

POST - ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT

Post-adoption SEA statement for:

Sutherland Local Plan

Adopted on:

24 June 2010

Responsible Authority:

The Highland Council

POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT INTRODUCTION

This document (referred to here as the post-adoption SEA statement) has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004 prior to the implementation of Section 18 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

WEBSITE

The full PPS as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and post-adoption SEA Statement are available on the Responsible Authority's website at:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/developmentplans/localplans/sutherland-local-plan.htm>

OFFICE ADDRESS

The PPS, as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and post-adoption SEA Statement may also be inspected free of charge (or a copy obtained for a reasonable charge) at the principal office of the Responsible Authority:

Contact name, address and telephone number

David Cowie
The Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness IV3 5NX
01463 702827

Times at which the documents may be inspected or a copy obtained:

Monday – Friday: 0900 - 1700

**POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT
KEY FACTS**

Name of Responsible Authority	The Highland Council
Title of PPS	Sutherland Local Plan
Purpose of PPS	The Local Plan sets out the Council's policies to guide development in Sutherland and provides proposals for specific sites.
What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	Legislative requirement to provide an up to date development plan.
Subject (e.g. transport)	Land use planning.
Period covered	2010 - 2015
Frequency of updates	The Local Plan will be reviewed every 5 years.
Area of PPS (e.g. geographical area)	Sutherland
Summary of nature/content of PPS	The Local Plan sets out the Council's policies to guide development in Sutherland and provides proposals for specific sites.
Date adopted	24 June 2010
Contact name & job title Address, email, telephone number	David Cowie Principal Planner The Highland Council Glenurquhart Road Inverness IV3 5NX David.Cowie@highland.gov.uk 01463 702827
Date	20 May 2011

1. Strategic Environmental Assessment Process

The Sutherland Local Plan has been subject to a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004 prior to the implementation of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This has included the following activities:

- Taking into account the views of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland) regarding the scope and level of detail that was appropriate for the Environmental Report.
- Preparing and updating an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects on the environment of the draft PPS which included consideration of:
 - the baseline data relating to the current state of the environment;
 - links between the PPS and other relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
 - existing environmental problems affecting the PPS;
 - the plan's likely significant effects on the environment (positive and negative);
 - measures envisaged for the prevention, reduction and offsetting of any significant adverse effects;
 - recording an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives chosen;
 - monitoring measures to ensure that any unforeseen environmental effects will be identified allowing for appropriate remedial action to be taken.
- Consulting on the Environmental Report.
- Taking into account the Environmental Report and the results of consultation in making final decisions regarding the PPS.
- Committing to monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS. This will also identify any unforeseen adverse significant environmental effects and to enable taking appropriate remedial action.

2. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Sutherland Local Plan and how the Environmental Report has been taken into account

Pre-Examination consideration of environmental issues and resultant changes to the Plan's content are set out within the Environmental Report available via:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/developmentplans/localplans/sutherland-local-plan.htm>

Following Examination of the local plan the Scottish Government appointed Reporters recommended further modifications to the Plan and all but one have been made by the Council. Many of these modifications were related to sites and policies. The majority of the modifications do not significantly affect the local plan or have relevance to environmental considerations. The significant modifications made are considered with reference to environmental considerations in the table below:

Relevant New/Amended Policy/Proposal	Comment on environmental consideration
<p>Deletion of Long term allocations The Reporter recommended deletion of all long term allocations</p>	<p>Development of these sites is now less likely (at least within the plan period) with the effect of reducing the negative impact of the plan on the environment.</p>
<p>Deletion of Embo H1 North of station house, Embo MU1 West Embo, Golspie H3 Adjacent to Macleod House, Invershin H1 Former Balblair workings, Lochinver H3 Glencanisp, Tongue MU1 West of the manse The Reporter recommended deletion of these sites.</p>	<p>Development of these sites is now less likely (at least within the plan period) with the effect of reducing the negative impact of the plan on the environment.</p>
<p>GP1 – Settlement Development Areas The supporting text of the policy has an additional sentence stating that the landscape character assessment for the area will be referred to as a material consideration and landscape character has been added to the policy.</p>	<p>The addition to the supporting text reinforces the policy in terms of landscape. The assessment is currently neutral against the SEA objective on landscape and will remain so as it may not necessarily enhance the landscape. Therefore there is no variance in environmental terms.</p>
<p>GP3 – Wider Countryside The policy has had a substantial re-write however the main thrust of the policy remains the same.</p>	<p>None of the amendments make any changes to the SEA assessment therefore there is no variance in environmental terms.</p>
<p>GP4 - Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage The international section has been revised which makes it strengthened in environmental terms. A note has been added at the end of the policy to cross refer the reader to appendix 1 of the local plan, as has the first paragraph of the policy, which strengthens the policy.</p>	<p>None of the amendments make any changes to the SEA assessment therefore there is no variance in environmental terms.</p>
<p>GP7 - Waste Water Treatment The policy has had a re-write but the main thrust remains the same. It makes the policy clearer and it strengthens the policy safeguard towards the environment.</p>	<p>None of the amendments make any changes to the SEA assessment therefore there is no variance in environmental terms.</p>
<p>GP8 – Waste Management The changes to the policy give a tougher safeguarding approach which does not make significant changes to the environment.</p>	<p>None of the amendments make any changes to the SEA assessment therefore there is no variance in environmental terms.</p>

3. How opinions expressed during consultation have been taken into account

The Sutherland Local Plan Environmental Report has been subject to three periods of consultation: the Draft Environmental Report October 2007, Augmented Environmental Report (including Supplement) May 2008 and the Revised Environmental Report November 2008. Appendices 2, 3 and 7 of the Finalised Environmental Report set out all the comments received during consultation at each

of the respective stages of the SEA process and how they have been taken into account.

4. Reasons for choosing the Sutherland Local Plan as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives

The reasons for choosing the Sutherland Local Plan as adopted is discussed in detail in section 7 of the finalised environmental report. There were options for Growth Amount and for Growth Management, with Growth Amount option '3' - Vision for a stable working age population – chosen and Growth Management option '2' - Focussing growth through defining settlement development areas but not including boundaries for small townships – chosen, as the preferred approach.

The local plan was subject to periods of consultation and to objections seeking alternative policies, wording and proposals. Independent Reporters considered these objections and made recommendations and these can be found in the Examination Report.

5. Measures that are to be taken to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Sutherland Local Plan

As the Responsible Authority we are required to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Sutherland Local Plan in a manner which enables us to also identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and to enable us to take appropriate remedial action. Section 9 of the finalised Environmental Report discusses monitoring.

We have developed a monitoring framework which can be seen below. It details what we are going to monitor, how we will monitor it and how often it will be done. There are some that are shaded in grey; these are indicators that we would like to monitor but will not be able to at present.

[This page is intentionally blank]

Monitoring Framework

SEA Topic	What the plan seeks to achieve	Monitoring Indicator	Responsible for Data Collation	Publication of Monitoring	Remedial Action
Air	No increase in number of Air Quality Management Areas	Number of Air Quality Management Areas	THC (Environmental Health)	Biennially	Review policy and site allocations in areas where AQMA have been designated.
Water Quality	Improve Water Quality	Number of designated bathing areas	SEPA	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
		Number of rivers "C" classification or below			
		Number of bathing areas passing bathing water quality			
		% of planning applications granted in last 12 months which connected to public water/sewer			
	Reduce instances of flooding	Number of planning applications granted within medium to high flood risk areas (1 in 200yr probability)	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
	Increase number of developments incorporating water efficient technologies	Number of schemes that incorporate water efficient technologies	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).

SEA Topic	What the plan seeks to achieve	Monitoring Indicator	Responsible for Data Collation	Publication of Monitoring	Remedial Action
Soil	Remediation of Contaminated Land and redevelopment of brownfield sites	Number of planning applications granted on brownfield land in the last 12 months	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
	Reduction in the area of prime agricultural land developed	Number of planning applications granted on prime agricultural land (1, 2, 3.1 of the Macaulay Institute Classification)	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
Biodiversity	Protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Highland	Number of applications granted within SPA, SAC, Ramsar, NNR, SSSI, Sites of Local Nature Conservation.	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
	Protected Species are not significantly disturbed		SNH	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
Climatic Factors	Reduction in Travel	% travelling to work/study by car	THC (Information and Research)	Biennially	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
		% travelling to work/study by public transport	THC (Information and Research)	Biennially	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
		% travelling to work/study by active travel	THC (Information and Research)	Biennially	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development

SEA Topic	What the plan seeks to achieve	Monitoring Indicator	Responsible for Data Collation	Publication of Monitoring	Remedial Action
					Plan(s).
Human Health	Improve accessibility to open space	Provision of open space (m ²)	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
		% of households within 1200m of open space	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
Cultural Heritage	Reduce number of buildings at risk	Number of buildings at risk	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
Landscape	Impact on quality of landscape	Number of planning applications granted within NSA and SLA in last 12 months	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
Material Assets	Improved accessibility to recycling facilities	% of households within 15km of recycling centre	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
		Number of planning applications granted which include provision for recycling point in last 12 months	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
	Reduction in waste going to landfill	% of total residual waste in Highland going to landfill	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).

SEA Topic	What the plan seeks to achieve	Monitoring Indicator	Responsible for Data Collation	Publication of Monitoring	Remedial Action
	Protection and enhancement of public access	Number of planning applications granted which affect path identified in the core path plan	THC (Information and Research facilitated by access officers)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).
	Increase number of developments incorporating sustainable materials	Number of schemes that incorporate sustainable materials	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review policy and site allocations in Local Development Plan(s).