

SCREENING REPORT

STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

The Highland Council (THC), as Lead Local Authority for the Highland & Argyll Local Plan District

Title of the plan:

The Highland & Argyll Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP)

What prompted the plan:

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

THC is required to produce the Highland & Argyll LFRMP under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

As it is required by legislation the LFRMP is therefore a qualifying plan under section 5(3) (b) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

Water Management

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:

An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

Contact details:

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Date:

STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

The LFRMP (to be published by The Highland Council) has a parent Strategy/ Plan namely the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP), which has been produced by SEPA. The FRMP for the Highland & Argyll Local Plan District establishes where flood risk management studies and works will take place within the boundary of the plan, as well as a range of more general actions to manage flooding across the area.

The FRMP is going through the SEA process and the Scoping Report and Environmental Report having been submitted, with the Environmental Report currently being consulted on.

There are no additional actions within the LFRMP that were not included in the Environmental Report for the FRMP. The only additional information that the LFRMP will contain (above and beyond the FRMP) is when the proposed actions are likely to take place and how they will be funded. THC therefore plans to refer to the Environmental Report for the FRMP as this has carried out an appropriate level of assessment for the LFRMP. Appendix E of the Environmental Report specifically discusses the Highland & Argyll LPD.

Description of the Plan:

The LFRMP will describe all flood risk management activities that are ongoing or planned within the Highland & Argyll Local Plan District. The Local Plan District includes most of The Highland Council's administrative area and some of Argyll & Bute Council's in the south. The LFRMP must be approved and adopted by both Local Authorities and the other Responsible Authorities named in the Act before being implemented.

The second iteration of the plan will run from 2022 to 2028 and will be reviewed every six years.

The aim of the plan is to take a risk-based plan-led approach to flood risk management rather than a reactive approach. This will help focus attention and resources to the areas which can achieve the greatest benefits.

The Plan will help raise the level of understanding within the Local Plan District and help inform future Development Plans.

What are the key components of the plan?

The LFRMP will be drafted between now October 2021 and March 2022, with final publication due for June 2026.

The Highland Council is Lead Local Authority for the Highland & Argyll LFRMP and is therefore responsible for its content. It is our intention that the LFRMP will be a mirror to the FRMP (with the environmental report currently being consulted on) and will generally summarise the content of the FRMP and refer readers to it for the detail of the Plan. The LFRMP will essentially provide an Executive Summary of the FRMP, with added detail (namely the funding and timing of the actions) provided.

The summary will cover all existing and recommended actions to be taken forward through the Plan at the Local Plan District (LPD), Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA) and Target Area Level. For each this will include a characterisation,

the objectives to reduce flood risk and the recommended actions and measures to meet the objective.

As is set out in the FRMP, the recommended actions that will be taken forward in the Plan are a number of studies (Flood Protection Studies, which may identify potential works) and a small number of Schemes (ie building flood schemes). The FRMP also includes a few non-structural recommendations (which are again included within the LFRMP) such as data collection and mapping and planning and resilience.

In addition, the LFRMP will also identify when, in which FRM cycle, the action is planned to be carried out and who will be funding its progression.

The LFRMP will not include any areas or actions not previously assessed in the FRMP.

Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?

As mentioned previously all the actions proposed in the LFRMP have already been through the screening process and have been assessed in the Environmental Report for the FRMP, which consultees will have reviewed and commented on.

There are to be no new proposed measures or actions within the LFRMP that have not been assessed within SEPA's Environmental Report. Appendix E of the Environmental Report specifically discusses the Highland & Argyll LPD.

In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:

As the LFRMP is intended to form an Executive Summary of the FRMP we do not consider an additional SEA will be necessary.

The only additional areas the LFRMP included that were not within the FRMP concern the timing of the proposed studies and works and confirmation on how they are to be funded. As a precaution these two components are screened below.

**STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Error! Reference source not found.)**

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship		
Timing of implementation of the Plan measures	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		We do not believe the timing of the proposed actions or measures with the LFRMP will have a significant effect on the environment.
Funding of the Plan measures	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		We do not believe how the actions and measures are to be funded will have a significant effect on the environment.

STEP 4 – STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING

Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:
(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

The proposed measures highlighted within the Highland & Argyll Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP) could have significant environmental effects. However, these have already been discussed and assessed through the consultation on SEPA’s Environmental Report for the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP)

There are no new actions within the LFRMP that have not already been identified or appraised in the Environmental Report for the FRMP. The only additional information that will be included in the LFRMP that is not within the FRMP will be information regarding timing of proposed measures and how they are to be funded.

The way funding is sourced and who is responsible for funding proposed measures will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Several Flood Protection Studies feature as recommended actions in the FRMP which are to be implemented through the LFRMP. Since these are un-intrusive desk-based studies the timing of when these will take place is not considered to have a significant effect on the environment. There is likely to be, at some stage of the study, some ground investigations to determine soil types and the location of utilities. These however would be small scale and directed away from any environmentally sensitive areas. In addition, as each study progresses more detailed environmental surveys and consultations will be carried out to inform the progress of the scheme. These will have been led by the findings of the FRMP Environmental Report and any consultation responses.

The timing of proposed Works may, in principle, influence the environment if for example the Works were to be built in the same catchment as each other. However, this is not in the case of the Highland & Argyll LFRMP. The LFRMP details Flood Protection Schemes which are aiming to be built in the second FRM cycle (2022-2028) - four by The Highland Council (Mill Burn, River Peffery, Golspie and River Thurso) and seven by Argyll and Bute Council (Oban, Tarbert, Lochgilphead, Clachan, Helensburgh, Dunoon, Kilcreggan) this will only occur if funding is available for each of the schemes. None of these schemes are within the same catchment as each other and are geographically separated.

As part of the development of these potential schemes each will have its own environmental assessments. These assessments will determine potential risk the schemes could have to the environment and measures to avoid negative impacts to the environment.

This additional information we believe will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, in conclusion we believe that the Highland & Argyll Local Flood Risk Management Plan and does not require a Scoping or Environmental Report to be produced.

When completed send to: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

