

**Delayed Office Opening
for Employee Training**

*This office will be closed from
8.45 am - 11.00 am on the first
Thursday of each month.*

Mr Johnathan Whittlestone
SEA Gateway
2-J (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Planning and Regeneration
Head of Service **David Littlejohn**

Pullar House 35 Kinnoull Street
Perth PH1 5GD

Contact Katrina Walker
Direct Dial 01738 476509
Email klwalker@pkc.gov.uk

Our ref

Your ref

Date 13 March 2014

Dear Johnathan

**Screening Determination for Perth & Kinross Council Green Infrastructure
Supplementary Guidance**

This statement sets out the Council's determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 on whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for the above Supplementary Guidance.

SEA Screening Process

The screening process involved consulting the following Consultation Authorities on whether the Supplementary Guidance is likely to have significant environmental effects:

- Historic Scotland
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
- Scottish Natural Heritage

As well as consulting the above bodies, responsible authorities are required to take into account the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the Act when determining whether or not the Supplementary Guidance is likely to have significant environmental effects.

In this instance, the Council wrote to the Consultation Authorities on 31st January 2014. Their responses are summarised as follows:

Consultation Authority	Comment	Likely to have significant environmental effects
Historic Scotland	In light of the information contained within the screening report I agree that the guidance in itself is unlikely to have significant effects on the historic environment.	No
Scottish Environmental Protection	Having reviewed the Screening Report, we consider that in respect of our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets (of which	No

Agency	we have a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the guidance is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.	
Scottish Natural Heritage	I understand from the screening report that the purpose of the Supplementary Guidance is to give further advice as to how development can comply with the terms of Proposed Local Development Plan as Modified, policy NE4: Green Infrastructure and I agree that the above guidance is not likely to have significant environmental effects in respect of our main areas of interest.	No


The Council has also consider the plan against the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the Act, and this analysis is attached to this document (See Appendix).

Reasons for Determination

Having consulted the three consultation authorities, and having considered the criteria set out in the Act, the Council considers that the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Guidance is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

The Council has therefore determined that SEA is not required.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Walker
Planning Officer




**PERTH &
KINROSS
COUNCIL**

SEA Screening Report

**Green Infrastructure
Supplementary Guidance**





Section 1: Cover Note

- 1.1 **Name of Responsible Authority** Perth & Kinross Council
- 1.2 **Title of Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS)** Green Infrastructure Supplementary Guidance
- 1.3 **Screening is Required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.**
In the view of Perth & Kinross Council:

- ☐ a) **An SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects **OR**
- ☐ b) **An SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects **OR**
- ☒ c) **An SEA is not required** because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects

OR

The PPS does not require an SEA under the Act:

- ☐ d) However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, because the SEA is voluntary, the statutory 28 day timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

OR

None of the above options apply. We have prepared this Screening Report because:

Finalised report submitted to:

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

OR

sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Section 2: Contact Details

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- 2.2 Job Title** Planning Officer
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Signature
(Electronic signature is acceptable)

K. L. Walker

Date 31 January 2014



Section 3: Key Facts

3.1	Responsible Authority	Perth & Kinross Council
3.2	Title of PPS	Green Infrastructure Supplementary Guidance
3.3	Purpose of PPS	The purpose of the supplementary guidance is to give further advice as to how development can comply with the terms of Proposed Local Development Plan as Modified, policy NE4: Green Infrastructure (copy attached at Appendix 1).
3.4	What prompted the PPS	Policy NE4 sets out the general requirements for development and there is an undertaking within the policy for the preparation of supplementary guidance to expand on these requirements.
3.5	Subject of PPS	Green Infrastructure
3.6	Summary of nature/content of PPS	The supplementary guidance will take forward the work already undertaken through the SEA process for the Proposed Local Development Plan to identify green infrastructure and green networks along with opportunities and threats to these, and to identify where development can deliver improvement of the green infrastructure network. The second part of the guidance will give more detailed guidance to developers in terms of what is required, how these requirements can be met, and the benefits of incorporating green infrastructure into development.
3.7	Period Covered by PPS	This supplementary guidance will cover the 5 year period to the next review of the Local Development Plan.
3.8	Frequency of Updates	This supplementary guidance will be reviewed with the preparation of each new Local Development Plan (every 5 years) unless a need is identified for earlier review e.g. in light of significant changes in Scottish Planning Policy or the Strategic Development Plan.
3.9	Area covered by PPS	The supplementary guidance covers the whole geographic area of Perth and Kinross

Section 4: SEA Screening Report

PPS Background

The Green Infrastructure Supplementary Guidance is being prepared in response to an undertaking in Proposed Local Development Plan as Modified (PLDP) policy NE4: Green infrastructure for additional guidance (policy attached at Appendix 1 for information). Both the PLDP and the higher level Strategic Development Plan have undergone SEA (SEA Gateway references SEA\00515 and SEA\00450 respectively). The SEA of the PLDP considered this issue in considerable depth identifying the location and extent of the existing green network, potential impacts, new development areas that may limit or enhance the green network, and opportunities to strengthen green networks. Furthermore the PLDP SEA identifies that green infrastructure and the preparation and implementation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy (through supplementary guidance) will be the mitigation and / or enhancement measure that will allow development to happen (refer PLDP Main Issues Report Environmental Report Appendix C, and Environmental Report Addendum No.2 section 8 pages 119-123).

Note – The Council agreed to make a number of modifications to the PLDP following examination. The PLDP as Modified is currently with Scottish Ministers. After 28 days the PLDP as Modified can be adopted (early February 2014) unless the Council is directed not to by Scottish Ministers.

Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects that the PPS will have on the environment are set out in Tables 1 and 2.

TABLE 1: The characteristics of plans and programmes

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (numbering refers to Schedule 2 of the Act)	Significant environmental effects likely?	Summary of significant environmental effects (positive and negative)
1(a) The degree to which the Strategy sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	No	The framework for projects and other activities has already been set by higher level plans: the Proposed Local Development Plan as Modified (PLDP) and Strategic Development Plan. This supplementary guidance does not seek to change or amend any policies contained within these higher level plans but rather to provide additional detail and guidance to complement the development plan policies.
1(b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	This supplementary guidance sits below the Strategic Development Plan and the PLDP and does not therefore influence the development plan. Whilst it may have some relevance for other similar level plans, such as other supplementary guidance, any influence is not considered likely to be significant.

1(c)	The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	No	Green infrastructure is concerned with the delivery of multiple social, economic and environmental benefits and as such the supplementary guidance will promote sustainable development. However given that the principles of sustainable development are already embedded in higher level plans (which have undergone SEA) any additional effects resulting from this supplementary guidance are not likely to be significant.
1(d)	Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	No	Significant environmental problems have already been assessed through the SEA of the higher level PLDP. The preparation of the supplementary guidance is identified in the PLDP SEA as a mitigation measure which will allow development to happen.
1(e)	The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans or programmes linked to waste management or water protection)	No	The supplementary guidance will have no significant relevance to the implementation of any Community legislation on the environment.

TABLE 2: Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (numbering refers to Schedule 2 of the Act)		Significant environmental effects likely?	Summary of significant environmental effects (positive and negative)
2(a)	The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	No	This supplementary guidance supports the PLDP policy on green infrastructure, the environmental effects of which have already been assessed through the SEA process. It is not expected that there will be further significant environmental effects as a result of this supplementary guidance.
2(b)	The cumulative nature of the effects	No	This supplementary guidance supports the PLDP policy on green infrastructure and the cumulative effects of that Plan have already been assessed through the SEA process. It is not expected that there will be any further cumulative effects arising as a result of this supplementary guidance.
2(c)	The trans-boundary nature of the effects	No	It is not expected that the environmental effects of this supplementary guidance will extend beyond the Council's boundary.
2(d)	The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	No	Potential risks have already been assessed through the SEA of the higher level PLDP. It is not anticipated that any additional significant risks will result from the implementation of this supplementary guidance.
2(e)	The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	The supplementary guidance will cover the entire area of Perth and Kinross and could potentially have effects on the whole population. However those effects which is it currently possible to identify have already been assessed through the SEA of the higher level PLDP. It is not currently possible to identify potential impacts at site level as these will only become clear as detailed proposals are worked up for specific locations. Any impacts which do arise at site level will be dealt with through careful siting, design and management in order to optimise benefits and minimise any adverse impacts. Overall it is not anticipated that there will be any additional significant effects as a result of this supplementary guidance.

2(f)	<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <p>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</p> <p>(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or</p> <p>(iii) intensive land use</p>	No	<p>(i) Any effects on such areas have already been assessed through the higher level PLDP. It is not anticipated that there will be any additional significant effects as a result of this supplementary guidance.</p> <p>(ii) No situations have been identified where the implementation of this supplementary guidance will lead to the exceeding of any environmental quality standards or limits.</p> <p>(iii) The green infrastructure approach promotes multifunctionality and this will be encouraged in the supplementary guidance. However the maximisation of green infrastructure functions is not expected to result in any additional significant environmental effects over and above those already identified through the SEA of the higher level PLDP.</p>
2(g)	<p>The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status</p>	No	<p>Any effects on protected areas have already been assessed through the higher level PLDP. It is not anticipated that there will be any additional significant effects as a result of this supplementary guidance.</p>



Summary of Environmental Effects

The Green Infrastructure Supplementary Guidance is being prepared in response to an undertaking in the Proposed Local Development Plan as Modified to provide additional guidance on how development can comply with the terms of the green infrastructure policy (policy NE4). Both the Proposed Local Development Plan and the higher level Strategic Development Plan have undergone SEA. The preparation and implementation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy (through this supplementary guidance) is identified in the SEA of the Proposed Local Development Plan as a mitigation and / or enhancement measure that will allow development to happen.

It is not expected that this supplementary guidance will result in any significant, cumulative or trans-boundary environmental effects over and above those already identified through the SEA of higher level plans. Nor is it expected that it will create any additional risks to human health, exceed any quality standards or limits, or result in any additional impacts on special or protected natural, historic or cultural environments.

Perth & Kinross Council is therefore of the opinion that SEA of the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Guidance is not required because significant environmental issues have already been assessed through the SEA of the higher level plans.



Section 4: Appendix 1

Proposed Local Development Plan as Modified, policy NE4:

Policy NE4: Green Infrastructure

The Council will require all new development to contribute to the creation, protection, enhancement and management of green infrastructure by the:

- (a) incorporation of green infrastructure into new developments, particularly where it can be used to mitigate any negative environmental impact of the development and link green infrastructure to the wider green network;
- (b) incorporation of high standards of environmental design;
- (c) protection of the countryside from inappropriate development whilst supporting its positive use for agriculture, recreation, biodiversity, health, education and tourism;
- (d) protection, enhancement and management of open spaces and linkages for active travel or recreation, including links between open spaces and the wider countryside and the provision of new connections where required;
- (e) protection, enhancement and management of existing species and habitats and the creation of new habitats and wildlife corridors, including trees, hedgerows and woodlands where appropriate;
- (f) protection, enhancement and management of watercourses, waterbodies, floodplains and wetlands which are important contributors to the network of blue and green corridors for the alleviation of flood risk, wildlife, recreation and the amenity needs of the community.

Note: Supplementary Guidance will be prepared expanding on how development can comply with this policy. This will also define the network and provide a vision for how it will develop, provide a spatial representation of the network and identify opportunity areas where the network could be improved.