

**SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)**

**PART 1**

To: [SEA.gateway@gov.scot](mailto: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:

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Supplementary Guidance (SG14)

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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.....  
.....

**SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)**

**PART 6**

**Contact name**

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**Job Title**

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**PART 7**

**Signature**  
(electronic  
signature  
is acceptable)



**Date**

08 January 2020

## SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

<b>Responsible Authority</b>	Falkirk Council
<b>Title of PPS</b>	Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy Supplementary Guidance (SG14)
<b>Purpose of PPS</b>	<p>The purpose of the SG is to provide information and guidance on addressing the requirements of the relevant policies in the Proposed LDP2 for the assessment and provision of specific development proposals for renewable and low carbon energy including wind, solar/PV, hydro, geothermal and CHP. The SG contains the following broad policy areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spatial Framework for wind energy development (taken from the current adopted LDP and replicated in Proposed LDP2);</li> <li>2. Development management guidance on a range of renewable and low carbon technologies;</li> <li>3. Guidance on how developers should meet the specified reduction in carbon emissions derived from LZCGT as part of new development;</li> <li>4. Guidance on how to consider opportunities for heat networks as part of new development. This included information on heat mapping, co-location of uses and heat storage and recovery.</li> </ol>
<b>What prompted the PPS</b> (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	<p>SG14 is required to support the policies within the Proposed Falkirk Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2). Specifically, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IR12 Energy Generation Development;</li> <li>• IR13 Low and Zero Carbon Development; and</li> <li>• IR14 Heat Networks.</li> </ul>
<b>Subject</b> (e.g. transport)	Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy.
<b>Period covered by PPS</b>	From the adoption of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Falkirk Local Development Plan (LDP2).
<b>Frequency of updates</b>	The guidance will be reviewed when required. At a minimum this will be within the timeframe specified in the existing and new Planning Act (currently 5 years).
<b>Area covered by PPS</b> (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	The guidance covers the whole of the Falkirk Council local authority area.
<b>Summary of nature/ content of PPS</b>	SG14 provides guidance on the factors to be taken into account by the Council when assessing renewable and low-carbon energy development. The SG also sets out how developers should meet the policy requirements for integrating low carbon and renewable energy into new development.
<b>Are there any proposed PPS objectives?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>Copy of objectives attached</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>Date</b>	08 January 2020

## SEA SCREENING REPORT

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**

<p><b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b> (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p><b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b>  <b>YES/NO</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b></p>
<p>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</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The SG will provide more information on the factors that will be taken into account when renewable energy development proposals are being assessed under policy IR12 Energy Generation Development in the Proposed LDP; The environmental effects of policy IR12, and the Spatial Framework for wind energy development have already been assessed in the Revised Environmental Report which was published alongside the Proposed LDP2. The Spatial Framework has remained unchanged since the methodology for producing the Spatial Framework was set out in SPP in 2014. The factors to be taken into account for all renewable and low carbon proposals have already been set out in other supporting LDP2 policies (which have already been subject to SEA) so the task of this SG will be to provide further guidance on these factors.</p> <p>The Council’s Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) is currently under preparation which may require to be reflected in the SG, and which in itself may be subject to SEA. However, the SG does not intend to promote particular proposals in defined locations.</p> <p>The SG will also consider opportunities for co-location, heat networks, heat storage, district heating and heat recovery, to assist with the implementation of Policy IR14. It will do this by identifying potential heat sources, heat anchors (end users of excess heat) and zones with potential for district heating. This SG will not identify any new proposals for developments which could act as heat sources or heat anchors and will not identify potential new networks. There is therefore minimal potential for environmental effects. Policy IR14 encourages heat networks in major new developments. The environmental effects of this have already been assessed in the Revised Environmental Report which was published alongside the Proposed LDP2. Whilst this SG will provide further information which will help target those major new developments which would be</p>

<p><b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b> (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p><b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b>  <b>YES/NO</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b></p>
		<p>suitable for network schemes, it will not have any environmental effects in its own right.</p>
<p>1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No lower tier PPS are predicted to be influenced by this SG. The acceptability of a development proposal would be determined by the application of relevant LDP2 policy.</p>
<p>1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>In order to deliver sustainable development, the benefits of greenhouse gas emission reduction enabled by renewable and low carbon energy development would have to be delivered whilst minimising the wide ranging negative environmental effects (described above) that renewable and low carbon energy development can also cause.</p> <p>As mentioned previously though the SG will set out the spatial framework through rigidly applying a process which has been set out explicitly in the draft SPP. It is not within the gift of the SG to depart from this established process. Therefore the SG will not have a significant environmental effect in its own right.</p>
<p>1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Poorly sited and designed development can result in a loss of protected species, deterioration of sites designated for their nature conservation value, impact on human health through shadow flicker, loss of carbon rich and rare soils, damage to the site and setting of cultural heritage assets, breaching of the capacity of landscapes to accommodate development. This SG intends to set out how environmental problems and be avoided and potentially. The relevant policies within the LDP remain the mechanism for assessing the impact of specific proposal.</p> <p>The SG reflects the current set out the spatial framework which, the methodology of which has been set out explicitly in SPP, resulting in the Spatial Framework included within the adopted and Proposed LDP. It is not within the gift of the SG to depart from this established process. Therefore the SG will not have a significant environmental effect in its own right.</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>The spatial framework can help to deliver greenhouse gas reduction and thereby assist in the implementation of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act. There are no implications for EU policy.</p>

<p><b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b> (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p><b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b>  <b>YES/NO</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b></p>
<p>2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Wind turbines have a notional operational ‘life’ of 25 years, whilst other renewable and low-carbon energy developments could have differing timescales. The guidance seeks to ensure that potential environmental effects are avoided through correct implementation of the relevant policies in the Proposed LDP2.</p>
<p>2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Energy development can have a cumulative impact on sensitive receptors including landscape and ecology. Cumulative constraints are highlighted in this SG, whilst a full assessment of cumulative impacts is best placed at the specific proposal stage.</p>
<p>2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The only trans-boundary effect likely to result is a change in overall greenhouse gas emissions contributing towards climate change</p>

<p><b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b> (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p><b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b>  <b>YES/NO</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b></p>
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<p><b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b> (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p><b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b>  <b>YES/NO</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b></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>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>There are numerous areas with special natural characteristics which could be affected by windfarm developments including local national and international ecological designations, a World Heritage Site, scheduled monuments, historic battlefields. listed buildings and Conservation Areas, sites on the inventory of designed landscapes.</p> <p>Any environmental effects will be dictated by the spatial framework identification process set out in the draft SPP, therefore, the SG will not have a significant environmental effect in its own right.</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>The SG may have a net positive effect by identifying constraints which must be taken into consideration through the application process. As above, any environmental effects from wind energy will be dictated by the spatial framework identification process set out in the draft SPP, therefore, the SG will not have a significant environmental effect in its own right.</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 SG will influence decisions on applications for renewable and low-carbon energy developments, as well as the requirements for other developments which fall within the scope of the LDP2 policies. Poorly sited and designed renewable and low-carbon energy developments can have significant negative effects on biodiversity (impact on designated sites and protected species), population and human health (shadow flicker), soil (carbon rich and rare soil), climatic factors (carbon rich soil), cultural heritage and landscape which this SG will aim to address .

The environmental effects of policies IR12-14 and its reasonable alternatives have already been assessed in the Revised Environmental Report which was published alongside the LDP2 Proposed Plan. The factors to be taken into account have already been set out in other supporting LDP policies (which have already been subject to SEA) so the task of this SG will be to reinterpret and expand on these factors as they specifically apply to renewable energy development rather than to introduce any new factors to be taken into consideration.

An environmental report was produced for the Spatial Framework was also undertaken when first prepared in 2011, and again once the document was revised again in 2017. Spatial Frameworks are now subsumed within development plans and as such, subject to SEA.

Policy IR14 of the Proposed LDP2 encourages heat networks in major new developments. The environmental effects of this have already been assessed in the Revised Environmental Report which was published alongside the LDP2 Proposed Plan. Whilst this SG will provide further information which will help target those major new developments which would be suitable for heat recycling schemes, ( through considering opportunities for co-location, heat networks, heat storage, district heating and heat recovery) it will not make any new proposals for developments which could act as heat sources or heat anchors and will not identify potential networks which could connect heat sources to heat anchors, therefore it will not have any environmental effects in its own right.

The overall effect of the SG will be to make the positive environmental effects of policies marginally more likely to occur and as such this SG will only have minimal environmental effects. In conclusion an SEA is not therefore required as the SG is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects.