

SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@gov.scot

or

SEA Gateway
Scottish Government
Area 2 H (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

PART 2

An SEA Screening Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

Green Infrastructure Supplementary Guidance SG05

The Responsible Authority is:

Falkirk Council

COMPLETE PART 3 or 4 or 5

PART 3

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that:

- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects ***or***
- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects ***or***
- an SEA is not required** because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects

PART 4

- The PPS does not require an SEA under the Act. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, because this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 28 day timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

PART 5

- None of the above apply. We have prepared this screening report because:
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PART 6

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PART 7

Signature
(electronic
signature
is acceptable)



Date

6 December 2019

SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority	Falkirk Council
Title of PPS	Green Infrastructure - Supplementary Guidance SG05
Purpose of PPS	<p>The overarching purpose of the SG05 is to inspire applicants to create well-designed, multi-functional and inter-connected green and blue spaces that strengthen the sustainability and identity of a place. Specifically, the guidance will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the policy landscape supporting green infrastructure • the design process and principles for green infrastructure • different types of green infrastructure (including active travel network, SUDs, habitat links, landscaping, open space provision) • minimum standards for open space provision • contributions for off-site open space provision and the loss of open space • Open space maintenance and management arrangements
What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	SG05 is required to supplement the policies and proposals of the Proposed Falkirk Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2), specifically Policy PE13 Green and Blue Network, Policy PE16 Protection of Open Space, Policy PE17 Open Space and New Development and Policy PE20 Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows. It will replace and supersede SG 13: Open Space and New Development.
Subject (e.g. transport)	Land-use planning, green infrastructure, placemaking, and sustainability.
Period covered by PPS	July 2020 onwards, depending on the adoption date of the Proposed Falkirk Local Development Plan 2
Frequency of updates	The guidance will be reviewed as and when necessary.
Area covered by PPS (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	The guidance covers the entire administrative area of Falkirk Council.
Summary of nature/ content of PPS	Using successful local examples, SG05 will explain the design process and principle for achieving well-designed, multi-functional and inter-connected green infrastructure within new developments. It will present key design principles in a similar way to the Council's neighbourhood guidance.
Are there any proposed PPS objectives?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Copy of objectives attached	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Date	5 December 2019

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Table 1 below summarises the findings of the screening exercise undertaken by Falkirk Council in determining the likelihood of significant environment effects from Green Infrastructure - Supplementary Guidance SG05.

TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
1(a) the degree to which the PPS sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	No	SG05 will help developers create well-designed, multi-functional and inter-connected green infrastructure in their developments. Planning policy, and additional guidance, relating to green infrastructure will be signposted in this guidance where relevant. However, the acceptability of a development proposal would be determined by the application of relevant LDP2 policy.
1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy	No	SG05 could influence masterplans and development briefs prepared by the Council. However, the guidance will supplement but sit under LDP2, which has been subject to SEA. The acceptability of a development proposal would be determined by the application of relevant LDP2 policy.
1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	No	SG05 will support the principles of sustainable development, promoting the benefits of green infrastructure for climate change mitigation and adaption, health and well-being, placemaking, amenity, low carbon transport etc. It will encourage applicants to adopt good practice when designing and integrating green infrastructure such as open space, paths, landscaping, sustainable urban drainage systems etc. However, the guidance is guidance. The acceptability of a development proposal would be determined by the application of relevant LDP policy.

<p>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p>Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</p>
<p>1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Poorly designed development can create or contribute to environmental problems. SG13 will promote the role of green infrastructure in mitigating or designing out problems such as lack of amenity, surface water drainage, carbon emissions, extreme weather, poor integration of open space s etc.</p>
<p>1(e) the relevance of the PPS for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, PPS linked to waste management or water protection)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>SG05 does not concern itself with the implementation of any EU legislation.</p>
<p>2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>SG05 will not impact upon this criterion. The guidance will supplement relevant policies in the Falkirk LDP2, whose potential effects have been considered as part of the SEA for that plan.</p>
<p>2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>In solely concerning the Falkirk Council area, the SG will not have any transboundary environmental effects.</p>
<p>2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>SG09 will not have any significant transboundary environment effects. The guidance only concerns the Falkirk Council area.</p>

<p>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p>Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</p>
<p>2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The guidance will not pose risks to human health or the environment.</p>
<p>2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>.No significant effects identified. SG05 is guidance, and does not propose additional development itself. The acceptability of a development proposed would be determined by the application of relevant LDP2 policy.</p>
<p>2 (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to-(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No significant effects identified. SG05 is guidance, and does not propose additional development itself. The acceptability of a development proposed would be determined by the application of relevant LDP2 policy.</p>
<p>2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>SG05 will have no discernible impacts on landscapes or areas of protection.</p>

SEA SCREENING REPORT

Below is a summary of Falkirk Council's consideration of the significant environment effects of Green Infrastructure - Supplementary Guidance SG05.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The overarching purpose of the SG05 is to inspire applicants to create well-designed, multi-functional and inter-connected green and blue spaces that strengthen the sustainability and identity of a place. Specifically, the guidance will cover:

- the policy landscape supporting green infrastructure
- the design process and principles for green infrastructure
- different types of green infrastructure (including active travel network, SUDs, habitat links, landscaping, open space provision)
- minimum standards for open space provision
- contributions for off-site open space provision and the loss of open space
- Open space maintenance and management arrangements

The guidance will supplement several policies in the Falkirk LDP2, whose potential effects have been considered as part of the SEA for that plan. It is purely guidance, promoting the incorporation of quality green infrastructure within developments. The acceptability of a development proposal would be determined by the application of relevant LDP policy.

Against all the criteria listed within the Table 1, it was determined that SG05 will have no significant environmental effects. Falkirk Council, therefore, believes that SG05 is a qualifying PPS which does not require a SEA.