East Ayrshire Council

East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2

Interim Environmental Report

June 2020

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1. Introduction

Interim Environmental Report (IER)

1.1. The Interim Environmental Report (IER) forms part of the preparation process for the review of the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan which was adopted in July 2017 (EALDP). East Ayrshire Council are in the early stages of the preparation of Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) and LDP2 is required to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. A Scoping Report was submitted to the consultation authorities through the SEA Gateway in April 2019.

Statutory Requirement for SEA

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

1.2. During the preparation of East Ayrshire Council's Local Development Plan 2: Main Issues Report, the Council are required to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the provisions of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 (referred to as "the Act" within this document). The IER has been prepared in accordance with Section 5 (3) of the Act.

Key Stages of the SEA Process

1.3.   The Act (2005) identifies a number of key stages to be undertaken for a SEA and these are outlined below:

Table 1: Key Stages of the LDP2 and SEA Process

Timescale	LDP/SEA Stage	
Preparation of the Scoping Environmental Report:		
Quarter 1 - 2019	❖ Gather comments/feedback from SEA Consultation Authorities ❖ Submit Scoping Report to SEA Gateway.	**Complete**
Preparation of the Interim Environmental Report and Main Issues Report (MIR):		
Quarter 4 2019 and Quarter 1 - 2020	❖ Collate baseline environmental information (including information regarding European and international designations) ❖ Consider comments received on the Scoping Report from Consultation Authorities and refine the methodology. ❖ Undertake a Stage 1 Assessment of the MIR by environmentally appraising the preferred and alternative options (including the identification of potential sites and subsequent environmental implications of inclusion within LDP2).	**Complete**
Publication and consultation period on Interim Environmental Report and MIR (minimum of 6 weeks):		
Quarter 2 - 2020	❖ Publish Interim Environmental Report and MIR documents for public consultation between the 1st June 2020 – 31st July 2020. ❖ Submit documents to SEA Gateway ❖ Continue to consider implications of main issues ❖ Consider comments received ❖ Environmentally appraise the Proposed Plan ❖ Make the necessary amendments to the Environmental Report and assessment outcomes if required.	**Current Stage**
Preparation of the Proposed Local Development Plan:		
Quarters 1, 2 and 3 - 2021	❖ Consider comments received from Interim Environmental Report and MIR ❖ Consider comments from SEA Consultation Authorities on Interim Environmental Report	**X**

	❖ Undertake the preparation of policies and proposals of Proposed Plan by environmentally appraising proposed policies and sites.	
Publication and consultation on the Proposed Plan and Environmental Report (Minimum of 6 weeks):		
Quarter 4 - 2021	❖ Consider the representations received ❖ Prepare a summary of Schedule 4 documents (unresolved representations) and a report of conformity with participation statement.	X
Submit Proposed Plan to Examination:		
Quarter 3 - 2022	❖ Submit the Proposed Plan, Schedule 4 documents, proposed Action Programme and Statement of Conformity to the Scottish Ministers. ❖ Advertise submission of the Proposed Plan. ❖ Submit Environmental Report to Scottish Ministers. ❖ Advertise submission of the Environmental Report.	X
Examination Report Issued:		
Quarter 1 - 2023	❖ Consider recommendations and prepare modifications ❖ Environmentally appraise the modified Plan. ❖ Make the appropriate alterations and accept all appropriate modifications.	X
Publish modifications and the Proposed Plan as modified:		
Quarter 1 - 2023	❖ Publish and send to Ministers revised Environmental Report	X
Adoption of the Proposed Plan:		
Quarter 2 - 2023	❖ East Ayrshire Council adopts the Proposed Plan as LDP2	X
Post-Adoption SEA Statement:		
Quarter 4 - 2023	❖ Publish Post-Adoption SEA Statement and submit to SEA Gateway	X

Key Facts

1.4.   Table 2 below contains the key facts relating to the LDP (2) MIR:

Key Fact	Detail
Responsible Authority	East Ayrshire Council
Title of the Plan/Programme	East Ayrshire Local Development Plan (2) Interim Environmental Report: Strategic Environmental Assessment (October 2019)
What prompted the Plan	The East Ayrshire Local Development Plan was adopted in 2017. That Plan must be reviewed and replaced within a 5 year period of adoption. The review will focus on wider impacts of the existing LDP on the area and how far the objectives and vision of that original LDP have been realised.
Plan subject	Land-use planning
Period covered by the Plan	2023-2028
Frequency of Updates	5 years
Plan area	East Ayrshire Council (whole authority). See Map 1.
Purpose of the Plan/Objective	LDP2 will be a land-use management document, which provides a spatial management strategy in line with the Council's priorities (replacing the current LDP and MLDP).

Table 2: Key Facts

1.5.   The main points of contact for the MIR and SEA are as follows:

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Map 1: Illustrates the context of East Ayrshire in relation to key cities such as Glasgow and Edinburgh. Map 2 illustrates the extents of East Ayrshire in a simplistic form.

Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2)

1.6.   The Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) is being prepared under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as Amended). It also takes into account the provisions of the Development Planning (Scotland) Regulations 2008, the National Planning Framework 3 and the East Ayrshire Community Plan (2015-2030) and will replace the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan (2017) and the East Ayrshire Minerals Local Development Plan (2020) on adoption. The Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) will establish a series of policies, strategies, site specific allocations as well as proposals for the future development of East Ayrshire. Map 1 illustrates the local authority boundary and as such, the geographical extent of East Ayrshire.

1.7.   As the current LDP needs to be kept under review, East Ayrshire Council have been undertaking research into how it has been performing - whether its policies and proposals have been providing the guidance intended, whether that guidance has been followed, and whether it remains valid and appropriate.

1.8.   It is anticipated that the LDP2 will consist of the following:

> ✓ **Vision statement**
> ✓ **Spatial Strategy which will detail how this vision will be realised;**
> ✓ **A detailed statement of policies and proposals as to the development and use of land;**
> ✓ **Supplementary guidance**
> ✓ **A proposals map and settlement maps which illustrate the plan's policies and proposals spatially;**
> ✓ **A schedule of land owned by the Planning Authority and affected by any of the policies, proposals or views expressed in the plan**

Main Issues Report

1.9.   The Main Issues Report (MIR) is the first formal stage in the preparation of a new Local Development Plan. It is an examination of factors and circumstances that have changed since the previous Local Development Plan was adopted, in this instance in 2017, and where a fresh approach to policy may be needed.

1.10.   The Scottish Government considers the MIR to be a means of stimulating genuine debate on the proposed approach and potential alternatives at an early stage in the Plan's development. The Main Issues Report (MIR) is the first stage in the preparation of the Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2). It sets out the vision for what East Ayrshire will be like in 10-20 years' time and presents 29 issues to consult the public on. This will aid the Council in arriving at strategies, policies

and site allocations within the Proposed Plan (PLDP2), which is the following stage in the plan preparation process. It should be noted that the MIR concentrates on key areas of change and improvements that have taken place since the adoption of EALDP (2017). The Interim Environmental Report is an integral part of the development of the MIR and will influence its contents to ensure that where possible, and outwith other social and economic considerations, the MIR has a minimal adverse impact on the environment. The Interim Environmental Report is published alongside the MIR.

Relationship between other Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS's)

1.11.   LDP2 is influenced by a wide range of International, European, National and local plans, programmes and strategies (PPS). Schedule 3 (1) of the Act requires the environmental report to contain details of the relationship of LDP2 with other PPSs and consider their content, objectives and visions. Appendix 2 provides a list of all of the relevant PPS that will include the content of the MIR and PLDP2. This list may expand as the preparation of the MIR and PLDP2 is progressed.

Hierarchy of Plans, Programmes and Strategies

1.12.   Identifying the PPSs which are of relevance to LDP2 will assist in understanding LDP2's position in the hierarchy of PPSs. The MIR/LDP2 is therefore not an isolated document, it sits within a hierarchy of Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS's). Establishing LDP2's context amongst other PPSs will also assist in identifying the environmental objectives which are applicable to these documents, and the implications which these objectives will have for LDP2.

1.13. Figure 1 below illustrates this hierarchy in a diagrammatic form. At this Interim Stage, and given the current political climate, the impact of Brexit on European legislation is still unknown but this will be reviewed throughout the various stages of the LDP process.

Figure 1: Relationship between the LDP2 MIR and
Other Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS)
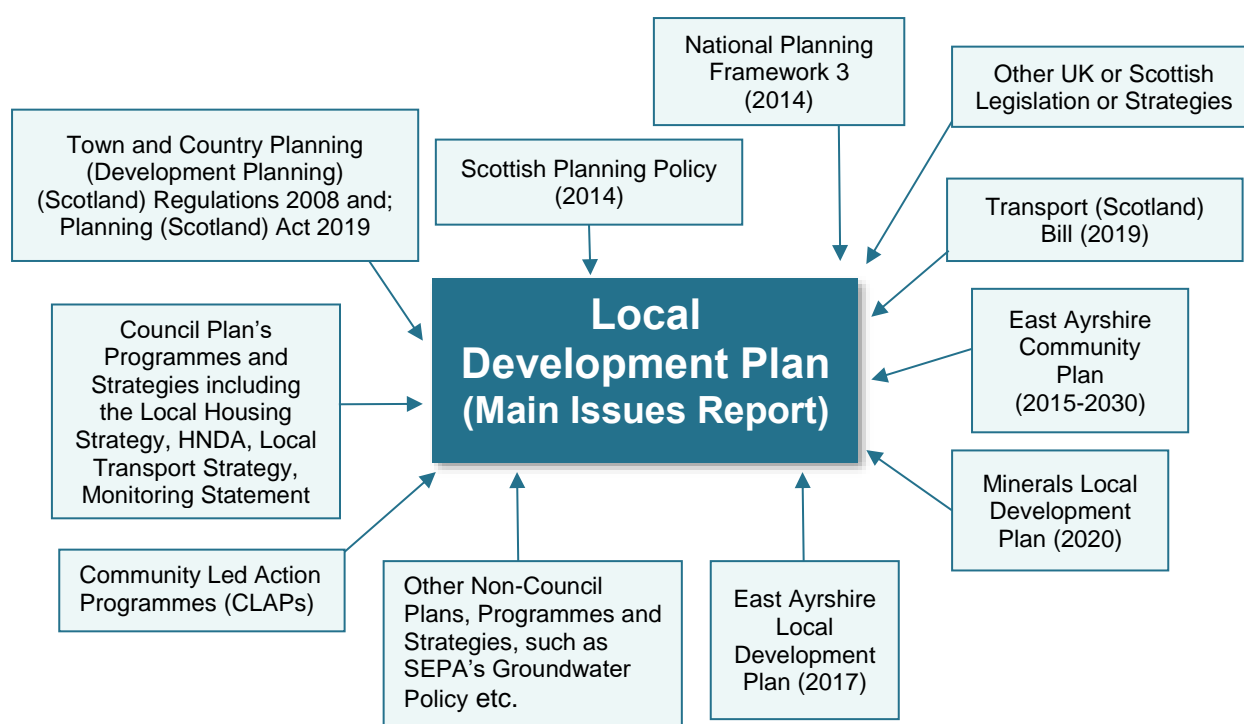
1.14. Appendix 2 provides an extensive list of the PPSs which are of relevance to LDP2 and how they will affect or be affected by LDP2 and how LDP2 needs to take these into consideration throughout the preparation of the Plan.

PPSs Environmental Protection Objectives

1.15. The environmental objectives that are contained within International, European, UK and Scottish legislation, as well as national advice and guidance, which are considered to be of the greatest relevance to the MIR/LDP2, will be taken into account when preparing the MIR. These environmental protection objectives are contained within Appendix 2 and 3.

LDP2's Main Aims and Objectives as contained within the MIR

1.16.   LDP2 contains 9 chapters and each chapter contains issues with preferred and alternative options for consideration. These chapters are outlined and summarised below, alongside a brief description:

1.17.   **A Vision for East Ayrshire →** The MIR sets out a series of high level aims and objectives which forms the long-term vision for East Ayrshire. This represents how East Ayrshire should be developed over a set period of time to ensure that East Ayrshire is a strong, safe and vibrant place to live where everyone has access to opportunities, choices and high quality services. The key themes are supporting development and directing it to sustainable locations, reducing the effects of climate change, delivering health and social care services, driving sustainable economic growth, improving infrastructure, ensuring there is access to employment opportunities, encouraging low carbon solutions, protecting the natural and built environment and recognising the changing face of retail within our town centres. These can be viewed in detail below.

1.18.   **Spatial Strategy →** The MIR sets out the proposed Spatial Strategy for East Ayrshire which is required in order to achieve the vision set out above. The Spatial Strategy identifies priority areas which are: Ayrshire Growth Deal locations, economic expansion in Kilmarnock, South Central Kilmarnock, Stewarton and the Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership Area.

1.19.   **Approach to Placemaking →** Placemaking is central to the EALDP (2017), however, the delivery of placemaking is changing under the provisions of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 which has introduced a requirement for community bodies to have the opportunity to prepare Local Place Plans. These will be taken into account in the preparation of LDP2.

1.20.   **Enabling Housing →** The Council will utilise the Housing Need and Demand Assessment, which was approved as robust and credible in April 2018, alongside other documentation such as the Local Housing Strategy 2019-2024 to develop housing supply targets and housing land requirements. This will be reflected within LDP2 in terms of policy and site allocations. The MIR also attempts to tackle rural housing development pressure which is experienced to the north and south of the authority.

1.21.   **Successful Town Centres →** In order to tackle rising unit vacancies, the MIR proposes the alteration of the structure of town centres to make them more dense and coherent. Conversions to residential use will be encouraged alongside other non-retail uses such as mixed-use and leisure developments.

1.22. **Infrastructure** → The MIR focuses on Developer Contributions, green infrastructure and promoting sustainable transport. The capacity of the Bellfield Interchange is identified as a key issue to be addressed.

1.23. **Historic Environment** → The MIR has identified Loudoun Castle Garden and Designed Landscape as a development opportunity within the rural area for tourism or recreational uses.

1.24. **Planning for Climate Change: Renewable Energy, Flooding, Minerals and Low Carbon Places** → This section of the MIR sets out the need to improve resilience and mitigate against the threats of climate change. Renewable energy and energy efficiency measures are a key focus towards sustainable development. Through the Council's Capital Programme, the MIR focuses on the installation of renewable heat regeneration technologies. East Ayrshire has experienced significant flooding in recent years and so the MIR addresses the reduction of flood risk.

1.25. **Priorities, Issues and Proposals (Pre-MIR Consultation)** → Sites have been submitted by a range of stakeholders for potential inclusion in LDP2 for a variety of uses. These are listed within the MIR, with subsequent individual environmental assessments to follow.

1.26. The high level proposed aims of LDP2, as contained within the MIR, are summarised below. These aims and objectives were informed by other Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPSs). It is anticipated that these will be refined as the preparation of the plan progresses. The aims are as follows:

1. **Stabilise East Ayrshire's population and seek to achieve population growth;**

2. **Create good quality places with resilient and safe communities, ensuring a good quality of life for existing and future residents;**

3. **Direct development to sustainable locations which are located close to local services, facilities and local public transport networks;**

4. **Ensure measures are in place to assist in reducing the effects of climate change and in meeting climate change targets;**

5. Assist in providing opportunities for the delivery of health and social care services in the future;

6. Drive economic growth and inward investment in a sustainable manner;

7. Strive for better infrastructure to assist in creating good quality places;

8.   Ensure there is access to employment opportunities, and services through the provision of a high quality green network and active travel network;

9. Encourage low carbon solutions and ensure there is a responsible and justified approach to renewable energy development;

10. Ensure there is a responsible and justified approach to minerals extraction with appropriate restoration and aftercare;

11. Protect and enhance the built and natural features of East Ayrshire's historic environment;

12. Protect and enhance our diverse natural environment;

13. Encourage tourism opportunities in East Ayrshire, in particular those that protect and enhance East Ayrshire's rich landscape, history and cultural heritage; and

14. Recognise the changing face of retail whilst promoting our town centres.

2. State of East Ayrshire's Environment, Baseline Data and Issues

2.1.   SEA legislation requires this report to provide information on the:

  ❖ Current state of East Ayrshire's environment

  ❖ Likely evolution of the environment without LDP2

  ❖ Environmental characterises of the area that will likely be significantly affected

  ❖ International and national environmental objectives and how these have been taken into account

  ❖ All environmental problems which are relevant to the plan.

2.2.   Information on the current environment within East Ayrshire was required in order to develop the SEA objectives and sub-criteria (Appendix 3), and to aid in the environmental assessment process. This section of the IER provides a brief summary of the state of the environment.

2.3.   The MIR is required to undergo a Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA). The purpose of the HRA is to determine if there will be a significant impact on a Special Protection Area (SPA) or a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). These designations are protected by European legislation and collectively are called Natura 200 sites. These sites are designated to protect rare or vulnerable habitats and species and are designated under two important pieces of European legislation relating to nature conservation, the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive. If the HRA determines that a significant impact is likely on these sites, an "appropriate assessment" will be required to be undertaken. The HRA will be revised and kept up to date at each key stage of the LDP process and a record of the HRA will accompany the Proposed Plan.

Baseline Environmental Data

2.4.   Gathering and collating baseline environmental data is an integral part of the SEA process, providing a snapshot of the environment at that point of time. In doing so, the SEA highlights existing environmental problems which need to be addressed; these are then utilised in order to forecast future environmental impacts of the implementation of LDP2. Baseline environmental data directly informs the development of SEA objectives which LDP2 will be assessed against.

2.5.   The environmental report for the MIR and PLDP2 will produce a full and comprehensive list of baseline environmental data, utilising GIS mapping where possible, to show the geographical location and scale of key environmental designations and utilising the recently updated State of the Environment Report (2019). Appendix 4 summarises the key baseline environmental information and the environmental implications for the preparation and development of the MIR and LDP2.

2.6.   Appendix 3 also sets out the suggested detailed SEA objectives for assessment purposes. These have been developed taking into account the summary baseline information collated and the environmental implications for the MIR and LDP2. The SEA objectives will be used to assess these documents and provide the basis for the development of sub-criteria/questions in Appendix 3.
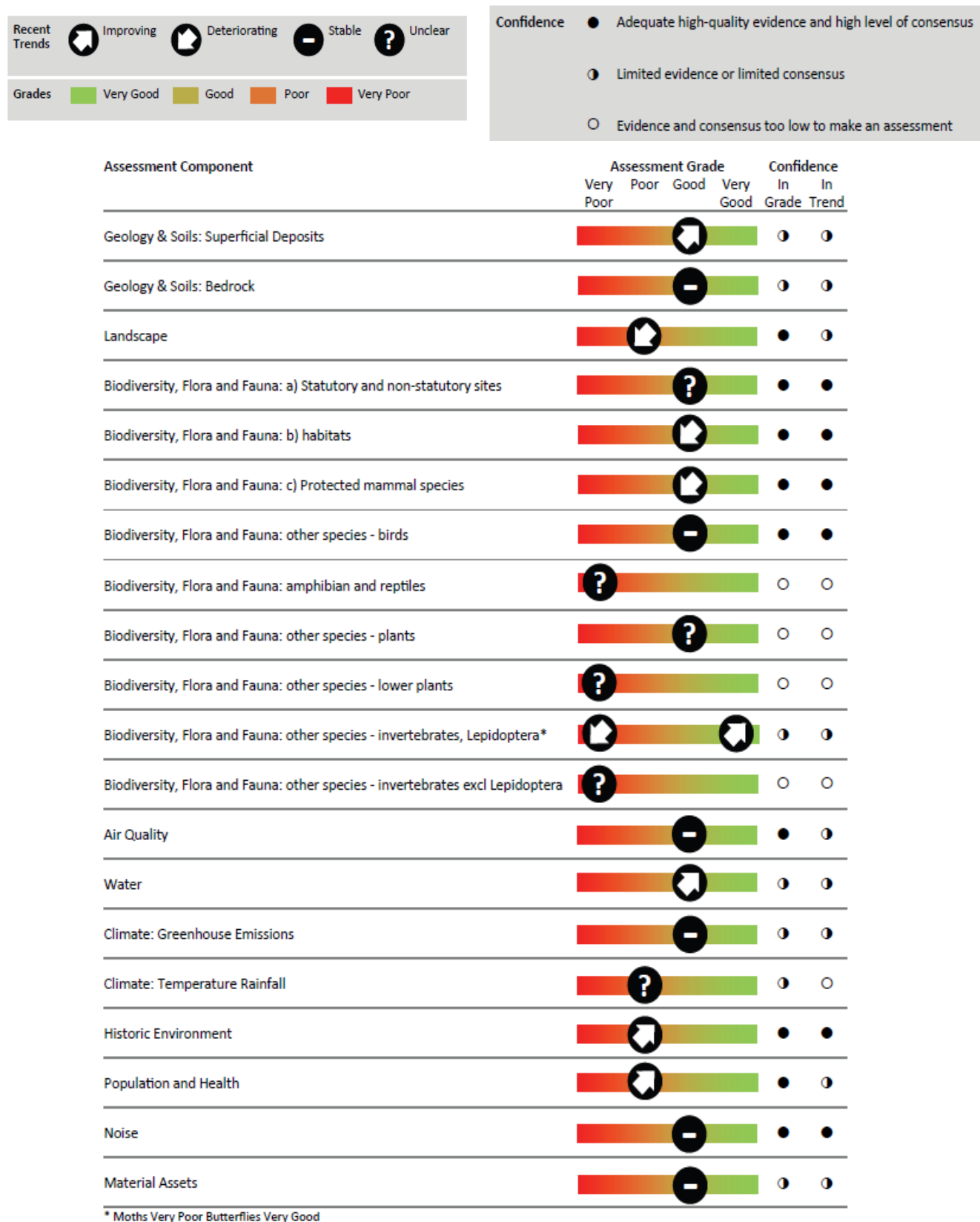
Existing Environmental Issues and Problems

2.7.   The Interim Environmental Report identifies current environmental issues that affect East Ayrshire by utilising information that has been identified through an analysis of environmental baseline data and implications, which are contained in Appendix 4 and 5 and are detailed within the updated State of the Environmental Report (2019).

2.8.   **In overall terms, the quality of baseline environmental information is good across most of the topic area with the exception of some ecological data being of poor quality, fragmented or not available. 65% of the assessment components (Geology and Soils, Biodiversity, etc.) have been scored as "Good" with 5% being scored as "Very Good". 25% of the assessment components are improving with 30% stable and 20% degrading.**

2.9.   The key environmental issues facing East Ayrshire are:

> ❖ **Significant landscape change in some rural areas as a result of the nature and scale of minerals development, windfarm developments as well as changes to agricultural and forestry practices.**
>
> ❖ **Cumulative impacts from both minerals and windfarm developments. The assessment trends in landscape and visual impacts are currently deteriorating and measured as being in poor condition.**
>
> ❖ **The amount of vacant units within town centres is increasing and this is causing an adverse impact on the image of town centres. Town centres across East Ayrshire especially Kilmarnock are in need of environmental improvement and regeneration;**

- **Loss and/or fragmentation of habitats and species. The assessment trends in biodiversity, flora and fauna, specifically habitats and protected species, are currently in good condition but are deteriorating. The extent and quality of natural bird resources for breeding and wintering has decreased.**

- **Damage to internationally designated sites. The assessment trends indicate that 8 sites remain in an unfavourable condition.**

- **Pollution and reduced air quality from road traffic, rural sources and minerals extraction.**

- **Changes in climate pose issues regarding extreme flood events. The risk of flooding in certain areas within East Ayrshire are high (e.g. the Irvine Valley).**

- **Legacy of vacant and derelict land as well as unrestored land both in the settlements and rural area which detract from the character and appearance of the area;**

- **There is an increasing pressure on the area's transport infrastructure, particularly at Bellfield Interchange, Kilmarnock. This has resulted in an increase in congestion and pollution.**

2.10. It will be important to take account of these factors in developing the policies and proposals of LDP2.

2.11. Figure 2 illustrates the findings of the State of the Environment Report (2019). Further detail can be viewed in Appendix 5.

Figure 2: State of the Environment Trends

Legend:

Recent Trends: Improving, Deteriorating, Stable, Unclear

Grades: Very Good, Good, Poor, Very Poor

Confidence:
- Adequate high-quality evidence and high level of consensus
- Limited evidence or limited consensus
- Evidence and consensus too low to make an assessment

Assessment Component	Assessment Grade	Confidence In Grade	Confidence In Trend
Geology & Soils: Superficial Deposits	Good (Improving)	Limited	Limited
Geology & Soils: Bedrock	Good (Stable)	Limited	Limited
Landscape	Poor (Deteriorating)	Adequate	Limited
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: a) Statutory and non-statutory sites	Good (Unclear)	Adequate	Adequate
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: b) habitats	Poor (Improving)	Adequate	Adequate
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: c) Protected mammal species	Good (Improving)	Adequate	Adequate
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: other species - birds	Good (Stable)	Adequate	Adequate
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: amphibian and reptiles	Very Poor (Unclear)	Too low	Too low
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: other species - plants	Good (Unclear)	Too low	Too low
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: other species - lower plants	Very Poor (Unclear)	Too low	Too low
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: other species - invertebrates, Lepidoptera*	Very Poor (Improving) / Very Good (Improving)	Limited	Limited
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: other species - invertebrates excl Lepidoptera	Very Poor (Unclear)	Too low	Too low
Air Quality	Good (Stable)	Adequate	Limited
Water	Good (Improving)	Limited	Limited
Climate: Greenhouse Emissions	Good (Stable)	Limited	Limited
Climate: Temperature Rainfall	Poor (Unclear)	Limited	Too low
Historic Environment	Poor (Improving)	Adequate	Adequate
Population and Health	Poor (Improving)	Adequate	Limited
Noise	Good (Stable)	Adequate	Adequate
Material Assets	Good (Stable)	Limited	Limited

* Moths Very Poor Butterflies Very Good

2.12. Table 3 provides a summary of the key SEA Objectives with regards to each Environmental Receptor.

Table 3: SEA Objectives Overview

Environmental Receptor	SEA Objective
Landscape	To protect and where appropriate restore landscape, local distinctiveness and areas of value.
Soil & Geology	To protect and where appropriate use high quality and sensitive soils in a sustainable manner and conserve recognised geodiversity assets.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	To protect, enhance, create and where necessary restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity.
Water Quality	To prevent deterioration and where possible enhance water quality.
Air Quality	To prevent deterioration and where possible enhance air quality.
Climatic Factors	To contribute towards the reduction of Scottish greenhouse gas outputs in line with government targets.
	To reduce flood risk to new developments and established areas.
Material Assets	To promote the sustainable use of natural resources, material assets and enhance recreational provisions.

Environmental characteristics likely be significantly affected

2.13. The analysis of the baseline information undertaken in Stage 1 indicates that LDP2 is likely to have more significant effects on certain areas of the environmental receptors than others. Table 4 provides a general overview of the specific aspects that may potentially and significantly be affected by LDP2. In general terms, it is considered that LDP2 will have an overall positive impact on the environment of East Ayrshire. Our planning policies and proposed land allocations will be informed by national level policies, such as Scottish Planning Policy and National Planning Framework 3.

2.14. The assessment of our vision, spatial strategy, preferred and alternative options can be viewed in *Appendix 6: Stage 1 Assessment Tables*.

Table 4: Summary and Overview of Environmental characteristic affected by LDP2 at Stage 1 of the Assessment process

SEA Issue by Environmental Topic	Summary of the potential, significant impacts by LDP2 on Environmental Receptor	Likely to be generally positive or negative?
Natural Environment		
Landscape	Ensure that future developments respect the landscape character of East Ayrshire (including wind energy and opencast coal extraction) and do not have a detrimental impact.	**Positive**
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Ensure that internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, habitats and priority species are protected and that future development does not result in or contribute towards the fragmentation of these sites.	**Positive**
Climatic factors	In accordance with other PPS's, LDP2 will support and promote development contributing towards the reduction of greenhouse gases in order to meet national climate change targets.	**Positive**
	Support and contribute towards improving East Ayrshire's resilience to climate change.	**Positive**
	Will encourage sustainability through use of materials, construction methods, renewables and by locating developments near existing public transport routes.	**Positive**
Natural Resources		
Soil	Contribute to reducing the levels of vacant and derelict land, including contaminated land, and unrestored opencast coal sites by encouraging the re-use, restoration and redevelopment of such land will be supported by LDP2.	**Positive**
	LDP2 will protect, and where possible enhance valuable soils such as peat and carbon rich soils and safeguard prime agricultural land.	**Positive**
Air	Protect and/or enhance the existing air quality of East Ayrshire and promote sustainable modes of transportation as well as active travel.	**Positive**
Water	The LDP2 will not support development which is likely to have a significant probability of being affected by flooding. The LDP2 will focus on mitigation and protection.	**Positive**

	Prevent developments which will have an adverse effect on water quality, ecology and overall conditioning.	**Positive**

Historic Environment

Listed Buildings	Protect the historic character of listed buildings and where possible, seek improvement, promote the reuse of vacant listed buildings contributing to good placemaking and sustainability.	**Positive**
Conservation Areas	Protect conservation areas from inappropriate development or alterations that will impact upon any listed building or conservation areas located with or adjacent to the EAC boundary.	**Positive**
Scheduled Monuments	Prevent any significantly detrimental impacts on Scheduled Monuments.	**Positive**
Archaeological Sites	The plan will protect archaeological sites and resources within the area.	**Positive**
Gardens and Designed Landscapes	Protect gardens and designed landscapes from inappropriate development that will have a direct or indirect impact.	**Positive**
Historic Battlefields	Protect East Ayrshire's historic battlefield from inappropriate development that will have a direct or indirect impact.	**Positive**

Social Environment

Health	Encourage new developments to provide walking and cycling networks that interlink with existing networks.	**Positive**
	Encourage the enhancement of green networks.	**Positive**
Population	Encourage developments to be sustainably located, as such services, employment, education and recreational uses will be widely accessible.	**Positive**
Material Assets (infrastructure, amenity and recreational open areas)	Encourage and ensure that developments are sustainably located across East Ayrshire.	**Positive**
	Ensure that existing assets, such as amenity and recreational open spaces, are safeguarded for new development.	**Positive**

Likely evolution of the environment without LDP2

2.15. Future changes to the environmental baseline, in the absence of LDP2, are inevitable due to natural processes but also due to human activity that are not related to the Plan. These are outlined below. It is important to take into account this likely evolution of the environment in the absence of LDP2 as this will help to inform the MIR/LDP2. It also helps to recognise the limits of the Plan itself. It is considered that, in the absence of LDP2, development would continue to take place but would not be monitored and would be less well attuned to the surrounding environment and other strategic objectives and priorities. LDP2 is also an important vehicle for progressing social and economic justice through an overarching vision and environmental protection.

Natural Environment

2.16. **Landscape →** The landscape will continue to evolve as a result of human activity, biological processes and climate will continue to alter the landscape, particularly in relation to flooding. Increased levels of sporadic and isolated developments. Greenfield sites may be built on rather than brownfield sites, which will have a detrimental impact on landscape character of settlements and rural areas. Unrestricted development could result in the urbanisation of rural areas. Development may take place in inappropriate locations or environmentally sensitive areas, possibly resulting in an unacceptable loss of greenfield areas, areas of ecological importance or significant environmental quality. Identified vacant and derelict land as well as brownfield sites within existing settlements would be less likely to be developed and this could potentially undermine the opportunity for regeneration and improvement of townscapes.

2.17. **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna →** Existing adverse effects on biodiversity would continue to be unchecked and would likely be exacerbated by unrestricted development leading to a loss of areas of importance for nature conservation, biodiversity and prime agricultural land. Despite issues relating to the preservation and protection of biodiversity being in place within a range of other PPSs, habitats would continue to become fragmented resulting in a loss of species and biodiversity. Ultimately, it is considered that the emerging environmental protection/enhancement needs of East Ayrshire would not be addressed. There will be less protection for East Ayrshire's natural habitats and other environmentally sensitive areas potentially resulting in unacceptable levels of degradation to landscape and heritage.

2.18. **Climatic factors →** In the absence of LPD2, the effects of climate change on the environment, economy and society would be more severely felt and will increase. In recent years, greater levels and rates of flooding have been experienced throughout East Ayrshire, development within flood plains or other

inappropriate locations will exacerbate this risk and have a detrimental impact on the local economy, investment and infrastructure. Without a strong policy framework energy efficiency measures may not occur.

Natural Resources

2.19. **Soil →** Soil quality is likely to be detrimentally impacted by development, which might not occur if the LDP2 was in place. Development may take place in prime agricultural areas having a detrimental impact on agricultural land quality and provision within the local authority. Development on areas of peat or development which includes the disturbance or removal of peat may take place without LDP2 and have detrimental impacts on areas of peat (Class 1, 2 and 5), raised bogs and carbon rich soils which would increase the carbon emissions of East Ayrshire.

2.20. **Air →** Air quality levels may decrease in East Ayrshire. Air quality issues will be prevalent, particularly in urban centres and in locations close to the commuter belts. It is noted that air quality issues are contained within other PPSs, such as regional and local transport strategies. Development would more likely take place on greenfield land which would increase the dependency of private car usage within East Ayrshire, potentially increasing traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

2.21. **Water →** Adverse water quality would remain, or be detrimentally affected, in the absence of the strategy. There is the potential that agricultural uses will intensify, which will increasingly impact on the water environment in a detrimental manner through construction and agricultural run-off. There may be an absence of the appropriate flood mitigation measures to suitably address the adverse impacts of developments on the water environment and the impact that this will have on the social environment.

Historic Environment

2.22. **Cultural Heritage→** Whilst the existing impacts and benefits on the historic environment in relation to economic development will remain, the physical and visual condition of the historic environment may deteriorate without a policy framework which supports "preservation" and "enhancement". The reuse of vacant historic properties are less likely to take place, although there may be a degree of regeneration of these buildings of historic character. It is anticipated that both positive and negative effects on the historic environment may not occur if the Plan is not in place. With a lack of focus on the need to reduce levels of vacant and derelict land, listed buildings which are currently sitting vacant and derelict will not be restored which could lead to unsustainable land use management. Therefore, a less proactive approach to the protection of the built heritage.

Social Environment

2.23.   **Health →**   Air quality may deteriorate in East Ayrshire, having a significant impact on the health of its residents. Sporadic and unplanned development may limit or restrict access to open/green spaces and active travel opportunities. A lack of high quality design could lead to the creation of poor quality places and have a detrimental impact on health and population.

2.24.   **Population →**   The population of East Ayrshire may decrease, with rural locations becoming increasingly depopulated. Alternatively, the population in high-demand areas such as Stewarton, Dunlop and Kilmarnock may increase in an unsustainable manner.

2.25.   **Material Assets →**   The integration of unplanned development within existing developments and infrastructure such as health centres, bus services, transport connections as well as sewers and water treatment infrastructure would be difficult to achieve. There is a higher demand in certain areas (such as Stewarton) where the existing infrastructure would be unable to cope with this type and level of development. Due to demand, development would become concentrated within these areas, taking place in an uncontrolled manner, which would lead to the decline of settlements which are located in the more remote areas of East Ayrshire (such as small communities within Doon Valley). Increased levels of sporadic and isolated developments would have a significant impact on infrastructure. Demand for services such as retail and commercial leisure may emerge at the edges or out of town centre locations to the detriment of the vitality of existing town centres. There will be no strategic approach to infrastructure.

Environmental Protection Objectives

2.26. The Interim Environmental Report is required by legislation to outline how the environmental protection objectives at international, national and regional level have been taken into account throughout the preparation of the MIR and LDP2 process. Table 5 below meets this requirement by detailing the applicable legislation and how the MIR/LDP2 has taken these into account.

Table 5: International Environmental Objectives

Environmental Topic/Objective	Expectations of the Objective	How the MIR/LDP2 has taken these requirements into account
International Legislation		
Nature Conservation → The Habitats Directive (1992/43/EEC) → The Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) → EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020	These international legislative documents form a policy framework relating to "nature conservation" which promotes the protection of both habitats and species as well as the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	MIR/LDP2 provides and sets out planning policies and proposals which protect both statutory designated sites and non-statutory designated sites. The MIR/LDP2 will protect biodiversity, avoid adverse impacts on sites, habitats and species as defined within the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. The MIR/LDP2 will protect sites such as SSSI's, SPAs and SACs from loss of damage as a result of inappropriate development. These proposals will be directly informed by, and in accordance with, the content of this framework and other PPSs such as the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004; Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan; Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy (2014) etc.
Water → Water Framework Directive (2000)	The Water Framework Directive seeks to ensure that water quality and good ecological status are maintained. The Directive aims to safeguard the sustainable use of water and supports the status of aquatic systems. Issues such as pollution, flooding and River Basin Management planning should be addressed.	MIR/LDP2 seeks to ensure that there is no degradation of water bodies, no adverse impacts on the water environment and supports sustainable water management practices. This will be ensured by the presence of planning policies and proposals which prevent significant adverse impacts. These proposals will be directly informed by the content of the Water Framework Directive (2000) and other PPSs such as River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River Basin District (2015-2027);

| | | Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Strategy, Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 and Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 etc.

The SEA assessment framework enables the appropriate considerations of environmental impacts relating to water. |
|---|---|---|
| **Landscape**

→ The European Landscape Convention (2000) | The European Landscape Convention promotes the protection, management and planning of the landscapes and organises international co-operation on landscape issues. This includes natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas, as well as both special landscape areas and degraded landscapes. | The MIR and this Interim Environmental Report considers potential significant impacts on the landscape through Stage 1 and Stage 2 assessments. LDP2 will set policies which protect the landscape quality of East Ayrshire. These policies will be directly informed by the objectives of the European Landscape Convention (2000) and other PPSs such as the Ayrshire Landscape Character Assessment, Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy (2014) etc. |
| **Waste**

→ The Waste Framework Directive (2007/98/EC)

→The Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) | These international legislative documents form a policy framework relating to "waste" which considers the life-cycle of landfilled waste, provides targets of 35% reduction in waste going to landfill, which has to be reached by 2020. The overarching objective this policy framework is to prevent and reduce the pollution potential and negative effects that waste has on the environment. | The MIR/LDP2 will contribute towards these targets within the context of land-use planning through a range of policies and proposals. The LDP2 will identify appropriate locations for all waste management facilities and support their development. These policies and proposals will be directly informed by the objectives of this policy framework and other PPSs such as the Management of Extractive Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2010, Scottish Planning Policy and Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (2010) etc. |
| **Air**

→ The Kyoto Protocol (1997)

→ Air Quality Directive | These international legislative documents form a policy framework relating to "Air quality" which provides the basic principles and objectives on how air quality should be assessed and | The MIR/LDP2 has a role in contributing to these objectives. It will do so by integrating and promoting sustainable transport networks within the context of land-use planning in order to reduce emissions. The LDP2 will not support development which will exacerbate emissions and |

	managed, while providing a list of pollutants for which air quality standards and objectives will be specified. The overall objective is to limit and reduce pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.	contribute to poor air quality. The policies which will be developed will be directly informed by this policy framework and other PPSs such as Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009; National Transport Strategy (2016); Cleaner Air for Scotland: The Road to a Healthier Future (2019); Local Transport Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Strategy etc.
National Legislation		
It is important to highlight that environmental protection objectives, set out by EU Directives, are enshrined and translated into national legislation, guidance and advice.		

2.27. An extensive list of all relevant PPSs which need to be considered can be viewed in Appendix 2.

Gaps and/or unreliability of the Environmental Baseline Data

2.28. At this stage of the SEA process, gaps or unreliability of the environmental baseline data have not yet been identified. A significant portion of the baseline data is retained within the Council's GIS system, which will aid in the assessment of the impacts of both policies and proposals. Where the assessment of impacts are uncertain, as a result of gaps or unreliability of baseline data, this will be identified and highlighted within the Environmental Report.

2.29. However, one difficulty relates to where the Main Issues Report is inconclusive. Issues identified could potentially change over the course of time, following consultation and examination on LDP2. As a result, assumptions are made on the present level of allocations could change with implications for the assessment.

2.30. Another difficulty of the Interim Environmental Report for the Main Issues Report relates to the high-level nature of the document. As the objectives are set at a high level, it sometimes proved difficult to precisely identify what the significant environmental impacts were likely to be, due to the fact that they are aspirational, quite wide ranging and not site specific. Therefore, certain assumptions were used, especially when the objective may lead to future development, to allow the assessment of the objectives to be undertaken.

3. SEA Approach and Assessment Methodology

3.1. The Main Issues Report (MIR) focuses on the key planning issues facing East Ayrshire, setting out options for the spatial strategy, developing policies as well as considering land-use allocations. The options for the proposals and policies have been articulated in order to meet the Council's aspirations for the future development of East Ayrshire. Where appropriate the MIR will draw a comparison with the existing approach adopted within the EALDP (2017).

3.2. The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, requires the Environmental Report to assess and evaluate the likely significant impacts that the Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) will have on the environment. It is central to SEA, that the assessment process and reporting of the findings are unbiased, robust, objective, transparent and ultimately easy to understand.

3.3. The SEA Scoping Report (April 2019) outlined the requirement for a two stage assessment methodology to be adopted and applied to both the MIR and PLDP2. This has been developed in line with advice contained within the SEA toolkit, Planning Advice Note 1/2010: Strategic Environmental Assessment of Development Plans and from experience of other Council PPS's that have been the subject of an SEA (Local Development Plan 2017 and Minerals Local Development 2020). The Council has grouped and defined aspects of the environment into five broad environmental receptors headings, which formed the basis for Stage 1 of the SEA assessment methodology. These are shown in Table 6 below.

Environmental Topic	Receptors
Natural Features	Landscape Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Climatic factors
Natural Resources	Soil Air Water (including surface water, groundwater and GWDTE)
Historic Environment	Listed Buildings Conservation Areas Scheduled Monuments Archaeological Sites Gardens and Designed Landscapes Historic Battlefields
Social Environment	Health Population Material Assets (infrastructure, amenity and recreational open space i.e. parks etc)

Table 6: Environmental Topics and Associated Receptors

3.4. The proposed assessment methodology has an overall objective to *"protect and, where appropriate, enhance the environment"*.

3.5. The assessment will focus on the vision, spatial strategy, policies, proposals and sites and, in the case of the MIR, their reasonable alternatives. Only significant impacts will be assessed, which will be identified through Stage 1 of the assessment process. Stage 2 analyses the identified significant impacts in more detail. Both stages of the assessment will be undertaken to ensure that the assessment is accurate, robust and unbiased. The assessment will be undertaken in parallel with the plan preparation process. For non-site-specific aspects of the plan (vision, aims, spatial strategy policies and non-site-specific proposals), the Council will use the matrixes listed below and will ensure that the information is clear and easy to interpret.

3.6. The sites, which were submitted during the Call for Priorities, Issues and Proposals consultation, will be assessed and will be included in the Interim Environmental Report, which will sit alongside the MIR. It is proposed that the proforma in Appendix 9 will be used by the Council to initially assess the sites that have come forward through consultation. The Council propose to present the findings of this assessment in a simplified form (instead of using the spreadsheet) with maps and photographs to show the impacts of the sites on the SEA objectives.

3.7. Sites which are being carried forward from the EALDP (2017) and proposed to be included in LDP2, may be reassessed in terms of their environmental impact, in accordance with Planning Advice Note 1/2010. This is because environmental data, implications and potential outcomes could have changed, for instance, now that SEPA's flooding data has been updated. Call for Priorities, Issues and Proposals (PIP) sites will be analysed individually using a simplified version of the Joint SEA and Development Plan Site Assessment Proforma set out in Appendix 9.

Reasonable Alternatives

3.8. The MIR contains a set of issues relevant to the future development of East Ayrshire. Within each issue, the Council will indicate a preferred option but will also provide reasonable alternatives. By assessing the impacts of all alternatives, the Environmental Report will be a key tool in determining the Council's preferred option through the findings of the assessment process. It should be noted that the MIR formulates the alternative options, not the SEA.

Stage 1 – Assessment of Significance

3.9. The first stage involves using Matrix 1, below, and the constraints shown on the Council's GIS system as a sifting tool to identify significant impacts on the grouped environmental topics and receptors as described in Table 6. The judgement on what is considered to be a significant impact will be based on the following:

- Scale of the impact (geographic area and likely effects on the surrounding population);
- Duration of the impact (short, medium or long term);
- Reversibility of the impact;
- Environmental Sensitivities and constraints of the area;
- Environmental value of the area;
- Potential for significant cumulative/synergistic impacts.

3.10. The SEA objectives and the constraints shown on the Council's GIS system will be used to determine whether the identified impact is significant or not, using the baseline environmental data that has been collected and taking into account the existing environmental issues and problems. If the vision/strategy/policy/proposal or site is considered to not have a significant environmental impact then no further assessment will be required. All identified significant environmental impacts will be subject to further assessment under Stage 2.

Environmental Topics	What is the Environmental Impact?	Significance of Impact (Y/N/Unsure) Why? If no, could the impact become a significant cumulative or synergistic impact (y/n) why?
Natural Features		
Natural Resources		
Historic Environment		
Social Environment		

Matrix 1: Stage 1 Assessment Matrix

Stage 2 – Detailed Assessment

3.11. Stage 2 analyses and assesses the identified significant impacts in greater detail using Matrix 2 (below). The sub-criteria/questions will be used to provide a more detailed assessment which will identify what the significant environmental impacts are in relation to each of the individual environmental components screened into the assessment. The Stage 2 assessment will also look at short, medium and long term environmental impacts and provide proposals to monitor significant impacts. Each box is colour coded to indicate whether the impact is significant positive, significant positive/negative, or significant negative, to aid comprehension of the assessment results. This is shown in the "Environmental Impact: Key" below.

Environment Impact: Key			
Significant Positive	Significant Positive/Negative	Significant Negative	Neutral/Unknown

Environmental Topic	Component	Analysis of the Significant Environmental Impact	Mitigation/ Enhancement & Likely Impacts
Natural Features	Landscape Geology Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Climate	*Commentary to be provided in this column. Text will be colour coded depending on assessment outcome*	*Commentary to be provided in this column. Text will be colour coded depending on assessment outcome*
Natural Resources	Soil Air Water		
Historic Environment	Listed Buildings Conservation Areas Archaeological Sites/Areas Gardens and Designed Landscapes Scheduled Monuments Historic Battlefields		
Social Environment	Population Health Material Assets		
Short, Medium or Long Term Impact	*Commentary to be provided in this column. Text will be colour coded depending on assessment outcome*		

Matrix 2 – Stage 2: Detailed Assessment

SEA Objectives and Sub-Criteria/Questions

3.12. The proposed overall SEA objectives for each environmental assessment scoped into the assessment were illustrated in Appendix 3. To aid the overall SEA objectives, SEA sub-criteria/questions, which are mentioned in the assessment methodology above, have been devised to provide a more detailed assessment of the vision/strategy/policy/proposal or sites which are considered to be significant as a result of the stage 1 assessment. The objectives and sub-criteria/questions are fully compliant with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and are shown in Appendix 3.

Cumulative and Synergistic Assessments

3.13. The Stage 2 assessments will also assess the vision/objective/issue/site for cumulative and synergistic impacts. The IER will provide a summary of any cumulative/synergistic impacts and the full detailed outcomes of the cumulative/synergistic impact assessment on the environmental receptors will be contained within Appendix 7.

3.14. Following the assessment of the vision, spatial strategy, policies, proposals and sites have been completed, they will be grouped under their overall topic headings. These will be assessed for significant cumulative and synergistic impacts on various environmental components using Matrix 3 below:

Policy / Proposal / Site	Geology & Soil	Landscape	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Air	Water	Climate	Cultural Heritage	Population & Human Health	Material Assets	Synergistic / Cumulative Impact
Spatial Strategy X										
Policy A										
Policy B										
Proposal /Site x										

Significant Positive	Significant Positive/Negative	Significant Negative

Matrix 3: Cumulative and Synergistic Impact Assessment

3.15. Each box will also be colour coded to represent if the cumulative or synergistic impact is significant positive, significant positive/negative or significant negative. Where there are potential cumulative or synergistic impacts on neighbouring local authority areas, these will be assessed using the assessment methodology above and clearly noted within the Environmental Report with any associated mitigation and monitoring measures.

4. Assessment Results

4.1. This section provides a summary of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 assessment results of the MIR in terms of its vision, objectives, main issues, sites and the reasonable alternatives.

Stage 1 Assessment Outcomes

4.2. In accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, East Ayrshire Council has considered whether the environmental effects (positive or negative) of LDP2 are likely to be significant. As such, the environmental implications of LDP2 are considered in terms of whether it will protect, enhance, minimise, reduce, harm or maintain existing status across all SEA topics. The outcomes of this are summarised below in Table 7.

Table 7: Summary of Stage 1 Outcomes

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 1 – Vision Statement "East Ayrshire will be a desirable, good quality and healthy place to live, work, invest and visit"				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	The vision is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact as it is aspirational.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 2(a) – Aim 1: Stabilise East Ayrshire's population and seek to achieve population growth.				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	The vision is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact as it is aspirational.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 2(b) – Aim 2: Create good quality places with resilient and safe communities, ensuring a good quality of life for existing and future residents.				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Aim 1 intends to create attractive good quality environments. However, it is noted that this is an overarching policy aim and is reliant on the implementation of further policies.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 2(c) – Aim 3: Direct development to sustainable locations which are located close to local services, facilities and local public transport networks.				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Aim 3 is concerned with directing new development to certain locations in a sustainable manner. This aim is likely to have significant environmental impact in relation to all environmental topics.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 2 (d) – Aim 4: Ensure measures are in place to assist in reducing the effects of climate change and in meeting climate change targets.				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Aim 4 is likely to have a significant environmental impact in relation to all environmental topics.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 2(e) – Aim 5: Assist in providing opportunities for the delivery of health and social care services in the future.				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	Aim 5 is likely to have a significant environmental impact in relation to all environmental topics.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 2(f) – Aim 6: Drive economic growth in a sustainable manner.				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	It is difficult to assess the environmental impact of Aim 6. The Aim requires other policies to implement it and it is unlikely to have significant impacts on its own. Screened out at Stage 1.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 2(g) – Aim 7: Strive for better infrastructure to assist in creating good quality places				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cumulative improvements to infrastructure are likely to have significant environmental impacts, effecting the environmental/locational spread of future impacts.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	Screened out at Stage 1. It is unlikely that there will be impacts on the historic environment.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Aim 7 is likely to have impacts on human health and population. This should be further assessed at Stage 2.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 2(h) – Aim 8: Ensure there is access to employment opportunities, and services through the provision of a high quality green network and active travel network.				
Natural Features	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Impacts are uncertain. Further assessment will be required at the proposed plan stage.
Natural Resources	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 2(i) – Aim 9: Encourage low carbon solutions and ensure there is a responsible and justified approach to renewable energy development.				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Aim 9 intends to encourage low carbon solutions and a justified approach to renewable energy development, having a significant environmental impact. More specific assessment required at Stage 2.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Main Issue 2(j) – Aim 10: Ensure there is a responsible and justified approach to minerals extraction with appropriate restoration and aftercare.				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Aim 10 is likely to have a significant environmental impact as it supports mineral extraction and appropriate restoration and aftercare of previously worked minerals sites.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 2(k) – Aim 11: Protect and enhance the built and natural features of East Ayrshire's historic environment.				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Aim 11 is likely to have significant environmental impacts in relation to all environmental topics as it is concerned with the conservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 2(l) – Aim 12: Protect and enhance our diverse natural environment.				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Aim 12 is likely to have significant positive impacts on the natural environment through individual and cumulative means.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	Screened out at Stage 1 Assessment.
Social Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.
Main Issue 2(m) – Aim 13: Encourage tourism opportunities in East Ayrshire, in particular those that protect and enhance East Ayrshire's rich landscape, history and cultural heritage.				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Aim 13 intends to attract tourists to East Ayrshire and could have significant impacts on natural features, both individual and cumulatively. This, however, is dependent on the location, type, function and scale of the proposed tourism development.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As a precaution, screened into Stage 2 assessment for further consideration.
Social Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 2(n) – Aim 14: Recognise the changing face of retail whilst promoting our town centres.				
Natural Features	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As impacts are uncertain, screened into Stage 2 assessment for further consideration.
Natural Resources	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As explained above.
Social Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As explained above.
Main Issue 3 (a) – Spatial Strategy Priority: Ayrshire Growth Deal (Project 1): National Energy Research Demonstrator (NERD), Cumnock				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	It is anticipated that the NERD project will have a significant environmental impact on natural features and visual impact on the natural landscape.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	Screened out at Stage 1.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	It is anticipated that the NERD project will have a significant environmental impact on the social environment.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 3 (b) – Spatial Strategy Priority: Ayrshire Growth Deal (Project 2): Ayrshire Manufacturing Investment Corridor (AMIC), Kilmarnock				
Natural Features	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As a precaution, these have been Screened into Stage 2 Assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	Screened out of Stage 1 Assessment.
Social Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As a precaution, these have been Screened into Stage 2 Assessment.
Main Issue 3 (c) – Spatial Strategy Priority: Ayrshire Growth Deal (Project 3): Ayrshire Engineering Park at Moorfield, Kilmarnock				
Natural Features	Yes	Unsure	Yes	The implications for the Ayrshire Engineering Park proposal at Moorfield Kilmarnock be fully determined at Stage 1. As a precaution, screened into Stage 2.
Natural Resources	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 3 (d) – Spatial Strategy Priority: Ayrshire Growth Deal (Project 4): Halo , Kilmarnock				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	Planning consent granted in 2018.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 3 (e) – Spatial Strategy Priority: Ayrshire Growth Deal – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	By safeguarding and incorporating large areas for AGD projects, it is anticipated that this will have a significant environmental impact in terms of natural features.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	Screened out at Stage 1 assessment.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	It is anticipated to have significant impacts on the social environment.
Main Issue 4 – Spatial Strategy Priority: Future economic expansion in Kilmarnock – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The allocation of additional sites will have an environmental impact.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	The allocation of additional sites will have an environmental impact.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 4 – Spatial Strategy Priority: Future economic expansion in Kilmarnock – Alternative Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The allocation of additional sites will have an environmental impact.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	Screened out at Stage 1 assessment.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	The allocation of additional sites will have an environmental impact.
Main Issue 5 – Spatial Strategy Priority: South Central Kilmarnock – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The development of this site is likely to have a significant environmental impact. This will be considered further at Stage 2 Assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As a precaution, this has been Screened into Stage 2 for further consideration.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	There is likely to have a significant environmental impact on the social environment.
Main Issue 5 – Spatial Strategy Priority: South Central Kilmarnock – Alternative Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The alternative option intends to continue with current LDP 2017 approach and promote part of South Central Kilmarnock for specific uses to encourage a mix of uses in the area. The addition of these uses in the area may have an environmental impact.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As a precaution, this has been Screened into Stage 2 for further consideration.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	The addition of these uses in the area may have an impact on the social environment.
Main Issue 6 – Spatial Strategy Priority: Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The preferred option is likely to have both individual and cumulative significant environmental impacts.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Impacts could be potentially significant individually and cumulatively.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 6 – Spatial Strategy Priority: Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership – Alternative Option				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	The alternative option is not likely to have significant environmental impacts as it will support the delivery of the CCLP and provide a general policy framework; it is procedural in nature.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 7 – Spatial Strategy Priority: Sustainable Growth (Stewarton) Demand for new housing – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The preferred option on its own is unlikely to have significant environmental impacts, however, the individual sites which may be identified for development (where sustainable) could have significant environmental impacts.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Social Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 7 – Spatial Strategy Priority: Sustainable Growth (Stewarton) Demand for new housing – Alternative Option				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	This option does not include the addition of new development opportunity sites, it is not considered to have any significant environmental impacts.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 8 – Spatial Strategy Priority: Industrial and business land in Stewarton – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The preferred option, which incorporates the identification of new sites, may have environmental impacts on natural features.
Natural Resources	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlines above.
Main Issue 8 – Spatial Strategy Priority: Industrial and business land in Stewarton – Alternative Option				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	This alternative option will not have any environmental impacts as there will be no change to the existing supply of business and industrial land.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 9 – Spatial Strategy Priority: Simplified Planning Zones – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Potential environmental impacts are dependent on the location, scale and site specific context of new sites identified. Further consideration required.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Potential environmental impacts are dependent on the location, scale and site specific context of new sites identified. Further consideration required.
Main Issue 9 – Spatial Strategy Priority: Simplified Planning Zones – Alternative Option				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	This alternative option is not likely to have any environmental impacts as there will be no change to the existing mechanisms of assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 10 – Approach to Placemaking – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The preferred option is likely to have significant environmental impact on natural features. There is potential for this option to have significant cumulative impacts.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 11 – Affordable Housing Policy – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	The preferred option itself is unlikely to have significant environmental impacts on natural features.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for scoping in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 11 – Affordable Housing Policy – Alternative Option				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	The Alternative option itself is unlikely to have significant environmental impacts on natural features. This issue should be assessed at the Proposed Plan Stage.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As explained above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As explained above.
Main Issue 12 – Level of housing growth identified in LDP2: High Growth – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	It is noted that site allocations have not yet been determined to accommodate a high growth scenario. As such, further and more detailed site specific environmental assessments will be required at the Proposed Plan stage. Screened out of Stage 2 assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 12 – Level of housing growth identified in LDP2: Principle Growth – Alternative Option 1				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	Site allocations have not yet been determined. Further and more detailed site specific environmental assessments will be required at the proposed plan stage
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above
Main Issue 12 – Level of housing growth identified in LDP2: Low Growth – Alternative Option 2				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	Site allocations have not yet been determined. Further and more detailed site specific environmental assessments will be required at the proposed plan stage
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 13 – Existing Housing Land Supply – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	This option does not propose the addition of extra housing supply sites. Impacts already considered and undergone an environmental assessment at Proposed Plan stage of EALDP (2017).
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above
Main Issue 14 – Future Growth Areas – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific assessment required at Stage 2.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.
Main Issue 15 – Rural Diversification and Rural Protection Areas: Expand RPA, Review Policies and identify development opportunities in rural clusters - Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The preferred option is likely to have environmental impacts on natural features as it proposes the expansion of the RPA and identification of housing opportunity sites within rural clusters
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	The option is likely to have environmental impacts on the social environment as it proposes the expansion of the RPA and identification of housing opportunity sites within rural clusters.
Main Issue 15 – Rural Diversification and Rural Protection Areas: No change – Alternative Option 1				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Although this option proposes no change to the existing approach with regards to residential development in the rural countryside, this is still likely to have significant impacts on natural features.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Although this option proposes no change to the existing approach with regards to residential development in the rural countryside, this is still likely to have significant impacts on the social environment.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 15 – Rural Diversification and Rural Protection Areas: Only expand RPA – Alternative Option 2				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alternative Option 2 is likely to have impacts as it proposes the expansion for RPA. Further assessment required.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alternative Option 2 is likely to have impacts as it proposes the expansion for RPA. Further assessment required.
Main Issue 15 – Rural Diversification and Rural Protection Areas: Identify rural clusters – Alternative Option 3				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Alternative Option 3 is likely to have environmental impacts on natural features as it proposes the identification and allocation of rural housing sites within existing rural clusters for development opportunities which are currently not in place.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.
Main Issue 16 – Successful Town Centres: Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The preferred option is likely to have environmental impacts on climate. Screened into Stage 2 assessment due to other environmental topics.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 16 – Successful Town Centres: Redraw town centre boundaries – Alternative Option 1				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alternative Option 1 to redraw the town centre boundaries in a way which reflects current trends in retailing, is likely to have any environmental impacts on climate as the option is directed towards town centres which are already developed.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 16 – Successful Town Centres: Core and Peripheral area identified – Alternative Option 2				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 17 – Town Centre Living Boundaries: Removal of town centre living boundaries – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The preferred option is likely to have environmental impacts on climatic factors. There is potential for these to be cumulative.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Main Issue 17 – Town Centre Living Boundaries: Retain existing policy – Alternative Option				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	The Alternative Option proposes no additional environmental impacts.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As explained above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As explained above.
Main Issue 18 – Town Centre Strategies: Placemaking approach to town centres – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Natural Resources	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	The preferred option could have environmental implications for the social environment, specifically material assets and improvements.
Main Issue 18 – Town Centre Strategies: Existing LDP approach – Alternative Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Natural Resources	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 19 – Developer Contributions: Use of school catchments – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	It is noted considered that they alternative option will have any significant environmental impacts.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 20 – Green Infrastructure – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.
Main Issue 20 – Green Infrastructure – Alternative Option 1				
Natural Features	Yes	Unsure	Yes	The potential impacts that this will have on natural features may be dependent on the site specific context of these future developments. Screened into the Stage 2 for further consideration and assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 20 – Green Infrastructure – Alternative Option 2				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	Not anticipated to have any additional environmental impacts; no change to the existing method.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 21 – Promoting Sustainable Transport – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	It is unlikely that the preferred option will have any significant environmental impacts on natural features as it is considered to be a procedural approach towards the development of a policy framework
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 22 – Bellfield Interchange – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	Screened out of Stage 1 Assessment.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 assessment.
Main Issue 22 – Bellfield Interchange – Alternative Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	As the alternative option still intends to promote an area to the east of the interchange as a strategic location for business, this is likely to have an environmental impact on natural features.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As explained above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	Screened out of Stage 1 Assessment.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 assessment.
Main Issue 23 – Loudoun Castle Garden and Designed Landscapes – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 23 – Loudoun Castle Garden and Designed Landscapes – Alternative Option 1				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 23 – Loudoun Castle Garden and Designed Landscapes – Alternative Option 2				
Natural Features	Yes	No	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 for further consideration.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 assessment.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Main Issue 24 – Low Carbon Places (NERD)- Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 for further consideration.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 24 – Low Carbon Places (NERD)- Alternative Option 1				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 for further consideration.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 24 – Low Carbon Places (NERD)- Alternative Option 2				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 for further consideration.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Main Issue 25 – Renewable Energy: Wind - Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 25 – Renewable Energy: Wind- Alternative Option 1				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	This is a procedural matter and approach and it is unlikely that significant impacts will be experienced.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 25- Renewable Energy: Wind - Alternative Option 2				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The alternative option is likely to have significant environmental impacts on the area. More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 26- Renewable Energy: Heat - Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The preferred option will likely have environmental impacts. More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	Screened out at Stage 1 assessment
Social Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 as a precaution.
Main Issue 26- Renewable Energy: Heat- Alternative Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Screened into Stage 2 for further consideration and assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.

Environmental Topic	Assessed in Stage 1	Significant Impact (Y/ N/ Unsure)	Screened into Stage 2 Assessment	Reason for screening in or out of Stage 2
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 27- Addressing Flooding in East Ayrshire - Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 28 – Minerals- Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	There is potential for this option to have significant positive impacts on natural features. More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Main Issue 28 – Minerals - Alternative Option				
Natural Features	Yes	No	No	Screened out at Stage 1 assessment. No environmental impacts anticipated.
Natural Resources	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Social Environment	Yes	No	No	As outlined above.
Main Issue 29 – Call for Priorities, Issues and Proposal Sites (Winter 2019/2020) – Preferred Option				
Natural Features	Yes	Yes	Yes	The allocation and adoption of additional sites put forward under the Call for PIP sites is likely to have significant environmental impacts on natural features. Collectively and cumulatively, the allocation of a number of sites will have a significant impact on landscape character. More specific and detailed assessment will be required at Stage 2 Assessment.
Natural Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.
Historic Environment	Yes	Unsure	Yes	This is site dependent. Screened into Stage 2 for further consideration.
Social Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	As outlined above.

Stage 2 Assessment Outcomes

Key	Screened out at Stage 1	Significant Positive	Significant Positive/Negative	Significant Negative	Neutral/Unknown
	✕	SP	SP/N	SN	N/U

Table 8 – Summary of Stage 2 Outcomes

Policy / Proposal / Site / Aim	Landscape & Geology	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Climatic Factors	Soil	Air	Water	Cultural Heritage	Health	Population	Material Assets	Synergistic / Cumulative Impact
Aim 2: Create good quality places with resilient and safe communities ensuring a good quality of life for existing and future residents.	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
Aim 3: Direct development to sustainable locations which are located close to local services, facilities and local public transport networks.	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
Aim 4: Ensure measures are in place to assist in reducing the effects of climate change and in meeting climate change targets.	U/N	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
Aim 7: Strive for better infrastructure to assist in creating good quality places.	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	U/N	SP/N	SP/N	✕	SP	SP	SP/N	SP/N
Aim 8: Ensure there is access to employment opportunities, and services through the provision of a high quality green network and active travel network.	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	U/N	U/N	SP	SP	SP	SP
Aim 9: Encourage low carbon solutions and ensure there is a responsible and justified approach to renewable energy development.	SP/N	SP	SP	SP	SP	U/N	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP/N
Aim 10: Ensure there is a responsible and justified approach to mineral extraction with appropriate restoration and aftercare.	SP/N	SP	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	U/N	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP/N
Aim 11: Protect and enhance the built and natural features of East Ayrshire's historic environment.	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
Aim 12: Protect and enhance our diverse natural environment.	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	✕	U/N	U/N	SP	SP
Aim 13: Encourage tourism opportunities in East Ayrshire, in particular those that protect and enhance East Ayrshire's rich landscape, history and cultural heritage.	SP/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	SP	U/N	SP	U/N
Aim 14: Recognise the changing face of retail whilst promoting our town centres.	✕	U/N	SP	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	SP	SP	SP	SPN
Main Issue 3 (a): Spatial Strategy Priority - National Energy Research Demonstrator (NERD)	SP/N	SN	SP	SP/N	SP/N	SN	✕	SP	SP	SP/N	U/N
Main Issue 3 (b): Spatial Strategy Priority - Ayrshire Manufacturing Investment Corridor (AMIC)	U/N	SN	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	✕	SP/N	SP	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 3 (c): Spatial Strategy Priority - Ayrshire Engineering Park at Moorfield (AEP)	U/N	U/N	SP/N	SN	SP/N	U/N	✕	SP/N	SP	SP/N	U/N
Main Issue 3 (e): Spatial Strategy Priority - Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD)	SP/N	SN	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	✕	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N

Policy / Proposal / Site / Aim	Landscape & Geology	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Climatic Factors	Soil	Air	Water	Cultural Heritage	Health	Population	Material Assets	Synergistic / Cumulative Impact
Main Issue 4: Spatial Strategy Priority - Future Economic Expansion in Kilmarnock (Preferred Option)	SN	U/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SN	U/N	SP/N	SP	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 4: Spatial Strategy Priority - Future Economic Expansion in Kilmarnock (Alternative Option)	SP/N	U/N	SN	SP/N	SN	SN	✕	SP/N	SP	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 5: Spatial Strategy Priority - South Central Kilmarnock (Preferred Option)	U/N	U/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SN	U/N	SP/N	SP	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 5: Spatial Strategy Priority - South Central Kilmarnock (Alternative Option)	✕	✕	SP/N	SP	SN	SN	SP/N	SP/N	SP	SP/N	U/N
Main Issue 6: Spatial Strategy Priority - Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership (Preferred Option)	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	U/N	SP	SP	SP	SP
Main Issue 7: Spatial Strategy Priority - Stewarton: Sustainable Growth – Demand for New Housing) (Preferred Option)	SP/N	U/N	SP/N	SP/N	SN	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	SP/N
Main Issue 8: Spatial Strategy Priority - Industrial and Business land in Stewarton (Preferred Option)	U/N	U/N	SP/N	U/N	SN	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	SP/N
Main Issue 9: Spatial Strategy Priority – Simplified Planning Zones (Preferred Option)	U/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 10: Approach to Placemaking (Preferred Option)	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
Main Issue 14: Future Growth Areas (Preferred Option)	SN	SP	SP/N	SP	SP/N	SP/N	U/N	SP/N	SP	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 15: RDA and RPA (Expand the Rural Protection Area and alter policies) (Preferred Option)	SP	SP	SP/N	SP	SP/N	SP	U/N	SP	SP	U/N	SP/N
Main Issue 15: RDA and RPA (No change to EALDP 2017 Approach) (Alterative Option 1)	SN	SP/N	SN	SN	SN	U/N	U/N	SN	SN	SN	SN
Main Issue 15: RDA and RPA (Only Expand the Rural Protection Area) (Alterative Option 2)	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	U/N	U/N	SP/N	SP/N	SN	SP/N
Main Issue 15: RDA and RPA (Identify Rural clusters for development opportunities) (Alterative Option 3)	SP/N	SP	SP/N	U/N	SP/N	U/N	U/N	SP/N	✕	U/N	SP/N

Policy / Proposal / Site / Aim	Landscape & Geology	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Climatic Factors	Soil	Air	Water	Cultural Heritage	Health	Population	Material Assets	Synergistic / Cumulative Impact
Main Issue 16: Successful Town Centres (A Hybrid Approach) (Preferred Option)	✕	✕	SP/N	U/N	SP/N	U/N	SP/N	SP	SP	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 16: Successful Town Centres (Redraw town centre boundaries) (Alternative Option 1)	✕	✕	SP/N	U/N	SP/N	U/N	SP/N	SP	SP	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 16: Successful Town Centres (Core and Periphery Areas) (Alternative Option 2)	✕	✕	SP/N	U/N	SP/N	U/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 17: Successful Town Centres (Removal of town centre living boundaries) (Preferred Option)	✕	✕	SP/N	U/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 18: Town Centre Strategies (Placemaking Approach to town centres) (Preferred Option)	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	U/N
Main Issue 18: Town Centre Strategies (Placemaking Approach to town centres) (Alternative Option)	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	U/N
Main Issue 20: Green Infrastructure (Preferred Option)	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	✕	SP/N	SP	SP	U/N
Main Issue 20: Green Infrastructure (Alternative Option 1)	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	✕	SP/N	SP	SP	U/N
Main Issue 22: Bellfield Interchange (Preferred Option)	SN	U/N	SN	SP/N	SN	SN	✕	SP/N	SP/N	SP	SP/N
Main Issue 22: Bellfield Interchange (Alternative Option)	SN	U/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SN	✕	SP/N	SP/N	SP	SP/N
Main Issue 23: Loudoun Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (Preferred Option)	SP/N	SN	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SN	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 23: Loudoun Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (Alternative Option 1)	SP/N	SN	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SN	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 23: Loudoun Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (Alternative Option 2)	U/N	U/N	U/N	SN	U/N	U/N	SP/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	SP/N
Main Issue 24: Low Carbon Places (NERD) (Preferred Option)	U/N	U/N	SP	SP	SP	SP	U/N	SP	SP	SP	SP
Main Issue 24: Low Carbon Places (NERD) (Alternative Option 1)	U/N	U/N	SP	U/N	SP	U/N	U/N	SP	SP	SP	SP

Policy / Proposal / Site / Aim	Landscape & Geology	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Climatic Factors	Soil	Air	Water	Cultural Heritage	Health	Population	Material Assets	Synergistic / Cumulative Impact
Main Issue 24: Low Carbon Places (NERD) (Alternative Option 2)	SP/N	U/N	SP	SP	SP	SP	U/N	SP	SP	SP	SP
Main Issue 25: Renewable Energy: Wind (Preferred Option)	SP/N	SP	SP	SP	SP	SN	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
Main Issue 25: Renewable Energy: Wind (Alternative Option 2)	SP/N	SP	SP	SP	U/N	SP	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	SP/N
Main Issue 26: Renewable Energy: Heat (Preferred Option)	U/N	U/N	SP	SP	SP	U/N	✕	U/N	✕	✕	U/N
Main Issue 26: Renewable Energy: Heat (Alternative Option)	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	U/N	✕	✕	U/N
Main Issue 27: Addressing Flooding (Preferred Option)	SP	SP	SP	SP	✕	SP	SP	✕	✕	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 28: Minerals (Preferred Option)	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SN	U/N	SP	SP/N	SP	SP/N	SP/N
Main Issue 29: Call for PIP Sites	SN	U/N	SP/N	U/N	SP/N	U/N	U/N	SP/N	SP/N	SP/N	SN

Initial Assessment of Call for Priorities, Issues and Proposal Sites (Winter 2019/20)

Key	Positive	Positive/Negative	Negative	Neutral/Unknown
	+	+/-	-	0

Table 9 – Summary of PIP Site Assessment Outcomes

Overall Assessment Outcome	Ref No	Site Address/Location	Landscape	Soil	Water	Air	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Climatic Factors	Cultural Heritage	Population	Human Health	Material Assets
+/-	1	Land south of Barnony Road, Auchinleck	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+	+/-	+/-
-	2	Templeton's Roundabout, Auchinleck	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	+/-	+/-	-
-	3	Barony Bing, West of Auchinleck	-	+/-	0	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	4	Former Chalmerston, Surface Coal Mine, North of A713, West of Burnton	-	-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	5	Ballochmyle View, Catrine	-	-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	6	Former Knockshinnoch Rail Terminal and Coal Yard, Connel Park, Cumnock, KA18 4QF.	+/-	-	0	-	+	+/-	0	+	+	+
+/-	7	Gatehead Road, Crosshouse	-	-	-	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	8	Holmes farm, Irvine Rd, Crosshouse	0	-	0	+/-	0	+/-	0	+	+/-	+/-
+/-	9	Land at Crosshouse	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+	+/-	+/-
-	10	Capringstone Farm, Dreghorn, Irvine, KA11 3DA	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	-
-	11	Craig Campus, Old Kilmarnock College	0	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
+/-	12	Farm Road, Dalrymple	-	-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
-	13	Proposed realignment of settlement boundary and inclusion of residential site at cementery road, Darvel	-	0	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
-	14	Land west of Darvel	-	0	-	+/-	-	+/-	0	+	+/-	+/-
+/-	15	Mill O' Shield Road, Drongan	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+	+/-	+/-
+/-	16	Martnaham Way, Drongan	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	17.1	Land at Water of Coyle, Drongan	-	-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
-	17.2	Land at Water of Coyle, Drongan	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	17.3	Land at Water of Coyle, Drongan	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	18	Land at Stewarton Road, Dunlop	+/-	0	-	+/-	-	+/-	0	+	+	+/-
+/-	19	Land east of Stewarton Rd, Dunlop	-	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	-	+	+/-	+/-
-	20	Former Howies Grain Mill	-	+	0	-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	-

Overall Assessment	Ref No	Site Address/Location	Landscape	Soil	Water	Air	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Climatic Factors	Cultural Heritage	Population	Human Health	Material Assets
-	21.1 & 21.2	Behind Fenwick Arms, adjacent to M77, Fenwick site A & C	0	+	0	-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	22	Land at Laigh Wylieland and Glencraig, Fenwick	-	0	0	+/-	-	+/-	-	+	+/-	+/-
+/-	23	Land at Dewars Holm Fenwick	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	+	+	+/-
+/-	24	Harvest Field, Galston roundabout, Galston	-	-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	25	Riverside Filling Station, Galston	+	+/-	-	+	0	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	26	Hayhill West - Village of Hayhill	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	-
+/-	27	North Craig reservoir, Kilmarnock	+/-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	-	-	-
+/-	28	Fardalehill West, Kilmarnock	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
-	29	Land at Dean Road, Kilmarnock	-	-	0	+	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-
+/-	30	Land at Bridgehousehill/ Shortlees, Kilmarnock	0	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
-	31	Meiklewood/Mosside site, Kilmarnock	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
-	32	Land at Northcraig Reservoir, Kilmarnock	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	33	Land at Grassmillside, Kilmarnock	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
-	34	Riccarton Road, Hurlford	-	-	-	+/-	-	+/-	0	-	-	-
+/-	35	Kirklandside, Bellfield, Kilmarnock	+/-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	36	Standalane, Kilmaurs	-	0	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+	+/-	+/-
+/-	37	Land at Habbieauld Road, Kilmaurs	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	-
-	38	48 Fenwick Road, Kilmaurs, KA3 2NJ	+/-	0	-	0	-	-	0	+	+/-	-
+/-	39	Crosshouse Road/ Crofthead Road, Kilmaurs.	+/-	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	40	Land btw. Crofthead Farm and Fenceside Farm, Kilmaurs	-	0	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	-
-	41	Land to the west of Knockintiber	-	+/-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	42	Land at Knockentiber	-	+/-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	43	Land adjacent to Southhook Road, Knockentiber	-	+/-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	44	Land to the south of Langside, Laigh Fenwick	0	0	0	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	45	Waterslap Road, Laigh Fenwick	-	0	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+	+/-	-
+/-	46	Land south of former Laigh Glenmuir/ Duncanziemere Surface Coal Mine, KA18 3LS	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	-	+/-

Overall Assessment	Ref No	Site Address/Location	Landscape	Soil	Water	Air	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Climatic Factors	Cultural Heritage	Population	Human Health	Material Assets
+/-	47	Loudoun Castle Estate	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	-	-	+	+/-	+/-	+/-
-	48	4 Dunlop Road	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	-
+/-	49	Kilmarnock Road, Land to the west of Mauchline	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	50	Housing field, Bogwood Farm, Ayr Road, Mauchline	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	51	Rail halt, Bogwood Farm, Ayr Road, Mauchline	-	-	0	+	-	+	0	+	+	+/-
-	52	Mauchline Bing, East of A76, north of Mauchline, KA5 6EY.	+	+/-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
+/-	53	Land west of 106 Connell Park, New Cumnock	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	54	Land btw. 92 and 102 Connell Park, New Cumnock.	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	55	Land adjacent to Boig Rd, Connell Park, New Cumnock.	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	56	Crowbandgate - Land South of A76, north of New Cumnock, KA18 4DH.	+/-	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	0	+/-	+	+/-
+/-	57	Land Adjacent to 12 King Street, Newmilns	0	-	0	+/-	0	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	0
+/-	58	Land at Mauchline Road, Ochiltree	+/-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+	+/-	+/-
+/-	59	Land at Crofthead, Priestland	0	0	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	60	Catrine Road, Sorn	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	61	Pipershill South of B7046, south east of Sinclairston.	-	+/-	0	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
+/-	62	Future Growth Area for Stewarton (FGA4)	+/-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-
-	63	Lainshaw Estate, Stewarton	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-
-	64	Land at Low Peacockbank, Stewarton	-	0	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	-
-	65	Land at Cutsburn Road Fields, Stewarton	-	+	0	-	-	-	0	+/-	+/-	-
-	66	Cutstraw Road (land opposite Meikle Cutstraw), Stewarton, KA3 5HU.	-	0	0	-	-	-	0	+/-	+/-	-
-	67	Land to the north of Blackwood Plant Hire, Stewarton	-	+/-	0	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-
-	68	Land at Holmhead Farm, Old Glasgow Road	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	-
-	69	Land at Old Glasgow Road, Stewarton	-	+/-	0	+/-	-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	-
-	70	Land at Lainshaw Mains Farm	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-
-	71	Land to East of Dunlop Road	-	0	0	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-

5.   Mitigation and Monitoring

Consultation Period

5.1.   The public consultation period for the MIR and accompanying Interim Environmental Report will take place between the 1st June 2020 and 31st July 2020.

5.2.   At Proposed Plan stage, public consultation will be held over a 6-8 week period. Any comments received in respect of the Interim Environmental Report (MIR stage) or Environmental Report (Proposed Plan stage) will be taken into account before the Plan is adopted by the Council. Any comments received from the Consultation Authorities will be reviewed and a table will be produced to show how the Consultation Authorities' comments have been taken into account.

How we intend to monitor the LDP2 impacts

5.3.   The adopted LDP2 may have environmental impacts which require to be mitigated as a result of, for example, allocating development in an environmentally sensitive area. SEA legislation requires us to monitor the significant environmental effects arising from the implementation of the plan and undertake appropriate action. The monitoring of LDP2 will be undertaken primarily by the Council or other relevant agencies, involving a combination of the following mechanisms.

5.4.   Where possible, the Council will seek to firstly avoid significant negative environmental impacts. If this is not possible, mitigation measures will be proposed which will aim to reduce the overall environmental impact to an acceptable level. In addition, the Plan may be required to change so that significant environmental effects can be avoided.

5.5.   The adopted LDP2 will be subject to on-going monitoring. It is intended to create a set of indicators to measure the impacts that LDP2 may have on the environment during its lifespan. The indicators will be based on the baseline information and the existing environmental problems and issues in the area and the identified current state of the environmental trends in the East Ayrshire State of the Environment Report. In addition, the monitoring measures identified in National Planning Framework 3 will be used to assist in the monitoring process. These indicators will be produced in draft form in the Interim Environmental Report and in a finalised state in the Environmental Report for comment. The Council would welcome any guidance by the Consultation Authorities on the development of these indicators.

5.6.   Where mitigation proposed does not relate to a modification to the Plan itself then it is proposed that mitigation measures will be set out in a way, which clearly identifies:

   ❖ The measures required;
   ❖ When they would be required; and
   ❖ Who will be required to implement them?

5.7.   The following table will be used to track progress on mitigation through the monitoring process at the Proposed Plan stage.

Table 10: Mitigation Monitoring

Issue/Impact identified in Environmental Report	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed timescale
Issue or impact recorded in the environmental report will be inserted	Mitigation Measure to address effect will be inserted	As appropriate	As appropriate

Broad Mitigation Measures

5.8.   Where the stage 2 assessments indicate that there are likely to be adverse impacts as a result of the main issues and the associated preferred option and alternative options, mitigation measures have been proposed to reduce the overall environmental impact to an acceptable level for each of the environmental receptors that are affected. The stage 2 assessments also propose enhancement measures where appropriate and, as with the mitigation measures, these are identified against the individual environmental receptors in the stage 2 assessments. Table 11 below sets out the mitigation measures set out in the Stage 2 assessments:

Table 11: Mitigation Measures for SEA Issues

SEA Issue by Environmental Topic	Broad Mitigation Measures
Natural Environment	
Landscape	❖ Monitor the impact of LDP2 on the landscape within and outwith East Ayrshire. ❖ The landscape of East Ayrshire is protected and any alterations to its character and setting are avoided or minimised. ❖ Development will only be allowed where the landscape is not detrimentally impacted by the development and without any impact on the character of the area.

	❖ Developments should be carefully designed to mitigate against the negative impacts they could have on landscape character. ❖ Where appropriate, screening and planting should be incorporated into the design of any development.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	❖ It should be ensured that development does not cause or lead to the fragmentation of existing habitats or species. ❖ A robust policy framework should ensure that important nature conservation sites in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna are protected from development.
Climatic factors	❖ Development shall be suitably designed and constructed to contribute to greenhouse gas reduction targets and to counter balance the increase in emissions from private car use. ❖ Development shall be connected to public transport networks. ❖ Development shall integrate with existing active travel networks, directly linking to existing cycle and walking routes. ❖ Development should be located within sustainable and appropriate locations.
Natural Resources	
Soil	❖ Ensure that geological resources and their settings within East Ayrshire are preserved. ❖ Ensure that there is no loss of important prime agricultural land. ❖ Any new development should only be permitted where it does not result in the loss of prime quality agricultural land or other important soil resources, such as peatland or carbon rich soils. ❖ Contaminated soil should be treated and/or removed, where possible, and in consultation with Environmental Health.
Air	❖ Ensure that there is no increase in pollutants into the atmosphere. ❖ Once developed, sites should be monitored for any increases in air pollution which would lead to national air quality standards being breached. ❖ Where infrastructure improvements may be taking place, nearby residential areas should be monitored for any increases in air pollution. ❖ Development will be required to be accessible, directly linking to existing cycle and walking routes. ❖ Where possible, development(s) shall adopt low carbon technologies in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Water	❖ New developments should consider incorporating and implementing Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs). ❖ Where appropriate natural surfaces should be incorporated into development proposals. ❖ Developments should aim to enhance the water environment.
Historic Environment	
Listed Buildings	❖ Ensure that there is a robust and effective policy framework in place to safeguard listed buildings. ❖ The design and layout of sites should be carefully considered and may require the input of a conservation accredited architect to ensure that any impact on the buildings themselves and their setting is minimised.
Conservation Areas	❖ Ensure that there is a robust and effective policy framework in place to safeguard conservation areas.

	❖ Assessment measures should be in place to ensure that the character and amenity of conservation areas are preserved.
Scheduled Monuments	❖ Ensure that there is a robust and effective policy framework in place to safeguard scheduled monuments.
Archaeological Sites	❖ If there are likely to be an impact on archaeological sites or resources, then mitigation measures should be put in place in consultation with Historic Environment Scotland and West of Scotland Archaeological Service.
Gardens and Designed Landscapes	❖ Ensure that there is a robust and effective policy framework in place to safeguard Gardens and Designed Landscapes.
Historic Battlefields	❖ Ensure that a robust and effective policy framework is contained within LDP2 which protects and preserves East Ayrshire's historic battlefield from inappropriate development as well as protecting and preserving their character and setting within the wider landscape.
Social Environment	
Health	❖ Ensure any significant negative impacts in areas subject to coal extraction are minimised in terms of landscape, noise, light, biodiversity and on human experience. ❖ Sites should integrate with existing active travel and public transport networks to encourage and support accessibility and sustainability.
Population	❖ Ensure integration within active travel networks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Material Assets (infrastructure, amenity and recreational open areas)	❖ Ensure that there is no loss of protected open space, playing fields, and other important recreational open spaces within East Ayrshire. ❖ Green infrastructure should be increased and improved. ❖ Any new residential developments should be connected and integrated into the existing public transport network, to ensure that sustainable transport is integrated into the new development. ❖ Developments should use low carbon materials and construction methods and should embrace renewable energy methods to minimise carbon emissions.

Monitoring measures

5.9. The MIR issues that are likely to have significant environmental impacts require to be monitored to ensure that adverse and unforeseen impacts do not arise or can be easily identified and mitigated measures put in place. The draft monitoring measures are illustrated below:

Table 12: Draft Monitoring Measures

Environmental Issues to be Monitored	Monitoring Objective	Target
Landscape	To monitor the impact of the LDP on landscape within East Ayrshire	❖ The landscape of East Ayrshire is protected and any alterations to its character and setting are avoided or minimised. ❖ Avoid impacts on visually prominent areas. ❖ Any detrimental landscape impacts will be mitigated through screening, sensitive sitting of builldings and the retention of landscape features such as trees and hedgerows.
Geology	To monitor the impact of the LDP on geology within East Ayrshire	❖ Geological resources and their settings within East Ayrshire are preserved.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	To monitor the impact of the LDP on the natural heritage designations within East Ayrshire.	❖ Enhance biodiversity across East Ayrshire. ❖ Avoid the irreversible loss and fragmentation of valuable sites, areas of important green space, 'green' and 'blue' network features, protected species/habitats and green networks within East Ayrshire. ❖ Natural Environment and open space policies will be utilised to protect and enhance Green networks. ❖ Development is largely directed to brownfield sites, as greenfield development is likely to have negative impacts on biodiversity through the loss and/or fragmentation of habitats and species.
Climate	To monitor the impact of the LDP on climate change.	❖ Reduce climate change impacts in accordance with Scottish Government policy. ❖ Reduce carbon emissions where possible. ❖ Developments are integrated into existing active travel networks which will enable pedestrian accessibility in order to reduce emissions. ❖ No increase in the risk of flooding, particularly within settlements. ❖ Protect carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland sites.

		❖ To enhance the positive effects of the LDP2, Development Management teams hsoul ensure that developments, namely, residential sites, conform to the highest efficientcy standards.
Soil	To monitor the impact of the LDP on soil resources within East Ayrshire.	❖ No loss of prime or locally important agricultural land. ❖ Allocations will be directed away from peat and carbon-rich soils. ❖ Development should not involve the removal or disturbance of peat or be located on significantly important areas of peat (Class 1,2,3 and 5), raised bog or carbon rich soils. ❖ Remediation and/or removal of contaminated land ❖ Development directed to brownfield land, which will have positive impacts on soil quality. ❖ No significant change or loss to the percentage of rural land.
Air	To monitor the impact of the LDP on air quality within East Ayrshire.	❖ No increase in pollutants into the atmosphere.
Water	To monitor the impact of the LDP on the water environment in East Ayrshire. Sites substantially at risk from flooding will not be allocated in the LDP.	❖ No degradation of water quality. ❖ No increase in the risk of flooding within East Ayrshire. ❖ Protect water bodies and ground water ❖ Allocated sites must be resilient to changes in climate and the water environment. This could include integrating SUDS, buffer strips, multifunctional open spaces and compensatory storage.
Historic Environment	To monitor the impact of the LDP on the historic environment.	❖ All historic features and their setting are protected from inaapropraite development within East Ayrshire. ❖ Development shall not adversely affect the landscape of townscape. ❖ Reduced number of historic buildings registeres as "at risk".
Population	To monitor the impact of the LDP on local communities.	❖ Protect local settlements with appropriate buffers from minerals development. ❖ Settlements in East Ayrshire are able to accommodate increased in population in terms of resources and impacts on the natural environment. ❖ New developments are located within a walkable distance of basic amenities and public transportation routes. ❖ No excessive air, water, noise or light pollution for new developments.

Health	To monitor the impact of the LDP on human health.	❖ No excessive air, dust, noise, vibration or light pollution for new minerals development. ❖ Protect local settlements with appropriate buffers from minerals development. ❖ Site allocations will be in the most sustainable locations in East Ayrshire. ❖ Sufficient open spaces will be provided in residential developments. ❖ Housing developments will have a long-term positive impact on human health through appropriate mix, type and density. ❖ New developments provide additional walking and cycling networks, which intelink with existing networks.
Material Assets	To monitor the impact of the LDP on areas of protected green space and on paths and cycle routes. To monitor the capacity for development within the areas of East Ayrshire to ensure that there is no detrimental impacts on material assets.	❖ No loss of protected open space, playing fields, and other important recreational open space within East Ayrshire. ❖ Masterplanning of new sites in East Ayrshire will ensure that habitat links are maintained and enhanced. ❖ Shortfalls in infrastructure will be identified. ❖ Ensure that development in areas with limited-to-no capacity area delayed until the necessary infrastructure is in place. Where additional infrastructure is not possible, planning applications should not be permitted until mitigation measures and improvements are agreed. ❖ Developer contributions will be sought towards infrastructure improvements in terms of road

5.10. Monitoring indicators will be in a finalised state for the Proposed Plan.

6. Next Steps

6.1. The Main Issues Report (MIR) has now been published, alongside this Interim Environmental Report for an eight week consultation period, which will run from 1st June 2020 – 31st July 2020. The relevant documents are available on the East Ayrshire Council website.

6.2. It is important to highlight that the stakeholder feedback that we receive on the Main Issues Report and Interim Environmental Report will further shape the content of LDP2. Where there are significant changes between the Main Issues Report (MIR) and the Proposed Plan (such as major developments or significant new proposals), these changes will be considered within the Environmental Report.

6.3. Any comments received on MIR and this accompanying Interim Environmental Report will help us to ensure that the new local development plan's policies, proposals and site allocations are fit for purpose and support sustainable and accessible development within East Ayrshire in accordance with public consultation.

Use of Acronyms

This lists the acronyms used within this document:

CARS → Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme

EAC → East Ayrshire Council

EALDP → East Ayrshire Local Development Plan (Adopted 2017)

EIA → Environmental Impact Assessment

GIS → Geographic information system

HES → Historic Environment Scotland

HRA → Habitat Regulations Appraisal

LDP2 → East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2

MIR → Main Issues Report

NPF3 → National Planning Framework 3

PIP → Priorities, Issues and Proposals
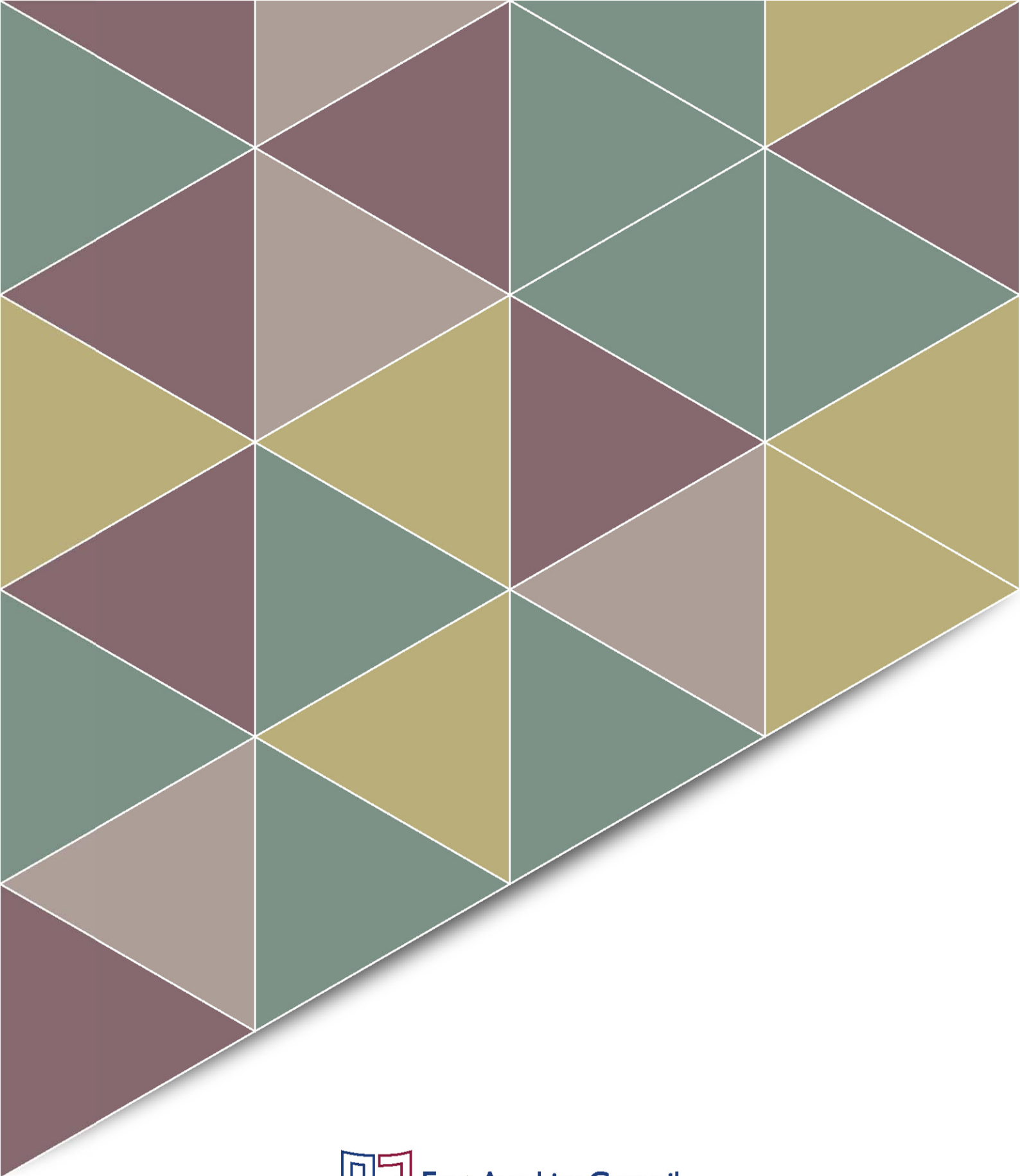
PPS → Plans, Programmes and Strategies

SPP → Scottish Planning Policy

SEA → Strategic Environmental Assessment

SEPA → Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

SNH → Scottish Natural Heritage

WoSAS → West of Scotland Archaeological Service

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