

East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report

May 2011



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 Scoping Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

East Renfrewshire Council – Local Development Plan

The Responsible Authority is:

East Renfrewshire Council

PART 3

Please tick the appropriate box

- The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. **or**
- The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. **or**
- The PPS does not require an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, as this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 5 week timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

PART 4

Contact name	John Drugan
Job Title	Senior Planning Officer
Contact address	Environment Department East Renfrewshire Council 2 Spiersbridge Way Spiersbridge Business Park Thornliebank G46 8NG
Contact tel no	0141 577 3371
Contact email	John.Drugan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

PART 5

Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	
Date	23 rd May 2011

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) SCOPING REPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION

East Renfrewshire Council is preparing to undertake a Local Development Plan (LDP) for the whole of its area under The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006, which will set out policies and proposals for the use, development and protection of land within East Renfrewshire. The LDP will replace the current Local Plan (February 2011) and will set out a local interpretation of the requirements of national and regional policies. Appendix 1 shows the boundaries and geographical extent of East Renfrewshire.

There is a statutory requirement for the LDP to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. SEA is an integral part of, and will be taken into account throughout, the Local Development Plan process and is considered a systematic assessment process, which ensures that environmental considerations are taken on board at an early stage in the Local Development Plan preparation process, that the decision making process is transparent, and that development takes place in the right location with minimal environmental impact.

At key stages, the Consultation Authorities and the public will be able to comment on the environmental assessment and all comments will be taken into consideration. The Council will demonstrate throughout the SEA process how comments received on the SEA have been taken into account, as required by the Legislation which seeks to ensure the process is transparent and accountable.

PURPOSE OF THE SCOPING REPORT

The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report is to set out sufficient information on the East Renfrewshire Council Local Development Plan (LDP) to enable the Consultation Authorities to form a view on the consultation period and scope/level of detail that will be appropriate for the Environmental Report. It will also set out the assessment methodology that will be used and details on proposed time periods for public consultation at each stage of the plan preparation process will also be provided.

This will allow the Consultation Authorities to form a view on the proposed approach to the environmental assessment. The scoping report will cover the proposed Local Development Plan (LDP) including the various stages of the preparation process.

2. KEY FACTS

The key facts relating to this PPS are set out below:

Name of Responsible Authority	East Renfrewshire Council
Title of plan/programme	Local Development Plan
Legislative Requirement	The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006
Plan subject	Land Use Planning
Period covered by plan	2014-2019
Frequency of updates	5 Years
Plan area	East Renfrewshire Council Boundary
Plan purpose	The Local Development Plan (LDP) is a land use planning document that will set out the Council's policies and proposals for the use and development of land across East Renfrewshire over at least the next 10 years. It will be mainly be concerned with the use of land and will guide future development to the most appropriate locations.

	The LDP will provide clear guidance on what will or will not be allowed and where, and it will address a wide range of policy issues, including housing, shopping, business, industry, transport, recreation, and built and natural heritage.
Contact point	John Drugan, Senior Planner 0141 577 3371

3. DESCRIPTION OF PPS CONTENT

The Adopted Local Plan is available to view at the website link below and will be of assistance to the Consultation Authorities in forming a view about the matters to consider in relation to the SEA of the proposed LDP www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/local-development-plan. The Local Development Plan (LDP) will set out key objectives, strategies, policies and proposals for East Renfrewshire. As East Renfrewshire is within the Glasgow and The Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority area (SDPA), the LDP is not required to contain a vision statement presenting a broad view of what the area could look like in 20 years time. The Strategic Development Plan (SDP) will contain a vision statement and overall spatial strategy for the region. The SDP and the associated SEA will be undertaken by SDPA.

As part of the revised Planning system the Council must prepare and maintain a Development Plan Scheme (DPS). The DPS sets out a programme for the production and review of the Local Development Plan (LDP). In addition, it also sets out how the Council will engage local people and other stakeholders in the Development Plan process, outlining when and how this will take place and what can be expected.

The timetable and main stages for the LDP and SEA are shown in Fig 2 of this report.

There are various stages in the LDP preparation, including a number of documents which the Council will prepare to sit alongside the LDP. These are summarised below

MAIN ISSUES REPORT

The first stage in the plan preparation is the production of a Main Issues Report (MIR). The MIR sets out the Council's draft strategy and vision, as well as general proposals for development within the area, and in particular guidance as to where development should and should not occur. It must also contain at least one or more reasonable alternative proposals and identify its preferred option, which should be informed by a sound evidence base. All proposals including the reasonable alternatives will be subject to the SEA process, which will provide a fundamental consideration in selecting which strategies, policies and proposals will form the Council's preferred position.

This stage provides an early opportunity to inform and shape the LDP strategy and content, and is fed into by the draft Monitoring Statement, the Key issues Questionnaire, and by the SEA Baseline data.

The MIR will focus on the key issues and areas of change within East Renfrewshire. The East Renfrewshire Local Plan (ERLP) was adopted this year in February 2011. Given that the ERLP has a time horizon to 2015 and is reasonably up to date, it will be used as a baseline for the preparation of the MIR.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The Questionnaire has been subject of a Key Agencies and public consultation process (from 18/2/11 to 29/4/11) and the Council are currently analysing the results. Key Issues highlighted in the Questionnaire included:

- Producing a Sustainable Development Strategy
- Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth

- Improving Connectivity Across The Council Area
- Meeting Housing Needs Tackling Climate Change And Reducing Greenhouse Gas
- Enabling The Development Industry To Deliver The Plan's Aspirations
- Emissions Conserving And Enhancing The Natural And Built Environment

It should be borne in mind that these issues may change during the preparation and development of the MIR, especially as a direct result of the findings of the Monitoring Statement and consultation responses to the Questionnaire and MIR, and further analysis of the SEA baseline data and trends.

MONITORING STATEMENT

The Monitoring Statement will form part of the evidence base and aims to monitor changes in the physical, economic, social and environmental characteristics of the area and the impact of policies and proposals. A wide range of evidence will be gathered to inform the preparation of the LDP and related documents. This will include technical studies undertaken by consultants and other organisations, in-house research and the views of local interest groups obtained through consultation exercises.

ACTION PROGRAMME

The Action Programme is prepared in parallel with the LDP and will be reviewed and updated at least every 2 years focusing on the implementation of the Plans proposals. Action programmes will detail the following:

- A list of actions required to deliver each of the Plan's policies and proposals;
- Who is responsible for carrying out the action; and
- The timescale for carrying out each action.

In addition to the above, the Council is also required under the Planning Legislation, to prepare Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), which once prepared will form part of the Development Plan and may include documents such as Development Briefs, Master Plans and expressions of detailed policy. They expand upon or supplement the policies and proposals in the LDP and will be subject to extensive consultation and adoption procedures. They may also be subject to the SEA process depending upon whether they constitute a plan, programme or strategy.

3.1. Scope of the Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP)

Once the consultation period on the MIR has been completed and all comments/representations have been assessed by the Council, the preparation and development of the proposed LDP will commence. The LDP will reflect the Council's settled position on the issues contained and consulted upon in the MIR.

The main purpose of the plan is to set out the policies, strategies, site specific allocations and proposals for the future development of East Renfrewshire and to set out the criteria which proposals received will be assessed against.

In addition, the Plan will take into account social, environmental and economic issues such as housing need, employment, health etc. The LDP will comprise of a Written Statement together with a Proposals Map.

It is anticipated that the main elements of the LDP will consist of the following:

- A Spatial Strategy, which will detail how the Council will achieve its vision;
- Detailed Statement of Policies and Proposals as to the development and use of land;
- List of Supplementary Planning Guidance that will be produced to supplement the plan

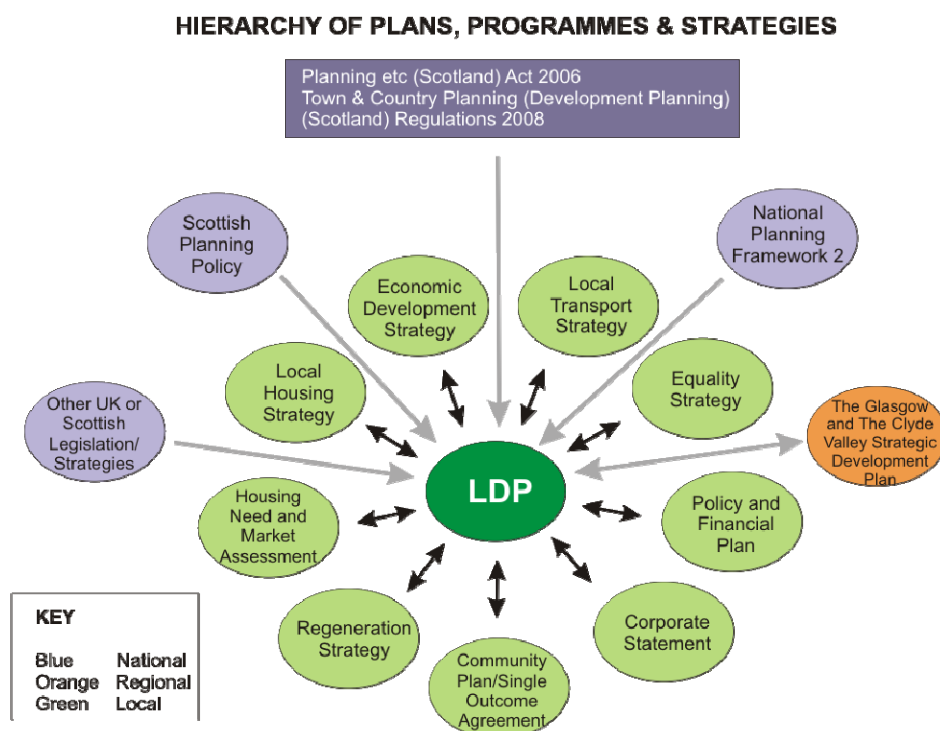
At this early stage in the process, it is difficult to state what policies and proposals the LDP will contain. Many relevant policies and proposals contained within the current Local Plan (2011) are likely to remain substantially unchanged. In undertaking the SEA for LDP, the Council will have consideration to the overall environmental effect of the LDP policies and proposals.

4. PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY CONTEXT

4.1. Relationship with other plans, programmes or strategies (PPS) and environmental objectives

The LDP is influenced by wide range of International, European, National and Local PPS's that the plan must take into account. Appendix 2 of this Scoping Report provides an initial list of the relevant PPS's that the Council envisages will influence the content of the LDP. The list may expand as the preparation of the LDP progresses or as a result of feedback from the Consultation Authorities.

A summary of the relationship of the relevant PPS's affecting or being affect by the LDP is shown below.



4.2. Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

The initial findings of the analysis of baseline data are summarised in Table 1 with some significant issues highlighted in Table 2.

These will be presented more fully in the Environmental Report and the Monitoring Statement, utilising the information that has been identified through an analysis of baseline data, related indicators and environmental implications. The Council will also incorporate responses received during the Publicity and Consultation on the Scoping of the SEA, particularly those from the Consultation Authorities.

Table 1 - Environmental Issues, Objectives and Implications for LDP

Table 1 shows the environmental topics and associated Environmental Objectives with the data/data source and relevant indicator.

Without prejudice to the SEA and LDP processes, it is likely that the Key Objectives and aims of the LDP will be similar to current Local Plan (2011). Consequently, it is considered reasonable to use the same Environmental Objectives as the previous Local Plan. Additional Objectives of Transport and Waste have been added to reflect the importance of these environmental issues and consultation feedback on those issues. The Environmental Objectives are derived from the SEA baseline and analysis of other PPSs, which although substantially the same are ongoing and kept up to date by the Council.

One key issue that requires greater consideration and emphasis in the LDP, is the ever-increasing importance of climate change. Whilst the Key Objectives of the Local Plan (2011) allude to this issue, initial analysis of other PPSs indicates this issue is paramount.

The current baseline data can be viewed at www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/sea. This data is updated and maintained continually by the Council, and will change as and when new data becomes available from the identified sources.

Table 1. Environmental Issues, Objectives and Implications for LDP

Environmental Topic	Environmental Objectives 1 -22	Implications for LDP	Identified Environmental Issues from Baseline Information	Data/Data Source	Indicator
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	1) Protect, enhance and where necessary restore (specified) species and habitats	Is the LDP likely to significantly help to protect species especially protected by law or species identified in national or local BAPs, or to protect, enhance or restore designated nature conservation sites and/or habitats which are identified in national or local BAPs, or is it likely to have significant adverse effects on them?	The need to protect, enhance and conserve designated nature conservation sites The need to give further consideration to the protection, enhancement and management of woodland/forestry and the green network in the interests of promoting and enhanced landscape and improving biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSSI – 6 sites www.snh.gov.uk • SINCs – 105 sites localplan@eastrenferwshire.gov.uk • GDL – 2 sites www.snh.gov.uk • TPO – 68 areas localplan@eastrenferwshire.gov.uk • Ancient woodland Inventory (Scotland) www.snh.gov.uk • Conservations Areas – 6 sites localplan@eastrenferwshire.gov.uk • Greenbelt and Cat:-ELP and RLP localplan@eastrenferwshire.gov.uk • Residential Land Database localplan@eastrenferwshire.gov.uk 	BFF01 BFF02 BFF03 BFF04 BFF05 BFF06 BFF07 BFF08 BFF09 BFF10
	2) Ensure sustainable use of agricultural and forestry resources	Is the LDP likely to affect prime agricultural land or impact on deciduous woodlands?	The need to promote and increase biodiversity. The need to promote regeneration of the urban area and reduce the loss of land in the greenbelt.		
Population and human health	3) Provide environmental conditions promoting health and well being (including increasing opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreation)	Is the LDP likely to encourage an increase in outdoor access through new development being located near or within open countryside? Is the LDP likely to increase provision of open space and play area/sport facilities such as kick about area? Is the LDP likely to cater for increasing demand for housing particularly for affordable housing?	The Council population shows that an increase due to Natural Change (more births than deaths) is offset by increased net out-migration, resulting in an overall reduction in population. Reducing household size along with a stable or increasing population can lead to increasing demand for housing. There is a particular demand in this area for affordable housing. There is also an identified short term shortfall in the supply of owner occupied housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population Size www.gro-scotland.gov.uk • Household size www.scrol.gov.uk • ERC SHIP 09 ERC, localplan@eastrenferwshire.gov.uk • Life expectancy www.gro-scotland.gov.uk • Death Rates www.gro-scotland.gov.uk • Attendance at sports and leisure facilities www.audit-scotland.gov.uk • Usage of cultural facilities www.audit-scotland.gov.uk • Noise Complaints www.audit-scotland.gov.uk • Employment Opportunities in ERC www.scrol.gov.uk 	PHH01 PHH02 PHH03 PHH04 PHH05 PHH06 PHH07 PHH08 PHH09 PHH10 PHH11
	4) Minimise noise and vibration	Is the LDP likely to introduce both construction and human activity into areas otherwise quiet and/or rural in nature	The need to provide and protect opportunities for healthier lifestyles and physical wellbeing. The need to contribute to travel safety. The need to provide local employment opportunities and therefore reduce the need for travel. Poor quality environmental of business		

Environmental Topic	Environmental Objectives 1 -22	Implications for LDP	Identified Environmental Issues from Baseline Information	Data/Data Source	Indicator
			and industrial areas.		
Water	5) Minimise water pollution	Is the LDP likely to significantly help to protect or enhance the water environment, for example by encouraging SUDS or reducing the risk of water being polluted?	The need to improve water quality and reduce pollution. The need to reduce development in the flood plain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA Current Classification Status (River) www.sepa.org.uk • Scottish Water Household Consumptions www.scottishwater.co.uk • SEPA Indicative River Flood Map 200 Year Probability www.sepa.org.uk • Corporate Address Gazetteer cag@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk • Biennial Flooding Report ERC Roads 	WS01 WS03 WS05 WS06
	6) Ensure sustainable use of water resources	Is the LDP likely to significantly help conserve or protect water resources?	The need to reduce the number of flooding events and the number of properties affected by flooding.		
	7) Ensure development does not increase the risk of flooding	Is the LDP likely to increase the likelihood of flooding or the requirement for flood defence works, or is it likely to have significant adverse effects on the water environment?			
Soil and geology	8) Minimise and reduce soil contamination and ensure a high level of soil quality	Is the LDP likely to significantly help protect soils or encourage the sustainable use of soils, or to have adverse effects on soils?	The need to protect geological features of merit. The need to improve water and soil quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geological Features of Interest (SSSIs) www.sng.gov.uk • Contaminated Land ERC Environmental Health 	SG01 SG02 SG04
	9) Protect, enhance and where necessary restore geological features	Does the LDP take into account the influence of landform, geomorphology and geology or is it likely to significantly exacerbate risks?	The need to reduce contaminated land and secure the appropriate end use of affected sites.		
Air	10) Minimise air pollution and ensure a high level of air quality	Is the LDP likely to significantly help protect the environment from pollution, inc by avoiding potentially polluting developments in sensitive locations, or is it likely to increase the risk of pollution?	NOx (from road transport) unfavourable situation. Although the minimum reading is down from previous year, the total and maximum results have increased. Higher concentrations are obvious around main trunk roads and within urban areas. Exceedence in air quality for NO2 at two locations throughout the authority. PM10 (from road transport) unfavourable situation. Although the minimum reading is down from previous year, the total and maximum results have increased. Higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory www.naei.org.uk • Air Quality progress report ERC, Environmental Health 	A01 A02 A03 A04 A06

Environmental Topic	Environmental Objectives 1 -22	Implications for LDP	Identified Environmental Issues from Baseline Information	Data/Data Source	Indicator
			concentrations are obvious around main trunk roads and within urban areas. Exceedence in air quality for PM10 at 4 locations throughout the authority.		
Climatic factors	11) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Is the LDP likely to significantly help reduce greenhouse gases and/or energy consumption or increase it?	The need to reduce air pollution and energy use associated with development, particularly car usage and ownership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory www.naei.org.uk Development Management Register Planning@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk 	CF01 CF04
	12) Reduce energy use and ensure sustainable use of energy	Is the LDP likely to significantly help facilitate renewable energy in appropriate locations or deter its development?	The need to encourage the use of renewable energy in context of the needs to protect and enhance the character and amenity of both rural and urban environments.		
Cultural heritage	13) Protect, enhance and where appropriate restore archaeological sites and the historic environment	Is the LDP likely to significantly affect the integrity of any designated sites?	The need to protect areas of high conservation and landscape value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation and article 4 areas Planning@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk Gardens and designed landscapes www.snh.gov.uk Listed Buildings planning@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk www.historic-scotland.gov.uk Buildings at Risk Register www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk Vacant and Derelict Land Survey localplan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk 	CH01 CH02 CH03 CH04 CH05 CH06
	14) Protect, enhance and where appropriate restore the built environment and regenerate degraded environments	Is the LDP likely to make a significant contribution to the regeneration/restoration of derelict, contaminated or otherwise degraded environments or is it likely to increase the area or degradation of such land?	<p>The need to conserve the built environment and reduce the number of listed buildings at risk.</p> <p>The need to protect, restore and enhance areas of high conservation value and to ensure that development does not adversely affect such areas.</p> <p>Although a relatively small scale problem, the last few years have seen an increase in vacancy and derelict land (including contamination) within settlements associated with former industries in the area.</p>		
Landscape	15) Protect, enhance and create green spaces important for recreation and biodiversity	Is the LDP likely to significantly help protect, enhance or create, or is it likely to significantly destroy green spaces important for recreation and biodiversity or diminish their enjoyment?	<p>The need to protect urban greenspace, under pressure from development in particular from residential development.</p> <p>The need to protect areas and site of natural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Space Strategy localplan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk Corporate Address Gazetteer cag@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk 	L02 L03 L04

Environment al Topic	Environmental Objectives 1 -22	Implications for LDP	Identified Environmental Issues from Baseline Information	Data/Data Source	Indicator
	16) Protect, enhance and where necessary restore the natural landscape	Is the LDP likely to significantly help protect, enhance or restore, or is it likely to significantly damage or diminish landscape character, local distinctiveness or scenic value or the enjoyment and understanding of the landscape?	landscape and conservation value under pressure from development in particular from residential development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Control Register planning@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk 	
Material assets	17) Promote adequate protection of infrastructure, property, material resources and land	Is the LDP likely to significantly affect property or land?	The need to conserve, enhance and protect the valuable rural area around towns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Land Audit Localplan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk Industrial Land Audit Localplan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk Development Management Register planning@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk 	MA01 MA02 MA07 MA09 MA10 MA11
	18) Promote sustainable use of material resources	Is the LDP likely to result in the use material resources that can not be replaced or sustainably sourced?	The need to protect Greenbelt, Countryside Around Towns and urban green space, under pressure from development, and to promote the reuse of brownfield land.		
	19) Promote sustainable use of land including re-use of brownfield land	Is the LDP likely to encourage re-use of brownfield land	Relatively high volume of householder applications raising particular issues including loss of garden ground to higher density residential development; opportunities for sustainable construction policies; a need for detailed guidance.		
Transport	20) Reduce the need to travel	Is the LDP likely to significantly help reduce the need to travel or reduce journey length or is it likely to significantly increase travel?	The need to reduce travel by private car and encourage travel by more sustainable modes including walking, cycling and public transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census www.gro-scotland.co.uk Department for Transport www.scotland.gov.uk Scottish Household Survey www.scotland.gov.uk Sustrans National Hands up Survey www.sustrans.org.uk 	T01 T02 T03 T04 T05 T06 T07 T08 T09 T10 T11 T12 T14 T15
	21) promote sustainable transport modes	Is the LDP likely to significantly help to encourage walking, cycling or the use of public transport or is it likely to deter them?			
Waste	22) Reduce waste and promote the sustainable use of waste including recycling and composting	Is the LDP likely to significantly help reduce waste including by re-using existing buildings or is it likely to increase waste arising?	There is a need to reduce high levels of waste production for and the demand for landfill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERC Waste Team 	W01 W02 W03

Environmental Topic	Environmental Objectives 1 -22	Implications for LDP	Identified Environmental Issues from Baseline Information	Data/Data Source	Indicator
			Percentage of total household waste recycled has increased steadily over the survey period and is one of the highest rates in Scotland. However there is still considerable room for improvement.		W04

Table 2 – Main Current Environmental Issues and Positive Environmental Features

As well as the main current issues for the area identified in Table 2 (highlighted in blue), it is considered this section may benefit from the inclusion of positive environmental features within the area. The inclusion of positives features may result in the proposed plan identifying appropriate measures to protect them if necessary.

When undertaking the assessment of the LDP, the Council will seek to predict whether the current environmental issues and problems will worsen, stabilise or improve through the implementation of the strategy/policy/proposal or site. It will also attempt to identify where strategy/policy/proposals will have an impact on current positive environmental features within East Renfrewshire.

<i>Note: Table 2 is based upon an analysis of Table 1 and the Baseline data</i>
East Renfrewshire covers an area of approximately 174km ² . The north of the area is predominantly urban with an extensive rural hinterland to the south and west. Approximately 15% of the area is urban and 85% rural.
The total population of East Renfrewshire is 89,540 and there are approximately 34,950 dwellings.
The built up part of the district is densely populated having the second highest density population within settlements of any local authority outwith Glasgow and Edinburgh. This raises issues regarding protecting the quality of the urban area and important urban greenspaces.
Within East Renfrewshire there are 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, over 100 locally designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, 68 Tree Preservation Areas, areas of ancient woodland, and an extensive Green Network.
The area experiences ongoing pressure from development in important urban green spaces and the Green Belt, which has resulted in a slight decline in the number of SINCS in recent years.
The built environment within East Renfrewshire includes 5 Conservation Areas and one other area protected for its special character and conservation value, over 130 Listed Buildings including 5 Category 'A' listed buildings, 8 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and two sites listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.
There are currently 40 sites listed on the Vacant and Derelict Land register (2010), comprising a total area of 54 Ha. This figure has risen since 2000/01 when there were a total of 26 sites on the register.
There is a range of business and employment sites in the area, some of which have poor quality environments and are under-utilised.
From the 2003 Household Shopping Survey 70% of households shop for food within East Renfrewshire and 86% of households shop for comparison goods clothing and bulky goods outside East Renfrewshire.
The areas' population has access to 10 libraries and three council sports centres (four including the new swimming pool and games hall at Eastwood High School), a theatre and various community halls and centres.

According to the 2011 Greenspace Mapping report (and using the typologies in PAN 65), there are approximately 1811 Ha of Open Space within East Renfrewshire, of which 405 Ha is protected in whole or in part by specific policy protection (Policy L1) within the existing Local Plan.
38.5% of people living in East Renfrewshire use a car to travel to work compared to the national average of 32.2% and only 10.7% of people walk or cycle compared to 16.4% nationally.
There has been a decrease in the air quality particularly around the main Trunk road network.
Brownfield redevelopment sites are not being developed due to the impact of the economic recession and are affecting the character and appearance of the areas in which they are located.
Domestic energy consumption is high and could be reduced through the introduction of sensitive good building practices, increased insulation, micro renewables etc in the sustainable design and layout of new buildings.
The percentage of household waste recycled has steadily increased in recent years and is now one of the highest in Scotland.

4.3. The Likely Evolution of the Environment without the LDP

The Strategic Environmental Assessment process involves an assessment of the environmental implications of plan implementation and additionally, an assessment of the evolution of the environment without the LDP. Effectively, this requires consideration of the evolution of the environment in the absence of planning control and to summarise, the consequence of this would be inappropriate development in inappropriate locations dictated by market forces.

Some specific consequences would include the following:

- the loss of the green space resource (both urban green space and Green Belt) to inappropriate development;
- unrestricted development could lead to the physical and visual coalescence of settlements;
- new development would be less integrated to existing public transport infrastructure, thus leading to the erosion of sustainable transport patterns;
- demand for services such as retail and commercial leisure may emerge at edge or out of town centre locations to the detriment of the vitality and viability of existing town centres;
- continuing and increasing dependence on car borne travel;
- poor take up of development land on brownfield sites and areas of weak demand so perpetuating problems in deprived areas;
- increased air pollution in the absence of land use and transport planning;
- increased water pollution in the absence of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems(SUDS);
- the loss of significant environmental resources, both natural and built; and
- the proliferation of poor quality development including the use of inappropriate building materials.

It would be reasonable to emphasise that a principle purpose of LDP is to afford protection to the environment, an aspiration which is fully aligned with the aspirations of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

5. SCOPE AND LEVEL OF DETAIL PROPOSED FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

5.1. Scoping in/out of SEA issues

The purpose of SEA is to assess the likely significant impacts (positive or negative) that the plan will have on the environment. Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, requires the LDP to be assessed against the following environmental receptors:

SEA issues	Scoped in	Scoped out	If scoped out, why
biodiversity, flora, fauna	x		
population	x		
human health	x		
soil	X		
water	X		
air	X		
climatic factors	X		
material assets	X		
cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)	X		
landscape	X		
Short, medium or long term	X		
Permanent or temporary effects	X		
Positive or negative effects	X		
Secondary, cumulative or Synergistic effects	x		

In addition given the integrated nature of the environmental factors and the extent of issues covered by the LDP, it is considered that the inter-relationship between these factors and cumulative impacts should also be assessed.

The LDP is likely to significantly impact on all of these environmental receptors. Therefore, these receptors provide the context for, and are directly related to, the development of SEA Objectives and the sub-criteria/questions to be used in the assessment process.

5.2. Alternatives

The SEA process will identify, describe and assess reasonable alternatives for the plan's policy framework and the plan's spatial strategy and choices about general locations of development. The Council are required to consider reasonable alternative proposals through the LDP process. These will also be subject to the SEA process and highlighted in the Environmental Report.

The MIR will contain a set of issues relevant to the future development of East Renfrewshire. Within each issue, the Council must indicate a preferred option but also provide one or more reasonable alternatives. By assessing the impacts of all reasonable alternatives, the environmental report will be a key tool in determining the Council's preferred option. It should be noted that the MIR is the key generator of alternatives, not the SEA.

However, the environmental assessment may also, where appropriate, propose further alternatives in order to reduce any potential negative/adverse impacts or to suggest enhancements to those receptors that provide benefits to East Renfrewshire.

5.3. Framework for assessing environmental effects

The key objective of Environmental Assessment is to assess each policy and site specific proposal in the plan likely to have significant effects on the environment. The method proposed is to assess each policy and proposal in terms of significance as well as against individual environmental receptors.

The matrix will also identify if mitigation measures are required for each policy and proposal to prevent; reduce or offset significant adverse effects of plan implementation. Any difficulties such as a lack of technical information or key uncertainties will also be detailed. Details of the format of the matrix proposed are shown in Fig 1.

Fig 1 Evaluation Matrix: Assessing the Plans Policies and Proposals

Policy, Proposal, Alternative, Aim, or Objective	ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA																						CHARACTERISTICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS						MITIGATION REQUIRED							
	Assessed against Environmental Objectives 1 – 22																																			
	biodiversity, fauna, flora		Population and human health				water		Soil and geology		air	climatic factors		cultural heritage		landscape		material assets		transport		waste	short, medium, long term effects		permanent, temporary effects		Positive and negative effects			Secondary, cumulative, synergistic effects						
Assessed against Environmental Objectives identified from Table 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32				

- Key:**
 + Positive impact
 ? Neutral or unknown impact
 - Negative impact
 @ Mitigation Required

6. NEXT STEPS

The following Fig 2 sets out the anticipated milestones in the preparation of the Local Development Plan and the associated SEA.

6.1. Consultation Arrangements

This Scoping Report is now to be considered by the Consultation Authorities who should provide any response they may have within 5 weeks. Any responses will be considered as possible amendments to the terms and requirements of this Scoping Report.

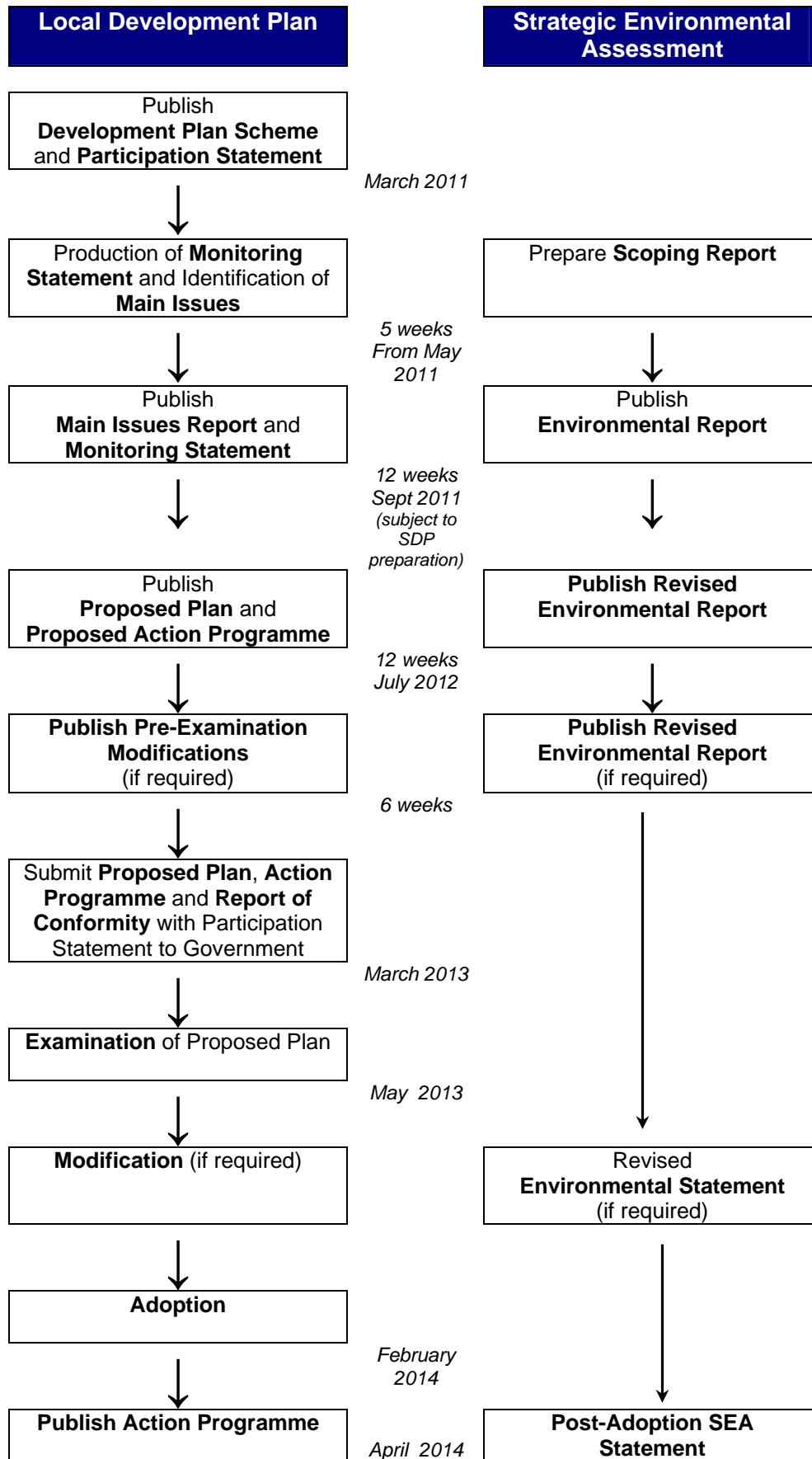
A 12 week public engagement/consultation period will be undertaken for the MIR and accompanying interim Environmental Report. This document is being circulated to the Consultation Authorities (SNH, HS and SEPA), neighbouring authorities, and additionally is being posted on the Council's web site. Views are welcome from all interested parties and will be incorporated into the Environmental Assessment process so informing the LDP and related Environmental Report.

6.2. Monitoring

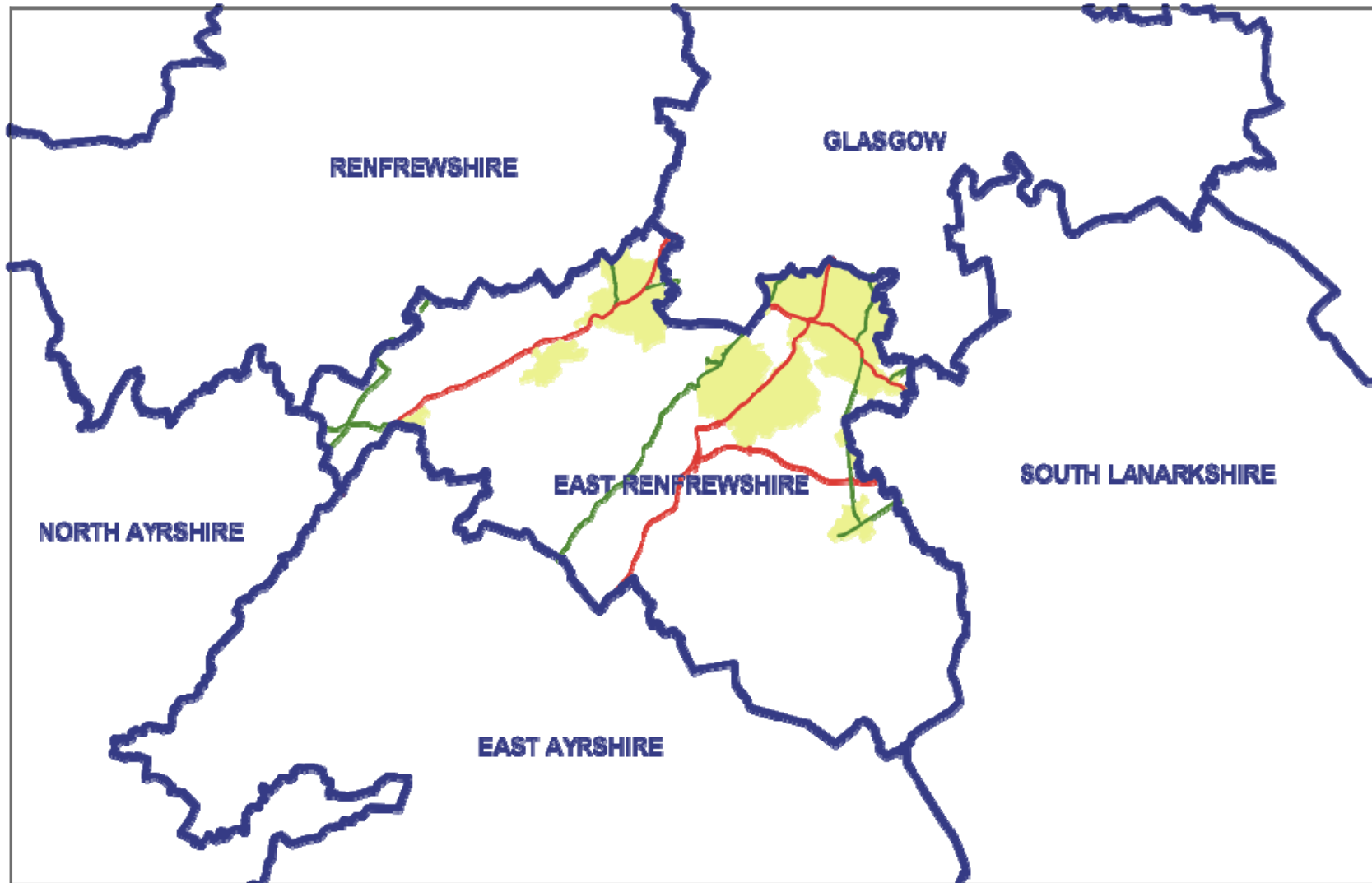
A framework for monitoring ongoing environmental effects arising from the LDP as they are implemented will be proposed in the Environmental Report providing methods by which the sustainability performance of the plan can be recorded. The monitoring framework will be clearly linked to the objectives and indicators developed for the Environmental Report and will assist in checking the effectiveness of the mitigation and enhancement measures.

The monitoring indicators will be produced in draft form in the interim environmental report and in a finalised state in the LDP environmental report for comments and observations. The Council will incorporate any comments from the Consultation Authorities on the development of these indicators during the LDP and SEA processes.

Fig 2: Main Public Stages and Timetable for producing the LDP



Appendix 1 - Boundaries and Geographical Extent of East Renfrewshire



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Appendix 2: Framework of Analysis Proposed for Relationship with Other PPS and Environmental Objectives

Relevant plans, programmes and strategies (PPS)	Main requirements of PPS objective	How it affects, or is affected by the Local Development Plan in terms of SEA issues referred to in Schedule 3 of the Act
International		
The Kyoto Protocol 1997	The Kyoto Protocol aims to limit, as well as, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The Protocol places a limit on anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions with a view to reduce overall emissions by a minimum of 5% and ideally below 8% by 2012, when the commitment period expires.	The LDP has a role in contributing to these objectives through integrating and promoting sustainable transport networks within the context of land use planning in order to help reduce emissions into the atmosphere.
The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development	The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development The 1992 declaration set the founding principles on sustainable development that were adopted by the international community.	The LDP has a duty to contribute to sustainable development.
The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development	The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development The 2002 declaration built upon the principles established through the Rio Declaration and further developed principles of sustainable development and sought international commitment to these Sustainable Development Principles.	As Above
European		
EU Habitats Directive	The Directive requires the protection of species and habitats listed in the Annex's to the Directive by the identification and classification of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's).	The LDP is required to protect SAC's from loss or damage by development.
EU Water Framework Directive	The Directive is a broad strategy for the management of water and includes a requirement for all EU Member States to ensure that they achieve good ecological status for all surface and ground water by 2015 and to limit the quantity of groundwater extraction in order to protect ecology. The Directive requires the production of River Basin Management plans as key way of achieving the aims of the Directive.	The LDP should ensure that there is no degradation of water bodies, no adverse impacts on the water environment and should support sustainable water management practices.
EU Birds Directive	The Directive relates to all naturally occurring birds in the wild within the European Union and addresses the protection - through the identification and classification of Special Areas for Conservation (SAC's) - management and control of these species and identifies rules for their exploitation. The provisions apply to birds, their eggs, nests and habitats	The LDP is required to protect SAC's from loss or damage by development.
EU Landfill Directive	The Directive sets a reduction of target of 75% of the 1995 levels and 35% of the 1995 levels of waste sent to landfill by 2013 and 2020 respectively.	The LDP should contribute to the targets set by the Directive in the context of land use planning.
European Climate Change Programme	The Programme aims to deliver the Kyoto Protocol commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 8% below 1990 levels by 2012.	The LDP should commit/contribute to the overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through integrating and promoting sustainable transport networks within the context of land use planning in order to help reduce emissions into the atmosphere.
National		
The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act, 2006	Reform of the Scottish planning system; Provides a framework for preparation of LDP; Emphasises the need for sustainable economic development.	The LDP will aim to reflect the key issues and objectives of the PPS.
Choosing Our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy	Outlines a strategic framework for the Scottish Government's strategies on climate change, transport, renewable energy, energy efficiency, green jobs and biodiversity. Also notes the need for urgent action in response to growing problems and pressures.	As Above.

Scotland's National Transport Strategy (2006)	Key aims include improving journey times and connections to tackle congestion and improve integration, reducing transport sector emissions and protecting the environment, and improving quality, accessibility and affordability, particularly in relation to public transport as a viable alternative to the car.	As Above.
National Planning Framework 2 (Scotland)	The NPF 2 guides the spatial development of Scotland to 2030 and sets out strategic development priorities to support the Scottish Government's ethos of promoting sustainable economic growth. The NPF 2 also takes forward this commitment, in policy terms, as well as the Government's policy commitment to climate change.	The LDP should contribute to the development priorities and the Scottish Government's policy commitments. The LDP should also take forward those national priorities which impact on East Renfrewshire.
Scottish Government Economic Strategy (2009)	Aims to achieve more balanced sustainable economic growth in all parts of Scotland. Notes the Government's strategic objectives, including 'greener': improvement of the natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it.	The LDP will aim to reflect the key issues and objectives of the PPS.
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	Places duties on public bodies for conserving biodiversity, increase protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and associated land, and strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation.	The LDP needs to protect biodiversity in accordance with the Act including avoidance of adverse impacts on sites, habitats and species of value as defined within the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and associated priority lists.
Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) (July 2009)	Sets out the Scottish Ministers policies for the historic environment, provides policy direction for Historic Scotland and provides a framework that informs a range of organisations that have a role and interest in managing the historic environment.	The LDP will aim to reflect the key issues and objectives of the PPS.
National Waste Plan 2003	The plan brings together Area Waste Plans and sets out an action plan to reduce landfill waste in line EU targets and to increase recycling, composting and the energy from waste.	The LDP should contribute to waste management targets through the consideration of facilities for waste recycling, recovery, disposal etc.
Zero Waste Plan	The Zero Waste Plan is intended to create a stable framework that will provide confidence for the investment necessary to deliver a zero waste Scotland over the next 10 years. It does this by setting out a Mission and Vision for the long term. Within that context, the Plan sets strategic directions in the key areas of activity for the medium term up to 5 years, with specific actions setting out immediate priorities. The Zero Waste Plan sets out the following targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target of 70% recycling and maximum 5% to landfill by 2025 for all Scotland's waste; • Landfill bans for specific waste types; • Source segregation and separate collection of specific waste types; and • Restrictions on inputs to energy from waste facilities. 	The LDP should contribute to the targets set by the Zero Waste Plan in the context of land use planning.
Choosing our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy	This document supports the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and focus on Scotland's efforts and policies.	The LDP should incorporate a commitment to sustainable development as far as is reasonably possible.
Consolidated SPP	Emphasises the importance of sustainable development, economic competitiveness, environmental quality, design and integrated transport. Also states that new development should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote regeneration and the re-use of previously developed land • reduce the need to travel and prioritise sustainable travel and transport opportunities • promote the development of mixed communities • take account of the capacity of existing infrastructure • promote rural development and regeneration • prevent further development which would be at risk from flooding or coastal erosion • protect and enhance the cultural heritage • protect and enhance the natural environment, including biodiversity and the landscape • maintain, enhance and promote access to open space and recreation opportunities, and • take into account the implications of development for water, air and soil quality 	The LDP should take account of the SPP the core principles and Scottish Government's policy to achieve sustainable economic growth as well as the thematic policy topics.
Flood Risk Management	Emphasises a sustainable approach to flood risk management and considers the impact on climate	The LDP must take into account the provisions of the Act, in particular the

(Scotland) Act 2009	<p>change. It also promotes a coordinated process to manage flood risk at a national and local level.</p> <p>Specific measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A framework for coordination and cooperation between all organisations involved in flood risk management • Assessment of flood risk and preparation of flood risk management plans • New responsibilities for SEPA, Scottish Water and local authorities in relation to flood risk management • New methods to enable stakeholders and the public to contribute to managing flood risk, and; • A single enforcement authority for the safe operation of Scotland's reservoirs. 	assessment of flood risk and the preparation of flood risk management plans.
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	<p>Requires authorities to secure compliance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. In particular it requires the Authority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have regard to the desirability of protecting the water environment, • Promote sustainable flood management, and act to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, and • Adopt an integrated approach by co-operating with each other with a view to co-ordinating the exercise of their respective functions. 	The LDP must take into account of the potential effect of its implementation on the ecological status of the water environment.
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	<p>Creates the statutory framework for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Scotland by setting an interim 42 per cent reduction target for 2020 and an 80 per cent reduction target for 2050.</p> <p>The Act places duties on public bodies, which requires them in exercising their functions to act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the way best calculated to contribute to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets; • in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme; and • in a way that it considers most sustainable. <p>The duties come into force on 1 January 2011 and apply to all 'public bodies'.</p>	Proposals that comply with the assessment criteria in the LDP could play a role in delivering the objectives of the Government.
A Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland (2010)	The Low Carbon Economic Strategy is an integral part of the Government's Economic Strategy to secure sustainable economic growth, and a key component of the broader approach to meet Scotland's climate change targets and secure the transition to a low carbon economy in Scotland.	As Above.
Regional/Structural		
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan (GCVJSP)	Provides a strategic vision for long term planning and development in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. It seeks to promote the balanced and sustainable development of the area by setting the land use framework for sustainable development; encouraging economic, social and environmental regeneration, and maintaining and enhancing the quality of the natural heritage and built environment.	The LDP will aim to reflect the key issues and objectives of the PPS.
Local		
East Renfrewshire Corporate Statement – Working for You 2007-2011	<p>The Local Authorities key aims and objectives including Social Justice and Safeguarding & Improving the Environment.</p> <p>Also sets out eight key corporate objectives, including regenerating deprived areas; addressing health inequalities; tackling crime and anti-social behaviour; promoting healthy lifestyles; the use of sustainable transport; and improving the natural and built environment.</p>	The LDP will aim to reflect the key issues and objectives of the PPS.
Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)	The SOA is a core strategic document for the East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership setting out the long term vision and strategic outcomes that the Council are working with our partners to achieve.	As Above.

	Amongst others, it seeks to deliver a stronger economy; provide easier access to key services via sustainable modes of transport; an attractive natural and built environment that is sustainable, and provide high quality and affordable housing opportunities.	
Outcome Delivery Plan 2009-2012 (ODP)	The ODP focuses on key activities carried out by the Council that will help to deliver SOA outcomes.	As Above.
East Renfrewshire Local Plan (February 2011)	Seeks to foster a rich and diverse environment and promote and manage land use change for the benefit of the local community and economy in a manner which is sustainable.	As Above. Furthermore, the current Local Plan will provide a basis and information for the Main Issues Report of the LDP
SPPG on Affordable Housing (First Revision, November 2008)	Seeks to ensure that housing development contributes to providing a range of housing choices in East Renfrewshire that assists in meeting identified affordable housing needs in a sustainable way.	The LDP will aim to reflect the key issues and objectives of the PPS.
Local Housing Strategy 2004 – 2009 (updated)	Local housing plan identifying needs, aims and objectives. Informed by the East Renfrewshire Housing Need and Market Assessment which provided estimates and projections of housing needs and demands. This Study is a partial housing need and demand assessment giving local figures – these have been used to inform the wider Strategic Housing Need And Demand Assessment currently being undertaken to inform the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan.	As Above
East Renfrewshire Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2010-2015	To assist in effectively assessing the distribution of housing investment funds at the national level, and strengthening the strategic planning for housing investment funding to meet identified housing needs.	As Above
Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Identifies habitats and species of value in the area.	As Above
Outdoor Access Strategy and Core Path Network Plan	Seeks to ensure that core paths are promoted and are accessible thereby reducing car dependency and increasing enjoyment of the environment through providing good quality networks of paths.	As Above
A Strategy for Land Remediation in East Renfrewshire	Sets out the strategy with the aim of protecting and enhancing the environment in regard to contaminated land and using the principles of sustainable development. Also seeks to bring damaged land back into beneficial use.	As Above
Local Transport Strategy	Provides an integrated framework for the delivery of local transport policies and proposals.	As Above
School Estate Management Plan 2003	Detailed strategies to implement the aims of the corporate strategy with respect to schools.	As Above

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