

## SEA Environmental Report: PART 1

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## SEA Environmental Report: PART 2

An SEA Scoping  
Report is attached  
for:

Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy

The Responsible  
Authority is:

East Dunbartonshire Council

## SEA Environmental Report: PART 3

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| <b>Date</b>  | 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2015   |

STRATEGIC  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT:  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
REPORT**

**Culture, Leisure and  
Sport Strategy**



sustainable thriving achieving

**East Dunbartonshire Council**

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

## Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy

The CLS strategy is intended to provide a Framework that will underpin the direction of Culture, Leisure and Sport provision across East Dunbartonshire over the lifespan of the strategic action. Participation in the arts and culture, sport and physical activity of those living, working and visiting in East Dunbartonshire and improve facilities, assets, opportunities and efficiencies in the use of these resources.

The strategic framework of the Strategy has been fully assessed including all reasonable alternatives in order to incorporate environmental considerations throughout the Strategy. This assessment includes the strategic alternatives to delivering the outcomes of the Strategy, ambition, objectives, themes and an action plan. In each case the SEA preferred options were identified in order to inform the decision making process and provide the policy-makers with the best practicable environmental option.

The process of SEA is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of this future Strategy. It aims to:

- integrate environmental factors into the Plan preparation and decision-making
- improve the Plan and enhance environmental protection
- increase public participation in decision making
- facilitate the openness and transparency of decision-making

### SEA Key Stages

The key SEA stages in the preparation of the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy are:

#### Scoping

This is the process by which details for the Environmental Report are determined. Through the Scoping Report the level of detail and the consultation period were determined for the Environmental Report. For the Culture, leisure and Sport Strategy, the Scoping Report was produced and the consultation was undertaken with the appropriate Consultation Authorities: Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency.

#### Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Report documents the environmental assessment of the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy. Through assessing the Strategy as it is written, it allows the plan-makers to refine the Strategy in order to avoid or mitigate the negative environmental impacts and to further enhance the positive environmental impacts.

#### Post-Adoption Statement

The Post-Adoption Statement demonstrates how the findings of the SEA have been taken into account in the adopted Plan. In accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Post-Adoption Statement will demonstrate:

- The integration of environmental considerations into the Strategy
- How the findings of the Environmental Report have been taken into account
- How opinions expressed, from both the Community and Consultation Authorities during the consultation of the Environmental Report have been taken into account
- The reasons for choosing the Strategy as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives
- The measures to be taken to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the Strategy

The purpose of Strategic Environmental Assessment is to inform the development process for the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy in order to reduce, avoid or mitigate any potential adverse environmental impacts and further enhance any potential positive impacts. This Environmental Report presents the results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy. It also establishes a monitoring framework and measures to mitigate any adverse impacts that may occur as a result of the strategic document.

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# Section 1: Policy Context

## 1.1. Key Facts

| Section 1: Key Facts   |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Responsible Authority</b>   | East Dunbartonshire Council   |
| <b>Title of PPS</b>  | Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy   |
| <b>Purpose of PPS</b>  | <p>To provide a framework that will underpin the direction of Culture, Leisure and Sport provision across East Dunbartonshire over approximately the next five years. The strategy aims to increase the participation in arts and culture, sport and physical activity of those living, working and visiting in East Dunbartonshire, and improve efficiency in the use of resources by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Making people fully aware of the health and well-being benefits of participating in regular leisure activity and ensuring that leisure and cultural activities are integral to the everyday lives of individuals and communities.</li> <li>➤ Helping to achieve wider policy objectives in the areas of crime reduction, education, social inclusion and economic development.</li> <li>➤ Identifying areas requiring improvement in terms of provision of leisure and cultural services, or where there are currently no such services but where opportunities for provision may be possible/viable.</li> <li>➤ Ensuring little or no duplication or over provision of services in order to maximise use of resources.</li> <li>➤ Establishing an Action Programme detailing specific projects and identifying the responsible bodies for delivering the projects.</li> </ul> |
| <b>What prompted the PPS</b><br>(e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provision) | Administrative provision: The strategy is required to update the existing leisure and pitches strategy (published in 2006) and will also incorporate the first cultural strategy for the Council area. The proposed strategy and associated action programme is necessary for the Council to achieve wider goals in respect of health and wellbeing, and is also required in the interests of making the most efficient use of resources.   |
| <b>Subject</b><br>(e.g. transport)   | Culture, Leisure & Sports assets, facilities and activities across the public, private and voluntary sectors in East Dunbartonshire.  |
| <b>Period covered by PPS</b>   | 2016-2021   |

|  |   |   |           |  |
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|  |   |   |           |  |
| <b>Frequency of updates</b>  | Reviewed and monitored annually until a replacement strategy is progressed.   |   |           |  |
| <b>Area covered by PPS</b><br>(e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map) | The geographical area of East Dunbartonshire Council plus Mugdock Country Park (geographically contained within Stirling Council but managed by EDC), and potential linkages, where appropriate, to surrounding Council areas namely: Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, Stirling and North Lanarkshire.   |   |           |  |
| <b>Summary of nature/<br/>Content of the PPS</b>   | <p>The original intention was to assess the Councils Sports Pitches Strategy as part of the wider Leisure and Culture Strategy as stated in the original Screening Report (submitted 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014). However, the decision was taken to screen the Sports Pitches Strategy individually and a determination was submitted to that effect (9<sup>th</sup> April 2015). The Sports Pitches Strategy was assessed to be unlikely to have any significant environmental effects due to the scope and nature of the study. The separation of the two component strategy elements has resulted in a rebranding of the original strategy which is now the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy.</p> <p>The development and review of the Culture, leisure and Sport Strategy, will underpin the direction of Cultural, Leisure and Sport provision across East Dunbartonshire over the next five years and will be the first overarching strategy of its kind.</p> <p>The purpose of the Strategy will be to provide a coordinated vision and framework for the provision of culture leisure and sport assets, facilities and opportunities throughout East Dunbartonshire; assets and facilities which will continue to make a positive and improved contribution towards health, wellbeing, learning and social inclusion for the communities of East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>The strategy will analyse the current position in EDC with regards to participation levels in leisure and cultural activities and the existing provision of assets. This will in-turn inform recommendations within the strategy regarding the future needs, availability, and accessibility of leisure and culture assets in order to produce an action plan to provide fit for purpose facilities that address need and raise the profile of sports and arts culture throughout East Dunbartonshire.</p> |   |           |  |
| <b>Are there any proposed PPS objectives?</b>  | <b>Yes</b>  |  | <b>No</b> |  |

|                             |                              |   |    |  |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|----|--|
| Copy of objectives attached | Yes                          |  | No |  |
| Date                        | 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2015 |   |    |  |

## 1.2. Relationship with other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

*This section shows how other plans, programmes and strategies influence, and are influenced by the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy.*

- 1.2.1. Nationally, regionally and locally there are a number of other strategies and plans that the LDP needs to be integrated with. These include:

### National

- National Performance Framework – Scotland Performs
- National Standards for Community Engagement
- Youth Employment Strategy 2014
- Volunteering Strategy
- Scotland’s Digital Future: A Strategy for Scotland
- Tourism Scotland 2020 – A Strategy for Leadership & Growth

### National Health

- Getting it Right for Every Child
- Re-shaping Care for Older People: A Programme for Change 2011-2021
- Ageing Well

### National Education & Learning

- Early Years Framework
- Curriculum for Excellence

### National Sport & Activity

- Reaching Higher
- Let’s Make Scotland More Active: A Strategy for Physical Activity 2003
- Let’s Get Scotland Walking – A National Walking Strategy
- Scotland United – SFA National Vision

- One National Plan for Non-Professional Football in Scotland 2013-15
- The Big Pitch – SFA First Facilities Strategy
- Cycling Action Plan for Scotland
- Commonwealth Games Legacy Plan
- Play Strategy for Scotland

### National Arts & Culture

- Creative Scotland 10yr Plan
- Time to Shine: Creative Scotland Youth Arts Strategy
- Going Further: The National Strategy for Scotland's Museums and Galleries
- What is Creativity? – Scotland's Creative Learning Plan

### Regional / Local

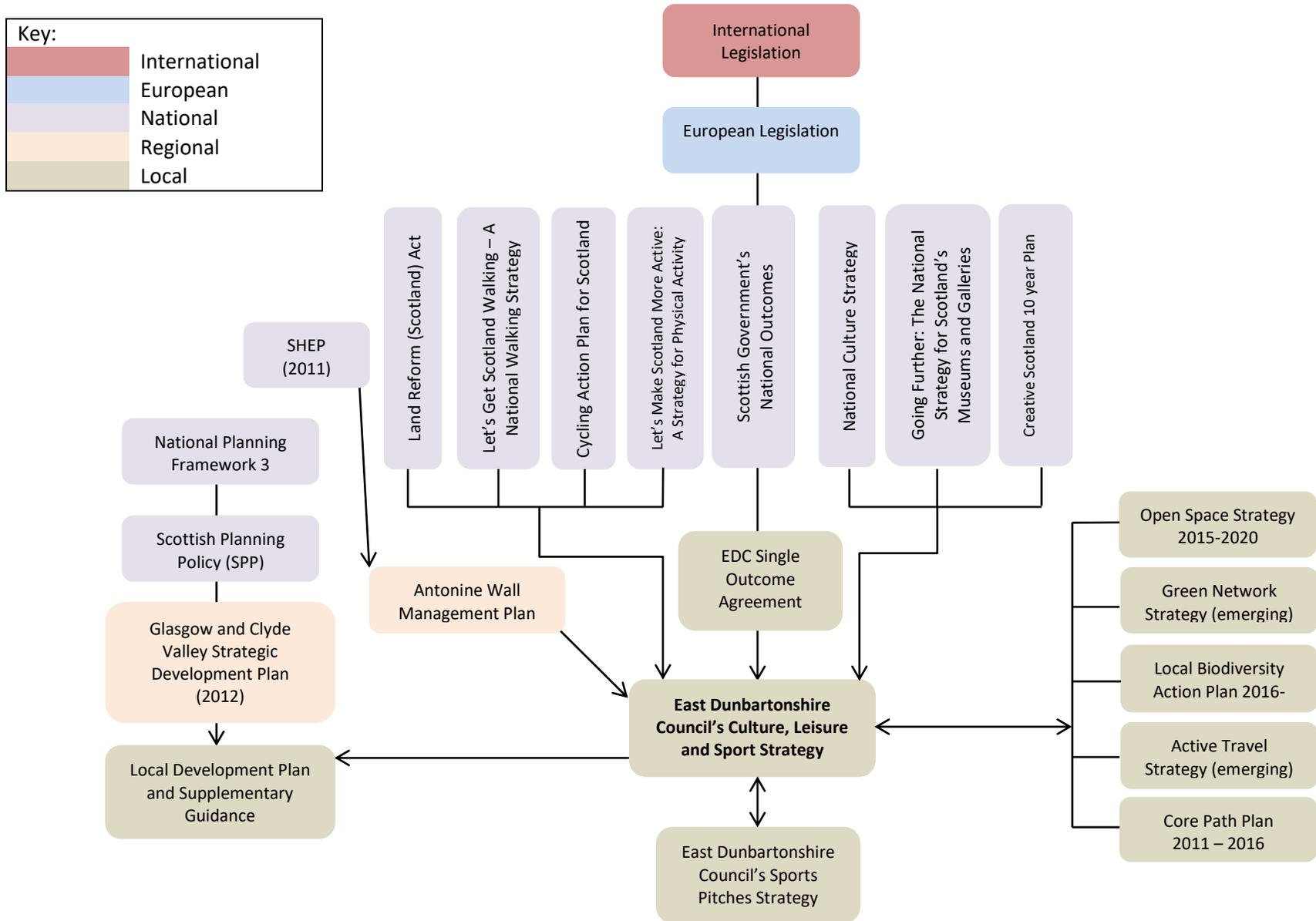
- Single Outcome Agreement
- Community Health Partnership Development Plan
- East Dunbartonshire Leisure, Physical Activity & Sport Strategy 2006
- Corporate Asset Management Plan & Transformation Agenda
- Local Development Plan
- Open Space Strategy
- Green Network Strategy (emerging)
- Active Travel Strategy (emerging)
- Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action Plan
- Core Path Plan
- Local Transport Strategy
- Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-2019

1.2.2. Cross-boundary effects with neighbouring authorities will be considered, through integration of the CLS Strategy with neighbouring authorities. However it is not expected that the CLS Strategy will require consideration of transboundary effects with neighbouring EU Member States.

1.2.3. **Appendix 1** lists key legislation, plans, programmes, policies and strategies that influence or are influenced by the CLS Strategy. 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 CLS Strategy.

# Figure 1: Interrelationship of the CLS Strategy with Other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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



## Environmental Protection Objectives

- 1.2.4. The environmental 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 CLS Strategy, will be taken into account when preparing the Strategy. These are set out in [Appendix 1](#).

## Section 2: Environmental Context

### 2.1 Baseline Environmental Data

- 2.1.1. **Table 1** below summarises the main baseline environmental features, assets and the environmental implications for the preparation and development of the CLS Strategy. The table also contains the SEA objectives used to assess the Strategy and further sub-criteria used within the assessment tables.

**Table 1: Environmental Baseline Data**

| Environmental Factor               | Summary of baseline Environmental Data   | Environmental Implications for the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy   | Sources of baseline Data  | Proposed SEA Objectives                                |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Population and 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 of East Dunbartonshire is good with nearly</p> | <p>East Dunbartonshire hosts a number of 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>The CLS Strategy will provide opportunities for residents, communities and visitors alike to become involved in and access local natural and historic environment attractors, facilities and assets. This can result in improved quality of environment and will have a potentially positive impact on their wellbeing.</p> <p>By raising awareness of the culture, leisure and sport facilities and assets, the CLS Strategy will present significant health and wellbeing opportunities through East Dunbartonshire.</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 &amp; Average weekly wage)</p> <p>Scottish Household Survey (walking/ cycling to work) 2012/13</p> | <p>To improve human health and community wellbeing</p> |

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| <p>Population and Human Health (continued)</p> | <p>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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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>There is scope to improve the number of people partaking in walking and cycling through active encouragement of the natural and historic environment and leisure and sport activities. This includes potential improvements to access both within the EDC boundary and to other neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>Encouraging increased access to the areas natural and historic environment assets will likely increase the use of the core path network and cycle 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 its overall protection will need to be considered within the CLS Strategy.</p> | <p>Glasgow Centre for Population Health 2011. (Briefing Paper 28)</p> |  |
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| <p>Cultural Heritage</p> | <p>East Dunbartonshire has: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1 UNESCO World Heritage Site;</li> </ul> | <p>Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas contribute to the character of the streets</p> | <p>Historic Scotland Sites and Monuments</p> | <p>To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic</p> |
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| <p>Cultural Heritage<br/>(continued)</p> | <p>Antonine Wall. A buffer zone has been identified around the Wall to help protect its setting. This is set out within the Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19 which was developed by Historic Scotland in partnership with East Dunbartonshire Council, Falkirk Council, North Lanarkshire Council, West Dunbartonshire Council and Glasgow Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 43 Scheduled Monuments. In particular the Forth &amp; Clyde Canal is made up of a series of Scheduled Monuments.</li> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ 15 Conservation Areas (4 of which are designated as outstanding)</li> <li>➤ 21 Townscape Protection Areas</li> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ A number of registered Buildings at Risk:</li> </ul> | <p>in East Dunbartonshire. Through appropriate management and enhancement, where 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 CLS Strategy.</p> <p>The CLS Strategy should consider its role and importance regarding the setting and value of the Antonine Wall as well as consider how improved access to the site will impact on its value.</p> <p>The requirements to protect Forth and Clyde Canal, as a main water body, a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a route corridor, will be influential to the development of the CLS Strategy.</p> <p>The CLS Strategy should consider how it can integrate, promote access while encourage the use of the different historical and natural environment elements throughout East</p> | <p>Record (SMR)</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</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>environment</p> |
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| <p>Cultural Heritage<br/>(continued)</p> | <p><b>Baldernock</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Outbuilding</li> </ul> <p><b>Bearsden</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Colquhouns of Garscadden Burial Enclosure</li> </ul> <p><b>Bishopbriggs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cawder House Stables</li> <li>➤ Huntershill House</li> </ul> <p><b>Cadder</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cadder Smithy</li> </ul> <p><b>Kirkintilloch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Broomhill Hospital, Outbuildings, Lodge and Cottages</li> <li>➤ Old Aisle Cemetery Gatelodge</li> <li>➤ 18A West High Street</li> <li>➤ Former Kirkintilloch Town Hall</li> </ul> <p><b>Lenzie</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Woodilee Hospital Administration Block</li> </ul> <p><b>Lennoxtown</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lennox Castle</li> <li>➤ High Kirk of Campsie</li> </ul> | <p>Dunbartonshire.</p> |  |  |
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| <p>Biodiversity,<br/>Flora and Fauna</p> | <p>East Dunbartonshire has: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</li> <li>➤ 2 Regional Scenic Areas</li> <li>➤ 66 Local Nature Conservation Sites</li> </ul> | <p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna are important considerations for the CLS Strategy. The implementation of the Strategy will have a direct influence on biodiversity through improved access and promotion of existing natural</p> | <p>Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> | <p>To protect, enhance, create and, where necessary restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity</p> |
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| <p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (continued)</p> | <p>(LNCS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There are networks of Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) in East Dunbartonshire. There are 80 LNCS designated for their biodiversity value. These include the Forth &amp; Clyde Canal, The John Muir &amp; Thomas Muir Way from Kirkintilloch to Clachan of Campsie, the Main Line Railway and disused railway lines such as Balmore to Torrance to Kirkintilloch.</li> <li>➤ Important Wildlife Corridors will be reviewed 2015/2016 so these designations along with LNCS are subject to alteration.</li> <li>➤ 485 Tree Preservation Orders (1 other in Bearsden currently pending)</li> <li>➤ 3 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) which include Merkland LNR, Lenzie Moss LNR and Kilmardinny Loch.</li> </ul> <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). 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>environment assets and designated areas. This will be particularly significant to those the species and habitats that are priorities, vulnerable and/or protected.</p> <p>Native species should be considered in order to enhance natural resources that are specific to the local area.</p> <p>The impact of the CLS Strategy throughout East Dunbartonshire will need to consider the presence of Protected Species and INNS to ensure their protection.</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>It is important that native woodland is managed and protected.</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 &amp; Proposed Plan (emerging)</p> |  |
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| <p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (continued)</p> | <p>Dunbartonshire such as Japanese Knotweed.</p> <p>The local habitats in East Dunbartonshire that have been prioritised under the previous iteration of the LBAP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Urban</li> <li>➤ Rural</li> <li>➤ Woodland</li> <li>➤ Wetland</li> </ul> <p>Woodland in East Dunbartonshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Native woodland in East Dunbartonshire comprises 22.1% of the total woodland area (4.8% of the total land area).</li> <li>➤ 95ha of woodland is present on ancient woodlands, which makes up 34% of native woodland</li> <li>➤ The main native woodland types in East Dunbartonshire are lowland mixed deciduous woodland (34%), wet woodland (25%) and upland birchwoods (21%).</li> </ul> |  |  |  |
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| <p>Soil and 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.</p> | <p>The quality and level of soil in East Dunbartonshire will need to be considered as part of the CLS Strategy to ensure that opportunities to increase visitor number to all attractors and access to the natural environment does not result in soil exposure to elements, causing erosion and potential</p> | <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>EDC Local Plan 2</p> <p>EDC Local Development Plan (emerging)</p> <p>Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Register</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 and Geology<br/>(continued)</p> | <p>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 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 also has 34 sites designated as Local Nature Conservation Sites for their geodiversity value.</p> <p>A number of different sites in East Dunbartonshire have been identified as having varying levels of soil carbon richness and peatland including the Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills.</p> | <p>soil acidification.</p> <p>Disturbance to peatland can result in the release of carbon into the atmosphere. Encouragement of the use and increased access to the wider natural and historic environment should be considered in order to reduce any risks of peatland disturbance.</p> | <p>2013</p> <p>James Hutton Institute</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage</p> <p>British Geological Survey</p> <p>UKRIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site)</p> <p>SNH Information Notice No.38 – Identification of carbon-rich soil mapping units (2012) – Scotland’s Soils</p> |  |
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| <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 two of the 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>The green belt is defined in the Development Plan and covers the entire area of East Dunbartonshire, with the exception of the upland and urban areas; its objectives include maintaining the character and distinctiveness of the area’s settlements.</p> <p>There is a number of Local Landscape Areas (LLA) within the East Dunbartonshire Council boundary area including the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills.</p> | <p>The CLS Strategy should consider effects to landscape setting and visual amenity.</p> <p>Any significant actions discussed to deliver the CLS Strategy will need to consider any natural and historical designations within East Dunbartonshire in order to prevent negative effects to landscape character and local distinctiveness.</p> <p>The different landscape typologies, including LLA designations, will need to be considered through the development of the CLS Strategy.</p> | <p>EDC Local Plan 2</p> <p>British Geological Survey</p> <p>UKRIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site)</p> <p>Glasgow &amp; Clyde Valley Landscape Character Assessment, 1999</p> | <p>To protect and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value</p> |
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| <p>Water Quality</p> | <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"> <li>➤ 5.52 km of good quality watercourses</li> <li>➤ 33.82 km of watercourses with good ecological potential</li> <li>➤ 16.01 km of moderate quality watercourses</li> <li>➤ 19.88 km of watercourses with moderate ecological potential</li> <li>➤ 48.19 km of watercourses with poor ecological potential</li> <li>➤ 17.32 km of poor quality watercourses</li> <li>➤ 28.31 km of watercourses with bad ecological potential</li> </ul> <p>All groundwater resources were also</p> | <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 should be important considerations within the CLS Strategy.</p> <p>The requirements of the Water Framework Directive should be taken into account during the development of the CLS Strategy.</p> <p>In terms of biodiversity, the CLS Strategy should consider impacts to wetland 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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| Water Quality<br>(continued) | <p>assessed in 2008 and found to be of good ecological status.</p> <p>*Flooding is discussed in <i>Climatic Factors</i></p> |  |  |  |
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| Air Quality | <p>Emissions from transport has been identified as the main contributor of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM10 (particulates) pollution, specifically, in East Dunbartonshire. Domestic emissions are the main contributor of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</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 NO<sub>2</sub> and PM10 objective levels.</p> <p>Whilst traffic levels across the Council area have been shown to be decreasing since 2009 from 125,356 (per 1000 vehicle miles) to 118,830 (per 1000 vehicle miles) in 2013, which can be attributable to a number of factors including the promotion of sustainable</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>The CLS Strategy, alongside the Local Transport Strategy and emerging Active Travel Strategy, has the opportunity to increase active travel participation in East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>Transboundary effects in relation to neighbouring Local Authorities such as Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and Stirling should be taken into account in the development of the CLS Strategy.</p> <p>In areas of particularly poor air quality, emissions in the atmosphere as well as</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>Scottish Census 2011</p> <p>Department for Transport- Traffic Counts</p> | <p>To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality</p> |
|-------------|--|---|--|--|

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| <p>Air Quality<br/>(continued)</p> | <p>travel and influencing economic factors, levels still remain relatively high.</p> <p>Of the number of people in East Dunbartonshire who are of an economically-active age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 6,454 people (9.5%) work or study at home</li> <li>➤ 12,422 people (18.25%) use public transport (train, underground, metro, light rail, tram, bus, minibus or coach) to access work or place of study of distances of 5km to 30km+</li> <li>➤ 26,884 people (39.5%) drive a car or van to access work or place of study of distances of 5km to 30km+</li> <li>➤ 18,156 people (26.7%) access work or place of study by other means of transport of distances of 5km to 30km+</li> </ul> <p>The number of people travelling to work by car or van is approximately 4% more than those in the rest of Scotland. Many people living in East Dunbartonshire travel to their workplace in neighbouring authorities such as Glasgow.</p> | <p>potential acid rain can adversely alter and affect biodiversity with additional impacts to habitats and the natural environment. Ecosystem services are also likely to be changed as a result.</p> <p>The role of biodiversity and habitats in improving air quality through the removal of pollutants in the soil and in the air should be considered.</p> |  |  |
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| <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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is attributable to domestic emissions.</p> <p>Travel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ Although rail patronage has increased by approximately 10% 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.</li> <li>➤ 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</li> </ul> | <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 as well as an impact on leisure and recreational activities.</p> <p>Increased active travel and accessibility of networks in East Dunbartonshire will encourage people to travel sustainability and cut down on vehicle usage and related emissions.</p> <p>In developing the CLS Strategy, areas of flooding particularly along rivers, will need to be considered for mitigation, management and viability.</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, 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 CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Estimates for 2005-2012', Department</p> | <p>To contribute towards the reduction of Scottish greenhouse gas outputs in line with Government targets in order to reduce or prevent the overall effects of climate change including those related to flood risks.</p> |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|---|

|   |   |  |                                     |  |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <p>Climatic Factors<br/>(continued)</p> | <p>2012 and 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ In 2013, 86% of households in East Dunbartonshire had access to at least 1 car.</li> <li>➤ Glasgow is a key attraction for both employment and high education opportunities for the population of East Dunbartonshire which increases the need for travel.</li> <li>➤ See <i>Air Quality</i> for number of people who travel by car or van to access their place of work or study.</li> </ul> <p>CO2 emissions associated with the expenditure of energy from 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</p> |  | <p>of Energy and Climate Change</p> |  |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|

|                                 |   |  |  |  |
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| Climatic Factors<br>(continued) | 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. |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|--|

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| Material Assets | <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 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</p> | <p>The local open spaces identified in the Open Space Strategy should be taken into account when developing the CLS Strategy.</p> <p>With the emerging Local Development Plan for East Dunbartonshire being implemented, there is likely to be an increase in developments (economic and housing) over the life of the Plan which should be a consideration when developing the CLS Strategy.</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 proposals.</p> <p>Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council Transport and Access Officer</p> <p>Sustrans</p> | <p>To promote the sustainable use of community assets in East Dunbartonshire</p> |
|-----------------|--|---|--|--|

|  |   |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Material Assets<br/>(continued)</p> | <p>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>There are 99 Right of Way paths in East Dunbartonshire of the highest classification. There are also 82 'other' Rights of Way which are classified as paths that have seized use, have been partially built on or overgrown.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire has 8 'Scotways' Heritage Paths and 2 other Heritage Paths have been designated by East Dunbartonshire Council.</p> <p>Through the East Dunbartonshire Council area, there are a number of different cycleways including traffic-free routes, both off and on the National Cycle Network, and on-road routes that are not on the National Cycle Network. Many of these routes are regional/cross-boundary and provide links to Loch Lomond, Glasgow, Stirling and Edinburgh.</p> |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|

Figure 2: Map 1 of Natural and Historic Environment Assets and Constraints

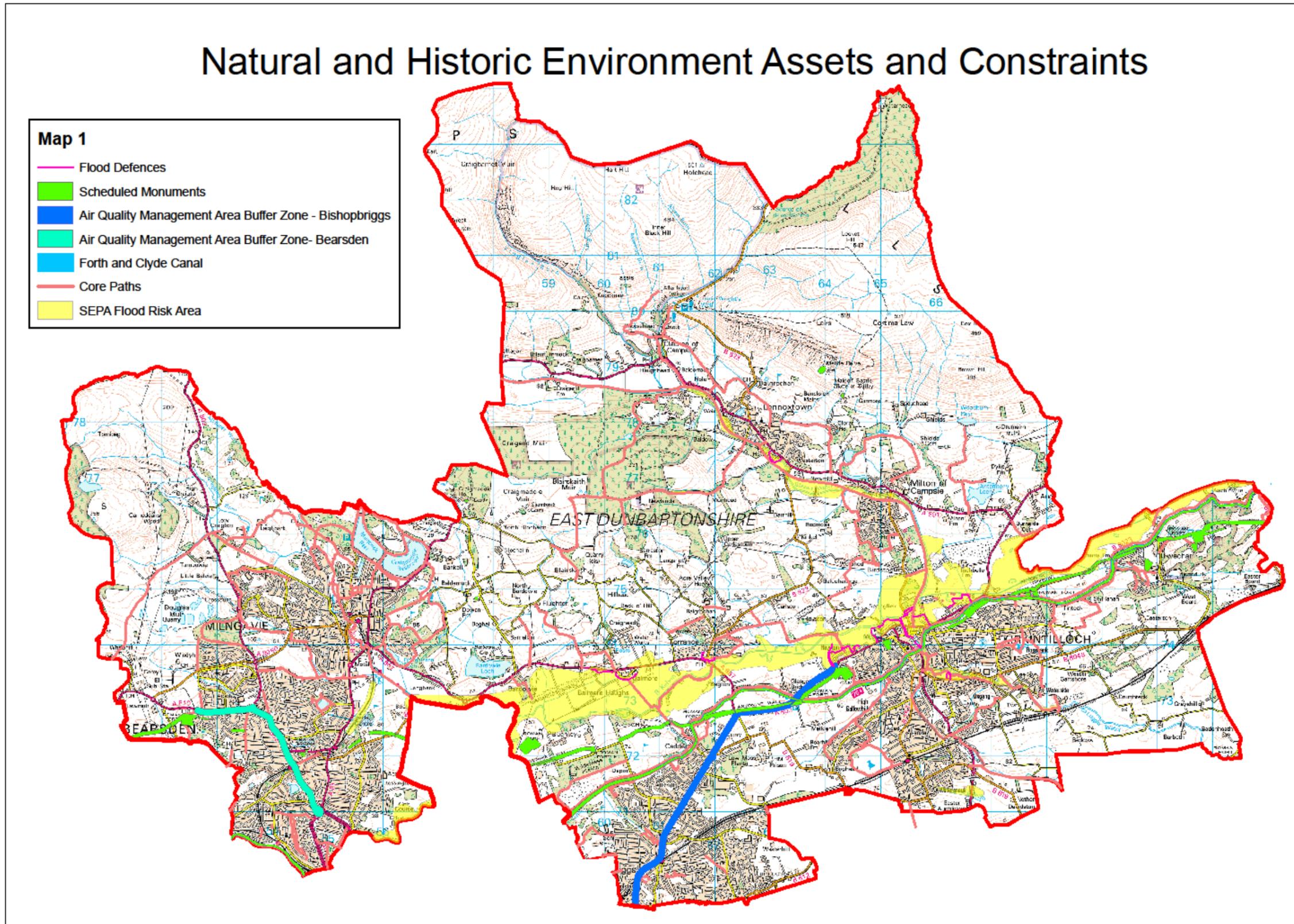


Figure 3: Map 2 of Natural and Historic Environment Assets and Constraints

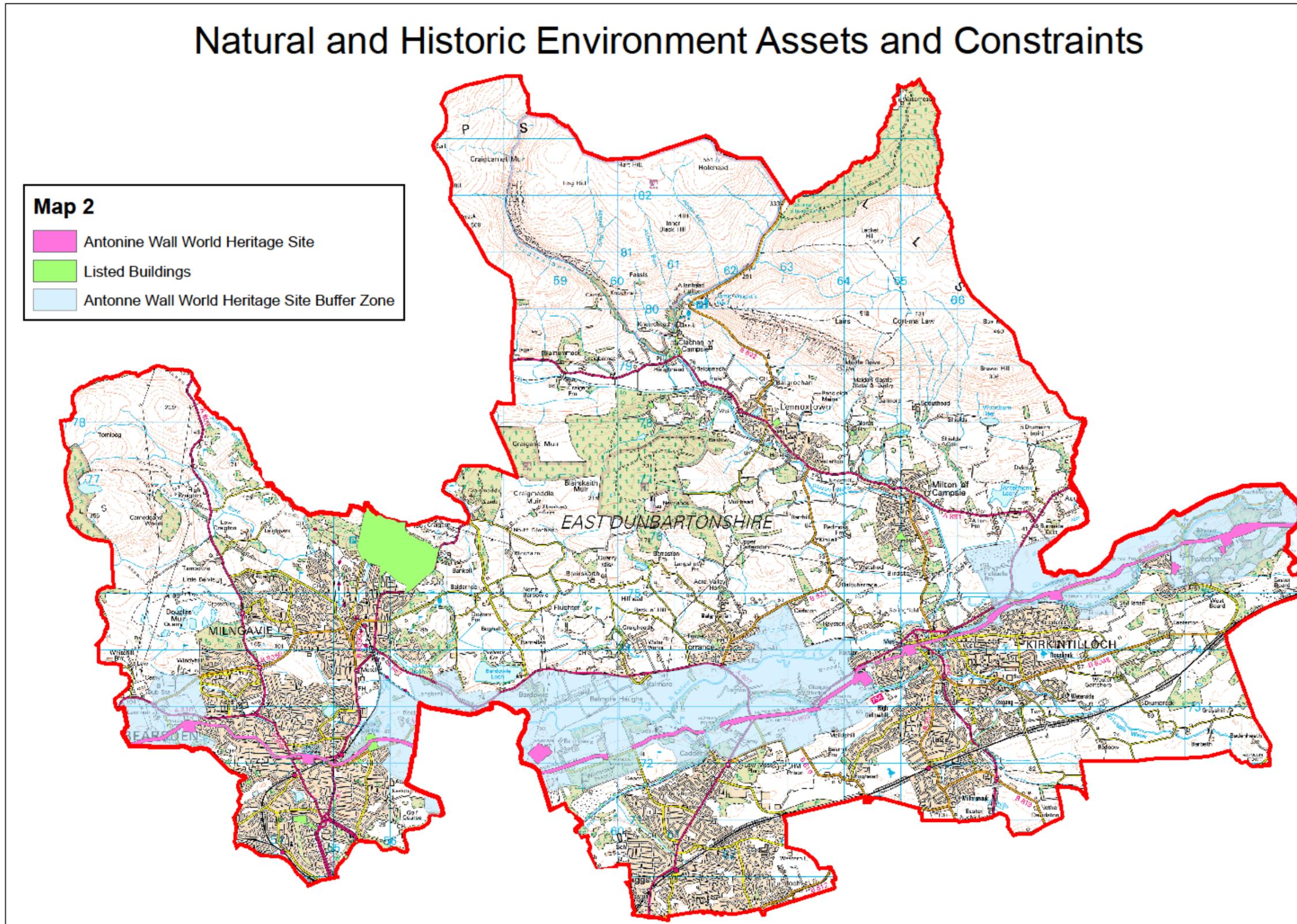




Figure 5: Map 4 of Natural and Historic Environment Assets and Constraints

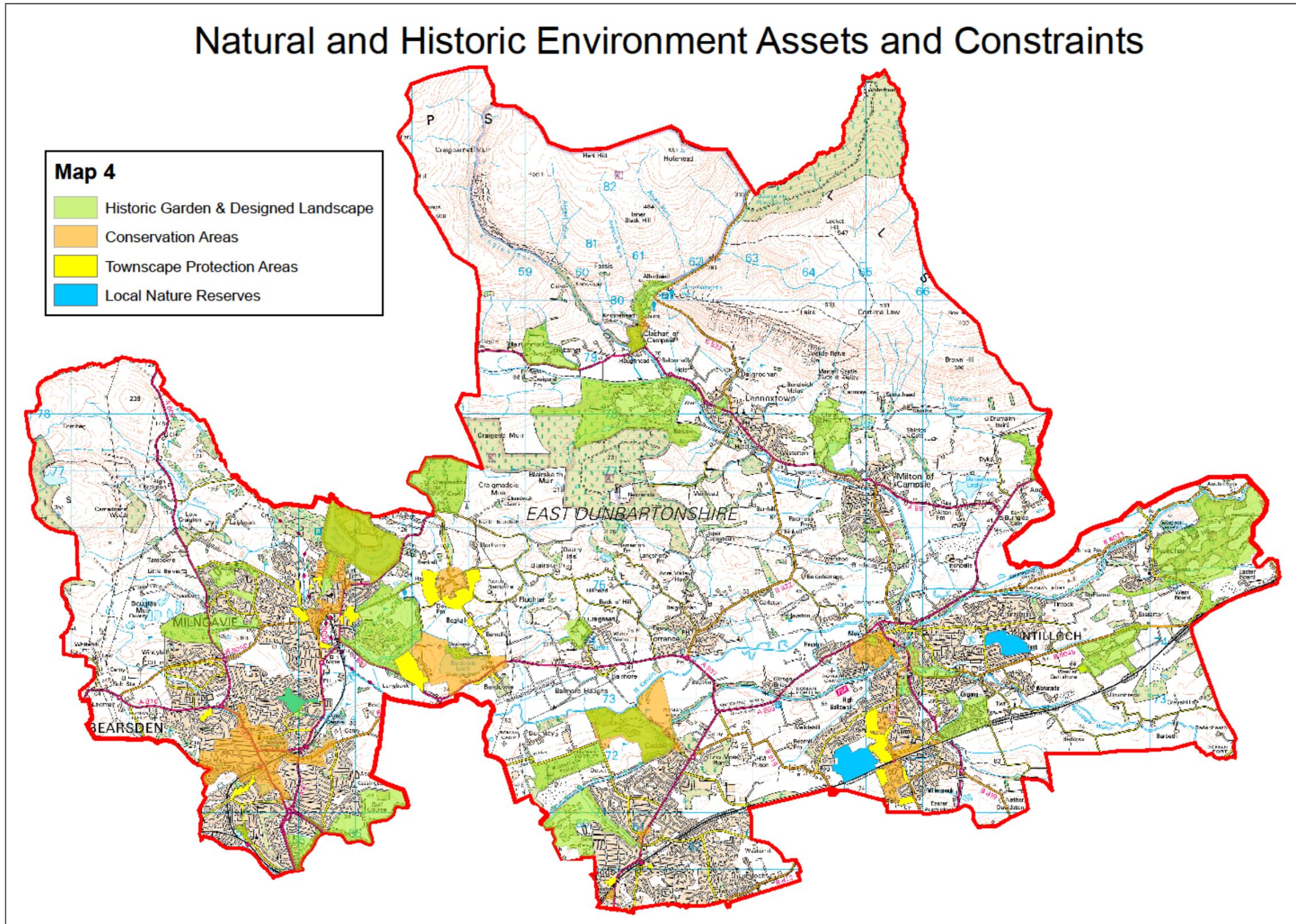
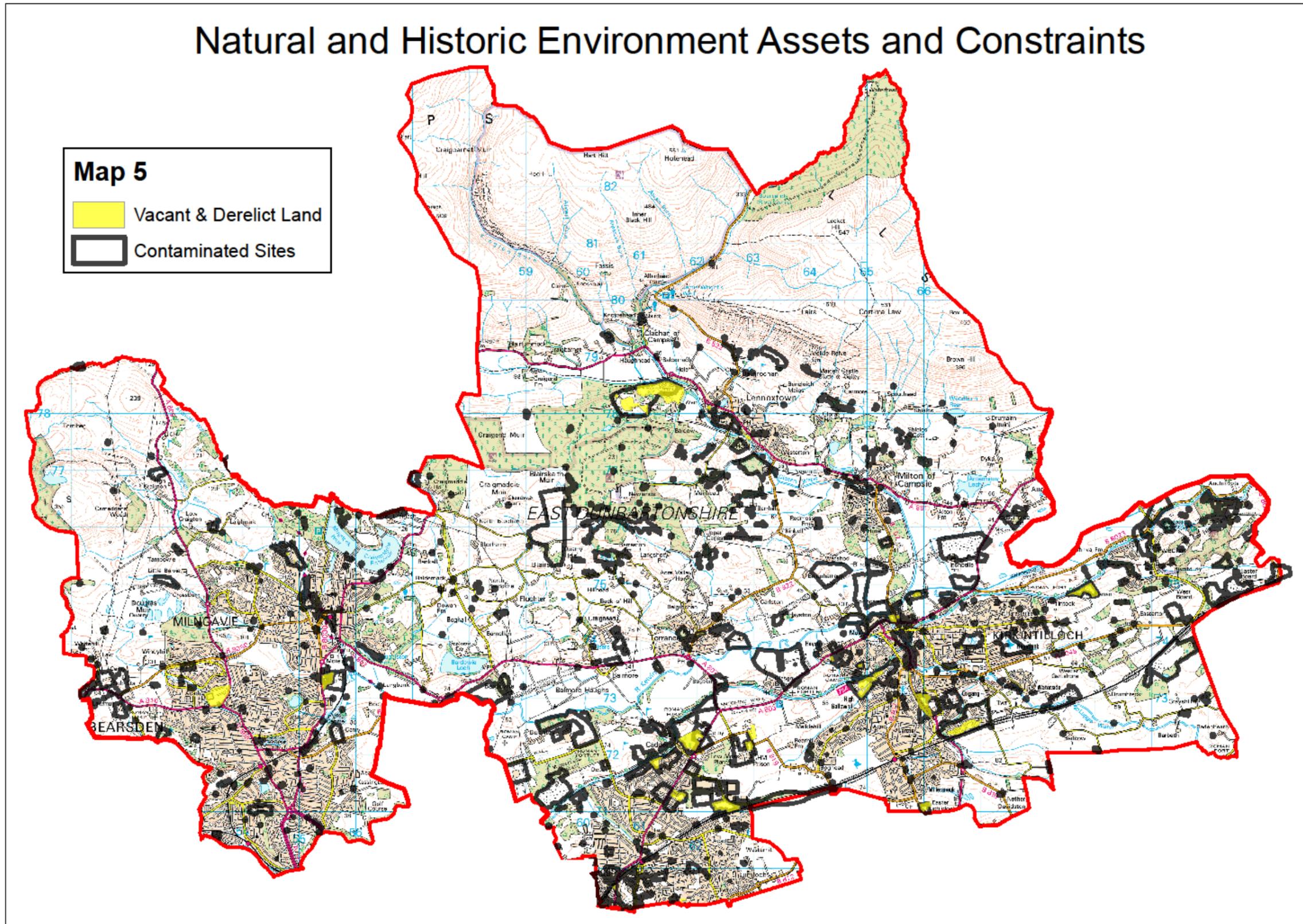


Figure 6: Map 5 of Natural and Historic Environment Assets and Constraints



## 2.2 Environmental Issues<sup>1</sup> for the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy

2.2.1 The purpose of this section is to explain how existing environmental issues that affect East Dunbartonshire, utilising the information that has been identified through an analysis of the baseline environmental data and potential implications, will affect or be affected by the Culture, leisure and Sport Strategy. When undertaking the assessment of the Strategy, the Council will be able to predict whether the identified environmental problems and issues will worsen, stabilise or improve through the implementation of the Strategy. The main environmental issues and problems facing East Dunbartonshire which are relevant to the CLS Strategy are outlined in **Table 2** below.

**Table 2: Environmental Issues Relevant to the CLS Strategy**

| SEA Topic                   | Relevant Environmental Issues   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Population and Human Health | Eight datazones within East Dunbartonshire fall into the top 25% most deprived areas in Scotland; these are located in Hillhead, Lennoxton, Auchinairn and Milngavie. In particular, some areas in Hillhead remain within the 5% most deprived areas in Scotland according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.   |
|                             | With areas of deprivation in East Dunbartonshire and an increasingly ageing population, there is a significant reliance on public transport and access to primary facilities such as town centres, retail parks, healthcare and leisure. To reduce this need and pressure, there is significant evidence that green networks, promotion of active travel and increased access to culture, leisure and sport assets will provide further health benefits to deprived or vulnerable members of the community. |
|                             | Conflicts may arise between increasing public access within East Dunbartonshire and the need to conserve the natural environment. This will be a vital consideration for the CLS Strategy to address and prevent such conflicts.  |
|                             | Encouraging the involvement of the community in projects linked to the enhancement of East Dunbartonshire's green network has the potential to benefit health and wellbeing. This is likely to improve the appreciation of the historic and natural environment as well as achieve the renewal of run down areas, particularly those in urban contexts, and increase economic value and investment to the area. There is scope for this to be promoted through the CLS Strategy.                            |
| 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.   |
|                             | East Dunbartonshire has a varied and valued natural and historic cultural heritage. In the development of the CLS Strategy, the opportunities that will be identified should address how they can contribute to enhancing and protecting the historic environment.  |

<sup>1</sup> 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”.

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>East Dunbartonshire is host to tourist attractors across the whole of the council-wide area such as the Antonine Wall Heritage Site, the Campsie Fells, West Highland Way and Mugdock Country Park. The CLS Strategy is likely to improve access to these assets. However, increased footfall to the main attractors has the potential to result in both positive impacts, such as stimulating the local economy, and negative impacts, such as path erosion and the degradation of sites/buildings and their setting.</p> |
| <p><b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b></p> | <p>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). The management and protection of these assets is essential through the CLS Strategy.</p>   |
|   | <p>Invasive Non-Native Species in East Dunbartonshire have been identified in East Dunbartonshire. Their location and management should be recognised within the Strategy.</p>  |
|   | <p>There are a number of protected species and habitats within East Dunbartonshire which will need to be considered as part of the CLS Strategy. The CLS Strategy offers the scope to ensure that benefits for biodiversity are considered as part of the wider natural environment and will play a contributing role for continued enhancement and protection of such species to avoid any loss. These concerns should be considered alongside the LBAP and emerging Green Network Strategy.</p>                             |

## 2.3 Evolution of the Environmental Baseline without the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy

- 2.3.1 As part of the SEA process, it is important to assess the likely impact on the environment if the CLS Strategy was not implemented.
- 2.3.2 The CLS Strategy will provide a coordinated framework that will underpin the direction of culture, leisure and sport provision across East Dunbartonshire over approximately the next five years. Without the Strategy, providers of culture, leisure and sport would continue to offer their services in silo's resulting in the following:
- Failure to link actions on the ground with national and local outcomes, including environmental considerations.
  - Failure to demonstrate the cumulative and long-term positive impact culture, leisure and sport is having locally in terms of health and wellbeing.
  - Gaps in local provision and potential opportunities not being maximised.
  - Duplication of provision and less efficient use of resources.
- 2.3.3 The CLS Strategy will be an important vehicle in achieving the overarching vision of East Dunbartonshire's Single Outcome Agreement, which includes commitments relating to health inequalities and economic regeneration. Environmental protection is intrinsically linked to

these agendas, and measures such as promoting healthy lifestyles and encouraging leisure related economic activity will contribute towards physical, social and financial wellbeing.

2.3.4 A Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for East Dunbartonshire was published in 2006, however this is now considered to be out of date. There is currently no strategy specifically covering culture in East Dunbartonshire.

2.3.5 The following bullet points set out in more detail the likely implications:

- Biodiversity: Uncoordinated promotion of access to our natural assets and sporadic development of new facilities could result in adverse effects on biodiversity and vulnerable species and habitats.
- Landscape: Unplanned, sporadic development related to culture, leisure and sport could have a negative effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness.
- Cultural Heritage: Uncoordinated promotion of access to our historic environmental assets could result in degradation of East Dunbartonshire's built heritage and inadvertently harm the area's cultural offer and heritage.
- Air Quality & Climatic Factors: An uncoordinated approach to increasing participation in culture, leisure and sport could result in an increase of car journeys and subsequently add to existing traffic congestion throughout the area and greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to this, the Strategy should also consider the impact and risks of flooding as a result of the plans implementation.
- Water: Although protection of water quality as a result of development would be controlled through other legislation, the cumulative effects of increased unplanned development would still present increased risk of deterioration in the ecological quality of water courses.
- Population & Human Health: The CLS Strategy's main focus is to maintain and increase participation in culture, leisure and sport in the area, which in turn will have significant benefits in improving local health and wellbeing. The CLS Strategy will have particular measures for demographic groups that are known to have lower levels of participation and generally poorer health. Without the co-ordinated approach within this Strategy, with strong links to the current healthcare transformation agenda, inequalities in health and wellbeing will not be addressed in a holistic manner and therefore benefits to the community will not be maximised.
- Soil & Material Assets: Uncoordinated promotion of access to our natural assets and sporadic development of new facilities could result in significant effects on soils and other material assets. Unplanned development would result in a lack of control of these effects and remove the opportunity to minimise and mitigate any negative effects of development on soil and material assets.

## Section 3: Assessment of Environmental Effects

### 3.1 Assessment Framework

3.1.1 There are a number of key assessment stages that have been identified for the SEA of the CLS Strategy. Each of these stages required a tailored assessment method as detailed below:

Table 3: Assessment Framework

| Assessment Area             | Assessment Method  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Ambition</b>             | The SEA assessment questions and indicators have been used to establish whether the strategic approach in order to deliver the Ambition of the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy is compliant with the SEA objectives including the consideration of reasonable alternatives.  |
| <b>Strategic Objectives</b> | The objectives of the Strategy, and alternatives to them, have been tested against the SEA objectives for alignment and compliance. The outcomes of this assessment guided the refinement of the Strategy objectives throughout their development.                               |
| <b>Themes and Actions</b>   | The CLS Strategy determined the main themes of the Strategy which grouped the Actions together. The Actions, and any reasonable alternative options, were assessed against the SEA assessment questions, including those which are site-specific and / or area wide.             |
| <b>Cumulative Impacts</b>   | Using the assessments of options outlined in the CLS Strategy and with the use of GIS mapping, where appropriate, the cumulative effects of the Strategy have been tested. Any impacts for neighbouring authorities have also been considered as part of the assessment process. |

### 3.2 Assessment Methodology

3.2.1 The SEA legislation requires the environmental effects of 'reasonable alternatives' to the strategic document to be identified, described and assessed.

3.2.2 The East Dunbartonshire Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy has been assessed against the list of environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

3.2.3 The SEA Directive requires environmental assessments to consider the environmental objectives established at International, European Community and national levels that are

relevant to the strategic document. During the Scoping stage of SEA, it was determined that the environmental issues that would be significantly impacted by the CLS Strategy are Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna. Consequently, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets have been scoped out of the assessment. SEPA and Historic Scotland were in agreement with this level of scope, as expressed in their views following the consultation at the Scoping stage. SNH were of the opinion that additional factors should be scoped into the assessment of the CLS Strategy particularly in relation to infrastructure and facilities improvements. Each of the Consultation Authority responses have been fully considered and the Councils resulting responses and actions have been integrated into [Appendix E](#) of the ER.

3.2.4 East Dunbartonshire Council has adopted a set of SEA Objectives for the environmental issues that were scoped into the assessment, shown in [Table 4](#), which were derived from other legislation and Strategies ([Appendix A](#)).

**Table 4: SEA Objectives**

| Environmental Factor<br>(Annex 1 of EC Directive) | SEA Objective  |
|---|--|
| Population and Human Health                       | To improve human health and community wellbeing.   |
| Cultural Heritage                                 | To protect, conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment.                             |
| Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna                     | To protect, enhance, create and where necessary restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity. |

### 3.3 Alternatives

3.3.1 The Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy has been developed to update the existing leisure and pitches strategy (published in 2006). Two reasonable alternatives were identified in terms of how the Strategy could be delivered, implemented and the proposed outcomes achieved. An Options Assessment was initially undertaken by the Councils Sustainability Policy Team in order to highlight the benefits and risks of each Option and to determine the preferred approach and outcomes of the Strategy.

3.3.2 The alternative strategic options assessed include:

- Joint Strategy approach combining Culture, Leisure and Sport

- Addressing Culture, Leisure and Sport assets, facilities and opportunities through individual plans, programmes or strategies

3.3.3 Reasonable alternatives within the Strategy have also been considered, assessed against the SEA objectives / criteria and SEA preferred options identified. Reasonable alternatives have been identified in terms of the ambition, strategic objectives and the action plan that form the CLS Strategy.

3.3.4 The options that have been generated through the preparation of the Strategy take account of stakeholder consultations and research on the content of the Strategy, the current environmental baseline, relevant policy and strategy documents and are intended to represent approaches which are realistic, deliverable, consistent with other aspects of the Strategy, and consistent with higher-level plans, policies and strategies. The assessment of these options and consultation responses have influenced the options taken forward within the CLS Strategy.

## 3.4 Assessment Findings

3.4.1 An environmental assessment has been undertaken for each identified Strategy alternative and has been assessed against the SEA Objectives and set criteria, based on their predicted impact on the current environmental baseline. The assessment has been conducted using professional judgement and GIS analysis where appropriate.

3.4.2 The environmental assessments have been recorded in the form of a matrix identifying the environmental performance of each alternative against the SEA objectives and criteria. The environmental effects have been recorded according to their nature (positive, neutral, unknown or no significant effect). The significance of these effects are determined using a combination of the magnitude of the impact and the importance or sensitivity of the receiving environment. A full justification of each assessment is provided in the matrix.

3.4.3 The cumulative impact of each options proposed in the delivery of the CLS Strategy has also been carried out and was an important addition into the overall assessment process in order to identify the overall environmental effects of the Strategy once implemented.

3.4.4 Recommendations have been made where necessary so that environmental considerations are incorporated into the CLS Strategy. The assessments also seek to enhance the environmental benefits of the CLS Strategy and accordingly suggest recommendations to further enhance or protect the environment relevant to the three environmental factors scoped into the assessment process.

3.4.5 In cases where the assessed SEA Preferred Option has not been carried forward into the Strategy as a Preferred Option the detailed non-environmental reasoning and justification has been expanded upon with the assessment summary.

### 3.5 Assessment: Strategic Direction

3.5.1 The SEA legislation requires the environmental effects of ‘reasonable alternatives’ to the strategy to be identified, described and assessed. The following alternatives were considered as part of the SEA of the strategic action.

**Table 5: Alternatives: Strategic Directions**

| Alternatives Approaches   | Strategic Direction:<br>Outline and Implications  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Combining Culture, Leisure and Sport into a joint Council Strategy</b></p>  | <p>This alternative requires East Dunbartonshire Council and partners to develop a Strategy focussed on the integration and inter-relationships between culture, leisure and sport facilities, assets and opportunities throughout East Dunbartonshire. This approach to the combined Strategy will present opportunities to focus on the main Strategy components; tourism and access. This will give a more extensive scope to the development of the Culture, leisure and Sport Strategy and potentially take advantage of the wider benefits and opportunities across the whole of the Council-wide area.</p> |
| <p><b>Addressing EDC’s Culture, Leisure and Sport assets, facilities and opportunities through other plans, programmes, policies and strategies</b></p> | <p>Leisure and sport are two of the main components of the Strategy direction which have been previously been provided with policy direction through the existing Leisure and Pitches Strategy (published in 2006). East Dunbartonshire Council also has a new Open Space Strategy and emerging Active Travel Strategy, and as such, there is scope to include issues related to access improvements and travel plans to cultural heritage, recreational or sports facilities within each of these strategic actions. However, this approach will limit the scope of the intended Strategy.</p>                   |

| Assessment Table Key |                       |   |   |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| ++                   | Major Positive        | ✓ | SEA Preferred Option                      |
| +                    | Minor Positive        |   |   |
| 0                    | Neutral               | ✓ | CLS Strategy Preferred Alternative Option |
| X                    | No Significant Effect |   |   |
| -                    | Minor Negative        |   |   |
| --                   | Major Negative        |   |   |
| ?                    | Uncertain             |   |   |

Table 6: Assessment of the Strategic Direction Alternatives of the CLS Strategy

| SEA Environmental Factors   | Population & Human Health | Cultural Heritage | Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna | CLS Strategy Preferred Alternative  |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <p><u>Alternative 1</u><br/>Combined Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy for East Dunbartonshire</p>    | ++                        | ++                | ++                          |  |
| <p><b>Assessment Commentary:</b><br/>The overall purpose of having a joint Strategy will be to provide a framework that will underpin the direction and provide a strategic focus for culture, leisure and sport provision across East Dunbartonshire. By combining the various elements included within this strategic option the opportunities and benefits of increasing participation and the integration of arts and culture, sport and physical activity of those living, working and visiting East Dunbartonshire will be significantly improved.</p> <p>This alternative represents a more integrated strategic approach to delivering increased participation, maintaining and improving existing and proposing new assets, facilities and opportunities within the 3 elements of culture, leisure and sport throughout East Dunbartonshire. Through this approach it is anticipated that there will be a significant benefit a greater number of people and communities, which has the potential to result in improvements related to health and wellbeing. In general, a strategic approach will provide a more focussed and considered approach in relation to health and wellbeing and will improve the awareness of the link between good health, mental and physical, with physical activity, open space and recreational activities. In addition to this, the combined</p> |                           |                   |                             |   |

|  |  |                          |  |   |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|---|
|  | <p>strategic approach will also encourage partnership working between Council departments, and other interested groups and agencies (including Sports Scotland) and the Scottish Government.</p> <p>Enhancement and increased protection of sports, recreation and leisure assets and opportunities have the potential to prevent, reduce or mitigate, where appropriate, impacts on biodiversity throughout East Dunbartonshire. This is particularly important where the Strategy will have a significant impact on designated areas, as well as protected and non-protected species and habitat connectivity and avoids any habitat fragmentation through improvement measures.</p> <p>It is likely that the production and implementation of a combined Strategy will have a significant positive impact on the cultural heritage assets throughout East Dunbartonshire. The integration of cultural heritage into the Strategy will provide additional emphasis for the scope of the Strategy to increase participation, access and utilisation of East Dunbartonshire’s rich heritage in a sustainable manner. This will also provide the scope to present opportunities and improvements to East Dunbartonshire’s cultural heritage assets.</p> |                          |  |   |
| <b>SEA Environmental Factors</b><br>  | <b>Population &amp; Human Health</b>   | <b>Cultural Heritage</b> | <b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna</b> | <b>CLS Strategy Preferred Alternative</b> |
| <b>Alternative 2</b><br><b>Addressing EDC’s Culture, Leisure and Sport assets, facilities and opportunities through other plans, programmes and strategies</b>   | <b>+</b>   | <b>-</b>                 | <b>-/?</b>                             |   |
| <p><b>Assessment Commentary:</b></p> <p>This alternative would require culture, leisure and sport issues and opportunities to be considered primarily through other plans, programmes and strategies within the Council and partner agencies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Local Plan 2</li> <li>➤ Emerging Local Development Plan</li> <li>➤ Tourism Strategy and Action Plan</li> <li>➤ Local Transport Strategy</li> <li>➤ Emerging Active Travel Strategy</li> <li>➤ Antonine Wall Management Plan.</li> </ul> <p>However, this approach is likely to result in an overall negative or uncertain impact on cultural heritage and biodiversity environmental factors. Whilst it is likely that other EDC</p> |  |                          |  |   |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | <p>PPS will include options that will be in alignment with the SEA objectives for each of the environmental factors scoped into this assessment, a specific integrated approach will not be fully achieved through other PPS due to conflicts with competing priorities and topics. There is also potential that other overarching issues for each of the different PPS could adversely impact these environmental factors in East Dunbartonshire, such as development. This approach would not provide adequate protection for East Dunbartonshire’s historic environment with a particular emphasis on the control and management in balancing accessibility to cultural heritage assets while also protecting these assets and their setting from degradation.</p> |  |
|--|---|--|

3.5.2 The combined Strategic Direction was considered the SEA and Strategy Preferred Option to provide the most positive and beneficial approach from an environmental and social perspective to address culture, leisure and sport issues identified and will ensure that environmental consideration is a key element throughout the structure of the Strategy.

### 3.6 Assessment: Ambition

3.6.1 The Ambition and ‘reasonable alternatives’ have been identified, described and assessed as part of the SEA process. The full assessments of all alternatives including assessment commentary and SEA suggested alterations are contained within [Appendix B. Table 7](#) outlines the various options identified and the SEA and CLS Strategy Preferred Options.

| Assessment Table Key |                       |   |   |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| ++                   | Major Positive        | ✓ | SEA Preferred Option                      |
| +                    | Minor Positive        |   |   |
| 0                    | Neutral               | ✓ | CLS Strategy Preferred Alternative Option |
| X                    | No Significant Effect |   |   |
| -                    | Minor Negative        |   |   |
| --                   | Major Negative        |   |   |
| ?                    | Uncertain             |   |   |

Table 7: Assessment of the Alternatives for the Ambition for the CLS Strategy

| SEA Environmental Factors   | Population & Human Health | Cultural Heritage | Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna | Preferred Option  |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Proposed Ambition 1</b>   | ++                        | +/-               | +/-                         |    |
| <p>Through strong partnership working East Dunbartonshire will be a place with first class culture, leisure and sporting opportunities where people enjoy fulfilled and active lives. East Dunbartonshire will be recognised as a leader in the provision of culture, leisure and sport making a significant contribution towards the Scottish Governments purpose of creating a more successful country.</p> <p>We will further improve the health and wellbeing of our community by increasing participation in culture, leisure and sport. We will strengthen local partnerships and improve local infrastructure and facilities. We will safeguard and increase opportunities for all residents, workers, visitors and volunteers to take part. We will promote the benefits of participation in culture, leisure and sport and the opportunities available.</p>   |                           |                   |                             |   |
| <b>Proposed Ambition 1 (Revised)</b>   | ++                        | +                 | +                           |  |
| <p>Through strong partnership working East Dunbartonshire will be a place with first class culture, leisure and sporting opportunities where people enjoy fulfilled and active lives. East Dunbartonshire will be recognised as a leader in the provision of culture, leisure and sport making a significant contribution towards the Scottish Governments purpose of creating a more successful country.</p> <p>We will further improve the health and wellbeing of our community by increasing participation in culture, leisure and sport. We will strengthen local partnerships and improve local infrastructure and facilities incorporating high environmental and design standards. We will safeguard and increase opportunities for all residents, workers, visitors and volunteers to take part. We will promote the benefits of participation in culture, leisure and sport and the opportunities available.</p> |                           |                   |                             |   |

| Proposed Ambition 2  | ++ | +/- | +/- |  |
|--|----|-----|-----|--|
| <p>Through strong partnership working East Dunbartonshire will be a place with first class culture, leisure and sporting opportunities where people enjoy fulfilled and active lives. We will further improve the health and wellbeing of our community by increasing participation in culture, leisure and sport. We will strengthen local partnerships and improve local infrastructure and facilities. We will safeguard and increase opportunities for all residents to take part. We will promote the benefits of participation culture, leisure and sport and the opportunities available.</p> |    |     |     |  |

- 3.6.2 The SEA preferred option, illustrated above with mitigation incorporated, was considered to be overall positive in nature. With a clear focus for the Strategy being directed towards increasing participation and provision of culture, leisure and sport assets, facilities and opportunities there is likely to be a significant effect in relation to improving the health and wellbeing throughout East Dunbartonshire’s communities. The Strategy is aiming for a high level of recognition and attainment by providing a Strategy that meets National as well as Local Outcomes by leading other local authorities in the provision of related assets and opportunities for the population.
- 3.6.3 The decision was taken to incorporate the unrevised version of the ambition 1 into the final Strategy (**as detailed within the Post-Adoption Statement**). This is contrary to the SEA proposed alternative due to the fact that the policy-maker wanted to retain the ambition at a high level and in order to incorporate the SEA proposed mitigation, it was incorporated into Objective 4 to retain the benefits of the proposed alteration within the policy hierarchy of the wider Strategy. The implementation of this Strategy preferred ambition is likely to result in multiple benefits to the natural and historic environment by increasing/promoting access and utilising such assets to increase physical activity levels and consequently improve health and wellbeing levels throughout East Dunbartonshire.

## 3.7 Assessment: Objectives

3.7.1 An environmental assessment has been undertaken for the CLS Strategy objectives and reasonable alternatives against the SEA objectives. The environmental assessments have been recorded in the form of a matrix identifying the environmental performance of the alternative objectives. The full assessment tables including re-assessments incorporating SEA recommendations, reasonable alternatives and SEA assessment commentary are provided within [Appendix B](#).

3.7.2 Recommendations have been made where necessary so that greater environmental considerations are incorporated into the CLS Strategy. The assessment of the objectives and reasonable alternatives identified the need to:

- Provide further protection and consideration regarding environmental impacts.
- Expand the scope of the CLS Strategy in a sustainable manner to increase participation and utilisation of culture, leisure and sport assets, facilities and opportunities throughout East Dunbartonshire.
- Incorporate high standards when considering the environment and design of new or upgrading facilities, assets and services within the culture, leisure and sport remit.

3.7.3 The SEA Preferred Option for each of the objectives is illustrated below ([Table 8](#)) along with its assessment rating regarding the scoped environmental factors and alternatives considered. Each of the SEA Preferred Options in relation to the Strategy objectives has been integrated into the Strategy as the CLS Strategy Preferred Option which highlights the influence and success of the SEA process through the integration of environmental considerations fully throughout the Strategy development.

| Assessment Table Key |                       |   |   |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| ++                   | Major Positive        | ✓ | SEA Preferred Option                      |
| +                    | Minor Positive        |   |   |
| 0                    | Neutral               | ✓ | CLS Strategy Preferred Alternative Option |
| X                    | No Significant Effect |   |   |
| -                    | Minor Negative        |   |   |
| --                   | Major Negative        |   |   |
| ?                    | Uncertain             |   |   |

Table 8: Assessment of Objectives and Alternatives for the CLS Strategy

| Proposed Objective 1   |   |                   |                             |   |
|--|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| SEA Environmental Factors                     | Population & Human Health   | Cultural Heritage | Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna | CLS Strategy Preferred Alternative  |
| Proposed Objective 1   | <b>+ /?</b>   | <b>+/-</b>        | <b>+/-</b>                  |   |
|  | <b>Proposed Objective:</b><br>To increase participation in culture, leisure and sport   |                   |                             |   |
|  | <b>SEA Suggested Alteration:</b><br>To increase participation in culture, leisure and sport <b>for all residents, workers and visitors of East Dunbartonshire in an inclusive and sustainable manner.</b> |                   |                             |   |
| Proposed Objective 1 (revised) Re-Assessment  | <b>++</b>   | <b>+</b>          | <b>+</b>                    |    |
|  | <b>Proposed Objective (revised):</b><br>To increase participation in culture, leisure and sport for all residents, workers and visitors of East Dunbartonshire in an inclusive and sustainable manner.    |                   |                             |   |
| Proposed Objective 2   |   |                   |                             |   |
| Proposed Objective 2                        | <b>++</b>   | <b>0/?</b>        | <b>0/?</b>                  |  |
|  | <b>Proposed Objective:</b><br>To improve health and wellbeing through culture, leisure and sport opportunities that enables everyone in East Dunbartonshire to lead full and active lives.                |                   |                             |   |
| Proposed Objective 2 Alternative   | No reasonable alternatives were identified in relation to this objective.   |                   |                             |   |

| Proposed Objective 3  |  |     |     |   |
|---|--|-----|-----|---|
| Proposed Objective 3<br>   | +  | X   | X   |    |
|   | <b>Proposed Objective:</b><br>To support and develop the network of volunteers and staff involved in delivering culture, leisure and sport in East Dunbartonshire, and to support all individuals in developing their talent, skills and confidence.   |     |     |   |
| Proposed Objective 3<br>Alternative   | +  | X   | X   |   |
|   | <b>Proposed Objective:</b><br>To support our volunteers and staff involved in delivering culture, leisure and sport in East Dunbartonshire.  |     |     |   |
| Proposed Objective 4  |  |     |     |   |
| Proposed Objective 4  | ++   | +/- | +/- |   |
|   | <b>Proposed Objective:</b><br>To maintain the quality of our current culture, leisure and sport offer, improve existing services and maximise opportunities for providing new facilities, activities and services. Therefore ensuring that East Dunbartonshire has first class culture, leisure and sport venues and services.   |     |     |   |
| <b>SEA Suggested Alteration:</b><br>To maintain the quality of our current culture, leisure and sport offer, improve existing services and maximise opportunities for providing new facilities, activities and services <b>by incorporating high environmental and design standards</b> . Therefore ensuring that East Dunbartonshire has a first class culture, leisure and sport venues and services. |  |     |     |   |
| Proposed Objective 4<br>(revised)<br>Re-Assessment<br>   | ++   | +/- | +/- |  |
|   | <b>Proposed Objective (revised):</b><br>To maintain the quality of our current culture, leisure and sport offer, improve existing services and maximise opportunities for providing new facilities, activities and services incorporating high environmental and design standards. Therefore ensuring that East Dunbartonshire has first class culture, leisure and sport venues and services. |     |     |   |

|                                     |   |       |       |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------|-------|--|
| Proposed Objective 4<br>Alternative | ++  | ?/+/- | ?/+/- |  |
|                                     | <b>Proposed Objective:</b><br>To provide the best culture, leisure and sport facilities and services for the people of East Dunbartonshire. |       |       |  |

### 3.8 Assessment: Actions

3.8.1 As part of the Strategy development process, a Steering Group was set up to discuss the issues, intended outcomes and proposed delivery of the Strategy. As part of this process it became evident that the majority of the actions being tabled for consideration within the Strategy were:

- Developed and implemented through other Council strategic documents.
- Operational in nature or unlikely to result in any significant environmental impacts.

3.8.2 The decision was therefore taken to carry out a screening process on the action programme from an SEA perspective to screen out those which the Strategy will simply be highlighting but doesn't have ownership of or responsibility for and screen in those which the Strategy will be developing and delivering in the life of the Strategy. This screening process is contained within [Appendix C](#) for further information.

3.8.3 An environmental assessment was undertaken for each of the screened in CLS Strategy actions against the SEA objectives and criteria, based on their predicted impact on the current environmental baseline in the form of a matrix. Recommendations have been made where necessary so that enhanced environmental considerations are incorporated into the CLS Strategy. A number of these recommendations include modifications to actions in order for any potential adverse effects to be avoided or become negligible or minor (all actions which have been altered have been re-assessed and recorded within the assessment matrix). The assessments also seek to enhance the environmental benefits of the CLS Strategy and accordingly recommendations have been made to further enhance, protect or conserve the environment. Mitigation has also been recommended where necessary and the cumulative impact of each preferred action is identified and recorded along with the full action assessment matrix within [Appendix D](#).

3.8.4 [Appendix D](#) illustrates the assessment of the action programme along with all reasonable alternatives and as with the previous elements of the CLS Strategy; recommendations have been made where necessary so that greater environmental considerations are incorporated into the Strategy. The SEA of the CLS Strategy action programme seeks to enhance the

environmental benefits of the Strategy and accordingly recommendations have also been made to further enhance or protect the environment.

3.8.5 The SEA and Strategy Preferred Option for each of the assessed actions is illustrated below (Table 9 and Table 10) along with its assessment rating and commentary regarding the scoped environmental factors. Each of the SEA Preferred actions have been integrated into the Strategy as the CLS Strategy Preferred Option which highlights the influence and success of the SEA process through the integration of environmental considerations fully throughout the Strategy development.

| Assessment Table Key |                       |   |   |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| ++                   | Major Positive        | ✓ | SEA Preferred Option                      |
| +                    | Minor Positive        |   |   |
| 0                    | Neutral               | ✓ | CLS Strategy Preferred Alternative Option |
| X                    | No Significant Effect |   |   |
| -                    | Minor Negative        |   |   |
| --                   | Major Negative        |   |   |
| ?                    | Uncertain             |   |   |

Table 9: Assessment of the Preferred Actions for Theme 3 of the CLS Strategy

| SEA Environmental Factors   | Population & Human Health | Cultural Heritage | Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna | CLS Strategy Preferred Alternative  |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Action C: Active Schools &amp; Physical Activity</b><br>   | <b>++</b>                 | X                 | X                           |  |
| <b>Proposed Action:</b><br>Continue to actively support and improve the Active Schools programme by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring capacity and sustainability of Active Schools Co-ordinators</li> <li>- Maintaining strong links with Curriculum for Excellence</li> <li>- Continuing and strengthening pathways and partnerships with clubs</li> <li>- Continuing promotion of extra-curricular activities</li> <li>- Re-organising existing Physical Activity Forum to meet Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport (PEPAS) structure</li> </ul> Continue to support high quality physical education as part of the Curriculum for Excellence. |                           |                   |                             |   |

|   |  |                          |  |  |
|---|--|--------------------------|--|--|
|   | <p><b>Assessment Commentary:</b><br/>Through support of and initiating improvements to the Active Schools Programme, it is likely that the resulting impact to population and community wellbeing will be significantly positive. It is likely that this action will extend its outreach to children of school-age to actively encourage increased sports participation and physical activity to help encourage improvements in the health and wellbeing of the Councils residents from a young age and promote active lifestyle changes throughout East Dunbartonshire. The addition of active improvement in this alternative will ensure that Active Schools programme will continually adapt its approaches in maintaining strong links with the Curriculum for Excellence and strengthen partnerships between schools, sports clubs and sports facilities throughout East Dunbartonshire.</p>   |                          |  |  |
| <p>SEA Environmental Factors </p>          | <p>Population &amp; Human Health</p>   | <p>Cultural Heritage</p> | <p>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna</p> | <p>CLS Strategy Preferred Alternative</p>  |
| <p>Action D: Outdoor Learning</p> <p></p> | <p>++</p>  | <p>X</p>                 | <p>0/++</p>                            | <p></p> |
|   | <p><b>Proposed Action:</b><br/>Establish Outdoor Learning Centre at Mugdock Country Park to further improve integration of outdoor learning with school curriculum incorporating high environmental design standards.</p>  |                          |  |  |
|   | <p><b>Assessment Commentary:</b><br/>The overall impact of this action in delivering 'Outdoor Learning' is positive. It is anticipated that there will be significant positive impacts to East Dunbartonshire's community, in particular for young people, through the provision of facilities that will encourage learning and education opportunities concerning the environment.</p> <p>In terms of biodiversity, flora and fauna, integrating outdoor learning at Mugdock Country Park as part of the school curriculum the overall effect is likely to be neutral. However, 2/3 of Mugdock Country Park is designated as a SSSI and provides vital habitats for a range of species. The location in terms of breeding grounds and sensitivity of environment will need to be considered in the establishment of an Outdoor Learning Centre to ensure that they are not negatively impacted and their value does not deteriorate. The natural environment largely provides the setting for Mugdock Country Park and the inclusion of appropriate mitigation and incorporating high environmental</p> |                          |  |  |

|  |  |                          |  |  |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|--|
|  | <p>and design standards as a central part of this action could result in a positive impact on biodiversity value through enhancement measures.</p> <p>Whilst Craigend Castle and Mugdock Castle, situated within the Mugdock Country Park boundary, are listed buildings, it is predicted that this action will not result in any significant positive or negative impacts on cultural heritage value.</p> |                          |  |  |
| <b>SEA Environmental Factors</b><br>  | <b>Population &amp; Human Health</b>   | <b>Cultural Heritage</b> | <b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna</b> | <b>CLS Strategy Preferred Alternative</b>  |
| <b>Action G: Provision in Main Villages</b><br><br>   | <b>+ +/+</b>   | <b>+/-</b>               | <b>0/-</b>                             |  |
| <p><b>Proposed Action:</b><br/>         Improve provision and access to culture, leisure and sport in villages (Lennoxton, Milton of Campsie, Torrance and Twechar) through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of Outdoor / Green Gyms</li> <li>- Expanding outreach in these villages and investigate potential for partnership working between EDLC and community managed facilities in delivering culture, sport and leisure activities</li> <li>- Working with external groups/national organisations to deliver activities in areas such as local history and the arts</li> <li>- Continued support for Twechar Healthy Living Centre</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment Commentary:</b><br/>         It is likely that this action will have an overall positive impact in relation to population &amp; human health and cultural heritage. By ensuring that rural communities within the main villages, who are generally further from culture, leisure and sport provision, have access to such facilities will have significant positive impacts for health and community wellbeing. Due to provision of green gyms through this action these physical activity resources will provide enhanced encouragement for wider participation of active pursuits as an alternative to formal sports facilities. Green gyms, as opposed to traditional play park facilities, are aimed at all ages, therefore present benefits to a wider range of people.</p> <p>Furthermore, continuing to support the Twechar Healthy Living Centre is likely to result in additional positive impacts for population and human health through encouraging local communities to get involved in local projects and also provide employment opportunities.</p> |  |                          |  |  |



|   |  |                   |                             |   |
|---|--|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|
|   | <p>reaching as many people and groups as possible.</p> <p>➤ Attempting to increase visitor number to historic and environmental sites and attractors of importance in a sustainable manner to ensure that protection and conservation of such environmental assets is always at the forefront of consideration in order to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects envisaged through for example, increased visitor number.</p>  |                   |                             |   |
| SEA Environmental Factors                  | Population & Human Health  | Cultural Heritage | Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna | CLS Strategy Preferred Alternative  |
| Action B: Leisure and Tourism Promotion 4  | ++   | 0/+               | 0/+                         |  |
|   | <p><b>Proposed Action:</b><br/>Support improved facilities associated with the following assets incorporating high environmental and design standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Antonine Wall (see Action 4C)</li> <li>- Campsie Fells (see Action 4D)</li> <li>- Forth and Clyde Canal (see Action 4E)</li> <li>- Long distance walking routes including the West Highland Way (See Action 4E), John Muir Way, Allander Way, River Kelvin Way, Strathkelvin Railway Path and Clyde Coast Path</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment Commentary:</b><br/>Significant impacts for population and human health are anticipated in terms of access to services and facilities near these natural and historic environmental assets. By incorporating high environmental and design standards into this action it should remove or significantly reduce any conflict that may occur regarding improved facilities and increased access to such important assets.</p> |                   |                             |   |
| SEA Environmental Factors                | Population & Human Health  | Cultural Heritage | Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna | CLS Strategy Preferred Alternative  |
| Action B: Leisure and Tourism Promotion 5   | +  | 0/-               | 0/-                         |   |
|   | <p><b>Proposed Action:</b><br/>Promote festivals and events which attract leisure activity and through the operation of the festive promote the arts, sport and local identity (such as the Kirkintilloch Canal</p>  |                   |                             |   |



**Assessment Commentary:**

Improving connections (in the form of signage, route upgrades etc) between the WHW and railway station and maximising the attractiveness of the Milngavie Station (with benefits for the WHW) are directly linked to the Local Transport Strategy and emerging Active Travel Strategy. This action is likely to have positive impacts for population and community identity due to proposed improvements to the actual and perceived setting for the WHW, as well as providing opportunities for the local community and others accessing Milngavie's natural environment including for the WHW.

This action has significant positive and minor negative aspects in relation to the historic environment due to Milngavie town centre and the surrounding area being designated as a Conservation Area and Townscape Protection Area. Any amendments to connections between the Railway Station and the starting point of the WHW in terms of streetscape improvements and access promotion will need to be in line with existing Local Plan 2 Policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance (including the emerging Local Development Plan which should be considered as a material consideration). However, negative impacts may also be likely as a result of conflicts between the promotion and protection of designated sites and improved and increased access to the WHW route.

## 3.9 Cumulative Impacts

- 3.9.1 An environmental assessment has been undertaken for each identified Strategy alternative and has been assessed against the SEA Objectives and set criteria, based on their predicted impact on the current environmental baseline. The assessment has been conducted using professional judgement and GIS analysis where appropriate.
- 3.9.2 The cumulative environmental effects are assessed once each action assessment is completed. Cumulative effects arise, for instance where several developments or actions have insignificant impacts, but when combined result in a significant environmental effect. The environmental assessment tables used to assess each action (**Appendix D**) includes a commentary section to record potential cumulative environmental effects for the CLS Strategy and SEA preferred options being taken forward into the Strategy. The significance of these effects relates to the same matrix point scale as used for the individual assessments. A summary of the justification is provided below on the predicted cumulative effects for each of the environmental factors used to assess the CLS Strategy.
- 3.9.3 The cumulative impact on **Population and Human Health** is considered to be overall major positive. The positive nature of the actions on this SEA criteria are due to a number of factors including;
- Enhanced community wellbeing and promotion of healthy lifestyles through improved provision of community arts, leisure and sport facilities and open spaces, improved access to outdoor recreation opportunities and the wider countryside.
  - Improved provision of education and awareness raising opportunities and facilities, particular for the younger generation, in terms of the natural environment.
  - The active support for physical activity levels and community health improvements throughout East Dunbartonshire.
- 3.9.4 The overall cumulative environmental impact on **Cultural Heritage** was seen to be minor positive in nature. The actions promote sensitive and increased access to east Dunbartonshire's wide range of historic environment assets from both a tourism and leisure perspective while protecting them from inappropriate development and adverse impacts on their setting. This is of particular importance for the CLS Strategy through the continued and improved access to the Antonine Wall World heritage Site, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments and archaeology and Gardens and Designed Landscapes.
- 3.9.5 The overall cumulative environmental impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** was seen to be minor positive in nature with additional and adverse impacts also identified. These impacts are predominantly due to the CLS Strategy actions providing:
- Improved sensitive access to East Dunbartonshire's natural environment and areas of high biodiversity value.
  - Improved provision of education and awareness raising opportunities and facilities in relation to the natural environment.

- An increase in the tourism sector within East Dunbartonshire in a sustainable manner to safeguard to areas rich natural environment while also encouraging greater access to the areas assets, facilities and opportunities.
- New facilities and opportunities to the rural communities and main villages, which without the suggested mitigation could result in adverse impacts, loss or disturbance to designated sites of importance and biodiversity value and their setting.

## Section 4: Mitigation Measures and Monitoring

### 4.1 Mitigation Measures

- 4.1.1 Schedule 3 paragraph 7 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 require that the Environmental Report includes the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy.
- 4.1.2 Mitigation measures have been proposed and incorporated into each element of the Strategy framework (illustrated within the assessment tables in [Appendix B](#) and [D](#)) in order to avoid, reduce, mitigate or offset any potential adverse environmental impacts and enhance any neutral or positive environmental impacts identified. The mitigation measures incorporate all environmental factors which were scoped into the assessment and will be the responsibility of East Dunbartonshire Council to implement in conjunction with key agencies and stakeholders.

### 4.2 Monitoring

- 4.2.1 Through Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, East Dunbartonshire Council is required to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy. The monitoring should be implemented as to enable the identification of any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage to allow the appropriate remedial action to be implemented.
- 4.2.2 The specific measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the CLS Strategy will form part of the Post-Adoption Statement prepared as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of the Strategy in accordance with Section 18 of the Act. It is envisaged that the following indicators will be included within the monitoring framework:

**Table 11: SEA Monitoring Programme for the CLS Strategy**

| SEA Category             | Indicators  | Data Source |
|--------------------------|---|-------------|
| Population, Human Health | Changes in the deprivation levels in 20% SIMD areas?  | SCROL       |
|                          | Changes in uses/visitor numbers of major assets such as Leisure Centres, Auld Kirk Museum, Forth & Clyde Canal and West Highland Way?   | EDC         |
|                          | Number of people in East Dunbartonshire using active travel methods (walking/cycling) to access their place of work/study and for recreation within EDC and across neighbouring authority boundaries. | EDC         |

|                               |  |                                     |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
|                               | Health and Wellbeing – Increase in participation from targeted measures and GP Referrals?  | EDLC                                |
|                               | % of new developments providing new or access to existing recreation facilities and the effects on the asset?  | EDC                                 |
| Cultural Heritage             | % change in tourism levels to East Dunbartonshire to visit cultural heritage assets?   | EDC / Historic Environment Scotland |
|                               | Number of people who access heritage sites?  |                                     |
|                               | Number of planning / listed building consent / conservation area consent / scheduled monument consent applications connected to the Strategy outcomes / actions where adverse effects are predicted? |                                     |
| Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna | Total area of protected sites (priority species) and changes to protected sites as a result of the implementation of the CLS Strategy?   | EDC / SNH                           |
|                               | Ecosystem specific indicators, such as area of woodland habitats improved / changed?   |                                     |
|                               | Loss / expansion of tree preservation orders?  |                                     |

## Section 5: Statutory Consultation and SEA Timetable

### 5.1 Statutory Consultation

5.1.1 The statutory consultation for this document and corresponding Culture, leisure and Sport Strategy is:

**28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

5.1.2 Responses can be submitted by using an online survey by visiting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EDCdraftCLS>. Alternatively paper copies of the draft strategy survey can be requested at Council libraries and the drop-in events. Completed paper surveys should be sent:

Land Planning Policy  
Development and Regeneration  
East Dunbartonshire Council  
Southbank House  
Strathkelvin Place  
Kirkintilloch  
G66 1XQ

5.1.3 All enquiries regarding the Strategy and corresponding ER should be sent to [development.plan@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:development.plan@eastdunbarton.gov.uk) or telephone 0300 1234510 and ask to speak to the Land Planning Policy Team.

### 5.2 SEA Timetable

5.2.1 The SEA process has aligned with the Strategy preparation stages. **Table 12** below illustrates this alignment and provides the timescales for each.

**Table 12: SEA Timescale & Milestones**

| Plan Preparation Stages                          | SEA Stages                | Anticipated Timescale & Consultation Period, if required |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Produce ambition and objectives for the Strategy | Screening & Determination | Screening consultation with CA's - 4 week period         |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Preliminary Assessment and Survey / Research work</p> | <p>Scoping Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Collate and forecast baseline environmental information</li> <li>➤ Adopt environmental objectives and criteria</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Research and Develop Scoping Report – May 2015</li> <li>➤ Scoping Report submission 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015</li> <li>➤ Consultation with CA's - 5 week period</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Prepare Draft CLS Strategy</p>                        | <p>Environmental Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Assess the framework of the Strategy</li> <li>➤ Assess all reasonable alternatives to the Strategy</li> <li>➤ Prepare the Draft Environmental Report</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Draft Environmental Report will be prepared alongside the preparation of the CLS Strategy</li> <li>➤ Responses from the Consultation Authorities at the Scoping stage will be taken into account</li> <li>➤ Drafting will be between July and August 2015</li> </ul> |
| <p>Publish &amp; Consult on Draft CLS Strategy</p>       | <p>Publish &amp; Consult on Draft Environmental Report</p>   | <p>Consultation with the public and CA's - 6 week period in September-November 2015</p>   |
| <p>Adopt CLS Strategy</p>                                | <p>Publish Post-Adoption Statement along with the adopted Finalised Draft PPS</p>  | <p>Adoption of the CLS Strategy and publication of the Post-Adoption Statement – Early 2016</p>   |
| <p>Monitor &amp; Review</p>                              | <p>Monitor and Review</p>  | <p>Ongoing / Annual review</p>  |

