



**Strategic Environmental Assessment
Screening Report and Determination**

**The Council Plan Connect
2017 - 2022**

December 2016

Contents of screening report

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| SEA Screening Report..... | 4 |
| 1. Key facts..... | 4 |
| 2. Consideration of the likely significant environmental effects..... | 6 |
| 3. Summary of environmental effects | 8 |
| Record of comments from consultation authorities..... | 9 |
| Historic Environment Scotland..... | 9 |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency..... | 9 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | 9 |
| Record of determination and post screening action..... | 10 |
| Record of determination..... | 10 |
| Publicity requirements for the determination | 10 |

If you want this information in a different format or language, phone 0303 123 1015 or email equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Cover note

Part 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
SEA Gateway
Scottish Government
Area 1H (Bridge)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Part 2

An SEA Screening Report is attached for the Plan, entitled:

The Council Plan 'Connect' 2017 - 2022

The responsible Authority is:

South Lanarkshire Council

Complete part 3 or 4 or 5

Part 3

Please tick the appropriate box

- 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
- 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
- an SEA is not required because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects

Part 4

- The PPS does not require an SEA under the Act. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, because this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 28 days timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed

Part 5

- None of the above apply
 We have prepared this screening report because:

Part 6

Contact name

Job title

Contact address

Contact phone

Contact email

Part 7

Signature
(electronic signature is acceptable)

Date

SEA Screening Report

South Lanarkshire Council has undertaken screening for the proposed Council Plan 'Connect' with regard to the requirements of section 9 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The Screening Report has been submitted to the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway, setting out the views of South Lanarkshire Council on the likelihood of significant environmental effects for the proposed Council Plan and the potential for requiring an SEA.

1. Key facts

Responsible authority

South Lanarkshire Council

Title of Plan

The Council Plan Connect

Purpose of Plan

The Council Plan will set out the strategic direction for South Lanarkshire Council for the five year period of the plan.

What prompted the Plan

Although the Plan does not have a legal status, it is required to set out the Council's vision and objectives. It will help to direct strategic decision making and influence how the Council will deliver its services and monitor its performance.

Plan subject

Strategic corporate activities

Period covered by the Plan

The Plan will cover a period of five years from 2017 until 2022.

Frequency of updates

A mid-term review will be carried out in 2019 – 2020.

Area covered by the Plan

The Plan will cover the whole geographical area of South Lanarkshire (1,772 km²).

Summary of nature/content of the Plan

The Council Plan Connect contributes to the strategic delivery of the South Lanarkshire Community Plan 'Stronger Together' and sits beneath it in the hierarchy of PPPS. The principal aim of the Council Plan is to set out the Council's vision, ambitions, values and objectives to deliver its priorities. It retains its vision to **'Improve the quality of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire'**.

Although at an early stage of development, it is proposed that the Plan will be structured around five **ambitions** and six **values** which will form the strategic foundations for the achievement of fourteen **objectives**. These objectives reflect the work of the services within the Council.

The proposed ambitions show how the Council links to the wider public sector agenda to strengthen communities and improve outcomes. These are:

- Make communities safer, stronger and sustainable
- Promote economic growth and tackle disadvantage
- Improve health, care and wellbeing
- Get it right for children and young people
- Achieve results through leadership, good governance and organisational effectiveness

The values help the Council to set the strategic direction to achieve excellence in delivering the services used by residents, customers and visitors. These are:

- Focussed on people and their needs
- Working with and respecting others
- Accountable, effective and efficient
- Ambitious, self aware and improving
- Excellent employer
- Fair, open and sustainable

The objectives set out how the Council aims to deliver its ambitions and values at the operational level. These are:

1. Improve services for older people
2. Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
3. Improve the quality, access and availability of housing
4. Improve the road network, influence improvements in public transport and encourage active travel
5. Create and improve high quality and sustainable places
6. Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth
7. Tackle disadvantage and deprivation and support aspiration
8. Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
9. Collaborate with partners to promote safe and thriving communities
10. Encourage participation in physical and cultural activities
11. Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational
12. Deliver better health and social care outcomes for all
13. Embed governance and accountability
14. Continually aim to improve and ensure effective and efficient use of resources

Date

18 November 2016

2. Consideration of the likely significant environmental effects

Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects of the Council Plan Connect on the environment of South Lanarkshire are set out below. The screening was undertaken with reference to the criteria in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act.

| Title of plan/programme/strategy | | |
|---|--|---|
| The Council Plan Connect 2017 - 2022 | | |
| Responsible Authority | | |
| South Lanarkshire Council | | |
| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (para numbers refer to Schedule 2 of the Act) | Likely to have significant environmental effects? (Yes/No) | Summary of significant environmental effects (positive and negative) |
| The characteristics of plans and programmes | | |
| 1(a): The degree to which the Plan 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 Council Plan provides the strategic direction and priorities for the delivery of Council services It does not directly set the framework for land based projects, developments or activities. |
| 1(b): The degree to which the Plan influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy | No | Minor positive effects As the principal plan within the Council, the Council Plan articulates the Council's strategic vision, ambitions, values and objectives to be delivered. All policies, plans, programmes and strategies (PPPS) must take cognisance of the Council Plan as they are developed and implemented. Where appropriate all Council led PPPS in the hierarchy of plans are subject to SEA in their own right. |
| 1 (c): The relevance of the Plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development | No | Minor positive effects Sustainable development is reflected across the Council's ambitions, values and objectives and is given a high profile within the Council Plan. This will contribute to the continued promotion of healthy environments and sustainable development within South Lanarkshire. |
| 1(d): Environmental problems relevant to the Plan | No | Minor positive effects The Council Plan directs a positive broad consideration of environmental issues while lower tiered PPPS have a more direct influence and impact of such issues. |

| | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1(e): The relevance of the Plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, PPS linked to waste management or water protection) | No | None identified. |
| Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected | | |
| 2(a): The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects | No | Minor positive effects: Medium and long term positive effects are anticipated from the implementation of the Council Plan and these will be reversible. These are likely to be minor in nature. |
| 2(b): The cumulative nature of the effects | No | Minor positive effects: Implementation of the Plan will have an overall positive cumulative effect across South Lanarkshire, particularly in terms of developing and promoting the benefits of sustainable communities and a healthy environment. |
| 2(c): Trans-boundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States) | No | The Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental impact outwith South Lanarkshire. |
| 2(d): The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents) | No | The overall vision of the Council Plan Connect is to improve the quality of life through the provision of appropriate services. The delivery of these services is addressed through specific PPS lower in the hierarchy of plans. |
| 2(e): The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected) | No | |
| 2(f): The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land use. | No | None identified. |
| 2(g): The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status | No | There are no landscapes in South Lanarkshire which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status. |

3. Summary of environmental effects

The current Council Plan Connect is to be renewed from April 2017. In preparing the new plan, cognisance has been taken of the SEA of the current plan (SEA\00572), particularly the Post Adoption Statement which demonstrates how the findings of the assessment were addressed. This has enabled a strong foundation for the consideration of environmental issues across the Council. To reflect this, the principles of sustainable development and environmental protection are interwoven into the vision, ambitions, values and objectives of the draft new plan.

A wide range of Council led policies, plans and strategies have undergone SEA in their own right. The findings from the assessments have influenced the understanding of environmental issues and elevated their profile within strategic planning in the Council. The current proposals for the new Council Plan strengthen this commitment to sustainability and sustainable development.

As the new Plan will consolidate and broadly follow the structure of the current Plan, the Council considers it **unlikely** that new significant environmental effects will be identified through the preparation and implementation of the new Plan. Any new effects are anticipated to be as a result of further augmentation of existing approaches and will be minor and positive in nature. Should potential additional effects be identified, appropriate enhancement or mitigation measures will be considered within the Plan. In preparing and implementing the new Plan, the Council will continue to have full regard for the findings from the SEA of the current Council Plan and related plans and strategies.

Record of comments from consultation authorities

Title of plan, programme or strategy

The Council Plan 'Connect'

Responsible Authority

South Lanarkshire Council

Summary of Consultation Authority comments

Historic Environment Scotland

| Date comments received | Significant environmental effects | If Yes, note SEA topics/ issues here |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 13 December 2016 | No | Our understanding is that the new Council Plan (the Plan) will consolidate and broadly follow the structure and direction of the existing Council Plan. You consider that only minor and positive additional environmental effects are likely, and where new effects are identified, appropriate enhancement or mitigation will be considered as part of the Plan making process. On the basis of the information provided, I agree that significant effects for the historic environment are unlikely. |

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

| Date comments received | Significant environmental effects | If Yes, note SEA topics/ issues here |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 13 December 2016 | No | 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 Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. |

Scottish Natural Heritage

| Date comments received | Significant environmental effects | If Yes, note SEA topics/ issues here |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 13 December 2016 | No | Section 2 of the screening report identifies that minor positive effects are anticipated. While we would note that SEA is required for any plans likely to have a significant effect on the environment, regardless of whether these are positive or negative, we also note that the Council considers that it is unlikely that <i>new</i> significant environmental effects will be identified beyond those which have previously been identified and assessed through the SEA of other related plans and strategies, including the current Council Plan. In view of the above and the information contained in the screening report, and in terms of our interests, we agree that the Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects. |

Record of determination and post screening action

| |
|---|
| Title of plan, programme or strategy |
|---|

The Council Plan 'Connect'

| |
|------------------------------|
| Responsible Authority |
|------------------------------|

South Lanarkshire Council

Record of determination

In accordance with section 9(1) of the 2005 Act South Lanarkshire Council submitted for consultation a screening report summarising its views as to whether the Council Plan 'Connect' will have significant environmental effects. In formally determining whether an SEA is required, the Council has taken into account the views of the Consultation Authorities. South Lanarkshire Council and the Consultation Authorities are in agreement that the Council Plan 'Connect' is **unlikely** to have significant environmental effects.

| Formal determination | Statement of reason | Date |
|---|---|------------------|
| The Council Plan 'Connect' is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and therefore an SEA will not be undertaken. | No additional significant environmental impacts are likely to arise as result of the Plan beyond those already identified and assessed through the SEA of the current Council Plan. | 22 December 2016 |

Publicity requirements for the determination

In accordance with section 10(1) of the 2005 Act, within 28 days of the determination having been made, the Council will send a copy of the formal determination and related statement of reasons (prepared in accordance with section 8(2)(b)) to the Consultation Authorities.


Have the above requirements been undertaken?

Yes

In accordance with section 10(2) of the 2005 Act, within 14 days of the determination having been made, the Council will make available to the public a copy of the determination and related documents (this must include; a copy publicly available at the principal office, a copy displayed on the Council's website and a notice secured in at least one newspaper circulated in the area relating to the PPS).

Have the above requirements been undertaken?

Yes



Lindsay Freeland
Chief Executive

22 December 2016

