

TAYSIDE & CLACKMANNANSHIRE

Tel: 01738 458582 (direct line)

Fax: 01738 458611

e-mail address: denise.reed@snh.gov.uk

Fiona Mackay
Partnership and Policy Officer
Perth and Kinross Council
Chief Executive's Office
Strategic Management and Improvement
2 High Street
Perth
PH1 5PH

Our ref: CNS/EIA/SEA

18 August 2008

Dear Ms Mackay

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Perth and Kinross Council
Corporate Plan (ref. 00324).
Screening Determination.**

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 25 July 2008 via the Scottish Executive SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan.

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

SNH understands that the plan sets out a strategic direction for Perth and Kinross and the priorities for delivering this. We note the statements that the strategic priorities will be translated into operational objectives and detailed actions through individual service plans, and that the Corporate Plan will influence all of the Council's plans, programmes and strategies.

SNH's view in respect of each of the criteria is set out in Annex 1 appended. Accordingly, taking the above into account, SNH agrees that the above Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. Annex 1 also provides a list of information that it would be helpful for SNH to receive at the scoping stage.

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

Should you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact Carolyn Deasley on (01738) 458583, Carolyn.deasley@snh.gov.uk or via SNH's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Reed', written in a cursive style.

DENISE REED (MRS)
Operations Manager

cc SEA Gateway
HS Gateway
SEPA Gateway

Annex 1: Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan (ref. 00324) - screening Determination.

SCHEDULE 2

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Schedule 2 Criteria	Section 8(1) determination - Are significant environmental effects likely ? <i>(Responsible Authority's assessment)</i>	SNH's Assessment under Section 9(3) Yes/No/Unknown	SNH's Comments And Additional Information
1.The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard , in particular to:			
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	Yes	-	
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	Yes	-	
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	Yes	Yes	Welcome the RA's statement that sound environmental stewardship and sustainable development are at the heart of the Corporate Plan.

(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;	Yes	Yes	We suggest key issues include impacts on biodiversity and landscape character.
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection);	Yes	Yes	Agree with RA's assessment. If likely to have a significant effect, an appropriate assessment will be required. European Protected Species Including otters, bats and great crested newts) are also present in Perth and Kinross.
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to -			
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	Yes	Uncertain	Unknown at this stage.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	Yes	Uncertain	Agree with RA's assessment; extent of cumulative effects are unknown at this stage
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects (<i>in UK international cases</i>)	Yes	No	No likely significant trans-boundary effects.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example due to accidents);	Yes		
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical areas and size of the population likely to be affected);	Yes	Uncertain	
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area	Yes		

likely to be affected due to:			
i. special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;	Yes	Yes	Perth and Kinross contains internationally designated sites, including SPAs and SACs. The Council also has obligations in relation to European Protected Species and BAP habitats and species.
ii. exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or	Yes	Yes	
iii. intensive land-use; and	Yes	Uncertain	
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes that have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	Yes	Yes	Yes, as (i) above. There are a number of nationally important landscape designations (NSAs). We note the RA's comments that the Corporate Plan is not envisaged that it will affect designated sites and landscapes at local, national and international levels, but indirect effects cannot be ruled out. The SEA process should be a key tool for ensuring adverse effects are avoided or mitigated and positive effects are maximised.

Annex 1 cont. Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan (ref. 00324) - screening Determination.

Comments on information needed at the Scoping Stage

In making scoping requests, Responsible Authorities are encouraged to provide the following information:

1 Context

a The Plan

- Plan name, area covered, period covered, timescales for preparation
- Legal requirement for plan
- Plan purpose, subject and proposed objectives
- Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

b The Area

- Summary of existing environmental problems in the area/sector covered by the plan or programme and relevant aspects of the current state of the environment
- Summary of likely future changes to environment without the plan
- Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected by the plan or programme
- Relationship with existing environmental objectives relevant to the plan or programme. These may be European objectives set by Directives, national objectives set by legislation or policy or they may be local/regional objectives

2. Scope

a Scope and Level of Detail

- Summary of the environmental issues to be considered in the Environmental Report with justifications
- Summary of any environmental issues not to be considered in the Environmental Report with justifications
- Summary of the proposed level of detail of assessment – e.g. will the assessment focus on very detailed policies in the plan, or just strategic objectives?

b Alternatives & Mitigation

- Where possible, a summary of intended approach to assessing alternatives (e.g. type and scale of alternatives that may be assessed)
- Where possible, the proposed approach for identification of mitigation

3. Methods

a Assessment Method

- A brief summary of the proposed approach to the assessment which might include:
 - Summary of existing work to date
 - Proposed (draft) SEA objectives
 - Proposed approach to assessment including use of SEA objectives
 - Proposed (draft) indicators

4. Next Steps

a Consultation

- Proposed consultation period for the Environmental Report



We safeguard the nation's historic environment and promote its understanding and enjoyment

Fiona Mackay
Partnership and Policy Officer
Perth and Kinross Council
Chief Executive's – Strategic Management and
Improvement
2 High Street
Perth
PH1 5PH

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Direct Line: 0131 668 8575
Direct Fax: 0131 668 8899
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600
HSSEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Our ref: AMN/23/323/RJC
Your ref:

20 August 2008

Dear Ms MacKay

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011: Screening Report**

Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the screening report prepared for the environmental assessment of Perth and Kinross Council's Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011, received by the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway on 25 July 2008. I have reviewed the screening report on behalf of Historic Scotland in its role as a Consultation Authority in accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. In doing so, I have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

My understanding from the screening report is that the Corporate Plan is a high level plan that sets out a framework for the strategic direction for Perth and Kinross and the priorities for delivering this between the years 2008-2011. I note that it will include a range of policies which will influence the sustainability performance of other strategies and plans.

I note that it is Perth and Kinross Council's view that the Corporate Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. I have had the opportunity to review the revised Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan on the Council's website and I note that a number of the actions included in the revised plan's objectives could have both positive or negative effects on the historic environment e.g. actions for promoting tourism, improving connectivity and regional transport infrastructure contained in *Objective 3 - A Prosperous, Sustainable, Inclusive Economy*. However, I am content that any issues arising from these actions will be addressed through the SEAs of those plans and programmes e.g. the Structure and Local Plans. In light of this, and the information contained in the screening report, I consider that it is unlikely that the Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan will have significant effects on the historic environment.

However, as you will be aware, however, it is the responsibility of Perth and Kinross Council as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the plan requires an

environmental assessment and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly. Should you determine that an environmental assessment of the plan is required, I draw your attention to the information requirements set out in Schedule 3 of the Act and to the Scottish Government SEA Tool Kit (available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/0>).

Please contact me if you wish to discuss this response.

Yours sincerely

Rosalind Campbell
Strategic Environmental Assessment Officer

Our Ref: SEA00343/Scr/
SB
SG Ref: SEA00324

Fiona MacKay
Perth & Kinross Council
Chief Executive's- Strategic
Management and Improvement
2 High Street
Perth
PH1 5PH

21 August 2008

By email: sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Ms MacKay,

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
Perth & Kinross Corporate Plan 2008 to 2011 – Screening Report**

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 25 July via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above programme

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

Having reviewed the Screening Report, SEPA considers that in respect of its main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health and climatic factors) the Corporate Plan in its own right is unlikely to lead to significant environmental effects and it is anticipated that plans, programmes and strategies that are brought forward by the Council to implement the objectives in the Corporate Plan will, where required, be subject to SEA.

Please note, while SEPA considers that significant environmental effects are not likely to result from the plan, it is the responsibility of Perth & Kinross Council as the SEA Responsible Authority to formally determine whether the plan requires SEA under Section 10 of the Act. If it is formally determined that SEA is required, you will be aware that the next stage requires the Responsible Authority to consult the Consultation Authorities on the proposed scope and level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report. The Consultation Authorities typically expect to receive a concise Scoping Report at this stage. Further information about this stage and what should be included in a Scoping Report can be found in Chapter 5 of the Scottish SEA Tool Kit available from www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45.

Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0131 4497296 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

<insert signature>

Dr Sofia Billett
Senior Planning Officer (SEA)

Chairman
David Sigsworth

Chief Executive
Dr Campbell Gemmell

SEPA Corporate Office

Erskine Court, Castle Business Park, Stirling FK9 4TR
tel 01786 457700 fax 01786 446885
www.sepa.org.uk