



**Strategic Environmental Assessment  
Post Adoption Statement**

**Biodiversity Strategy and  
Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan  
2018 - 2022**

**November 2018**

## Contents

---

Cover note	3
Key facts about the Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan	5
Strategic Environmental Assessment process	7
Considerations taken into account	8
Considering opinions expressed during consultation	11
Reasons for choosing the Plans as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives	13
Monitoring significant environmental effects in implementing the Plans	14
Concluding the Post Adoption SEA Statement	17
<b>Tables</b>	
1. Issues identified in the Environmental Report	8
2. Mitigation measures identified in the Environmental Report	10
3. Enhancement measures identified in the Environmental Report	10
4. Taking account of consultation responses	11
5. SLBS/BDIP SEA monitoring framework	14

If you want this information in a different format or language, phone 0303 123 1015 or email [equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Cover note

### Part 1

**To:** [SEA.gateway@gov.scot](mailto:SEA.gateway@gov.scot)  
or  
The Scottish Government  
Directorate for Local Government and Communities  
SEA Gateway, Planning and Architecture  
Area 2H South  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

### Part 2

A post-adoption SEA statement 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

**Contact name** Chris Waltho

**Job title** Project Development Officer

**Contact address** Facilities, Waste and Ground Services  
Community and Enterprise Resources  
South Lanarkshire Council  
18 Forrest Street  
Blantyre  
G72 0JP

**Contact phone** 01698 717809

**Contact email** [chris.waltho@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.waltho@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

**Signature**  
(electronic signature  
is acceptable)

**Date**

22 November 2018

**Post-adoption SEA statement for:**

Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan

**Adopted on:**

21 November 2018

**The Responsible Authority is:**

South Lanarkshire Council

**Post-adoption SEA Statement  
Introduction**

This document (referred to here as the post-adoption SEA statement) has been prepared in accordance with Section 18 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

**Post-adoption SEA Statement  
Availability of documents**

**Website**

The Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan, as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and Post-adoption SEA Statement is available on South Lanarkshire Council's website at:

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

**Office address**

The Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan, as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and Post-adoption SEA Statement may also be inspected free of charge (or a copy obtained for a reasonable charge) from:

**Contact name, address and telephone number**

Chris Waltho  
Project Development Officer  
Facilities, Waste and Ground Services  
Community and Enterprise Resources  
South Lanarkshire Council  
18 Forrest Street  
Blantyre  
G70 0JP

Phone: 01698 717809

**Times at which the documents may be inspected or a copy obtained**

Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

## Key facts about the Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan

### Responsible Authority

South Lanarkshire Council

### Title of plan

South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy (SLBS) and SLC Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan (BDIP)

### Purpose of the plans

The SLBS and the BDIP identify priorities to protect and enhance biodiversity in South Lanarkshire. They accord with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to prevent further biodiversity loss and restore the services for a healthy natural environment by 2020. The Strategy reinforces 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 provides the strategic framework to inform and guide action within the Council, across partners and local communities.

### What prompted the plans

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act, 2004 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Scotland), 2011 place a duty on public bodies, including South Lanarkshire Council to further the conservation of biodiversity consistent with the proper exercise of its functions. The BDIP sets out the Council's response to the Biodiversity Duty, including acting as the lead partner in the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership.

### Subject

Biodiversity

### Period covered

Both plans are for the period 2018 to 2022.

### Frequency of updates

The SLBS is reviewed annually and refreshed every five years. The BDIP is refreshed every five years with a report to the Scottish Government every three years.

### Plans area

Both plans cover the whole of South Lanarkshire – an area of 1,772km<sup>2</sup>.

## Summary of nature/content of the plans

The SLBS sets out how the Council and its partners will protect and enhance biodiversity in South Lanarkshire through an 'ecosystems' approach. This should ensure that species are conserved through wider conservation action such as habitat management and restoration. The ecosystems identified in South Lanarkshire are:

- Freshwater
- Wetland
- Woodland
- Upland
- Lowland and farmland
- Urban

The SLBS also considers the following cross cutting themes:

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

The SLBS has ten strategic outcomes which will be achieved through the delivery of 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

## Date adopted

21 November 2018

## Date

22 November 2018

## **Strategic Environmental Assessment process**

Both the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy and the Council's Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan have been subject to a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This has included the following activities:

- Taking into account the views of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Ministers (Historic Environment Scotland) regarding the scope and level of detail appropriate for the Environmental Report.
- Preparing an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects on the environment of the draft SLBS and BDIP which included consideration of:
  - the baseline data relating to the current state of the environment;
  - links between SLBS, BDIP and other relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
  - existing environmental problems affecting the SLBS and BDIP;
  - the plans' likely significant effects on the environment (positive and negative);
  - measures envisaged for the prevention, reduction and offsetting of any significant adverse effects;
  - an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives chosen;
  - monitoring measures to ensure that any unforeseen environmental effects will be identified allowing for appropriate remedial action to be taken.
- Consulting on the Environmental Report.
- Taking into account the Environmental Report and the results of consultation in making final decisions regarding both plans.
- Committing to monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the SLBS and BDIP. This will also identify any unforeseen adverse significant environmental effects and enable the Council and the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership to take appropriate remedial action.

## Considerations taken into account

Table 1 sets out:

- the environmental problems identified in the Environmental Report and explains how these have been taken into account in the preparation of the adopted version of the SLBS and BDIP;
- the significant negative effects identified in the Environmental Report and whether/how these have been dealt with in the adopted version of the SLBS/BDIP;

**Table 1: Issues identified in the Environmental Report (Section 4)**

Environmental considerations and findings from the Environmental Report	Integrated into the SLBS/BDIP (yes/no)	How the issue has been integrated/taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
<b>Population and human health</b>		
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.	Yes	Both the SLBS and BDIP encourage the use of the rural area and urban greenspace by people and communities. The plans protect and promote the benefits of biodiversity to people of all ages across South Lanarkshire and beyond. This will potentially help improve the health and wellbeing of people who use it.
<b>Biodiversity, fauna and flora</b>		
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.	Yes	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.
<b>Soil (including geology)</b>		
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.	Yes	The SLBS and BDIP 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.
<b>Air, noise and light</b>		
Although air quality in South Lanarkshire is generally good, there are some areas where traffic emissions result in poor air quality that exceeds limits set to protect health.	Yes	The SLBS and BDIP contribute to the improvement of air quality by encouraging planting of plants, woodland and forestry, where appropriate. This will also contribute to carbon capture.



Environmental considerations and findings from the Environmental Report	Integrated into the SLBS/ BDIP (yes/no)	How the issue has been integrated/taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
<b>Water</b>		
Water quality in South Lanarkshire is relatively good and continues to improve. Climate change predictions indicate a potential risk of increased flooding incidents although the Council's flood defence approach has significantly improved.	Yes	The SLBS and BDIP directly support the enhancement and management of the quality and quantity of the water environment in both urban and rural areas. This includes opportunities to use natural flood management, where appropriate.
<b>Material Assets</b>		
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.	Yes	Both plans support the remediation of vacant and derelict land and will also protect biodiversity in these areas, where appropriate. They promote the importance of good quality, safe greenspace and the protection of designated and locally important habitats and species, particularly within urban areas.
<b>Climate change</b>		
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.	Yes	The SLBS and BDIP help to protect the area's biodiversity assets from climate change by supporting relevant adaptation measures. Both plans take cognisance of the effects of a changing climate, with particular regards to the introduction and spread of invasive non native species to the area which may impact on human, animal and plant health.
<b>Historic and cultural heritage</b>		
The area has rich heritage with an increase in the number of designated sites, listed buildings and scheduled monuments. The cultural richness of the area provides a sense of cultural identity which is important for enhancing the quality of life across the region.	Yes	The SLBS and BDIP contribute to the protection of the cultural and historic heritage of the area, for example, by the protection of ancient woodland and through initiatives around the removal of invasive non native species and promoting the resurgence of native species.
<b>Landscape</b>		
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.	Yes	The SLBS and BDIP help promote the benefits of our diverse landscape and the biodiversity within it. The plans protect our landscapes and townscapes from the impacts of invasive non native species and by promoting the recovery of native species.

Table 2 sets out:

- the measures for prevention, reduction and offsetting of significant effects identified in the revised Environmental Report plus any revised measures considered and integrated into the adopted version of the SLBS and BDIP.

**Table 2: Mitigation measures identified in the Environmental Report (Section 7)**

Mitigation measure	Integrated into the SLBS/BDIP (yes/no)	How the issue has been integrated/taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
Minimise effects on the historic landscape from woodland planting, removal and/or replanting with different species. Ensure actions are informed by an understanding and appreciation of the historic characteristics of the relevant area and that they preserve, or where, appropriate, enhance the historic environment assets affected.	Yes, in part	Although not explicitly stated in the plans, the SLBS has an outcome which relates to the management and restoration of woodlands. Any such action would be subject to conditions, including those to identify and protect historic features.

Table 3 sets out the significant positive effects identified in the Environmental Report and whether/how these have been dealt with in the adopted version of the SLBS/BDIP.

**Table 3: Enhancement measures identified in the Environmental Report (Table 10)**

Enhancement measure	Integrated into the SLBS/BDIP (yes/no)	How the issue has been integrated/taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
Opportunity to further develop local community involvement in biodiversity projects.	Yes	Both the SLBS and BDIP 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.	Yes	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.	Yes	An action has been added to the SLBS to conduct a case study on 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.	Yes	An action has been included in both the SLBS and BDIP to collaborate with landowners on the identification of potential Local Nature Conservation Sites.
Opportunity to further enhance biodiversity on Council land.	Yes	The BDIP promotes a more holistic approach to biodiversity action across Council services.

## Considering opinions expressed during consultation

Table 4 sets out how the responses to the consultation of the Environmental Report have been taken into account through the preparation of the adopted version of the SLBS and BDIP. No further comments relating to the Environmental Report were received during consultation.

**Table 4: Taking account of consultation responses**

Summary of comments	How the comment was taken into consideration
<b>Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)</b>	
We are satisfied with the assessment presented and agree that the strategy and plan should have a positive effect on those aspects of the environment in which we have an interest.	Thank you for your feedback.
<b>The Scottish Ministers (Historic Environment Scotland)</b>	
The ER is clear and well presented, and in general we are content to agree with its findings in relation to the historic environment, subject to the following points:	Thank you for your feedback.
<i>Strategic Outcome 6: Peatlands are protected and improved</i> Peatlands can be a significant environmental resource, and their protection is likely to have some positive effects on the historic environment.	We agree and have amended the assessment accordingly.
<p><i>Strategic Outcome 10: Woodlands are restored and managed</i> You have identified that the delivery of this outcome offers opportunities to protect and promote ancient woodland and will help to promote the cultural identity of the area, and we agree with this finding. Given that the actions supporting this outcome are likely to take place in areas of historic landscape, or in the vicinity of heritage assets (including Chatelherault, Mauldsie and Falls of Clyde), reinstatement of woodland also has the potential for positive effects on historic landscapes, including gardens and designed landscapes.</p> <p>However, woodland planting, removal and/or replanting with different species also has the potential for negative effects, either directly (through changes to planting which has historic significance, or secondary effects on archaeology and historic features) or indirectly (through changes to the setting of historic assets). In view of this, you may wish to consider whether this outcome will have mixed effects. Mitigation measures could include ensuring that actions to deliver this outcome are informed by an understanding and appreciation of the historic characteristics of the relevant area, and that they preserve, or where appropriate enhance, the historic environment assets affected.</p>	<p>We agree and have amended the assessment accordingly.</p> <p>We agree and have amended the assessment accordingly.</p>
<b>Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)</b>	
Overall we find the Environmental Report to be well presented and the assessment rationale reasonably easy to follow. We also noted that our comments on the Scoping Report have been taken into account at the Environmental Report stage.	Thank you for your feedback.
<p>Question 1 The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011, also known as the WANE Act, is missing from the list of policies in Appendix 2 – apologies for not noticing this omission at the Scoping stage.</p>	Thank you for drawing this omission to our attention. We have updated Appendix 2.

Summary of comments	How the comment was taken into consideration
We are happy with the assessment results in Table 1, although arguably the Greenspace Strategy could be considered of major relevance to both the Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan, rather than minor relevance.	We are content with the scoring for this element of the assessment given that the Greenspace Strategy is soon to be replaced with a new Open Space Strategy.
Question 2 We agree with the common themes arising from the plans, policies and strategies shown in Table 1 and listed in section 2.12.	Noted.
Question 3 We are happy with the identification of the environmental issues and realisation of opportunities. We would just add a small point in relation to the climate change section in Table 4 – in addition to warmer drier summers and wetter winters, it is also predicted that there will be an increase in weather variability and extremes. We recommend building in resilience to strategies and plans to cope with a changing climate, as there is a degree of uncertainty involved with climate science and predicted trends.	Noted. Extreme weather phenomena is discussed in more detail in the State of the Environment Report which provides the SEA baseline. The Council strives to embed resilience to the effects of climate change within its policies, plans and strategies.
Question 4 We agree with the revised SEA objectives and the assessment criteria.	Noted.
Question 5 We agree with the alternatives to the draft plans and the results of the associated assessment.	Noted.
Question 6 Table 8 has the Biodiversity Strategy scoring as a minor positive impact on the SEA climate change objective. This is surprising considering Climate Change is a cross cutting theme in the Biodiversity Strategy, so we would have thought it more likely to have a major positive impact on this objective.  We would have also thought that the Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan would have a major positive impact on the water environment SEA objective, considering it has a major impact for the Soil SEA objective. Has the scoring been appropriate for the climate change and the water environment SEA objectives, or do the Plans need to do more with regard to these objectives so they can be classed as having a major positive impact? Otherwise we agree with the key environmental effects and their assessment.	The assessment reflects the limitations the Partnership has in contributing to climate change adaptation.  The assessment reflects the potential major impacts on the water environment the Partnership can achieve through the Strategy. The BDIP score reflects the limitations the Council has in protecting and enhancing the water environment when working on its own.
Question 7 We agree with the proposed enhancements and the actions taken to address them in Table 9. Although, you may need to consider strengthening actions in the Biodiversity Duty Plan that benefit the Water SEA objective as highlighted above.	Noted. We have no further actions to include within the BDIP. We would welcome any further suggestions you may have in this regard.
The questions posed in the Environmental Report are useful for Consultation Authorities to base comments around and you may wish to ask questions like these in future scoping reports as well.	Noted.

## **Reasons for choosing the Plans as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives**

Four alternatives were considered by participants at the Scoping Workshop. These were:

1. Retain the current SLBS and BDIP.
2. A new SLBS and BDIP focussed on ecosystems approach.
3. A new SLBS and BDIP focussed on action planning.
4. Have no SLBS/BDIP.

The workshop participants 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. The workshop further 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. Subsequently, it was determined that both alternatives 1 and 4 were not acceptable.

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 from both approaches but considered that the ecosystems approach would be more consistent to both the existing plans and to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

Both the workshop and subsequent analysis considered that alternative 2 – a new SLBS and BDIP focussed on ecosystems approach – 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 was considered to be the most appropriate alternative and this was the approach taken within the SLBS and BDIP.

## Monitoring significant environmental effects in implementing the Plans

Undertaking an SEA alongside the development of the SLBS and BDIP provided an opportunity to identify the key environmental issues affecting the area and ensuring these were taken account of as the plans were developed.

In line with Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, a monitoring programme has been 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.

The updating and review of these plans alongside monitoring of the Council's biennial 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. Monitoring will be carried out regularly and reported annually to the Council's Executive Committee, the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership, the South Lanarkshire Sustainability Partnership, senior managers and the public

Monitoring of the SLBS, BDIP and their SEA will be undertaken in-house using information gathered from a range of sources, including the statutory Consultation Authorities. The baseline data against which the effectiveness of plans will be measured is set out in Table 5.

**Table 5: SLBS/BDIP SEA monitoring framework**

<b>SEA Topic:</b> Population and human health	
<b>SEA Objective:</b> Promote the contribution of a healthy and accessible natural environment to human health and wellbeing.	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source</b>
Early or premature death from cancer, coronary heart disease and stroke	SLC: SoE Report
No. of residents participating in recreational activities	SLC: SoE Report
No. of environmental volunteer days	SLC
<b>SEA Topic:</b> Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
<b>SEA Objective:</b> Protect and enhance biodiversity and functioning habitats and avoid irreversible loss.	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source</b>
% of qualifying species in SPA in 'favourable maintained' condition	SNH, SLC: SoE Report
% of qualifying interests in SACs in 'favourable maintained' condition	SNH, SLC: SoE Report
% of SSSIs in 'favourable maintained' condition or 'unfavourable' recovering condition	SNH, SLC: SoE Report
Change in area (ha) of designated biodiversity sites	SNH, SLC: SoE Report
Ha and % of woodland types	FCS, SLC: SoE Report
Ha of lowland/intermediate raised bog inventory sites	SNH, SLC: SoE Report
Ha covered by Habitat Management Plans	SLC
No. of development applications affecting peatlands	SLC
Ha of compensatory woodland planting achieved	SLC, FCS

<b>SEA Topic: Soil</b>	
<b>SEA Objective:</b> Protect soils, maintain ecosystem functionality and enhance soil quality.	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source</b>
No. of geologically designated SSSIs	SNH, SLC: SoE Report
Area of land classifications 1 - 7	SG, SLC: SoE Report
No. of development applications affecting peatlands	SLC
<b>SEA Topic: Water</b>	
<b>SEA Objective:</b> Protect and enhance the water environment, including the biodiversity of freshwater bodies and wetlands.	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source</b>
No. of flooding incidents	SLC: SoE Report
% of water bodies achieving high or good WFD status	SEPA, SLC: SoE Report
<b>SEA Topic: Air, noise and light</b>	
<b>SEA Objectives:</b> Protect and improve air quality	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source</b>
Annual average concentration of NO <sup>2</sup>	SLC: SoE Report
Annual average concentration of PM <sup>10</sup>	SLC: SoE Report
<b>SEA Topic: Climate change</b>	
<b>SEA Objectives:</b> Develop and maintain robust ecosystems which can adapt to climate change.	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source</b>
Change in CO <sub>2</sub> emission estimates	DECC, SLC: SoE Report
No. of peatlands improved	SNH, SLC
<b>SEA Topic: Material assets</b>	
<b>SEA Objective:</b> Promote the effective and sustainable use of land and other material assets.	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source</b>
No./ha of vacant and derelict land sites	SLC: SoE Report
No. of developments on vacant and derelict land sites	SLC
No./ha of vacant and derelict land removed from Register for greening and biodiversity value	SLC
Ha of overall greenspace	SLC: SoE Report
Ha of greenspace managed for biodiversity value	SLC
Ha of land designated as LNRs	SLC
No./m <sup>2</sup> of Council owned land used for allotments	SLC
No. of Green Flag parks	SLC
<b>SEA Topic: Historic and cultural heritage</b>	
<b>SEA Objective:</b> Safeguard and enhance the built and historic environment, including historic landscapes.	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source</b>
Ha of ancient woodland on Ancient Woodland Inventory	FCS, SLC
No. of developments involving loss of ancient woodland	HES, SLC
No. of Tree Preservation Orders	SLC

<b>SEA Topic:</b> Landscape	
<b>SEA Objective:</b> Maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes.	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Responsibility/Source</b>
No. of development applications within Special Landscape Areas	SLC
Ha of new woodland, including native woodland within Special Landscape Areas	SLC, FCS
Ha of Local Nature Reserves designated within Special Landscape Areas	SLC

<b>Key to acronyms</b>			
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change	FCS	Forestry Commission Scotland
HES	Historic Environment Scotland	SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SG	Scottish Government	SLC	South Lanarkshire Council
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency		



## Concluding the Post Adoption SEA Statement

The South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy and the Council's Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan have both undergone a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to determine their potential environmental effects. The SEA demonstrated that both plans should result in positive effects across the full range of environmental issues, particularly in terms of biodiversity, human health and material assets. The assessment identified opportunities to further enhance potential positive effects from the implementation of both plans and also identified mitigation measures to reduce and offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.

The assessment findings 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.

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.

We consider that the SLBS and BDIP fulfil their purpose by providing a clear framework to direct our biodiversity activities in an environmentally sustainable way, incorporating wider environmental issues as far as reasonably possible.

Throughout the SEA process, the Consultation Authorities have confirmed their agreement with the overall assessment approach adopted. No requirement was highlighted for further modification of the plans following assessment of the Environmental Report. No comments were received from the general public or other stakeholders on the Environmental Report during the public consultation period. Only a few minor comments were received on the SLBS and BDIP. These have been considered and, where appropriate, have been taken account of in the final plans.

A Revised Environmental Report has been prepared to take account of suggestions received from the Consultation Authorities. A copy of this is attached for information.

The South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy was approved by the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership on 14 September 2017. The Strategy and Plan were both endorsed and formally approved by the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council on 21 November 2018.