

# **SEA Post Adoption Statement for the Falkirk Local Development Plan 2**

September 2020

## Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this document:

ER - Environmental Report

HES - Historic Environment Scotland

HRA - Habitats Regulations Appraisal

LDP1 - Falkirk Local Development Plan 1

LDP2 - Falkirk Local Development Plan 2

MIR - Main Issues Report

NPF3 - National Planning Framework 3

SPP - Scottish Planning Policy

SEA - Strategic Environmental Assessment

SEPA - Scottish Environment Protection Agency

SNH - Scottish Natural Heritage (now known as NatureScot)

## 1. Introduction

This document is the post adoption statement for the Falkirk Local Development Plan 2 and was prepared by Falkirk Council to meet the final reporting requirements of the strategic assessment environmental (SEA) process.

## 2. Background Information

### Falkirk Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2)

LDP2 is the adopted development plan for the Falkirk Council area. It contains a vision, spatial strategy and set of proposals and planning policies to guide how future development should, or should not, take place over the next 10-20 years. As the statutory development plan that will be used to inform planning application decisions in the area, LDP2 will play an important role in how places will change, protecting and enhancing the environment, facilitating sustainable economic growth, addressing local housing and infrastructure needs and meeting other Council priorities for development. The plan has been subject to a full SEA as required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Table 1, below, shows the key milestones of LDP2 and those of its accompanying SEA.

Table 1: LDP2/SEA milestones

LDP2 milestones	SEA milestones
Pre-main issues report: August 2015 - October 2016	Submission of Scoping Report to the three consultation authorities (HES, SEPA, and SNH) via the SEA Gateway: November 2015
Consultation of Main Issues Report: February 2017- May 2017	Consultation of Environmental Report for Main Issues Report: February 2017 - May 2017
Consultation of Proposed Plan: September 2018 - November 2018	Consultation of Revised Environmental Report for Proposed Plan: September 2018 - November 2018
Submission of the Proposed Plan and Summary of Unresolved Issues to Scottish Ministers for examination: July 2019	Revised Environmental Report for Proposed Plan: Updated June 2019
Submission of Modified Plan to Scottish Ministers following conclusion of the examination: July 2020	Revised Environmental Report for Proposed Plan: Updated June 2020
Adoption of Falkirk Local Development Plan 2: 7 August 2020	Post adoption statement: September 2020

### **Summary of SEA activities carried out**

The following activities were undertaken by Falkirk Council in connection with the SEA of the plan:

- Taking into account the views of the statutory consultation authorities [HES, SEPA, SNH (now NatureScot)] regarding the scope and level of detail appropriate for the Environmental Report;
- Preparing an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects on the environment of LDP2. This included consideration of:
  - the baseline data relating to the current state of the environment;
  - links between the plan and other relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
  - existing environmental issues affecting the plan;
  - 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; and
  - the reasonable alternatives.
- 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 alongside the Main Issues Report;
- Consulting on the subsequent Revised Environmental Report together with the Proposed Plan;
- Taking into account the Environmental Report and Revised Environmental Report and the results of consultation in making decisions regarding the content of the plan; and
- Committing to monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan. This will also identify any unforeseen adverse significant environmental effects and to enable taking appropriate remedial action.

### **Structure of Post Adoption Statement**

The remaining sections of this statement have been structured as follows to incorporate the content required by Section 18(3) of the Environmental Assessment Act 2005:

- Section 3: How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan
- Section 4: How the Environmental Report has been taken into account
- Section 5: How consultation feedback has been taken into account
- Section 6: The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered
- Section 7: Monitoring significant environmental effects

### 3. How environmental considerations have been integrated in the plan

The aim of the SEA is to integrate environmental aspects into LDP2 in order to promote and achieve sustainable development across the Falkirk Council area. This aim was achieved in the following ways:

**Establishing the baseline:** The environmental baseline position of the Falkirk Council area is detailed by both Environmental Report and Revised Environmental Report, Appendix 1 - Environmental Baseline Report. This appendix helped identify the relevant, strategic environmental issues for LDP2 and how the plan should respond to these issues.

**Objective led approach:** During the scoping stage of the SEA process, SEA objectives were developed drawing from a review of relevant international, national and regional policies, plans and programmes and their environmental objectives (Revised Environmental Report, Appendix 1 - Environmental Baseline Report). The SEA objectives interweaved environmental considerations (e.g. overall reduction in flood risk) within the environmental assessment which in turn informed the development of the plan's Vision, Spatial Strategy and policies. LDP2 has been developed to best achieve these objectives as appropriate and where practicable.

**Environmental assessment:** The likely environmental effects of the Main Issues Report and Proposed Plan were identified, described, evaluated and compared using the SEA objectives and associated questions. The assessment of these effects are reported as follows:

- Environmental Report, Appendix 2 - Detailed SEA Matrices (which appraised the Council's preferred options for the Vision, Spatial Strategy and policies and reasonable alternatives at the Main Issues Report stage)
- Revised Environmental Report, Appendix 2 - Detailed SEA Matrices (which appraised the Council's choices made in the Proposed Plan and their reasonable alternatives).

The assessment informed the Council's site selection and policy wording for the plan and, by integrating environment considerations into plan-making process, ensured the Vision, Spatial Strategy and policies balanced environment protection with meeting the area's community and economic needs.

**Mitigation/enhancement measures:** The environmental assessment also suggested measures to the address likely effects identified.

Mitigation/enhancement incorporated into LDP2 as result of the Revised Environmental Report has largely taken the following forms:

- **Planning policies** - these enable the effects of a development to be appropriately addressed through the design and planning application process.

**Supplementary guidance** - this provides detailed guidance on how particular planning policies should be applied in practice. Topics covered, or will be covered, by supplementary guidance include biodiversity, local wildlife sites, landscape character, green infrastructure, trees,

neighbourhood design, developer contributions, and aspects of the historic environment such as the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site.

- **Major Areas or Change: Development Guidance** - this makes clear the particular principles/requirements that the Council expects developers to take into account when drawing up proposals within a major area of change.
- **Proposals and Opportunities Schedule** - this is an index all development sites (housing, mixed uses and business), infrastructure, proposals and green network opportunities within the adopted plan. It includes sites comments which provide basic guidance on site status, constraints, design and infrastructure.

**Monitoring:** Section 7 of this statement describes the measures that will be used by Falkirk Council to monitor significant environmental impacts arising from plan implementation. The measures are based on the environmental issues and SEA objectives defined at the scoping stage (Appendix 1 - Environmental Baseline Report). Some measures are development plan indicators which have been incorporated within the Monitoring Framework at Appendix 4 of LDP2.

**Taking consultation feedback into account:** The public and the consultation authorities provided useful feedback on the SEA and LDP2 during the consultation stages. The plan's mitigation/enhancement measures were strengthened as a direct consequence of received feedback. For example, the Proposals and Opportunities Schedule was amended post-examination to require a number of proposals to be accompanied by a flood risk assessment.

**Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA):** The HRA considered impacts of the plan upon European sites. Although undertaken separately to the SEA process, the HRA informed the environmental assessment with regard to the SEA objectives for Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna. It also suggested wording requiring specific proposals to undergo a HRA at the project-level. This wording has been incorporated as mitigation within the Proposals and Opportunities Schedule of the plan.

**Technical Reports:** Other parts of the evidence base have also helped inform the SEA process and ensured the decisions taken in plan are guided by environmental considerations. Relevant documents include:

- Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey
- Technical Report 1 Monitoring Statement
- Technical Report 2 (Revised) Site Assessment
- Technical Report 3 (Revised) Housing and Settlement Growth Options
- Technical Report 4 (Revised) Strategic Constraints
- Technical Report 5 (Revised) Transport Appraisal
- Technical Report 6 (Revised) Employment Land
- Technical Report 7 Retail & Town Centres
- Technical Report 8 (Revised) Green Network

## **4. How the Environmental Report has been taken into account**

The Environmental Report has been updated alongside each iteration of the plan. Options for the Vision, Spatial Strategy and policies have been systematically appraised against the SEA objectives and their effects have been documented (Appendix 2 - Detailed SEA Matrices). The findings of the Environmental Report and subsequent Revised Environmental Report informed site selection, policy wording and mitigation/enhancement measures to address the identified effects. By carrying out the SEA together with plan preparation, Falkirk Council has been able to embed the findings of the SEA within LDP2 at each stage from the Main Issues Report to the adopted plan.

Both the Environmental Report and Revised Environmental Report were submitted to Scottish Ministers and were taken into account by Reporters when reaching their conclusions and recommendations for the plan at examination.

Please also refer to Section 3 of this statement as this provides further information on how the two environmental reports influenced the SEA and the plan's content.

## **5. How consultation feedback has been taken into account**

A key aspect of the SEA is consultation with the public, consultation authorities and other interested parties.

Consultation on the Environmental Report was undertaken at the same time as the consultation of the Main Issues Report which ran for a 12 week period lasting from 10 February 2017 to 5 May 2017. The consultation exercise comprised:

- Mailing to everyone on the Council's development plan customer database
- A newsletter summarising the content of the Main Issues Report and how to respond
- 17 community roadshow events across the Council area
- Publicity through the local press, the Council's web site and 'Falkirk News' magazine, the Council's Twitter feed, the LDP Facebook page, a short film and posters in local community buildings and shops
- Two Stakeholder workshops
- Four presentations to community councils as requested
- Documents available online and in local libraries and one stop shops

The Revised Environmental Report was published for consultation alongside the Proposed Plan. This consultation took place between 28 September 2018 and 23 November 2018. It was well publicised on the Council's web and Facebook pages, in local newspapers and also via wide circulation of the Development Plan Newsletter. Those who made comments on the Main Issues Report were notified of the consultation by letter or email.

All substantive comments made on the Environmental Report or Revised Environmental Report are summarised in the Revised Environmental Report, Appendix 5 - Record of ER comments along with an explanation as to how the Council has taken these comments into account.

## 6. The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered

At each stage of the development of the LDP2, all the preferred options and reasonable alternatives for the Vision, Spatial Strategy and policies have been considered and assessed through the SEA process. The resultant plan is one which balances environmental protection with meeting community and economic needs over the next 10-20 years.

### The Vision

The Vision has been carried forward from LDP1 and it was not considered reasonable for the plan to explore alternative visions. This was because the strategic context for preparing LDP2 had not changed significantly since LDP1. The Vision expresses the spatial dimension of high level visions set out within the Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan 2016- 2020 and the Economic Strategy for Falkirk 2015-2025. Both documents are still in force at the time of writing.

### Spatial Strategy

The Spatial Strategy sets out how the plan will achieve the Vision through the green and blue network, place, housing, business, town centres, infrastructure, energy and mineral development. The table below summaries each component of the spatial strategy and explains why reasonable alternatives were, or were not, taken forward.

Spatial Strategy component	Summary of component	Reasonable alternatives
Green and blue network	Component spatially defines the CSGN/Falkirk Greenspace in terms of the framework of green network components and corridors set out in LDP1, and to promote 25 specific green network opportunities as priorities for improving the green network.	This component of the strategy reflects existing national and local plans and strategies. No reasonable alternatives were, therefore, considered and taken forward.
Place	Component places a strong emphasis on the creation of good places. It highlights 'place priorities' where investment will be particularly focused on creating good places. These are Town and Local Centres; Areas of Major Change; Green and Blue Network; Historic Environment; Areas of	Alternative approaches were not taken forward as they did not constitute the best overall options for the Council area.



	Disadvantage; and Transport Corridor.	
Housing	<p>Component sets a target for delivery of 6,894 homes over the period 2017-2030 with a flexibility allowance of 17% to give an overall housing requirement of 8,066 homes.</p> <p>Housing allocations have been distributed across the Council area to generously meet the housing target.</p>	<p>Alternative housing allocations were considered and rejected at the Main Issues Report, Proposed Plan and examination stages of the plan as these represented the least suitable options for the Council area. However, Reporters recommended the allocation of the following additional sites to ensure the housing land supply remains sufficiently generous if there are delays or problems in the delivery of some sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H55 - Crawford Road, Bo'ness</li> <li>• H56 - North Bank Farm, Bo'ness</li> <li>• H57 - Maddiston Fire Station</li> <li>• H58 - Slamannan Road, Limerigg</li> <li>• H59 - Rosebank North, Dunipace</li> <li>• H60 - Stirling Road</li> <li>• MU06 - Gilston</li> <li>• MU21 - Glensburgh</li> </ul> <p>The above alternatives were incorporated into LDP2 following review of all the Reporters' post examination modifications. The results of this review can be found in the Revised Environmental Report, Appendix 7.</p>
Business	<p>Component identifies four Strategic Business Locations within which a number of strategic business sites are contained. These are the Falkirk Investment Zone, the Grangemouth Investment Zone, the Larbert Gateway and the Eastern Gateway. In addition, there are some additional local sites. Tourism is identified as an important growth area, with development to be focused around a number of themed networks and key nodes.</p>	<p>Alternative approaches were not taken forward as they did not constitute the best overall options for Council area.</p>
Town Centres	<p>Component seeks to support the health and vitality of town and local centres through the 'town centres first' approach. A number of regeneration opportunities are identified in Falkirk Town Centre (Grahamston, Callendar Riggs, Bank Street, Williamson Street) and in some of the district and local centres (Denny, Bonnybridge, Grangemouth, Bo'ness, Newcarron).</p>	<p>There were no reasonable alternatives to town centres.</p>

Infrastructure	Component makes provision and safeguards land for a number of infrastructure projects including strategic and local schemes, public transport and active travel improvements, drainage schemes, education, healthcare and community projects and cemetery extensions.	Most projects are either site specific, with no alternatives, or are already committed through other plans and programmes. Consequently, reasonable alternatives were not considered.
Energy	Component highlights three specific elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial framework for wind energy development</li> <li>• Heat network development with focus on Grangemouth Energy Project area</li> <li>• Thermal energy generation with carbon capture and storage in Grangemouth (as per NPF3)</li> </ul>	Component reflects SPP and NPF3 and there were no reasonable alternatives. No site has been selected for the CCS project, given uncertainty over commitment to the project, and so no site alternatives for this facility have been considered.
Minerals	The Spatial Strategy for onshore gas and minerals highlights three specific elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of search for surface coal mining in the Slamannan Plateau;</li> <li>• Operational quarries north of Denny</li> <li>• PEDL licence areas identified as required by SPP</li> </ul>	There were no reasonable alternatives to minerals.

### Policies

The policies generally performed well against the SEA objectives and questions although some Scottish Planning Policy derived policies were assessed as potentially having significant negative environmental effects. For most policies, there were no reasonable alternatives to Scottish Planning Policy wording. Overall, however, the policies will positively contribute to sustainable development requiring relevant environmental considerations to be taken into account in the determination of planning applications.

Some alternative policy approaches were suggested (e.g. increasing the threshold for affordable housing contributions) but were not taken forward as they represented the least suitable options for LDP2.

## **7. Monitoring significant environmental effects**

Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires Falkirk Council, as the responsibility authority for the SEA, to monitor the significant environmental effects arising from the plan's implementation. It was identified through the environmental reports that several policies and proposals could have significantly positive, or negative, effects on the environment. Monitoring will be regularly carried out by Falkirk Council to determine whether these effects do in fact occur as a result of the plan.

The table, overleaf, set out Falkirk Council's proposals for monitoring the environmental effects of the plan. The measures and methods stated will enable unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at early stage and appropriate remedial action to be undertaken.

Monitoring will also be carried out through preparation of a future, evidence report, which will be a key stage in developing the third Falkirk Local Development Plan. The trends established through monitoring will help establish whether the Vision, Spatial Strategy and/or policies need strengthened for improved environmental protection.

Table 2: Proposals for monitoring the environmental effects of LDP2

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna - Habitats</b>			
Safeguard and enhance priority habitats (as defined in the FABAP).	Area of priority habitat types across the Council Area.	Any loss of area of priority habitat type will be picked up by this measure.	Periodic updates of the phase 1 habitat survey. Last updated 2008.
	The effectiveness of mitigation measures put in place to reduce the impact on priority habitats.	If mitigation measures are effective then priority habitats will be successfully safeguarded.	Maintain a register of mitigation measures identified within the Environmental Report which is updated as and when the projects which they are associated to make progress.
Increase/enhance biodiversity in the wider environment.	Number of sites where additional habitat enhancement work has been secured.	Shows the extent of habitat enhancement work which has been undertaken.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator
Safeguard ancient and long established woodland as a habitat resource of irreplaceable value.	Area of ancient and long established woodland.	If the amount of ancient and long established woodland remains constant then it will have been safeguarded.	Periodic review of aerial photography
	Area of ancient and long established woodland lost through development	If the amount of ancient and long established woodland remains constant then it will have been safeguarded.	Monitoring of planning consents.
Increase the rate of new woodland planting to help achieve the aims of the Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy.	Creation of new woodland.	Through monitoring this we will be able to determine whether we are likely to meet the Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy's target of delivering 850ha.	This indicator is monitored by the Central Scotland Green Network Trust and Forestry Commission Scotland
Protect Urban Open Space which has intrinsic biodiversity and nature conservation value or value as part of a network.	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Value of Urban Open Space.	If the overall biodiversity and nature conservation value of sites in the urban biodiversity network (shown in Map 1.2 in appendix 1 of the Environmental Report) remains static or improves then this objective will be met.	The Council's periodic open space audit.
	Loss of open space which forms part of the urban biodiversity network.	If none of the urban biodiversity network (shown in Map 1.2 in appendix 1 of the Environmental Report) is lost to development then this objective will be met.	Monitoring of planning consents.

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Protected Sites</b>			
Avoid adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites.	Number of planning applications with accompanying appropriate assessments.	Appropriate assessments are required to demonstrate that proposed development can take place without having an adverse effect on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites or where they can't identify compensatory measures and provide suitable justification.	Through liaison with SNH and Development Management officers.
	Number of developments which are approved despite potential adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites because of issues of over-riding public interest.	To establish how and where such developments are impacting on Natura 2000 sites and potential in combination effects for LDP2 implementation.	Through liaison with SNH and Development Management officers.
Protect and enhance sites which have been designated due to their biodiversity and nature conservation value.	Overall area and number of ecological sites protected by local/national designations.	A reduction in the number or extent of these sites will indicate that they are not being safeguarded.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator
	Loss/damage to ecological sites.	The less damage caused to ecological sites the better they are being safeguarded.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator
	Details of sites where additional habitat enhancement work has been secured.	If designated sites continue to be enhanced then this objective will be met.	Liaison the Council's biodiversity officer
Designate any unprotected sites which have particular biodiversity and nature conservation value.	Number of potential Wildlife Sites and potential Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.	If the number of designated sites increases then this SEA objective will be met.	Liaison the Council's biodiversity officer.

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
<b>Population and Human Health - Population</b>			
Ensure that new housing to accommodate projected population growth is located sustainably.	Latest population and household projections.	To determine whether or not the location of housing meet this SEA objective.	Monitoring of planning consents.
<b>Population and Human Health – Degraded Environment</b>			
Increase the amount of land on the vacant and derelict land register which is brought back into beneficial use.	Area of contaminated land/land improved.	Details where measures have been employed to reduce contaminated land.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator.
Increase the amount of potentially contaminated site which are decontaminated through new development.	Annual level of vacant and derelict land.	Where level of dereliction is seen to drop this SEA objective will have been met.	Indicator monitored as part of the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey.
	Percentage of the population of the Council area within 500m of a vacant or derelict site.	Living close to a vacant or derelict site is understood to have an adverse impact on mental wellbeing.	Indicator monitored as part of the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey.

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
<b>Population and Human Health – Waste Disposal and Management</b>			
Ensure that there is a network of modern recycling facilities available across the Council area to support the staged targets within the Zero Waste Plan.	Level of recycling activity/waste arising.	This will show whether production of waste is stabilising or not.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator.
Reduce waste through maximising the reuse, recycling and recovery of resources.	Waste management infrastructure capacity.	An increase in waste management infrastructure capacity will help to support the targets within the Zero Waste Plan.	
	Identified active landfill capacity.	Through limiting landfill capacity production of waste could be reduced.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator.
<b>Population and Human Health – Access to Open Space, Recreation and Countryside</b>			
Increase access to recreation and the countryside	Number/length of countryside access routes	In theory the greater the number and length of countryside access routes, the more access opportunities are enhanced.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator.
	Programme of recently implemented access improvements across the Council area	Demonstrates the level of investment into enhancing access opportunities.	Through liaison with the Council's outdoor access team, CSGNT, Forestry Commission Scotland and important local landowners such as Callendar Estates.
	Participation in outdoor recreation	Increasing levels of participation in outdoor recreation will point towards this objective being met.	Monitored as part of the Scottish Household Survey.
Encourage the promotion and connectivity of the Central Scotland Green Network within and linking beyond Falkirk.	Investment in... enhancement priority areas: town and village centres/gateways/transport corridors/canal corridor/ Falkirk Green space/urban regeneration areas/Conservation Areas)	Demonstrates where investment has taken place.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator.

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
<b>Population and Human Health – Open Space Quantity, Quality and Accessibility</b>			
Ensure that all settlements 5ha/1000 people of open space.	Quantity of open space (Hectares per 1000 people) within settlements.	Measuring the amount of open space within settlements relative to population level will measure performance against this objective.	Analysis of data from the Council's Open Space Audit
	Loss of open space.	Monitoring where open space is being lost and comparing it to the level of open space available within that settlement will measure performance against this objective	Monitoring of planning consents.
Improve the quality of open space.	Quality of open space	If the overall quality of open space improved then this objective will be met.	Analysis of data from the Council's Open Space Audit
Ensure that households are within an acceptable walking distance to different types of open space with reference to the standards set out in the Open Space Strategy.	Accessibility to open space.	The Council's Open Space Strategy sets a number of maximum walking distance targets for different types of open space (parks, playspace, sports areas, natural/semi natural open spaces and fit for purpose open space) if the percentage of households with access within these walking distances increases across the Council area then this objective will be met.	Analysis of data from the Council's Open Space Audit
<b>Population and Human Health – Noise</b>			
Reduce the proportion of the population affected by nuisance noise issues.	Number of nuisance noise complaints received per head of the population.	If this proportion goes down then a reduction is being affected.	Through liaison with Environmental Health



SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
<b>Population and Human Health – Odour</b>			
Reduce the proportion of the population affected by nuisance odour issues.	SEPA notifications in relation to landfill sites.	If the number of notifications goes down then a reduction is being affected.	Through liaison with SEPA.
	Number of nuisance odour complaints received per head of the population.	If this proportion goes down then a reduction is being affected.	Through liaison with Environmental Health
<b>Population and Human Health – Exposure to Risk of Injury from Major Hazards</b>			
Reduce the amount of new development sites which are impacted by HSE consultation zones.	Monitor the number of planning applications received which have to go through the PADI system.	In a plan lead system, the number of planning applications received in areas which are impacted by HSE consultation zones should reduce as development will have been directed away from these areas.	Through liaison with development management officers.
	Housing or mixed-use sites within major hazard consultation zones.	If the number of housing or mixed use sites allocated within major hazards consultation zones reduces then this objective will be met.	Desk-top analysis of LDP allocations and major hazard consultation zones using GIS.
<b>Soil – Contaminated Land</b>			
Reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity	Area of contaminated land/land improved.	Details where measures have been employed to reduce contaminated land.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator.
<b>Soil – Abandoned Mineral Workings</b>			
Increase the amount of abandoned mineral workings rehabilitated through the development process	Extent of abandoned mineral workings.	If the extent of abandoned mineral workings goes down then this objective will be met.	Through liaison with development management officers.
<b>Soil – Unstable Land</b>			
Increase the amount of unstable land remediated through the development process	Extent of land affected by legacy mining issues.	If the extent of land affected by legacy mining issues decreases then this objective will be met.	Through liaison with the Coal Authority.

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
<b>Soil – Agricultural Land</b>			
Reduce the amount of prime quality agricultural land which is allocated for development.  Protect prime quality agricultural land.	Prime agricultural land lost to development.	Will show whether agricultural land is lost to development thereby suggesting it is not being properly safeguarded. A reduction in the loss of prime quality agricultural land will demonstrate that it is being suitably protected over the long term.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator.
	Prime quality agricultural land allocated for development.	A long term reduction in the amount of prime quality agricultural land allocated for development will show that it is being suitably protected.	Desktop analysis of sites allocated within the LDP.
<b>Soil – Carbon Rich and Rare Soils</b>			
Protect carbon rich and rare soils	Carbon rich or rare soil allocated for development.	A long term reduction in the amount of carbon rich or rare soil allocated for development will show that it is being suitably protected.	Desktop analysis of sites allocated within the LDP.
<b>Soil - Geodiversity</b>			
Ensure that Local Geodiversity Sites are afforded a protected status.	Local Geodiversity Sites (LGS) which are affected by allocated development sites.	A long term reduction in the number of LGS affected by allocated development sites will show that it is being suitably protected.	Desktop analysis of sites allocated within the LDP.
Improve the opportunities for education and interpretation at Local Geodiversity Sites.	Opportunities for education and interpretation at Local Geodiversity Sites.	If more opportunities are implemented then this objective will be met.	Liaison with the Council's Environment Team.

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
<b>Water – Ecological Status of Waterbodies</b>			
Prevent deterioration and enhance the status of the water environment.  Prevent deterioration and enhance the status of groundwater bodies.  Achieve good ecological status	Current waterbody status.  Overall status of groundwater bodies in the Council area.	Any deterioration or improvement in status will be swiftly identified.	From SEPA's database on the status of waterbodies.
Promote sustainable water use.	Changes to water flows and levels status in the waterbody classification data.	If the proportion of waterbodies with high or good status of water flows and levels is maintained or improved then this SEA objective will be being met.	SEPA waterbody classification data.
<b>Water – Flooding</b>			
Ensure that new development avoids areas of flood risk and safeguards the functional flood plain.  Reduce overall flood risk.	Flood mitigation measures introduced. Number of flooding events. The proportion of new development in areas at risk of flooding.	The introduction of flood mitigation measures should reduce overall flood risk If flood risk is reduced then the number of flooding events where people are affected should slowly reduce. Specifically requested by SEPA.	Through liaison with the Council's Flooding officers. Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator Monitoring of the weekly list to identify new developments are within the indicative flood plain
<b>Air – Air Quality</b>			
Keep air pollution below Local Air Quality Management thresholds.	Air quality monitoring data.	To better understand the effect of the Local Plan on air quality.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator.

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
<b>Air – Exposure to Reduced Air Quality</b>			
Reduce the proportion of the population affected by reduced air quality.	Addresses within AQMA.	A reduction in addresses within AQMA should correspond to a reduction in the population affected by reduced air quality.	Desktop GIS analysis using AQMA and Corporate Address Gazetteer datasets.
Avoid the designation of new AQMA.	The number of Air Quality Management Areas.	If new AQMA are designated then the number of AQMA will increase.	Liaison with the Council's Environmental Health Unit.
Avoid breaches of National Air Quality standards.	Air quality monitoring data.	If breaches occur these will be picked up in air quality monitoring data.	Liaison with the Council's Environmental Health Unit.
<b>Air - Emissions from Motorised Transport</b>			
Minimise the need to travel by private car and promote sustainable transport modes.	Number of schools covered by school travel plans.	School travel plans promote the use of sustainable transport methods to reach school so the greater number of schools covered by school travel plans the more that has been done to reduce non essential trips.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator
	Traffic levels.	Decreasing traffic levels relative to population would suggest that this objective is being met.	Scottish Transport Statistics
	Parking rates and numbers in town centres.	A reduction in parking rates in town centres could indicate a reduction in the number of trips by private motor transport.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator
	Number of houses in new developments within 400m of a bus stop.	In theory locating new development within 400m of a bus stop should make using public transport more attractive and reduce the number of trips by private motor transport	Monitoring of the weekly list to identify new developments within and out with this threshold.
	Usage of sustainable transport modes.	This will detail whether usage of public transport is increasing.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator
	Total length of new pedestrian/cycle routes.	By expanding the network of pedestrian and cycle routes, walking and cycling will be	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
		promoted.	
	Modal share for trips made by Council residents for commuting, and journeys to school and Falkirk Town Centre.	This will show whether walking and cycling are increasing their overall modal share	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator
<b>Climatic Factors – Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b>			
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Falkirk Council Carbon Footprint.	If greenhouse gas emissions decrease this objective will be met.	CO2 emissions Falkirk Council's operations are tracked by the Council's sustainable development officers  CO2 emissions from the entire Falkirk Council area are monitored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Promote renewable energy generation.	Renewable energy generation.	To show whether installed renewable energy generation capacity is increasing or not.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator
<b>Climatic Factors – Climate Change Adaptation</b>			
Improve Falkirk's resilience to future climate change impacts.	Climate projections.	Once an adequate understanding of the impacts of future climate change and measures to improve resilience to it is achieved, detailed monitoring proposals will be able to be formed	Liaison with the Council's sustainable development officer.
Reduce overall flood risk in a sustainable way.	Number of sites allocated for development within areas of known flood risk.	The most sustainable way to reduce overall flood risk is to avoid building on sites which are in areas of high flood risk.	Desktop analysis of LDP sites.
	Sustainable flood alleviation projects implemented.	Managed coastal realignment and upper catchment management are more sustainable ways of reducing flood risk than the construction of new flood defences.	Liaison with the Flood Management team and other partners who are involved in the delivery of sustainable flood alleviation.

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
<b>Material Assets – Quality of the Built Environment</b>			
Improve design quality within the built environment.	Number of areas of townscape value.	An increase in the number of areas of townscape value would indicate an overall enhancement of townscape quality.	Through liaison with the Council's conservation offices
	Number of townscape heritage initiatives.	The more townscape heritage initiatives in place the more townscape quality is likely to be enhanced.	Through liaison with the Council's conservation offices
	Level of investment in townscape improvement projects.	This will show where improvements to townscape quality are being implemented.	Through liaison with Council departments involved in townscape improvement.
<b>Material Assets – Transport Network</b>			
Reduce levels of traffic congestion within the Council area.	Reported levels of traffic congestion.	If this level reduces then this objective will be being met.	Liaison with the Transportation Planning Unit
	Car ownership.	A reduction in car ownership per head of population would point towards lower levels of traffic congestion.	Scottish Transport Statistics
	Implementation of transportation infrastructure projects.	Transportation infrastructure projects should in theory reduce levels of congestion.	Liaison with the Transportation Planning Unit
Slow down the rate of traffic growth on the road network.	Rate of traffic growth.	If this rate slows then this objective will be being met.	Liaison with the Transportation Planning Unit
	Road Network condition.	If road network condition does not deteriorate then this would point towards a slower rate of traffic growth.	Scottish Transport Statistics
<b>Material Assets – Active Travel Network</b>			
Protect against the destruction/obstruction of the core path network.	Total length of the core path network	If the total length of the core path network goes down, then some of it will have been lost.	Liaison with the Outdoor Access Team

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
Improve the quality of the core path network.	Total length of improved core path network.	Not all of the core path network is in an improved state. By monitoring the amount of improved core path network an understanding of whether this objective is being met can be formed.	Liaison with the Outdoor Access Team
<b>Material Assets – Recreational Facilities</b>			
Improve the provision and distribution of recreation facilities throughout the Council Area.	Number of sports and leisure centres across the Council area and their proximity to communities.	Once an understanding is gained of the current levels of provision then it will be possible to understand whether the situation is improving or not in subsequent audits.	Liaison with Falkirk Community Trust.
<b>Material Assets – Low and Zero Carbon Energy Generation Capacity</b>			
Enable the development of low carbon and renewable energy technologies within the Council area.	Renewable energy generation.	To show whether installed renewable energy generation capacity is increasing or not. If it is increasing then its development is being effectively enabled.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator
Enable the development of low carbon heat networks within the Council area.	Number of low carbon heat networks within the Council area.	If the number of low carbon heat networks is increasing then their development is being effectively enabled.	Liaison with the Council's Sustainable Development Officers
<b>Material Assets – Primary Resources</b>			
Safeguard valuable mineral deposits from sterilisation through inappropriate development.	Location of mineral deposits in relation to allocated development.	By knowing where valuable mineral deposits are likely to be in relation to development allocations, we will be able to identify those sites likely to sterilise those deposits and take appropriate remedial action.	Liaison with the Coal Authority and the Development Management Unit.
Reduce the use of primary resources within the construction process.	Type, location and consents of mineral workings.	If no further consents for mineral workings are being granted then an effort is being made to limit supply and consequently reduce consumption.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator
	Number of applications approved for mineral.	If no further consents for mineral workings are being granted then an effort is being	Through monitoring the weekly list for consents to extract minerals

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
	extraction or extensions to mineral extraction licenses.	made to limit supply and consequently reduce consumption.	
<b>Material Assets – Water and Drainage Infrastructure</b>			
Avoid the need to increase capacity at existing waste water treatment plants.	Capacity of waste water treatment works.	If the capacity of waste water treatment works stays above the level of planned growth within its catchment then this objective will be met.	Liaison with Scottish Water
	Number of waste water treatment work which will need to be extended to accommodate planned housing growth.	Reducing the number of waste water treatment works which need to be extended to accommodate planned housing growth will achieve this objective.	
Alleviate sewer network capacity constraints.	The extent of sewer network capacity constraints is not publicly available.	Development sometimes has the opportunity to alleviate existing sewer network capacity constraints by disconnecting existing surface water drains from the combined sewer. Liaison with Scottish Water should identify where there are opportunities to improve things.	
<b>Cultural Heritage – Conservation Areas</b>			
Promote the enhancement of Conservation Areas in line with the associated Conservation Area Management Plan.	Number of Conservation Area Appraisals/ Conservation Area Management Plans Completed.	The recent completion of a conservation area appraisal is a key factor in safeguarding conservation areas.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator
Protect the historic character of Conservation Areas.	Number and Extent of Conservation Areas.	If the number and extent of conservation areas increases then this objective will be met.	Liaison with the Council's Environment Team.



SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
<b>Cultural Heritage – Listed Buildings</b>			
Protect the special interest and setting of listed buildings.	Listed buildings brought back into use/demolished.	This indicator will show the success stories of listed buildings brought back into use and the failures of listed buildings being demolished.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator
<b>Cultural Heritage – Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes</b>			
Protect the character and setting of sites identified in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.  Protect the historical significance, integrity and condition of other historic gardens and designed landscapes.	Number and Extent of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.	If the number and extent of inventory and non-inventory historic gardens and designed landscapes increases then this objective will be met.	Liaison with the Council's Environment Team.
<b>Cultural Heritage – World Heritage Sites</b>			
Retain, protect, preserve and enhance the Antonine Wall and its associated archaeology, character and setting.	Details of planning consents granted where the Antonine Wall WHS is affected.	This will identify whether the Antonine Wall is being retained, protected, preserved and enhanced.	Through liaison with the Development Management unit and Historic Environment Scotland.
	Extent of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and its buffer zone.	Useful baseline information which will help to track whether the WHS or its buffer zone is shrinking over time.	Liaison with Historic Environment Scotland.
<b>Cultural Heritage – Scheduled Ancient Monuments</b>			
Preserve scheduled ancient monuments and other identified nationally important archaeological resources in situ and protect the integrity of their setting.	Number of SAM preserved in situ whilst under development pressure.	This indicator will show whether policies designed to protect the historic environment are achieving their aim of preserving archaeological resources in situ.	Through liaison with the Development Management unit and Historic Environment Scotland.
	Details of planning consents granted where.	This will identify whether Scheduled Ancient Monuments are being preserved in situ and	Through liaison with the Development Management unit and Historic Environment.

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
	scheduled ancient monuments are affected.	having the integrity of their setting protected.	Environment Scotland.
<b>Cultural Heritage – Historic Battlefields</b>			
Promote the sensitive management and interpretation of battlefield sites.	Number and extent of sites on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields.	Useful baseline information.	Through liaison with Historic Environment Scotland
	Non-Inventory Battlefields.	Useful baseline information.	Through liaison with the Council's Archaeologist
Preserve the integrity of sites listed on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields.	Details of planning consents granted where sites on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields are affected.	This will identify whether the integrity of sites listed on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields has been preserved.	Through liaison with Historic Environment Scotland and the Council's Development Management Unit
<b>Landscape – Green Belt</b>			
Ensure Green Belts continue to: maintain the separate identity and visual separation of settlements; protect the landscape setting of settlements; and protect and give access to greenspace for recreation.	Details of Green Belt release promoted in the LDP.	Details of and justification for green belt release promoted through the LDP will help to determine whether the function of the greenbelt has been retained.	Liaison with the Council's Development Plans Team.
	Details of planning applications approved within the green belt.	The justification for granting planning permission for uses within the greenbelt will help to determine whether the function of the greenbelt has been retained.	Liaison with the Council's Development Management Unit.
<b>Landscape – Greenfield Land</b>			
Reduce the proportion of new development which takes place on greenfield land.	Housing completions by settlement and brownfield/greenfield split.	An increase in the proportion of new housing on brownfield land would indicate that countryside and open land is being protected.	Existing Development Plan Monitoring Report indicator

SEA Objectives	Monitoring Proposed	Rationale	Methods & Measures
<b>Landscape – Landscape Character and Quality</b>			
Protect and enhance the distinctive character of the landscape.	Details of landscape character areas including their landscape and visual capacity.	Useful baseline information.	Liaison with the Council's Planning and Environment Unit.
Protect and enhance Special Landscape Areas.	The extent of land covered by Special Landscape Areas and quality or amenity value designations.	The extent of land covered by such designations would need to be established in order that any trend or loss of designated land, as an effect of policies in the LP can be measured.	Through interrogating the Council's GIS database