects</p> <p>The spatial extent of the AQS is East Dunbartonshire wide. It is anticipated that much of the focus of the AQS will be in localised areas where there are known specific</p>

		<p>issues related to traffic pollution, such as areas designated as AQMAs. Although traffic pollution will be a main feature of the AQS, other aspects of air quality, pollution and nuisance will be considered.</p>
<p>2 (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use. 	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) There may be areas or habitats of special significance which may be vulnerable to the effects of poor air quality and air pollutants. ii) The AQS is intended to meet all environmental quality standards related to air quality or to mitigate any identified negative effects. This is of particular relevance to the two designated AQMA in Bishopbriggs and Bearsden and the proposed AQMA in Kirkintilloch together with the surrounding areas. iii) The AQS should be used as a material consideration in terms of land use implications for developments.
<p>2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>There are a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Conservation Sites within East Dunbartonshire. Poor air quality, if not addressed, has the potential to adversely affect ecosystems, flora, fauna, soil and water environments. It is the intention that the AQS will, where possible, help to prevent or mitigate any negative effects.</p>

SEA Screening Report: PART 8

Summary of Environmental Effects and Proposed Key Aims

Poor air quality is attributable to many different sources. Air quality within East Dunbartonshire Council area is affected not only by traffic, industrial and domestic sources of air pollution within the Council boundary, but also by transboundary pollutant emissions from neighbouring Council areas and beyond.

East Dunbartonshire Council can only address sources which originate within their area and are within the Council's jurisdiction. The main source of emissions which can be addressed by the Council, and which currently affects local air quality, is road traffic. Increasing traffic volumes and congested streets contribute to local air quality problems. Reducing traffic levels through education and encouraging a modal shift to public transport are key areas which will be considered as part of the Strategy. Reducing congestion by changing traffic flow patterns is also possible.

The impacts of the possible actions which can be considered within the Strategy are likely to result in significant positive environmental effects on the area. The Strategy aims to bring about positive environmental improvements which will benefit not only human health through reduced pollutant concentrations but also the wider environment if reductions to traffic volumes are achieved. The Strategy should also help to influence the contents and outcomes of other plans and programmes prepared by the Council ensuring that air quality issues are taken into consideration at the earliest opportunity throughout the Council policy and strategic hierarchy.

The AQS will provide the framework for the Council to set out its strategic aims and actions regarding air quality. It is the intention that the strategy will have significant, long term positive effects on the environment in East Dunbartonshire and beyond. The AQS will be unable to achieve this on its own but by close partnership working with other national and local strategies and plans, including the National Air Quality Strategy, the East Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan, Sustainable Development Strategy and the Local Transport Strategy.

Proposed key aims of the Strategy will be to:

- Reduce the impact of poor air quality on the health of residents, visitors and workers;
- Raise public awareness and understanding of air quality issues;
- Fulfil statutory obligations for local air quality management and assist the Government in meeting National air quality targets; and,
- Implement and encourage the use of cost-effective measures to reduce emissions and exposure to air quality.

Directorate for Local Government and Communities
SEA Gateway, 2-H (South),
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D: 25 September 2014

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00985 SCREENING - EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL - AIR QUALITY STRATEGY

Dear Anne,

With reference to the Screening document you submitted on 28 August 2014.

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

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

CONSULTATION AUTHORITY	LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS
Historic Scotland	No
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Yes
Scottish Natural Heritage	Yes
OVERALL VIEW ON LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	Yes

As the Consultation Authorities have now notified you of their views, you should now refer to the 2005 Act to consider your next step. You should of course take into account the advice offered by the Consultation Authorities. You should note, as per Section 10 of the 2005 Act, within 28 days of your determination about whether an SEA is required or not, a copy of the determination and any related statement of reasons must be passed to the Consultation Authorities. This may be done via the SEA Gateway.

If you have any queries or would like me to clarify any points, please call me on 0131 244 7650.

Yours sincerely

Johnathan Whittlestone
SEA Gateway Officer

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
www.scotland.gov.uk





HISTORIC SCOTLAND
ALBA AOSMHOR

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Our ref: AMN/23/185
Our Case ID: 201403372

18 September 2014

Dear Ms Prescott

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
East Dunbartonshire Council – Air Quality Strategy
Screening Report**

Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the screening report for East Dunbartonshire Council's Air Quality Strategy received by the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway on 28 August 2014. I have reviewed the screening report on behalf of Historic Scotland in its role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act, in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). In doing so I have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment. Please note that our view is based on our main area of interest for the historic environment.

I note that it is East Dunbartonshire Council's view that the strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects. However, in section 2(e) for example, the screening report states that much of the focus of the Air Quality Strategy will be in localised areas where there are specific issues related to traffic pollution, and the summary of the report notes such aims as encouraging modal shift to public transport and reducing congestion through changing traffic flow patterns. While noting the potential for positive impacts on the historic environment such measures may have, we do not consider them to be strategically significant in nature. In light of this and other information contained in the screening report I consider that the strategy is unlikely to have significant environmental effects on the historic environment.

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

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this response.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Stevenson
Senior Heritage Management Officer (SEA)



www.historic-scotland.gov.uk



Our ref: PCS/135582
SG ref: SEA/00985/Scr

Anne Prescott
Environmental Health Officer
Environmental and Community Protection
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

If telephoning ask for:
Lorna Maclean

25 September 2014

By email only to: sea.gateway@scotland.qsi.gov.uk

Dear Ms Prescott
Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
Air Quality Strategy - Screening Report

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 29 August 2014.

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

Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are likely, it is for the Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received. If it is formally determined that SEA is required, you will be aware that the next stage requires the Responsible Authority to consult the Consultation Authorities on the proposed scope and level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report. This can be undertaken through preparation of a concise Scoping Report.

We would encourage you to use the scoping process to focus the assessment on those SEA issues upon which there are likely to be significant environmental effects, to outline the baseline information you consider as most relevant and explain your proposed method of assessment. To assist with this process we have produced Standing Advice for Responsible Authorities on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Consultations, which is available from www.sepa.org.uk/planning.

We are committed to providing early and focused advice and supporting continuous engagement and would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these issues prior to the formal consultation. Further information can be found in the Scottish Government SEA Guidance available at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/08/3355.

Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01698 839 000 or via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Lorna Maclean

Senior Planning Officer (SW)

Ecopy: hssea.gateway@scotland.qsi.gov.uk ; sea_gateway@snh.gov.uk



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Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

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

Ms A Prescott
Environmental Health Officer
East Dunbartonshire Council
Environmental and Community Protection
Southbank House
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Kirkintilloch, G66 1XQ

2 September 2014

Dear Ms Prescott

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

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 28 August 2014 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, SNH has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

We agree that the above Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Kerry Wallace
Operations Manager
Strathclyde & Ayrshire



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recycled paper

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