

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE
SEA TEMPLATES

TEMPLATE 4

**POST-ADOPTION
SEA STATEMENT:
HIGHLAND COASTAL
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT – COVER NOTE

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

or

SEA Gateway
Scottish Executive
Area 1 H (Bridge)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

PART 2

A post-adoption SEA statement is attached for the PPS entitled:

Highland Coastal Development Strategy

The Responsible Authority is:

Highland Council

PART 3

Contact name Shona Turnbull

Job Title Coastal Planning Officer

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Signature & date Shona Turnbull 07/06/10

POST - ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT

Post-adoption SEA statement for:

Highland Coastal Development Strategy

Adopted on:

26/05/2010

Responsible Authority:

Highland Council

POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT INTRODUCTION

This document (referred to here as the post-adoption SEA statement) has been prepared in accordance with Section 18 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

WEBSITE

The full PPS as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and post-adoption SEA Statement are available on the Responsible Authority's website at:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/coastalplanning/classificationofthehighlandcoast/>

OFFICE ADDRESS

The PPS, as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and post-adoption SEA Statement may also be inspected free of charge (or a copy obtained for a reasonable charge) at the principal office of the Responsible Authority:

Contact name, address and telephone number

Highland Council, Planning & Development, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness. IV3 5NX Tel 01463 702269

Times at which the documents may be inspected or a copy obtained:

9.00 – 5.00 pm Mon-Fri

**POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT
KEY FACTS**

Name of Responsible Authority	Highland Council
Title of PPS	Highland Coastal Development Strategy
Purpose of PPS	Guidance on the sustainable development and use of Highland's coastal zone.
What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	Requirement to classify the coast for planning purposes under NPPG 13. Need for supplementary guidance to complement the Highland-wide Development Plan.
Subject (e.g. transport)	Coastal development
Period covered	2010-renewal
Frequency of updates	As required
Area of PPS (e.g. geographical area)	Highland Region's coastal zone: indicatively defined as from 1 km inland to 3 nautical miles offshore.
Summary of nature/content of PPS	Provides a strategic vision, guidance and a classification for development on and around the Highland coast.
Date adopted	26/05/1010
Contact name & job title Address, email, telephone number	Shona Turnbull, Coastal Planning Officer, Highland Council, Planning & Development Glenurquhart Road Inverness. IV3 5NX 01463 702270 shona.turnbull@highland.gov.uk
Date	04/06/2010

POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Highland Coastal Development Strategy has been subject to a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This has included the following activities:

- Taking into account the views of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland) regarding the scope and level of detail that was appropriate for the Environmental Report
- Preparing an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects on the environment of the draft PPS which included consideration of:
 - the baseline data relating to the current state of the environment;
 - links between the PPS and other relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
 - existing environmental problems affecting the PPS;
 - the plan's likely significant effects on the environment (positive and negative);
 - measures envisaged for the prevention, reduction and offsetting of any significant adverse effects;
 - an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives chosen;
 - monitoring measures to ensue that any unforeseen environmental effects will be identified allowing for appropriate remedial action to be taken.
- Consulting on the Environmental Report
- Taking into account the Environmental Report and the results of consultation in making final decisions regarding the PPS
- Committing to monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS. This will also identify any unforeseen adverse significant environmental effects and to enable taking appropriate remedial action.

**POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT
HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED INTO
THE HCDS AND HOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT HAS BEEN TAKEN
INTO ACCOUNT**

Table 1 SEA issues considered, potential impact of HCDS and mitigation, assisted by environmental report.

SEA issue	Existing problem?	Impact of PPS	Proposed measures for the reduction/prevention and offset of significant adverse effects
Biodiversity	Habitat fragmentation and decline of some species;	This strategy will actively encourage the protection and enhancement of coastal biodiversity through protecting the most sensitive areas using the coastal classification and the sub-regional strategies within the HCDS.	It is not envisaged that there will be any significant adverse affects as a direct result of this strategy. In the short term there may be slight negative impact on biodiversity due to construction of a larger coastal development. However if this is the case this will be due to construction methods employed and that is outwith the scope of this strategy. Consultation with the appropriate body will take place when a proposed development may have an impact on biodiversity. New developments will be guided by the strategy to the most appropriate locations. The SEA process has helped ensure the most important sites/species will be protected against adverse development.
Population	Pressure for coastal house building	The strategy will provide guidance for the most suitable locations for further developments, including the re-use of brownfield sites.	It is not envisaged that there will be any significant adverse affects as a direct result of this strategy and development will be considered at the individual planning application stage. However, it is acknowledged that there may be a conflict of interest between planning for large coastal developments around the Moray Firth and conservation of the local dolphin population. The ER has strengthened the advice on flood risk in key development areas.
Human Health	Ageing population	While the strategy takes into account the ageing population it can not influence it. The strategy can have an impact on the Scotland-wide health issues, such as obesity and heart disease by giving people greater information on access to the coast, which can reduce the impact of a wide range of health issues.	It is not envisaged that there will be any significant adverse affects as a direct result of this strategy.
Water	Flood risk in some areas	It is envisaged that with the coastal classification and the encouragement of SUDS there is the potential for better natural drainage which would lead to a lower risk of flooding.	It is not envisaged that there will be any significant adverse affects as a direct result of this supplementary guidance. HCDS has been amended to strengthen flood risk information
Landscape	None	Highland is an area with many outstanding coastal landscapes, which are highlighted in the strategy	It is not envisaged that there will be any significant adverse affects as a direct result of this strategy. In the short term there may be slight negative impacts on the coastal

			landscape of an area and this will be rectified when the development is built, taking into consideration the landscape surrounding development.
Inter-relationship	None	There are some inter-relationships between the SEA topics such as those between air and climatic factors, water and soil. However these would not be negative and largely have the potential to improve the current environment. There are no conflicts between the SEA issues.	It is not envisaged that there will be any significant adverse affects as a direct result of this strategy. The SEA process had helped clarify links between issues but there are no significant environmental impacts envisioned as a direct result of the HCDS.

Post-Adoption Sea Statement
How opinions expressed during the consultation have been taken into account
(including any consultation required with other EU member states)

TABLE 2 – CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND HOW THEY HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

CONSULTEE / RESPONDENT (ALPHA ORDER BEGINNING WITH THE CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES)	SUMMARY OF COMMENTS	HOW THE COMMENT WAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN MAKING THE DECISION TO ADOPT THE FINAL PPS
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Insufficient detail on flooding aspects.	Several sections amended and most up to date available information included.
The Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland)	The Environmental Report is clearly presented and I agree with the findings of the assessment for the historic environment. I welcome that our comments at scoping have been largely taken into account.	Coastal erosion issued strengthened.
Scottish Natural Heritage	Insufficient detail on flooding and erosion; lack of detail in some key areas of policy or emerging policy.	Several sections amended and most up to date available information included. HCDS amended to reflect changing SG planning guidance and new marine nature conservation designations.
For detailed comments on all feedback, see the Consultation Report: http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/coastalplanning/classificationofthehighlandcoast/		

**POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT
REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE HCDS AS ADOPTED, IN THE LIGHT OF
OTHER REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES**

HCDS as adopted option

The HCDS as adopted option should result in an overall significantly positive impact on the environment. Adopting the new coastal strategy in the form presented adds to the value of the Highland Wide Local Development Plan (HLWDP) by giving it an indicative coastal/marine dimension. The HCDS will be sensitive to the different needs, issues and development potential in the various parts of the Highland coastal zone and it will help to promote unity of vision between the various coastal interests in the run-up to the Government's establishment of marine regions and a statutory system of marine spatial planning. Public consultation on the draft Highland Wide Development Plan allowed local communities and stakeholders to contribute their views on the draft Coastal Development Strategy and to be involved in the decision-making process.

In summary, the option to go with the HCDS as proposed was chosen due to the following reasons:

- It would have an overall significantly positive impact on the environment;
- It would add to the value of the Highland Wide Local Development Plan;
- It may help in future requirements for marine spatial planning under the Marine (Scotland) Act and EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive commitments.

**Post-Adoption SEA Statement
Measures which are to be taken to monitor significant environmental effects
of the implementation of the HCDS**

To assess the effectiveness of the strategy, Highland Council will use the issues and objectives from the SEA process to monitor and review the coastal development strategy. Part of this review will take account of changes brought in through the Scottish Marine Act (2010) and any impacts it will have in relation to marine spatial planning. It shall also be reviewed in line with the evolving Highland Wide Local Development Plan.

Conclusion

The Highland Coastal Development Strategy has been strengthened in a number of key areas as a result of the SEA process. In particular, these are issues relating to housing development and flooding, along with climate change.