

Directorate for Local Government and Communities

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D: 28 July 2015

Miss Amy Gray
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Senior Sustainable Development Officer
Planning & Sustainable Development
Communities, Housing & Infrastructure
Aberdeen City Council
Business Hub 4, Ground Floor North, Marischal College
Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1AB

01087 Screening - Aberdeen City Council - Powering Aberdeen: Aberdeen’s Sustainable Energy Action Plan

Dear Amy

With reference to the Screening document you submitted on 2 July 2015.

The Consultation Authorities have now considered your screening request as per **Section 9(3)** of the **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005**. For convenience I have set out, in the table below, their individual views on whether there is a likelihood of significant environmental effects.

Please note, these are the views and opinions of the Consultation Authorities on the likelihood of significant environmental effects arising from the plan or programme and not a judgement on whether an SEA is required. It is therefore for the Responsible Authority to determine whether an SEA is required in the circumstances. I have attached the individual letters from the Consultation Authorities, outlining their views and opinions. Where possible the Consultation Authorities may have offered supplementary information and/or advice for you to consider, which you should find helpful.

| CONSULTATION AUTHORITY | LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS |
|--|---|
| Historic Scotland | Yes |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | No |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | Yes |
| OVERALL VIEW ON LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS | Yes |

As the Consultation Authorities have now notified you of their views, you should now refer to the 2005 Act to consider your next step. You should of course take into account the advice offered by the Consultation Authorities.



You should note, as per Section 10 of the 2005 Act, within 28 days of your determination about whether an SEA is required or not, a copy of the determination and any related statement of reasons must be passed to the Consultation Authorities. This may be done via the SEA Gateway.

If you have any queries or would like me to clarify any points, please call me on 0131 244 7650.

Yours sincerely

Johnathan Whittlestone
SEA Gateway Officer

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Our ref: AMN/23/664
Our Case ID: 201502179
Your ref: 01087 SCREENING
28 July 2015

Dear Ms Gray

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005
Aberdeen City Council - Powering Aberdeen: Aberdeen's Sustainable Energy Action Plan

Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the screening report for Aberdeen City Council's Powering Aberdeen: Aberdeen's Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), received by the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway on 2 July 2015. I have reviewed the screening report on behalf of Historic Scotland in its role as a Consultation Authority in accordance with Section 9(3) of the above Act. In doing so, I have used the criteria set out in schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. Please note that our view is based on our main area of interest for the historic environment.

I understand that the SEAP will set out how Aberdeen City will reach its Covenant of Mayors commitments. It will influence multiple PPS' and will set the framework for projects which address the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, as well as planning, construction, transport, local electricity generation/production, local district heating/cooling, waste management and behavioural change. You consider that the SEAP is likely to have significant environmental effects; I agree with that view. I note that your screening report does not discuss the likelihood of significant effects on cultural heritage. On the basis of the information provided, I consider that there is potential for the SEAP to have significant environmental effects (negative and positive) on the historic environment.

However, as you will be aware, it is the responsibility of Aberdeen City Council as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the strategy requires an environmental assessment and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss the contents of this letter in further detail.

Yours sincerely



Virginia Sharp
Senior Heritage Management Officer, SEA





Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

Ms Amy Gray
Aberdeen City Council
Ground Floor North
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21 July 2015

Dear Amy

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Powering Aberdeen: Aberdeen's Sustainable Energy Action Plan. SEA Screening report

Thank you for consulting SNH on the screening report for Aberdeen's Sustainable Energy Action Plan, which was received on 3 July 2015 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, SNH has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

We agree that the above Plan, is likely to have environmental effects.

We have a small number of comments and advice to assist you in the next steps for the SEA process and for the production of the Plan itself (these are provided in the Annex to this letter).

Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the plan or programme to have significant environmental effects. SNH cannot comment on whether or not the plan or programme meets other criteria determining the need for SEA as set out in the Act.

Should you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01224 266530 or via SNH's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Ewen Cameron
Operations Manager
Tayside & Grampian Area

Copied to: Scottish Executive SEA Gateway: sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
SNH SEA Gateway: sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk
SEPA SEA Gateway: sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk
HS SEA Gateway: hssea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Scottish Natural Heritage, Inverdee House, Baxter Street, Aberdeen, AB11 9QA
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Annex – additional SNH comment and advice

- The report mentions the potential for the SEAP - *to have significant negative effects on the environment for example through transport developments disrupting habitats, and potential development of wind and hydro power which can have a negative effect on birds and marine wildlife.* However, Aberdeen is fortunate in that it already has a comprehensive greenspace audit and a recent review of its LNCS (Local Nature Conservation Sites) which will be valuable in informing the SEAP (for example some LNCS include offshore water important for seabirds). The Council's Planning Department and Ranger Service already has considerable experience in how best to maintain connectivity of habitat networks.
- Loss of habitat and greenspace connectivity is also important for public access to the countryside, providing opportunities for active travel, outdoor education and other high priority objectives for both the Council and the Scottish Government. The SEAP should make clear that there are multiple benefits to be gained here.
- Although the Aberdeen does not have extensive areas of woodland or peat soils, the SEAP needs to recognise the importance of both of these in capturing carbon emissions and therefore helping contribute to Aberdeen's Carbon Reduction Commitment.
- With the Aberdeen City Local Development Plan now at the Proposed Plan stage and the next Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan due to commence its Main issues stage with the next 12 months, SEAP is very timely. While the shift to the use of renewable energy is important, it is vital that significant steps are also made to improve the energy efficiency of built development. This requires setting explicit and demanding standards, as can be found in policies R6 and R7 and in the Supplementary Guidance (Topic Area 9 – Resources) in the Council's Proposed Plan.
- In section 2f, you are correct in identifying relatively distant SPAs/SACs given the known mobility of the species for which these sites are designated. I recommend you also include the Moray Firth SAC, as it's bottle nosed dolphins spend a lot of time around the mouth of Aberdeen harbour and the adjacent coastline and are susceptible to underwater noise disturbance, which could be a significant element of offshore energy generation.

Our ref: PCS141260
SG ref: SEA01087/Scr

If telephoning ask for:
Clare Pritchett

23 July 2015

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Marischal College
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By email only to: sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Ms Gray

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 - Screening Report

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 3 July 2015.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 we have considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. Having reviewed the Screening Report, we consider that in respect of our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets (of which we have a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the Powering Aberdeen: Aberdeen's Sustainable Energy Action Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are not likely, it is for the Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received.

Please note that although we do not consider that the Sustainable Energy Action Plan will have significant strategic effects on the environment we do consider that it may have some effects. We would therefore welcome consultation on the draft proposals which should be directed to our local Planning Service team at planning.aberdeen@sepa.org.uk.

If it is formally determined that SEA is required, you will be aware that the next stage requires the Responsible Authority to consult the Consultation Authorities on the proposed scope and level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report. This can be undertaken through preparation of a concise Scoping Report. We would encourage you to use the scoping process to focus the assessment on those SEA issues upon which there are likely to be significant environmental effects, to outline the baseline information you consider as most relevant and explain your proposed method of assessment. To assist with this process we have produced [Standing Advice for Responsible Authorities on Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) Scoping Consultations](#).



Chairman
David Sigsworth

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Terry A'Hearn

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We are committed to providing early and focused advice and supporting continuous engagement and would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these issues prior to the formal consultation. Further information can be found in the [Scottish Government SEA Guidance](#).

Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation please do not hesitate to contact me on 01224 266609 or via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Clare Pritchett
Senior Planning Officer

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