

Statement of Reasons

Dounreay Planning Framework 2

Introduction

This paper sets out the reasons for The Highland Council not carrying out an SEA on the Dounreay Planning Framework 2. This paper should be read in conjunction with the determination notice for the aforementioned document.

Determination

It has been determined by the Highland Council, following advice from the Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultation Authorities (SEPA, SNH and Historic Scotland) that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for Dounreay Planning Framework 2. The individual consultation authorities' responses to the SEA screening, the screening report itself and the determination notice can be viewed online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>.

Statement of Reasons

This section sets out why the Council has determined that Dounreay Planning Framework 2 will not be subject to a strategic environmental assessment. The reasons are collated from information gathered during the screening process for the strategic environmental assessment and the responses to the screening from the consultation authorities.

The reasons for not carrying out a full SEA can be summarised as follows:

- The proposed planning framework will not create a new policy framework but provide an interpretation of Policy 24 of the Highland wide Local Development Plan.
- The supplementary guidance is not considered to influence any current plans as it will be applied only to individual planning applications on the land identified in Policy 24 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan in accordance with relevant policies contained within the development plan. However, the development framework may have an influence on the production of the emerging Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan – this is expected to be limited.
- The environmental problems which may be associated with the development brief, while not likely to be significant, can be mitigated.
- A Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record has been prepared which demonstrates that the provisions of the development framework are not likely to have a significant effect on any Natura Site.

All comments made by the consultation authorities will be taken into consideration in the production of the final document.

The Council will now progress with the production of the Dounreay Planning Framework 2 with a public consultation from November 2013 and subsequent steps to finalise it.