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By email to: SEA.Gateway@gov.scot

Mr Peter Wheelan
Development & Infrastructure Service
The Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
INVERNESS
IV3 5NX

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Our ref: LDP/H/1
Our Case ID: 201604093
Your ref: 01230 SCREENING
14 November 2016

Dear Mr Wheelan

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
The Highland Council - Inverness City Centre Development Brief Supplementary
Guidance
Screening Report**

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 27 October about the above screening report. We have reviewed the screening report in our role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act, in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). In doing so we have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment. Please note that our view is based on our main area of interest for the historic environment.

Our understanding from the screening report is that the Development Brief will replace the existing guidance for Inverness City Centre. The new guidance will cover issues such as land use, infrastructure and design as well as specific requirements, objectives, priorities and opportunities across the area covered by the Brief.

We note that you consider that, as the principles of land use have been assessed and accepted as part of both the Highland Wide Local Development Plan and the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan, no additional environmental effects over those previously identified in those LDP assessments are likely. We also note that the mitigation identified in those assessments was brought forward into the LDP developer requirements which in turn will influence the land use policies of this Brief. In light of this, and the further screening information within the report, we are content to agree that the Brief in itself is unlikely to have significant effects on the historic environment.

However, as you will be aware, it is the responsibility of The Highland Council as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the guidance requires an environmental assessment and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Andrew Stevenson and they can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8960 or by email on andrew.stevenson2@hes.scot.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland