MANAGING WASTE IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2010

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – COVER NOTE

PART 1

To:

SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

or

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Scottish Executive
Area 1 H (Bridge)
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PART 2

An Environmental Report is attached for:

Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Planning Guidance

The Responsible Authority is:

The Highland Council

PART 3

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PART 4

Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	Gillian Webster
Date	22/10/10

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Contents of the Environmental Report

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Environmental Report has been prepared to fulfil the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The Report provides a Strategic Environmental Assessment for The Highland Council's Supplementary Guidance: Managing Waste in New Developments. The Supplementary Guidance sets out the Council's waste management requirements in all new developments including residential, retail, commercial and industrial.

A number of related plans, policies and strategies were identified and have been used to better the content of the consultation version of the Supplementary Guidance

One different option was identified as a possible alternative to producing the supplementary guidance. This was the 'Do Nothing' approach where no guidance regarding waste management in new developments is produced. This approach would rely on the policies set out within the Highland wide Local Development Plan to deliver waste management facilities and may lead to an inconsistent delivery of waste facilities within new developments. The preferred option is to produce detailed supplementary guidance to outline the Council's waste management requirements to ensure adequate provision is made for both waste storage and recycling. Both of these options were assessed against a set of Strategic Environmental Assessment Objectives to assess the level of impact on the Environment. Also Identified were appropriate mitigation mechanisms to offset or reduce and potential negative impact of the chosen alternative on the environment.

This Environmental Report identifies environmental issues associated with the production and implementation of Managing Waste in New Developments: Open Space in New Residential Development. SEA objectives, an Assessment Matrix and appropriate mitigation mechanisms are identified through the report.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this Environmental Report and key facts

As part of the preparation of Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance, the Highland Council is carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of certain PPS. SEA aims to:

- integrate environmental factors into PPS preparation and decision-making;
- improve PPS and enhance environmental protection;
- increase public participation in decision making; and
- facilitate openness and transparency of decision-making.

SEA is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The key SEA stages are:

Screening	determining whether the PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether an SEA is required
Scoping	deciding on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report, and the consultation period for the report – this is done in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage, The Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Environmental Report	publishing an Environmental Report on the PPS and its environmental effects, and consulting on that report
Adoption	providing information on: the adopted PPS; how consultation comments have been taken into account; and methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS
Monitoring	monitoring significant environmental effects in such a manner so as to also enable the Responsible Authority to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and undertake appropriate remedial action.

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

- provide information on Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Planning Guidance
- identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the PPS and its reasonable alternatives;
- provide an early and effective opportunity for the Consultation Authorities and the public to offer views on any aspect of this Environmental Report.

INTRODUCTION (cont)

The key facts relating to Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Key facts relating to Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance

Name of Responsible Authority	The Highland Council
Title of PPS	Managing Waste in New Developments
What prompted the PPS (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	The PPS is required to help implement the Council's Waste Management Strategy. Targets outlined in Scottish Government's 'Zero Waste' agenda and the EC Landfill Directive have emphasised the need to significantly reduce landfilling and increase the recycling and reuse of waste.
Subject (e.g. transport)	Waste Management/ Planning
Period covered by PPS	2010 onwards
Frequency of updates	As required
Area covered by PPS	The Highland Council administrative area except that controlled by the Cairngorms National Park.
Purpose and/or objectives of PPS	The purpose of the PPS is to outline the Council's requirements for waste management facilities in new residential, commercial, industrial and retail developments. The aim of doing so is to ensure waste management infrastructure such as bins, bin storage and recycling facilities, are pro-actively built into any new development. The objectives of the PPS are as follows: • To help achieve a more sustainable Highlands • To supplement waste management policies outlined in the Highland wide Local Development Plan • To assist in the implementation of the Council's Waste Management Strategy

	• To provide guidance and certainty to developers on the Council's requirement for waste management facilities for new developments • To provide guidance on the instances when and the level of developer contribution that may be sought towards recycling provision
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SEA activities to date

This section sets out the SEA activity to date in terms of work carried out and the consultation authorities response at each stage where applicable.

SEA Action/Activity	When carried out	Notes (e.g. comment on data availability, particular issues or any advice from the Consultation Authorities that has now been taken into account)
screening to determine whether the PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects	*April 2010*	
scoping the consultation periods and the level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report	*August 2010*	*see below*
Outline and objectives of the PPS	*August 2010*	
relationship with other PPS and environmental objectives	*August 2010*	
environmental baseline established	*September 2010*	
environmental problems identified	*September 2010*	
assessment of future of area without the PPS	*September 2010*	
alternatives considered	*September 2010*	
environmental assessment methods established	*September 2010*	
selection of PPS alternatives to be included in the environmental assessment	*September 2010*	
identification of environmental problems that may persist after implementation and measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects	*September 2010*	
monitoring methods proposed	*September 2010*	
consultation timescales • Timescale for Consultation Authorities • Timescale for public	*October 2010 – December 2010*	*see below*
notification/publicity action	*December 2010*	

Screening

Screening to determine whether the PPS is likely to have significant environment effects was undertaken on 27th April 2010. Comments from consultation authorities indicating an overall view that there was a likelihood of significant environmental effects were received on 20th May. It was therefore determined that an SEA would be undertaken. A

Determination Notice was placed in the local press to inform members of the public of our intention to undertake an SEA.

Scoping

Scoping to assess the level of detail and consultation period required was undertaken on 24th August 2010. Comments from the Consultation Authorities regarding the Scoping Report are outlined below:

Historic Scotland:

- Note that the guidance will seek to ensure a consistent approach to pro-actively building waste management infrastructure in to the design of new developments.
- Content with the scope and the level of detail proposed for this assessment and have no detailed comments on the scoping report.
- Content with the 8 week period proposed for consultation

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA):

- Generally, the scoping report provides clear and detailed information on the proposed scope and level of detail of the assessment and covers most of the aspects that we would wish to see addressed at this stage. Subject to the comments below we are generally content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the ER.

1. Relationship with other Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS)

- The main overarching strategies and regulations which may be taken into consideration in a SEA of a policy to encourage recycling are:
    - The 6th Environment Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community 2002-2012. The SP sits under the 4th priority area – Natural Resources and Waste.
    - Thematic Strategy for the Prevention and Recycling of Waste, COM 666 (2005)
    - Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources COM 670 (2005)
    - Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC
    - Zero Waste Plan for Scotland, 2010
    - SEPA's Thermal Treatment of Waste Guidelines
    - The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

2. Baseline Information

- Table 2 and associated appendices provides good generic baseline data for those aspects of the environment where we have an interest
- A summary of the likely changes in the environment if the SG is not implemented should be provided in the ER.

3. Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

- Agree that increasing recycling will usually reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and that there is usually a net carbon benefit from recycling materials. However, whether it possible to relate a policy requiring provision of recycling

containers in new developments to potential environmental impacts of landfill is less clear. Landfill gas is produced from the degradation of biodegradable waste but not all recyclable materials are biodegradable e.g. metal and glass.

- Suggest that recycling cannot be linked to the production of landfill gas. We would suggest that potential human health environment impact resulting from the SG could consider potential impacts on human health, water and air quality presented by temporary storage of recyclable materials. For example, health and safety issues arising from insecure storage, water pollution from rainwater ingress or leaking containers, air quality issues from dust and litter is the area is not properly maintained.

4. Alternatives

- Note the rationale set out in relation to the consideration of alternatives and accept that the option of 'no plan' is reasonable in this instance. However, it may also be possible to consider reasonable alternatives in relation to the objectives and policies to be contained in the SG and how these are worded, or reasonable alternatives are identified during the development of the SG then they should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings of the assessment should inform the choice of the preferred option.

5. Scoping in/out of SEA Objectives

- On the understanding that waste management issues will be considered under the soil receptor and not the material assets receptor, we agree with the proposed scope of the assessment.

6. Methodology for assessing environmental effects

- Consider that SEA objective 2 would adequately assess the water environment – advise removing SEA objective 3 and;
- Suggest the climate change SEA objective consider reducing the effects of climate change as well as mitigating against effects
- Would expect all aspects of the SG which could have significant effects to be assessed. This would include comments on, for example, policies and application requirements.
- When it comes to providing the assessment of the effects please provide enough information to clearly justify the reasons for each of the assessments presented. It would also be helpful to set out assumptions that are made during the assessment and difficulties and limitations encountered

7. Mitigation

- Welcome the acknowledgement that changes to the draft SG itself is the clearest form of mitigation, would like to ER to make it clear how carrying out SEA informed the Plan which is being consulted on at the same time.

8. Monitoring

- Early consideration should be given to a monitoring approach particularly in the choice of indicators. It would be helpful if the ER included a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan.

9. Next steps

- Satisfied with the proposal for an eight week consultation period for the ER.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH):

- Content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the environmental report
- With respect to the scoping in/out of issues (provided in table 2), agree with the reasoning which has resulted in biodiversity, flora and fauna being scoped out of the process at this stage. It is our view that potential impacts on both landscape and the natural heritage aspects of soils are not going to be of a strategically significant level, and our advice would be to scope these aspects out the process also.
- Note that a period of 8 weeks is proposed for consultation on the Environmental Report and are content with this proposed period.

Outline and objectives of Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance

Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes "*an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme*". The purpose of this section is to explain the nature, contents, objectives and timescale of the PPS.

Context & Objectives

Targets set by the EC Landfill Directive, Scottish Government's "Zero Waste" agenda and Scottish Planning Policy require that all Local Authorities must move away from the practice of landfilling waste and recognise the potential of waste as a resource. Below are the Scottish Government Zero Waste targets:

Target Year	Recycling /Composting	Energy from Waste	Landfill
2010	40%	4%	56%
2013	50%	14%	36%
2020	60%	25%	15%
2025	70%	25%	5%

To help meet these targets, it is crucial for the Council and its partners to engage with developers and the wider community in Highland to encourage the reduction, reuse/ recovery and recycling of as much waste as possible.

In particular, new developments have the opportunity to make a contribution to these targets by reducing waste and providing facilities for recycling. The PPS is being prepared to enable developers to incorporate waste management requirements at the initial design stage of any proposed development in the same way other essential services, such as drainage, are considered. This includes all new developments where additional major residential, commercial, industrial and retail units are created, including conversions and material changes of use.

The **objectives** of the PPS are:

- To help achieve a more sustainable Highlands
- To supplement waste management policies outlined in the Highland wide Local Development Plan
- To assist in the implementation of the Council's Waste Management Strategy
- To provide guidance and certainty to developers on the Council's requirement for waste management facilities for new developments
- To provide guidance on developer contributions that may be sought towards major waste management infrastructure

Contents
The proposed contents of the PPS are outlined below:

Chapter 1: Context
Outlines the context of the guidance, as outlined above, and details the 'waste hierarchy' – the overarching principle for new development. This remains the cornerstone of waste management policy and is aimed at creating a 'recycling society'. It identifies waste management options by how sustainable they are. Reducing the amount of waste produced is the most important aspect of the hierarchy; this is a preventative measure which prevents waste from becoming an issue in the first instance.

Chapter 2: Key Issues
There are a number of key issues to address in connection with waste management that apply to all types of development:

- Separation of waste for recycling: incorporating recycling facilities helps to ensure that waste diversion is easy and convenient to implement.

- Access: it is important to design easy and convenient access for both users of waste facilities and those who collect waste. This will also help in promoting recycling and make economic provision of waste services more achievable.

- Pollution: waste materials can be hazardous, create odours, noise and/or attract vermin. It is essential that any design and layout considers the potential impact of these facilities on neighbouring properties.

- Safety: waste storage can create a fire hazard, lead to sharp materials being left on the ground or within the storage compound and in turn can have an impact on human health. Security must be addressed at the design stage to ensure any negative impact on human health is minimised.

- Visual impact: wheelie bins, communal wheeled bins, recycling boxes and commercial waste bins all have an impact on the street scene and local landscape quality which can detract from the amenity of an area.

Chapter 3: Detailed Guidance
Provides the detailed standards that will be applied for waste management in new residential, commercial, industrial and retail developments, including the following requirements:

Residential:
Collection point
Waste & recycling containers
External bin storage space
Roads standards & streetscape
Centralised recycling facilities for major new housing developments/ new settlements

Commercial, industrial and retail:
Waste storage facilities

Recycling facilities

Chapter 4: Developer Contributions

This chapter will outline that recycling points for major developments will normally be required to be delivered on site. However, this chapter will outline the exceptional circumstances in which it may be more appropriate for the Council to consider a developer contribution, for example where it can be clearly demonstrated that it is not feasible to provide a recycling point on-site, where a recycling point exists close by and requires upgrading or where the existing recycling facilities are at or near capacity.

Relationship with other PPS and environmental protection objectives

Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes an outline of the PPS relationships with other relevant PPS, and how environmental protection objectives have been taken into account in the PPS preparation. This section covers these issues and describes the policy context within which the PPS operates, and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the PPS.

Table 3 summarises how Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance affects, and is affected by, other relevant PPS and environmental objectives.

Table 3. Relevant plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) and environmental protective objectives, and their relationship with Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance

International 		
EC Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC)	The objective of this Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Aims to identify and mitigate significant environment effects arising from certain plans and programmes.	The Directive requires that an SEA be carried out on documents such as this and an Environmental Report produced.
European Climate Change Programme (2005)	The European Commission's main instrument to discuss and prepare the further development of the European Union's climate policy. To identify and develop all the necessary elements on an EU strategy to deliver the EU Kyoto Protocol commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 8% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012.	The guidance should promote choice and raise awareness of the need for change; and aim to reduce carbon emissions. The Guidance will reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill reducing harmful pollutants.
EC Directive establishing a framework for Community action in the Field of Water Policy Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	The Water Framework Directive is designed to integrate the way we manage water bodies across Europe. It aims to protect and enhance our water environment, promote sustainable water consumption, reduce water pollution and lessen the effects of floods and droughts.	The Strategic Environment Assessment will consider the implications of waste management on the water environment and how its can benefit the existing environment and reduce risk of flooding.
The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	Principles of international commitment to sustainable development reaffirmed. Aims to strengthen and improve Government at all levels to fulfil commitment to sustainable	The guidance will take into consideration the principles of sustainable development, including waste management,

	development.	and seek to reflect these within the overarching objectives of the strategy and individual projects.
Agenda 21(1992)	Agenda 21 underlines the growing awareness of the need to adopt a balanced and integrated approach to environment and development issues. Agenda 21 contains a broad range of qualitative objectives that relate to sustainable development. These include a requirement for countries to adopt integrated strategies to ensure compliance with legislation relating to sustainable development, to promote the use of renewable energy systems and to build public environmental awareness.	The guidance will reflect the principles of sustainable development.
EC Directive On Public Access to Environmental Information (2003/4/EC)	Enforces the right of the public to view environmental information held by public authorities.	The Highland Council is required to ensure that all environmental information relating to the guidance is made available to the general public.
UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. 'The Aarhus Convention' Adopted June 1998	Acknowledges the need for public participation in environmental issues and grants the public rights to access to justice and information on the environment.	Public involvement in the formulation of the guidance should be actively facilitated. Consultations should incorporate the views and suggestions of local residents, business groups, council representatives and government.
EU Soil Thematic Strategy (Consultation stage)	The emerging Soil Strategy aims to reduce soil pollution, erosion, compaction and sealing of soil. It also aims to protect the role of soil in storing CO2, avoiding water pollution and preserving biodiversity. Protection of the sustainable production of food and renewable resources is a further aim.	The Strategy highlights soil protection as an issue and implicates soil degradation as a forthcoming issue in relation to land use.
EC Air Quality Framework Directive	Sets new air quality standards for previously unregulated air pollutants. Includes sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone pollutants.	The guidance should consider the strategic approach to air quality in Highland and the contribution improved waste management could make to this.
European Framework on Sustainable Development	Promotes coherent and cost-effective policy making; technological innovation; stronger involvement in civil society; and business in policy formation. Strategies for Sustainable Economic support progress in respect of the local environment.	The guidance will promote efficient resource use, and sustainable development through a number of the topics. Sustainable development would be considered a cross cutting theme.
Kyoto Protocol (1992)	United Nations international treaty on climate change. The Protocol entered into force in February 2005. Developed countries that have ratified the Protocol are committed to reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases. Commitment signed by 38 countries (plus the EU) to introduce legally binding targets to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5% of 1990 levels in the period 2008-2012. The UK has committed to an 8% reduction.	The guidance will take account of targets of reducing CO2 emissions and consider measures to reduce the need to landfill waste.
Water Framework Directive	The Water Framework Directive is designed	The guidance will take account of

2000/60/EC	to integrate the way we manage water bodies across Europe. It aims to protect and enhance our water environment, promote sustainable water consumption, reduce water pollution and lessen the effects of floods and droughts.	the Framework and will aim to reduce water pollution through a reduction of waste sent to landfill.
The EC Waste Framework Directive	Along with subsequent Directives, this Directive aims to create an integrated approach to waste management in order to reduce waste production. It requires all necessary measures to be taken to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without harming human health	The guidance will be based around the need to reduce the overall amount of waste produced within the area as well as the need to sustainably dispose and reuse the waste that is produced
EC Directive on Landfill	The Directive aims to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill. Biodegradable waste is waste that breaks down to produce methane (a greenhouse gas causing global warming). The main requirements of the directive are that: • All landfill sites are classified as either hazardous, non-hazardous or inert. This will mean the end of co-disposal • Full costs to be met by the gate price • Only treated waste may be landfilled • Once a landfill site is classified, the Directive dictates the types of waste it can accept	The Directive will have a considerable influence on the overall development of the Guidance. It will be necessary to ensure that the approach taken in the guidance limits the amount of waste that goes to landfill as much as possible
EU Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (2005)	Sets objectives for reducing certain pollutants and reinforces the legislative framework for combating air pollution via two main routes: improving Community environmental legislation and integrating air quality concerns into related policies.	The guidance will take this strategy into consideration when assessing any impact on air quality.
Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste (2005)	Sets out guidelines and describes measures aimed at reducing the pressure on the environment caused by waste production and management. The main thrust of the strategy is on amending the legislation to improve implementation, and on preventing waste and promoting effective recycling.	This will be taken into account consideration when developing the Guidance to achieve more sustainable waste disposal in line with the waste hierarchy
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	Achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.	The guidance will consider the role it has to play with regard to climate change esp. reduction of greenhouse gases such as methane from landfill

National		
SEA Good Practice Guidelines (ODPM) 2005	The guidelines are designed to assist practitioners responsible for plans and programmes requiring SEA, explain the role of the Environment Agency in the process and promote good practice approaches.	The Council will use these guidelines to inform how best to carry out an environmental assessment on qualifying plans and programmes.
UK Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (2003)	Defines a long-term vision for energy policy combining environmental, security supply, competitiveness and social goals. Four key goals within the White Paper: - to cut the UK's carbon dioxide emissions, the main contributor to global warming, by 60% by about 2050 with real progress by 2020 - to maintain the reliability of energy supplies - to promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve our productivity; and - to ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated	The Local Plan should recognise the significance of the contribution waste management makes to CO2 emissions.
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2000 – amended 2003)	The UK Government has identified climate change as the most serious environmental problem facing the world today and one that will inevitably become more serious in the short to medium term. This programme outlines the UK's contribution to the global response to climate change: - to deliver the UK's commitment of a 12.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2008 – 2012. The programme sets out a strategic, far reaching package of policies and measures across all sectors of the economy to achieve the targets set. These are also designed to move the UK towards its domestic target of 20% reduction in 1990 levels of CO2 emissions by 2010	It is imperative that the guidance looks at ways in which greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced. The guidance will examine more sustainable waste management that encourages recycling and reduces the amount of waste that is landfilled
UK Climate Change Bill	The UK Climate Change Bill sets a target of 60% $C0_2$ reduction by 2050. The Bill is currently moving through the House of Commons. A Climate Change Committee has been created to take forward the actions in the Bill. Scotland will have certain devolved powers in implementing a Climate Change Bill for Scotland.	The guidance will take a strategic approach to how waste management may a part in reducing carbon emissions.
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales	Describes the plans drawn up by the Government and devolved administrations to improve and protect ambient air quality in the UK in the medium-term. Standards set for 8 main air pollutants of	The guidance will have regard to the implications of different policies on air quality and promote measures which reduce the need to travel and encourage

and Northern Ireland (2000 – amended 2003)	particular concern to human health: - Benzene; - 1,3-butadiene; - Carbon Monoxide; - Lead; - Nitrogen Dioxide; - Ozone; - Particles (PM10); and - Sulphur Dioxide Local authorities are charged with drawing up their own strategies to tackle the air quality objectives in their areas. Standards are to be achieved between 2003 and 2008. The standards are purely health based and objectives are to be derived from these, taking account practically, technical feasibility, and economic factors.	the development and uptake of more sustainable options. The guidance should seek to ensure that air pollution within the area is managed and where possible, steps are taken to alleviate air quality problems.
Scotland National 		
The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	The Act ensures that during the preparation of a qualifying plan or programme, there will be the carrying out of an environmental assessment. The SEA process that should be followed by a responsible authority is also outlined.	The Council will follow the procedure outlined in the Act when carrying out an environment assessment on a plan or programme.
Scottish Executive et al (2005) Securing the Future. The UK's shared framework for sustainable development	Sets out the guiding principles that have to be adhered to in order to achieve the goal of sustainable development. The following principles set out the framework for all sustainable development policy within the UK: - Living within environmental limits - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society - Achieving a sustainable economy - Promoting good governance - Using sound science responsibly	The guidance should adhere to the five principles in order that all policies are sustainable. The emphasis within the strategy is on balancing all aspects of sustainability, and this should be considered within the guidance.
Scottish Executive: Choosing Our Future Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	This document sets out the action that will be taken in Scotland to turn the shared priorities set out in the UK Framework for sustainable development into action. It has six key priorities; sustainable consumption and production, climate change and energy, natural resource protection and environmental enhancement, sustainable communities, learning to live differently and delivery.	The guidance will take account of objectives relating to sustainable development.
Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006	Act of the Scottish Parliament to make further provision relating to town and country planning; to make provision for business improvement districts; and for connected purposes.	The guidance will be produced using the guidance set out in this Act and also the secondary legislation of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) (Development Planning)

		Regulations 2009
Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland SEPA Environmental Policy 19 (2003)	Groundwater is a valuable resource in Scotland, essential for irrigation in some agriculturally productive areas, and is vital to the maintenance of the ecology and biodiversity of other habitats. As groundwater is not visible, it is often poorly understood and its value underestimated as a consequence. Groundwater should be managed in a sustainable way to maintain and enhance its contribution to social, economic and environmental welfare. However, the resource can be damaged by pollution and over-abstraction, sometimes irreversibly	The guidance will try to reduce the risk of water contamination from landfill seepage.
The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (CAR)	Brings into effect the regulation of the following activities: • abstractions from surface and groundwater; • impoundment of rivers, lochs, wetlands and transitional waters; • groundwater recharge; - engineering in rivers, lochs and wetlands; - engineering activities in the vicinity of rivers, lochs and wetland which are likely to have a significant adverse impact upon the water environment; - activities liable to cause pollution; - direct or indirect discharge of certain substances to groundwater; and • any other activities which directly or indirectly are liable to cause a significant impact upon the water environment.	The Regulations apply across the water environment to provide a holistic approach to pollution control and protection of the water environment. Any activities that may fall within the remit of these regulations will require close consultation with SEPA and the receipt of appropriate licences.
SEPA Policy 27 (Addendum)	This document looks at the reduction and control of water pollution. SEPA is responsible for ensuring that licenses granted for discharges are compliant with relevant regulations. It looks at: • urban waste water • nitrates directive • bathing waters • shellfish waters • freshwater fisheries • surface waters abstracted for public supply • dangerous substances • discharges to groundwater • integrated pollution prevention and control • Natura 2000 sites • Water framework directive • OSPAR	The guidance should take account of possible sources of water pollution such as landfill seepage
Scottish Climate Change Bill	The aim of the Bill is to establish a framework to enable more actions to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. The Bill is currently out for consultation and The	The guidance will take into consideration the provisions of the act.

	Highland Council have submitted a response	
SEPA Thermal Treatment of Waste Guidelines	Details the requirements for the thermal treatment of waste	The guidance will ensure waste is separated to ensure that only residual waste is thermally treated
Changing out Ways - Scotland's Climate Change Programme (2006)	The Scottish Executive is committed to playing its full part to tackle climate change. Key elements of this programme are: - presenting a vision for Scotland and how we are to move forward - quantifying Scotland's 'equitable contribution' in carbon terms - setting a Scottish target for carbon emission reductions - demonstrating Scotland's achievements so far - setting out new actions and future directions across the main sectors - responding to the inevitable consequences of climate change	The guidance will aim to reduce carbon emissions arising a result of landfilled waste
Zero Waste Scotland (2010)	Sets targets on waste including: the amount of municipal being recycled or composted to be increased to 60% by 2020 and a new target of 70% target by 2025 Landfill from municipal waste is to be reduced to 5% by 2025 and no more than 25% of municipal waste is to be used to generate energy by 2025 and large inefficient incinerators are to be rejected; and keeping the existing challenging targets by stopping the growth in municipal waste by 2010	Zero Waste Scotland will heavily influence the production of the guidance, in particular the need to reduce reliance on landfilling of waste and increase recycling rates
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	Introduces new duties for public bodies that will have important implications for waste management planning.	The guidance will take account of the role of waste management in contributing to climate change
Scottish National Planning Policy Tier		
National Planning Framework for Scotland 2	This is the governments land use element of its economic strategy and sets out how each part of Scotland can play its part in making Scotland the best small country in the world.	The guidance must take into account the information within NPF2
Scottish Planning Policy (2009)	This sets out national policy, the purpose of the planning system and the objectives for core parts of the planning system	The guidance will have regard to the SPP to ensure the guidance meets with the Scottish Governments view on waste management
PAN 63 Waste Management Planning (2002)	One of the purposes of this PAN is to assist planning authorities in ensuring that development plans reflect the land use requirement of the delivery of an integrated network of waste management facilities	The guidance will reflect the advice provided in this PAN

Regional		
Highland Area Waste Plan (SEPA, 2003)	This document outlines the strategic vision for waste management in the Highlands over the next 20 years. At present the Highlands has a high reliance on landfill sites on landfill sites. There is pressure for change including an increase in recycling	The guidance will aim to tackle the issues raised in the Area Waste Plan, in particular by ensuring recycling facilities are pro-actively built into all new development
Highland Climate Change Strategy	A requirement of being a signatory to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, the Climate Change Strategy will set out Highland Councils actions to mitigate the causes of Climate Change and adapt to its likely impacts. The Strategy will be developed during the term of this administration.	This will be taken into consideration when bringing forward the guidance and considering the role waste management has to play.
Highland wide Local Development Plan (forthcoming)	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment across the Highland area	The guidance will supplement the Plan's waste management policies
Inverness Local Plan	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Inverness area	The guidance will supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
Ross and Cromarty East Local Plan	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Ross and Cromarty area	The guidance will supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
Wester Ross Local Plan	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Wester Ross area	The guidance will supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
Sutherland Local Plan	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Sutherland area	The guidance will supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
Caithness Local Plan	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Caithness area	The guidance will supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
West Highland & Islands Local Plan	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the West Highland and Islands area	The guidance will supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
Nairnshire local Plan	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Nairnshire area	The guidance will supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
Supplementary Planning Guideline on Developer Contributions	This guidance is in preparation and will set out guidance on Developer Contributions	The guidance will consider the implications of this emerging guidance.
The Highland Council Waste Strategy (2009)	Sets out the existing waste management infrastructure, develop the principals and plan for progress in waste management in the medium and long term to meet current and future legislative requirements and objectives of the National Waste Plan. Seeks to make the maximum possible contribution to reduce environmental impact at an acceptable cost and the maximisation	The Waste Strategy will be taken into account during development of the guidance to ensure future waste management needs are met

	of opportunities for businesses arising from sustainable waste opportunities	

Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of "the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme", and "the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected". This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the PPS operates and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the PPS.

The Highland Council Local Development Plan extends over an area of 26,484 square kilometres and is an area of high quality natural environment and diverse historic background. It has a population of 217,440 and at 8.2 persons per square kilometre, is sparsely populated compared with other regions in Scotland. A large proportion of the land area is identified as "fragile" in terms of remoteness and scarcity of population.

Natural heritage designations cover a range of habitats in Highland. In terms of international designation there are 13 Ramsar sites and 91 Special Areas of Conservation (SACS). In addition there are 367 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which cover important biological, geomorphological and geological areas. There are also 26 National Nature Reserves in Highland and in addition the Cairngorms National Park lies partly within the authority of the Highland Council. 16 National Scenic Areas are found within the Highland region and 46 Special Protection Areas. These natural heritage features are available at Appendix 1.

Areas which are considered to have special architectural or historic interest are designated as Conservation Areas. At present there are 30 Conservation Areas in Highland. Any building or structure which is considered to be of special architectural or historic interest is listed: Those of national importance are listed as "Category A"; those of regional importance "Category B"; and those of local importance listed as "Category C". The number of listed building in Highland is 3014. They can be seen at Appendix 2.

There are 51 areas in Highland that are listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. National guidance requires the settings, as well as the gardens themselves, be safeguarded from unsympathetic development. The history of Highland region and relative remoteness, means that many archaeological features of all periods remain well preserved, including 1237 Scheduled monuments. These features have been identified on a map in Appendix 2 - Baseline Information Maps.

Most Highland soils are very shallow, often due to shallow parent materials. In some parts of Highland, soil erosion is becoming increasingly significant. Peat is very common throughout Highland and Caithness and Sutherland contain one of the largest and most intact areas of blanket bog in the world, supporting a distinctive wildlife community. A map showing the extent of the blanket bog is shown in Appendix 2.

With a large geographical area and a low population size, Highland region is not affected by air pollution from extensive road networks and heavy industries as in other parts of Scotland. The air quality is reflected by the extensive number of lichen communities of international importance.

The quality of the freshwater environment is also recognised internationally for its importance as a spawning ground for wild salmon and use by whiskey distilleries. The many lochs and rivers that characterise the area are important for local economies and provide the scenic backdrop that encourages so many tourists to the area.

The key facts and the baseline information collated for this scoping report has enabled us to identify some environmental problems in the Highland area. Environmental problems that affect the area are identified in table 2 below.

Table 2 Environmental Impacts Relevant to Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance

SEA Issue	Potential Environmental Impact resulting from Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance	Implications for Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance
Biodiversity, flora, fauna	As the guidance applies to all new development, the wider development may have an impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna however it is unlikely that the guidance itself will any environmental impact	n/a
Population	It is unlikely the guidance itself will result in any changes to population. As above, the wider development will result in population increases putting pressure on existing waste management infrastructure	The guidance will ensure new waste management infrastructure is pro-actively and consistently built into all new developments (residential, commercial, retail and industrial) to mitigate the increase in population
Human health	Increased opportunity for improvement to human health through a reduced reliance on landfill and associated impact on health through landfill gas pollution	The guidance will emphasise the need to reduce the amount of waste produced and sent to landfill and will encourage recycling as much as possible
Soil	Increased opportunity for improved waste management storage, meeting landfilling and recycling targets, overall reduced risk of soil contamination	The guidance will help to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill through increased recycling and less production of waste. This will lower the risk of soil contamination from landfilled waste
Water	A reduction in landfill waste, improved water quality through reduced risk of contamination by landfill	The guidance will help to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill and lower the risk of seepage into water bodies
Air	A reduction in contaminants from landfill, improved air quality	The guidance will help to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill which will reduce the risk of landfill has escaping and having a detrimental impact on local air quality
Climatic factors	Potential reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide and methane) from landfill	The guidance will need to emphasise the need to produce less waste in the first instance and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill through increasing recycling rates
Material assets	It is unlikely that the guidance itself will impact on material assets such as core paths or cycle paths.	n/a
Cultural heritage	Possible negative impact on the setting for cultural heritage features in terms of the visual impact of waste storage	The guidance should incorporate an element of flexibility in terms of waste storage (i.e. type/number of receptacles) to ensure cultural heritage

		features are protected
Landscape	As above, there may be a potential negative impact on the landscape as a result of the visual impact associated with waste storage	The guidance should provide detailed advice for developers regarding the design of waste storage to ensure it is suitably incorporated and any visual impact is mitigated

The key facts and the baseline information (included as Appendix 2 to this Environmental Report) collated for this Environmental Report has enabled us to identify some environmental problems in the Highland area with specific information related to waste management. Environmental problems that affect the area are identified in table 2 above. The negative trends highlighted in this table are likely to continue if there is not additional guidance on waste management in new developments, supplementary to that in the Highland wide Local Development Plan.

Data Availability

Much data and information was available through the consultation authorities, the Scottish Government and there was a wealth of data on offer to the Highland Council to inform the baseline data for this Environmental Report. However, there are a number of factors which can limit the validity of this data:

- Some parts of Highland area have been more widely studied than others. Therefore, the quality and accuracy of information for some areas will be greater than for others;
- Collation of data has been prominently gathered on a Highland wide basis, including the Cairngorms National Park, therefore, it has proved difficult at times to dissect this information for the area covered by this guidance only;
- The data relevant to this Report is held in different forms. If information is held in databases and Geographic Information Systems it can be more easily queried than information which is only in the printed form in reports, books or even on websites.

Likely evolution of the environment without Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance

Schedule 3 of the Act requires that the likely evolution of the state of the environment without implementation of the PPS must be included in the Environmental Report.

If the Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance is not produced then the approach that would be taken for Highland would be to rely solely on the broad policy framework set out in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. This outlines that details on how the Council will consider waste management in new developments can be found in Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance. The Council therefore has an obligation to produce such supplementary guidance to expand on the framework outlined in the Proposed Plan.

Without Managing Waste in New Developments it is considered that the likely future changes to the area will be:

- an inconsistent approach to the Council's requirements for waste management in new developments across the Highlands
- inadequate waste storage
- potential lack of recycling facilities
- problems in implementing the Council's waste management strategy in terms of encouraging recycling
- increased difficulty in meeting Scottish Government Zero Waste targets
- potentially incurring landfill penalties if no reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill

SEA Objectives

SEA issues	Scoped in	Scoped out	If scoped out, why
biodiversity, flora, fauna		**X**	It is not considered that there will be a significant impact on this SEA topic through this guidance. There may be a negative impact as a result of wider development that occurs
population		**X**	It is not considered that there will be any impact on this SEA guidance through this guidance. There may be a negative impact as a result of the wider development that occurs
human health	**X**		
soil	**X**		.
water	**X**		
air	**X**		
climatic factors	**X**		
material assets		**X**	It is not considered that there will be a significant impact on this SEA topic through the guidance. Whilst the wider development may have a negative impact on material assets, this would be addressed through the planning process
cultural heritage		**X**	It is not considered that there will be a significant impact on this SEA topic through the guidance. As above, any impact of wider development would be mitigated through the planning process
landscape		**X**	It is considered that potential impacts on landscape will not be of a strategically significant level. As above, any impact of wider development would be mitigated through the planning process

Following the scoping of issues a number of SEA objectives were identified at the Scoping stage and following comment from the consultation authorities these have been refined.

1	Protect and enhance human health
2	Avoid impact to and where possible enhance the water environment
3	Maintain air quality
4	Reducing the effects of climate change & mitigating against any such effects of climate change
5	Value and protect the biodiversity and local distinctiveness of landscapes
6	Minimise waste
7	Reduce contamination, safeguard soil quantity and quality

Assessment of environmental effects and measures envisaged for prevention, reduction and offset of any significant adverse effects

The purpose of this section is to predict and evaluate as far as possible the environmental effects Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance and its reasonable alternatives (Section 14 of the Act) and to set out measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment (Schedule 3 paragraph 7 of the Act)

The baseline information from the previous sections is applied to consider whether Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance and its alternatives are likely to have significant environmental effects (positive and negative)

Alternatives to which SEA was applied
The reasons for selecting the alternatives below have been born out analysis of the baseline data collated as part of this Environmental Report, the current policies contained in the Highland Structure, the existing local plans, the emerging Highland wide Local Development Plan and national policy and guidance. This section will detail the alternatives:

Preferred Approach – Prepare Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance
The Council's preferred approach at this time is to prepare waste management supplementary guidance to ensure that the challenging targets set by Scottish Government to reduce waste and increase recycling can be timeously met. The guidance would also provide a consistent approach to waste management within new developments across the Highlands.

Alternative Approach – Do Nothing
The alternative approach is to not prepare guidance on managing waste in new developments. This approach may lead to a less co-ordinated approach to waste management across the Highlands. More importantly it is very often difficult to retro-fit facilities such as recycling points into already established areas – new developments provide the best opportunity to pro-actively incorporate new waste management infrastructure.

Assessment methods

The reasonable alternatives described above have been assessed against the range of environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Comments from the Consultation Authorities (SNH, SEPA and The Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland) have been taken into account regarding the methods, scope and level of detail in this Environmental Report.

Assessment of alternatives

As described in the scoping report for Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance we will be using an assessment matrix for the assessment of the policy options. This has been adjusted following comment from the consultation authorities at the Scoping Report stage, through informal discussion and recent experience of SEA, to ensure a clearer path to the final decision on the approach which can be found in the supplementary guidance. The two main revisions from the scoping stage are:

- Given that in this instance, SEA objective 2 would adequately assess the water environment, SEA objective 3 has been removed
- The climate change SEA objective has been widened to consider reducing the effects of climate change as well as mitigating against these effects.

Assessment of Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance and its alternatives - Summary

The Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Planning Guidance and its alternatives were assessed using the framework shown earlier. A summary of the assessment findings is shown in the table below and the full findings are shown in **Appendix A**.

Preferred Approach: Prepare Managing Waste in New Developments

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude	
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		Local	Regional
1	+	+	+	M	+	+
2	=	+	+	M	+	+
3	=	+	++	M	+	+
4	=	+	+	M	+	+
5	+	++	++	H	+	+
6	+	++	++	M	+	+

Summary of Assessment – Commentary
It is considered that this approach is likely to have a positive effect on all SEA objectives, with some SEA objectives being significantly positively affected by this guidance. For the majority of the objectives it is considered likely that these positive effects will be maximised in the longer term and in conjunction with the wider approach to waste management taken in the Highland wide Local Development Plan.

Alternative approach

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude	
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		Local	Regional
1	=	=	=	M	=	=
2	=	-	-	M	-	-
3	=	-	-	M	-	-
4	=	=	-	M	=	=
5	-	-	-	H	-	-
6	=	-	-	M	-	-

Summary of Assessment – Commentary of Assessment
While it is not anticipated that this approach will have a significantly negative affect on any of the SEA objectives it is considered that it does not offer opportunity to facilitate a cohesive or cumulative approach towards waste management, thus not maximising the positive affects on each SEA objective.

Assessment of alternatives - cumulative effects

As the Guidance has been assessed as a whole, the cumulative affects of each element of the guidance have effectively already been assessed. This section seeks to identify the individual affects of each principle on the SEA objectives to demonstrate their cumulative affect.

SEA Objective 1
Protect and enhance human health
It is anticipated that there may be a slight **positive cumulative effect** on this SEA objective if the policies outlined in the Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance are considered cumulatively. On the whole, waste management has at best a small impact on human health however over the long term and as the measures outlined in the guidance are delivered cumulatively alongside other measures, the amount of waste going to landfill will decrease providing a benefit to human health through a reduction in the prevalence of odour (i.e. if Scottish Government targets this figure will be 5% by 2025).

SEA Objective 2
Avoid impact to and where possible enhance the water environment. It is anticipated that there may be a small **positive cumulative effect** on this SEA objective as the measures outlined in the Managing Waste in New Developments are implemented cumulatively in new developments and alongside other measures. In the long term it is anticipated that the amount of waste being sent to landfill will significantly reduce which represents a significant reduction in the risk of contaminates entering the water environment.

SEA Objective 3
Maintain air quality
It is anticipated that there will be **neither significantly positive or negative cumulative effects** on this SEA objective. In the long term there may be a slight positive effect arising as a result of a reduction in landfilled waste producing contaminants.

SEA Objective 4
Reducing the effects of climate change & mitigating against any such effects of climate change.

It is anticipated that there may be a **positive cumulative affect** on this SEA objective if the measures outlined in Managing Waste in New Developments. Contaminants released from landfilled waste, such as methane, can are significant potent greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. A Defra study indicated that municipal solid waste comprises 27% of the UK's methane emissions – over a significant time period and in conjunction with other policies, the guidance will aim to address this through reducing landfilled waste.

SEA Objective 5
Minimise waste
It is anticipated that there may be a **significant positive cumulative affect** on this SEA objective if the measures outlined in the Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance are considered cumulatively. The main focus of the guidance is to minimise waste and as the measures outlined become widespread across new developments it is anticipated production of waste will decrease, in line with the waste hierarchy.

SEA Objective 6
Reduce contamination, safeguard soil quantity and quality
It is anticipated that there may be a **positive cumulative affect** on this SEA objective if the measures outlined in Managing Waste in New Development: Supplementary Guidance are considered cumulatively. It is anticipated that the guidance will reduce the risk of soil contamination through ensuring proper storage of waste in new developments and reducing the amount of landfilled waste, which can also contaminate soil.

Compatibility with other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Each element of the guidance is anticipated to work together to ensure the delivery of a sufficient waste management facilities within new developments across the Highlands. However, to deliver maximum benefit the guidance links to a number of other Plans, Programmes and Strategies which will facilitate the delivery of such facilities. These are set out in the "Relationship with other plans, programmes or strategies and environmental objectives" section on page 12, with the most relevant being:

- Highland wide Local Development Plan;
- Highland Council Waste Management Strategy
- Zero Waste Plan (Scottish Government, 2010)
- The EC Waste Framework & Landfill Directive

Measures envisaged for the prevention, reduction and offsetting of significant adverse effects

Schedule 3 paragraph 7 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires an explanation of "the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme."

Measures envisaged for the prevention, reduction and offsetting of any significant adverse effects

The SEA Directive requires the use of mitigation measures that make recommendations to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects. However as no significant adverse affects have been identified through the production of this Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report, it is important to highlight how the guidance has been modified to ensure that the potential positive affects have been maximised. Through carrying out this SEA it has ensured that the guidance does this in a number of ways. The key ways which were identified through the SEA assessment are outlined below:

- Maximise opportunities to ensure recycling facilities are incorporated within all new major developments/ new settlements
- Ensure waste management facilities are pro actively built into new developments
- Ensure waste management is considered at the initial design stage of development, in the same way other essential services are considered
- Ensure adequate storage of waste to minimise odour
- Allow for a flexible approach to waste management within new developments to ensure visual impact is minimised
- Emphasise the importance of pre-application discussions with regard to specific waste management requirements

Monitoring

Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Responsible Authority to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS. This must be done in such a way as to also identify unforeseen adverse effects and to take appropriate remedial action.

It is considered good practice for monitoring:

- fit a pre-defined purpose, help to solve problems, and address key issues;
- is practical and is customised to the PPS;
- is transparent and readily accessible to the public;
- is seen as a learning process and a cyclical process relating closely to the collation of the environmental baseline.

SEA Topic	What the guidance seeks to achieve	Monitoring Indicator	Responsible for Data Collation	Publication of Monitoring	Remedial Action
Human Health	Reduction in odour associated with waste management	Odour nuisance	Scottish Government		Review guidance and priorities and principles
Water environment	Improve Water Quality	Number of rivers "C" classification or below	SEPA	Annually	Review guidance and priorities and principles.
Air Quality	Number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Highland	None at present	http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/		Review guidance and priorities and principles.
Climate Change	Reduce air pollution to levels that do not damage natural systems, including contribution to climate change.	Carbon Footprint – 11.73-11.99 tonnes $C0_2$ per capita	Stockholm Environment Institute. *Taken from the report "A Right Climate for Change", (2007) Local Footprints Project and Stockholm Environmental Institute.* Scottish Climate Change Bill; http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Climate-Change/16327/Climate-Change-Bill	Annually	Review guidance and priorities and principles.
Waste	Minimise waste and re-use or recover it by recycling,	Waste into landfill: The proportion of waste in Highland	Highland Council & SEPA	Quarterly	Review guidance and priorities and principles

	composting or energy recovery.	being put into landfill. % of recycling/composting.			
Soil	Reduction in soil contamination	Number of sites of Contaminated land in Highland Area of Contaminated Land (ha) in Highland	Highland Council	Ongoing	Review guidance and priorities and principles

Next Steps

This Environmental Report will be subject to a 6 week consultation (22nd October – 3rd December), where expressions of opinion on the report will be welcomed. The Revised Environmental Report will be available to view online and at Planning and Development Service Reception, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. An electronic copy will be sent to the SEA Gateway.

Following this consultation the views will be collated and, where appropriate, alterations will be made and a Revised Environmental Report will be produced. Following this work it is anticipated that this guidance will be adopted as Interim Supplementary Guidance in March 2011.

Following this adoption as interim supplementary guidance a Strategic Environmental Assessment – Post Adoption Statement will be produced.

In time, the Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance will be adopted as Statutory Supplementary Guidance to the Highland wide Local Development Plan giving it equal weight in decision making as the Development Plan.

Appendix A: Assessment of Alternatives

This section contains detailed assessments of the Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance and the reasonable alternative which has been identified.

The assessment considers:

- What level of impact the guidance/reasonable alternative may have in the short/medium/long term on each of the SEA Objectives;
- The sensitivity of the SEA Objective to the policy/reasonable alternative; and
- At what scale the preferred approach/reasonable alternative may have an impact.

The matrix also includes a justification of the assessment for each SEA objective. This is intended to guide the reader through the decision making process. To aid in this the matrix also records assumptions which have been made in the decision making process.

For consistency the following scoring system has been used through out the assessment matrices:

Significant Positive Impact	No or minimal positive impact	Neutral Impact	No or minimal negative impact	Significant negative impact	Possible Positive and Negative Impacts	Unknown Impact
++	+	=	-	--	+/-	??

High Sensitivity	H
Medium Sensitivity	M
Low Sensitivity	L

Each assessment will be followed by a concise commentary on the findings of the assessment of the policy/reasonable alternative.

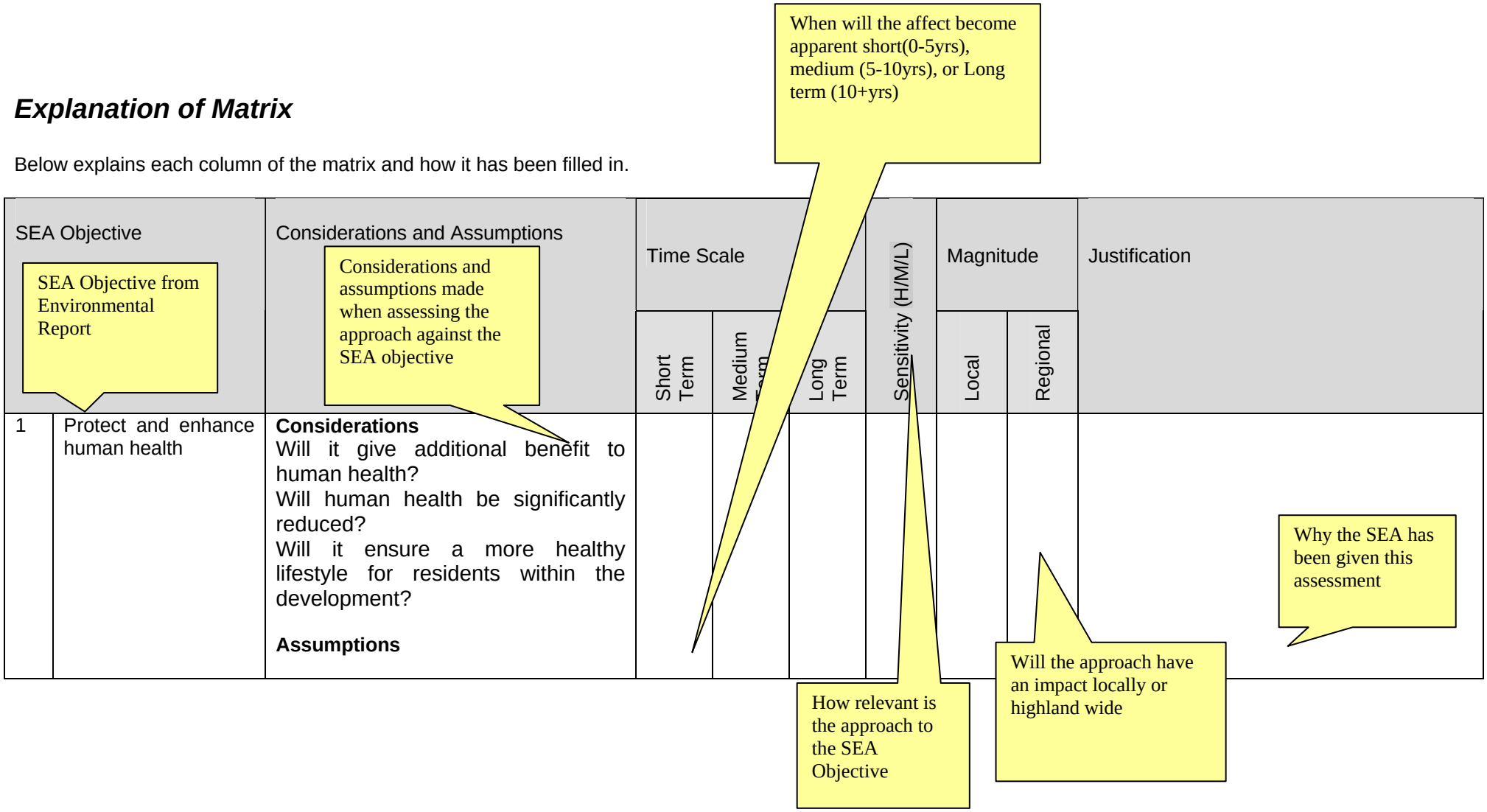
On the following pages the SEA Objectives are set out and are accompanied by the key considerations for the assessment of the guidance/reasonable alternative. These have been refined following consultation with the Consultation Authorities.

SEA Objectives and Key Considerations

1	**Protect and enhance human health** Will it give additional benefit to human health? Will human health be significantly reduced? Will it ensure a more healthy lifestyle for residents within the development?
2	**Avoid impact to and where possible enhance the water environment** Will it ensure development is supported by appropriate drainage infrastructure? Will it ensure that development has no detrimental impact on the water environment? Will it ensure developments enhance the water environment where possible?
3	**Maintain air quality** Will it prevent a reduction in air quality?
4	**Reducing the effects of climate change & mitigating against any such effects of climate change** Will it ensure new developments are free from flooding? Will it enhance natural drainage? Will it reduce the vulnerability of existing areas to flooding Will it facilitate species adaptation to climate change through the protection or contribution to green habitat networks?
5	**Minimise waste** Will it support the minimisation of waste production? Will it support the achievement of government targets through the use of the waste management hierarchy? Will it ensure that waste management facilities comply with the national target, thus ensuring only residual waste is landfilled?
6	**Reduce contamination, safeguard soil quantity and quality** Will it ensure the re-use of brownfield sites? Will it reduce the removal of good quality soils from sites? Will it protect the areas of importance for geodiversity in Highland? Will it protect soil functions?

Explanation of Matrix

Below explains each column of the matrix and how it has been filled in.



Preferred Approach: Prepare Supplementary Guidance

SEA Objective		Considerations and Assumptions	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude		Justification
			Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		Local	Regional	
1	Protect and enhance human health	**Considerations** Will it give additional benefit to human health? Will human health be significantly reduced? Will it ensure a more health lifestyle for residents within the development? **Assumptions**	**+**	**+**	**+**	**M**	**+**	**+**	A Defra research study indicated that the treatment of municipal solute waste has at most a minor effect on health in the UK, particularly when compared with other health risks associated with ordinary day to day living. However, the Supplementary Guidance will provide a small positive impact to human health through ensuring proper storage of bins for general household waste and recyclables is provided within all new developments. This will help to minimise any odour associated with poor waste storage.

SEA Objective		Considerations and Assumptions	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude		Justification
			Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		Local	Regional	
2	Avoid impact to and where possible enhance the water environment	**Considerations** Will it ensure development is supported by appropriate drainage infrastructure? Will it ensure that development has no detrimental impact on the water environment? Will it ensure developments enhance the water environment where possible? **Assumptions**	**=**	**+**	**++**	**M**	**+**	**+**	There will a small positive impact on the water environment in the short term which should increase over the longer term as waste management facilities become integrated within new developments. This is due to a reducing risk of seepage from landfill into water bodies. This positive effect will also be significantly increased in conjunction with measures implemented as part of the Council' wider waste management strategy and in conjunction with policies contained in the Highland wide Local Development Plan – for example allocations are made for energy from waste plant throughout Highlands which will also result in a reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill.
3	Maintain air quality	**Considerations** Will it prevent a reduction in air quality? **Assumptions**	**=**	**+**	**++**	**M**	**+**	**+**	The supplementary guidance will prevent a reduction in air quality in the long term through the reduction of waste going to landfill. This positive impact will also be in conjunction with other policies contained within the highland wide LDP and the implementation of the

SEA Objective		Considerations and Assumptions	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude		Justification
			Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		Local	Regional	
									Council's waste management strategy
4	Reducing the effects of climate change & mitigating against any such effects of climate change	**Considerations** Will it ensure new developments are free from flooding? Will it enhance natural drainage? Will it reduce the vulnerability of existing areas to flooding? Will it facilitate species adaptation to climate change through the protection of or contribution to green habitat networks? **Assumptions**	**=**	**+**	**+**	**M**	**+**	**+**	It is unlikely that the guidance will contribute to any of considerations outlined under this SEA objective, however it is considered that the guidance will result in a wider positive impact through a reduction in landfill gas emissions. It is currently estimated that methane, among the more powerful greenhouse gases, makes up around 3% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions (Defra, 2006). It is anticipate that in the long term the guidance, alongside other measures outlined in the Highland wide Local Development Plan and the wider Council's waste management strategy, the amount of waste going to landfill will decrease. In addition, less transporting of waste by truck will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere which directly contributes to climate change.

SEA Objective		Considerations and Assumptions	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude		Justification
			Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		Local	Regional	
5	Minimise waste	**Considerations** Will it support the minimisation of waste production? Will it support the achievement of government targets through the use of the waste management hierarchy? Will it ensure the waste management facilities comply with the national target, thus ensuring only residual waste is landfilled? **Assumptions**	**+**	**++**	**++**	**H**	**++**	**++**	The SPG will support the minimisation of waste production by ensuring facilities for recycling are built into all new developments across the Highlands (this will include provision of householder facilities aswell as centrally located recycling facilities). This positive effect will increase over time and will be maximised in conjunction with other policies outlined in the Highland wide Local Development Plan and the Council's waste management strategy. Both documents encourage development of additional waste management facilities, including energy from waste, in vessel composting and materials recycling facilities – this will help support achieving government targets and ensure that over the long term only remedial waste is sent to landfill

SEA Objective		Considerations and Assumptions	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude		Justification
			Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		Local	Regional	
6	Reduce contamination, safeguard soil quantity and quality	**Considerations** Will it ensure the re-use of brownfield sites? Will it reduce the removal of good quality soil from sites? Will it protect areas of importance for geodiversity in Highland? Will it protect soil functions?	**+**	**+**	**++**	**M**	**+**	**+**	It is unlikely that the guidance will ensure the re-use of brownfield or reduce the removal of good quality soil from sites. However it is considered that in the long term there will be a positive impact in terms of a reduced risk of soil contamination that arises from the operation of landfill sites.

Reasonable Alternative: Do nothing

SEA Objective		Considerations and Assumptions	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude		Justification
			Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		Local	Regional	
1	Protect and enhance human health	**Considerations** Will it give additional benefit to human health? Will human health be significantly reduced? Will it ensure a more health lifestyle for residents within the development? **Assumptions**	**=**	**=**	**=**	**M**	**=**	**=**	As noted whilst assessing the preferred approach a Defra research study indicated that the treatment of municipal solute waste has at most a minor effect on health in the UK, particularly when compared with other health risks associated with ordinary day to day living. However, no formal guidance to guide the provision of bins in new developments could lead to improper and haphazard storage of waste which could potentially result in excessive odour. Given that there are no formal policies in the Highland wide Local Development Plan to outline the Council's waste management requirements it is likely that this would occur.

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2	Avoid impact to and where possible enhance the water environment	**Considerations** Will it ensure development is supported by appropriate drainage infrastructure? Will it ensure that development has no detrimental impact on the water environment? Will it ensure developments enhance the water environment where possible? **Assumptions**	**=**	**-**	**-**	**M**	**-**	**-**	Without any guidance to ensure adequate waste management facilities are provided, there may be insufficient storage of waste which could lead an increased risk of contaminants and pollutants entering the water environment.
3	Maintain air quality	**Considerations** Will it prevent a reduction in air quality? **Assumptions**	**=**	**-**	**-**	**M**	**-**	**-**	Without any guidance to ensure adequate waste management facilities are provided, there may be insufficient storage of waste which could decrease the quality of local air quality.
4	Reducing the effects of climate change & mitigating against any such effects of climate change	**Considerations** Will it ensure new developments are free from flooding? Will it enhance natural drainage? Will it reduce the vulnerability of existing areas to flooding? Will it facilitate species adaptation to climate change through the protection of or contribution to green habitat networks?	**=**	**=**	**-**	**M**	**=**	**=**	A key element of guidance would be to ensure significant recycling facilities are incorporated into all new developments. Without this there is a risk developers will choose not provide any such facilities which may result in waste that could be recycled going to landfill thereby increasing landfill gas emissions. It is currently estimated that methane, among the

SEA Objective		Considerations and Assumptions	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude		Justification
			Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		Local	Regional	
		Assumptions							more powerful greenhouse gases, makes up around 3% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions (Defra, 2006).
5	Minimise waste	**Considerations** Will it support the minimisation of waste production? Will it support the achievement of government targets through the use of the waste management hierarchy? Will it ensure the waste management facilities comply with the national target, thus ensuring only residual waste is landfilled?	**-**	**-**	**-**	**H**	**-**	**-**	It is likely that no production of detailed guidance will support the minimisation of waste production. A lack of guidance will also not support the achievement of government targets through the use of waste management hierarchy.
		Assumptions							
6	Reduce contamination, safeguard soil quantity and quality	**Considerations** Will it ensure the re-use of brownfield sites? Will it reduce the removal of good quality soil from sites? Will it protect areas of importance for geodiversity in Highland? Will it protect soil functions?	**=**	**-**	**-**	**M**	**-**	**-**	Without any guidance to ensure adequate waste management facilities are provided, there may be insufficient storage of waste which could lead an increased risk of contaminants and pollutants entering soil.