



Shetland Islands Council

Shetland Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination

August 2017

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

Shetland Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The Responsible Authority is:

Shetland Islands Council on behalf of the Shetland Partnership

Complete Part 3 or 4 or 5

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:

Part 6

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Job Title

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Part 7

Signature
(*electronic
signature is
acceptable*)

Date

3 August 2017

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination for the Shetland Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)

Introduction

This statement sets out the Shetland Islands Council (SIC) determination under Regulation 10(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 on whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for the Shetland Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (Shetland LOIP).

The Screening Process

Screening is the first stage in the SEA process (see Figure 1). The purpose of screening is to establish whether or not a Plan, Programme of Strategies (PPS) will have significant environmental effects.

Screening takes the form of a formal submission, where the Responsible Authority (RA) seeks the views of the following Consultation Authorities (CA) on whether a PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore whether a SEA is required:

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

As well as consulting the above bodies, RAs are required to take into account the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act when determining whether or not the plan is likely to have significant effects. The details of this process are contained within the Screening Report (July 2017).

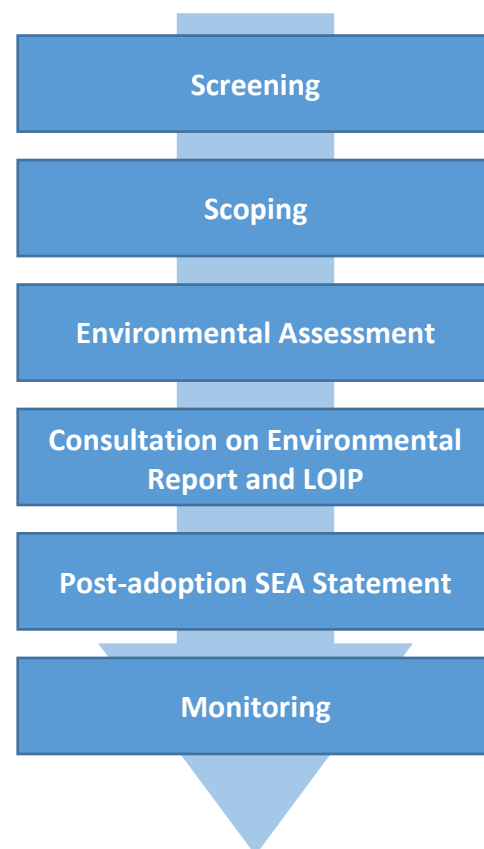


Figure 1 Stages of the SEA Process

Summary of Responses

Table 1 Summary of Screening Responses from the Consultation Authorities

Consultation Authority	Significant Environmental Effects likely?	Summary of Views
Historic Environment Scotland	✓	HES understands that the Shetland Local Outcome Improvement Plan (the LOIP) is a partnership plan outlining key priorities for joint working to reduce inequalities of outcome, and will identify priorities and desired outcomes. They note that SIC consider that there is potential for significant long term, cumulative environmental effects. HES note that the potential for increased development as a result of the LOIP could have an impact on the historic environment. On the basis of the information provided HES agrees that the LOIP has potential for significant effects on the historic environment.
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency	✓	SEPA considers that in respect of their main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets (of which we have a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. They note that the SIC consider that significant long term cumulative effects may be likely and in view of the fact that SIC are more aware of the likely effects of the Plan than SEPA are, support this precautionary approach.
Scottish Natural Heritage	x	SNH advises that the environmental effects of the LOIP are unlikely to be significant. They note that this is because the outcomes and actions within a draft LOIP are general in nature, and do not direct location specific activity or development likely to significantly affect the environment. In addition, the draft LOIP and screening report identifies that other plans, programmes or strategies (PPS) will include more detail on how the outcomes will be achieved – such as the Local Housing Strategy, Transport Strategy, etc. SNH note that some of these PPS are already likely to be subject to SEA and consider that assessing the potential for environmental impacts and the level of significance is best done for these PPS once sufficient detail is known, rather than the LOIP.

Conclusion of Screening Process

Having consulted the three Consultation Authorities, and having considered the criteria set out in the 2005 Act, the SIC considers the potential impacts from the LOIP are likely to be minimal, indirect and limited in the short term. Given the long-term nature of the Plan, however, and the need to address economic and population issues there is the potential that the plan could have a significant cumulative impact in the longer term.

The SIC has therefore determined that an SEA will be required for the plan.

An Environmental Report will be prepared alongside the LOIP. The Environmental Report will identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effect on the environment of the implementation of the Plan, and any reasonable alternatives, in accordance with the 2005 Act.