Strategic Environmental Assessment

Environmental Report

Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan

2018 - 2022

18 July 2017

SEA Environmental Report – Cover Note

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@gov.scot
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PART 2

An SEA Environmental Report is attached for the Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS) entitled:

Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan

The Responsible Authority is:

South Lanarkshire Council

PART 3

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PART 4

Signature (electronic signature Is acceptable)	
Date	18 July 2017

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Introduction

This is a non-technical summary of the Environmental Report (ER) which documents the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) of the draft South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy (SLBS) and the Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan (BDIP), published by South Lanarkshire Council. A SEA is required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 in order to determine the potential environmental effects of implementing them.

The South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership is preparing the SLBS. At the same time, the Council is preparing its revised BDIP. Both plans are important because they identify priorities to protect and enhance biodiversity in South Lanarkshire. They will closely align with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to help prevent further biodiversity loss and restore the ecosystem services for a healthy natural environment by 2020.

SEA methodology

The SEA enables environmental considerations to be integrated into the preparation of the SLBS and BDIP, and at the same time, allows the public and other interested organisations the opportunity to comment on the draft plans and also the SEA. The SEA process follows an established and systematic method of testing the development of the plans, predicting the environmental effects, and also considering potential mitigation and enhancement measures to ensure the final plans are well balanced and sustainable. The conclusions from each stage of the SEA are summarised in the sections below.

In undertaking the assessment, there is a need to understand the local environment and to identify key issues which affect the local area. In South Lanarkshire these include:

- **Population and human health:** Scotland's health is poor by international standards and the health of South Lanarkshire people is generally below the national average. Although parts of South Lanarkshire experience an excellent quality of life, there are pockets of deprivation where some people experience higher than average poor health. Life expectancy is lower in deprived areas.

☐ **Biodiversity, (fauna and flora):** Many designated areas are in favourable condition, although most areas of ancient woodland and other semi-natural habitats are extensively fragmented. Key environmental pressures which have a poor effect on biodiversity in South Lanarkshire include the invasion of non-native species putting pressure on natural habitats and the inappropriate location of urban development or development which is insensitive to the local natural environment. Arguably, the greatest potential pressure on ecosystem function is climate change, with habitat fragmentation restricting the resilience of species in response to this.

☐ **Soil and water:** Soil quality and function in the area is generally good. Water quality is also relatively good and continues to improve. The River Clyde and tributaries are essential to the character of the area, with the water environment an important resource across South Lanarkshire. Rainfall and water flow rates in rivers have increased as has the number of flooding incidents. This is associated with climatic change.

☐ **Material assets and landscape:** Modernisation and development has improved local assets. The area of vacant and derelict land in the area continues to decrease. The quantity and quality of greenspace varies considerably across South Lanarkshire. Public access to the wider environment is supported by a wide range of initiatives, including a network of core paths. Our landscape is diverse and is valued as an important asset which provides a distinctive character, promotes community wellbeing, supports biodiversity and contributes to the local economy.

- ☐ **Air:** Air quality in South Lanarkshire is generally good but there are some areas where poor air quality exceeds limits to protect human health. Transport is one of the main sources for urban air pollution, with higher levels associated with the main transport corridors and busy road junctions.

- ☐ **Climate change:** There have been significant changes to our climate at a global and local scale. There is an overall trend towards a warmer climate and more extreme weather events. Climate change is expected to have significant impacts on our environment and our people.

- ☐ **Historic and cultural heritage:** South Lanarkshire has a rich historic and cultural heritage which is a valued asset. The main pressure on the built and historic heritage comes from development, particularly in terms of the potential damage or loss of historical and archaeological assets.

Developing strategic alternatives

The assessment concluded that the best way to achieve the greatest potential environmental benefits from the new SLBS and BDIP would be to take an ecosystems approach which would build on the positive achievements from the current strategy and plan. Such an approach would also be consistent with that adopted for the national strategy and would help to further strengthen and promote partnership work.

Testing draft SLBS/BDIP against environmental objectives

The draft SLBS and BDIP were initially assessed against environmental objectives (SEA objectives) to determine their environmental impact. Only one of the proposed SEA objectives identified in the Scoping Report was slightly amended following consultation. These objectives were used to test the proposed outcomes and themes in the plans.

Predicting and evaluating the effects of the draft SLBS/BDIP

The draft plans were assessed to determine the impact they would have on the local community and environment. Overall, it is considered that they would have significant benefits for the environment by providing a strategic context for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the area which will benefit the people of South Lanarkshire. The SEA process has added value to the SLBS/BDIP through its various stages by identifying key links to other strategies and plans and the prediction of environmental impacts relative to SEA objectives. The process has led to a number of improvements in the plans and has helped to identify opportunities to enhance positive environmental outcomes.

Proposed measures to monitor the SLBS/BDIP

A monitoring plan is being developed to assist in the early identification of environmental issues (either positive or negative) associated with the implementation of the SLBS/BDIP. This will be linked to and enhanced by the monitoring of the South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report. In addition, consideration will be given to appropriate suggestions on monitoring received through the consultation process when finalising the monitoring plan.

Conclusions

The SEA process has been used to assist in the drafting of the plans with the result showing that when implemented both the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan should promote a positive environment and local community.

Consultation process

The following table provides timescales in the development and consultation of the SLBS/BDIP and their SEA:

Milestone	Expected date
Environmental Report consultation period commences	July 2017
Consultation deadline	September 2017
SLBS/BDIP implemented from	January 2018
Post adoption SEA statement	March 2018

In accordance with the SEA legislation, the Environmental Report will be made available for public consultation alongside the draft SLBS and BDIP for a period of six weeks, and will close on Friday, 1 September 2017.

Comments on the Environmental Report should be made in writing to:

Chris Waltho
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Community and Enterprise Resources
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18 Forrest Street
Blantyre
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By email to: chris.waltho@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

1. Introduction

Background

1.1 The Council is required by The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act, 2004 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Scotland) 2011 to further the conservation of biodiversity consistent with the proper exercise of its functions. The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy sets out the national approach to prevent further biodiversity loss and the restoration of ecosystem services for a healthy natural environment by 2020. The South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy (SLBS) provides the strategic framework for articulating the national strategy to the local scale. The Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan (BDIP) will set out the Council's response to the Biodiversity Duty. The development of both the draft SLBS and BDIP have been informed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

1.2 This report constitutes an Environmental Report in accordance with the requirements of the European Community (EC) SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the SEA Act). The Environmental Report illustrates the SEA process and the identification of all potentially significant environmental effects (both positive and negative) associated with the implementation of the draft SLBS and BDIP, with the overall process aiming to:

- ☐ Identify relevant environmental issues associated with the SLBS/BDIP, providing a high level of environmental protection and the integration of environmental decision making into the preparation of the draft plans;

- ☐ Evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of the SLBS and BDIP to ensure appropriate environment issues are identified, described, evaluated and taken account of before the plans are adopted and implemented; and

- ☐ Provide an early opportunity for public participation in environmental decision making through consultation on the SLBS/BDIP and the associated Environmental Report.

Purpose of the Environmental Report

1.3 The purpose of an Environmental Report is to support consultation of the draft SLBS/BDIP by:

- ☐ Providing a summary of the SEA process and a description of the consultation that has been undertaken as part of the SEA to date; and

- ☐ Identifying, describing and providing an evaluation of the likely significant effects on the environment through the implementation of the SLBS/BDIP.

1.4 The Environmental Report is intended to assist decision-makers, the Consultation Authorities, the public and other stakeholders to understand the likely significant impacts associated with the draft SLBS/BDIP before they are finalised and to identify the measures taken to prevent, reduce and offset such effects. The draft SLBS/BDIP and the Environmental Report have been made available to the public and the Consultation authorities as part of a public consultation exercise as statutorily required.

The Consultation Authorities are defined within the SEA Act as:

- ☐ Historic Environment Scotland (HES);
- ☐ Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA); and
- ☐ Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

1.5 The SEA Act defines the key stages of SEA as:

Screening	Determination of whether the SLBS/BDIP are likely to have significant environmental effects and whether a SEA is required.
Scoping	Identification of the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report and the consultation period for the report. This stage involves consultation with the Consultation Authorities.
Environmental Report	Publication of an Environmental Report on the SLBS/BDIP which includes a summary of SEA and consultation processes. It provides an evaluation of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plans.
Post-Adoption	Provides information on the adopted SLBS/BDIP and how consultation comments have been taken account of.
Monitoring	Sets out detailed methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the SLBS/BDIP.

1.6 The Environmental Report describes both the assessment and evolutionary drafting of the SLBS/BDIP, the proposed outcomes, identifying recommended measures to prevent, reduce and mitigate any potentially significant negative environmental effects and providing measures to improve or enhance the positive environmental effects of the implemented plans. The Environmental Report also begins to set out a proposed framework for monitoring the SLBS/BDIP for the early identification of any future effects.

Consultation process

1.7 In accordance with the SEA legislation, the Environmental Report will be made available for public consultation along with the draft SLBS/BDIP for a period of six weeks. Early engagement with the Consultation Authorities (**Appendix 1**) has already taken place and these representations have helped to inform the content of the draft SLBS/BDIP and the SEA process.

1.8 To assist in the consultation process, the Council seeks responses to specific questions within the Environmental Report. General or specific comments on other aspects are also welcome. Comments should be made in writing to:

Chris Waltho
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18 Forrest Street
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By email to: chris.waltho@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 0303 123 1015 or email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

2. Background to the draft SLBS and BDIP

Plan context and overview

2.1 The South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership is preparing the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy. At the same time, South Lanarkshire Council is preparing its revised Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan. Both these plans identify priorities to protect and enhance biodiversity within the area. They will accord with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to prevent further biodiversity loss and restore ecosystem services for a healthy natural environment by 2020.

2.2 The SLBS will reinforce the importance of the rich and varied biodiversity within South Lanarkshire and the positive contribution this makes to human health and wellbeing, the natural environment, the attractiveness of the area and the local economy. It is intended to provide a strategic framework to inform and guide action within the Council and across partners and local communities.

2.3 The SLBS and BDIP take cognisance of and aspire to the Council Plan's vision to 'work together to improve the quality of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire'. This will be achieved by working towards relevant strategic objectives within the Council Plan, including:

- Develop a sustainable Council and communities (Priority)
- Improve the quality of the physical environment
- Strengthen partnership working, community leadership and engagement (Priority)
- Improve and maintain health and increase physical activity
- Achieve efficient and effective use of resources
- Raise educational achievement and attainment.

2.4 The Council Plan has been subject to full SEA (SEA\\00572)

2.5 The new SLBS and BDIP will build on the existing plans. An ecosystems approach will be taken to ensure that species are conserved through wider conservation action such as habitat management and restoration. The six ecosystems identified within the area will form the basis of the plans. These are:

- Freshwater
- Lowland and Farmland
- Peatland
- Upland
- Urban
- Woodland

2.6 The Strategy will also consider the following cross cutting themes;

- Climate change
- Invasive, non-native species
- Key sites
- People and nature
- Soils and geology

2.7 The SLBS has ten proposed strategic outcomes which will be achieved through the delivery of actions as set out within the action plan. These are:

1. Invasive non-native species are monitored and controlled.
2. Designated and locally important sites are conserved.
3. People have opportunities to connect with nature.
4. Freshwater habitats are improved and preserved.

5. The biodiversity value of low lying farmland is improved.
6. Peatlands are protected and improved.
7. Uplands are managed in a sustainable way.
8. The urban environment benefits biodiversity.
9. Vacant and Derelict Land contributes to biodiversity.
10. Woodlands are restored and managed.

2.8 The BDIP reflects guidance from the Scottish Government and contains actions covering:

- Mainstreaming
- Conserving and enhancing biodiversity
- Partnership working
- Communications

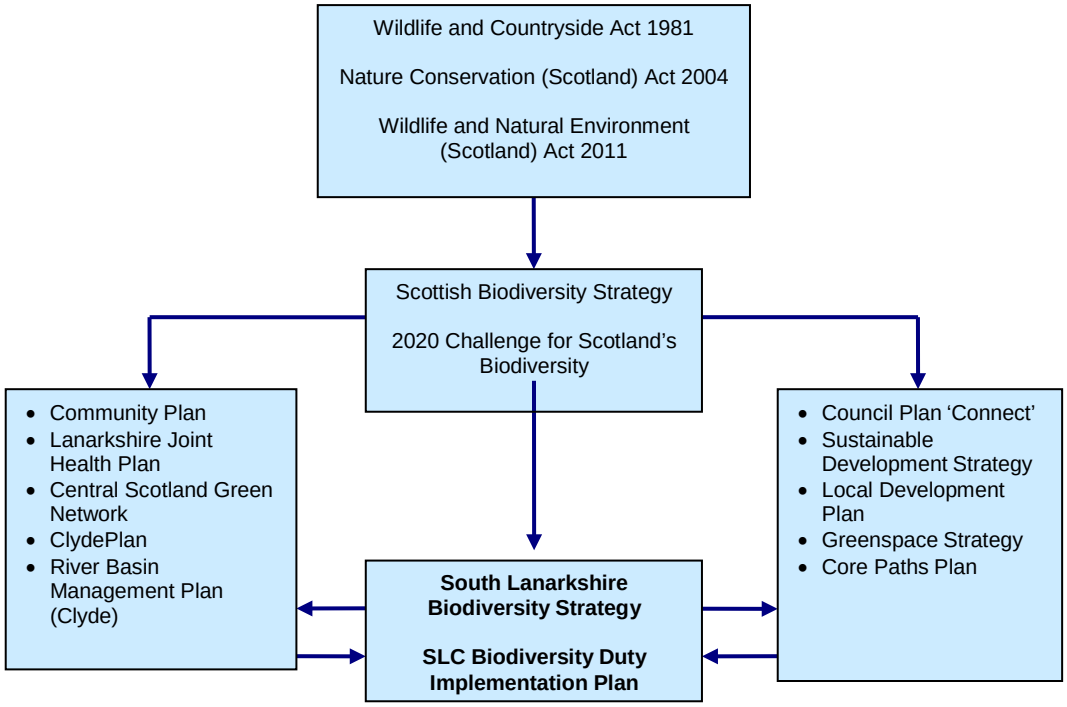
Relationship with other key PPS and environmental objectives and assessment

2.9 The SLBS and BDIP will link into other existing plans, policies and strategies (PPS). They are influenced by other PPS, particularly the Council Plan, 'Connect' and the Sustainable Development Strategy. At the same time, it is intended that they will have a strong influence on future strategic planning within the Council and with partners in terms of delivering our environmental commitments and sustainable development priorities in terms of biodiversity.

High level policy assessment

2.10 The SLBS and BDIP are directly and indirectly influenced by a number of international, national, regional and local PPS (**Figure 1**). The relationships between the SLBS, BDIP and other PPS of significance have been assessed as part of the SEA process. Consideration has been given to how they may affect or be affected by the SLBS/BDIP and how they relate to relevant SEA issues (see **Appendix 2** for the full policy assessment).

Figure 1: Hierarchal relationship between the SLBS/BDIP and other PPS



Local policy assessment

2.11 A detailed assessment was undertaken on those local level policies, plans and strategies which relate to the SLBS/BDIP. The assessment highlighted that although individual Council PPS take control of delivering specific environmental areas identified in the SLBS and BDIP there is a considerable level of cross-over (**Table 1**). This illustrates the fact that most environmental objectives within the SLBS/BDIP are not deliverable in silos either through individual PPS, or by individual Council Resources (departments), or external agencies and that their delivery requires considerable partnership working. Therefore, the SLBS and BDIP are important in promoting both the delivery and the broad aim of enhancing the environment and community wellbeing within South Lanarkshire and in emphasising the importance the Council plays in delivering a sustainable and rich environment.

Table 1: Assessment of Council PPS in relation to delivery of the SLBS/BDIP

Council PPS	Score	Cross delivery						Comments on key delivery areas
		Community and Enterprise	Education	Finance and Corporate	Housing and Technical	Social Work	SL Biodiversity Partnership	
++ Major relevance to SLBS/BDIP					+ Minor relevance to SLBS/BDIP			
Council Plan, 'Connect', 2012 - 2017	++	X	X	X	X	X	X	The SLBS/BDIP will contribute to the delivery of relevant Connect objectives. The Council Plan has undergone SEA.
South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan (SLLDP) and associated SG, 2015 - 2019	++	X					X	The SLBS/BDIP will provide further guidance and information on mitigating the impacts on biodiversity within development sites, properties and public open spaces. The SLLDP has undergone SEA.
South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 Main Issues Report (MIR) 2017	++	X	X	X			X	The SLBS/BDIP will contribute to the delivery of LDP2, particularly in terms of identifying and progressing Local Nature Reserves and Local Nature Conservation Sites. The LDP2 MIR has undergone SEA.
Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS), 2012 - 2017	++	X	X	X	X	X	X	The SLBS/BDIP will contribute to the delivery of the SDS, particularly within the theme Sustainable Environment. The SDS has undergone SEA.
Core Paths Plan (CPP), 2012 - 2022	+	X						The CPP identifies a network of routes, some of which may impact on, or provide access to and experience of biodiversity assets of interest. The CPP has undergone SEA.
Air Quality Strategy (AQS), (forthcoming)	+	X						The SLBS/BDIP will have cognisance of the AQS by taking account of the effects of poor air quality on biodiversity in the area. The AQS has undergone SEA.
Greenspace Strategy (GS)	+	X						The SLBS/BDIP will contribute to the delivery of the Strategy by improving and enhancing existing and proposed greenspace. The GS has undergone SEA.

Council PPS	Score	Cross delivery						Comments on key delivery areas
		Community and Enterprise	Education	Finance and Corporate	Housing and Technical	Social Work	SL Biodiversity Partnership	
++ Major relevance to SLBS/BDIP					+ Minor relevance to SLBS/BDIP			
Invasive Species Strategy (ISS), (forthcoming)	++	X	X	X	X	X	X	The SLBS/BDIP will guide the development and delivery of the ISS. The ISS is currently undergoing SEA.
Contaminated Land Strategy (CLS), (forthcoming)	+	X					X	The SLBS/BDIP will inform the CLS. Remediation of contaminated soils will repair ecosystem functions and services and contribute to the delivery of both plans. The CLS is currently undergoing SEA.
Outdoor Access Strategy (OAS), forthcoming	++	X	X	X	X	X	X	The SLBS/BDIP will inform the new OAS of the biodiversity assets which are particularly sensitive to access pressures. The OAS will identify provision for accessing areas of biodiversity interest.
Local Transport Strategy (LTS) 2013 - 2023	+	X						The SLBS/BDIP will have regard to the plans within the LTS for transport growth and how this may impact on local biodiversity issues. The LTS has undergone SEA.
Minerals Local Development Plan (MLDP) 2012 – 2017	+	X					X	The SLBS/BDIP will have due regard to the Plan and its impacts on biodiversity. The MLDP has undergone SEA.
Outdoor Learning and Play Strategy	+	X	X				X	The SLBS and particularly the BDIP will be informed by this Strategy.
Local Flood Risk Management Plan, forthcoming	+	X					X	The SLBS/BDIP will inform and take cognisance of these plans as they are developed alongside similar timeframes.
Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2012 – 2017	+	X			X			The SLBS/BDIP will have regard to the LHS in terms of how housing and communities impact on biodiversity assets. The LHS has undergone SEA.
Youth Strategy 2014 – 2017	+	X	X					The SLBS/BDIP will be informed by the Strategy in setting out opportunities for young people within biodiversity activities.

Question 1

Relationship with other key PPS and environmental objectives and assessment

Has the assessment fully listed existing policies, plans and strategies which may affect or be affected by the SLBS/BDIP in Figure 1 and Appendix 2?
Do you agree with the assessment results identified in Table 1?

2.12 The main policy principles relevant to the SLBS/BDIP and the environmental issues within the SEA have been identified from common themes arising in the objectives of the policies, plans and strategies listed in **Table 1**. These are:

- ☐ Conserve and enhance biological diversity and promote the benefits of biodiversity and greenspace across urban and rural areas of South Lanarkshire.
- ☐ Promote improvements in human health and reduce inequality across South Lanarkshire.
- ☐ Promote the importance of effective corporate and partnership working to achieve better outcomes for South Lanarkshire.
- ☐ Promote the benefits of sustainable development and infrastructure and encourage sustainable living.
- ☐ Promote opportunities to support climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Question 2

Screening policies of the PPS against the themes and outcomes of the SLBS and BDIP

Do you agree that the common themes arising from the objectives of the policies, plans and strategies listed in Table 1 are noted above in section 2.10?

3. SEA methodology

Overview of the SEA for the draft SLBS and BDIP

3.1 The SEA process involves testing the outcomes of the draft plans against environmentally-based SEA objectives, in order to predict the potential environmental effects and consider appropriate mitigation or enhancement measures. The assessment is then followed by the preparation and undertaking of a monitoring programme once the SLBS and BDIP are adopted. The key areas of the SEA methodology are summarised in **Table 2**.

Table 2: SEA methodology

SEA stage	Assessment requirements	ER section
Develop strategic alternatives	To assist in the development and refinement of the alternatives for achieving the overall purpose of the draft SLBS and BDIP.	6
Test the SLBS and BDIP against SEA objectives.	To ensure the draft SLBS/BDIP accord with environmental principles. To predict and evaluate the effects of the draft SLBS/BDIP and assist in their refinement.	7
Consider ways to enhance environmental benefits and/or mitigate against adverse effects of the draft SLBS/BDIP	To ensure all potential mitigation measures and indicators for maximising beneficial effects are considered and, as a result, residual effects identified.	8
Proposed measures to monitor the environmental effects of the draft SLBS/BDIP once implemented	To propose a monitoring framework to assess the environmental performance of the draft SLBS and BDIP.	9

Scoping the SEA

3.2 Following a consultative workshop, a Scoping Report was prepared and submitted to the SEA Gateway in June 2016. It provided information on the draft SLBS and BDIP and set out the level and method proposed for undertaking the SEA. Consultation on the Scoping Report allowed the Consultation Authorities to provide comment on their views regarding the proposed assessment process, with the Consultation Authorities in agreement with the level in which the SEA issues were presented (**Appendix 1**).

3.3 The environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act were scoped against their potential for significance of impact associated with the SLBS/BDIP (**Table 3**). Following consultation, it was determined that all environmental issues would be scoped in as a precautionary measure. These formed the basis for developing the SEA objectives used within the assessment process.

Table 3: Scoping of environmental issues associated with the SEA of the SLBS/BDIP

SEA issue	Rationale
Population and human health	• Potential positive effects on mental health and wellbeing for people of all ages, through availability and access to greenspace, quality living environments and more active lifestyles. • Potential to promote health improvement through educational activities, environmental volunteering and conservation therapy. • Potential positive effects on physical health through the promotion of active lifestyles.

SEA issue	Rationale
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	☐ Fundamental to the continued provision of ecosystem services. ☐ Potential impacts on some species, habitats and ecosystems. ☐ Potential opportunity to embed the ecosystems services approach by promoting the potential benefits of biodiversity and greenspace.
Soil	☐ Fundamental to the continued provision of ecosystem services. ☐ Potential positive effects associated with the reuse of brownfield and previously developed land. ☐ Potential to positively improve soil quality and health by promoting the removal of invasive non-native species.
Water	☐ Fundamental to the continued provision of ecosystem services. ☐ Biodiversity is a fundamental component of the water environment. ☐ Rivers provide connectivity and provide opportunities for ecosystem and habitat improvements at a landscape scale. ☐ Potential for effects from eutrophication.
Air, noise and light	• Potential for effects from urban trees screening noise, light and air pollution. • Potential for effects from eutrophication. • Potential for effects from light pollution on some species. • Potential for positive effects on urban greenspace in terms of air quality.
Climate change	• Potential for ecosystems to improve natural sequestration of carbon. • Potential for identifying and promoting the resilience of ecosystems to adapt to a changing climate. • Potential for ecosystems to reduce the impact of the changes in climate. • Potential for climatic change to impact native species and to encourage growth of non-native species.
Historic and cultural heritage	• Potential for effects on the historic environment from biodiversity. • Potential impact on historic structures, such as listed buildings and on grounds of historic sites from some species and habitats. • Potential effects on historic gardens and designed landscapes which are culturally important to communities.
Material assets	☐ Potential for natural ecosystems to provide attractive and cost effective contribution to land management. ☐ Potential to improve public spaces through the effective management of biodiversity assets.
Landscape	• Potential for biodiversity to positively influence rural landscapes and townscapes. • Potential to influence the variety and diversification of biodiversity assets which may impact on landscape.

4. Environmental baseline and key issues

Introduction to the local environment

4.1 The SEA Act requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and its likely evolution without implementation of the SLBS or BDIP. It also requires consideration of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected. This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the SLBS and BDIP will operate and the constraints and targets that this context imposes. The descriptive environmental baseline for South Lanarkshire can be found in the Council's State of the Environment Report, 2015.

4.2 The current state of the environment is presented in support of the predicted assessment of the potential effects associated with implementing the SLBS and BDIP. The environmental baseline provides information on both the current and potential issues directly associated with the plans, with the likely future state without implementing them, estimated using past trends.

Introduction to South Lanarkshire

4.3 South Lanarkshire is the fifth most populated local authority in Scotland covering an area of 650 square miles (1,772 km^2). The River Clyde and its major tributaries, including Douglas Water, Nethan, Avon and Rotten Calder are key features of the landscape. This ranges from moorland and upland areas in the south and east, through agricultural lowlands and onto the highly urbanised fringes of the Glasgow conurbation, with the major settlements of Hamilton, East Kilbride, Cambuslang and Rutherglen.

Collecting environmental data

4.4 The environmental baseline was established for those environmental issues scoped into the assessment, taken from the environmental topics listed in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act. The relevant environmental information was primarily sourced from the Council's State of the Environment Report (2015), with primary data updated from previous reports in 2009, 2011 and 2013 and further information gathered from SEPA, HES, SNH and other sources. The collection of the baseline information and key indicators will support the SLBS and BDIP's monitoring programmes. The current status, trend and key environmental issues are considered through the data collected across the environmental indicators relevant to the plans. The following sections provide information on the environmental issues relevant for this SEA, which are:

- Population and human health
- Biodiversity, fauna and flora
- Soil
- Water
- Air, noise and light
- Climate change
- Historic and cultural heritage
- Material assets
- Landscape.

4.5 The baseline assessment requires consideration of the issues listed below:

- The inter-relationship between the issues.
- Short, medium and long term effects.
- Permanent and temporary effects.
- Positive and negative effects.
- Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects.

Environmental baseline

4.6 The environmental baseline has been collected using key environmental indicators that are reported within the Council's State of the Environment Report. A summary of the key issues affecting South Lanarkshire are highlighted in **Table 4** with an indication of the affected receptors and the potential opportunities within the SLBS and BDIP to address such issues. A representation of the environmental data is included in **Appendix 3**, with the current status of the key environmental indicators identified using past year trends.

Table 4: Key environmental issues within South Lanarkshire associated with the SLBS/BDIP

Identified issue and cause	Affected receptor	Opportunities and implications
Population and human health		
The area's population has grown at a faster rate than the national average, Its people experience poorer health, particularly in social, economic and environmentally deprived areas. There are differences across South Lanarkshire in mortality rates, with clear links between poor health, poverty and deprivation. Life expectancy is lower in deprived areas.	Cumulative effects on human health and community wellbeing	Both the SLBS and BDIP will encourage the use of the rural area and urban greenspace by people and communities. They will protect and promote the benefits of biodiversity to people of all ages across South Lanarkshire and beyond. This will help improve the health and wellbeing of people who use it.
Biodiversity, fauna and flora		
South Lanarkshire has a wide range of habitats, most of which are affected by historical fragmentation and decline. There is a poor level of species richness within urbanised areas, with limited pockets of rich habitats. The main environmental pressures having an adverse effect on biodiversity within the area include the invasion of non-native species and the inappropriate location of urban development or development that is insensitive to the local natural environment.	Cumulative effects on sensitive habitats and individual species	Implementation of the SLBS and BDIP will have direct impact in stemming the decline of biodiversity assets within South Lanarkshire. Both plans will help ensure the effective management of these assets which in turn will help to improve the quality and richness of the local environment across all ecosystems.
Soil		
The soil quality in the area is generally good. Healthy and diverse soils are important for crop growth, carbon storage and sustaining biodiversity across a range of habitats.	Cumulative synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health and sensitive habitats and species	The SLBS and BDIP will contribute to the improvement of soil quality by ensuring actions that facilitate the eradication of invasive non native species, encourage native species and protect key habitats.
Air		
Although air quality in South Lanarkshire is generally good, there are some areas where traffic emissions result in poor air quality that exceed limits set to protect health.	Cumulative effects relating to air issues	The SLBS and BDIP will contribute to the improvement of air quality by encouraging planting of plants, woodland and forestry, where appropriate. This will also contribute to carbon capture.
Water		
Water quality in South Lanarkshire is good and continues to improve. Climate change predictions indicate a potential risk of increased flooding incidents although the Council's flood protection approach has significantly improved.	Cumulative in nature on the cause and effect of climate change	The SLBS and BDIP will directly support the enhancement and management of the quality and quantity of the water environment in both urban and rural areas. It will include opportunities to use natural flood defence where appropriate.

Identified issue and cause	Affected receptor	Opportunities and implications
Material assets		
The remediation and redevelopment of vacant and derelict land is a Council priority. Many areas are well serviced by both recreational greenspace and built facilities. Public access to the wider environment is promoted through a wide range of initiatives, including the core path network.	Cumulative with secondary impacts on human health	The SLBS and BDIP will support the remediation of vacant and derelict land whilst protecting the biodiversity in these areas, where appropriate. They will promote the importance of good quality, safe greenspace and the protection of designated and locally important habitats and species, particularly within urban areas.
Climate change		
South Lanarkshire's climate is linked at the national and global scale, with global changes having a consequence locally. The main climate trends for Scotland are warmer and drier summers and warmer and wetter autumns and winters.	Cumulative in nature on the cause and effect of climate change	The SLBS and BDIP will help to protect the area's biodiversity assets from climate change by considering relevant adaptation measures. The SLBS and BDIP will take cognisance of the effects of a changing climate, particularly regarding the introduction and spread of invasive non native species to the area which may impact on human, animal and plant health.
Historic and cultural heritage		
The area has a rich heritage with an increase in the number of designated sites, listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments. The cultural richness of the area provides a rich sense of cultural identity which is important for enhancing the quality of life across the region.	Cumulative effects on historic and cultural assets	The SLBS and BDIP can help protect the cultural and historic heritage of the area, for example, by the protection of ancient woodland, the promotion of Garden and Designed Landscapes and through initiatives around the removal of invasive non native species and promoting the resurgence of native species.
Landscape		
South Lanarkshire's landscape is diverse. It is an important asset for the area, providing a distinctive character, promoting community wellbeing, supporting biodiversity and contributing to the local economy.	Cumulative and synergistic effects on landscape character and setting	The SLBS and BDIP can help promote the benefits of our diverse landscape and the biodiversity within it. They can protect it from the impacts on non native invasive species and by promoting the recovery of native species.

Key issues relating to the SLBS and BDIP

4.7 Schedule 3 (4) of the SEA Act requires the Environmental Report to include a description of existing environmental problems, in particular those relating to any areas of specific environmental importance. The existing environmental problems (refer to above in the baseline data within **Table 4**) require to be considered in relation to the draft SLBS and BDIP and whether they will potentially aggravate, reduce or otherwise affect current problems.

4.8 There are issues related to the impact on biodiversity through the loss and fragmentation of habitats. Enhancement works on habitats for specific species may have inadvertent detrimental effects on other species reliant on that habitat. Loss of biodiversity can result in reduced ecosystem function and the loss of key ecosystem services. The plans will enable and promote the safeguarding of the area's rich, varied and vulnerable biodiversity and will promote access to the wider environment for people and communities. Linked to this is the safeguarding of our landscape assets which are deemed important for local people and tourists. The plans also have an important role in ensuring that carbon rich soils and agricultural land are protected for the benefit of biodiversity.

4.9 The population's health is of concern within South Lanarkshire, along with the impact both the local community and environment have on influencing health benefits. The plans can potentially influence these health impacts, for example, by safeguarding existing trees and

promoting planting of new trees. Trees act as ‘green lungs’ and contribute towards cleaner air, particularly in urban areas. The promotion of active lifestyles and encouraging enjoyment of the ‘great outdoors’, alongside the provision of greenspace and functional recreation areas, are important aspects of community wellbeing.

4.10 It is considered that through the SEA process existing environmental concerns shall be taken into account and, where necessary, mitigation measures will ensure that concerns highlighted will not be aggravated, and in some instances may be reduced. At the same time opportunities to further enhance positive environmental effects will be considered.

Likely evolution of the environment without the SLBS and BDIP

4.11 The SEA process involves an assessment of the evolution of the environment without the SLBS and BDIP being implemented. In relation to the current trends identified in the existing South Lanarkshire environment, with no SLBS or BDIP certain environmental indicators would either deteriorate or would not achieve their full environmental potential through appropriate service provisions.

4.12 Both plans aim to raise awareness of the value and vulnerability of biodiversity and related ecosystem services. Without the plans there would be less understanding of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services and there may be significant negative impacts from insensitive projects and developments. A lack of understanding of the vulnerability of biodiversity would make it more likely that measures to avoid, offset or mitigate adverse effects would not be put in place in development and other related plans and projects.

4.13 Although the current trend in human health would continue to improve, the level of progress achieved may well be less than it could be due to a lack of understanding of the role the natural environment plays in promoting health. Both plans will encourage people and communities to explore, enjoy and value the natural environment in South Lanarkshire. Projects led and promoted by the Council and our partners encourage people to become more actively involved in conservation work, which brings benefits to physical and mental health and wellbeing. Without the plans, there would be missed opportunities to promote the benefits of our ‘Natural Health Service’.

4.14 The plans help to raise the importance of soil ecosystems and the link between soils and biodiversity. They also promote the importance of aquatic ecosystems and the quality of our water environment. Although monitoring of freshwater would still take place as required by the Water Framework Directive, projects tackling specific habitats and species may not occur and opportunities to create new or enhance existing wetland or aquatic habitats may be lost.

Question 3

Environmental baseline and evolution with and without the SLBS and BDIP

Have the correct environmental issues been identified and opportunities realised within the context of the SLBS and BDIP in Section 4 and Appendix 3?

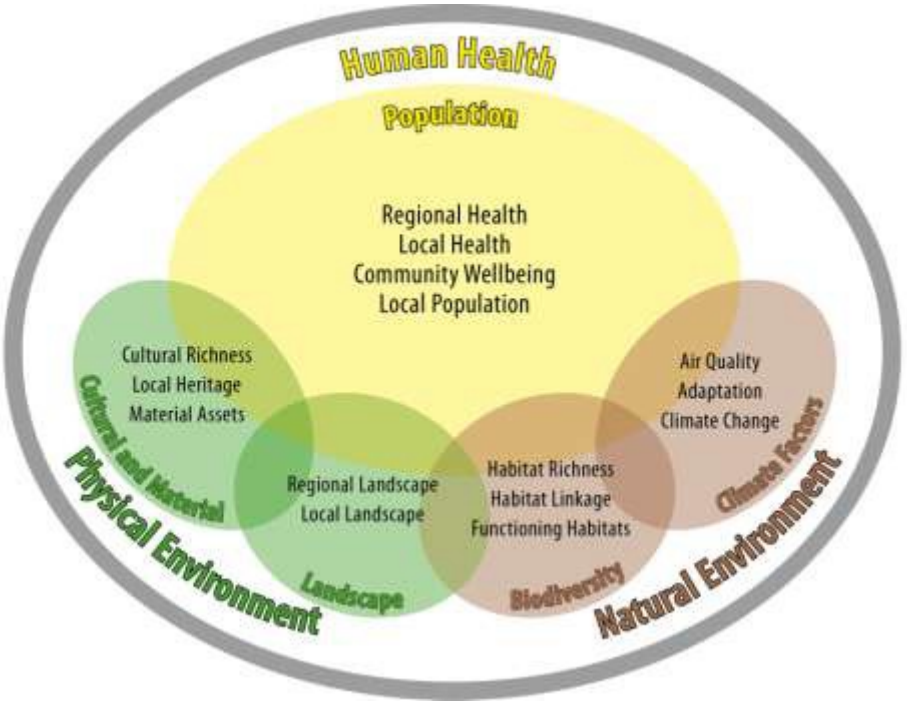
5. Development of the assessment criteria

Considering hierarchy of key environmental issues

5.1 The purpose of the SEA is to inform the development of the draft SLBS and BDIP by assessing the potential impacts they may have upon the environment. A useful way to undertake the assessment (describing, analysing and comparing the environmental effects of the draft SLBS and BDIP) is through the use of environmentally-specific objectives (referred to as SEA objectives) and a series of indicator questions.

5.2 The SEA objectives are separate from the SLBS and BDIP outcomes although they can influence each other and even overlap. To fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive, the SEA objectives cover the environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act, including the interrelationship between them. The theme of a connective and fluid environment that can influence the delivery of the SLBS and BDIP has been adapted through the appropriate grouping of environmental issues (see **Figure 2**).

Figure 2: The connectivity of key local environmental issues



Development of the SEA objectives

5.3 The SLBS and BDIP both reinforce the importance of the rich and varied biodiversity within South Lanarkshire and the positive contribution this makes to human health and wellbeing, the natural environment, the attractiveness of the area and the local economy. The SLBS is intended to provide the strategic framework to inform and guide action within the Council, across partners and local communities. It will identify the key issues relating to biodiversity in South Lanarkshire and set out agreed priorities across the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership to protect and enhance biodiversity in the area in line with national policy. The SLBS will be supported by a detailed monitoring system and action plan.

5.4 As such, the SEA objectives have been set at an appropriate level for assessing the SLBS and BDIP, without creating an overburden for it where other PPS within the Council are the key drivers, and which have undergone SEA in their own right. The assessment, however, aims to identify such drivers to help ensure the environment is adequately protected and the results of the

SEA are considered at the correct level to ensure the promotion of environment benefits for the area.

5.5 The requirements of the SEA Directive through representing the environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act are presented within the SEA objectives. The SEA objectives for the SLBS and BDIP were initially developed by participants at the scoping workshop and these were confirmed following consultation on the Scoping Report. The SEA objectives and assessment criteria are presented in **Table 5**. These SEA objectives and criteria were used as measures by which the environmental impacts of the draft plans were assessed.

Table 5: Key environmental issues with SEA objectives and assessment criteria

Environmental issue	SEA objective	Indicator question
Population and human health	Promote the contribution of a healthy and accessible natural environment to human health and wellbeing	• Does the SLBS/BDIP contribute to the reduction of risk to human health and wellbeing? • Does the SLBS/BDIP promote the benefits associated with a rich environment? • Does the SLBS/BDIP promote a safe and sustainable environment? • Does the SLBS/BDIP promote opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles? • Does the SLBS/BDIP promote opportunities for people to learn about and engage with the natural environment? • Does the SLBS/BDIP encourage public participation in improving biodiversity?
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity and functioning habitats and avoid irreversible loss	• Does the SLBS/BDIP promote the protection of designated and non-designated habitats and species? • Does the SLBS/BDIP promote the connectivity and integration of priority habitats? • Does the SLBS/BDIP promote the importance of biodiversity within the local environment? • Does the SLBS/BDIP help to effectively tackle the eradication of invasive non native species from affected sites?
Soil	Protect soils, maintain ecosystems functionality and enhance soil quality	• Does the SLBS/BDIP promote the richness of a good quality soil environment? • Does the SLBS/BDIP help prevent the deterioration of soil function? • Does the SLBS/BDIP help to reduce potential impact on geological designated features? • Does the SLBS/BDIP protect and enhance peatland? • Does the SLBS/BDIP protect and enhance agricultural and forest soils? • Does the SLBS/BDIP promote the economic value of healthy soils?
Water	Protect and enhance the water environment, including the biodiversity of freshwater bodies and wetlands	• Does the SLBS/BDIP help protect and enhance the water environment? • Does the SLBS/BDIP help safeguard the biodiversity within water courses? • Does the SLBS/BDIP consider the role of biodiversity in flood mitigation?
Air, noise and light	Protect and improve air quality	• Does the SLBS/BDIP help protect local air quality? • Does the SLBS/BDIP help mitigate negative impact on air quality? • Does the SLBS/BDIP help mitigate noise and light pollution?

Environmental issue	SEA objective	Indicator question
Climate change	Develop and maintain robust ecosystems which can adapt to climate change	• Does the SLBS/BDIP help to maintain and enhance the carbon sequestration of ecosystems? • Does the SLBS/BDIP help to maintain and enhance ecosystem function? • Does the SLBS/BDIP help promote sustainable development? • Does the SLBS/BDIP help reduce the impacts of changing climate?
Material assets	Promote the effective and sustainable use of land and other material assets	• Does the SLBS/BDIP support the improvement and quality of greenspace? • Does the SLBS/BDIP help promote the economic, social and environmental value of material assets? • Does the SLBS/BDIP help to ensure that biodiversity assets are sustainably managed? • Does the SLBS/BDIP recognise the importance of vacant and derelict land for biodiversity?
Historic and cultural heritage	Safeguard and enhance the built and historic environment, including historic landscapes	• Does the SLBS/BDIP recognise and promote the value of the setting of historic environment assets? • Does the SLBS/BDIP help prevent damage to historic and cultural heritage?
Landscape	Maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes	• Does the SLBS/BDIP help to define landscape character? • Does the SLBS/BDIIP help to protect landscape setting?

Question 4

Development of the assessment criteria – SEA objectives

Do you agree with the revised SEA objectives and assessment criteria in **Table 5**?

6. Assessment of alternatives

Assessing alternatives

6.1 The SEA Act requires that an Environmental Report is prepared to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the SLBS/BDIP, together with assessing reasonable alternatives.

6.2 The overall purpose of both plans is to protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity of South Lanarkshire. The purpose of the SLBS is to provide a strategic framework to inform and guide action and through which mitigation measures taken by South Lanarkshire Council and its partners and other stakeholders can be coordinated and targeted to make best use of limited resources.

6.3 The workshop considered four alternatives in developing the SLBS and BDIP. These are:

1. **Retain the current SLBS and BDIP.** Continue with the current strategy and plan as these are based on an ecosystems approach.

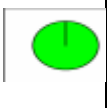
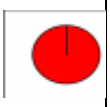
2. **A new SLBS and BDIP focussed on ecosystems approach.** Prepare a new strategy and plan focussed on an ecosystems approach which accords with the national planning agenda.

3. **A new SLBS and BDIP focussed on action planning**. Prepare a new strategy and plan based on Habitat Action Plans and Species Action Plans.

4. **Have no SLBS/BDIP**.

6.4 The four alternatives were previously assessed against the SEA environmental issues and reported in the Scoping Report. The Consultation Authorities agreed with the suggested alternatives in their responses to the Scoping Report. The findings from the assessment of the four alternatives are summarised in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Summary of the assessment of alternatives to implementing the SLBS/BDIP

Alternative SLBS/BDIP deliveries	Score	Assessment comments
1. Retain the current SLBS and BDIP.		Although many elements of the current plans remain pertinent, there is a need to refresh them to accord with changes in the national policy agenda and to address emerging issues relating to soil and geo-diversity.
2. A new SLBS and BDIP focussed on ecosystems approach.		Taking an ecosystems approach to the SLBS and BDIP provides the greatest opportunity to gain wider benefits and improve the local environment. This approach would build on the positive achievements from the current plans which were also based on an ecosystems approach.
3. A new SLBS and BDIP focussed on action planning.		Some benefits were identified in relation to an action planning approach to the new plans, particularly in relation to the Local Development Plan. However, as both the existing plans and the national strategy were based on ecosystems it was considered that this would be a more appropriate approach to take.
4. Have no SLBS/BDIP.		Although there is no direct legal requirement for either plan to be produced, public bodies have a legal duty to further the conservation of biodiversity consistent with the proper exercise of its functions. Having a SLBS and BDIP enables the Partnership and the Council to demonstrate how these duties are met.
Key	✓ Positive environmental outcome	✘ Negative environmental outcome	? Effect uncertain

Identified key issues within the alternatives

6.5 The process of assessing alternatives identified key issues and areas for development which have influenced the drafting of the SLBS and BDIP. The workshop reflected that although the current plans had worked well and had delivered on many aspects, there was a need to update and refresh both plans to coincide with recent changes nationally, particularly the publication of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. As a result the workshop determined that Alternative 1 was not a suitable option.

6.6 With regard to Alternative 4, the workshop considered that although there is not a statutory requirement to develop and implement a biodiversity strategy or implementation plan, the Council and other public service partners do have a biodiversity duty. Having a strategy and plan allows the Council and partners to agree and articulate their biodiversity priorities and to prepare and adhere to action plans to meet these. Accordingly, the workshop determined that Alternative 4 was not a suitable option.

6.7 In considering Alternatives 2 and 3, the workshop participants agreed that there was a need for a new updated strategy and plan. They reflected that there were many positives in both approaches but considered that the ecosystem approach would be more consistent to both the existing plans and to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

6.8 Both the workshop and subsequent analysis considered that Alternative 2 demonstrated the best approach for achieving the greatest potential environmental benefits from the plans on a strategic and holistic basis. The ecosystem approach will help to further promote partnership working and help strengthen links between other relevant strategies and plans at a national and local level. Alternative 2 ‘A new SLBS and BDIP focussed on ecosystems approach’ was considered to be the most appropriate alternative and this is the approach taken within the draft SLBS and BDIP.

Question 5

Assessment of alternatives to the SLBS and BDIP

Do you agree with the alternatives to the draft SLBS and BDIP and results in Table 6?

7. Assessment of the draft SLBS and BDIP

Compatibility assessment criteria

7.1 The draft SLBS and BDIP were assessed for their environmental effects and likely significance upon the environmental baseline. The plans were assessed against the range of environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act, using the SEA objectives which formed the assessment criteria. The SEA objectives noted in Section 5 were developed to measure the environmental performance of the draft SLBS and BDIP. The assessment was informed by the following steps:

- Predicting potential environmental effects.
- Determining the magnitude of the effects and the sensitivity of the receptors.
- Evaluating the significance of the effects of implementation.
- Predicting the cumulative effects of the SLBS and BDIP.
- Developing mitigation measures to prevent, reduce or offset effects.
- Revising assessment taking into account agreed mitigation measures.

7.2 The Community Plan 'Stronger Together' provides the strategic basis for partners to prepare, develop and implement specific plans that will address specific environmental issues. In terms of the Council, both the Council Plan 'Connect' and the Sustainable Development Strategy provide this role for individual Council Resources (departments) and Services. This includes the SLBS and BDIP.

Compatibility assessment of the SLBS and BDIP

7.3 The assessment drew out specific issues that required further consideration within the drafting of the SLBS and BDIP by the addition of further descriptive text and actions. The key result of the assessment is the finding that both plans are fully compatible with the SEA objectives.

7.4 The compatibility assessment identified that the draft plans place strong emphasis on the benefits to people and communities from the natural environment and from biodiversity. The plans aim to maximise potential benefits in terms of safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity assets and ecosystems, and as a result, provide benefits to the natural environment and to human health and wellbeing.

7.5 The assessment highlighted that a monitoring programme requires to be developed for the implementation of the plans. Both programmes should incorporate other monitoring commitments, such as the biennial South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report, to reduce the overall monitoring and reporting burden. Taking this forward, both plans will set out the monitoring programmes for their delivery which include information and trends identified within the State of the Environment Report and the Council's performance management system, IMPROVe.

Evaluating the potential environmental effects

7.6 After updating the SLBS and BDIP with the results of the compatibility assessment the environmental consequences were assessed through a prediction and evaluation assessment. At this stage of the SEA, consideration was given to the overall level of impact across the plans and the SEA objectives in relation to:

- Direction of impact (positive or negative),
- Intensity of impact (major or minor positive or negative),
- Duration of impact (short (1-2 years), medium (2-5 years) or long term (beyond the lifetime of the plan)),
- Prediction of the cumulative effects and the development of mitigation and enhancement measures.

7.7 Through predicting and evaluating the potential environmental consequences of the plans consideration was given to the proposed strategic outcomes within the SLBS and the broad thematic areas set out in the BDIP that deliver on environmental issues.

Assessment of potential environmental effects

7.8 The approach to the assessment was to consider each strategic outcome in the SLBS and the broad thematic areas in the BDIP and to consider how these could potentially affect the local environment. The full assessment is shown in **Appendix 4**. A summary of the key environmental effects are shown in **Table 7**.

Table 7: Summary of key environmental effects and receptors

Strategic Outcome 1: Invasive non-native species are monitored and controlled
Population – Monitoring and controlling INNS will help reduce risks of injury to people from contact from potentially harmful plants. Delivery of the outcome will open access to the countryside impeded by INNS. There is the potential to reduce stress of people affected by INNS, such as Japanese knotweed, in their property. The SLBS encourages volunteering activities to help control and eradicate INNS.
Biodiversity – Controlling INNS will help protect and enhance native habitats and species.
Soil – The removal of INNS will help return soils to their natural function across all ecosystems.
Water – The key INNS in South Lanarkshire have a significant impact on the freshwater ecosystem, including riparian habitats. Delivery of the outcome will help reduce these impacts and contribute to a healthy water environment.
Climate change – Removal of INNS will help return ecosystems to a sustainable function and provide effective habitat corridors to help native species adapt to a changing climate.
Material assets – Delivery of this outcome will help retain the value of biodiversity and land assets through enabling full provision of ecosystem services.
Historic and cultural heritage – Delivery of this outcome will potentially reduce the impact of INNS on the setting of historic buildings and sites. It will help to reduce the impact of INNS on historic assets, including buildings and culturally important assets, such as ancient woodlands.
Landscape – Delivery of the outcome will help reduce potential negative impacts on the landscape from large areas of INNS.
Strategic Outcome 2: Designated and locally important sites are conserved
Population – The designation of potential Local Nature Reserves will protect and enhance quality local environments and greenspace for communities, particularly in urban areas. This will afford opportunities for health and wellbeing benefits through a 'Natural Health Service' approach. This will encourage recreational, outdoor learning and educational activities and will contribute to healthy lifestyles. Designated and locally important sites will be promoted to communities for their health and wellbeing benefits as well as the opportunities they provide for volunteering and community involvement.
Biodiversity – The primary purpose of the SLBS is to protect and enhance biodiversity in South Lanarkshire. Delivery of the outcome will help promote the value and benefits of biodiversity in the area, for example, through the identification and designation of Local Nature Conservation Sites.
Soil – Delivery of the outcome will help protect and enhance peatland, woodland and agricultural soils. Sites designated for geological features will also be safeguarded through site condition monitoring.
Water – Designated and locally important sites are recognised for their freshwater features. The value of these biodiversity assets will be promoted through the delivery of this outcome.

Air, noise and light – The protection of designated sites and the future designation of Local Nature Reserves and Local Nature Conservation Sites has the potential to improve local air quality to adjacent communities through safeguarding the 'green lungs' provided by these sites.
Climate change – Ensuring the protection of designated and locally important sites will provide opportunities for natural flood management, where appropriate and will help to protect peatland from deterioration.
Material assets – The protection of designated sites and the future designation of locally important sites will promote the effective and sustainable use of existing greenspace, the Green Network and the countryside. There are potential opportunities to improve existing access and amenity for local communities. It may provide opportunities for effective and sustainable land management practices involving local people and communities.
Historic and cultural heritage – The designation of Local Nature Reserves and Local Nature Conservation Sites will help safeguard the setting of historical assets from inappropriate development.
Landscape – The designation of Local Nature Reserves and Local Nature Conservation Sites will help safeguard local landscape and townscapes from inappropriate development.
Strategic Outcome 3: People have opportunities to connect with nature
Population – Connections with nature and natural spaces has demonstrable benefits to physical and mental health and wellbeing. Delivery of this outcome will facilitate opportunities for local people and communities to participate in a wide range of outdoor activities, including volunteering, citizen science and outdoor learning. This has the potential to improve health and wellbeing through engagement with nature.
Biodiversity – Positive engagement with nature will encourage people to value biodiversity within their local community. They will potentially take opportunities to participate in activities which will help protect and enhance the quality of local biodiversity. The SLBS will provide opportunities for greater knowledge and understanding of nature which will help safeguard biodiversity.
Soil – Encouraging volunteering and other community involvement has the potential to help safeguard sensitive soils. For example, through projects to remove INNS to protect soil functionality.
Water – Encouraging volunteering and other community involvement has the potential to help safeguard the water environment and its biodiversity.
Climate change – This outcome encourages citizen science and other activities. Delivery of the outcome has the potential to improve habitat resilience to enable species to adapt to climate change.
Material assets – This outcome provides the opportunity to promote community involvement and engagement in natural spaces. This has the potential to increase the sustainable management and understanding of land assets within the community.
Historic and cultural heritage – Delivery of this outcome has the potential to safeguard the setting of historic and cultural assets.
Landscape – Delivery of this outcome has the potential to safeguard the setting of local landscapes and townscapes.
Strategic Outcome 4: Freshwater habitats are improved and preserved
Population – Improving the water environment will potentially contribute to the attractiveness of the area. Opportunities for community engagement may contribute towards the 'Natural Health Service' which has the potential to lead to opportunities to improve health and wellbeing.
Biodiversity –The primary purpose of the SLBS is to protect and enhance biodiversity, including within the freshwater ecosystem. Delivery of this outcome will help to improve the quality and integrity of the water environment.

Water – The primary purpose of the SLBS is to protect and enhance biodiversity, including within the freshwater ecosystem. Delivery of this outcome will help to improve the quality and integrity of the water environment.
Climate change – Delivery of this outcome will promote natural flood management, where appropriate. By improving the quality of freshwater ecosystems, habitat resilience will be strengthened and species will be enabled to adapt to a changing climate.
Material assets – Delivery of this outcome will help retain the value of biodiversity and land assets through enabling full provision of ecosystem services.
Historic and cultural heritage – Safeguarding our watercourses will help to protect the integrity of the setting of historic and culturally important areas. For example, ancient woodland around river gorges.
Landscape – Safeguarding our water environment and freshwater habitats will contribute to the overall quality of the landscape.
Strategic Outcome 5: The biodiversity value of low lying farmland is improved
Biodiversity – The primary purpose of the SLBS is to protect and enhance biodiversity, including within low lying farmland. Delivery of this outcome will help to improve the quality and integrity of this ecosystem.
Soil – Delivery of this outcome will help safeguard sensitive agricultural soils. The promotion of good farming practices will help to improve the biodiversity value of agricultural land.
Water –This outcome will consider approaches to improve the quality and integrity of freshwater bodies and wetlands. Its delivery has the potential to promote the value of the water environment and its biodiversity.
Climate change – There is potential for appropriately managed sites to contribute to natural flood management, where appropriate and carbon storage. Ecosystem aspects, such as hedgerows, will provide corridors which will enable species movement in response to climate change.
Material assets – This outcome promotes various approaches to protect and enhance biodiversity within low lying farmland.
Landscape – The safeguarding of biodiversity assets in low lying farmland will contribute to the enhancement of the landscape.
Strategic Outcome 6: Peatlands are protected and improved
Population – This outcome will provide opportunities for community engagement and participation aimed at safeguarding and enhancing peatlands. Activities will help to ensure that some sites provide safe access for people which will benefit their health and wellbeing.
Biodiversity – The primary purpose of the SLBS is to protect and enhance biodiversity, including peatlands. Delivery of this outcome has the potential to improve the quality and integrity of this key habitat, including designated and locally important sites.
Soil – This outcome offers protection and opportunities to improve carbon rich soils through improving the functionality of the peatland ecosystem.
Water – Peatlands contribute to a healthy freshwater environment through the ecosystem services they provide. Delivery of this outcome will support this process.
Climate change – This outcome has the potential to safeguard and enhance peatlands. These act as valuable carbon sinks and contribute to natural flood management, where appropriate. By improving the quality of peatlands, species will be better able to cope with the challenges of climate change.

Material assets – Delivery of this outcome will contribute to the long term sustainability and viability of peatland.
Landscape – Safeguarding our peatlands will contribute to the overall quality of the landscape.
Strategic Outcome 7: Uplands are managed in a sustainable way
Population – Delivery of this outcome will protect the quality of the water supply for people and communities.
Biodiversity – The primary purpose of the SLBS is to protect and improve the area's biodiversity. Delivery of this outcome will help to improve the quality and integrity of upland ecosystems, including designated sites.
Soil – Delivery of this outcome has the potential to protect and maintain upland soils, including peatland.
Water – The primary purpose of the SLBS is to protect and improve the area's biodiversity. Delivery of this outcome will help to improve the quality and integrity of the water environment within upland ecosystems, including designated sites.
Climate change – This outcome has the potential to safeguard and enhance peatlands. These act as valuable carbon sinks and provide natural flood management, where appropriate. By improving the quality of upland mosaic habitats, species will be enabled to adapt to a changing climate.
Material assets – Delivery of this outcome will help retain the value of biodiversity and land assets through enabling full provision of ecosystem services. This will contribute to their long term sustainability.
Landscape – Delivery of this outcome has the potential to contribute to upland landscape character.
Strategic Outcome 8: The urban environment benefits biodiversity
Population – Effective management of urban areas will protect and enhance the local environment and greenspace for communities. This will afford opportunities for health and wellbeing benefits through a 'Natural Health Service' approach which will encourage recreational, outdoor learning, educational activities and volunteering.
Biodiversity – The primary purpose of the SLBS is to protect and enhance biodiversity in South Lanarkshire. Delivery of the outcome will help promote the value and benefits of biodiversity in the area. Positive engagement with nature will encourage people to value biodiversity within their local community through activities which will help protect and enhance the quality of local biodiversity. The SLBS will provide opportunities for greater knowledge and understanding of nature which will help safeguard biodiversity.
Soil – Delivery of this outcome will help to safeguard woodland soils in the urban area.
Water – Delivery of this outcome will improve the water environment in the urban area which will have positive effects on biodiversity. There are potential benefits to biodiversity from improving the quality and functionality of sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS).
Climate change – By improving the quality of the urban environment, habitat resilience will be strengthened and species will be enabled to adapt to a changing climate.
Air, noise and light – The protection and enhancement of urban woodlands has the potential to improve local air quality through safeguarding the 'green lungs' provided by these sites.
Material assets – There is the potential to improve land management practices in the urban area which will have a positive effective on the biodiversity value of habitats and greenspace.
Historic and cultural heritage – There is the potential to safeguard and promote the historic and cultural identity of local areas.

Landscape – Improvements to the urban environment will have positive effects on local townscapes.
Strategic Outcome 9: Vacant and Derelict Land contributes to biodiversity
Population – Delivery of this outcome will potentially enable proactive management of previously neglected areas for the benefit of people, communities and nature. This has the potential to improve health and wellbeing through active recreation and engagement with nature.
Biodiversity – The primary purpose of the SLBS is to protect and improve the area's biodiversity. Delivery of this outcome will help to improve the quality and integrity of ecosystems on vacant and derelict land and will contribute to the effectiveness of habitat corridors. There is the potential to promote the value of biodiversity within these sites to a wider audience.
Soil – Encouraging biodiversity on these sites has the potential to contribute to the improvement and functionality of soils in the longer term.
Water – Delivery of this outcome will improve the quality of the water environment on vacant and derelict sites, particularly in the urban area. There is the potential for positive effects on biodiversity on these sites.
Climate change – Delivery of this outcome will help to conserve important habitats and species on these sites. This will have the potential to develop habitat networks which will assist species to adapt to a changing climate.
Material assets – Delivery of this outcome will raise awareness and understanding of the value of habitats within vacant and derelict land. It has the potential to augment greenspace and contribute to the Green Network.
Historic and cultural heritage – Improving and, where appropriate, retaining heritage features within vacant and derelict land has the potential to safeguard the cultural and historic identity of communities, particularly those located in the urban area.
Strategic Outcome 10: Woodlands are restored and managed
Population – The restoration and effective management of woodlands will contribute to the protection and enhancement of quality local environments and greenspace for communities, particularly in urban areas. This has the potential to improve health and provide wellbeing benefits through a 'Natural Health Service' approach which will encourage recreation, outdoor learning, educational activities and volunteering.
Biodiversity – The primary purpose of the SLBS is to protect and enhance biodiversity, including woodlands. Delivery of this outcome has the potential to improve the quality and integrity of this key habitat, including designated and locally important sites.
Soil – Delivery of this outcome offers potential to protect and enhance woodland soils through improving the functionality of woodland ecosystems.
Water – Delivery of this outcome will improve the quality of the water environment and may reduce flood risk. This has the potential for positive effects on biodiversity within the woodland ecosystem.
Climate change – By improving the quality of woodlands, habitat resilience will be strengthened and species will be enabled to adapt to a changing climate.
Air, noise and light – The protection and enhancement of woodlands has the potential to improve local air quality through safeguarding the 'green lungs' provided by these sites.
Material assets – Improving our woodlands will promote the effective and sustainable use of existing greenspace, the Green Network and the countryside. There are potential opportunities to improve existing access and amenity for local communities and for the provision of effective and sustainable land management practices involving local people and communities.

Historic and cultural heritage – Delivery of this outcome offers opportunities to protect and promote ancient woodland and will help to promote the cultural identity of the area.
Landscape – Delivery of this outcome will help to protect the landscape character of the area.
BDIP: Mainstreaming
Population – The BDIP promotes the benefits of the 'Natural Health Service' through the provision of outdoor recreational opportunities, including the designation of Local Nature Reserves. It promotes the value of SEA consideration of all Council led policies, plans and strategies, including the links between health and biodiversity. It promotes knowledge and understanding of the benefits of nature and biodiversity to people.
Biodiversity – The primary purpose of the BDIP is to protect and enhance biodiversity in South Lanarkshire. Delivery of the theme will help promote the value and benefits of biodiversity in the area through the local planning system. This will help to embed the Biodiversity Duty across all Council services.
Soil – Delivery of this theme will help to protect and enhance sensitive soils, through, for example, consideration within SEA work, site designations and the development and implementation of relevant key strategies.
Water – Delivery of this theme will help to protect and enhance the water environment, through, for example, consideration within SEA work, site designations and the development and implementation of relevant key strategies. Designated and locally important sites are recognised for their freshwater features. The value of these biodiversity assets will be promoted through the delivery of this theme.
Climate change – There is potential for appropriately managed sites to contribute to natural flood management, where appropriate and carbon storage. Enhancement of ecosystem aspects, such as hedgerows and woodlands, will provide habitat networks which will enable species movement in response to climate change.
Air, noise and light – The protection of designated sites and the future designation of Local Nature Reserves and Local Nature Conservation Sites has the potential to improve local air quality to adjacent communities through safeguarding the 'green lungs' they provide.
Material assets – The BDIP sets out how the Council will manage its own land assets. The protection of designated sites and the future designation of locally important sites will promote the effective and sustainable use of the existing greenspace, the Green Network and the countryside. It may provide opportunities for effective and sustainable land management practices involving local people and communities.
Historic and cultural heritage – The designation of Local Nature Reserves and Local Nature Conservation Sites will help safeguard the setting of historical assets.
Landscape – Delivery of the BDIP, including the designation of Local Nature Reserves and the management of green networks will help to safeguard local landscapes and townscapes.
BDIP: Conserving and enhancing biodiversity
Population – Delivery of the BDIP will help to bring improvements to Council owned land which has the potential to provide health and wellbeing benefits.
Biodiversity – The primary purpose of the BDIP is to protect and enhance biodiversity in the area, for example, through development and mitigation measures, including Habitat Management Plans. Delivery of this theme will promote the value and benefits of biodiversity within Council owned land.
Soil – Actions within the BDIP, such as INNS control and the implementation of Habitat Management Plans have the potential to safeguard sensitive soils.

Water – Delivery of the BDIP will benefit the water environment through the promotion of appropriate management measures, such as Habitat Management Plans.
Climate change – Delivery of this theme has the potential to improve habitat resilience to enable species to adapt to climate change. It will also contribute to natural flood management, where appropriate and carbon storage.
Air, noise and light – Delivery of the BDIP, for example, through the effective management of open space and the improvement to green infrastructure has the potential to improve local air quality.
Material assets – The BDIP offers the potential for the Council to provide a more co-ordinated approach to the delivery of its assets, including land management for the benefit of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Landscape –Delivery of the BDIP has the potential to safeguard the setting of local landscapes and townscapes.
BDIP: Partnership working
Population – Delivery of the BDIP has the potential to improve partnership working which will facilitate opportunities for local people and communities to participate in a wide range of outdoor activities, including volunteering, citizen science and outdoor learning. This has the potential to improve health and wellbeing through engagement with nature.
Biodiversity – The key purpose of the BDIP is to protect and enhance biodiversity. It promotes partnership work for this purpose across the spectrum from communities to the strategic level. This should have a positive impact on local biodiversity.
Soil – Encouraging partnership working has the potential to help safeguard sensitive soils, for example, through projects to remove INNS to improve soil functionality.
Water – Encouraging partnership working has the potential to help safeguard the water environment and its biodiversity.
Climate change – There is the potential for appropriately managed sites to contribute to natural flood management, where appropriate and carbon storage. By improving the quality of ecosystems, habitat resilience will be strengthened and species will be enabled to adapt to a changing climate.
Air, noise and light – Partnership working will help improve local air quality, particularly within urban areas through the promotion of green infrastructure.
Material assets – Partnership working will promote the effective and sustainable use of existing greenspace, the Green Network and the countryside. There are potential opportunities to improve existing access and amenity for local communities.
Landscape – Delivery of the BDIP has the potential to safeguard the setting of local landscapes and townscapes.
BDIP: Communications
Population – Delivery of the BDIP will raise awareness of the benefits of the 'Natural Health Service' to people and communities and will provide opportunities for participation and engagement in activities related to biodiversity.
Biodiversity – The BDIP will provide opportunities for greater knowledge and understanding of nature which will help safeguard biodiversity. Positive engagement with nature will encourage people to value biodiversity within their local community and to take opportunities to participate in activities which can potentially protect and enhance the quality of local biodiversity.
Soil – The BDIP has the potential to promote the importance of soils within ecosystems. Raising knowledge and understanding has the potential to safeguard soils.

Water – The BDIP has the potential to promote the importance of the water environment. Raising knowledge and understanding has the potential to safeguard the water environment.
Climate change – Delivery of the BDIP will facilitate the provision of information which will help to promote the importance of biodiversity in terms of mitigating and adapting to climate change.
Material assets – The BDIP offers the potential to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and community involvement in the management of the Council's own land. It promotes the value of biodiversity to other landowners.
Historic and cultural heritage – The BDIP promotes the importance of historic and cultural assets such as ancient woodlands and cultural landscapes.
Landscape –The BDIP has the potential to promote the importance of landscape character to a wider audience.

Assessment of cumulative and synergistic impacts

7.9 As part of the overall assessment of the plans the potential for cumulative effects across and between each of the environmental issues was also assessed. The results indicated that all environmental issues scored highly, with particular high scores for biodiversity, human health and material assets (**Table 8**).

Table 8: Cumulative impacts across the SEA objectives associated with the SLBS/BDIP

SEA Objective	Score		Summary of environmental effects
	SLBS	BDIP	
Promote the contribution of a healthy and accessible natural environment to human health and wellbeing	++	++	Both plans promote the health and wellbeing benefits of the 'Natural Health Service', which encourages community involvement and recreational and educational activities which contribute to healthy lifestyles. By implementing the plans there will be cumulative positive effects on health and communities by encouraging active lifestyles and promoting community wellbeing.
Protect and enhance biodiversity and functioning habitats and avoid irreversible loss	++	++	The key purpose of both plans is to protect and enhance biodiversity in South Lanarkshire. By implementing the plans there should be greater public awareness of the importance and value of the area's biodiversity and the potential threats from, for example, climate change and invasive, non-native species.
Protect soils, maintain ecosystems functionality and enhance soil quality	++	++	Implementation of both plans will help to protect and enhance sensitive soils. There is the potential for cumulative positive effects on the quality, integrity and functionality of these important soils.
Protect and enhance the water environment including the biodiversity of freshwater bodies and wetlands	++	+	The water environment and its biodiversity will potentially be safeguarded by reducing negative impacts. Both plans promote the importance and value of the water environment and have the potential to enhance its quality and integrity.
Protect and improve air quality	+	+	Delivery of both plans has the potential to safeguard and enhance local air quality through the 'green lungs' provided by designated and locally important sites, particularly in the urban areas.
Develop and maintain robust ecosystems which can adapt to climate change	+	++	Implementation of both plans has the potential to provide effective and sustainable habitat corridors to help native species adapt to a changing climate. Improving the quality of ecosystems will strengthen habitat resilience, enhance natural flood management, where appropriate and protect peatland.

SEA Objective	Score		Summary of environmental effects
	SLBS	BDIP	
Promote the effective and sustainable use of land and other material assets	++	++	Delivery of both plans will potentially have positive cumulative effects on the value of biodiversity and land assets through enabling full provision of ecosystem services and by promoting the effective and sustainable use of greenspace, green networks and the countryside. There will be cumulative positive effects on biodiversity through the enhancement of community and partnership engagement in natural spaces and improved land management practices.
Safeguard and enhance the built and historic environment, including historic landscapes	+	+	Both plans offer cumulative positive effects on the setting and integrity of historic and cultural assets through the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
Maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes	+	+	Both plans offer cumulative positive effects on the setting and integrity of landscapes and townscapes through the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
Key	++ Major Positive	+ Minor Positive	0 Neutral
-- Major Negative	- Minor Negative	? Uncertain	+/- Mixed Effects

Question 6

Evaluation of the environmental effects of the draft SLBS/BDIP

Do you agree with the key environmental effects and receptors?

Are there any gaps in the results of the assessment in Section 7 and Appendix 4?

8. Proposed enhancement measures

8.1 Schedule 3 (7) of the SEA Act requires an explanation of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plans. The assessment highlighted that our natural environment is important for promoting healthy lifestyles and sustainable communities. The SEA demonstrated that the proposed SLBS and BDIP should result in positive effects across the full range of environmental issues, particularly in terms of biodiversity, human health and material assets.

8.2 The SEA did not identify any potential negative effects from the implementation of the SLBS and BDIP and, therefore, there is no requirement to identify mitigation measures. Potential positive effects have been identified and appropriate enhancement measures developed. These measures and the actions taken within the plans are set out in **Table 9**.

Table 9: Potential enhancement measures identified through SEA

Measure	Action taken
Opportunity to further develop local community involvement in biodiversity projects.	Both the SLBS and BDIP will have specific actions to widen community involvement to develop knowledge and understanding of biodiversity.
The SLBS could actively engage with a wider range of organisations and partners.	Actions within the SLBS have been strengthened to include additional voluntary and national biodiversity related partners.
Opportunity to further enhance biodiversity within former mineral sites.	An action has been added to the SLBS to conduct a case study on new habitat creation within a former mineral site that is being restored.
Opportunity to promote biodiversity interests with landowners through the designation of Local Nature Conservation Sites.	An action will be included in both the SLBS and the BDIP to collaborate with landowners on the management of potential LNCS and their biodiversity.
Opportunity to further enhance biodiversity on Council land.	The BDIP will promote a more holistic approach to biodiversity action across Council services.

8.3 The findings of the assessment have assisted in the further development of the SLBS and BDIP and helped to focus communications and actions across Council services and with partners. This will help ensure the promotion of sustainable development across South Lanarkshire and will facilitate the prevention, reduction and offsetting of key environmental issues identified through the SEA process. Incorporating this sustainable approach across all Council led policies, plans, programmes and strategies should result in continued environmental benefits for South Lanarkshire and the people who live, work and visit here.

8.4 Preparing both documents in tandem with a joint SEA allowed greater synergy and clarity and resulted in better consistency in approach to protecting and enhancing our biodiversity. The key changes made to the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy and the Council's Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan as a result of the SEA process are:

- **Biodiversity**
  Opportunities for new projects to support biodiversity across the Council and with communities and partners were identified.

- **Population and health**
  The opportunity for outdoor education and learning about nature and biodiversity was highlighted in both plans.

- **Climate change**
  - Increased the focus of climate change around mitigation and adaptation.
  - Strengthened the link between the safeguarding of existing green networks and the ability of some species to develop resilience to climate change.

- **Historic and cultural environment**
  Increased consideration of the importance of the historic and cultural environment to biodiversity and people, particularly around Local Nature Reserves and ancient woodlands.

Question 7

Do you agree with the proposed enhancement measures and the actions taken to address these in Table 9?

If not, what areas are deficient within this assessment?

9. Monitoring and next steps

9.1 A monitoring programme is being developed to help prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects and enhance positive effects of the SLBS and BDIP. This includes an action plan and an outcome monitoring plan with a range of indicators which will measure progress against each environmental factor.

9.2 The updating and review of these plans alongside monitoring of the Council's State of the Environment Report will assist in the early identification of environmental issues (either positive or negative) associated with the implementation of the SLBS and BDIP. Finalisation of these monitoring plans will consider appropriate comments received through the consultation process. Monitoring will be conducted and reported annually to the Council's Executive Committee, senior managers and the public. The State of the Environment report is reviewed biennially.

9.3 **Table 10** lists future milestones in the development of the draft SLBS and BDIP and their SEA and the dates when these are expected to be completed.

Table 10: Future milestones in the development and adoption of the SLBS and BDIP

Proposed timescale	SLBS and BDIP	SEA process
June 2016 – July 2017	Finalise consultative draft SLBS and BDIP	Carry out SEA and prepare Environmental Report
18 July – 1 September 2017	Formal consultation on the draft SLBS and BDIP	Submit Environmental Report to the Consultation Authorities via SEA Gateway for six weeks consultation
September 2017 – October 2017	Consider consultation feedback and reflect in SLBS and BDIP, where appropriate	Consider comments and revise Environmental Report as appropriate
October 2017 – December 2017	Approval of SLBS and BDIP by various governance groups, including the Partnership and appropriate Council Committee(s)	Finalise the monitoring programme and prepare the Post Adoption Statement
From January 2018	SLBS and BDIP implementation	Post Adoption Statement finalised and issued to SEA Gateway.
Annually thereafter	Monitor and review	Monitor and review

Appendix 1: Scoping report comments and response

Scoping Report ref	Consultee comment	SLC response
	Scottish Environment Protection Agency	
General comments	In general, we are satisfied with the proposed scope of the assessment and assessment methodology.	Noted.
Relationship with other relevant strategies, plans, programmes or legislation	Some of the PPS included have themselves been subject to SEA. Where this is the case you may find it useful to prepare a summary of the key SEA findings that may be relevant to the Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan. This may assist you with data sources and environmental baseline information and also ensure the current SEA picks up environmental issues or mitigation actions which may have been identified elsewhere.	We welcome your comment on this. This review process is carried out for all plans which have undergone SEA to inform the next iteration of the biennial State of the Environment Report for South Lanarkshire. This has proved useful.
	Please note that the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 should be referred to as the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended).	Noted.
	For your information, we are currently in the process of updating our SEA Guidance in relation to our interests. Guidance for air, soil and water are now complete and available through our website.	Noted.
Baseline information	SEPA holds significant amounts of environmental data which may be of interest to you in preparing the environmental baseline, identifying environmental problems, and summarising the likely changes to the environment in the absence of the PPS, all of which are required for the assessment. Many of these data are now readily available on SEPA's website. Additional local information may also be available from our Access to Information unit at our Corporate Office (Telephone 01786 457700 or email dataenquiries'sepa.org.uk) Other sources of data for issues that fall within SEPA's remit are referenced in our Standing Advice for Responsible Authorities on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Consultations.	Noted. We already refer to these helpful resources when preparing our biennial State of the Environmental Report for South Lanarkshire which provides the SEA baseline for our PPS.
Environmental problems	We consider that the environmental problems identified generally highlight the main issues of relevance for the SEA topics within our remit. However, we note that air quality does not feature within Table 3. As changes to air quality can have a significant impact on ecosystems, which can affect biodiversity, we recommend that this is also considered within this section,	Thank you for bringing this oversight to our attention. This has now been remedied at Table 4 within the Environmental Report.
Scoping in/out of SEA issues	Whilst we agree that in this instance all environmental topics should be scoped in there may be opportunities to rationalise the topics during the course of the assessment if it becomes clear that no significant effects on a topic are likely.	Noted.

Scoping Report ref	Consultee comment	SLC response
Methodology for assessing environmental effects	We support the use of SEA objectives as assessment tools as they allow a systematic, rigorous and consistent framework with which to assess environmental effects. We are generally content with the proposed SEA objectives to be used in the assessment as set out in Table 5. However, you may wish to consider amending the SEA objective for soil to also aim to enhance soil quality.	Thank you for comments. We have amended the SEA objective for soils as suggested to 'Protect soils, maintain ecosystems functionality and enhance soil quality'.
	We welcome the inclusion of a commentary section within the matrices to state, where necessary, the reasons for the effects cited and the score given as this will help to fully explain the rationale behind the assessment results. We also welcome the link between the effects and mitigation/enhancements measures in the proposed assessment framework and the consideration of mitigation of impacts (as shown in Appendix 4). However, we agree with Historic Environment Scotland's (letter dated 24 June 2016) comments regarding the matrix scoring systems and you may therefore wish to consider the use of Appendix 4 key across both matrices.	Noted. Appendix 3 is a tool to give early consideration to the potential compatibility of the plans to the SEA objectives which is further explored in more detail within the final part of the assessment set out in Appendix 4 of the Scoping Report. The key result of the assessment was that both plans are fully compatible with the SEA objectives.
	When it comes to setting out the results of the assessment in the Environmental Report please provide enough information to clearly justify the reasons for each of the assessments presented. It would be helpful to set out assumptions that are made during the assessment and difficulties and limitations encountered.	Noted. This will be shown in the matrix and the table which accompanies it.
Alternatives	We are satisfied with the alternatives outlined and note that these will be assessed as part of the SEA process. The findings of the assessment should inform the choice of the preferred option and this should be documented within the Environmental Report.	Noted.
Mitigation and enhancement	We would encourage you to use the assessment as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final option: hence we support proposals for enhancement of positive effects as well as mitigation of negative effects. We would also encourage you to be very clear in the Environmental Report about mitigation measures which are proposed as a result of the assessment. These should follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate).	Noted.
	One of the most important ways to mitigate significant environmental effects identified through the assessment is to make changes to the plan itself so that significant effects are avoided. The Environmental Report should therefore identify any changes made to the plan as result of the SEA.	Noted.
	Where the mitigation proposed does not relate to modification to the plan itself then it would be extremely helpful to set out the proposed mitigation measures in a way that clearly identifies: (1) the measures required, (2) when they would be required and (3) who will be required to implement them. The inclusion of a summary table in the Environmental Report such as that presented below will help to track progress on mitigation through the monitoring process.	Noted.

Scoping Report ref	Consultee comment	SLC response
Monitoring	We welcome the early consideration of monitoring as discussed in Section 5.5 of the scoping report. Although not specifically required at this stage, it is a requirement of the Act and consideration should be given to a monitoring approach particularly in the choice of indicators. We note that further detail will be included within the Environmental Report. It would be helpful if this includes a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan.	Noted
Consultation period	We are satisfied with the proposal for a six week consultation period for the Environmental Report.	Noted.
Outcomes of the Scoping exercise	We would find it helpful if the Environmental Report included a summary of the scoping outcomes and how comments from the Consultation Authorities were taken into account.	This is our standard approach and is reflected in this Appendix.
Scottish Natural Heritage		
Scope of assessment and level of detail	Subject to the specific comments set out below, SNH is content with the content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the Environmental Report.	Noted.
Setting the context	If Historic and Cultural heritage is to be scoped into the assessment then you may want to consider adding policies associated with this in Table 1. You could include the Scottish Historic Environment policy as a relevant national level policy and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972 (World Heritage Sites), could be included in the international section.	Thank you for drawing this to our attention. We have now included the Convention and 'Our Place in time – The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland' (2014) at Appendix 2 of the Environmental Report.
	We are satisfied that the decision has been made to scope in all issues (population and human health; biodiversity, fauna and flora; soil; water; air, noise and light; climatic factors; historic and cultural heritage; material assets; landscape).	Noted.
Baseline information	The baseline information listed in Table 2 will help provide a frame of reference for assessing the plan.	Noted.
Environmental issues	We are satisfied that Table 3 covers the main environmental issues associated with the strategy.	Noted.
SEA objectives	The SEA objectives and assessment criteria listed in Table 5 appear suitable.	Noted.
Report structure	Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 sets out the information to be included in the Environmental Report	Noted.
Assessment methodology	The scoping report has considered alternative ways of delivering a Biodiversity Strategy and concluded that a new Biodiversity Strategy, which includes a Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan, and focuses on an ecosystems approach, is the best option. The previous strategy also focussed on an ecosystems approach to nature conservation.	Noted,
	Monitoring the success of the Biodiversity Strategy might include measures such as gauging whether there are an increased number of people attending nature based events, and an increased number of people undertaking environmental volunteering.	Thank you for these comments. We already collate this information to monitor the current LBAP. We will consider how we can extend these monitoring measures for the plans and also for the State of the Environment Report.

Scoping Report ref	Consultee comment	SLC response
Consultation period for the Environmental Report	SHN notes that a minimum of 6 weeks is proposed for consultation on the Environmental Report and is content with this proposed period.	Noted.
Historic Environment Scotland		
Scope and level of detail	You consider that significant effects on the historic environment are possible, and have scoped cultural heritage into the assessment. I am content with this approach and am satisfied with the scope and level of detail proposed for the assessment, subject to the specific comment which follows, which I hope you find helpful.	Noted.
	Appendix 3 – Compatibility Analysis of the SLBS, BDIP and SEA objectives Paragraph 5.4 of the scoping report describes a two stage process for the assessment of the objectives/actions of the plan and their reasonable alternatives, using the matrices in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4. The two matrices employ differing scoring systems. The appendix 3 matrix identifies positive and negative effects but does not indicate levels of significance. The cumulative assessment matrix in appendix 4 provides a more detailed scoring system that indicates the level of significance and duration of effects. You could consider whether use of the Appendix 4 key across both matrices would have advantages in terms of consistency and scope to highlight significant effects.	Appendix 3 is a tool to give early consideration to the potential compatibility of the plans to the SEA objectives which is further explored in more detail within the final part of the assessment set out in Appendix 4 of the Scoping Report. The key result of the assessment was that both plans are fully compatible with the SEA objectives.
Consultation period for the Environmental Report	I am content with the proposed minimum six week period for consultation on the draft plan and Environmental Report.	Noted.

Appendix 2: Policy screening for the SLBS and BDIP

Policy area	Main requirements of the PPS	Score	How it affects or is affected by the proposed SLBS/BDIP
++ Major – Delivers the aim of the PPS	+ Minor – Delivers part of the aim of the PPS	O Neutral – Neither delivers or conflicts with the PPS	- Minor – Does not deliver the aim of the PPS	-- Major – Conflicts on the delivery of PPS aim
International			
The Bern Convention (1982)	The principal aim of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats is to ensure conservation and protection of wild plants and animal species and their natural habitats.	++	The plans will contribute towards Scotland meeting its commitments made under the Convention.
Rio Declaration	Highlighted the need to protect and enhance the environment, economics and social aspects in both developed and developing countries, including protecting our biodiversity and natural habitats	++	The plans will contribute to the protection of biodiversity at a local level.
Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Highlighted objectives and outcomes, including the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of natural resources and the fair and equitable use of biological and natural resources. Encouraged the development of National Biodiversity Action Plans and subsequent Local Biodiversity Action Plans.	++	The plans will contribute towards Scotland meeting its commitments made under the Convention.
Kyoto Protocol, 1997	International agreement to reduce greenhouse gases which cause climate change.	+	The plans will contribute towards Scotland meeting its commitments made under this Protocol.
Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)	Furthering of Parties commitment to sustainable development through promoting the implementation of strategies to support ecosystems.	++	The plans will support sustainable development by protecting designated species and habitats using an ecosystems approach.
European Strategy for Sustainable Development (2009 Review)	Sets out the long term objectives for sustainable development in Europe concerning issues such as climate change, transport, health and natural resources.	+	The plans will support sustainable development by safeguarding natural resources.
European Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 – towards implementation (2011)	European endorsement of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This represents Europe's obligation to integrate environmental concerns into sectoral polices. It also outlines the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.	++	The plans will provide protection against inappropriate development affecting sites designated under the Convention on Biological Diversity. They will also contribute to the achievement of Aichi Targets.

Policy area	Main requirements of the PPS	Score	How it affects or is affected by the proposed SLBS/BDIP
The Paris Agreement UNFCCC, 2015	International agreement to reduce emissions to reduce emissions to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas. Also commitment to limit global warming to less than 2^{o}C and to take action to minimise climate change.	+	The plans will contribute to the achievement of national commitments.
EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC	Aims to protect biodiversity, through the conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna. Provides the basis to classify the network of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).	++	The plans will comply with the Directive by not adversely affecting SACs or any species listed under the Directive.
EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC	Protects all wild birds, their nests, eggs and habitats within the EC. It aims to protect all European wild birds and the habitats of listed species, in particular through the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPA).	++	The plans will comply with the Directive by not adversely affecting SPAs or the protection of wild, rare and vulnerable birds, their nests, eggs and habitats.
EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	Safeguards the sustainable use of surface water, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. Supporting the status of aquatic ecosystems and associated environments. Addresses issues such as groundwater pollution, river basin management planning and ecological factors.	++	The plans will contribute to improving the ecological status of water bodies in South Lanarkshire.
Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972	Sets out to protect global cultural and natural heritage. Known as the World Heritage Convention, it aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.	+	The plans will take cognisance of the Convention with regards to the New Lanark World Heritage Site.
National			
Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981	The protection of wildlife, the countryside, National Parks, the designation of protected areas and public rights of way.	++	The plans will take cognisance of the Act.
Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations, 1994	The 'Habitats Regulations' translate the EU Habitats Directive into law in Great Britain. They were amended for Scotland in 2004, 2007 and 2012.	++	The plans will comply with the Regulations by not adversely affecting SACs or any species listed under the Directive.
Environment Act, 1995	As well as establishing SEPA, the Act also makes provision for schemes that benefit nature conservation and the promotion and enjoyment of the countryside by the public.	++	The SLBS will have due regard for the provisions of this legislation.

Policy area	Main requirements of the PPS	Score	How it affects or is affected by the proposed SLBS/BDIP
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Protects the water environment including groundwater, surface water and wetlands, for or in connection with implementing the Water Framework Directive.	+	The plans will take cognisance of the importance of the water environment.
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	Updates the Wildlife and Countryside Act. It sets out measures designed to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland, by the provision of the legal framework for the designation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).	++	The plans will take cognisance of the Act.
Scottish Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands, 2004	Strategy to conserve and enhance biodiversity throughout Scotland. Its overall aim is 'to conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future'.	++	The plans will contribute to the delivery of this Strategy.
2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity, 2013	Updates the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. Its focus is on protecting and restoring healthy ecosystems, connecting people with nature and ensuring biodiversity contributes to sustainable economic growth.	++	The plans will take cognisance of this Strategy.
Climate Change Act, 2008	Established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path and a National Adaptation Plan.	+	The plans will ensure that climate change adaptation is considered within the actions and activities they promote.
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	Sets targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other climate change provisions, including adaptation.	+	The plans will ensure climate change adaptation is considered within the actions and activities they promote.
Planning etc. (Scotland) Act, 2006	Introduced the system for the preparation of Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and Local Development Plans (LDPs).	++	The plans will recognise the importance that SDPs and LDPs have in protecting and enhancing biodiversity.
National Planning Framework 3 (2014)	The Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land use planning matters. The NPF strongly supports the Central Scotland Green Network.	++	The plans will contribute to meeting Scottish Government targets for delivering the Central Scotland Green Network.
Scottish Planning Policy (2014)	The Scottish Government's statement of national planning policy. It sets out policy on development plans and a wide range of planning issues, including the creation of well designed, sustainable places and the protection and enhancement of natural and cultural assets.	++	The plans will contribute to SPP with regards to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity assets.

Policy area	Main requirements of the PPS	Score	How it affects or is affected by the proposed SLBS/BDIP
The Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy – Choosing Our Future (Scottish Executive 2006)	Sets out measures to deliver the national framework for sustainable development and the creation of sustainable communities.	+	The plans will take account of the Strategy's key principles for sustainable development, including. Living within environmental limits and ensuring a strong, healthy and just society.
Good Places, Better Health (2008)	Promotes partnership working which shares knowledge and understanding of how the physical environment impacts on mental health and wellbeing.	+	The plans will take cognisance of this Strategy and its goal of supporting and delivering national outcomes, including promoting and supporting community participation.
Scottish Soil Framework 2009	Describes key pressures on soils, particularly climate change, relevant policies to combat those threats, and identifies the future focus for soil protection, key soil outcomes, and actions across a range of sectors.	++	The plans will take cognisance of soil outcomes.
Land Reform (Scotland) Act, 2003	Establishes statutory public rights of access to land for recreational and other purposes.	+	The plans will comply with the Act, where appropriate.
Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2013	Outlines the different levels of authorisations to allow for proportionate regulation depending on the risk an activity poses for the water environment. Some activities require authorisation including point source discharges, impoundments and abstractions.	+	The plans will take cognisance of these Regulations.
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	Introduced a more sustainable, modern approach to flooding in Scotland and a framework for co-ordination and co-operation between organisations.	+	The plans will contribute to meeting the overall aim of reducing the negative effects of all sources of flooding on the environment.
The River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River Basin District 2009 - 2015	This plan outlines the actions to be taken to protect Scottish waters currently in good condition and to improve the quality of others.	+	The plans will support the protection and enhancement of water bodies in South Lanarkshire.
Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016 – 2021	Sets out a vision, objectives and principles for sustainable land use. Recognises the importance of ecosystem functions and services.	++	The plans will take cognisance of this Strategy.
National Peatland Plan 2015	A strategy to secure the sustainable use, management and restoration of peatlands – an internationally important habitat and vital natural capital asset.	++	The plans will support the protection and enhancement of peatlands.
The UK Forestry Standard, 2011	Sets out Governments' approach to sustainable forest management. Provides a framework for the delivery of international agreements on sustainable forest management, alongside policies on implementation.	++	The plans will have cognisance of the national standard and associated guidelines.

Policy area	Main requirements of the PPS	Score	How it affects or is affected by the proposed SLBS/BDIP
Scottish Forestry Strategy, 2011	Provides the strategic framework for forestry and woodland in Scotland. Biodiversity is one of seven key themes.	++	The plans will take cognisance of this Strategy.
The Scottish Government's Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal, 2009	Published by the Forestry Commission Scotland, it sets the strategic framework for appropriate woodland removal in Scotland.	+	The plans will have cognisance of this policy.
Strategic Vision for The Uplands, forthcoming	The Land Use Strategy identifies an opportunity to develop a new strategic vision for our uplands.	++	The plans will take cognisance of this Strategy.
Pollinators Strategy (forthcoming)	Strategy to ensure that pollinators' needs are addressed as an integral part of land and habitat management.	++	The plans will take cognisance of this Strategy.
Cleaner Air for Scotland: The Road to a Healthier Future, 2015	Sets out how the Scottish Government and partners propose to further reduce air pollution to protect human health and comply with European and Scottish legal requirements regarding air quality.	+	The plans will have cognisance of the national strategy to improve air quality.
National Transport Strategy, 2016	Refreshes the original National Transport Strategy (2006) and restates its framework.	+	Where appropriate, the plans will have cognisance of the Strategy.
Our Place in Time – The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland, 2014	A high level framework which sets out a ten year vision for the historic environment in Scotland. Its key outcome is to ensure that the cultural, social, environmental and economic value of Scotland's heritage makes a strong contribution to the wellbeing of the nation and its people.	+	The plans will have cognisance of the strategy.
Play Strategy for Scotland, 2013	Seeks to improve the play experiences of all children and young people, including those with disabilities and from disadvantaged communities.	+	The SLBS and particularly the BDIP will contribute to the positive play experiences of children within the community.
Regional (and Partnership) – Glasgow and the Clyde Valley (GCV)			
GCV Strategic Development Plan 2012 - 2017	A 20 year strategy for the location of new development and a policy framework to help shape good quality places and enhance the quality of life in the city region.	++	The plans will contribute to the delivery of this plan, particularly in terms of sustainability and the improvement of olpen spaces and green networks.

Policy area	Main requirements of the PPS	Score	How it affects or is affected by the proposed SLBS/BDIP
Clydeplan Main Issues Report (MIR) (2015)	Identifies key changes which might influence the SDP since its approval in 2012 and which need to be considered when preparing the next SDP. There are seven main issues, including 'Supporting a Low Carbon Economy', 'Supporting Positive Environmental Action' and 'Climate Change Adaptation'.	++	The plans will take cognisance of the MIR.
South Lanarkshire Community Plan 2005 – 2015	Sets out the Community Planning Partners' priorities, including climate change and sustainable development.	++	The plans will contribute to the delivery of the Community Plan.
South Lanarkshire Single Outcome Agreement 2013 – 2023	Sets the local outcomes for the delivery of national outcomes for South Lanarkshire, including, improvements to health and wellbeing and securing a sustainable environment and a safer South Lanarkshire.	+	The plans will be heavily influenced by the Community Planning Partnership's priorities set out in the SOA, particularly with regards to outcomes related to health, quality environments and securing a sustainable environment.
River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and the Clyde Area Management Plan 2010 – 2015	Introduces a system to promote sustainable water use in a way which protects and improves the water environment in line with the Water Framework Directive.	+	The plans will be compatible with the RBMP by recognising the significance of the aquatic ecosystem and associated environments.
Flood Risk Management Strategy – Clyde and Loch Lomond: Tweed 2016 – 2022	Published by SEPA, the strategies set out actions to manage flood risk and the impact of flooding in high risk areas, within specific flood risk management districts.	+	The plans will have cognisance of these strategies.
The River Clyde Fishery Management Plan 2012 – 2016	Identifies local management priorities for the River Clyde catchment as part of the national programme supported by the Scottish Government and co-ordinated by Rivers and Fisheries Trust Scotland.	+	The plans will have cognisance of this plan.
Firth of Clyde Biosecurity Plan 2012 – 2016	Establishes a guiding framework to reduce the risk of the introduction of new invasive non-native species to the River Clyde and to effectively manage existing ones.	++	The plans will have cognisance of this plan.
Landscape Conservation Action Plan	Published by the Clyde and Avon Landscape Partnership, the Plan sets out over 70 projects to protect and enhance the unique cultural heritage of the Clyde and Avon Valleys.	++	The plans will have cognisance of this plan and will contribute towards achieving some of its projects.

Policy area	Main requirements of the PPS	Score	How it affects or is affected by the proposed SLBS/BDIP
Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy, forthcoming	Will replace the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy. The new Strategy will inform the location, design and management of woodlands within the Clydeplan area.	++	The plans will have due regard for the Strategy.
Lanarkshire Tourism Strategy, 2016 – 2020	A joint Strategy between North and South Lanarkshire Councils and the tourism industry aimed at delivering growth within the tourism sector.	+	The plans will have cognisance of the Strategy with regards to the impact and opportunities of a growing tourism on biodiversity assets.

Appendix 3 - State of the Environment baseline

Introduction to the local environment

The SEA Act requires the Environmental Report to include a description of 'the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme', and 'the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected'. This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy and the Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan operate and the constraints and targets this context imposes. The full environmental baseline for South Lanarkshire used to assess the environmental parameters can be found in the Council's State of the Environment Report, 2015 (see **Section 4** for link).

The current state of the environment is presented in support of the predicted assessment of the potential effects associated with implementing the SLBS/BDIP. The environmental baseline provides information on both the current and potential issues directly associated with the SLBS and BDIP, with the likely future state without implementing the plans estimated using past trends.

Environmental baseline

The baseline for the environmental indicators set out within the assessment criteria of the SLBS and BDIP have been compiled and presented in this section. The current status of the key environmental indicators has been identified using trends from past data sets.

G	Good	F	Fair	⇧	Improving
				⇩	Deteriorating
P	Poor	L	Limited data	⇔	No change

Population and human health

Human health depends on a number of environmental factors, including access to services such as health, education, safety, access to good quality outdoor recreational facilities and a high quality environment, with good quality air, soil and water. Adequately heated and ventilated homes also support good health.

'Equally Well', along with the 'Early Years Framework' and 'Achieving Our Potential' set out the Scottish Government's approach to tackling the major and intractable social problems that affect the people of Scotland. These three social policy frameworks share a commitment to tackling inequality and promoting equality. The Scottish Government identified tackling health inequalities and increasing physical activity as priorities to be included in local Single Outcome Agreements. This reflects the recognition that the health of people in Scotland is not as good as the majority of countries within the European Union and is a key driver for the Ministerial Taskforce on Health Inequalities which was reconvened in 2012.

South Lanarkshire is one of Scotland's most diverse areas. It has a population of about 315,360 and covers 1,772 square kilometres of land. It consists of heavily populated urban areas to the north and an extensive rural area to the south and west. Many parts of the area experience an excellent quality of life with good employment prospects, high standards of health care and low levels of crime. However, some areas of South Lanarkshire bear testimony to the legacy of heavy industrialisation which has impacted on the physical, social and economic environment. There are pockets of serious deprivation within both urban and rural areas where people may experience disadvantage and encounter problems associated with low income, poor health, low educational attainment, lack of access to learning opportunities and employment, and low expectations.

Actions to improve health and tackle health inequalities are co-ordinated through a Partnership Improvement Plan (PIP) for health, social care and wellbeing. This PIP informs the South Lanarkshire Single Outcome Agreement and includes priorities to address issues relating to health behaviours, environmental impacts on health and wellbeing and actions to prevent ill health.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
General population	F	↑	**Population** – The area's population is growing at a faster rate than the Scottish average, with the proportion of older population showing the greatest increase. However, the population of people aged less than 25 years is declining.
	G	↑	**Life expectancy** – Life expectancy for both men and women has increased over recent years. Male life expectancy is now comparable with the Scottish average and female life expectancy just below the national average.
Health	P	↔	**Coronary heart disease –** Remains a major source of early or premature deaths. The South Lanarkshire mortality ratio remains slightly higher than the Scottish average.
	P	↔	**Cancer** – Continues to be the main cause of death for those aged less than 75 years. Death rates are slightly higher than the Scottish average.
	P	↔	**Stroke** – Remains a major cause of death for those aged less than 75 years. The standard mortality ratio in South Lanarkshire has come closer to the Scottish average since the last report.
Healthy lifestyles	F	↑	**Lifestyle** – There has been a significant increase in the number of residents who report that their health is very or quite good, although this varies widely across communities.
	F	↔	**Environmental deprivation** – There is a relationship between those areas suffering from environmental deprivation and low SIMD score.
	F	↔	**Environmental recreation** – Although the rate of South Lanarkshire residents undertaking recreation activities is low, there has been marked improvement since the last report. It no longer has the lowest rate of participation.

Baseline situation

Life expectancy is increasing in South Lanarkshire but remains slightly below the Scottish average. Life expectancy for men has declined relative to the Scottish average. South Lanarkshire's health status is generally below the Scottish average for many key indicators of health. Cancer, coronary

heart disease and stroke account for the majority of deaths in South Lanarkshire. The number of deaths from alcoholic liver disease has slightly reduced, mirroring the national picture.

Similar to the national pattern there are significant differences between communities across South Lanarkshire in terms of health outcomes. These health inequalities pose a major challenge for all community planning partners as we look to improve health both at population level and within our more deprived communities. Within these communities, many people are physically disadvantaged with reduced physical activity. The local environment plays a key role in contributing to the overall wellbeing of the population. A well presented environment offers a wide range of activities and potential to improve the overall character and health of the area.

Biodiversity, fauna and flora

Biodiversity plays a key role in the functioning of ecosystems and supports our lives through the provision of crucial resources like fresh air, clean water and food. 'Biological diversity' encompasses all the species of plants, animals, and micro-organisms within an ecosystem, whilst biodiversity is generally used to measure the health of the ecosystem. The individual components that contribute to the diversity of an ecosystem can be subject to a number of pressures and threats, globally and locally, including pollution, fragmentation, land use and changes in climate.

The distribution and diversity of the ecological resource within South Lanarkshire is influenced by the variety in the geography and topography of the area. There are a series of distinct landscape character areas, each with varied and valuable biodiversity assets. Some of these biodiversity assets are internationally important, with others of national or local significance.

The natural environment is an asset which can contribute to the economic growth of South Lanarkshire if it is managed and used in a sustainable manner. Its continuing health and improvement is vital to sustainable economic growth. Many of Scotland's growth sectors, such as tourism and food and drink, depend on the provision of ecosystem services from a high quality natural environment. There are many other less tangible ways in which nature sustains us, contributing to our health, wellbeing, enjoyment, sense of place and our cultural identity.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Designated areas	F	↔	Although there has been some isolated improvement, in general the condition of the designated features remains similar to previous reports.
Local Nature Reserves	G	↑	The Council's Nature Reserve at Langlands Moss is in good condition. Considerable improvement was made to the Reserve in partnership with the Friends of Langlands Moss.
Native woodland	F	↑	Although total native woodland cover is increasing, further work is required to improve connectivity of habitats, expanding native broadleaf woodland cover.
Ancient woodland	F	↔	There is no change with ancient semi natural woodland cover. There is limited data on the overall condition of this habitat.
Raised bogs	L		There is insufficient data on the overall condition of raised and blanket bogs across the area, with only a small number of designated sites recorded as unfavourable.

Baseline situation

South Lanarkshire has a wide range of landscapes and habitats. Although the area is mainly agricultural land, there are pockets of natural and semi natural habitats, including ancient woodland, peatland and upland moorland. The lack of detailed information on the range of habitats, their condition and the level of fragmentation between such habitats is of concern in determining the overall status of biodiversity within South Lanarkshire. Although fragmentation is detrimental to the connectivity of habitat systems, the main environmental pressures having an adverse affect on biodiversity within the area include the invasion of non-native species and the inappropriate location of urban development or development that is insensitive to the local natural

environment. Arguably, the greatest potential pressure on ecosystem function is climate change, with habitat fragmentation restricting the movement of species in response to this. Colonisation by non-native, invasive species is placing further pressure on remaining natural habitats.

Historic and cultural heritage

South Lanarkshire encompasses a broad range of landscapes which have influenced the way man has used the land and dictated the growth of villages and towns. Within the broad, low-lying areas adjacent to the River Clyde the settlements are large while the rolling farmland beyond has a number of smaller settlements that grew either as market towns or as a result of a particular activity such as fruit growing. The upland hills are characterised by scattered farms and villages, with some settlements being there for simply one reason, such as the lead mining at Leadhills.

The valley of the River Clyde, particularly in the south of the area has formed a transport route for centuries demonstrated by the large number of pre-historic and Roman remains that survive, reflecting its importance as a corridor from Carlisle through to the Highlands. The Clyde has also provided the power for industrial processes, such as the mills at New Lanark which were developed in association with philanthropic thinking on the provision of housing for mill workers. The importance of New Lanark is reflected in its World Heritage Site status.

Throughout South Lanarkshire the sheer variety of historic buildings and towns provide a rich sense of cultural identity across a diverse landscape. These are important in enhancing the quality of life and sense of identity of all South Lanarkshire's residents. Such a diverse range of historic and cultural assets is also a vital contributor to the area's economy through the attraction of visitors to South Lanarkshire.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Built heritage	F	↑	The number of scheduled ancient monuments and conservation areas remains the same as the 2013 Report. The number of listed buildings has decreased. The buildings on the 'Buildings at Risk' register have slightly increased.
Gardens and Designed Landscapes	G	↔	The number and condition of Gardens and Designed Landscapes areas within South Lanarkshire has remained the same since the last report.
Archaeological sites	F	↑	The number of archaeological sites recorded across South Lanarkshire continues to increase year on year.
Battlefields	G	↔	There are two registered battlefields on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields. No further sites in the area are currently being considered for inclusion to the Inventory. There is limited information on the condition of battlefield sites.
Historic heritage	G	↔	The area has a wealth of historical and tourist attractions, including the New Lanark World Heritage Site. These continue to attract large number of visitors to South Lanarkshire.

Baseline Situation

The historic and built heritage of South Lanarkshire is complex and varied, from medieval burghs such as Hamilton and Biggar through to planned villages such as New Lanark. There are numerous listed buildings ranging in size from castles to small agricultural cottages, with the greatest concentration of listed buildings being within the medieval burghs. In addition to those sites situated above ground, there are numerous buried or ruinous archaeological assets which may not be fully recorded.

Pressures on historic assets come from an increasing number of sources which may result in damage to, or the complete loss of, the building or site of cultural significance. However, incremental damage is far more common especially to individual buildings where adaptations or extensions have occurred without the full knowledge of its historic importance or by the use of inappropriate building styles or materials.

Material assets and landscape

Material assets can be described as the infrastructure of the Council and the resource of the area. Landscape relates directly to land use and the area's characteristics. This can include land reserved for development and the extent the public has access to facilities and services. These issues are closely related with particular overlap in some areas including land use and public access. The Council provides a range of services through managed facilities. It is important these facilities match the needs of the population and also conserve the character of the area.

South Lanarkshire has a diverse landscape rich in scenic value and characterised by its diverse range of land uses. The area is dominated by features such as the Lowther Hills and the Clyde Valley. The diversity of the landscape across the area is a key feature of South Lanarkshire and it is important it is preserved and promoted for wider public use through a range of opportunities.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Vacant and Derelict Land	G	↑	The area of vacant and derelict land has decreased by 25% in the last decade again through re-development. The number of vacant and derelict sites has also decreased.
Recreational land	F	↑	Although redevelopment has increased specific recreational provision further greenspace improvements are required, particularly through linkage with other issues including biodiversity and habitat connectivity, health and social and environmental deprivation.
Minerals	F	↔	Minerals remain an economically important resource across South Lanarkshire. Sites that are now closed will be restored in a manner that will help to enhance the environment.
Countryside access	F	↑	Although the extensive path network is deemed to meet the area's needs, there remain concerns about the condition and standards of path and infrastructure.
Built facilities	G	↑	The majority of schools have been renewed or modernised, however, their use as community hubs should be monitored. There are a wide range of sport, leisure and cultural facilities in South Lanarkshire.
Landscape	G	↔	Some developments can affect the visual amenity of the local landscape. The Landscape Character Assessment, 2010 identifies areas where development is considered to be detrimental to the overall landscape characteristics of South Lanarkshire and areas where there is limited capacity for development.

Baseline situation

South Lanarkshire offers a wide variety of recreational activities, with many areas well serviced by both recreational greenspace and built facilities. Public access to the wider environment is promoted through the Country Parks and the Core Paths Network.

South Lanarkshire has areas of dense population, where development poses a risk to the very landscape that provides the area with its local characteristics. It is important that the green belt, local recreational and greenspace networks are maintained and appropriate vacant and derelict land developed.

Waste

The amount of waste generated and the subsequent methods of treatment are of growing social, economic and environmental concern. The types of waste produced, the various methods available for waste treatment and disposal, and the transport of waste are all detrimental to the environment. Adopting good integrated waste management practices is therefore essential for minimising these environmental impacts and protecting human health.

Waste can be regarded as a potential resource, with increased levels of reuse, recycling and energy recovery contributing to sustainable development. Article 4 of the European Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) establishes the waste hierarchy of prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling, other recovery (for example, energy recovery) and finally disposal. The Council and other organisations must have regard to the hierarchy when considering their options for managing waste.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Waste generation	G	↑	The level of waste generated in the area continues to reduce across all sectors, with individual households now producing an average of 1.04 tonnes per annum.
Waste treatment	G	↑	The level of recycling and composting of waste has continually increased across South Lanarkshire, with **47.4**% of household waste recycled or composted in 2014/2015. Waste disposed via landfill has, as a consequence, significantly reduced.
Waste management	G	↑	The recycling rate at Household Waste Recycling Centres currently exceeds **72%**.
Environmental waste	G	↑	Street cleanliness in South Lanarkshire continues to improve. South Lanarkshire achieved the third highest ranking of all Scottish local authorities in the Street Cleanliness Score in 2014/2015.

Baseline situation
The majority of the waste collected by South Lanarkshire Council is municipal waste, the amount of which is reducing year on year. It is important that the waste hierarchy is considered to ensure both a reduction in the amount of waste being generated and also the amount being disposed of to landfill. It is imperative that the methods used to manage waste do not negatively impact on the environment.

Waste can impact the environment in several ways, including:
- The emissions of air pollutants such as greenhouse gases, dioxins and nitrogen oxides.
- The discharge of landfill leachate to groundwater and surface water.
- The reduction in the amount of land available for development or amenity uses as a consequence of the presence of landfill sites.
- Localised litter problems.

The Council is committed to meeting the targets set within Scotland's Zero Waste Plan by reducing the amount of waste being disposed of to landfill and increasing re-use, recycling and composting rates. To achieve these targets, the Council has invested heavily in infrastructure to increase the level of household and municipal waste being recycled through the development of Household Waste and Recycling Centres and the extension of household kerbside collection services. The Council is committed to providing facilities to enable all households in South Lanarkshire to recycle certain key dry recyclable materials, such as plastics and metals, by 2017.

Soils

Soil is a complex, variable and living medium. It has a role in providing a habitat and gene pool, is important for human activities, landscape and heritage and acts as a provider of raw materials. It performs many vital functions: as a growing medium for food, forestry and other biomass production, storage, filtration of water, carbon, and nitrogen. Soil in its many forms is considered as an important carbon store. Scottish soils are estimated to contain approximately 3,200 million tonnes (Mt) of carbon, which is more than half the UK's oil carbon and 60 times as much as all the vegetation in Scotland. In particular, peat soils hold over 70% of Scotland's carbon but only accounts for around 11% of its land area.

Scotland's soils are generally in good health but there is a lack of national trend data from which evidence of change or damage to soils might be determined. There is some evidence that levels of organic matter in Scottish soils may be declining and this may result in a significant reduction in the UK stock of terrestrial carbon. The key cause of this decline is intensive agricultural practices which disturbs the soil and leads to changes in soil carbon levels. The rate of organic matter loss from soils is far quicker than the rate of organic matter gain meaning that once the organic matter is lost it is impossible to replenish.

In 2006, a Soil Framework Directive was proposed to protect soils across the EU. The main issues identified included erosion, loss of organic matter and contamination. Soil damage and degradation can potentially have negative effects on human health, natural ecosystems and climate change and our ability to grow crops and other food sources for humans and animals.

There is a wide range of soil types in South Lanarkshire, some characterised by historical contamination from industrial activities, agricultural land, woodlands and peatlands. In 2006, it was estimated that approximately 361 kilo tonnes of carbon dioxide was removed from the atmosphere in South Lanarkshire through existing carbon sinks, including trees and other plants.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Soil quality	G	↔	Current data indicates good soil quality in a Scottish or regional context. At present there is limited data on soil quality specifically within South Lanarkshire.
Soil capacity	G	↔	There has not been a significant level of development within the green belt. As a result, there is no evidence to suggest that the soil capacity has been affected. Further consideration about refining information from the Scottish Agricultural Census to provide more area specific soil capacity data should be explored.
Land use	F	↔	The available data on soil use is limited and outdated. Work is ongoing nationally to address this data gap.
Contaminated land	F	↑	Since 2005, 27% of identified contaminated sites have been investigated and remediated under the planning system. 88% of all potentially contaminated sites have undergone preliminary investigation.

Baseline situation
Soil quality in South Lanarkshire is considered to be generally good although baseline data is difficult to gather and is rarely updated. Human activity, land use and intensity and global climatic effects can be detrimental to soils, reducing their distribution, function and sustainability. Healthy and diverse soils are important for crop growth, carbon storage and sustaining biodiversity across a range of habitat types.

Air, noise and light

Today, Scotland's air is cleaner than at any time since before the Industrial Revolution, achieved mainly through tighter controls on pollutant emissions from industry, transport and domestic sources. Good air quality is an essential component to improving human health and the status of the environment. The quality of the air around us is dependent on what pollutants we release into the atmosphere through our transportation, energy generation, domestic heating and industrial activities and through the dispersal and deposition mechanisms associated with these pollutants. The release of pollutants such as nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulphur dioxide (SO_2), volatile organic carbons (VOCs) and particulates (including PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) and the subsequent secondary pollutant generated, such as ozone (O_3) can have a detrimental effect on:

- **Human health:** triggering respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis, reducing the quality of life and life expectancy.
- **Habitats:** changing the ecosystem through nutrient enrichment or acidification or through the direct effects of pollutants such as ozone on plant growth and development.

- **Building material:** oxidation of material by ozone or erosion through acidification, thus reducing the life expectancy or quality of the material.
- **Climate change:** release of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide can result in global shifts in climate.
- **Nuisance:** including reduced visibility through haze and smoke and odour, reducing the overall amenity value of the area.

Within the urban environment the pollutants that cause the main concern are those found close to source, primarily emitted from transport, domestic and commercial heating and small-scale industrial activities, with NO_x and Particulates of primary concern in South Lanarkshire. The main issue associated with such pollutants are the impacts they have on human health, particularly on 'sensitive individuals' such as the elderly, young and those suffering from respiratory conditions, with elevated levels along transport routes within urban areas of South Lanarkshire.

Pollutants emitted from large-scale industrial activities, energy generation and to a lesser extent transport and agriculture can potentially travel in the atmosphere over long distances. These pollutants are considered as long-range pollutants and in many cases can result in the formation of secondary pollutants, such as ozone or the formation of acid rain, causing potential damage to sensitive vegetation and habitats.

Noise and light pollution can have detrimental effects on the environment, people and communities particularly in the more densely populated urban areas of South Lanarkshire.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Local air quality	F	↓	Air quality across South Lanarkshire is generally good but there are a few areas in excess of national limits set to protect human health. The Council continues to improve its data collection in this respect.
Point source emissions	F	↔	There has been a significant reduction in the number of permits issued for smaller scale industrial activities due to criteria changes to SEPA's permits.
Long-range pollutants	P	↑	There are no identified long range pollutant emitters in South Lanarkshire. Long-range pollutants remain a concern with most designated sites currently exceeding the critical loads for acid deposition and nitrogen enrichment. However, levels of exceedance for 2020 are predicted to improve slightly.
Airborne nuisance	G	↔	Although airborne nuisance complaints have increased slightly in recent years they remain relatively low. Odour is still the main nuisance reported to the Council.
Noise	F	↔	The number of noise complaints remains fairly consistent. The majority of complaints relate to domestic noise. Two areas in South Lanarkshire achieved 'Quiet Area' status in 2013.
Light			There is little data on light pollution across South Lanarkshire. This is currently measured based on the number of complaints received by Environmental Services.

Baseline situation

Air quality across South Lanarkshire is generally below National Air Quality Objectives, with 'hotspot' areas identified within the urban environment. Transport is one of the main sources for urban pollution, with elevated levels associated with the main transport corridors and busy road junctions. Within the rural environment, acidification and nutrient enrichment are the main concerns, particularly across elevated ground. Long-range pollutants, emitted outwith South Lanarkshire are mainly associated with these effects and therefore controlling such pollutants is more challenging.

Excessive noise is associated with a variety of adverse impacts including, hearing impairments, sleep disturbance, hypertension and stress. The Antisocial Behaviour etc., (Scotland) Act 2004 introduced new powers to expedite the existing statutory nuisance provisions traditionally used by local authorities to deal with noise complaints. To capitalise on these new provisions the Council's Environmental Services introduced and out-of-hours service to investigate and remedy complaints of noise from domestic, commercial and industrial premises.

The Environmental Noise Directive was transposed into Scots law in 2006 and placed a duty on Scottish Ministers to produce noise maps to assist with the management of environmental noise at a strategic level. As a result of the mapping exercise, the Scottish Ministers approved the establishment of two Quiet Areas in South Lanarkshire with five candidate Noise Management Areas being progressed.

Water

Scotland's water provides a wide range of benefits, supporting our health and prosperity. These include the provision of drinking water, water for use in industry and agriculture and recreation opportunities. Our water supports a diverse array of habitats and support nationally and internationally important species. The River Clyde and its tributaries are essential to the character of the area.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Water quality	F	↑	The overall status of the water environment remains consistent with 49% of all rivers achieving the Water Framework Directive (WFD) High/Good status. The number of sampled rivers has also increased.
River flow	F	↓	The annual water flow rates in the rivers across the region have continually increased. This increase is closely linked to the increase in annual precipitation rates.
Groundwater and wetlands	F	↑	The status of groundwater bodies in South Lanarkshire has remained the same since the 2013 report. The data available on ponds is being developed but is still limited about other wetlands in the area.
Water pollution	G	↑	Point source pollution is closely regulated and monitored by SEPA. Licensed activities continue to increase year on year within South Lanarkshire.
Flooding	P	↑	Climate change predictions indicate a potential risk of increased flood incidents with severe weather events in 2013 causing an increase in river flooding incidents dealt with by the Council. The Council's approach to flood management continues to improve due to the additional resources provided to implement statutory requirements.

Baseline situation

The water environment is important for South Lanarkshire in terms of the local economy, the health and wellbeing of the people who live, work and visit the area and for wildlife. Human activity can damage the water environment, affecting the quality of the water itself or through inputs associated with activities on land or the deposition of air pollutants.

Water quality in South Lanarkshire is relatively good and continues to improve, particularly for surface water bodies. There has been a continual increase in annual water flow rates, in line with increasing precipitation across the region. The number of flooding occurrences reported to the Council has significantly decreased since 2012 as has the requirement for flood scouting actions.

Climate change

The Earth's climate goes through natural climatic cycles which human activities have disrupted resulting in shifts of instability never seen before. As a direct result, climate change is regarded as one of the greatest threats facing our environment.

Scotland's climate is linked with the global climate. Therefore global changes have a consequence both nationally and locally. Over the past century Scotland's climate has changed more rapidly than anything evident in the past, with global temperatures rising along with increased emissions of greenhouse gases. Average temperatures have increased by approximately 1°C, with an overall trend towards a warmer climate and more extreme weather phenomena. Such changes could be manifested by hotter summers and wetter winters. Scotland is currently experiencing fewer frosts and longer growing seasons.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Greenhouse gas emissions	G	↑	Greenhouse gas emissions continue to decrease across South Lanarkshire year on year. Emissions per capita are notably below the Scottish average.
Energy consumption	F	↑	Although both gas and electricity consumption continues to decrease in South Lanarkshire, the domestic consumption per household remains above the national average.
Transport emissions	P	↑	Fuel consumption and kilometres travelled have both fallen although at a slower rate than other sectors. Vehicles are becoming more energy efficient and less polluting contributing to a 7% reduction in transport emissions since 2005.
Renewable capacity	G	↑	South Lanarkshire's renewable energy capacity increased by over 80% since 2011. The area is an energy exporter.
Environmental awareness	G	↑	Good progress is being made in implementing the Council's Sustainable Development Strategy. All schools are registered with the Eco-Schools programme and work is ongoing to promote environmental awareness and sustainability in schools.

Baseline situation
The climate in South Lanarkshire is changing with a rise in the average annual temperature and increased precipitation, particularly in the winter. These climatic shifts along with more extreme weather events will have a dramatic impact on South Lanarkshire's environment as well as the population.

The main greenhouse gas (GHG) emitted in South Lanarkshire is Carbon dioxide (CO_2), deriving from transport, industry and domestic sources (such as heating, lighting and cooking). In order to mitigate against climate change both the cause and consequence must be addressed. Scotland has set an 80% reduction target for GHG emissions, which South Lanarkshire must contribute towards and also adapt to a changing climate.

Sustainable lifestyles are promoted in various ways, including through the Council's Sustainable Development Strategy and the work of the Learning About Sustainability in Schools Steering Group. South Lanarkshire schools are involved in a wide range of activities aimed at promoting and raising awareness of environmental issues and the importance of sustainability in our home, work, school and leisure lives.

Transport
South Lanarkshire has a diverse range of settlements located within the urban areas to the north or spread through the rural areas in the south and west. The distribution and population of these settlements determine the level and type of transport used which has a distinctive influence on the built and natural environment, human health and the impacts associated with vehicle emissions (including local air quality and climate change). The demand for transport has continually increased with individual vehicle ownership growing. This has resulted in the transport sector being one of the key concerns for atmospheric emissions.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Road network condition	F	↑	Despite recent severe winters, the condition of the road network continues to improve due to additional funding from the Council's Roads Investment Plan.
Traffic growth	G	↑	Most recently available SLC data compares favourably with Government traffic growth forecasts.
Congestion	G	↑	There has been a decrease in residents experiencing congestion compared to baseline figures.
Road safety	G	↓	Although SLC is currently on track to meet the Government's 2020 casualty reduction targets, there was an increase in fatal and serious casualties in the last two years.
Public transport	F	↔	**Bus** – Mode share data from the Scottish Household Survey indicates the percentage of people travelling by bus has remained constant since 2009/2010.
	G	↑	**Rail** – The Office of Rail Regulation data shows a significant increase in the number of train passengers at South Lanarkshire rail stations year on year.
Walking and cycling	P	↔	Data from the Scottish Household Survey indicate a reduction in the percentage of people walking but an increase in people travelling by bicycle. The Council is developing its Cycling Strategy and is implementing its Core Path Plan to promote active travel.

Baseline situation

South Lanarkshire is located at the heart of west central Scotland and its settlements have very diverse characteristics due to the physical environment. The north of South Lanarkshire is distinctly urban with surrounding greenbelt and is home to the majority of the population with an abundance of services that are well connected to the road and rail infrastructure. To the immediate south are the commuter settlements typified by the large numbers of daily commuters working in larger towns and Glasgow. However, the impact of this is that these centres have declined significantly to levels where many no longer offer an essential range of services and dependence on private vehicle ownership is high.

Across the middle of South Lanarkshire some settlements have lost their traditional industries of mining or agriculture and to the south are rural centres where there is a higher than average number of retired people. Employment within these areas is largely reliant on the service sector, including tourism. In general the environmental quality of the area is high but public transport provision is relatively limited.

Appendix 4: Prediction and evaluation of the effects of the SLBS and BDIP

Key to scoring:		SLBS – Strategic Outcomes						
++	Major positive	Strategic Outcome 1: Invasive non-native species are monitored and controlled	Strategic Outcome 2: Designated and locally important sites are conserved	Strategic Outcome3: People have opportunities to connect with nature	Strategic Outcome 4: Freshwater habitats are improved and preserved	Strategic Outcome 5: The biodiversity value of low lying farmland is improved	Strategic Outcome 6: Peatlands are protected and improved	Strategic Outcome 7: Uplands are managed in a sustainable way
+	Minor positive							
0	Neutral							
-	Minor negative							
--	Major negative							
+/- etc	Mixed							
?	Uncertain							
S	Short term effects							
M	Medium term effects							
L	Long term effects							
SEA Objectives	Promote the contribution of a healthy and accessible natural environment to human health and wellbeing	+ S-M-L	++ M-L	++ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	0	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L
	Protect and enhance biodiversity and functioning habitats and avoid irreversible loss	++ S-M-L	++ M-L	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L
	Protect soils, maintain ecosystems functionality and enhance soil quality	+ S-M-L	++ M-L	++ S-M-L	0	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	+ S-M-L
	Protect and enhance the water environment including the biodiversity of freshwater bodies and wetlands	++ S-M-L	++ M-L	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L
	Protect and improve air quality	0	+ M-L	0	0	0	0	0

Key to scoring:		SLBS – Strategic Outcomes						
++	Major positive	Strategic Outcome 1: Invasive non-native species are monitored and controlled	Strategic Outcome 2: Designated and locally important sites are conserved	Strategic Outcome3: People have opportunities to connect with nature	Strategic Outcome 4: Freshwater habitats are improved and preserved	Strategic Outcome 5: The biodiversity value of low lying farmland is improved	Strategic Outcome 6: Peatlands are protected and improved	Strategic Outcome 7: Uplands are managed in a sustainable way
+	Minor positive							
0	Neutral							
-	Minor negative							
--	Major negative							
+/- etc	Mixed							
?	Uncertain							
S	Short term effects							
M	Medium term effects							
L	Long term effects							
SEA Objectives	Develop and maintain robust ecosystems which can adapt to climate change	+ S-M-L	+ M-L	+ M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	+ S-M-L
	Promote the effective and sustainable use of land and other material assets	+ S-M-L	++ M-L	+ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	+ S-M-L
	Safeguard and enhance the built and historic environment, including historic landscapes	+ S-M-L	+ M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	0	0	0
	Maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes	+ S-M-L	+ M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L

Key to scoring:		SLBS – Strategic Outcomes				BDIP Themes				
++	Major positive	Strategic Outcome 8: The urban environment benefits biodiversity	Strategic Outcome 9: Vacant and Derelict Land contributes to biodiversity	Strategic Outcome 10: Woodlands are restored and managed	SLBS Summary Score (cumulative)	Mainstreaming	Conserving and enhancing biodiversity	Partnership working	Communications	BDIP Summary Score (cumulative)
+	Minor positive									
0	Neutral									
-	Minor negative									
--	Major negative									
+/- etc	Mixed									
?	Uncertain									
S	Short term effects									
M	Medium term effects									
L	Long term effects									
SEA Objectives	Promote the contribution of a healthy and accessible natural environment to human health and wellbeing	++ S-M-L	+ M-L	++ S-M-L	++	++ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++
	Protect and enhance biodiversity and functioning habitats and avoid irreversible loss	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++
	Protect soils, maintain ecosystems functionality and enhance soil quality	+ S-M-L	+ L	++ S-M-L	++	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	++
	Protect and enhance the water environment including the biodiversity of freshwater bodies and wetlands	++ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++	++ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+
	Protect and improve air quality	+ S-M-L	0	+ S-M-L	+	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	0	+

Key to scoring:		SLBS – Strategic Outcomes				BDIP Themes				
++	Major positive	Strategic Outcome 8: The urban environment benefits biodiversity	Strategic Outcome 9: Vacant and Derelict Land contributes to biodiversity	Strategic Outcome 10: Woodlands are restored and managed	SLBS Summary Score (cumulative)	Mainstreaming	Conserving and enhancing biodiversity	Partnership working	Communications	BDIP Summary Score (cumulative)
+	Minor positive									
0	Neutral									
-	Minor negative									
--	Major negative									
+/- etc	Mixed									
?	Uncertain									
S	Short term effects									
M	Medium term effects									
L	Long term effects									
SEA Objectives	Develop and maintain robust ecosystems which can adapt to climate change	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	++	++ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++
	Promote the effective and sustainable use of land and other material assets	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	0	++
	Safeguard and enhance the built and historic environment, including historic landscapes	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	++	+ S-M-L	0	0	+ S-M-L	+
	Maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes	+ S-M-L	0	+ S-M-L	+	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	+