

**SEA SCOPING REPORT
COVER NOTE**

Dumfries and Galloway Council
Local Development Plan 2

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An SEA Scoping Report is attached for the plan entitled:
Local Development Plan 2

The Responsible Authority is:
Dumfries and Galloway Council

The above Local Development Plan falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

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1.0 The Plan

1.1 The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report is to set out sufficient information on the Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2 to enable the Consultation Authorities to form a view on the consultation period and scope/level of detail that will be appropriate for the Environmental Report.

1.2 This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority:	Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC)
Title of Plan	Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2
Requirement for the Plan	Legislative requirement of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006
Plan Subject	Land use planning
Period Covered by Plan	2019 - 2029
Frequency of Plan Updates	Every five years
Area covered by Strategy	The Plan will cover the whole of the Dumfries and Galloway region: c. 6,400sq kms (this includes the area of Dumfries and Galloway down to the low water mark).
Purpose and Objectives of the Strategy	To guide future land uses, provide a framework of planning policies and land allocations to provide guidance on the location, design and assessment of development proposals, and contribute to sustainable development.
Contact	Carolyn Howarth Senior Planner (Development Planning) DGC

Introduction

1.3 Dumfries and Galloway Council (the Council) is undertaking preparation of Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) for the whole of its geographic area. The main objective of LDP2 is to provide a policy and spatial framework for sustainable development in the region, facilitating economic development and supporting communities whilst at the same time protecting and enhancing the rich and diverse quality of the natural and built environment.

1.4 Producing LDP2 is a legislative requirement and there is no alternative method than to produce a local development plan to fulfil this requirement in SEA terms. LDP2 will supersede but principally build upon the policies, programmes and actions within the adopted LDP (adopted in September 2014) and all its associated supplementary guidance. LDP2 will focus on the most significant elements of change from the adopted LDP which will need a specific policy response.

1.5 It is considered that LDP2 is unlikely to involve a full scale policy overhaul but is more likely to involve minor modifications to the existing policy wording and site allocations in the majority of cases. The overall strategic direction and vision of the plan is unlikely to change

significantly, however LDP2 will need to address those areas of change which are being identified from current trends, issues, surveys, analysis, assessments, and monitoring work which has been carried out.

1.6 Existing and new development opportunities will be evaluated and assessed for inclusion or exclusion in LDP2 with their related environmental consequences being considered.

1.7 The main elements of change in LDP2 are likely to include:

- housing targets and forecasts resulting in the need for more or fewer housing allocations
- policy and spatial framework for wind energy developments
- housing in the countryside

In considering these main areas of change realistic and feasible, alternatives and responses will be developed and assessed. Alternatives will be sufficiently distinct in order to highlight the different environmental implications of each whilst allowing meaningful comparisons to be made at a strategic level. All alternatives considered will be documented and reasons will be given as to why they are or are not taken forward.

Relationship with other relevant plans, programmes and strategies (PPS)

1.8 LDP2 will sit within a wider planning framework which consists of a hierarchy of plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) which may affect or influence LDP2 and its related SEA.

1.9 Appendix 1 lists the main PPS that are likely to influence LDP2. Any PPS above the Scottish level have generally been excluded from the list, primarily because it is assumed that all relevant international, European and UK environmental legislation has been incorporated into national, regional and local strategy and guidance.

1.10 LDP2 will be affected by, and will equally affect, a wide range of other relevant PPS both within and outside the Council's jurisdiction. It is therefore important to determine whether LDP2 will give rise to conflicts with other PPS. Inconsistencies are bound to arise at times between other PPS or environmental objectives. In deciding how to resolve any conflicts, the relative timing of the plans, programmes or objectives concerned will be considered, as well as the degree to which they accord with current policy or legal requirements and the objectives of the Act and SEA Directive. LDP2 may not be able to accommodate all the requirements of the other PPS, or it may wish not to take on board the requirements (e.g. because they are not sustainable).

2.0 The Environment

2.1 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Schedule 3 requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.

2.2 The Council has been developing a separate baseline information document which can be updated and refined as necessary and used in the environmental assessment. The baseline document will also include relevant social and economic data. Table 1 below lists the main data sources of the baseline information that will be used to help the environmental assessment.

Table 1: Data sources for providing baseline assessment

SEA Issue	Relevant Data
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Ramsar Sites Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) National Nature Reserves Local Nature Reserves Local Wildlife Sites UK BAP & LBAP priority habitats and species Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) Ancient and long established woodlands Biosphere reserves Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) red squirrel strongholds Geodiversity Sites
Population and Human Health	Number and size of settlements Population figures Health and Wellbeing Profiles (life expectancy and mortality by cause) Scottish Index of multiple deprivation Active Travel
Soil	Soil types and quality Contaminated land Land Classification Areas of coastal erosion
Water	Water quality monitoring data Indicative river and coastal flood maps
Air	Air quality monitoring data
Material Assets	Vacant and derelict sites Waste disposal and recycling Heat Mapping Renewable energy Dark Sky Park
Climatic Factors	Carbon dioxide emissions by sector/per capita Levels of greenhouse gas emissions Local precipitation levels Local temperature levels
Cultural Heritage	Scheduled Monuments/ archaeological sites Listed Buildings and buildings at risk Conservation Areas Archaeological Sensitive Areas Inventory and non-inventory Gardens and Designed landscapes

Landscape	D&G Landscape Assessment National Scenic Areas Regional Scenic Areas Inventory and non-inventory Gardens and Designed landscapes Wild Land Areas D&G Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study
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Environmental Issues

2.3 Some of the key environmental issues which are being taken into consideration for LDP2 are laid out below.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

2.4 Dumfries and Galloway contains a wide variety of natural and semi-natural habitats. These habitats range from remote uplands through moorlands and marginal farmland to a diverse coastline and extensive intertidal estuaries. The quality and importance of these habitats is reflected in a range of national and international conservation designations whereby large areas of the region are afforded statutory protection as are a number of species found within them. There are also a number of local designations.

Some habitats and species are prospering, others are in decline. The net overall situation is unclear, due to the lack of detailed monitoring information, but in common with the rest of Scotland, it is likely that biodiversity is in decline, though the rate of decline has slowed. Habitat loss has been the main reason for the decline in the past, but climate change may rise in significance in the future. Disturbance to species can also occur as a result of new development.

Invasive non-native species, including riverside plants and Signal Crayfish, continue to spread and can cause problems in certain circumstances and locations. Legislation now controls further releases of such species, and action has been undertaken, particularly by fisheries interests, to control existing populations.

Population and Human Health

2.5 Over the past decade Dumfries and Galloway’s population has been in a state of ‘natural decline’ with more deaths per year than births. This along with improvements in mortality rates and the ageing of the ‘baby boomers’ has resulted in a generally older population shown in the rise of the 60+ age group and the decline of the 30-44 age group, with the number of children of school age also reducing. There does still seem to be a trend of younger people moving away from the region. However life expectancy rates for both men and women are higher than the Scottish average.

The region’s population of 150,270 (2013) is concentrated in small towns and villages with a large but thinly populated rural hinterland. There are only three settlements in the region with a population over 5000 people (Dumfries, Stranraer and Annan).

There are low levels of household income in the region and a high level of households in relative poverty.

Public transport options within the region tend to be limited, particularly in the more rural areas resulting in continued reliance on car ownership however improvements are continually being made in the provision of public transport and network of cycleways and footpaths.

With the forest parks and other recreational facilities there is generally a wide range of outdoor leisure and recreational facilities within the region, many at limited costs to participate and with reasonable accessibility. The region has potentially a vast network of green spaces however there is much work still to be done to form this into a coherent network building on the Core Path Network and the open space audit.

Access to facilities is not always easy, particularly within the rural areas, which has not been helped with the loss of a number of rural services such as shops/post offices and public houses.

Soil

2.6 There is only a very small proportion of land in the region that is considered to be prime agricultural land (James Hutton Institute land capability for agriculture 1, 2 and 3.1) mainly located in the Rhins, the Machars, and around Dumfries, Annan and Lochmaben. As a result there is a need to protect this limited land resource and ensure careful management of changes of land use that may impact on it. There are also large areas of peatland within the region, mainly in the upland areas.

There are also wider issues of erosion particular in relation to coastal areas with the region having over 350km of coastline.

Water

2.7 The River Basin Management Plan for the Solway Tweed river basin district, which includes Dumfries and Galloway, indicates a number of areas within the region where the condition of the water bodies are poor or bad. This classification is based on the quality and quantity of water, the condition of the habitats within the water and at its edge, and the plants and animals living in the water environment. Poor or bad classifications indicate that the water bodies are increasingly affected by human activities. A large proportion of the water environment in the Solway Tweed river basin district has been identified as requiring special protection because of sensitivity to pollution or due to particular economic, social or environmental importance. It is important that the condition of water bodies does not deteriorate further as a water environment which is in better condition will be more robust to deal with environmental changes such as increased temperatures and different rainfall patterns.

There have been issues in the past linked to acidification resulting from commercial forestry operations and agricultural practices and actions are being taken to try to overcome and prevent these effects. Current high levels of harvesting followed by re-structuring of forestry areas may help with this issue as more modern practices are used.

A number of water courses within the region are subject to potential flood risk, this is exacerbated in some locations due to tidal influences. Land drainage and surface water issues in particular locations has also been raised as an issue on a number of sites and needs to be assessed and taken into account in developments.

Air

2.8 There are no significant issues as air quality in the region is generally high in terms of national air quality objectives. There are no Air Quality Management Areas within the region.

Material Assets

2.9 Although the Council wishes to improve the rate of new development on brownfield land there is a general lack of appropriate opportunities within the region. The relatively low availability of larger scale brownfield sites coupled with low land values in the area has resulted in such sites not always being attractive or considered viable to developers.

The Council is currently rolling out a more rigorous recycling collection process to help improve waste generation and disposal. Two Zero Waste Parks are being developed which will manage waste collected through separate source collections and provide for additional mixed waste processing capacity at the existing Ecodeco Plant. These measures will ensure that all biodegradable waste is diverted from landfill.

Mineral extraction can provide economic benefits through the creation of jobs and supporting development however this must be balanced with the need to protect local communities and the environment. There is continued extraction of coal from open cast sites mainly located in the north of the region and the regeneration of these sites in the future will need careful management. Explorations have also been carried out in the region into the possibility of extracting methane, particularly in the eastern areas.

Climatic Factors

2.10 Due to the rural nature of the region the population is often more dependent on

their own transport and therefore emissions of carbon dioxide from transportation are considerably higher than in Scotland as a whole. However, greenhouse gases appear less per capita than in wider Scotland.

Average temperatures experienced within the region have increased and it is anticipated that average temperatures will continue to rise in line with the rest of the UK. It is also likely that the number of extreme weather events will also increase (including flooding, storms, etc.).

The Council is supporting, through its existing LDP, more sustainable building practices and design for new developments along with the promotion of renewable energy sources of all types and scales. As well as large scale on and off shore wind energy developments and large scale hydro-electric developments the region has also seen a high take up in the use of wind, solar, hydro power and ground source heat pumps at the more local/domestic level.

Cultural Heritage

2.11 The region has a rich and diverse cultural heritage with approximately 3,400 listed buildings (7% of which are category A listed), 36 Conservation Areas and over 1,000 scheduled monuments. However, some of these historic buildings are in need of repair and improvement with 122 buildings being on the Buildings at Risk register.

Although not within the region itself the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Hadrian's Wall is close to the region's boundaries and the Council would have to take particular care in taking forward developments that may impact on its setting.

Landscape

2.12 The region has a high quality and diverse landscape. Especially valued landscapes within the region are identified through designations either at the national level as National Scenic Areas (NSAs), of which there are 3, and at the regional level as Regional Scenic Areas (RSAs), of which there are 10. NSAs are areas that are nationally important for their scenic quality, and represent some of Scotland's finest scenery. The purpose of such designations is to safeguard and enhance their character or appearance. RSAs are locally designated and are areas which are valued regionally or locally for their special landscape qualities.

Two areas within the region have been identified by SNH as Wild Land areas and these are considered to be of regional importance due to their landscape qualities.

3.0 Methods

Scoping of SEA Issues

3.1 To fully assess the environmental impact of LDP2 (both positive and negative) it is necessary to scope in all those Environmental SEA topics upon which the plan is likely to have a significant environmental effect. Based on the objectives of LDP2 and the extensive and varied environment of Dumfries and Galloway, the Council considers that it could not exclude any environmental issue for the SEA of LDP2. It therefore does not seek to scope out any environmental topics and as a result the assessment will include consideration of the following topics which are all scoped in:

- Biodiversity, fauna and flora
- Population and human health
- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Material assets
- Climatic factors
- Cultural heritage
- Landscape

There will also be consideration of the inter-relationship between these factors and cumulative impacts.

SEA Objectives for LDP2

3.2 SEA objectives are identified under each of the environmental topics. Table 2 below highlights the SEA objectives together with associated indicators which will form the basis against which the environmental effects of LDP2 will be assessed. These have been identified by the general aims of LDP2, experience of past development plans, review of relevant PPS and environmental objectives and issues within the region. It is anticipated that these will be refined as part of the interaction between SEA and the developing LDP2. The refined objectives will be used in the assessment for the Environmental Report.

Table 2: SEA Objectives for LDP2

SEA Topic	SEA Objective	Indicators
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	To conserve, protect and support the enhancement of valued species and habitats	Condition of designated sites Loss of designated sites Additional designated sites LBAP species/habitats stable or increasing Invasive Species control/expansion
Population and Human Health	To improve the quality of life, human health, well being and inclusion for all To increase the opportunities for access to, and enjoyment of, greenspaces and the wider landscape To encourage development within areas which are easily accessible by public transport as well as having good pedestrian and cycle linkages	Health and well being indicators (age expectancy, deprivation indexes, population figures, etc.) Number of additional and improved access routes and cycle paths Open space quantity and quality measured through the Open Space Audit
Soil	To safeguard the soil quality, geodiversity and improve contaminated land To reduce and minimise soil and coastal erosion	Changes in soil quality Maintain diversity of geology, natural landforms and processes
Water	To manage and reduce flood risk and to support opportunities to do so through sustainable flood management (SuDS) To protect and enhance the quality of water bodies	Maintain or reduce extent of flood risk Maintain or improve ecological status of waterbodies

Air	To maintain and, where possible, improve air quality	Air quality trends
Material Assets	To manage, maintain and promote the sustainable use of natural resources To reduce waste production and adopt sustainable waste management practices	Number of domestic and commercial renewable energy applications and installations Encourage re-use of brownfield sites and buildings Improve recycling facilities and practices
Climatic Factors	To contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases and reduce energy consumption To promote sustainable energy technologies and energy efficiency To minimise/reduce the need for travel by car	Number of domestic and commercial renewable energy applications and installations Changes in carbon emissions Changes in travel patterns Number of Developments with Implemented Travel Plans
Cultural Heritage	To protect and enhance the region's rich built and historic environment including its setting	Number and condition of designated and non designated sites
Landscape	To protect and enhance the character, distinctiveness and diversity of the region's landscape. To protect and enhance the landscape setting of settlements plus the landscape and scenic qualities of designated landscapes, areas of wild land, and important views	Number and condition of designated and non designated sites Changes in Landscape Character Areas Changes in landscape capacity following study reviews

Assessment Methodology

3.3 This assessment relates to the review of the existing LDP which was adopted in September 2014. It is anticipated that many policies and allocated sites will be 'rolled forward' with no or little change. An updated assessment will be undertaken for these policies and sites taking into account any changes that have occurred that may impact on the assessment. However a detailed assessment will also be undertaken where there are proposed changes to approach, policies or site selection. The Main Issues Report for LDP2 will be the main tool to consider a number of options and alternatives for the main changes. All options and alternatives will be assessed using the same methodology.

3.4 The assessment of likely significant effects will examine each of the main components in terms of overall strategy and vision as well as policies and site allocations of LDP2 against the SEA objectives set out in Table 2 above, the expected time, permanence and duration of any impact identified, and the likelihood and effect of any cumulative impacts.

3.5 For high level approaches to the Vision and objectives of LDP2 an environmental topics based approach will be used which will include mainly a narrative approach which assesses the interrelationship between environmental topics and any cumulative and synergistic effects that come to light.

3.6 The assessment framework shown in Table 3 below will provide a summary in the Environmental Report of a more detailed version that will be used to assess the effects of LDP2 in relation to the policies (and their associated supplementary guidance) and any options/alternatives that come forward. A more detailed version will be included in a Technical Appendix to provide further narrative in relation to the assessment and provide justification where the assessment may or may not have changed since the policies were previously assessed in the adopted LDP.

Table 3: Summary Assessment Framework

Policy/Site Reference	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Material Assets	Climatic Factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Comments

It is proposed to use a site assessment and SEA checklist, similar to that found in Appendix 2, to assist in assessing the appropriateness of all sites for development whether they be existing allocations or are being newly considered.

3.7 Effects and impacts will be assessed using the following table (Table 4) which outlines the proposed scoring guidelines.

Table 4: Proposed Scoring Guidelines

Impact	Significant positive impact	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Unknown impact	Both Positive and Negative impacts	Negative impact	Significant negative impact
Score Symbol	++	+	0	?	+/-	x	xx

4.0 Monitoring

4.1 Monitoring of LDP2 and its SEA will include indicators for measuring its various elements through the baseline information document and the Monitoring Report which is a requirement of the LDP process.

5.0 Next Steps

5.1 The main stages and milestones in the development of LDP2 are to be set out in the Local Development Plan Scheme to be approved and published by the Council in November this year. It is proposed that in producing LDP2 a public consultation for the Main Issues Report and Environmental Report will be carried out together and will last for a 12 week period.

Appendix 1

Relevant Legislation Plans Policies and Strategies and Related Environmental Objectives

Topic	Name of Plan/Programme	Summary of Environmental Objectives
General		
	Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Sets out the requirement for SEA for relevant plans, programmes and strategies
	Scottish Planning Policy (SG) 2014	SPP sets out the purpose of the planning system and core principles for its operation. Provides planning guidance on specific issues and topics.
	National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (SG) 2014	NPF2 provides guidance on nationally important land use planning issues. In relation to D&G it looks to the strengthen key ports and strategic transport corridors; consideration of potential business opportunities through proximity to Ireland and Cumbria, particularly in terms of leisure and tourism; consideration of potential for developing the region's strengths in forestry, quality produce and as a place to live and work
	Single Outcome Agreement 2013-16 (DGC)	Identifies the region's key characteristics and sets out areas for improvement in delivering key services
	Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan (DGC) 2014	Provides the strategic and detailed planning policy framework for decisions within the region
Biodiversity Fauna and Flora		
	Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	The Act provides a duty for public bodies to further conservation of biodiversity and have regard to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy
	Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Scotland) 2011	The Act includes a range of biodiversity related legislation, including that related to non-native species.
	Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in your hands (SG) 2004	This document is designated the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy aims to conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and well being of the people of Scotland now and in the future. It has the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halt the loss of biodiversity and continue to reverse previous losses through targeted action for species and habitats • Increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of biodiversity and engage many more people in conservation and enhancement • Restore and enhance biodiversity in all our urban, rural and marine environments through better planning, design and practice • To develop an effective management framework that ensures biodiversity is taken into account in all decision making • Ensure that the best new and existing knowledge is available to all policy makers and practitioners
	2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity – A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of	This document supplements the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy above, updating and providing further detail in relation to certain aspects and responding to new

biodiversity in Scotland (SG) 2013	<p>international targets. It's aims are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and restore biodiversity on land and in our seas, and to support healthier ecosystems. • connect people with the natural world, for their health and wellbeing and to involve them more in decisions about their environment. • maximise the benefits for Scotland of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, contributing to sustainable economic growth.
Dumfries and Galloway Local Biodiversity Action Plan (D&G Biodiversity Partnership) 2009	<p>The LBAP aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve, enhance and re-create biodiversity at the landscape scale • conserve genetic diversity • incorporate biodiversity into all relevant decision making • raise biodiversity awareness, understanding and engagement • allow natural processes to operate wherever practicable • enhance local distinctiveness
Population and Human Health	
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	Establishes the statutory rights of access to land and inland water for outdoor recreation.
Regional Economic Strategy 2015-2020 (DGC) 2015	The strategy discusses issues faced by the region's economy and agrees a series of focused actions to address these and deliver beneficial change to economic well-being.
Open Space Strategy (DGC) 2014	The strategy is a five year plan to inform decision making on open space, present the vision for new and improved open space and protecting existing valuable and valued areas. One of its main aims is to ensure that the majority of residents in the region have access to good quality open space.
The Dumfries & Galloway Outdoor Access Strategy 2012-2017 (DGC)	The Strategy provides a vision for outdoor access and the strategic framework for planning, managing and developing access in Dumfries & Galloway.
Dumfries and Galloway Active Travel Strategy (DGC) 2015	The aim of the strategy is to increase walking and cycling within the region
D&G Core Paths Plan (DGC) 2013	The Land Reform Act requires the Council to formulate a basic framework of paths that will serve the needs of residents and visitors throughout the region.
Soil	
The Scottish Soil Framework (SG) 2009	To promote the sustainable management and protection of soils consistent with the economic, social and environmental needs of Scotland, achieved through targeted activities including reducing soil erosion; greenhouse gas emissions from soil contamination
Draft Carbon-rich soil, deep peat and priority peatland habitats map (SNH) 2014	To provide information on the location of Carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitats.
Dumfries and Galloway Shoreline Management Plan (DGC & SNH)	The document is an initial step in developing a coastal defence strategy for the Dumfries and Galloway

2005	coastline allowing future defence options to be considered in a consistent manner, and helping with the long term development along the coasts of Scotland. The plan helps to identify the investment needed to safeguard human lives, and a wide range of assets, from the threat posed by the sea.
Water	
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	The Act set out a River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) process to achieve environmental improvements to protect and improve the water environment in a sustainable way and controls activities related to the water environment.
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	The Act makes provisions for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessment and management of flood risks (implementing Directive 2007/60/EC) • local authorities' and SEPA's functions in flood risk management
Solway Tweed River Basin Management Plan (SEPA) 2009 (currently under review)	The Plan sets out objectives for the sustainable management of the river basin district's waterways and water bodies and provides a vision for the water environment until 2027 laying out the actions required to produce environmental improvements during the next few years and into the future.
Air	
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA) 2011	This air quality strategy sets out air quality objectives and policy options to further improve air quality in the UK. As well as direct benefits to public health, these options are intended to provide important benefits to quality of life and help to protect our environment.
Material Assets	
Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (SG) 2010	Scotland's Zero Waste Plan sets out the Scottish Government's vision for a zero waste society, one where all types of waste are dealt with, regardless of where they came from. This vision describes a Scotland where resource use is minimised, valuable resources are not disposed of in landfills, and most waste is sorted, leaving only limited amounts to be treated. The plan sets recycling and landfill reduction targets to help realise the full resources potential of waste.
Waste Resource Management Strategy 2012-2020 (DGC) 2012	The Plan provides a framework for waste management services in D&G
Regional Transport Strategy (SWESTRANS) 2008	The Strategy sets out the transport vision for the region including the connectivity required to sustain and enhance the economy and communities, whilst minimising the environmental impacts of transport. The strategy also promotes the maintenance and improvement of transport infrastructure and services throughout the area.
Local Transport Strategy 2011-2016 (DGC)	The document sets out Dumfries and Galloway Council's Action Plan for transport in the area and

	seeks to address identified local problems, building upon extensive work undertaken to explore localised transport issues. The LTS is focussed upon local networks and services whilst the RTS focuses upon wider connectivity.
Scotland Heat Map (SG) 2014	The heat map identifies where there are opportunities for decentralised energy projects across Scotland. It can be used to identify where there are opportunities for heat networks, to assess heat density and proximity to heat sources.
Climatic Factors	
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	The Act sets targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and makes provision on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, energy efficiency and reduction and recycling waste.
Land Use Strategy: Getting the best from our land (SG) 2011 (currently under review)	A national land-use strategy has been prepared under the 2009 Act which identifies key principles for the sustainable use of land
Carbon Management Plan 2 (DGC) 2012	The strategy outlines systems and projects to coordinate the sustainable achievement of carbon emission reduction targets.
Cultural Heritage	
Scottish Historic Environment Policy (Historic Scotland) 2011	The policy provides the following functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets out policies for the historic environment • provides greater policy direction for Historic Scotland • provides a framework to inform work of organisations with a role and interest in managing the historic environment
Landscape	
D&G Landscape Assessment (SNH) 1998 [currently under review]	This document provides a detailed assessment of the landscape character of the region and considers the likely pressures and opportunities for change in the landscape. The Assessment also assesses the sensitivity of the landscape to change and includes guidelines indicating how landscape character may be conserved, enhanced or restructured as appropriate.
The Special Qualities of NSAs, SNH Report no. 374 (2010)	This document includes information relating to the landscape qualities that make each NSA special within Scotland following survey work carried out in 2007 & 2008 by Scottish Natural
NSA Management Plans for each of the three NSAs: East Stewartry Coast Fleet Vley Nith Estuary	These documents provide an agreed approach to the future of the areas, offering better guidance and advice on how to invest resources in a more focused way.

Appendix 2: Local Development Plan: Site Assessment and SEA Checklist

Site Name:	Source of site suggestion:	Date Completed:	Site history/previous planning applications, existing LDP policies and proposals:
Settlement:	GIS Site Ref: MIR Site Ref: Pre-MIR Site Ref:	Outside settlement boundary?	
OS Grid Reference:	Site Size (ha):	MIR status:	Summary description (topography, features, boundaries, neighbouring issues, access, exposure, aspect etc.
Current Use (e.g is the site developed, sparsely developed or undeveloped):	Proposed Use:	Existing LDP policies/proposals	
Insert location plan		Insert photographs if available	

Site assessment question	Other related SEA topic if applicable	Comment		Information Available – GIS/site visit?	Scoring pre-mitigation	Mitigation if appropriate	Scoring post mitigation
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna							
To what extent will development of the site affect biodiversity, flora and fauna interests?							
International designation – e.g. SAC/SPA/RAMSAR (including potential sites)		Yes – Habitats Regulations Appraisal required	No				
Other designation – e.g. SSSI, NNR, Wild land and locally important designations such as LNRs Local Wildlife Site, Marine Consultation Zone							
Non designated – e.g. trees, TPOs, hedges, woodland (including ancient, semi natural and long established plantation woodlands), species rich in grasslands							
Protected species affected? – e.g. bats, otters, great crested newts, natterjack toads, etc.							
Are there any known invasive species occurring at the site?							
Are there any local geodiversity sites or wider geodiversity interests that could be affected by the development of the site?							

How will habitat connectivity or wildlife corridors be affected by the development of the site – will it result in habitat fragmentation or greater connectivity?						
Is the site within or in close proximity to the Biosphere?						
Overview/Comment						SEA Score:
Population and Human Health						
To what extent will the development of the site affect the quality and quantity of open space and connectivity and accessibility to open space or result in a loss of open space?	Material Assets					
To what extent will the development of the site affect core path links or other key access networks such as cycle paths, coastal paths and rights of way?	Material Assets or Climatic Factors					
Will the development of the site have the opportunity to enhance the green network through for example the green infrastructure on site?	Material Assets					
What is the proximity to services – e.g. community facilities, local shops, sports facilities, schools, public transport routes						

What is the compatibility of surrounding land uses and are there possible polluting uses nearby?						
Overview/Comment						SEA Score:
Soils						
Are there any contaminated soils issues on the site and, if so, will the option reduce contamination?						
Is the site on peatland and could the development of the site lead to a loss of peat?	Climatic Factors					
Does the development of the site result in the loss of the best quality agricultural land?						
Does the development of the site result in soil or coastal erosion?						
Overview/Comment						SEA Score:
Water						
Could the development of the site result in a change of status of a water body or significantly affect a designated water body as identified in the Scotland and Solway Tweed River Basin Management Plan?						
Could the development of the site have a direct impact on the water						

environment (e.g. result in the need for watercourse crossings or a large scale abstraction or allow the de-culverting of a watercourse?						
Can the development connect to the public foul sewer?						
Are there any wetlands and boggy areas on the site?	Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora					
For large scale developments are there any private or public water supplies within 250m of the site which may be affected?	Population and Human Health					
Is the site thought to be at risk of flooding or could its development result in additional flood risk elsewhere?	Climatic Factors and Population and Human Health					
Could the development of the site help alleviate any existing flooding problems in the area?	Climatic factors					
Overview/Comment						SEA Score:
Air Quality						
Could the development of the site lead to Local Air Quality Management thresholds being breached in an existing Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)						
Could the development of the site lead to the designation of a new Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)?						

Does the development of the site introduce a new potentially significant air emission to the area (e.g. combined heat and power, an industrial process, large scale quarry or energy from waste plant)?						
Will the development of the site lead to a sensitive use being located close to a site regulated for emissions to air by SEPA?	Population and Human Health					
Overview/Comment						SEA Score:
Material Assets						
Will development of the site minimise demand on primary resources e.g. does the development re-use an existing structure or recycle or recover on-site materials/resources? Is the site greenfield or brownfield land?						
Is the site or vacant or derelict site?						
Is the site in the vicinity of a waste management site and could, therefore, compromise the waste handling operation?	Population and Human Health					
For potential waste management activity sites (includes allocation for employment, industrial or storage and distribution uses), does the						

proposal comply with the locational criteria set out in annex B of the Zero Waste Plan?						
Other servicing constraints, e.g. electricity pylons, underground gas pipelines etc. – Bord Gais Eireann, Shell Oil, Transco						
Vehicular Access constraints or opportunities – suitable road access available, access affecting trunk roads, road network capable of accommodating traffic generated?	Climatic Factors					
Does development of the site require consultation with Air Traffic, Carlisle Airport, MoD, HSE?						
Does the site have existing and potential mineral extraction?						
Does development of the site require consultation with the Coal Board?						
Overview/Comment						SEA Score:
Climate Change Mitigation						
What is the site's overall impact in terms of carbon emissions (using SPACE)?						
Site aspect – does the site make best use of solar gain? Is the site protected from prevailing winds?						

Overview/Comment						SEA Score:
Cultural Heritage						
Will the development of the site affect any scheduled monuments or their setting?	Landscape					
Will the development of the site affect any locally important archaeological site? (www.rcahms.gov.uk/canmore.html)	Landscape					
Will the development of the site affect any listed buildings and/or their setting?	Landscape					
Will the development affect any conservation areas?	Landscape					
Will the development of the site affect any Inventory or Non-Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape?	Landscape					
Will the development of the site affect any Inventory Historic Battlefield?	Landscape					
Will the development of the site affect any World heritage Sites?	Landscape					
To what extent will the development of the site result in the opportunity to enhance or improve access to the historic environment?	Landscape					

Overview/Comment						SEA Score:
Landscape						
To what extent will any designated sites be affected – including NSAs and RSAs						
Would development of the site exceed the capacity of the surrounding landscape to accommodate change? Would it potentially cause significant impacts on landscape character or visual amenity? Would it be well integrated visually with the existing settlement?						
To what extent would development of the site affect features of landscape, cultural or aesthetic interest, including watercourses, landforms or significant slopes/changes in level?						
To what extent would development of the site impact on views into and out of the site?						
Overview/Comment						SEA Score:
Planning/Effectiveness Issues						
Will the site be delivered within the LDP timeframe? Have all landowners been identified and have they agreed to disposal/development of the site?						

Service Infrastructure	
Education capacity	
Health Provision/GP capacity	

Other Considerations

Please note any other issues which may be relevant to the assessment of the candidate site should be considered under Planning/Effectiveness Issues. For example:

- Any restrictive covenants relating to the use of the land/ buildings contained within the proposed candidate site?
- Is the candidate site on Common Good Land?

Scoring – two columns have been added for planning authorities to quickly identify environmental effects from a proposal on a site. Where adverse effects have been identified, it may then also be useful to consider any obvious mitigation measures that might reduce these adverse effects. The second scoring column then allows at a quick glance to see what residual effects might remain following mitigation

Impact	Significant positive impact	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Unknown impact	Both Positive and Negative impacts	Negative impact	Significant negative impact
Score Symbol	++	+	0	?	+/-	x	xx