

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 3:

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Pre-Screening Notification for the Draft East Lothian Climate Change Strategy 2019–2024.

This Pre-Screening Notification has been submitted to the SEA Gateway.
No concerns have been raised by the SEA Consultation Authorities.

PRE-SCREENING NOTIFICATION

SEA PRE-SCREENING DOCUMENT

Responsible Authority: East Lothian Council

Title of the plan: East Lothian Climate Change Strategy 2019–24

What prompted the plan:
(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 sets a target for Scotland of 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. As a public body, East Lothian Council is expected to lead by example in reducing carbon emissions, to contribute to climate change adaptation, to act sustainably, and to deliver the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan at a local level.

Production of a Climate Change Strategy is not a statutory duty for a local authority nor a regulatory requirement (as the reporting of East Lothian Council's annual carbon emissions is undertaken via the statutory annual Public Bodies Climate Change Reporting process). However, East Lothian Council considers it is necessary to produce an overarching Climate Change Strategy to set out how the Council will reduce its carbon emissions, and how the Council will work in partnership to tackle climate change in East Lothian.

The strategy brings together a wide range of existing plans and strategies across the Council into one place, enabling a co-ordinated action plan for mitigating against and adapting to climate change.

An Integrated Impact Assessment covering equalities, human rights and sustainability has been carried out on the East Lothian Climate Change Strategy.

Plan subject:
(e.g. transport)

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Brief summary of the plan:
(including the area or location to which the plan related)

The East Lothian Climate Change Strategy sets out how East Lothian Council will tackle climate change, and how it will work in partnership with our local communities, businesses, organisations and individuals to ensure that East Lothian can play its full part in the national and international efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

The Strategy will contribute to raising awareness of climate change challenges in East Lothian. It also sets out the priorities and actions for the Council and the wider East Lothian community to mitigate against and reduce the impacts of climate change and the inequalities that can result, and promote resilient communities.

The Climate Change Strategy will cover the county of East Lothian for a five year period.

The Strategy covers these two major aspects of climate change:

- Climate Change Mitigation: this section of the Strategy sets out how we will reduce our carbon emissions to meet the challenging targets set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and help to mitigate against

further global temperature rise; and

- Climate Change Adaptation: climate change is already impacting upon us, and this section sets out how we will adapt to and prepare for future changes in our climate.

The Strategy sets out a Vision, targeted Outcomes and Actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation across East Lothian over a five year period, supporting national and local priority outcomes, and leading to long-term leadership and governance.

The Strategy promotes and sets out how East Lothian Council, and the wider East Lothian community, will achieve the following Outcomes:

Outcome 1: A Low Carbon and Sustainable Council

Outcome 2: A Resource Efficient and Sustainable East Lothian

Outcome 3: Active Travel and Sustainable Transport are used for Everyday Journeys

Outcome 4: A Place Encouraging a Low Carbon Lifestyle

Outcome 5: A Low Carbon and Sustainable Economy

Outcome 6: A Healthy and Resilient Natural Environment

Outcome 7: A Well-Adapted East Lothian

Brief summary of the likely environmental consequences:

(including whether it has been determined that the plan is likely to have no or minimum effects, either directly or indirectly)

The East Lothian Climate Change Strategy aims to reduce East Lothian Council's carbon emissions, which will contribute towards Scotland's ambitious climate change targets to help reduce global warming.

The Strategy will also contribute to raising awareness of climate change challenges and opportunities in East Lothian; encourage behaviour change towards a low carbon lifestyle; and aims to mitigate against and reduce the impacts of climate change and promote resilient communities.

The Climate Change Strategy brings together a wide range of existing relevant plans and strategies across the Council into one place. The key actions for tackling climate change in East Lothian are drawn from the action plans and policies in the following existing plans and strategies in particular:

- East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018
- East Lothian Local Transport Strategy 2018–24
- East Lothian Local Housing Strategy 2018-23
- East Lothian Open Space Strategy
- Green Networks Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance

In East Lothian, the South East Scotland (SESplan) Strategic Development Plan identifies a spatial strategy for land use in East Lothian, including the provision of new housing, transport infrastructure and green networks. The East Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018 allocates specific sites to meet the housing, infrastructure and economic development land use requirements. The LDP contains specific policies and proposals for energy, waste, transport (including active travel and sustainable transport), housing, economic development, green networks and open space.

The environmental effects of specific development proposals have therefore been subject to environmental assessment through the hierarchy of development plans. The LDP is subject to full screening in relation to the potential environmental impacts of all developments and both the East Lothian

LDP and SESplan SDP are accompanied by SEA environmental reports.

Transport proposals for East Lothian are set out in the East Lothian Local Transport Strategy (LTS) 2018–24, which is closely aligned with the LDP. Implementation of the LTS and its accompanying plans (including the Active Travel Improvement Plan) is likely to have positive environmental effects through helping to reduce carbon emissions from transport and improving air quality. Increased active travel (walking/cycling) and improved air quality will also have health benefits. The LTS has been through the SEA process and is accompanied by a SEA environmental report.

The East Lothian Local Housing Strategy (LHS) aligns closely with the SESplan Strategic Development Plan and the East Lothian LDP, which are accompanied by SEA environmental reports. The LHS provides a framework for projects related to the improvement of the standard of the existing housing stock throughout the county. This is likely to have positive environmental effects on health and climate change through improved energy efficiency, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a reduction in fuel poverty.

The East Lothian Open Space Strategy and Green Networks Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance have also been through the SEA process. Both strategies have positive environmental benefits for local areas, with regard to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as health and wellbeing benefits.

The East Lothian Climate Change Strategy draws together relevant policies, proposals and actions from all of the above existing strategies and plans, which have already been subject to the SEA process. For these reasons it is the opinion of East Lothian Council that an additional, separate Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the Climate Change Strategy.

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When completed send to: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or to SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ