

SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 1

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

PART 2

An SEA Screening Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

East Ayrshire Community Plan

The Responsible Authority is:

East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (led by East Ayrshire Council)

COMPLETE PART 3 or 4 or 5

PART 3

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that:

- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects ***or***
- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects ***or***
- an SEA is not required** because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects

PART 4

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

PART 5

None of the above apply. We have prepared this screening report because:
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PART 6

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PART 7

Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	
Date	8 August 2014

SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority	East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (led by East Ayrshire Council)
Title of PPS	East Ayrshire Community Plan
Purpose of PPS	The Community Plan is the sovereign planning document for the East Ayrshire area, providing the overarching policy and strategic framework for the delivery of services by all Partner agencies. It also acts as the Council's Corporate Plan.
What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	The Council has a legislative duty, under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, to lead the Community Planning process in East Ayrshire and the other core partner organisations have a concomitant duty to participate in the process.
Subject (e.g. transport)	Community Planning
Period covered by PPS	2015 - 2030
Frequency of updates	Every 3 years from April 2015.
Area covered by PPS (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	East Ayrshire Local Authority Area
Summary of nature/content of PPS	<p>The Community Plan and associated supporting documentation set out the overall vision for the local area and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guiding Principles and Shared Commitments; • Key challenges; • Key priorities; and • Governance, scrutiny and accountability arrangements.
Are there any proposed PPS objectives?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Copy of objectives attached	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Date	8 August 2014

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Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of East Ayrshire Community Plan is set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

TITLE OF PPS <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">East Ayrshire Community Plan</div> RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (led by East Ayrshire Council)</div>		
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
1(a) the degree to which the PPS sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	YES	The Community Plan is the sovereign planning document for the East Ayrshire area, providing the overarching policy and strategic framework for the delivery of services by all Partner agencies. It also acts as the Council's Corporate Plan. Its adoption ensures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity of purpose and strategic direction; • a clear and common basis for partnership working; • a framework for achievement • a basis for rationalising the strategic landscape; and • a focus for co-ordinated action.

1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy	YES	The Community Plan is the sovereign planning document for the East Ayrshire area, within the context of which a range of strategic and operational documents are produced, including thematic Action Plans, service/implementation plans for the Council and Partner agencies, and strategies, such as the Local Plan, the Local Transport Strategy, the Local Housing Strategy, the Tourism Strategy, and the Sustainable Development Strategy.
1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	YES	Community Planning brings together agencies, organisations and communities to identify and prioritise what needs to be done, and to plan, co-ordinate and deliver action to meet these identified priorities. The strategic importance of sustainable development is explicitly stated as one of the key guiding principles for all the Community Planning partners. The guiding principles underpin activity to address identified priorities and ensure consistency in the Community Planning process.
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(d) etc. refer to paras in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS	YES	The Community Plan identifies strategic priorities and key challenges in relation to the environment. A range of activity to address these priorities and challenges will be taken forward through related Action Plans, service plans and implementation plans with a view to making a positive impact in relation to the environment.
1(e) the relevance of the PPS for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, PPS linked to waste management or water protection)	NO	
2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	YES	The Community Plan sets the overall strategic direction in relation to a wide range of priorities and issues including those in relation to the environment which will be driven forward through a range of plans and strategies. It is likely that the PPSs that are a direct result of the Community Plan or will help implement the aims and actions of the Community Plan could have permanent and irreversible effects, such as housing development in the Local Plan.

2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects	YES	The Community Plan affects East Ayrshire as a whole, therefore, there are likely to be significant cumulative impacts. Accordingly, the Community Plan has the potential to play a key role in identifying possible cumulative effects and synergy with other related issues as it brings together a diverse range of partners, agencies and community representation in a focused context.
2 (c) trans-boundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	NO	There would be no significant trans-boundary effects.
2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	NO	The long term aim of the Community Plan is to improve the quality of life in East Ayrshire and to improve health and the environment.
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (2(e), 2(f) etc refer to paras in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	YES	The Community Plan covers the East Ayrshire Local Authority area, an area of 490 sq m or 127,033 hectares, which is 3% urban and 97% rural. The current population is 122,767. Therefore, the Community Plan has the potential to have significant environmental effects on East Ayrshire and its population.
2 (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to- (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use.	YES	The Community Plan, through the implementation of the PPSs detailed in the Action Plans, is likely to have significant environmental effects on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage and is likely to lead to intensive land use through the implementation of, for example, the Local Plan, and the Local Housing Strategy.
2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	YES	The Community Plan is likely to have significant environmental impacts on the whole of East Ayrshire. Since the majority of East Ayrshire is predominately of a rural nature, there may be impacts, for example, on the Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within East Ayrshire.

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A summary of our considerations of the significant environmental effects of East Ayrshire Community Plan is given below.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Community Plan is the sovereign strategic planning document for the delivery of all public services in East Ayrshire, providing the overarching policy and strategic framework for the delivery of services by all Partner agencies. It sets out the overall vision for the local area, as follows.

“East Ayrshire will be a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people’s needs.”

Within this context, a range of strategic and operational documents are produced, including service plans and implementation plans for the Council and Partner agencies, and strategies, such as the Local Transport Strategy, the Local Housing Strategy, the Tourism Strategy, the Culture and Leisure Strategy and the Sustainable Development Strategy.

The Community Plan has the potential to positively impact on the environment of East Ayrshire by ensuring all of the Council, as well as the Community Planning Partners’ PPSs, that arise as a result of the implementation of the Community Plan, ensure that the environment is protected and enhanced where necessary and protected from adverse impacts as far as can be reasonably predicted.

It is therefore predicted, at a fairly early stage, that the Community Plan is likely to have significant environmental impacts on the environmental issues detailed in Section 6 of Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. However, these likely significant environmental impacts cannot be discerned at this stage and will be identified and assessed when the Community Plan and its environmental assessment progress and before the final content of the Community Plan is decided.