



STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

POST ADOPTION STATEMENT

Local Transport Strategy for Fife

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## 1 Introduction

- 1.1.1. The Local Transport Strategy (LTS) for Fife sets out Fife Council's proposed vision and action plan for transport for the next ten years, until 2033.
- 1.1.2. The strategy will help Fife Council prioritise operations and investments to tackle the most important issues. This will ensure Fife Council can make the most of future opportunities, for example technology and government funding.
- 1.1.3. As part of the development of this strategy, Fife Council have undertaken a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in line with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 (hereafter referred to as 'the Act').
- 1.1.4. The SEA Environmental Report reports the environmental and consultation considerations taken into account through the SEA process and the assessment of the draft Fife LTS interventions.
- 1.1.5. This document, the SEA post-adoption statement (PAS) has been produced following completion of the SEA Environmental Report and finalisation of the Fife LTS. The purpose of this document is to outline how the environmental assessment and consultation was taken into account in the final Fife LTS.

## 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

2.1.1. As part of the requirements of the Act, Scottish public bodies undertake a SEA when preparing a plan, programmes or strategy (PPS), if it is likely to have significant environmental effects. This applies to plans with significant positive or negative environmental effects.

2.1.2. SEA is a means for public bodies to judge the likely impact of PPS on the environment and to seek ways to minimise significant adverse effects and enhance potential benefits.

2.1.3. The SEA process also enhances the understanding of a plan's effect on the environment for decision-makers, stakeholders and the public, so they are better informed. Reporting requirements improve the transparency of decision making and potentially greater appreciation of the reasoning behind decisions.

2.1.4. As part of the development of the Fife LTS, Fife Council have completed the assessment and necessary reporting steps within the SEA process, including:

- Screening
- Scoping
- Environmental Assessment
- Consultation
- Post-adoption Statement

2.1.5. Table 2-1 provides more detail on the SEA steps completed for the Fife LTS.

*Table 2-1: Summary and dates for completed SEA steps*

Step	Key Dates	Summary
Screening	<p><b>Screening Letter submitted:</b> December 2021</p> <p><b>Screening Determination received:</b> January 2022</p>	<p>The SEA Screening Letter concluded a full SEA, in accordance with the Act, was to be undertaken.</p> <p>This conclusion was agreed in writing with the Consultation Authorities and set out in the SEA Screening Determination.</p>
Scoping	<p><b>Scoping Report Submitted:</b> April 2022</p> <p><b>Scoping Opinion received:</b> June 2022</p>	<p>As part of the Scoping Report, information on the Fife LTS and potential environmental effects was provided to the Consultation Authorities and Fife Council.</p> <p>As part of the process, environmental objectives were set out to assess the Fife LTS interventions and a proposed methodology for assessing potential likely significant effects.</p> <p>The Consultation Authorities are then given 35 days to review and provide their Scoping Opinion, which agrees the methodology for assessment in the SEA Environmental Report.</p>
Environmental Assessment	<p><b>Environmental Report submitted:</b> February 2023</p> <p><b>Consultation Authority review comments received:</b> March 2023</p>	<p>The environmental assessment and the findings are presented in the Environmental Report. This included a compatibility assessment on the proposed Fife LTS interventions, and conclusions on likely significant (positive and negative) environmental effects of the Fife LTS.</p> <p>The Environmental Report also identified ways to minimise adverse effects and promote enhancement opportunities through a set of recommendations. This detail provided transparency for statutory consultees, stakeholders and the wider public.</p> <p>The Consultation Authorities were then provided with the report for review and comment.</p>
Consultation	<p><b>Public Consultation:</b> February 2023 to April 2023</p>	<p>Public consultation on the draft Fife LTS was an opportunity for comment before finalising the Fife LTS and the identified environmental outcomes.</p>

### 3 Post Adoption Statement

3.1.1. A per Section 18(3) of the Act, the responsible authority (Fife Council) are required to answer a series of questions as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a qualifying plan or programme (the Fife LTS). These are set out as follows:

- **how the environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme**

When developing the actions for the Fife LTS, Fife Council produced a long list of interventions, which were collated and scored. This initial sifting had consideration for potential carbon and wider environmental impacts. Before shortlisting the interventions, the long list was reviewed by an environmental planning team at Sweco and comments fed into the process.

Before undertaking the environmental assessment of the shortlist of interventions, environmental objectives and indicators were established in consultation with the wider Fife Council environmental technical teams and Consultation Authorities. This approach was set out in the SEA Scoping Report.

Within the environmental assessment, a compatibility matrix was used to assess the proposed Fife LTS policies and options against the SEA environmental topics to identify the likely significant effects as a result of the proposed interventions. The conclusion of the assessment informed mitigation and enhancement recommendations to better integrate environmental considerations into the Fife LTS.

The final Fife LTS has incorporated the environmental considerations in balance with the vision, objectives and programme of the Fife LTS. More detail is provided further in [table 3.1](#) and [section 4](#).

- **how the Environmental Report has been taken into account**

The SEA Environmental Report assessed the likely effects of the Fife LTS on the environment. A series of recommendations to improve the integration of environmental considerations in the LTS were set out for Fife Council to consider and action in balance with their vision, objectives and programme.

The assessment identified potential significant environmental effects (both positive and negative) and also assessed the likely residual effects with proposed mitigation and enhancement in place. This was to inform the decision makers drafting the Fife LTS and provide transparency for consultation.

The significant and unknown effects identified have informed the monitoring requirements. In response, Fife Council have adapted the Fife LTS interventions (now referred to as actions), this is detailed further in [table 3.1](#) and [section 4](#).

Fife Council have used the SEA process to develop the actions with greater focus and representation of the wider environment to deliver a fair and sustainable transport network.

- **how the opinions expressed by consultees have been taken into account**

Throughout the SEA process, Fife Council have engaged with the following key groups as part of the Fife LTS:

- **Statutory Environmental Bodies**

This includes:

- Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- Nature Scot
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

Statutory engagement with these consultees influenced the direction and scope of the assessment, which shaped the final list of actions within the Fife LTS. Fife Council used the SEA process to engage regularly with the Consultation Authorities and gave opportunity to provide feedback. Consultation was recorded and provides transparency to the decision-making process.

- **Fife Council**

The wider Fife Council environmental teams were consulted via a workshop session to review and input to the environmental objectives. Their experience and expertise provided greater scrutiny, which informs the Fife LTS and improves viability of the proposals.

- **Public Consultation**

In early 2022, Fife Council consulted on transport challenges and what ideas could improve transport in the future. Fife Council undertook 17 stakeholder workshops, visited local schools and received 1336 responses to their survey. This consultation directly inputted to the long list of interventions considered as part of the strategy.

In early 2023, Fife Council consulted on the draft Local Transport Strategy, seeking feedback on the vision, priorities and actions, as well as the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report. Fife Council undertook 17 stakeholder and community events and received 520 responses to their survey. Feedback from this consultation was incorporated into the final strategy.

The Fife LTS has engaged with a broad range of consultees and provided regular, meaningful engagement that shaped the Fife LTS.

- **how the results of any relevant consultation have been taken into account**

In addition to how the opinions of consultees were accounted for (detailed above), the Consultation Authorities were consulted at regular stages of the SEA process and this directly influenced the environmental assessment and recommendation of the Fife LTS.

The environmental objectives were established in consultation with the wider Fife Council environmental officers and the statutory environmental bodies. The SEA Scoping Report was submitted to the statutory consultees for comment on the scope and methodology of the SEA to identify likely significant effects.

The comments received were then incorporated into the SEA Environmental Report and resubmitted to the consultees for review. This is not a statutory requirement but Fife Council valued the consultation response, which included:

HES feedback

*"We [HES] welcome the preparation of this strategy and in particular the recognition of the role that the transport strategy can play in supporting the town centres first approach as expressed in the existing Fife local development plan."*

*"We welcome that our comments at the scoping stage (dated 1 June 2022) have been referenced and acted upon in carrying out this assessment."*

*"...the assessment against the SEA objective for the historic environment scores neutrally with positive effects predicted if recommendations arising from the assessment are brought forward... and we would encourage the final drafting of the strategy and its action plan to consider components of this package for inclusion. Opportunities that have been identified under the Community package are also welcomed as a way of encouraging locally led placemaking."*

Nature Scot feedback

*"We [Nature Scot] are satisfied that the Environmental Report has identified many of the relevant environmental issues, and key trends."*

*"We recommend that trends associated with biodiversity, flora & fauna, including impacts on designated sites, protected species and the wider nature should also include non-native invasive species (INNS)."*

*"We suggest the inclusion of designated site quality/condition/integrity as an indicator, as well as size and number."*

*"We note the intention to include the measurement of impacts on habitat connectivity. We recommend that impacts on the development of nature-networks also form part of the report. Furthermore, consideration of how the transport strategy might impact on the aspirations of the 30x30 agenda should also be included."*

*"We also support the highlighting of the importance of an active travel strategy and its potential to contribute positively to nature networks by creating/ enhancing habitat corridors."*

*"We support the proposed approach to prevention, reduction or offsetting adverse effects on the environment, and the associated thematic packages of mitigation and enhancement."*

*"We are satisfied with the proposed monitoring of the strategy, and welcome the intention to undertake ongoing monitoring, in line with the key measures set out as Transport Planning Objectives and Strategic Environmental Assessment objectives."*

*"We support the review and reporting approach, and that progress will be used to inform subsequent action plans."*

#### SEPA feedback

No response received from SEPA on the Environmental Report.

SEPA did respond to the SEA Scoping Report, including:

*"We [SEPA] consider that the environmental problems described generally highlight the main issues of relevance for the SEA topics within our remit."*

*"Although very high level, we are generally satisfied with the proposed assessment methodology."*

- **the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives considered**

The Local Transport Strategy takes a balanced approach to meet Fife Council and national social, environmental and economic outcomes within the constraints of available resources. This includes the need to balance environmental action, equality and support for the economy with available funding. The final strategy has been informed by the views of Elected Members, partners, environmental subject matter experts, stakeholders and the community.

How the SEA Environmental Report recommendations have been incorporated into the Fife LTS, are detailed in [section 4](#).

- **the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme**

As part of the Fife LTS, Fife Council will develop periodic delivery plans and monitor against the transport planning objectives.

The SEA Environmental Report identified potential significant adverse and unknown environmental effects, which are summarised [table 3-1](#), and it was recommended that these elements are monitored during the course of the Fife LTS. Since drafting of the SEA Environmental Report, the Fife LTS has responded and included relevant actions /

objectives. The likely environmental effects have been reassessed as a result and monitoring actions updated and shown in table 3-1.

As described in the SEA Environmental Report, the proposed approach to the monitoring will be the continued environmental assessment under the planning requirements, managed by Fife Council and included in the consultation stages as the design progresses. Objectives and environmental priorities are to be reviewed and refined as part of this design process.

As part of the delivery of the Local Transport Strategy, Fife Council will undertake ongoing monitoring. Key measures set out as Transport Planning Objectives and Strategic Environmental Assessment objectives will be reviewed and reported. Progress will be used to inform subsequent action plans.

In addition, it is recommended that Fife Council undertake an informal screening for significant environmental effects for all environmental topics as part of the monitoring delivery plan. This will reflect potential changes to the Fife LTS actions as it evolves to the needs of Fife and potential changes in sensitivity of environmental receptors in proximity to intervention sites and the affected transport network.

Table 3-1: Environmental elements for monitoring

Environmental topic	Identified effect in SEA Environmental Report	Update	Updated Identified Effect
Biodiversity	Unknown	<p>Based on the SEA Environmental Report recommendations, more detail on biodiversity has been considered, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective 20 - All Fife Council transport projects will deliver biodiversity net gain by 2033.</li> <li>Action 63 - Develop a biodiversity action plan, setting out our approach to improving biodiversity across the transport network, including maps of available space for planting.</li> </ul> <p>It is recommended that Fife Council include monitoring of biodiversity as part of the biodiversity action plan (action 63).</p>	Positive
Landscape	Unknown	<p>At this stage, no commitments have been made for landscape. Measures at this stage are considered too detailed for the Fife LTS to include but will be monitored. Significant effects for landscape are likely to be uniquely from transport infrastructure projects. The scale of which would likely trigger existing requirements in the planning system and require further environmental assessment.</p> <p>Potential effects would be dependent on final design, impacted receptors and approach to mitigation and enhancement specific to relevant projects within the Fife LTS.</p>	Unknown



Flood risk	Unknown	<p>Based on the SEA Environmental Report recommendations, more detail on flood risk has been considered, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action 59 - Deliver the Local Flood Risk Management Plans, in partnership. Measures to reduce the risk of flooding include natural drainage using planting, improvements to river catchments and a risk-based approach to road drainage maintenance.</li> </ul>	Positive
Carbon emissions	Significant adverse	<p>Following the SEA Environmental Report recommendations, more detail to account for carbon emissions has been considered. There are a number of actions promoting active travel, use of the sustainable hierarchy and promoting sustainable behaviours. Key actions / objectives likely to have the most significant change include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action 46 - Develop a plan to transition to net zero transport in Fife, including analysis of options for meeting our climate targets.</li> <li>• Action 54 – measuring embodied carbon in all transport projects</li> <li>• Action 55 – Include carbon as a criterion in procurement processes, to encourage suppliers and contractors to reduce carbon emissions</li> <li>• Objective 17 - Reduce transport carbon emissions across Fife Council’s services by 75% by 2030, compared to a 1990 baseline, with a view to achieving net zero emissions by 2045. This includes emissions from employee travel and commuting.</li> </ul> <p>These actions align with local, national and UK policy, which informs assessment of significance for carbon emissions and regarded as good practice. At this stage, the SEA does not have the detail to determine the magnitude of impact from these actions.</p> <p>It is recommended that Fife Council include monitoring of carbon emissions as part of the plan to transition to a net zero transport strategy (action 46).</p>	Unknown
Noise	Unknown	<p>At this stage, no commitments have been made for noise. Measures at this stage are considered too detailed for the Fife LTS to include but will be monitored. Existing policy and legislation on transport related noise and construction impacts exist within the planning system.</p>	Unknown

## 4 Summary

- 4.1.1. Fife Council have employed the SEA process to inform the development of the Fife LTS and proactively engaged with consultation.
- 4.1.2. Public consultation at an early stage has allowed for direct input to the development of ideas and actions for the future of the Fife transport network. Engagement with the wider teams in Fife Council, including environmental officers, and the Consultation Authorities has shaped the direction and scope of assessment to deliver a viable, greener and sustainable Fife LTS.
- 4.1.3. The environmental assessment identified mitigation and enhancement measures to amplify positives and avoid adverse effects, which has influenced the decision-making process and improved the environmental outcomes.
- 4.1.4. Following the finalisation of the Fife LTS, the PAS has identified the following key monitoring recommendations:
- Screening projects within the Fife LTS for likely significant environmental effects
  - Include monitoring of carbon emissions as part of the plan to transition to a net zero transport strategy (action 46).
  - Include monitoring of biodiversity as part of the biodiversity action plan (action 63).