

SEA Scoping Report: PART 1

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Or

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

SEA Scoping Report: PART 2

An SEA Scoping Report is attached for:

Green Network Strategy

The Responsible Authority is:

East Dunbartonshire Council

Please tick (✓) either Part 3 or 4 which relates directly to the specific PPS

SEA Scoping Report: PART 3

Information on the scope of the environmental report is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005



SEA Scoping Report: 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.

SEA Scoping Report: PART 5

Contact Details

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Date	25 May 2015

STRATEGIC
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT:
**SCOPING
REPORT**

Green Network Strategy



sustainable thriving achieving



East Dunbartonshire Council

www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Introduction	
<p>A Green Network Strategy will be produced by East Dunbartonshire Council in partnership with the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership. The Strategy will include the development of a methodology for determining green network opportunities and gaps across East Dunbartonshire in order to establish a set of actions which will be used to complement the objectives of the Strategy. The Strategy will also help to encourage internal and external funding for the enhancement of the green network across the Council-wide area and outwith in neighbouring authorities. The Green Network Strategy for East Dunbartonshire will show a local commitment to the requirements of the National Planning Framework 3, the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan 2012, and East Dunbartonshire Council's Single Outcome Agreement.</p>	
Section 1: Key Facts	This section provides some key facts about the Green Network Strategy including a brief summary of the Strategy and the draft objectives.
Section 2: Strategic Action Context	This section provides an overview of the Green Network Strategy and the main issues it is likely to address. In addition, this section provides the draft environmental baseline data collected to be used to assess the Strategy.
Section 3: Scope & Level of Detail Proposed for Environmental Assessment	This section outlines how the SEA process incorporates the identification of reasonable alternatives; assessment methodology, scoping in and out of issues, SEA objectives and the mitigation and monitoring of information.
Section 4: Next Steps	This section sets out the concluding stages proposed for the Environmental Report.
Appendix 1: Influence of key legislation & PPS	This appendix lists key legislation, plans, programmes, policies and strategies that influence or are influenced by the Green Network Strategy.
Appendix 2: Draft assessment matrix	This appendix shows a draft assessment matrix for the assessments of the vision, objectives and options, and their reasonable alternatives, in the Environmental Report.

Section 1: Key Facts	
Responsible Authority	East Dunbartonshire Council
Title of PPS	Green Network Strategy
Purpose of PPS	The purpose of the Green Network Strategy for East Dunbartonshire is

	<p>to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Define the green network ➤ Map the existing network and identifies gaps ➤ Establish opportunities to enhance and improve the existing green network including on vacant and derelict sites, fragmented habitat and underperforming greenspaces. ➤ Identify priority areas for expansion of the network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity, increased active travel and improved access to greenspace, enhanced health and wellbeing, and adaptation to the effects of climate change. ➤ Inform the Local Development Plan (LDP) Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance and justifies related planning obligations
<p>What prompted the PPS? (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)</p>	<p>Ensuring support for and contribution to Central Scotland Green Network National Development (National Planning Framework 3), Central Scotland Green Network Vision and Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network)</p>
<p>Subject (e.g. transport)</p>	<p>Green networks- access and biodiversity</p>
<p>Period covered by PPS</p>	<p>2016 - 2021</p>
<p>Frequency of updates</p>	<p>The Strategy will be updated in 2021 and reviewed annually</p>
<p>Area covered by PPS (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council and Mugdock Country Park (which lies within the Stirling Council area; in collaboration with Stirling Council)</p>
<p>Summary of nature/content of the PPS</p>	<p>The Green Network Strategy seeks to produce a strategic green network map for East Dunbartonshire to identify opportunities for enhancement of East Dunbartonshire’s existing green network including areas that are classified as vacant and derelict land, fragmented habitats or greenspaces that are underperforming. The identification of opportunities will help to highlight areas that are eligible for expansion and/or enhancement to realise a number of benefits to East Dunbartonshire including improved habitat connectivity, increased active travel and better access to green and open spaces, and improved health and wellbeing, as well as opportunities for adaptation to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>The Strategy will present local, EDC-wide and regional opportunities which include the enhancement of the green network between neighbouring authorities. In doing so, the Green Network Strategy</p>

	<p>will help to inform the emerging Local Development Plan Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance and related planning obligations, as well as demonstrating synergies between both biodiversity and access. It will also define open space provision in East Dunbartonshire as an update to the Open Space Strategy 2015 – 2020, although the Open Space Strategy will continue to set open space requirements. Both Strategies should complement each other. The Green Network Strategy should also help to raise awareness and an understanding of East Dunbartonshire’s green network for local communities and demonstrate how the green network can be of benefit in terms of education.</p> <p>By identifying opportunities for enhancing the green network, a set of recommendations will be established that will be used to inform an action plan. This will be developed between East Dunbartonshire Council and the key stakeholders and will highlight opportunities for external funding and funding from developer contributions as well as interventions that contribute to the aims and objectives of the Strategy.</p>			
Are there any proposed PPS objectives?	Yes		No	 *see below
Copy of objectives attached	Yes		No	 *see below
Date	25 May 2015			

*Draft Green Network Strategy Objectives	
<p>The vision, aims and objectives of the GNS will be determined and agreed by the Steering Group in June/July 2015. The objectives will feature in the Environmental Report.</p> <p>However, the proposed purpose for the draft Green Network Strategy has been agreed and this will guide the Scoping assessment.</p>	

Section 2: Strategic Action Context

This section provides an overview of the Green Network Strategy and the main issues it is likely to address.

This section contains the following information

2.1	Relationship with other Plans, Programmes and Strategies
2.2	Baseline Environmental Data
2.3	Environmental Issues for the Green Network Strategy
2.4	Evolution of the Environmental Baseline in the Absence of the Green Network Strategy

2.1. Relationship with other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

There are a number of other strategies and plans internationally, nationally, regionally and locally that the Green Network Strategy (GNS) needs to be integrated with. These include:

International

- Kyoto Protocol 1997
- Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
- Aichi Biodiversity Targets

European

- European Biodiversity Strategy
- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
- EU Birds Directive
- EU Habitats Directive

National

- UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework
- Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- Scottish Forestry Strategy (2006)
- Scottish Planning Policy
- National Planning Framework 3
- Planning Advice Note (PAN) 60: Planning for Natural Heritage
- PAN 65: Planning and Open Space

- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands (2004) and The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013))

Regional

- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan
- Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014 - 2019

Local

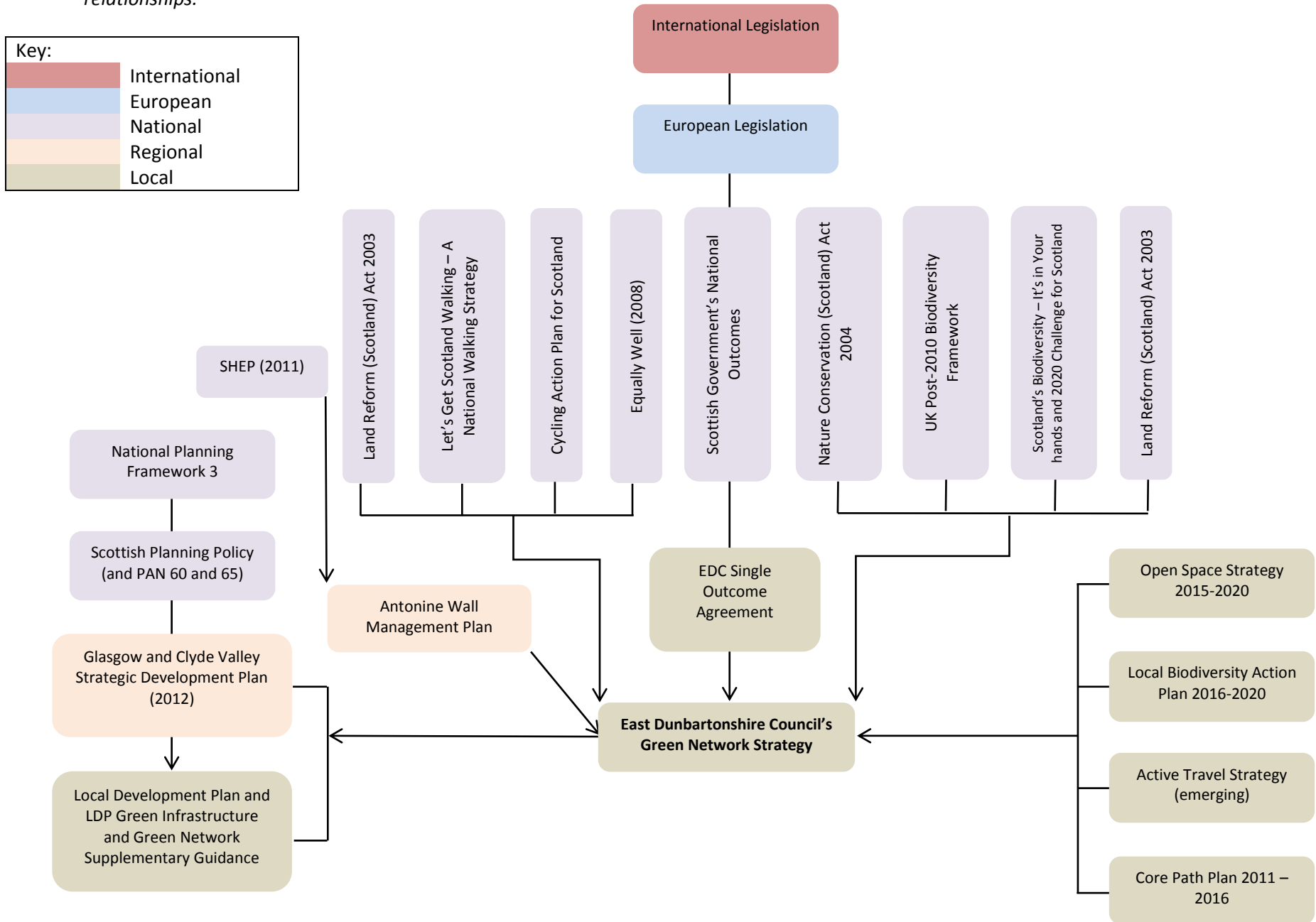
- East Dunbartonshire Single Outcome Agreement
- East Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2 and emerging Local Development Plan (Proposed Plan)
- LDP Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance (emerging)
- East Dunbartonshire Council's Core Path Plan
- East Dunbartonshire Council Local Transport Strategy
- Emerging Active Travel Strategy
- Emerging Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy 2015 – 2020

2.1.1 Cross-boundary effects with neighbouring authorities will be considered through the integration of the GNS as well as a consideration of Plans and Strategies produced by the neighbouring authorities. This will be particularly important in relation to Mugdock Country Park, which lies within the Stirling Council area. It may also be necessary to work with other neighbouring local authorities in the development of actions that result in strategic, regional and local impacts with potential cross-boundary effects. However, it is not expected that the GNS will require consideration of transboundary effects with neighbouring EU Member States.

2.1.2 **Appendix 1** lists key legislation, plans, programmes, policies and strategies that influence or are influenced by the GNS. This list includes documents that refer to international, European Community, and national environmental objectives; regional and local objectives. Their content, where appropriate, has been used to inform the environmental objectives for the SEA of the Strategy.

Figure 1: Interrelationship of the Green Network Strategy with Other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This is a diagrammatic representation and does not include every one of the plans listed. The template below is useful for demonstrating such relationships.



2.1.3 The **Environmental Protection Objectives** that are contained within international, European, UK and Scottish legislation, as well as national guidance which are considered to be of the greatest relevance to the GNS will be taken into account when preparing the Strategy. These are set out in [Appendix 1](#).

2.2 Baseline Environmental Data

2.2.1 The early stages of SEA, such as describing the baseline information, identifying environmental problems/issues and analysing the links and relationships between other strategic actions, should be carried out concurrently and they should inform each other throughout the process. This approach has been adopted within this Scoping Report.

2.2.2 In order to measure the significant environmental effects of the Green Network Strategy the current state of the environment must be known. East Dunbartonshire Council will gather sufficient information to provide the current state of the environment, or an Environmental Baseline, utilising GIS mapping where possible, to show the geographical location and scale of key environmental designations. The potential effects (including, cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects) of the information contained within the GNS and their alternatives will be measured against this baseline.

2.2.3 For the purposes of this Scoping Report, a broad summary of baseline environmental information has been collated. Where environmental factors or designations in East Dunbartonshire would be best presented visually, GIS has been used to spatially map where such assets are within the area and will be presented in the Environmental Report. [Table 1](#) below summarises the main baseline environmental features and the environmental implications for the preparation and development of the Green Network Strategy.

2.2.4 [Table 1](#) also contains the suggested overall objectives for the assessment. These have been developed taking into account the summary baseline data and environmental implications for the GNS. The SEA Objectives will be used to assess the GNS and they will provide the basis for the development of the questions and indicators in [Table 5](#).

Table 1: Proposed Environmental Baseline Data

Environmental Factor	Summary of baseline Environmental Data	Environmental Implications for the Green Network Strategy	Baseline Data to be collected	Sources of baseline Data	Proposed SEA Objectives
<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire has a total population of 105,860 (2013); a decrease in population of approximately 3% since 2001. Population Projections forecast this trend to continue during the period between 2010 and 2035 with a reduction of 9.8% expected.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire has a decreasing and ageing population. This is highlighted through the population projections in 2010 that by 2035 East Dunbartonshire’s population will be 94,343 with a large increase in the 75+ age group and a projected decline of 22.8% of the under 16 age group in comparison to the 2010 population statistics. The number of people aged over 65 years old is forecast to increase by 11,000 people between 2010 and 2035.</p> <p>Areas of Hillhead and Lennoxton are within the top 15% most deprived SIMD data zones in Scotland.</p> <p>Generally the health of the residents of</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire hosts various areas within the top 15% of deprived areas in Scotland and is showing an increase in non-economically active population and older people.</p> <p>The GNS will present opportunities for communities in East Dunbartonshire to become involved in projects related to the green network. This can result in improved quality of environment and will have a potentially positive impact on their wellbeing.</p> <p>By raising awareness of the green network, the GNS will present opportunities for education for local schools and the communities.</p> <p>Health and wellbeing is likely to be improved through opportunities that are</p>	<p>Population statistics</p> <p>Trends in health from 2001 to 2011.</p> <p>Life expectancy</p> <p>Physical activity levels, particularly through walking and cycling to work.</p> <p>Information related to SIMD area and economic statistics</p> <p>Access to open space, health and recreational facilities.</p> <p>Community-led projects in East Dunbartonshire</p> <p>Number of volunteers, particularly with interest in biodiversity</p> <p>Links to East Dunbartonshire Council’s Active Travel Strategy</p>	<p>General Register Office for Scotland</p> <p>Census 2001 – for health data</p> <p>Census 2011 data</p> <p>National Records of Scotland, October 2014</p> <p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Scottish Government SIMD data for East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics</p> <p>NOMIS (Economically active population & Average weekly wage)</p> <p>Scottish Household Survey (walking/ cycling</p>	<p>To improve human health and community wellbeing</p>

<p>Population and Human Health (continued)</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire is good with nearly 73% of the residents being generally healthy, in comparison to the average of Scotland (68%) according to the 2001 census. The level of residents found to be in general health status of 'not good' within East Dunbartonshire and Scotland was 8% and 10% respectively.</p> <p>In terms of walking and cycling to work in 2012/13, East Dunbartonshire had low rates of walking (5.1%) when compared with the Scottish national average (13.2%). Walking to work rates in East Dunbartonshire represent the 2nd lowest rates in Scotland against all other Council areas. There are similarly low levels of cycling to the Scottish national average (2.3%).</p> <p>The percentage of economically active people living in East Dunbartonshire has decreased over recent years; however, this percentage is still higher than both the Scottish and British national averages.</p>	<p>presented in the GNS including upgrades to vacant and derelict land and underperforming green/open spaces and access to them.</p> <p>There is scope to improve the number of people partaking in walking and cycling through active encouragement of the natural environment and outdoor activities. This includes potential improvements to access both within the EDC boundary and to other neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>Enhancements to biodiversity and habitats are likely to promote cycling and core path routes in East Dunbartonshire. This will potentially lead to supplementary positive outcomes in reducing car travel.</p> <p>The associated conflicts between the rights for public access to the environment as part of improvements to the green network will need to be considered.</p> <p>Of those who are economically active in East Dunbartonshire,</p>		<p>to work) 2012/13</p> <p>Glasgow Centre for Population Health 2011. (Briefing Paper 28)</p>	
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<p>Population and Human Health (continued)</p>		<p>0.2% of this population work in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry. The management and protection of biodiversity and issues related to accessibility as well as the livelihoods of those who are involved in this industry is vital.</p> <p>Enhancing green networks will improve connectivity for those residing in urban and rural areas.</p>			
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire has: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 UNESCO World Heritage Site; Antonine Wall. A buffer zone has been identified around the Wall to help protect its setting. This is set out within the Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19 which was developed by Historic Scotland in partnership with East Dunbartonshire Council, Falkirk Council, North Lanarkshire Council, West Dunbartonshire Council and Glasgow Council. ➤ 43 Scheduled Monuments. In particular the Forth & Clyde Canal is made up of a series of Scheduled Monuments. 	<p>Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas contribute to the character of the streets in East Dunbartonshire. Through appropriate management and enhancement, where necessary, the character of these assets can be further promoted.</p> <p>The varied and rich historic built and natural environment in East Dunbartonshire should be a vital consideration for the GNS.</p> <p>The GNS should consider the role and importance of</p>	<p>Review of designated sites, areas</p> <p>Archaeological resources.</p> <p>Record progress on the Antonine Wall access project, associated with the Forth & Clyde Canal access strategy, to 2017.</p>	<p>Historic Scotland</p> <p>Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation – World Heritage Site Designation</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage</p> <p>Scottish Canals Heritage Strategy 2013-38</p>	<p>To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment</p>

<p>Cultural Heritage (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 181 Listed Building, including five bridges, five mileposts, one horse trough and Milngavie Railway Station. The Luggie Water Aqueduct and Bridge, Kirkintilloch, is Category A. ➤ 15 Conservation Areas (4 of which are designated as outstanding) ➤ 21 Townscape Protection Areas ➤ 3 sites recommended as having the potential for meeting national inventory standards as Gardens and Designed Landscapes. 30 such sites have also been identified as having local value. ➤ A number of registered Buildings at Risk: <p><u>Baldernock</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outbuilding <p><u>Bearsden</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colquhouns of Garscadden Burial Enclosure <p><u>Bishopbriggs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cawder House Stables • Huntershill House <p><u>Cadder</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cadder Smithy <p><u>Kirkintilloch</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broomhill Hospital, Outbuildings, Lodge and 	<p>biodiversity to the setting and value of the Antonine Wall as well as consider how improved access to the green network will impact on its value.</p> <p>The requirements to protect Forth and Clyde Canal, as a main water body, a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a route corridor, will be influential to the GNS.</p> <p>The GNS should consider how it can integrate the different historical and natural environment as part of the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire.</p>			
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<p>Cultural Heritage (continued)</p>	<p>Cottages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Aisle Cemetery Gatelodge • 18A West High Street • Former Kirkintilloch Town Hall <p>Lenzie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodilee Hospital Administration Block <p>Lennoxtown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lennox Castle • High Kirk of Campsie 				
<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire has: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) ➤ 2 Regional Scenic Areas ➤ 66 Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) ➤ There are networks of Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) in East Dunbartonshire. There are 80 LNCS designated for their biodiversity value. These include the Forth & Clyde Canal, The John Muir & Thomas Muir Way from Kirkintilloch to Clachan of Campsie, the Main Line Railway and disused railway lines such as Balmore to Torrance to Kirkintilloch. ➤ Important Wildlife Corridors will be 	<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna are important considerations for the GNS. The implementation of the GNS will have a direct influence on protecting and enhancing the species in East Dunbartonshire through improvements in habitat connectivity. This will be particularly significant to those the species and habitats that are priorities, vulnerable and/or protected.</p> <p>Enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna has the potential to significantly contribute to and enhance existing or new habitat networks and connectivity in East Dunbartonshire to deliver Integrated Habitat Networks.</p>	<p>Priority Species and Habitats.</p> <p>Regionally and locally designated sites.</p> <p>Links to the Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Record areas and levels of planting</p> <p>Results of the review of LNCS and Important Wildlife Corridor designations</p>	<p>Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Native Woodland Survey of Scotland report for East Dunbartonshire, October 2010</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council Local Development Plan Main Issues Report, 2013</p>	<p>To protect, enhance, create and, where necessary, restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity</p>

<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (continued)</p>	<p>reviewed 2015/2016 so these designations along with LNCS are subject to alteration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 350 Tree Preservation Orders ➤ 3 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) which include Merkland LNR, Lenzie Moss LNR and Kilmardinny Loch. <p>There are a number of Protected Species identified in East Dunbartonshire (including those with former Species Action Plans, priority species and lesser priority species). This includes a number of European Protected Species such as Otters, Badgers and Water Vole.</p> <p>Several Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) have been identified in East Dunbartonshire such as Japanese Knotweed.</p> <p>The local habitats in East Dunbartonshire that have been prioritised under the previous iteration of the LBAP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Urban ➤ Rural ➤ Woodland ➤ Wetland <p>Woodland in East Dunbartonshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Native woodland in East Dunbartonshire comprises 22.1% of the total woodland area (4.8% of 	<p>The different needs for green hubs, green corridors, green links or green stepping stones should be evaluated and addressed through the GNS.</p> <p>Native species should be considered in order to enhance natural resources that are specific to the local area.</p> <p>The impact of enhanced green networks throughout East Dunbartonshire will need to consider the presence of Protected Species and INNS to ensure their protection.</p> <p>The variety of biodiversity, flora and fauna in East Dunbartonshire contributes to its scenic value. This possesses a valued interest for economic benefits in terms of increased tourism to the area.</p> <p>Woodland resources in East Dunbartonshire have the potential to be integrated with opportunities in the GNS to enhance the green network.</p> <p>It is important that native woodland is managed and protected.</p>			
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<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (continued)</p>	<p>the total land area).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 95ha of woodland is present on ancient woodlands, which makes up 34% of native woodland ➤ The main native woodland types in East Dunbartonshire are lowland mixed deciduous woodland (34%), wet woodland (25%) and upland birchwoods (21%). 	<p>The environmental implications related to the vision of the Central Scotland Green Network are an important consideration in the development of the GNS.</p>			
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<p>Soil and Geology</p>	<p>Despite three quarters of the land in East Dunbartonshire being utilised for agricultural processes, the district has a small percentage (5%) of prime agricultural soil.</p> <p>Currently East Dunbartonshire has not designated any areas of land as contaminated land as defined in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. However, a list of potential contaminated sites has been created based on previous land use. On this list 626 potentially contaminated sites (to varying degrees of contamination) have been identified.</p> <p>There are currently 25 sites of Vacant and Derelict Land within East Dunbartonshire with a total area of 62 hectares. These and other Brownfield land locations within East Dunbartonshire may have potentially contaminated land, depending on their historic uses.</p>	<p>Enhanced biodiversity and habitats, factors that will be integral to the GNS, will present potential positive impacts to soil quality and soil functions as well as limiting erosion and potential soil acidification.</p> <p>The quality and level of soil in East Dunbartonshire will need to be considered as part of the GNS to ensure that opportunities to increase active travel and access to the natural environment does not result in soil exposure to elements, causing erosion and potential soil acidification.</p> <p>Development on Vacant and Derelict land has the potential to result in the removal of habitat networks.</p>	<p>Agricultural land classification data - location and area of land by settlement.</p> <p>Contaminated land – Number, size and location of sites.</p> <p>Areas of Peat deposits. Minerals extraction and data.</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>EDC Local Plan 2</p> <p>EDC Local Development Plan</p> <p>Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Register 2013</p> <p>James Hutton Institute</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage</p> <p>British Geological Survey</p> <p>UKRIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site)</p> <p>SNH Information Notice No.38 – Identification of</p>	<p>To protect and, where appropriate, use high quality and sensitive soils in a sustainable manner and conserve recognised geodiversity assets</p>
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<p>Soil and Geology (continued)</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire also has 1 RIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site) at Clachan of Campsie. It also has 34 sites designated as Local Nature Conservation Sites for their geodiversity value.</p> <p>A number of different sites in East Dunbartonshire have been identified as having varying levels of soil carbon richness and peatland including the Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills.</p>	<p>There is potential to upgrade vacant and derelict sites, which may include those that are contaminated, through opportunities to enhance existing networks in East Dunbartonshire. There is potential to create functional greenspaces in the process of upgrading VDL.</p> <p>Disturbance to peatland can result in the release of carbon into the atmosphere. Enhancements to the green network should consider the location of peatland in order to reduce this risk.</p>		<p>carbon-rich soil mapping units (2012) – Scotland’s Soils</p>	
<p>Landscape</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire’s landscape is diverse in terms of character and land uses. The district is characterised by five main types of landscape character: Drumlin Foothills; Rolling Farmland; Broad Valley Lowland; Rugged Moorland Hills; and urban areas.</p> <p>The topography of East Dunbartonshire is generally low lying, undulating land with the exception of two of the Local Landscape Areas; the Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills to the North and West of the district respectively.</p>	<p>The GNS will consider possibilities that will improve habitat connectivity in East Dunbartonshire, resulting in potential positive effects to landscape setting and visual amenity.</p> <p>Any significant actions discussed to deliver the GNS will need to consider any natural and historical designations within East Dunbartonshire in order to</p>	<p>Woodland resources, ancient and semi-natural within East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>Local landscape character at a settlement level.</p>	<p>EDC Local Plan 2</p> <p>British Geological Survey</p> <p>UKRIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site)</p> <p>Glasgow & Clyde Valley Landscape Character Assessment, 1999</p>	<p>To protect and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value</p>

<p>Landscape (continued)</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire has a total of 973.46 hectares of urban open space; the greatest proportion of which is classified as semi-natural greenspace and Regional Greenspace.</p> <p>The green belt is defined in the Development Plan and covers the entire area of East Dunbartonshire, with the exception of the upland and urban areas; its objectives include maintaining the character and distinctiveness of the area's settlements.</p> <p>There is a number of Local Landscape Areas (LLA) within the East Dunbartonshire Council boundary area including the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills. All of the LLA are shown on the maps within the Environmental Report.</p>	<p>prevent negative effects to the landscape.</p> <p>There is scope to integrate opportunities with opportunities related to the Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills.</p> <p>Habitat connectivity within East Dunbartonshire will be promoted in the GNS. This will reduce fragmentation across the various landscapes.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire has a strong local distinctiveness and genetic diversity that has the potential to be lost without the interventions of the GNS.</p> <p>Although a green network will improve community accessibility to the natural environment, it should consider the effect of this on the green belt through appropriate mitigation and management.</p> <p>There is potential for the GNS to connect local, East Dunbartonshire Council wide and regional networks across the landscape of East Dunbartonshire. The scale of</p>			
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Landscape (continued)		<p>each of these should be considered.</p> <p>The different landscape typologies, including LLA designations, will need to be considered as part of the opportunity mapping exercise.</p>			
Water Quality	<p>The main watercourses within East Dunbartonshire are the River Kelvin, Glazert Water, Allander Water, Luggie Water, Forth and Clyde Canal and Bothlin Burn. East Dunbartonshire also has two reservoirs in Milngavie and a number of other small dams in various locations throughout East Dunbartonshire, which are of significant value to the surrounding area.</p> <p>From the 2009-2015 River Basin Management Plan cycle, East Dunbartonshire had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 5.52 km of good quality watercourses ➤ 33.82 km of watercourses with good ecological potential ➤ 16.01 km of moderate quality watercourses ➤ 19.88 km of watercourses with 	<p>The water in East Dunbartonshire is a vital resource. The management and control we have over this resource has major implications on a number of factors, including, water quality, biodiversity and human health. These are important considerations for the GNS.</p> <p>The impact of increased footfall across various different networks should be considered in order to prevent a decline in water quality. This is particularly vital to main waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire such as the Forth and Clyde Canal and the River Kelvin.</p> <p>Enhancements to green networks in close proximity to</p>	<p>River Basin Management Plans</p> <p>Local water quality data</p> <p>Drinking water quality</p>	<p>SEPA – RBMP Data</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies</p>

<p>Water Quality (continued)</p>	<p>moderate ecological potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 48.19 km of watercourses with poor ecological potential ➤ 17.32 km of poor quality watercourses ➤ 28.31 km of watercourses with bad ecological potential <p>All groundwater resources were also assessed in 2008 and found to be of good ecological status.</p> <p>*Flooding is discussed in <i>Climatic Factors</i></p>	<p>river networks have the potential to deliver improvements to water quality and morphology, with added benefits of creating new or improved habitats. The requirements of the Water Framework Directive should be taken into account.</p> <p>In terms of biodiversity, the GNS should consider impacts to wetland quality.</p>			
<p>Air Quality</p>	<p>Emissions from transport has been identified as the main contributor of NO₂ and PM10 (particulates) pollution, specifically, in East Dunbartonshire. Domestic emissions are the main contributor of CO₂ emissions.</p> <p>The busiest routes that are of concern in relation to air quality within East Dunbartonshire are the A803 and B812 in Bishopbriggs; the A81 through Milngavie; and the A809 and A739 through Bearsden.</p> <p>There are currently two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) declared within East Dunbartonshire, Bishopbriggs</p>	<p>Contributing factors that can lead to increased emissions and result in air pollution, include, transport (both private and public) and developments which generate traffic flows and general movement to and from areas.</p> <p>The GNS has the opportunity to increase active travel in East Dunbartonshire. This will help to reduce traffic emissions, which will be particularly important in AQMAs.</p> <p>There are possible</p>	<p>Air Quality statistics for major routes and settlements within east Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>Rail patronage and bus services and frequencies – see climatic factors below.</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>National Air Emissions Inventory</p> <p>Scottish Government</p> <p>DEFRA</p> <p>Scottish Transport Bus and Coach Statistics No. 32, 2013</p> <p>Local Transport Strategy 2013 – 2017</p>	<p>To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality</p>

<p>Air Quality (continued)</p>	<p>(2005) and Bearsden Cross (2011), both of which were declared an AQMA after several years of exceeding national NO₂ and PM10 objective levels.</p> <p>Whilst traffic levels across the Council area have been shown to be decreasing since 2009 from 125,356 (per 1000 vehicle miles) to 118,830 (per 1000 vehicle miles) in 2013, which can be attributable to a number of factors including the promotion of sustainable travel and influencing economic factors, levels still remain relatively high.</p> <p>Of the number of people in East Dunbartonshire who are of an economically-active age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6,454 people (9.5%) work or study at home ➤ 12,422 people (18.25%) use public transport (train, underground, metro, light rail, tram, bus, minibus or coach) to access work or place of study of distances of 5km to 30km+ ➤ 26,884 people (39.5%) drive a car or van to access work or place of study of distances of 5km to 30km+ ➤ 18,156 people (26.7%) access work or place of study by other means of transport of distances of 5km to 30km+ <p>The number of people travelling to work</p>	<p>transboundary effects of air pollution to neighbouring Local Authorities such as Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and Stirling that should be taken into account in the development of the GNS.</p> <p>In areas of particularly poor air quality, emissions in the atmosphere as well as potential acid rain can adversely alter and affect biodiversity with additional impacts to habitats and the natural environment. Ecosystem services are also likely to be changed as a result.</p> <p>The role of biodiversity and habitats in improving air quality through the removal of pollutants in the soil and in the air should be considered.</p> <p>The GNS will demonstrate capabilities for linking active travel routes within the Council boundary and between East Dunbartonshire and other local authorities which can encourage cycling and walking to work or their place of study.</p>		<p>Scottish Census 2011</p> <p>Department for Transport- Traffic Counts</p>	
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	<p>by car or van is approximately 4% more than those in the rest of Scotland. Many people living in East Dunbartonshire travel to their workplace in neighbouring authorities such as Glasgow.</p>				
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<p>Climatic Factors</p>	<p>A significant source of carbon dioxide in East Dunbartonshire is attributable to vehicular transport emissions, which contributes towards climate change, although the largest proportion of CO₂ emissions is attributable to domestic emissions.</p> <p>Travel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The level of public transport access varies across the area. Kirkintilloch is served by bus services that provide access to towns and villages in East Dunbartonshire and adjacent local authorities such as Glasgow. However, there are areas that do not have services that are frequent or operate out-with peak travel periods and daytime hours. ➤ Although rail patronage has increased by approximately 10% from the period 2012/13 to 2013/14, accessibility to such services means there is a significant reliance on car-based travel in the area. ➤ The number of bus passenger journeys in Strathclyde and South West Scotland has decreased since 2007/08 to 2012/13, which equates 	<p>There are many areas within East Dunbartonshire that are currently within Flood Risk Areas. Climate change is resulting in an increase of flash flooding events in Scotland which is having an adverse effect on habitats, biodiversity, flora and fauna as well as an impact on leisure and recreational activities.</p> <p>Enhancing the green network may be achieved through improved planting and protection of existing habitats. This can be beneficial in terms of adaptation to flooding.</p> <p>Enhancing the green network, including benefits to biodiversity value, has the potential to improve ecosystem services within East Dunbartonshire's natural environment. This will result in effective climate regulation.</p> <p>Climate change is contributing</p>	<p>Flood Risk Assessments.</p> <p>Flood defences.</p> <p>Emissions levels within East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>Flooding and storm information and events.</p> <p>Renewable energy potential.</p>	<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>SEPA</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>UK Climate Impacts Programme</p> <p>Online Handbook of Climate Trends across Scotland 2006 (as updated) (SNIFFER Guidance)</p> <p>Scottish Household Survey 2013 (access to cars per household)</p> <p>Office of Rail Regulation (rail patronage by region, 2013/14)</p> <p>Scottish Transport Bus and Coach Statistics No. 32, 2013</p> <p>SEPA Flood map</p>	<p>To contribute towards the reduction of Scottish greenhouse gas outputs in line with Government targets in order to reduce or prevent the overall effects of climate change including those related to flood risks</p>
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<p>Climatic Factors (continued)</p>	<p>to a decrease of 21%. The total distance travelled by buses 2007/08 to 2012/13 decreased by 17%. This can be attributable to a reduction in the number of services that operate or alterations to routes. This trend is reflected in trends across Scotland which has seen a decrease in 4% in bus and coach journeys between 2012 and 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Traffic levels have decreased during recent years from the particularly high volumes experienced during the mid-2000s. This may be a result of the economic downturn. ➤ In 2013, 86% of households in East Dunbartonshire had access to at least 1 car. ➤ Glasgow is a key attraction for both employment and high education opportunities for the population of East Dunbartonshire which increases the need for travel. ➤ See <i>Air Quality</i> for number of people who travel by car or van to access their place of work or study. <p>CO2 emissions associated with the expenditure of energy from industrial/commercial (including agriculture) and domestic buildings accounts for 142.7 ktCO2 and 271.6 ktCO2 respectively in 2012. Such energy use has a significant impact on air quality.</p>	<p>to flash flooding events in Scotland.</p> <p>The GNS should present opportunities for the adaptation to the effects of climate change including ensuring that biodiversity is able to adapt to a changing environment and circumstances.</p> <p>Increased active travel and accessibility of networks in East Dunbartonshire will encourage people to travel sustainability and cut down on vehicle usage and related emissions.</p> <p>In developing opportunities for the enhancement of the green network, areas of flooding particularly along rivers, will need to be considered for mitigation, management and viability.</p>		<p>Scotland's Climate Change Declaration 2013-14 Report (SSN; Keep Scotland Beautiful; EDC)</p> <p>'Local and Regional CO2 Emissions Estimates for 2005-2012', Department of Energy and Climate Change</p>	
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<p>Climatic Factors (continued)</p>	<p>Flooding has been an issue in the Kelvin Valley for many years with the most recent flood events occurring in 1994 and 2005. The main areas of concern for potential flooding are the River Kelvin and its tributaries – the Allander, Glazert and Luggie Waters.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire only has one operating landfill (Inchbelle Quarry, Kirkintilloch) but is only used for the disposal of inert materials, mainly construction materials. All household and commercial municipal waste is transferred to landfills in North Lanarkshire. Therefore, there is minimal methane produced from landfill within East Dunbartonshire to impact on climate change.</p>				
<p>Material Assets</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire is supplied by various levels of transport infrastructure, through well serviced rail networks, bus routes encompassing the whole district and the various road networks that link settlements within East Dunbartonshire together with providing routes out with the district.</p> <p>There are 54km of A class roads, 47 km of B class roads and 34km of C class roads. This amounts to 27% of the road network. There are 369 km of unclassified roads.</p>	<p>The GNS will explicitly encourage the enhancement or creation of core paths with connections to the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>Where the green network encourages more access to the wider environment, either by Core Path Networks, Rights of Way or cycleways, consideration should be given to the effects on agricultural</p>	<p>Transport and infrastructure data.</p> <p>Core Path Network and Rights of Way.</p> <p>Walking and cycle routes</p> <p>Public open spaces and accessibility.</p>	<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council</p> <p>Transport Scotland</p> <p>SPT</p> <p>Local Development Plan for large scale development proposals.</p> <p>Scottish Rights of Way</p>	<p>To promote the sustainable use of community assets in East Dunbartonshire</p>

<p>Material Assets (continued)</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire has a network of Core Paths and public open spaces which provide opportunities for recreation. Some of these also provide active travel routes from residential areas to services and businesses.</p> <p>Studies into housing requirements have indicated that East Dunbartonshire has one of the highest net needs for affordable housing, compared to other Scottish Local Authorities. The Local Plan and emerging Local Development Plan identifies the location of new development proposals with potential for changes to transport infrastructure/routes.</p> <p>There are 99 Right of Way paths in East Dunbartonshire of the highest classification. There are also 82 'other' Rights of Way which are classified as paths that have seized use, have been partially built on or overgrown.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire has 8 'Scotways' Heritage Paths and 2 other Heritage Paths have been designated by East Dunbartonshire Council.</p> <p>Through the East Dunbartonshire Council area, there are a number of different cycleways including traffic-free routes, both off and on the National Cycle Network, and on-road routes that are</p>	<p>land and agriculture as an industry.</p> <p>Natural resources in East Dunbartonshire should be used sustainability and at a limited rate to reduce pressures on biodiversity and resources. Use of such resources has the potential to negatively impact on biodiversity, either by reducing the assets or restricting resources that will help manage biodiversity.</p> <p>The local open spaces identified in the Open Space Strategy will need to be taken into account.</p> <p>The GNS will demonstrate links with the Green Network and Green Infrastructure Supplementary Guidance for the Local Development Plan. Each should be considered in the production of the other.</p> <p>Issues related to biodiversity and access should be an integral consideration of the planning process.</p> <p>With the emerging Local Development Plan for East</p>		<p>and Access Society</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council Transport and Access Officer</p> <p>Sustrans</p>	
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	<p>not on the National Cycle Network. Many of these routes are regional/cross-boundary and provide links to Loch Lomond, Glasgow, Stirling and Edinburgh.</p>	<p>Dunbartonshire being implemented, there is likely to be an increase in developments (economic and housing over the life of the Plan. The impact of this for biodiversity, access and the green network should be taken into account as well as guide developments.</p>			
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2.3 Environmental Issues¹ for the Green Network Strategy

2.3.1 The Environmental Report will identify the current environmental issues and problems that affect East Dunbartonshire, utilising the information that has been identified through an analysis of the baseline environmental data and potential implications, which are contained within Section 2.2 of this Report. When undertaking the assessment of the Strategy, the Council will be able to predict whether the identified environmental problems and issues will worsen, stabilise or improve through the implementation of the Strategy. The main environmental issues and problems facing East Dunbartonshire are outlined in **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Environmental Issues Relevant to the East Dunbartonshire Green Network Strategy
Environmental issues were identified through discussions with the appropriate Consultation Authorities and an analysis of the baseline data available.

SEA Topic	Relevant Environmental Issues
<p style="text-align: center;">Population and Human Health</p>	<p>Eight datazones within East Dunbartonshire fall into the top 25% most deprived areas in Scotland; these are located in Hillhead, Lennoxton, Auchinairn and Milngavie. In particular, some areas in Hillhead remain within the 5% most deprived areas in Scotland according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.</p>
	<p>With areas of deprivation in East Dunbartonshire and an increasingly ageing population, there is a significant reliance on public transport and access to primary facilities such as town centres, retail parks, healthcare and leisure. To reduce this need and pressure, there is significant evidence that green networks can be integrated with interventions that will encourage and promote active travel. This will provide further health benefits to deprived or vulnerable members of the community.</p>
	<p>Conflicts may arise between increasing public access within East Dunbartonshire and the need to conserve the natural environment. This will be a vital consideration for the GNS to address and prevent such conflicts.</p>
	<p>Current use and awareness of East Dunbartonshire’s green network has scope to be improved. Increasing the awareness and understanding of the role of green networks amongst the population of East Dunbartonshire, as well as how local communities can gain benefits from accessing local and regional green networks alongside the upgrade of the network should be factor for consideration in the GNS. This should include the promotion of the green network for educational purposes in partnership with local schools.</p>
	<p>Encouraging the involvement of the community in projects linked to the enhancement of East Dunbartonshire’s green network has the potential to benefit health and wellbeing. This is likely to</p>

¹ The term “environmental issues” is the name collectively given to air, water, soil, biodiversity, climatic factors, landscape, material assets, population and human health as well as cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage) in the EU Directive 2001/42/EC. In practice they are referred to as “SEA topics”.

	<p>improve the appreciation of the environment as well as achieve the renewal of run down areas, particularly those in urban contexts, and increase economic value and investment to the area. There is scope for this to be promoted through the GNS.</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>There are a number of cultural heritage assets in East Dunbartonshire including the Antonine Wall (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Forth and Clyde Canal which require protection and management.</p>
	<p>East Dunbartonshire has a varied and valued natural and historic cultural heritage. In the development of the GNS, the opportunities that will be identified should address how they can contribute to enhancing and protecting the historic environment.</p>
	<p>East Dunbartonshire is host to tourist attractors across the whole of the council-wide area such as the Antonine Wall Heritage Site, the Campsie Fells, West Highland Way and Mugdock Country Park. The GNS is likely to improve access to these assets. However, increased footfall to the main attractors can result in both positive impacts, such as stimulating the local economy, and negative impacts, such as path erosion and the degradation of sites/buildings.</p>
<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire has a wide range of designated and non-designated sites, including those of ecological importance and protected species. This is seen through a number of Local Nature Conservation Sites and Important Wildlife Corridors, Tree Preservation Orders and Local Nature Reserves. East Dunbartonshire also has 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The management and protection of these assets is essential through the GNS.</p>
	<p>Invasive Non-Native Species in East Dunbartonshire have been identified in East Dunbartonshire. Their location and management should be recognised within the Strategy.</p>
	<p>There are a number of protected species and habitats within East Dunbartonshire which will need to be considered as part of the GNS. The GNS offers the scope to ensure that benefits for biodiversity is considered as a vital part of the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire and will play a contributing role for continued enhancement and protection of such species to avoid any loss. These concerns should be considered alongside the LBAP.</p>
	<p>Habitat connectivity within East Dunbartonshire is fragmented. In particular, river and canal corridors are, to varying extents, below their potential in terms of habitat connectivity as a result of confinement and the presence of Non-Native Invasive Species. There is scope to reduce habitat fragmentation through the role of biodiversity in the Strategy, with additional benefits to improving access routes across the council area.</p>
<p>Soil and Geology</p>	<p>Many sites within East Dunbartonshire are underperforming in terms of their environmental quality and potential for a range of uses. This includes 25 sites classified as Vacant and Derelict Land (VDL) and 626 potentially contaminated sites. The Strategy should consider opportunities to enhance, remediate and upgrade these</p>

	<p>sites where appropriate.</p> <p>There are several sites in East Dunbartonshire that have been identified as peatland. Any action as part of the Strategy that may result in the disturbance of such sites for the release of carbon should be avoided. This includes conflicts between access to the green network and peatland protection.</p> <p>There is scope within the GNS to consider the role of enhanced biodiversity in managing ecosystem services including carbon storage, drainage and to alleviate flooding.</p> <p>There are 36 sites identified as being geologically diverse, of which 34 have been assigned as Local Geodiversity Sites (LGS). The area also hosts 1 RIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site) and 1 SSSI of geological importance. The GNS should consider these designations in the development of the opportunities in the Strategy to ensure their protection and enhancement.</p>
<p>Landscape</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire has varying degree of landscapes including the green belt, the Campsie Fells/Kilpatrick Hills and agricultural land. Ensuring that the landscapes are well-connected throughout East Dunbartonshire is a vital consideration for the GNS.</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire has a number of Local Landscape Areas with high/moderate scenic value as well as varied landscape character and setting across the Council area, including the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills. The GNS should take into account the specific landscape features to ensure that biodiversity and access issues do not conflict with, and are sensitive to, the local landscape and retain East Dunbartonshire's local distinctiveness.</p> <p>The cumulative effects of projects that will enhance or extend the green network that may be established through the Strategy should be accounted for at a local, EDC-wide and regional level.</p>
<p>Water Quality</p>	<p>There are a number of good/moderate quality watercourses in East Dunbartonshire including the Forth and Clyde Canal which is also a Scheduled Monument. These assets require protection to which the GNS can contribute to in order to reduce, prevent or offset any adverse impacts to water quality.</p> <p>There are a number of sites within East Dunbartonshire's landscape which are classified as wetland. Wetlands provide vital habitats for a number of species and ecosystem services but their quality is under pressure from external influences such as flooding, developments and access. The Strategy should account for this priority habitat in the development of its action plan as well as consider its role in reducing pressures on this resource to maintain a high level of water quality.</p>
<p>Air Quality</p>	<p>Unacceptably high levels of air pollution can be harmful to the environment and human health. East Dunbartonshire currently has two designated Air Quality Management Areas (Bishopbriggs and Bearsden Cross). These are managed through Air Quality Management Plans and the emerging Air Quality Strategy, the requirements of which should be taken into account in the GNS.</p>

	Changes to air quality can have a significant impact on ecosystem services, which can affect biodiversity value and environmental assets.
Climatic Factors	Domestic emissions account for the largest proportion of carbon dioxide in East Dunbartonshire, although emissions from transport account for the largest proportion of NO ₂ and PM10 emissions. This contributes to the effects of climate change which include changing temperatures and rainfall patterns, and increased incidences of extreme weather events. Where appropriate, the actions proposed as part of the GNS should consider its role in mitigating or adapting to the effects of climate change.
	Climate change has a direct link to flood risk. The SEPA Flood Risk Map has identified several locations within the East Dunbartonshire Council area which could have a significant impact on habitats and the value of East Dunbartonshire's environment.
Material Assets	As a result of the spatial strategy of the impending Local Development Plan there is potential for a rise in developments in East Dunbartonshire over the life of the Plan. New developments are likely to require infrastructure improvements which have the potential to result in further fragmentation of habitats and requirements for access routes which should be accounted for.
	It is important that natural resources in East Dunbartonshire are managed sustainably.
	There are currently a series of Core Path Networks, Rights of Way and open spaces in East Dunbartonshire which create recreational opportunities, promote active travel and provide a sense of community. The opportunities that will be identified through the Strategy should consider its role in enhancing existing networks as well as integrating new green networks across the EDC-wide area. The sites identified in the Open Space Strategy should also be accounted for.

2.4 Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the Green Network Strategy

- 2.4.1 The SEA process is also required to assess the likely impact on the environment if the GNS was not implemented.
- 2.4.2 As this is the first Green Network Strategy for East Dunbartonshire it is important that it is implemented with the purpose of taking into account the role of biodiversity and accessibility in the management and enhancement of the green network. The methodology and outcome of the opportunity mapping exercise will be crucial to the development of future Green Network Strategies, by EDC and other local authorities, as well as for the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership.

2.4.3 Without a GNS covering East Dunbartonshire, it is likely that the existing green network will become underutilised, with current green hubs, links, corridors and stepping stones likely to become underperforming spaces. There would be no direct influence on improving connectivity between the different networks for use by the community for leisure activities and travel, and reducing fragmentation across habitats. East Dunbartonshire Council would miss an opportunity to develop a Strategy that takes advantage of identifying opportunities to enhance the green network and actions that provide a strategic approach to connectivity throughout the Council-wide area and into cross-boundary authorities. In terms of the SEA topics, the evolution of the environment without the influence of the Strategy include:

2.4.3.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: It is likely that a proactive approach to enhancing habitat connectivity will be missed. Whilst the development of the emerging Local Biodiversity Action Plan will present an opportunity for East Dunbartonshire Council to address the management and protection of species and habitats in East Dunbartonshire, the Green Network Strategy will inform a coordinated approach to the enhancement of habitats and offsetting the impacts to biodiversity as a result other local PPS such as the Local Development Plan and the emerging Active Travel Strategy. It is also likely that the management of the impact of access to biodiversity will be less comprehensive without the influence of the GNS if these issues were addressed solely in the Active Travel Strategy and LBAP.

2.4.3.2 Population and Human Health: The development and implementation of a GNS would offer several benefits for local communities in East Dunbartonshire, particularly those that are deemed to be vulnerable or deprived, as well as other members of the population visiting East Dunbartonshire. It is likely that an awareness of the role of the green network will be lower without the influence of the GNS and so the benefits for human health and wellbeing as well as the role our communities can play in protecting and utilising the green network will not be encouraged. In addition, the GNS will encourage leisure activities and active travel, aside from active travel for commuting purposes, which will serve as a beneficial additional to the emerging Active Travel Strategy.

2.4.3.3 Cultural Heritage: East Dunbartonshire hosts a rich and varied range of cultural heritage assets including the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and other key natural and historical attractors for tourism such as the Campsie Fells and the Forth and Clyde Canal. As such it is vital that the GNS considers actions that will protect, manage and, where appropriate, enhance East Dunbartonshire's cultural heritage. Without the development of the GNS, it is less likely that improving access to the environment and the promotion of such assets will be taken advantage of. Furthermore, the opportunities associated with biodiversity for enhancing the visual setting of cultural assets and key attractors, including wider benefits for tourism and the local economy, will not be actively promoted.

- 2.4.3.4 Soil and Geology:** Without the implementation of the GNS, there is less likely to be actions developed in terms of protecting and enhancing soil quality and geodiversity sites (regional and local) in East Dunbartonshire to address impacts from improved access to the green network. Whilst the LBAP will promote the role of biodiversity for soil management, the GNS will demonstrate further commitments to this environmental asset that would potentially be promoted to a lesser extent otherwise. Furthermore, opportunities for the upgrade of underperforming spaces such as Vacant and Derelict Land for the integration with the green network would be missed.
- 2.4.3.5 Landscape:** A primary benefit as a result of the GNS is the promotion of habitat connectivity in East Dunbartonshire. Without its influence, a network of fragmented habitats has the potential to become more prevalent in East Dunbartonshire and opportunities to enhance them would not be carried forward. Consequently, this would detract from the setting and visual impact to the landscape, including designated Local Landscape Areas.
- 2.4.3.6 Water Quality:** In the absence of the GNS, it is unlikely that actions will be developed to protect important waterbodies and wetland habitats in East Dunbartonshire. Despite the existence of River Basin Management Plans, there would be an increased risk of deterioration in the ecological quality of water courses as a result of increased footfall and access along river and canal corridors. This is likely to be managed through a series of interventions in the GNS. Additionally, the impact to wetland habitats in terms of the impact from accessibility and reductions in biodiversity value would be managed to a certain extent through the emerging Active Travel Strategy and the LBAP, but the improvements are less likely to be coordinated without the GNS. .
- 2.4.3.7 Air Quality and Climatic Factors:** Enhancing the green network in terms of improvements to biodiversity value and habitats, and promoting active travel will play a vital role in reducing the impacts of air quality and for the effects of climate change. If the GNS was not developed, opportunities and actions that maximise the role of biodiversity in carbon sequestration and for suppressing pollutants is less likely to be promoted. Furthermore, there would be reduced opportunities to maximise the role of the green network in support of active travel and reducing vehicular travel.
- 2.4.3.8 Material Assets:** The GNS would present, and have a direct influence, on opportunities to further promote the sustainable use of materials and contribute to improvements to the varying path networks in East Dunbartonshire, including improvements to habitat networks and connectivity, and infrastructure changes where appropriate. Without the influence of the GNS, these opportunities are less likely to be identified and the benefits to the relevant material assets will be minimal.

Section 3: Scope & Level of Detail Proposed for Environmental Assessment

This section outlines how the SEA process incorporates all reasonable alternatives; scoping in and out of issues and the assessment, mitigation and monitoring frameworks.

This section contains the following information

3.1	Scope In/Out of Environmental Factors
3.2	Assessment Framework
3.3	Identification of Alternatives
3.4	SEA Objectives
3.5	Mitigation and Monitoring

3.1 Scope In/Out of Environmental Factors

3.1.1 In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 East Dunbartonshire Council has considered whether the environmental effects (positive and negative) of the Green Network Strategy are likely to be significant.

3.1.2 There is no statutory definition of 'significance' in the context of SEA. However the Council considered the following issues in determining the significance of impacts (both positive and negative) on the Annex 1 environmental factors:

- Scale of impact (geographic)
- Duration of impact (short, medium or long term)
- Reversibility of impact
- Sensitivity of environment
- Potential for significant cumulative effect

3.1.3 A summary of our conclusion is given in [Table 3](#) below.

Table 3: Scope In/Out of Environmental Factors

Environmental Factors	Scoped In/Out	Rationale
Population and Human Health	IN	<p>The development of the Green Network Strategy will include the identification of opportunities to improve existing underperforming greenspaces and encourage active travel. This has the potential to have both direct and indirect positive impacts on the health and wellbeing of communities in East Dunbartonshire. It is likely that enhancements to the green network, which will be at a local, EDC-wide and regional level, will encourage people to access their natural environment, either by walking or cycling, to enjoy outdoor activities. Furthermore, the GNS will help to promote an awareness and understanding of East Dunbartonshire’s green network, including ensuring that communities are able to engage with nature. This can encourage and create opportunities for community participation/volunteering. As such, it is likely that the GNS will have a significant positive impact on the population and health of people in East Dunbartonshire.</p>
Cultural Heritage	IN	<p>Enhancing the existing green network as well as the identification of sites that will contribute to the green network and reduce fragmentation will potentially be on or in the vicinity of historically designated sites, such as the Antonine Wall and the Forth and Clyde Canal. There is also scope for significant positive impacts to tourism and the local economy due to improvements to the environment and accessibility. Consequently, the Strategy has the potential to significantly (positive and negative) impact on cultural heritage.</p>
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	IN	<p>There is a direct link between biodiversity and green networks. The GNS will seek to develop opportunities to improve habitat connectivity and provide corridors for species throughout East Dunbartonshire, as well as those that will form networks that extend into other local authorities. This is likely to have a significant positive impact on biodiversity and priority habitats. Conversely, the GNS will seek to improve the accessibility to the wider green network. However, this may</p>

		cause conflicts to the detriment of biodiversity, especially Protected Species and Habitats, which would result in significant negative impacts to biodiversity value in East Dunbartonshire.
Soil and Geology	IN	<p>Improving accessibility to the environment in East Dunbartonshire is a primary aim of the GNS which is likely to present minor negative impacts and increased risks to soil and geological assets in terms of potential erosion as a result of increased footfall. Enhancing the green network may also result in minor conflicts with regional and local sites of geodiversity value.</p> <p>However, opportunities that will be discussed as part of the GNS's action plan may include the upgrade of Vacant and Derelict Land which could be significantly positive for the area. Given the range of positive and negative significant impacts to soil and geology, this factor has been scoped into the assessment.</p>
Landscape	IN	<p>The landscape within East Dunbartonshire is varied which includes green belt land and Local Landscape Areas including the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills. The GNS will identify opportunities within East Dunbartonshire to address habitat connectivity to reduce fragmentation across the landscape. In addition, the Strategy aims to improve access which is likely to result in increased footfall throughout East Dunbartonshire. Extending the existing green network to address habitat fragmentation will result in potential significant positive impacts to the landscape, although there may be potential to have a negative impact, as a result of increased access, on East Dunbartonshire's local distinctiveness. The scale of the green network will play a considerable part in the significance of the impact.</p>
Water Quality	IN	<p>East Dunbartonshire hosts various waterbodies such as rivers and canals, and wetland habitats noted for their value in terms of leisure, biodiversity, ecosystem services and for the local economy. There may be significant negative impacts to water quality in terms of diffuse pollution as a result of increased access and potential disturbance to wetland habitats. Increasing access to the environment may also significantly increase the risk of poor drainage.</p>

		<p>However, the Strategy will encourage enhancements to biodiversity with potential opportunities to maximise the role of biodiversity for ecosystem services and maintaining high water qualities.</p>
Air Quality	IN	<p>The GNS is likely to result in positive impacts to reducing CO₂ emissions associated with poor air quality in East Dunbartonshire due to an increase in non-vehicular travel routes through East Dunbartonshire. This is of particular importance for reducing air quality issues in AQMAs and for limiting future designations of AQMAs. Furthermore, the role of biodiversity in ED's green network is likely to result in significant improvements to the wider environmental performance through the filtration of air pollutants and general management of vital ecosystem services. However, provision of improved access to the countryside may attract additional car journeys (particularly where new car parking opportunities are provided) resulting in increased CO₂ emissions locally.</p>
Climatic Factors	IN	<p>Through the development of the GNS, there is scope to provide benefits that ensure that places are better adapted to the effects of climate change. The role of green networks for increasing the viability for active travel and enhancing biodiversity and habitats will have a significant positive effect on reducing the effects of climate change. The Strategy will also present potential significant positive effects for surface-water and flood risk management. Green networks will also demonstrate benefits for offsetting the effects of increased temperatures (reducing the heat island effect), particularly in or near urban areas. There is also potential for a positive impact on peatland in East Dunbartonshire, particularly with long-term positive benefits as a result of mitigation and management options through the Strategy.</p>
Material Assets	IN	<p>Given the strategic approach to enhancing the green network, there is potential for significant positive effects in terms of connectivity and the enhancement of path and cycle networks throughout East Dunbartonshire and into neighbouring authorities. The nature of the Strategy will also promote the sustainable use of natural resources. Consequently, Material Assets</p>

		has been scoped into the assessment.
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3.2 Assessment Framework

- 3.2.1 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Environmental Report to assess and evaluate the likely significant impacts that the Green Network Strategy will have on the environment. It is essential to SEA that the assessment process and reporting of the findings are unbiased, robust, objective, transparent and ultimately easy to follow and understand.
- 3.2.2 The assessment will focus on the objectives and planned vision of the Green Network Strategy in order for issues related to green networks to be addressed and improved in East Dunbartonshire. The actions/interventions set out in the action plan programme will also be assessed. It should be noted that only the significant environmental impacts will be identified and assessed through the SEA process.
- 3.2.3 In addition to this, the assessment will evaluate the plan as a whole in terms of the potential cumulative effects (direct, indirect, secondary and synergistic) associated with the implementation of the Strategy. **Table 4** gives an indication to each of the stages as part of the assessment framework.
- 3.2.4 Please note that East Dunbartonshire Council are in the process of developing an Active Travel Strategy. Many of the issues related to access routes in East Dunbartonshire will be assessed as part of the SEA for the Active Travel Strategy before the Environmental Report for the GNS commences. Consequently, any environmental issues and actions from the Active Travel Strategy that are relevant to and carried through to the GNS will be reviewed as part of the GNS SEA process and determined whether a further assessment will be required. This will reduce duplication of assessments and help maintain proportionality.

Table 4: Assessment Framework

This table specifies the assessment methodology which will be employed in order to assess the environmental effects of each part of the Green Network Strategy.

Assessment Stage	Assessment Method
Vision	The SEA assessment questions and indicators will be used to establish whether the strategic approach in order to deliver the vision of the Green Network Strategy is compliant with the proposed SEA objectives. Overall, the preferred strategic approach to deliver the GNS will be justified. An example of the draft assessment matrix is in Appendix 2 .

Objectives	The objectives of the Strategy, and alternatives to them, will be tested against the proposed SEA objectives for alignment and compliance. The outcome of this assessment will guide the refinement of the GNS objectives throughout its development.
Actions/Options	The GNS will detail actions or options for the enhancement of the green network in East Dunbartonshire. The action plan, and any reasonable alternative interventions, will be assessed against the SEA assessment questions. The actions will be site-specific and area wide.
Cumulative effects	Using the assessments of options outlined in the GNS and with the use of GIS mapping, where appropriate, the cumulative effects of the Strategy will be tested. Any impacts for neighbouring authorities will also be considered as part of the assessment.

3.3 Identification of Alternatives

3.3.1 Through the development of East Dunbartonshire’s Green Network Strategy there may be alternatives as to how the Strategy is delivered or implemented. Improving green networks across central Scotland is recognised as an integral development in the National Planning Framework 3 with recognised benefits to health and wellbeing and addressing environmental inequalities. Consequently, it is appropriate to only assess any reasonable alternatives to the Strategy. The reasonable alternatives to the Green Network Strategy are:

- a) **A stand-alone Green Network Strategy** – This alternative requires East Dunbartonshire Council and partners to develop a Strategy solely focussed on the enhancement of the green network across the whole of the East Dunbartonshire Council area, including notable assets such as Mugdock Country Park and links with neighbouring authorities such as Stirling, North Lanarkshire, Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire. This approach to the Strategy will present opportunities to focus on both of the main components of the green network; biodiversity and access. This will give a more extensive scope to the development of a Green Network Strategy and potentially wider benefits across the whole of the Council-wide area.
- b) **Addressing EDC’s green network through other plans, programmes, policies and strategies** – Biodiversity and access have been identified as the two main components that will contribute to the enhancements of the wider green network within East Dunbartonshire. A Local Biodiversity Action Plan and an Active Travel Strategy for East Dunbartonshire are currently in the development stage, and as such, there is scope to include issues related to the improvement of East Dunbartonshire’s green

network within each of these strategic actions. However, this approach to enhancing the green network will limit the scope for integration between the two factors, although there is potential to improve the green network to some extent.

3.3.2 The environmental assessment will also, where appropriate, propose further alternatives to the proposed objectives and action plan that will form part of the GNS. This will guide any required mitigation measures in order to reduce any potential negative/adverse impacts or to suggest enhancements to those receptors that provide potential positive impacts to East Dunbartonshire.

3.4 SEA Objectives

3.4.1 To assist in assessing the impact of the GNS on the environment, either beneficially or adversely, the following table (**Table 5**) has been produced. This details the proposed SEA objectives and associated questions and indicators against which we will monitor what, if any, effects (positive, negative or neutral) the Strategy will have on the environment.

3.4.2 The Proposed SEA objectives relate to the specific SEA environmental receptors and the monitoring and evaluation will relate solely to the environmental issues that were felt to have the potential to significantly impact on the environment.

3.4.3 The Proposed SEA objectives, questions and indicators are fully compliant with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. It is important to note that these SEA objectives and assessment questions are provisional and may be modified as a result of comments from the Consultation Authorities or as a result of changes in the baseline data when it is fully collected.

Table 5: Proposed SEA Objectives, Assessment Questions and Indicators

Please note that this table also includes sample questions and indicators that will be refined as part of the assessment process. They are included here to give an indication of the type of information that will be derived from the objectives to assess the content of the Green Network Strategy.

Population and Human Health		
Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision/objectives/actions...	Draft Indicators
To improve human health and community wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demonstrate the benefits of a healthy environment on the health and wellbeing of communities? ➤ Promote an environment that is both sustainable and safe? ➤ Contribute to reducing social, economic and environmental deprivation in East Dunbartonshire? ➤ Reduce health-related illnesses? ➤ Encourage active travel and outdoor leisure? ➤ Encourage local communities/volunteers to become involved in projects? ➤ Increase awareness of the natural environment? ➤ Act as an educational resource for local schools? ➤ Improve connectivity for residents in urban areas with the rural environment? ➤ Enhance connectivity and access routes for people to access amenities and services in East Dunbartonshire and wider in other local authorities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Changes in deprivation levels in 15% SIMD areas ➤ Number of community/volunteer-led projects ➤ Number of people using path networks – path counters can be used to establish flows ➤ Number of people in East Dunbartonshire using active travel methods (walking/cycling) to access their place of work/study and for recreation in neighbouring authority boundaries ➤ Number of people in East Dunbartonshire using active travel methods to access their place of work/study and for recreation in East Dunbartonshire

Cultural Heritage

Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment <i>Will the proposed vision/objectives/actions...</i>	Draft Indicators
To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage visitors to cultural heritage assets in East Dunbartonshire? ➤ Enhance natural heritage sites such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes? ➤ Encourage improvements to the setting and value of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site? ➤ Improve access to cultural heritage assets? ➤ Identify opportunities for a green network along the Antonine Wall corridor? ➤ Improve access to heritage sites with benefits to increased tourism? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of cultural heritage assets (see Table 1) in or near the vicinity of projects in the GNS ➤ % change in visitors to East Dunbartonshire to visit cultural heritage assets ➤ Number of people who access heritage sites ➤ Contributions from the tourist industry to the local economy (sustainable tourism Gross Value Added (GVA))

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment <i>Will the proposed vision/objectives/actions...</i>	Draft Indicators
To protect, enhance, create and, where necessary, restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote the importance of biodiversity for the local environment in East Dunbartonshire? ➤ Seek to minimise and reduce the negative impact on valued biodiversity including non-protected and protected species? ➤ Prevent the loss of biodiversity, flora and fauna? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Total area of protected sites (priority species) and changes to protected sites as a result of the GNS ➤ Quality and connectivity of the green network in East Dunbartonshire ➤ Ecosystem specific indicators, such as area of woodland habitats improved/changed ➤ Number of new green networks created

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contribute to improved ecosystems? ➤ Encourage habitat connectivity by decreasing the number of fragmented habitat networks? ➤ Encourage native planting, including hedgerows? ➤ Seek to contribute to the management of woodland in East Dunbartonshire? ➤ Integrate woodland and forestry into the wider green network? ➤ Address issues related to improved access to the green network and conflicts to biodiversity and habitats? 	<p>as a result of the GNS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of existing green networks improved and enhanced as a result of the GNS ➤ Loss/expansion/enhancement of woodland/forestry in East Dunbartonshire ➤ Loss/expansion of Tree Preservation Orders
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Soil and Geology

Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision/objectives/actions...	Draft Indicators
<p>To protect and, where appropriate, use high quality and sensitive soils in a sustainable manner and conserve recognised geodiversity assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Protect and improve areas of peatland? ➤ Seek to prevent and improve soil degradation and erosion? ➤ Protect habitats and species that have Protected Species status, including Invasive Non-Native Species? ➤ Result in improvements to areas of contaminated land? ➤ Protect and enhance sites of geodiversity importance? ➤ Seek to upgrade Vacant and Derelict Land for the use as valued greenspace? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Area of existing contaminated land altered by actions set out in the GNS ➤ Changes to number of Vacant and Derelict Land sites in East Dunbartonshire ➤ % of peatland improved/deteriorated

Landscape		
Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision/objectives/actions...	Draft Indicators
To protect and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Utilise biodiversity for positive benefits to landscape setting and visual amenity? ➤ Contribute to and enhance local distinctiveness in East Dunbartonshire? ➤ Protect and enhance landscape designations (e.g. the Campsie Fells, green belt)? ➤ Seek to improve habitat connectivity? ➤ Ensure that improved access to the green network does not negatively impact on the landscape setting? ➤ Seek to integrate green networks at a local, EDC-wide and regional level, including those that integrate into networks in neighbouring authorities? ➤ Improve access to and quality of the green belt? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of habitat/green networks improved/created as a result of the GNS ➤ Number of actions in the GNS that are linked to the actions in the Campsies Action Plan ➤ Number of green network actions at a cross-boundary level
Water Quality		
Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision/objectives/actions...	Draft Indicators
To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote the importance of biodiversity for the quality of water? ➤ Seek to contribute to enhancing the ecological status of water bodies in East Dunbartonshire? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Changes to the classification of water bodies in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive ➤ Changes to flooding and drainage, particularly in areas where biodiversity

		projects are undertaken (SEPA Flood Risk Map)
Air Quality		
Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision/objectives/actions...	Draft Indicators
To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote the role of biodiversity for the suppression of emissions in the air? ➤ Seek to manage air quality for benefits to ecosystem services? ➤ Seek to improve woodland assets in East Dunbartonshire for carbon capture? ➤ Contribute to the management and improvements of ecosystem services? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emissions levels in East Dunbartonshire- % change (NO₂ and PM10 levels are measured continuously within East Dunbartonshire. There are 4 monitoring stations in Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch, Bearsden and Milngavie. There are also 43 sites with monitoring tubes for NO₂ around the EDC area) ➤ Number of woodland enhancement projects
Climatic Factors		
Proposed SEA Objective	Draft Questions for Assessment Will the proposed vision/objectives/actions...	Draft Indicators
To contribute towards the reduction of Scottish greenhouse gas outputs in line with Government targets in order to reduce or prevent the overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote a change in culture and behaviour to ensure that the local community are aware of the issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Greenhouse gas output trends in East Dunbartonshire

<p>effects of climate change including those related to flood risks</p>	<p>associated with climate change?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote the enhancement of green networks and associated improvements to biodiversity as a means to mitigate potential risks to flooding? ➤ Include adaptation measures in light of a changing climate and local environment? ➤ Seek to protect, create or enhance natural resources such as trees? 	
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Material Assets

Proposed SEA Objectives	Draft Questions for Assessments <i>Will the proposed vision/objectives/actions...</i>	Draft Indicators
<p>To promote the sustainable use of community assets in East Dunbartonshire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage and improve the safe use of Core Path Networks, Rights of Way and heritage paths? ➤ Consider the sustainable use and protection of natural resources? ➤ Promote changes to current transport infrastructure to a more sustainable network? ➤ Have a positive influence over planning and developments as part of other plans, policies or strategies at EDC? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ % of population who utilise Core Path Networks (change) ➤ Monitoring of corridors where active travel routes have been provided to determine an impact to traffic levels ➤ Access and use of public transport networks ➤ Number of green network related considerations incorporated into development proposals

3.5 Mitigation and Monitoring

- 3.5.1 The adopted Green Network Strategy may have environmental impacts which require to be mitigated as a result of the options discussed within the Strategy. Where possible, the Council will seek to, firstly, avoid significant negative environmental impacts. If this is not possible, mitigation measures will be proposed which will aim to reduce, remedy or compensate the overall impact to an acceptable level.
- 3.5.2 The adopted GNS will be subject to ongoing monitoring. It is intended to create a set of indicators to measure the impacts that the Strategy may have on the environment during its lifespan. The indicators will be based on the baseline information and the existing environmental issues and problems in the area. These indicators will be developed during the Plan preparation and environmental assessment processes.
- 3.5.3 Monitoring measures and a review of the GNS will be discussed in the Environmental Report and will form the Post-Adoption Statement after the Strategy is fully implemented.

Section 4: Next Steps

This section sets out the concluding stages and proposed consultation timescales for the Green Network Strategy.

This section contains the following information

4.1	Proposed Consultation Timescales and Anticipated Milestones
4.2	Proposed Framework for Analysing Consultation Responses

4.1 Proposed Consultation Timescales and Anticipated Milestones

4.1.1 The Environmental Report for the Green Network Strategy will be available alongside the Strategy for a proposed public consultation period for a minimum of six to eight weeks. It is anticipated that the SEA process will align with the GNS preparation stages. **Table 6** below illustrates this alignment and provides the anticipated timescales for each.

Table 6: Proposed Timescale & Milestones

Strategy Preparation Stages	SEA Stages	Anticipated Timescale & Consultation Period, if required
Preliminary Assessment and Survey/Research work	Scoping Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collate and forecast baseline environmental information ➤ Adopt SEA environmental objectives and criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ April/May 2015- research and draft Scoping Report ➤ Scoping Report submitted to the SEA Gateway on 25 May 2015 ➤ 5 week period of Consultation with the Consultation Authorities.
Prepare Draft Green Network Strategy	Environmental Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assess the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Draft Environmental Report will be prepared alongside the preparation of the GNS

	<p>Strategy's aims and vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assess alternatives to the GNS ➤ Prepare Draft Environmental Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Responses from the Consultation Authorities at the Scoping stage will be taken into account ➤ Drafting will be between June and October 2015 ➤ Finalisation of the Environmental Report and Strategy in December 2015
Publish & Consult on Draft Strategy	Publish & Consult on Draft Environmental Report	Consultation with the public and Consultation Authorities (minimum of 6 weeks) in March/April 2016
Adopt Green Network Strategy	Publish Post-Adoption Statement along with the adopted finalised Green Network Strategy	Adoption of the GNS and publication of the Post-Adoption Statement – June 2016
Monitor & Review	Monitor and Review	On-going/Annual review

4.2 Proposed Framework for Analysing Consultation Responses

CONSULTATION RESPONSES			
Organisation/ Individual	Issue	Comment	How has this been addressed in the SEA?

Appendix 1: Initial List of the International, European Community, and National Environmental Protection Objectives; Regional and Local Objectives

Please note that this appendix lists key legislation, plans, programmes, policies and strategies that influence or are influenced by the Green Network Strategy. Their content, where appropriate, has been used to inform the environmental objectives for the SEA of the Plan.

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
International		
Rio Declaration (1992)	The Declaration sets out 27 principles to enable the global community to work towards international agreements that respect the interests of all and protect the integrity of the global environmental and developmental system. The Declaration highlighted the necessity to protect and enhance the environment, economics and social aspects in both developed and developing countries, which includes protecting our biodiversity and nature assets and ensuring that our communities are able to live in harmony with the natural environment.	The outcomes proposed for the Green Network Strategy should be in line with a number of the principles set out in the Rio Declaration. In particular, the GNS will highlight opportunities to improve the green network in East Dunbartonshire in terms of improved access and enhancement to biodiversity value. In doing so, EDC will show its commitment to sustainable development; in particular protecting and enhancing the natural environment.
Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	The Convention on Biological Diversity responded to the increasing commitment worldwide for sustainable development. As part of the Convention, a number of objectives and outcomes were highlighted including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The conservation of biological diversity, ➤ The sustainable use of natural resources, and ➤ Fair and equitable use of biological and natural resources. The Convention encouraged the development of National Biodiversity Action Plans and, consequently, Local Biodiversity Action Plans.	The GNS will be developed in parallel to the development of EDC's Local Biodiversity Action Plan. In line with the purpose of the GNS, the outcomes of the Convention will be reflected and the GNS will show its duty for the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources where possible.
Kyoto Protocol (1997)	The UK has committed itself to a 12.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2008-2012. It has also set its own domestic target of a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide by 2010.	The GNS will seek to identify potential areas within the green network in East Dunbartonshire that will offer a range of benefits, including adaptation to climate change. This aspect of the GNS will contribute to the targets in greenhouse gas emission reductions as set originally by the Kyoto Protocol and demonstrate the Council's duty to reducing emissions.
Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	This Plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity for all of the United Nations involved in order to encourage the engagement of biodiversity management and policy development. This international framework was agreed by Parties to be translated through biodiversity action plans and Strategies. It also outlines the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (see below).	The GNS will support the framework set by the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity by identifying priority areas that will support habitat connectivity within East Dunbartonshire.

<p>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</p>	<p>The Aichi Biodiversity Targets are outlined within the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and include 5 Strategic Goals, in which 20 different targets are set. The Strategic Goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society ➤ Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use ➤ Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity ➤ Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services ➤ Enhance implementation through participatory management and capacity building. <p>The targets set are intended to be achieved or exceeded by 2020.</p>	<p>The GNS should consider its role in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by taking account of the needs and priorities at a local level. The Strategy will identify the role of East Dunbartonshire’s green network for biodiversity which has the potential to contribute to the target.</p>
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European		
<p>Directive 2009/147/EC pm the Conservation of Wild Birds (EU Birds Directive)</p>	<p>The Birds Directive protects all wild birds, their nests, eggs and habitats within the European Community. It gives EU member states the power and responsibility to classify Special Protection Areas (SPA's) to protect birds which are rare or vulnerable in Europe as well as all migratory birds which are regular visitors.</p>	<p>The EU Birds Directive outlines the requirement for the protection of specific species, as outlined in the Directive. These species are considered to be the highest priority for protection. The GNS will adhere to these requirements to support the protection of these species and ensure there are no cross-boundary impacts on SPA designated sites within adjacent local authority boundaries.</p>
<p>Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EU Habitats Directive)</p>	<p>The Habitats Directive builds on the Birds Directive by protecting natural habitats and other species of wild plants and animals. Together with the Birds Directive, it underpins a European network of protected areas known as Natura 2000. This network includes SPA’s classified under the Birds Directive and a new set of international nature conservation areas introduced by the Habitats Directive, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's).</p>	<p>Although there are currently no designated sites in East Dunbartonshire under the Directive, The EU Habitats Directive outlines the requirement for the protection of specific habitats, as outlined in the Directive. These habitats are considered to be the highest priority for protection. The GNS should adhere to these requirements. The GNS proposes to enhance priority habitats as part of the green network in East Dunbartonshire and so will support the protection of these habitats.</p>
<p>Directive 92/43/EEC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (The Water</p>	<p>The Water Framework Directive aims to protect and improve the water environment in order to contribute to achieving sustainable development. It sets out specific objectives and targets for committed parties to work towards and achieve. The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Achieving ‘Good’ status across all water bodies by 2015. 	<p>The GNS should ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Directive by ensuring that projects do not increase the risk of flooding. In particular, the GNS should be mindful of protecting waterbodies such as the Forth and Clyde Canal to ensure that opportunities to enhance these networks do not result in the decline of water quality.</p>

<p>Framework Directive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The status achieved should not deteriorate ➤ Protected area requirements should be met through the achievement of standards and objectives ➤ Any identified increasing trends in pollutants in groundwater, specifically, should be remediated and reversed ➤ A continuous and progressive reduction of pollution (particularly priority substances) in order to phase out hazardous substances and ultimately prevent/reduce pollution of groundwater. <p>The Directive also sets the requirements for Member States to develop River Basin Districts and River Basin Management Plans for them.</p>	
<p>EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy</p>	<p>The Strategy seeks to protect Europe’s Biodiversity, and the ecosystem services it provides. The vision of the Strategy is <i>‘By 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity’s intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided’</i>. It establishes a framework for action which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conserving and Restoring Nature ➤ Maintaining and Enhancing Ecosystems and their Services ➤ Ensuring the sustainability of agriculture, fisheries and forestry ➤ Combating invasive alien species ➤ Addressing the global biodiversity crisis 	<p>The GNS will play a vital role in connecting habitats and biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire, and will help to contribute to the EU Biodiversity Strategy by showing its commitment to <i>managing and enhancing ecosystems and their services, and conserving and restoring nature</i>. Consideration of biodiversity as part of the GNS will provide further benefits to human wellbeing. The objectives of the GNS should consider, where possible, how it will adhere to the framework of action set in the Biodiversity Strategy.</p>
<p>EU Common Agriculture Policy</p>	<p>The EU’s Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) was originally implemented in 1962 but reformed and refined in 2013. Its main aims from the original Policy included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ to improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; ➤ to ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living; <p>The Policy, as it has been refined, addresses the fact that the EU has to account for more challenges including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ food security — at the global level, food production will have to double in order to feed a world population of 9 billion people in 2050; ➤ climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; 	<p>The CAP sets aims and highlights the assets that should be valued in terms of agriculture including the countryside as a natural resource and the environment for the variety of benefits it offers. The GNS should consider how, following the identification of opportunities to enhance the green network in East Dunbartonshire, it will help to protect these assets and enhance the natural environment, where appropriate. It should ensure that its own objectives are considerate of the aims of the CAP.</p>

	<p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. <p>The CAP primarily focuses on protecting agriculture in terms of farming as an industry and food production, but also recognises the requirements for EU member states to protect the countryside as a natural resource and the wider environment for the benefits it has for habitats, biodiversity, flora and fauna as well as protection of the landscape and the management of the effects of climate change.</p>	
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National		
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	The Wildlife and Countryside Act is the primary legislation for the protection of animals, plants and certain habitats in the UK. It sets out the requirements of protection and associated fines where the Act is not adhered to in relation to the specific species/habitats identified in the legislation. It requires any land that is identified as being of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features to be classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and afforded certain protection against damaging measures.	The objectives of the GNS should be compliant with the Wildlife and Countryside Act as they will contribute to the requirements of the Act.
The Protection of Badgers Act (1992)	This Act specifies the requirement for the protection of Badgers in the UK which includes any offences that would disrupt, endanger or kill a badger sett.	The protection of badgers, and their habitats, will need to be considered in the GNS and the actions included in the Strategy should be considerate of the requirements of the Act. The
The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 as amended	The Habitats Regulations require competent authorities to carry out appropriate assessments in certain circumstances where a plan or project affects a Natura (European) site. Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) refers to the whole process, including the appropriate assessment step.	In alignment with the biodiversity duty set by the Regulations, the GNS should ensure that the duty is considered for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity as part of the wider green network.
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	The Land Reform (Scotland) Act establishes the statutory rights related to access to land in Scotland for recreational, commercial and educational purposes. It also sets the provisions for Right of Way and Core Path Plans. The requirements for a Scottish Outdoor Code to be produced and implemented by SNH and local authorities.	The GNS will need to adhere to the requirements of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act. The requirements related to Rights of Way, Core Path Plans and access rights will be of particular importance for the GNS.
National Planning Framework 3	The National Planning Framework 3 is the Scottish Government's Strategy for the long term development of Scotland's towns, cities and the countryside. In the NPF3, the importance of biodiversity for Scotland is highlighted including the necessity to protect its value in both rural and urban locations. The NPF3	The GNS should recognise the requirements of the NPF3 through its commitment to improving East Dunbartonshire's green network. The GNS will show a commitment to the four main aims of the NPF3, particularly a

	<p>supports four main themes: <i>A successful, sustainable place; a low carbon place; a natural, resilient place; and a connect place</i>. The NPF3 recognises that <i>“Integral to the delivery of [transforming the quality of the environment] will be the Central Scotland Green Network- improving quality of place, addressing environmental inequalities and enhancing health and well-being”</i>. The CSGN is considered to be a national development for Scotland. It also identifies the importance of addressing issues related to vacant and derelict land, particularly in the West of Scotland. The NPF3 also supports the 2020 Biodiversity Challenge.</p>	<p>natural, resilient place and a connected place. Developing green networks in Scotland is recommended as part of NPF3. The GNS for East Dunbartonshire should also support the 2020 Biodiversity Challenge to some extent.</p>
<p>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</p>	<p>The consolidated SPP provides a shorter, clearer and more focused statement of national planning policy. The SPP and NPPG series has been replaced by a single SPP. As part of the commitment to proportionate and practical planning policies, the Scottish Government has rationalised national planning policy.</p> <p>The SPP sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the Scottish Government's view of the purpose of planning, ➤ the core principles for the operation of the system and the objectives for key parts of the system, ➤ statutory guidance on sustainable development and planning under Section 3E of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, ➤ concise subject planning policies, including the implications for development planning and development management, and ➤ The Scottish Government's expectations of the intended outcomes of the planning system. ➤ Principal policies (sustainability and placemaking) ➤ A commitment to the four themes set out in the NPF3. <p>Alongside policy on development plans, development management, community engagement, sustainable development, climate change and sustainable economic growth, the SPP sets out policies related to the delivery of low carbon communities and natural heritage. It also supports the development of green networks for the protection or enhancement of connectivity and habitats.</p>	<p>The GNS will need to consider the requirements of SPP throughout its development, including the impact of development for biodiversity, habitats and path networks within East Dunbartonshire. The GNS will contribute to a number of policies set out within the SPP in relation to the natural environment and the development of green networks.</p>
<p>Planning Advice Note (PAN) 60</p>	<p>Planning Advice Note (PAN) 60 sets out advice on how development and planning can be used efficiently to ensure the conservation, enhancement,</p>	<p>The GNS will put into practice the requirements of PAN 60, and will be a proactive measure for the encouragement and understanding of the natural</p>

	<p>enjoyment and understanding of the natural environment in Scotland. It identifies the importance of a relationship between people and natural heritage. It encourages positive and creative thinking to address such issues. PAN60 complements the SPP.</p> <p>Objectives of PAN 60;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintaining and enhancing landscape character; ➤ Providing for a diversity of wildlife habitats; ➤ Making provision for a wide range of out-door recreational activities; and ➤ Fostering opportunities for learning about the environment. 	<p>environment. The objectives set in PAN 60 are relevant to the GNS and, consequently, the GNS will be aligned through its own objectives.</p>
<p>Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65</p>	<p>PAN 65- Planning and Open Space identifies the importance of open spaces as a valuable asset for quality of life, and the benefits of connecting them as part of a green network for benefits to people, the environment and biodiversity. It supports SPP11: Open Space and Physical Activity. PAN 65 sets out the range of values related to quality open spaces and a requirement for local authorities to develop an Open Space Strategy. In particular, the two key functions for the planning system for open spaces include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Protecting areas that are vulnerable and valued; and ➤ Ensuring provision of appropriate quality in, or within easy reach of, new development. 	<p>PAN 65 and the proposed GNS are aligned in their recognition of the benefits of open space for people, the environment and biodiversity. The GNS should consider the requirements of PAN 65, although it is evident by the purpose of the GNS that the Strategy will be in aligned with the two key functions of planning for open space identified in the PAN.</p>
<p>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</p>	<p>The Act places duties on public bodies in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), amends legislation on Nature Conservation Orders, provides for Land Management Orders for SSSIs and associated land, strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and requires the preparation of a Scottish Fossil Code.</p>	<p>Through the production of the GNS, East Dunbartonshire will contribute towards the requirements set out in the Act, which includes East Dunbartonshire showing its commitment to the duty as a public body. The GNS should demonstrate how it intends to ensure the protection of the sites set out in the Act through its action plan programme.</p>
<p>Scottish Forestry Strategy (2006)</p>	<p>There are 7 key themes to achieve the vision of the Scottish Forestry Strategy- <i>“By the second half of this century, people are benefiting widely from Scotland’s trees, woodlands and forests, actively engaging with and looking after them for the use and enjoyment of generations to come. The forestry</i></p>	<p>The GNS has a role to play in terms of improving the natural environment and in turn increasing the attractiveness of woodland as part of the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire. The objectives of the GNS should consider the role of forestry and woodland in East Dunbartonshire as a</p>

	<p><i>resource has become a central part of our culture, economy and environment”- which include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Using forestry, and adapting forestry practices, to help reduce the impact of climate change and help Scotland adapt to its changing climate ➤ Getting the most from Scotland’s increasing and sustainable timber resource ➤ Strengthening forestry through business development to underpin sustainable forest management and support economic growth and employment across Scotland ➤ Improving the quality of life and wellbeing of people by supporting community development across Scotland ➤ Making access to, and enjoyment of, woodlands easier for everyone – to help improve physical and mental health ➤ Protecting the environmental quality of our natural resources (water, soil, air) contributing to and improving our scenery, and helping to make the most of our unique historic environment ➤ Helping to restore, maintain and enhance Scotland’s biodiversity, and increasing awareness and enjoyment of it. <p>The outcomes of the Strategy include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved health and well-being of people and their communities 2. Competitive and innovative businesses contributing to the growth of the Scottish economy 3. High quality, robust and adaptable environment. 	<p>benefit to the green network and in doing so align with the outcomes of the Scottish Forestry Strategy. The action plan set out in the GNS should demonstrate how the Strategy will ensure the protection, enhancement and management of existing forestry assets in East Dunbartonshire.</p>
<p>A Five Year Species Action Framework: Making a difference for Scotland’s species (2007)</p>	<p>The Species Action Framework identifies certain species where targeted management action in Scotland is required. It highlights requirements for the protection of Scotland’s species in order to secure their future through effective management.</p>	<p>The GNS would need to ensure that its objectives are sensitive to the requirements of the Framework to ensure that any actions and projects to improve the green network in East Dunbartonshire are mindful to protect and enhance, where possible, biodiversity.</p>
<p>Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach (2007)</p>	<p>This is a shared vision for the approach to conserving biodiversity in the UK. The shared priorities for action outlined in the Report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ protecting the best sites for wildlife; ➤ targeting action on priority species and habitats; ➤ embedding proper consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem 	<p>The vision of Conserving Biodiversity- the UK Approach will be linked to the vision of the GNS. Many of the priorities for action expressed in the GNS share similar outcomes.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ services in all relevant sectors of policy and decision-making; ➤ engaging people, and encouraging behaviour change; ➤ developing and interpreting the evidence base; and ➤ ensuring that the UK plays a proactive role in influencing the development of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and contributes fully to their domestic delivery. 	
Climate Change (Scotland) Act (2009)	<p>The Climate Change (Scotland) Act commits the Scottish government to establishing a zero-carbon economy through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Within the Act, a number of targets were set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A 42% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 ➤ An 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 <p>The Act intends Local Authorities to adhere to the requirements and targets set in order to contribute to Scotland’s emission reduction progress as well as reductions locally.</p>	<p>The proposed GNS aims to identify opportunities to maximise the benefits of a green network for adaption to climate change. In doing so, it is likely that the Strategy will include actions and future opportunities that will contribute to the targets in reducing greenhouse gas emissions at a local level.</p>
‘Climate Ready Scotland’- Scotland’s Climate Change Adaptation Programme	<p>The Programme addresses the impacts identified for Scotland in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). It sets out the Scottish Ministers’ objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, and their proposals and policies for meeting those objectives. Aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensuring a productive, healthy and diverse natural environment which is able to adapt to change, including promotion of green infrastructure and development of the ecosystem approach; and implementation of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy ➤ Ensuring well-managed, resilient infrastructure and buildings providing access to the amenities and services we need; ➤ Ensuring strong, healthy, resilient communities which are well informed and prepared for a changing climate, including increased awareness of the importance of flood risk management 	<p>The GNS should consider its role in contributing to achieving the aims set out by Climate Ready Scotland. In particular, the GNS will help achieve the aims related to a ‘productive, health and diverse natural environment’ and ‘ensuring strong, healthy, resilient communities’.</p>
Scottish Government National Outcomes (2007)	<p>Fifteen National Outcomes were set for the Scottish Government, and were updated in 2011. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe. ➤ We realise our full economic potential with more and better 	<p>The GNS should contribute towards each of the National Outcomes, where possible. The National Outcomes particularly relevant to the GNS, although not limited to, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens

	<p>employment opportunities for our people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation. ➤ Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. ➤ Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed. ➤ We live longer, healthier lives. ➤ We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society. ➤ We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk. ➤ We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger. ➤ We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need. ➤ We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others. ➤ We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations. ➤ We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity. ➤ We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production. ➤ Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it. ➤ Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We live longer, healthier lives ➤ We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society ➤ We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need ➤ We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others ➤ We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations ➤ We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity ➤ We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production
<p>Low Carbon Scotland- Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-2027</p>	<p>'Low Carbon Scotland – Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-27' is the second report on policies and proposals ('RPP2') that will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland. It was designed to address the duty placed on the Scottish Government by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to provide policies and measures for addressing the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In support of targets set to reduce emissions 42% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels, Low Carbon Scotland focusses its vision on energy supply, homes and communities, business and the public sector, transport, rural land use and waste. Within the document, the benefits of a low carbon society are set out.</p>	<p>The GNS should contribute to Low Carbon Scotland, and the targets set therein, by highlighting the role of the green network, and components that form the green network including promoting active travel and enhancing biodiversity, for carbon capture and the importance of the green network as a natural resource. The objectives of the Strategy should demonstrate the role of the green network in achieving the targets set at a local level in line with this national legislation.</p>
<p>UK Post-2010 Biodiversity</p>	<p>The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework succeeds the UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1994 and was developed in response to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity</p>	<p>The GNS should consider how its objectives will be compliant with the objectives and requirements of the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework in</p>

Framework	<p>2011-2020 and the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Framework details the requirements for the UK to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The requirements needed by each of the 4 UK countries are outlined in terms to the activities needed to contribute to international obligations. The Framework reflects a revised direction for nature conservation.</p>	<p>order to show its commitment to achieving the targets and highlight the preferred actions which will contribute towards nature conservation in East Dunbartonshire.</p>
Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	<p>The Act amends existing legislation relating to the protection of certain birds, species, habitats and activities, aiming to make law on wildlife and the natural environment more effective and proportionate. Issues covered in the Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deer management, ➤ Species licencing, ➤ Protected areas, ➤ Game species, ➤ Wildlife crime, and ➤ Invasive Non-Native species. 	<p>The Act highlights the requirements for a focus effort to protect and manage certain species which should be translated through the GNS to ensure that its actions ensure the protection of species specific to East Dunbartonshire at a local level.</p>
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 2004 (Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands) and The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013)	<p>The Scottish Government's Strategy document, published in 2004: <i>'Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands'</i> has an aim to "conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future." The Strategy represented Scotland's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Scottish commitment to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. This Strategy was later augmented by <i>The 2020 Challenge</i> in 2013 in response to new international targets and builds upon the original Strategy.</p> <p>The Vision of the Strategy is to present Scotland as a recognised world leader in biodiversity conservation by 2030 by involving everyone in order to appreciate the benefits and ensure that 'the nation is enriched'.</p> <p>The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy aims to:</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 a sustainable economic 	<p>The objectives set out within the GNS should consider its role in supporting the targets set within The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity.</p>

	growth.	
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	<p>The Act provides a more sustainable and modern approach to flood risk management, taking in to account the impact of climate change. The Act will also create a more joined up and coordinated process to manage flood risk at a national and local level. Specific measures within the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A framework for coordination and cooperation between all organisations involved in flood risk management; ➤ Assessment of flood risk and preparation of flood risk management plans; ➤ New responsibilities for SEPA, Scottish Water and Local Authorities in relation to flood risk management; ➤ A revised, streamlined process for flood protection schemes; ➤ New methods to enable stakeholders and the public to contribute to managing flood risk, and; ➤ A single enforcement authority for the safe operation of Scotland's reservoirs. 	<p>The Act is likely to influence the GNS in terms of promoting the need for actions set out within the Strategy to mitigate the effects of flooding through appropriate management. Green networks within East Dunbartonshire by their nature can offset the risks of flooding. As such, the GNS will play a role in adhering to the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act. SEPA's involvement in the steering group will be significant in the development of the GNS.</p>
Scottish Biodiversity List	<p>The Scottish Biodiversity List details the animals, plants and habitats determined to be of principle important for the conservation of biodiversity in Scotland. Its purpose is to guide public bodies in the protection of the species outlined in the List.</p>	<p>The GNS will play a vital role in enhancing the green network in East Dunbartonshire with benefits to biodiversity and habitats. East Dunbartonshire Council will show its commitment to the Biodiversity Duty. It is also important that the GNS considers the species in the List as well as showing its compliancy with the appropriate action needed to protect these species.</p>
River Basin Management Plan for Scotland	<p>Produced as a result of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plan for Scotland sets out a Plan for integrating land and water management for effective protection and improvement to the water environment in Scotland. The Plan details the current condition of waterbodies and sets objectives to be achieved by 2015 and beyond to prevent deterioration.</p>	<p>The RBMP is vital consideration in the development of the GNS. The requirements of the RBMP should be taken into account in the GNS and should express its commitment to meeting the targets for the waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire.</p>

Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (2013)

The Cycling Action Plan for Scotland sets out 19 actions to achieve the vision set by the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland that “by 2020, 10% of everyday journeys taken in Scotland will be by bike”. The 19 actions are:

- Establish an annual national cycling summit involving the Minister for Scotland and local authority Heads of Transportation and relevant Committee Convenors, to lead delivery and gauge progress.
- Develop for each local area the strategic approach to supporting functional cycling (and active travel more broadly), mapping the appropriate infrastructure improvements required along with supporting promotional work to achieve tangible changes in travel choices.
- Continue to promote a national training programme on cycling-integration design and best practice to planners, designers and engineers, through the delivery of accredited modules such as Making Cycling Mainstream, and promote the use of planning policy - Designing Streets, Cycling by Design cycle guidance and Smarter Choices, Smarter Places good practice.
- Continue to develop and maintain community links – i.e., high quality, local infrastructure to support active travel (routes and public realm improvements) particularly in urban areas where high levels of cycling can be achieved, along with associated infrastructure such as cycle parking facilities at key destinations including schools, bus and rail stations, shopping areas and workplaces.
- Continue to develop and maintain the National Cycle Network to provide long distance cycling routes, connecting rural communities and promoting tourism.
- Develop better integration with public transport, through partnership working with interests such as rail and bus/coach operators and RTPs.
- Establish the Cycle Hub at Stirling Station as a pilot and evaluate it pilot for potential wider roll-out at other railway stations.
- Promote the implementation of 20 mph schemes in all residential areas and share best practice across the country.
- Develop and deliver a ‘Mutual Respect’ Campaign for all road users (complementing the ‘Give Me Cycle Space’ campaign aimed at drivers).
- Continue the roll-out of Bikeability Scotland cycle training through

With access forming a considerable focus for the GNS, the objectives of the Strategy should demonstrate links that will complement the actions set by the Cycling Action Plan. In doing so, EDC will show a commitment to increasing bike journeys to meet Scottish Government targets.

schools, steadily expanding participation, particularly in on-road training (Bikeability level 2). Develop and promote support for this, including volunteer-led delivery and parental involvement.

- Develop Adult Cycle Training resources, building on Bikeability Scotland standards, including an essential skills module as a pilot for potential roll-out nationwide.
- Promote and support community-led cycling initiatives, through signposting resources and providing support for projects that will promote cycling participation in an inclusive, accessible way. Evaluate the delivery of the Cycle Friendly Communities Fund programme to date and promote the learning to further develop approaches to supporting communities.
- Continue to promote projects which encourage primary school pupils to continue cycling when progressing to secondary schools, such as I-Bike and delivery of Bikeability Scotland level 3.
- Promote cycling for young people more broadly, for leisure or travel, for fun, health and sport, through the promotion of cycling activities, events and led cycle rides.
- Develop approaches to promoting access to bikes – e.g., develop Bike Library schemes for schools and communities to promote access to bikes in areas of low cycle use or deprivation, as taster cycling sessions.
- Encourage all employers across all sectors to become Cycle Friendly (e.g., by offering support for workplace cycling facilities and promotional resources, active travel champions, travel planning).
- Develop follow-up work from the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places evaluation report, applying learning to encourage active travel as part of community-based sustainable transport promotion.
- Report annually on an appropriate suite of national indicators to inform the national picture of cycling participation.
- Develop local monitoring, using data from local cycle counts and surveys etc., with support from national delivery bodies to develop a coordinated approach to data collection.

Scottish Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	<p>The overall purpose of the Scottish Rural Development Programme is to contribute towards sustainable economic growth within rural communities in Scotland by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhancing the rural economy ➤ Supporting agricultural businesses ➤ Protecting and improving the natural environment ➤ Addressing the impact of climate change ➤ Supporting rural communities. 	<p>In line with the SRDP, the GNS should consider how its objectives will contribute and adhere to the aims. In particular, the GNS should consider the role it can play in <i>protecting and improving the natural environment</i> and <i>addressing the impact of climate change to support rural communities</i>.</p>
Scottish Outdoor Access Code	<p>The Scottish Outdoor Access Code provides detailed guidance on the responsibilities set out within the Land Reform (Scotland) Act. The main principles laid out in the Code are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Respect the interests of other people ➤ Care for the environment ➤ Take responsibility for your own actions 	<p>The GNS should ensure that the principles of the Outdoor Access Code are integrated within the Strategy as part of identifying opportunities to enhance the green networks within East Dunbartonshire.</p>
Let's Get Scotland Walking – A National Walking Strategy	<p>The National Walking Strategy is a key element to delivering the National Physical Activity Implementation Plan. Its vision <i>is a Scotland where everyone benefits from walking as part of their everyday journeys, enjoys walking in the outdoors and where places are well designed to encourage walking</i>.</p> <p>The 3 strategic aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a culture of walking where everyone walks more often as part of their everyday travel and for recreation and well-being ➤ Better quality walking environments with attractive, well designed and managed built and natural spaces for everyone ➤ Enable easy, convenient and safe independent mobility for everyone. 	<p>The development of the GNS will ensure that the aims of the National Walking Strategy are contributed to. The GNS will present a number of different opportunities to encourage walking in East Dunbartonshire.</p>
People and Place-Regeneration Strategy Statement	<p>The People and Place Regeneration Strategy Statement outlines Scotland's approach to regeneration and identifies the challenges that will be faced in ensuring success. It highlights the relationship between physical and social development within regeneration.- 'Although physical development on its own will not revive communities, land and property remain central to effective regeneration'.</p>	<p>The GNS intends to support regeneration through both physical and social development, in particular by identifying opportunities to integrate the green network in East Dunbartonshire with vacant and derelict land sites. Consequently, the Strategy will play a vital role in linking social and physical development with regard to the importance of a sense of place and community pride and inclusion.</p>

<p>Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) 2011</p>	<p>SHEP sets out the main principles and policies that will guide the management and enhancement of the historic environment for Scotland in support of the national outcome that <i>'we value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations'</i>.</p> <p>The aims of SHEP are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Realise the full potential of the historic environment as a resource – cultural, educational, economic and social – across every part of Scotland and for all the people; ➤ Make the best use of the historic environment to achieve their wider aims of economic and social regeneration; ➤ Identify the many aspects of our environment and protect and manage them in a sustainable way to secure their long-term survival and preserve their embodied energy; ➤ Understand fully all aspects of the historic environment, and their condition and inter-relationships; ➤ Broaden access to the historic environment and break down intellectual physical and economic barriers; ➤ Ensure that effective systems underpinned by appropriate legislation and information are in place to conserve and manage the historic environment. 	<p>The GNS will contribute to the aims of SHEP by encouraging appropriate management of green networks which will encompass historical assets within East Dunbartonshire. It is likely that enhancements to the green network will provide benefits for the historic environment including visual amenity and improved access. Conversely, management and enhancement of the historic environment is likely to promote knowledge and use of the green network.</p>
<p>Good Places, Better Health (2008)</p>	<p>Good Places, Better Health recognises the role of the physical environment for improving health inequalities and highlights the need to improve connections between these two factors. It supports five of the national outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed ➤ We live longer, healthier lives ➤ We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society ➤ We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need ➤ We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations. 	<p>Through the opportunities that will be identified in in the GNS, the Strategy will show its commitment improving health and wellbeing in East Dunbartonshire. The GNS will demonstrate how the physical environment is vital for improving health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Equally Well (2008)</p>	<p>In order to drive a vision to improve health inequalities in Scotland, the key principles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improving the whole range of circumstances and environment that offer opportunities to improve people's life circumstances and hence their health 	<p>The GNS should demonstrate its commitment to improving health inequalities at a local level in East Dunbartonshire. it is likely that by integrating the green network for benefits related to biodiversity and improvements in accessing the environment for local communities, there will be also be notable health benefits as a result.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Addressing the inter-generational factors that risk perpetuating Scotland's health inequalities from parent to child, particularly by supporting the best possible start in life for all children in Scotland ➤ Engaging individuals, families and communities most at risk of poor health in services and decisions relevant to their health ➤ Delivering health and other public services that are universal, but also targeted and tailored to meet the needs of those most at risk of poor health. We need to prevent problems from arising in the future, as well as addressing them if they do. 	
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Regional		
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment (1999)	<p>The GCV Landscape Assessment report undertook an assessment of landscape character in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley area including Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and Inverclyde. The purpose of the document is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide a detailed description and analysis of the study area in written, diagrammatic and map form; ➤ Identify the extent to which each landscape character type is due to human influences or natural processes; ➤ Outline the physical and ecological as well as the cultural and human influences which have helped shape the landscape within the study area; ➤ Outline the key features of the landscape which contribute to their character, including a broad assessment of their contribution to that character; ➤ Identify and describe each distinct character area within the study area based on factors such as the shape, scale and diversity of the landscape, including the visual experience of that landscape and its sensory qualities; ➤ Consider the historic landscape which should be integrated throughout the report, describing those historical features which are characteristic and make a contribution to the landscape character; ➤ Consider the likely and existing pressures and opportunities for landscape change, assess each character area's sensitivity and 	<p>The findings of the Landscape Assessment are a key consideration for the GNS as it will need to be taking into account to ensure that the development of the GNS action plan, and its integration, notes the different landscape typologies within East Dunbartonshire and develops actions that are sensitive to the local landscape.</p>

	<p>robustness to landscape change, and identify those elements of the landscape which are most prone to change;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify the links between urban areas and their surroundings, both visually and in recreational terms and assess how the surrounding area acts as a setting for the urban area; ➤ Prepare management guidelines for each landscape character type during Phase 2 of the project. 	
<p>Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (SDP)</p>	<p>The Scottish Ministers approved, with modifications, the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan on 29.5.12.</p> <p>The SDP together with the LDP forms the Development Plan in city region areas. It is prepared under Scottish Parliamentary Law, the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.</p> <p>The key aim of the SDP is to set out a long term Spatial Vision and related spatial development strategy. This will determine the future geography of development in the city region to 2035, which will support economic competitiveness & social cohesion, set within a sustainable environmental approach. It is about creating quality of place by focusing on the continued regeneration and transformation of the city region’s communities whilst securing positive action on its key asset, its natural environment. It seeks to minimise the development and carbon footprints of the city region, meet climate change emissions targets and above all, support a drive towards a sustainable low carbon economy. It recognises the green network as a key environmental component for addressing the range of objectives in the SDP.</p>	<p>The SDP provides the overall geographical framework for development in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Region. The GNS should consider the role of the green network in East Dunbartonshire for achieving the objectives set by the SDP as well as ensuring that the Strategy’s objectives reflect the benefits of a green network as highlighted in the SDP.</p>
<p>Glasgow and Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy</p>	<p>The Strategy recognises the role of trees, woods and forests as essential to the environment, livelihood and culture. It also supports the delivery of woodland based opportunities as part of the wide green network in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley region and establishes a framework to guide local level interventions.</p> <p><i>It aims to ‘increase the economic, social and environmental contribution that forests and woodlands make to Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. This requires us to make the most of both our existing woodlands and to created opportunities for new ones where they add most value to the environment, local communities</i></p>	<p>The GNS should support the vision of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy. It should consider the role of woodland and forestry in East Dunbartonshire and the role this can play in integrating with the green network in order to align with the aims of the GCV Forestry and Woodland Strategy.</p>

	<p><i>and society as a whole</i>'. The Vision is intended to be delivered with a 25 year life span.</p>	
<p>Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Plan (draft)</p>	<p>The draft Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Plan provides a short overview of the Local Plan District and the flood risk authorities involved (of which there are 16 local authorities that are completely within or overlapping the district boundary; Argyll and Bute Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, East Ayrshire Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council, Falkirk Council, Glasgow City Council, Inverclyde Council, North Ayrshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Renfrewshire Council, Scottish Borders Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Stirling Council, West Dunbartonshire Council and West Lothian Council).</p> <p>The Plan sets out actions for flood risk management within the Clyde and Loch Lomond District, which are summarised separately for each District. The overall objective of the Plan is to <i>reduce overall flood risk</i>. To achieve this general objective, a set of actions are outlined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Self-help – individuals have the responsibility for protecting themselves and their property from flooding ➤ Awareness raising – SEPA and the responsible authorities have a duty to raise public awareness of flood risk ➤ Flood forecasting ➤ Emergency planning and response ➤ Watercourse maintenance/clearance and repair ➤ Maintenance/asset management <p>In addition to the general objective and actions for the management of floods in the Clyde and Loch Lomond district, Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVA) have been identified, each with a set of objectives and potential actions for the delivery of the Plan. PVA 11/04 Kilsyth to Bearsden – North of Glasgow City is relevant to the area of East Dunbartonshire.</p>	<p>Although the Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Plan (C&LLFRMP) is currently at a consultation stage, it will be an important consideration for the GNS once it is fully implemented, particularly since East Dunbartonshire lies within or overlapping the district boundary of the C&LLFRMP. The GNS should consider the impacts of the actions discussed in the C&LLFRMP, particularly those detailed as part of the area outlined in PVA 11/04 for the green network in East Dunbartonshire. The GNS should also consider how its actions can have a positive influence to meet the objectives of the C&LLFRMP. Giving the wide-range of the Flood Risk District, the GNS will also need to understand the impact of actions within neighbouring authorities for East Dunbartonshire.</p>
<p>Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19</p>	<p>The Management Plan sets out the significance of the proposed Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, and provides a vision and a framework for an integrated and consensual approach to the management of the Site while ensuring outstanding universal values are conserved.</p>	<p>The GNS will need to consider the requirements set out in the Antonine Wall Management Plan to ensure the protection and conservation of the WHS within East Dunbartonshire. It should ensure that any actions proposed within the Plan are sensitive to the setting and value of the Antonine Wall.</p>

	<p>The Plan's long term aims for 2014-44 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Safeguard and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site by managing, conserving and protecting the Site and its cultural and natural landscape setting ➤ Promote awareness and understanding of this Outstanding Universal Value to local, regional, national and global audiences by improving physical and intellectual accessibility ➤ Realise the World Heritage Site's full potential as an education and learning resource ➤ Build strong structural and organisational partnerships with local, national and international organisations; strengthen engagement with local communities; and contribute to sustainable economic growth ➤ Balance wider environmental concerns in the sustainable management of the World Heritage Site ➤ Increase research opportunities nationally and internationally and use this new research to underpin work to protect and promote the World Heritage Site. 	
<p>Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 2011 - 2016</p>	<p>The area that is covered by the SPG includes Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, Glasgow City, West Dunbartonshire and East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>The policy emphasis of the SPG is upon protection and conservation of the authenticity and integrity (and the Outstanding Universal Value underpinning its inscription) of the World Heritage Site.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Neighbouring Authority Strategic Actions</p>	<p>The neighbouring authorities to which this would relate include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ West Dunbartonshire Council ➤ Stirling Council ➤ North Lanarkshire Council and ➤ Glasgow City Council <p>This will include documents that could potentially impact on East Dunbartonshire, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local Plan (Local Development Plans) ➤ Local Biodiversity Action Plans 	<p>The GNS will need to consider neighbouring authorities strategic plans in the development of the GNS. This is particularly important where green networks cross boundaries into other local authorities, such as Mugdock Country Park which is part of Stirling Council.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local Transport Strategies ➤ Active Travel Strategies 	
<p>Central Scotland Green Network</p>	<p>The vision of the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) was published in 2011 to reflect the position on green networks set out within the NPF3 to ensure that the environment in Central Scotland makes an important contribution to the lives of all. The CSGN is based on partnership working to deliver across Central Scotland a high-quality 'green network' that will meet a number of environmental, social and economic goals. The vision is supported by 5 themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Place for growth- creating an environment for sustainable economic growth ➤ A place in balance- creating an environment more in balance, one that will support Central Scotland to thrive in a changing climate ➤ A place to feel good- creating an environment which supports healthy lifestyles and good physical and mental well-being ➤ A place to belong- creating an environment that people can enjoy and where they choose to bring to live and bring up their families ➤ A place for nature- creating an environment where nature can flourish. 	<p>The CSGN should be a primary consideration in the development of the GNS. Its vision and themes should be reflected in the GNS to ensure that East Dunbartonshire is demonstrating its duty and commitment to enhancing the green network across central Scotland. The objectives of the GNS should demonstrate how it will help to achieve the intended outcomes of the CSGN.</p>

Local (East Dunbartonshire Council)		
<p>The Campsies: A Strategic Review and Action Plan (2011)</p>	<p>The Campsies Action Plan is a key document for a number of local authorities to which the Campsie Fells are a significant landscape feature; Stirling Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council and Falkirk Council. The purpose and vision of the Action Plan is:</p> <p><i>'Contributing towards realising sustainable economic, social and ecological development in the Campsies through the delivery of strategically significant actions and initiatives. These should support communities living and working within the Campsies, promote responsible access for all, develop visitor interest, use and understanding of the mixed land use resource whilst conserving the area's landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity features'.</i></p> <p>The Action Plan is focused around <i>access, tourism and recreation, marketing, economic development and business support, and biodiversity and geodiversity</i> as key themes to meet the objectives and vision of the Plan over a 10 year</p>	<p>The Campsie Fells is significant to the landscape of East Dunbartonshire. There is significant potential to integrate the actions of the GNS with the actions set out in the Campsies Action Plan in terms of protecting and enhancing East Dunbartonshire's natural environment. The GNS should reflect East Dunbartonshire's commitment to protecting biodiversity assets and promoting access that are linked to the Campsie Fells. The GNS should also consider its role in benefiting the landscape of the Campsies.</p>

	timescale.	
EDC Community Planning Partnership - Single Outcome Agreement (2014-2017)	<p>EDC Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Working together to achieve the best with the people of East Dunbartonshire <p>Local Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ East Dunbartonshire has an expanding economy with a competitive and diverse business and retail base ➤ Our people are equipped with knowledge, skills and training to enable them to progress to employment ➤ Our children and young people are safe, healthy and ready to learn ➤ East Dunbartonshire is a safe and sustainable environment in which to live, work and visit ➤ Our people and communities enjoy increased physical and mental wellbeing and health inequalities are reduced ➤ Our older population are supported to enjoy a high quality of life and our more vulnerable citizens, their families and carers benefit from effective care and support services. 	<p>The delivery of the GNS will contribute to the SOA for East Dunbartonshire. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ East Dunbartonshire has an expanding economy with a competitive and diverse business and retail base ➤ Our people are equipped with knowledge, skills and training to enable them to progress to employment ➤ East Dunbartonshire is a safe and sustainable environment in which to live, work and visit ➤ Our people and communities enjoy increased physical and mental wellbeing and health inequalities are reduced
Local Plan 2 2011-2016	The Local Plan 2 is primarily concerned with the use and development of land in East Dunbartonshire. The Plan contributes towards sustainable development by providing clear guidance on what developments will be acceptable and where they will be permitted.	The GNS will help to guide developments, as set out in the Local Plan 2, in order to reduce, prevent or offset the effects of development on biodiversity, access and networks.
Local Development Plan (2016)	The emerging LDP for East Dunbartonshire sets the framework for the growth and development of East Dunbartonshire up to 2025 and beyond and establishes a presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development as defined in Scottish Planning Policy (2014).	As above- the emerging LDP is currently material consideration.
LDP Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance	<p>Following the implementation of the LDP, Supplementary Guidance (SG) for Green Infrastructure and Green Networks will be developed. At its current stage of development, proposed outcomes of the SG include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Define and map the existing and aspirational green network in East Dunbartonshire, including cores/ hubs, corridors, links and stepping stones ➤ Identify the principles for planning green networks ➤ Apply the SDP green network priorities to East Dunbartonshire: 	It is likely that the GNS and the SG will be developed in parallel and the objectives for each document will be complementary. The outcomes of the GNS opportunity mapping will inform the SG.

	<p>Priorities for habitats expansion, Priorities for improved access to open space, Disadvantaged communities and Climate change adaptation areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Be compatible with and support the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and emerging Active Travel Strategy. Part of this is to take integrated habitat networks into consideration. ➤ Refine the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Forest and Woodland Strategy for East Dunbartonshire by taking local information, including local natural and cultural heritage interest into consideration to provide more guidance on the suitability of land for new woodland planting and restocking. This will help secure financial resources to deliver the Strategy's vision and to assist Forestry Commission Scotland in considering the suitability of applications for grant assistance for planting and management of woodlands ➤ Apply the SDP green network opportunities to the area along with the additional opportunity of forest and woodland that include: underperforming open space, areas of land use change and vacant & derelict land. Outline green network opportunities from development and woodland planting/restocking ➤ Set out an action plan for delivery of these opportunities and the stakeholders involved ➤ Set out guidance on how to do a site appraisal of existing and potential green infrastructure and green network, as part of a development proposal or woodland planting/ restocking proposal ➤ Provide a rationale for asking for Planning Obligations towards green network opportunities and the costs involved for development. This will inform supplementary guidance. 	
<p>EDC Core Path Plan</p>	<p>The East Dunbartonshire Council Core Path Plan objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To improve the health and wellbeing of our communities by delivering a path network that gives everyone opportunities for uncomplicated everyday physical exercise, ➤ To support the reduction of traffic congestion and pollution by providing everyone with opportunities to make journeys on foot and by bike, 	<p>The Core Path Plan promotes the enhancement of the wider countryside in East Dunbartonshire, with a particular focus around the natural environment and the associated benefits of improvements to these assets. Issues related to access will be addressed within the GNS and opportunities will be highlighted to improve green network accessibility. As such, the objectives of the Strategy will be aligned with those in the Core Path Plan. In addition, the different network and core paths identified in the CPP will be an important consideration in the opportunities mapping in the GNS.</p>


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To support local business by bringing visitors to the area, using our key routes such as the West Highland Way, the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Campsie Hills as destinations, linked with encouraging walking and cycling, and ➤ To support good farming and land management and minimise irresponsible behaviour by proactively managing access to the countryside. 	
East Dunbartonshire Sustainable Development Strategy (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To promote a strong local economy ➤ To ensure the social wellbeing of everyone in the community ➤ To protect the natural environment <p>The Sustainable Development Strategy for East Dunbartonshire will be replaced by the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework over the course of the preparation of the LBAP.</p>	<p>The GNS will contribute, in parallel, to the aims of the Sustainable Development Strategy. In particular, the GNS should show its commitment to the sustainable use of the natural environment to ensure that it is protected. The GNS should also take into account the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework once it has been implemented.</p>
EDC Open Space Strategy 2015 - 2020	<p>The Open Space Strategy sets a framework for current and future open space provision in East Dunbartonshire, which includes an updated Audit. The OSS will contribute to SPP, NPF3 and the Central Scotland Green Network as a tool to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve the management structures and practices; ➤ Help ensure that the Council has a clear strategic direction to its open space investment and asset management; ➤ Establish requirements for new open space from development proposals together with the scale and nature of any planning obligations; and ➤ Contribute to meeting the objectives of the Single Outcome Agreement. 	<p>The GNS will contribute to the aims of the Open Space Strategy. Both are aligned in terms of expected outcomes to improve the open spaces in East Dunbartonshire and meeting the SOA targets. Improvements to the green network, as expressed in the OSS, will be addressed specifically through the GNS.</p>
EDC Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2020	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council are in the process of developing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan which will play an important role in contributing towards the national targets for biodiversity set out by the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) to prevent further biodiversity loss and restore the essential services for a healthy natural environment by 2020. The targets of the SBS are due to be updated in 2020. As a result it is proposed the LBAP will run from 2016-2020 and then be reviewed to reflect any changes emerging from the review of the SBS targets. The proposed outcomes of the Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire is protected and enhanced with clear evidence for the reversal or slowing of decline 	<p>Both the LBAP and the GNS will be developed in parallel, and due to a direct link between biodiversity and the enhancement of East Dunbartonshire's green network, the GNS should demonstrate an alignment between the objectives for the Strategy and the LBAP.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improved health and quality of life for the people of East Dunbartonshire, through protection and enhancement of greenspaces, protected areas, nature and landscapes ➤ The intrinsic value and importance of East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity and the additional social and economic benefits it provides are understood by all ➤ Ecosystems in East Dunbartonshire are healthy and functioning well so they are able to provide ecosystem services to residents and businesses 	
<p>EDC Active Travel Strategy</p>	<p>East Dunbartonshire Council are in the process of developing an Active Travel Strategy (ATS) which will cover the period of 2015 – 2020. The proposed purpose of the Strategy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Produce a Strategy for increasing participation in Active Travel in East Dunbartonshire spanning 5 years which will complement and deliver on transport objectives and interventions within the current Local Transport Strategy and feed into LTS2. ➤ Set out an action plan for active travel in East Dunbartonshire outlining a range of coordinated projects which deliver multiple benefits and value for money for the region. This action programme of interventions and approaches should be derived from a robust evidence base and should include comprehensive maps of walking and cycling networks in the region. ➤ Deliver a comprehensive strategy document for East Dunbartonshire within a national and regional context that will set out how active travel for commuting, leisure and tourism purposes will be facilitated. ➤ Establish East Dunbartonshire's vision for active travel in the region and sets challenging but realistic targets for participation in active travel based on rigorous review of evidence. Clearly outlines what success looks like. ➤ Produce a strategy that is consistent with the Council, Government and transport bodies' (SPT, Sustrans) objectives and guidance for active travel. ➤ Deliver a Monitoring Plan that determines baseline levels of walking and cycling and reports on changes in participation rates of active travel. 	<p>The GNS will encompass issues related to access in East Dunbartonshire, including feasible options that will contribute to improving participation with active travel. Some of the objectives in the GNS will relate to active travel and accessibility which will be aligned with those of the ATS. It is also likely that the outcomes of the ATS will have a direct influence on the GNS</p>

Appendix 2: Draft assessment matrix

Please note that this appendix shows the draft assessment matrix that will guide the assessments in the Environmental Report.

Assessment Table Key			
++	Major Positive	✓	SEA Preferred Option
+	Minor Positive		
0	Neutral	X	Alternative Option
X	No Significant Effect		
-	Minor Negative		
--	Major Negative		
?	Uncertain		

SEA Environmental Factors 	Population & Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Soil & Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	SEA Preferred Option
Proposed vision/objective/action										
Assessment Commentary:										
Alternative vision/objective/action										
Assessment Commentary:										
Final vision/objective/action for the Green Network Strategy	Reasoning:									