

**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.*



Planning and Development
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Date 29th October 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Screening Determination for Perth & Kinross Council's Food Growing Strategy

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 Strategy.

SEA Screening Process

The screening process involved consulting the following Consultation Authorities on whether the Strategy 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 Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects.

In this instance, the Council wrote to the Consultation Authorities and their responses are summarised as follows:

| Consultation Authority | Comment | Likely to have significant environmental effects |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Historic Scotland | Our understanding for the screening report is that the Food Growing Strategy will support the relevant policy of the emerging Local Development Plan (Policy 14) and will identify potentially suitable land for allotments and other food growing areas. | No |

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| | <p>We note that you have given specific consideration within the screening document to the identification of land available for additional food growing spaces and the delivery/action plan for the strategy.</p> <p>In terms of making additional land available we note that you consider that “any positive or negative environmental impact resulting from the delivery of new growing spaces could be mitigated at the design stage”. As changing land use (for example green space to allotments) can have effects on archaeological remains as well as the setting of historic environment assets an environmental assessment at this stage could have aided in the identification of such environmental impacts and built in mitigation at the strategy level.</p> <p>In light of this you may wish to consider ensuring that the environmental implications of sites are considered as part a process laid out in the delivery/action plan.</p> <p>However, overall and based upon the information set out in the screening report and our advice above, we are content to agree that significant effects on the historic environment as a result of the strategy are unlikely.</p> | |
| <p>Scottish Environmental Protection Agency</p> | <p>In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 we have considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. Having reviewed the Screening Report, we consider that in respect of our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets (of which we have a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the Food Growing Strategy is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are not likely, it is for the Perth and Kinross Council as Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received.</p> <p>Please note that although we do not consider that the Food Growing Strategy will have significant</p> | <p>No</p> |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| | strategic effects on the environment we do consider that it has the potential to have some effects. We consider that development within flood risk areas should be avoided as well as identification of growing areas on contaminated land and that this should be taken into account in assessing sites. We would therefore welcome consultation on the draft proposals which should be directed to our local Planning Service team at planning.se@sepa.org.uk . | |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | SNH has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act. In terms of our interests, we agree that the above Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects. Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the plan or programme to have significant environmental effects. We cannot comment on whether or not the plan or programme meets other criteria determining the need for SEA as set out in the Act. | No |

The Council has also considered 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 Food Growing Strategy is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

The Council has therefore determined that SEA is not required.

Yours sincerely



Hajnalka Biro
Planning Officer

SCREENING REPORT

STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

Perth & Kinross Council

Title of the plan:

Food Growing Strategy

What prompted the plan:

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

The Council has a statutory duty, set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, to prepare a Food Growing Strategy that identifies potentially suitable land for allotments and other food growing areas.

The strategy will also support the implementation of Policy 14: Open Space Retention and Provision of the Proposed Local Development Plan 2, which encourages opportunities for the provision of community growing spaces and allotments as part of new developments.

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

Food/Community Growing

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:

An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

Contact details:

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Date:

26.09.2019

STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

Perth and Kinross has a number of groups and organisations, including the Council, who have an interest in food growing and have been working to establish and improve food growing spaces. The requirement of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act to publish a formal strategy, offers an opportunity to provide a more joined up approach, facilitate closer partnership working and better use of resources in order to deliver new food growing spaces and provide support for stakeholders.

The strategy will assist in meeting the Council's objectives in relation to health and wellbeing, sustainability and education/ skills development. It will also support the Local Development Plan by identifying where growing spaces could be delivered as part of new developments.

Description of the Plan:

The main purpose of the strategy is to ensure that people who would like to grow their own food have the opportunity to do so.

The strategy will include an audit of the existing growing opportunities within the Council area. In order to better understand the demand for additional growing spaces and other means of support, the barriers to growing will be explored through public consultation.

The strategy will identify land potentially suitable for allotments and other food growing spaces, including community orchards, community gardens, vegetable patches, raised beds, planters and edible hedges. The other key strand of the strategy is supporting communities to develop the skills to grow their own food and make healthy lifestyle choices. Therefore the strategy will also seek to identify opportunities for skills and information sharing. Within the strategy, there will be an emphasis on increasing opportunities in the most deprived areas of Perth and Kinross.

The delivery strategy / action plan will outline how the Council aims to work with key stakeholders in order to deliver new growing spaces and provide better support for community groups and individuals.

The strategy will be reviewed within a 5 year period from publishing.

What are the key components of the plan?

The strategy will include the following components:

1. Background – setting the context, including the description of different food growing areas and the benefits of food growing
2. Current position - identifying and mapping existing food growing opportunities and explaining the barriers to more individuals and groups growing their own
3. The strategy – setting out how the Council seeks to improve food growing opportunities, including the identification of land available for additional food growing spaces.
4. Delivery/ action plan - outlining necessary resources, timescales and stakeholder responsibilities.

Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?

Policy 14 of the Proposed Local Development Plan which supports the delivery of open spaces through new development has undergone a Strategic Environmental Assessment. It has been concluded that Policy 14 is likely to have significant benefits for the health and recreation of residents. Further environmental benefits include climate change mitigation, enhancing landscape settings, townscapes and local amenity. If any adverse effects were to occur, appropriate mitigation would be developed at the planning application stage.

In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:

Two of the four component are likely to require screening:

3. The strategy
4. Delivery/ action plan

**STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Error! Reference source not found.)**

| Plan Components | Environmental Topic Areas | | | | | | | | | | Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects | Explanation of Significance |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-------|-----|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------|--|---|
| | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Population and human health | Soil | Water | Air | Climatic factors | Material assets | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Inter-relationship issues | | |
| Component 3 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Through improving the provision of food growing spaces, the strategy could have social and environmental benefits such as encouraging healthier lifestyles, creating habitats and contributing to sustainable drainage and climate change mitigation. Established growing spaces can be important community assets and positively contribute to the wider landscape. Other actions such as skills and information sharing would have a less direct environmental impact. | As mentioned above, the main aim of the strategy is to formalise and streamline the continued efforts of groups and organisation to support food growing, rather than to introduce new measures. The strategy could further increase the environmental benefits of the food growing provision within the Council area however this is not considered to be a significant change which would warrant a full SEA. Any positive or negative environmental impact resulting from the delivery of new growing spaces could be mitigated at the design stage. |
| Component 4 | X | X | X | X | X | X | ✓ | X | X | X | The delivery/ action plan will support the implementation of the strategy and likely to have some financial implications. It is not considered to result in significant environmental effects. | |

STEP 4 – STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING

Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:

(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

The Food Growing Strategy is being prepared in relation to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and Policy 14 of the Proposed Local Development Plan 2. It will provide a more formalised approach to encouraging food growing, complementing the Council's current work with key stakeholder. The strategy will help expand and improve the current food growing provision; however it is not considered to have significant positive or negative environmental effects in itself.

It should also be noted that Policy 14 has undergone SEA through the Local Development Plan preparation process and any likely significant environmental effects identified through that process have had mitigation measures provided. This strategy is unlikely to cause any additional significant environmental effects and therefore, Perth & Kinross Council believes that the Food Growing Strategy does not require a SEA.

When completed send to: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.