

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 strategy entitled:

Food Growing Strategy (title to be determined)

The Responsible Authority is:

Aberdeen City Council (ACC)

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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SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 6

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PART 7

(Signature electronic signature is acceptable)	
Date	28/3/18

SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority

Aberdeen City Council

Title of PPS

Food Growing Strategy (title to be determined)

Purpose of PPS

A strategy to support food-growing in Aberdeen

What prompted the PPS

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (section 119 under Part 9)

Subject

Period covered by PPS

2018 – 2028 (or in accordance with emerging guidance)

Frequency of Updates

5 years (in accordance with the guidance issued by the Scottish Government)

Area covered

Aberdeen City

Summary of nature/Content of PPS

The Aberdeen Food Growing Strategy is currently being prepared. It will seek to develop new food growing spaces across the city; maximise the many co-benefits of food-growing; identify actions to deliver the spaces and benefits and include an action plan to achieve their implementation.

Are there any proposed PPS Objectives?

Yes

No

Copy of PPS attached? Summary Appendix 1

Yes

No

Date

28 March 2018

SCREENING REPORT

TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

TITLE OF PPS

Food Growing Strategy (title to be determined)

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

Aberdeen City Council

<p>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)</p>	<p>Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This PPS will set the framework for how new and existing food growing spaces will be identified, created, managed and monitored in Aberdeen . The full scope of the strategy is yet to be determined but it is likely to include: allotments, city farms; permanent and temporary community gardens; community orchards and food forests for example. It may promote ‘semi commercial’ growing projects and encourage projects such as green roofs and green walls. It will likely look at the use of agricultural land; large landowner estates; back courts/greens in tenement housing; incidental spaces in and around business parks and commercial premises; institutional buildings; historic buildings and gardens; parks and greenspaces; public buildings and land; residential areas; streets and civic spaces; stalled development spaces and woodland areas. Depending upon how this strategy is implemented, there is a potential for significant positive environmental effects and some adverse environmental effects.</p>

<p>1(b) The degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This PPS will inform, influence and help to deliver other plans and strategies such as the Aberdeen Local Development Plan (ALDP), the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and individual locality plans. A literature review will identify all relevant PPS which will be influenced by the food-growing strategy; it is likely to include PPS concerned with Aberdeen's economy, resilience, nature conservation, open spaces, adaptation to climate change, food poverty, trees and woodlands, transport, health and wellbeing, obesity, recreation, housing, equality and diversity. How future PPS implement this PPS will determine how significant the environmental effects might be.</p>
<p>1(c) The relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The strategy will encourage the people of Aberdeen to build a healthy relationship with their surroundings and food; especially in areas experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. It will support growing food locally and in sufficient quantities to contribute towards feeding the people of Aberdeen; it has the potential to reduce the City's food mileage and footprint, contribute to reducing food poverty and making the city more resilient and adapted to future climate changes.</p> <p>It will promote the UN Global goals of zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, responsible consumption and production, Sustainable Cities and communities and climate action. The PPS is therefore likely to have significant positive environmental effects.</p>
<p>1(d) Environmental problems relevant to the PPS</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The implementation of this PPS has the potential to reduce Aberdeen's ecological footprint, improve interactions with the environment, build soil health, increase biodiversity, improve air quality and increase opportunities to support a circular economy. Indirectly it could reduce CO2 emissions, although slight negative impacts are also possible on a project by project basis because of the transport needs of those involved.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Food-growing activities, including the use of chemical fertiliser, pest and disease management and composting, could positively or adversely affect biodiversity, air pollution, soil health and the water environment. Demand for water may increase during the summer months although this could be met in part by captured rainwater on site. In this respect this PPS is likely to be relevant to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection (COM(2006)231)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 • EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC • EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 which prioritises integrated sustainable urban development. • Nitrate Directive 91/43/EC • Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
<p>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</p> <p>(1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</p> <p>YES/NO</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects</p> <p>(negative and positive)</p>
2 (a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Yes	This will change on a project by project basis. If food-growing becomes widespread in Aberdeen, the benefits will persist; if the projects from the PPS become short-lived, any positive or negative effects are likely to reverse. The duration and frequency of any effects depend upon the way the PPS is implemented and will be determined at the individual project level accompanied by any necessary mitigation and monitoring measures.
2 (b) The cumulative nature of the effects	Yes	There is a potential for cumulative effects from the range of projects proposed.
2 (c) Transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	No	No discernible effect.
2 (d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	No	There is the potential for risks to human health and the environment. These will be dependent upon steps taken to grow food using little or no pesticides or herbicides and will be determined at the individual project level. Overall the PPS is likely to have positive health impacts which could be significant; especially in relation to supporting healthier lifestyles through the therapeutic and physical benefits of gardening and by encouraging the consumption of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs. Any mitigation or

		monitoring measures will be determined on a project by project basis.
2 (e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Yes	The strategy will cover the whole of Aberdeen City. Projects will range in scale from planters to polytunnels, farms, greenhouses and roofs. The spatial extent and the significant environmental effects will be determined at the project level.
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.	No	<p>It is not envisaged that this PPS will significantly affect sensitive areas like the River Dee SAC, or Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie, and Loch of Meikle pSPA or Moray Firth.</p> <p>Regarding the River Dee SAC, additional demands for watering may impact the Dee unless sustainable water management solutions are encouraged. There may be run off of chemicals to watercourses depending on the scale of the site and how it is managed and there may be a reduction in permeable areas if impermeable paths are created at growing sites.</p> <p>If heritage varieties of fruit and vegetables are grown, it may enhance the cultural heritage of Aberdeen. Similarly, walled gardens may be brought back into use or be enhanced. Historical associations which people had with these walled gardens and heritage crop varieties would be better understood.</p> <p>The strategy will encourage a long-term investment in soil health and the wider environment on a project by project basis; this will include impacts on water usage, control of pests and diseases, waste management, crop varieties and resilience, using soil conditioners to certain standards and following best practice to minimise detrimental impacts.</p>
2 (g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	No	While this PPS is unlikely to affect any sensitive landscapes adversely there is an opportunity for the skills and planting in Aberdeen's managed parks to be used, studied and adapted to reflect an interest in food-growing.

SEA SCREENING REPORT

A summary of the significant environmental effects of the Food Growing Strategy.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

This PPS will set the framework for how new and existing food growing spaces will be identified, created, managed and monitored in Aberdeen . It provides the potential for significant positive and adverse environmental effects. This PPS will inform, influence and help to deliver other plans and strategies such as the Aberdeen Local Development Plan (ALDP), the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and individual locality plans. The strategy will encourage the people of Aberdeen to build a healthy relationship with their surroundings and food; especially in areas experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

The PPS is relevant to a number of pieces of EU legislation. It promotes sustainable development. It is unlikely to have any significant adverse effects on sensitive landscapes and sites. It provides a scope for addressing potential significant adverse effects while enabling significant positive effects to be enhanced.

Because of the likely significant effects an SEA will be carried out.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF COMMENTS FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES

GUIDANCE NOTE

It is not a statutory requirement to include this section in the screening report. However, the Responsible Authority may find it useful for record purposes.

TITLE OF PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY

Food Growing Strategy (title to be determined)

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

Aberdeen City Council

DATE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES

Consultation Authority	Views (if known at this stage)
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Significant environmental effects – Yes/No
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. soil and water)
Scottish Natural Heritage	Significant environmental effects - Yes/No
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. flora, fauna and biodiversity)
The Scottish	Significant environmental effects – Yes/No

Ministers (Historic Scotland)	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. landscape and cultural heritage)
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TABLE 4 – RECORD OF POST SCREENING ACTION

<p>GUIDANCE NOTE</p> <p>It is not a requirement to include this section in the screening report. However, the Responsible Authority may find it useful for record purposes.</p> <p>TITLE OF PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY (PPS)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Food Growing Strategy (title to be determined)</div> <p>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0; text-align: center;">Aberdeen City Council</div>			
<p>1 Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <i>is</i> likely to have significant environmental effects</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>		
<p>Date of determination</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>		
<p>2 Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <i>is not</i> likely to have significant environmental effects</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>		
<p>Date of determination</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>		
<p>3 Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities cannot reach agreement – referred to the Scottish Ministers for their determination</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>		
<p>Date referred to the Scottish Ministers</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>		
<p>4 Scottish Ministers' determination Date of determination</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>		
<p>5 Publicity requirements met</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Yes</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">No</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No
Yes	No		

6

Signature

Date
