

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE HITRANS REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Annex D - Additional Policy Reviews

Report

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1. ADDITIONAL POLICY REVIEWS

1.1 Following the consultation on the Scoping Report with the consultation authorities (SEPA, Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland), it was recommended that a number of additional policies / strategies may be of relevance to the Environmental Assessment of the Regional Transport Strategy for HITRANS.

1.2 A review of these additional policies is contained in the table below. The remainder are contained within the Scoping Report for this Strategic Environmental Assessment.

TABLE 1.1 ADDITIONAL POLICIES REVIEWED AS A RESULT OF CONSULTATION ON SCOPING REPORT

Plan/Programme	Objectives/ requirements of the plan/ programme
International	
The EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC 1979	The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. It sets broad objectives for a wide range of activities, although the precise legal mechanisms for their achievement are at the discretion of each Member State (in the UK delivery is via several different statutes). It imposes a duty to sustain populations of naturally occurring wild birds by sustaining areas of habitats in order to maintain populations at ecologically and scientifically sound levels. This applies to birds, their eggs, nests and habitats.
Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna & Flora (Directive 92/43/EC) (The Habitats Directive)	The Directive requires Member States to take legislative and administrative measures to maintain and restore natural habitats and wild species to a good level of conservation within the EU. The overarching goals of the Strategy are described as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "to contribute to reverse present trends in biodiversity losses". • "to place species and ecosystems in a satisfactory conservation status both within and beyond the territory of the European Union".
Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy	The purpose of the Directive is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater. It is a non-prescriptive framework Directive, which requires all Member States to achieve 'good ecological status' of inland water bodies by 2015.
Directive 1966/62/ EC on ambient air quality and management	Establishes mandatory standards for air quality and sets limits and guides values for sulphur and nitrogen dioxide, suspended particulates and lead in air.
The Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro, 1992	The Convention on Biological Diversity is a globally legally binding instrument which was agreed at the Rio Conference (UNCED) in 1992. Some 170 countries around the world are Parties to the CBD. The CBD has three objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation of biological diversity. 2. Sustainable use of the biological components. 3. Equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.
Kyoto Protocol to the UN framework Convention on Climate Change (1997)	The Convention on Climate Change sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change. It recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Plan/Programme	Objectives/ requirements of the plan/ programme
	<p>Under the Convention governments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gather and share information on greenhouse gas emissions, national policies and best practices. • launch national strategies for addressing greenhouse emissions and adapting to expected impacts, including the provision of financial and technological support to developing countries. • cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
The EU Biofuels Directive	<p>As part of a wide range of measure to promote sustainable development, and in particular to tackle rising greenhouse gas emissions from transport, Directive 2003/30/EC “the Biofuels Directive” was agreed by the European Parliament on 8 may 2003. The main objectives of the Directive are to reduce life-cycle emissions of carbon dioxide from transport across Europe, and to reduce the EU’s future reliance on external energy sources (in this case, oil). The Directive aims to promote the use of biofuels or other renewable fuels as a substitute for petrol or diesel in the transport sector.</p>
The European Landscape Convention	<p>This convention aims to promote European Landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues. The convention demands a forward looking attitude on the park of all those whose decisions affect the protection, management or planning of landscapes. It has implications for many areas of official policy and official or private action, from the local to the European level.</p>
The Directive on Environmental Noise	<p>EU Parliament and Council have adopted Directive 2002/49/EC of 25th June 2002.</p> <p>Four Main Objectives:</p> <p>Monitoring the environmental problem-developing ‘strategic noise maps’ to gauge how many people are annoyed or sleep deprived throughout Europe.</p> <p>Informing and consulting the public-about noise exposure, its effects and measures considered to address it.</p> <p>Addressing local noise issues-requires authorities to have action plans for problem areas and for maintaining ‘good’ noise areas.</p> <p>Developing a long-term EU strategy-Reduce number of people affected by noise in long-term and produce a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from the source.</p>
Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – creating a low carbon economy	<p>This policy identifies four goals for energy policy in the UK which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to put ourselves on a path to cut the UK’s carbon dioxide emissions – the main contributor to global warming – by some 60% by about 2050, as recommended by RCEP, 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 improve our productivity; and ▪ To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.
Aviation White Paper: The Future of Air Transport	<p>The Aviation White Paper sets out a strategic framework for the development of airport capacity in the United Kingdom over the thirty years from 2003, against the wider context of the air transport sector. In relation to the Highlands and Islands, the White Paper identifies that the runway at Inverness Airport may need to be extended and terminal capacity expanded and that other Highlands and Islands airports may need enhancing.</p>
The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	<p>This Act sets out a series of measure which are designed to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland. In doing so, the Act provides the principle legislative components of a new, integrated, system for nature conservation in Scotland. It requires public bodies and office-holders to consider the effect of their actions at a local, regional, national and</p>

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Land Reform (Scotland) Act, 2003	<p>international level.</p> <p>The access legislation in Part One of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 aims to make it easier for people to enjoy the outdoors and to be clear about what they can and cannot do. The access laws include a package of related measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A clearer legal basis for access; ▪ Responsibility as the key principle for using access rights and managing land ▪ Safeguards for privacy, land management and conservation; ▪ New duties and powers for local authorities and other public bodies; and ▪ Adequate resources to make the proposals work well. <p>Some of the main features of this legislation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone has a right of access ▪ Access rights apply to all land and inland waterways, unless excluded ▪ Access rights are for outdoor recreation, for crossing land and water and for some educational and commercial purposes. ▪ Exercising access rights, and managing access land must be done responsibly. <p>Local authorities are currently in the process of developing Outdoor Access Strategies and Core Paths Plans.</p>
PAN 61 Planning Sustainable Urban Drainage	<p>Provides the background on previous drainage systems and coping strategies for excess surface water. Highlights their flaws and promotes SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) as the way forward.</p> <p>SUDS-‘reduces the amount of diffuse pollution and improves environmental quality of development to the benefit of the local community’.</p> <p>Planners are central to the development control process of implementing SUDS on the ground. Planners also have a policy role in setting the framework in structure and local plans, and in masterplanning exercises.</p> <p>SEPA-supports SUDS as the preferred solution for drainage of surface water run-off, including roof water, for all proposed development, greenfield and brownfield.</p>
SEPA Groundwater Protection Policy	<p>This policy aims to:</p> <p>Address groundwater protection in context of sustainable development, taking account of social and economic factors where appropriate.</p> <p>Work to protect, restore and improve understanding of groundwater in Scotland.</p> <p>Use a risk based approach to ensure controls are appropriate to risk.</p> <p>Ensure water use in Scotland is sustainable, and that the quality and quantity of the water is protected.</p> <p>Ensure restoration of groundwater bodies which have poor status due to over abstraction or pollution.</p> <p>The main focus is to prevent pollution or over abstraction through effective protection.</p>
SEPA Policy on the Culverting of Watercourses	<p>In order to minimise the impact of culverting on the environment, SEPA has adopted the following policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ inappropriate enclosure of watercourses in culverts devalues its own and others efforts to reduce pollutant inputs to watercourses and to improve chemical, biological and physical quality of Scottish running waters. ▪ Developers should be encouraged to protect, restore or enhance the natural heritage value of sites. ▪ SEPA will actively seek to discourage proposals for culverting when

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	<p>responding to planning consultation,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When there is a need for transport links to cross watercourses, bridging should be considered as the first option, avoiding the need for culverting. In all cases where culverting is required, it should be designed according to best practice which will permit the passage of fish and other aquatic fauna under normal flow conditions. ▪ SEPA will take appropriate opportunities to promote the benefits of restoring culverted systems to open watercourses during the development of proposals for brownfield sites and shall encourage and support appropriate river restoration proposals. ▪ SEPA will continue to highlight the difficulties caused by culverting
<p>Passed to the Future</p>	<p>Recognising value of using historic features, retaining and, where possible, re-using existing structures and materials. To promote the continued relevance of traditional building materials and local skills.</p> <p>Good Stewardship-all actions should include strategies for management, conservation, use, maintenance and monitoring.</p> <p>Assessing impact - of our actions for the historic environment. Potentially damaging actions should be avoided.</p> <p>Working Together – The historic environment is still today’s environment. Sustainable management should involve everyone. Work together to reduce damage, resolve conflict and maximise benefits for all.</p>
<p>Tourism Strategies</p>	<p>Highland</p> <p>The five key objectives for tourism in Highland, as identified in the strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Position the Highlands as a prime destination within Scotland that competes successfully with other countries in the global marketplace. ▪ Develop the Highlands as a world-class product that delivers a consistently high-quality visitor experience at value for money process, with high standards of facilities, customer service, career opportunities and income levels; ▪ Develop a competitive industry that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable and that supports and builds on the history, cultural, environment and hospitality of its people and communities. ▪ Encourage the dispersal of visitors throughout the Highlands, so that communities in remoter rural areas can share the benefits of tourism. ▪ Ensure that everyone living and working within the Highlands understands the value of tourism to the local economy and actively get involved in growing tourism. <p>Aberdeen and Grampian (includes Moray)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This strategy aims to successfully promote the North East of Scotland as a prime must visit, must return destination that competes well in the national and global market places; delivers a consistently high-quality visitor experience, with high standards of facilities, customer service, career opportunities and income levels; further develops a competitive industry that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable and that supports and builds on the history, culture, environment and hospitality of its people and communities; and ensures that everyone living and working in the area understands the value of tourism to the local economy and actively get involved in growing tourism. <p>Argyll, Loch Lomond and Forth Valley Tourism Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This Action Plan covers the period from 2006 – 2010 and sets out some of the key opportunities to maximise the benefit of national growth and contribute to achieving the vision of the National Tourism Strategy. <p>Orkney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The key objectives are to raise standards of quality and service in the tourism sector to meet the rising expectations of visitors; to extend the visitor season and

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Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan	<p>the range of holidays promoted; to ensure that further development of tourism in Orkney takes place in a manner that conserves and enhances the quality of the natural environment and incorporates sustainable principles.</p> <p>The aims of the Cairngorms LBAP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To take forward national biodiversity priorities (UK Habitat and Species Action Plans) by helping to deliver them at local level; ▪ To conserve locally important species and habitats; ▪ Engage local people and visitors in the management of biodiversity and ensure that they benefit from biodiversity; ▪ To bring together in partnership those working in the Cairngorms to better achieve biodiversity conservation; ▪ To deliver several key objectives in the Cairngorms Partnership’s Management Strategy; and ▪ To set clear, achievable targets and be transparent about progress towards them.

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