

SEA REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Action	Who	Timescale
1	Responsible authorities should consider making use of internal experience and advice to assist in the development and analysis of baseline data , and its use in informing scoping and assessment. Where possible, authorities could consider sharing technical expertise to their mutual benefit in the development of SEA baselines and scoping.	Sharing knowledge	Environmental Information for planning – informing delivery of LDP - workshop Raise and discuss at next SEA Forum Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	BGS, CAs SG, CAs, HoPS SG, CAs	Early 2018 Spring 2018 Spring 2019
2	Scottish Government and partner bodies delivering the digital transformation of the planning service workstream should explore opportunities for better use of and access to spatial data to support SEA , for example through upgrades of SEWeb to provide download functionality or use of web services.	Improving use of technology, and use and access to data	Environmental Information for planning – informing delivery of LDP - workshop Consideration by the Digital Taskforce established by the Scottish Government	BGS, CAs SG, Digital Taskforce	Early 2018 Late 2018
3	Consultation Authority advice, and future updates to guidance , should prioritise analysis of baseline information in addition to collection.	Improving assessment techniques	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs	Spring 2019
4	Scoping should continue to be afforded a high degree of significance for LDPs, reflecting the level of complexity and the need to agree a proportionate approach. This should focus upon the level of detail.	Improving assessment techniques	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs	Spring 2019

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5	Scoping as a collaborative exercise: wherever possible, face-to-face workshops should be held with Consultation Authorities to discuss and agree key issues and assessment approaches. While resource-intensive, this can be shown to limit inputs at a later – potentially higher-risk – stage.	Sharing knowledge	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs	Spring 2019
6	There is a need for an addendum to existing guidance to better explain how authorities working on their second (or later) iteration of the LDP can deliver much more streamlined assessments, focusing on areas of change in the baseline and plan.	Improving assessment techniques	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs	Spring 2019
7	Consider whether a national suite of standard SEA objectives for assessment / assessment questions would be beneficial. Supporting guidance would have to be provided on framing locally-appropriate sub-criteria for assessment if utilised.	Improving assessment techniques	Raise and discuss at next SEA Forum Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs SG	Spring 2018 Spring 2019
8	Re-emphasise the benefits of an approach to LDP SEA that is more closely aligned to the development and testing of spatial strategy options and alternatives, with nested assessment of proposed land allocations.	Embedding SEA into the new LDP preparation processes	Raise and discuss at next SEA Forum Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs SG	Spring 2018 Spring 2019

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9	<p>Consider the production of good practice guidance on how to use the process of identifying and assessing alternatives to add value to plan-making. e.g. SG and Consultation Authorities to engage with Heads of Planning Scotland to develop a collaborative, consistent message on the value of and approach to integrating the effective assessment of alternatives in the SEA and plan-making processes.</p>	Improving assessment techniques	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs, PAs	Spring 2019
10	<p>Encourage planning authorities to ensure the public can see the connection between the draft plan and the environmental report. For example use existing engagement activities with public and stakeholders to highlight environmental information: potentially using a staged approach, securing interest and buy-in at baseline stage to understand what local people value and how that should be reflected in policy; with subsequent stages clearly linked to community values and issues. This could be led by the LPAs and supported by the consultation authorities and Scottish Government.</p>	Improving public engagement	In developing policy and guidance on community engagement on development plans, we will consider how best to integrate consideration of SEA issues into the plan preparation & engagement process.	SG, CAs, PAs	Spring 2019

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11	Increase connectivity between plan and SEA documentation . For example encourage planning authorities to present SEA findings and outcomes in LDP consultation documents to improve transparency and highlight how environmental information has influenced decision making.	Embedding SEA into the new LDP preparation processes	Raise and discuss at next SEA Forum	SG, CAs	Spring 2018
			Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG	Spring 2019
12	Planning authorities should have procedures in place to ensure that mitigation measures identified during the SEA are taken forward e.g. included within action programme and reported upon as part of the monitoring process. Planning authorities may also wish to include a policy relating to mitigation measures	Embedding SEA into the new LDP preparation processes	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs, PAs	Spring 2019
13	LDP action programmes should be linked to Post Adoption Statements to ensure mitigation and monitoring measures are integrated into the actions	Embedding SEA into the new LDP preparation processes	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs	Spring 2019
14	Planning authorities should ensure that SEA recommendations / mitigation measures are sufficiently specific, robust and achievable , with clear responsibilities and delivery mechanisms identified to aid usability at application stage. (Ideally, they should be drafted with the same guiding principles as planning conditions.)	Embedding SEA into the new LDP preparation processes	Raise and discuss at next SEA Forum	SG, CAs	Spring 2018
			Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs, PAs	Spring 2019

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15	Encourage planning authorities without recent or substantial experience of SEA of LDPs, to engage with Consultation Authorities and other authorities before commencing the process to draw on available knowledge and advice.	Sharing knowledge	Raise and discuss at the next SEA Forum Discuss important outputs from SEA Forum workshop with the Improvement Service	SG, CAs SG	Spring 2018 Summer 2018
16	Continue to develop the role of the SEA Forum to enhance sharing of good practice – potentially through collaborative peer review sessions and/or greater sharing of practitioners' and Consultation Authorities' view of ' good practice '.	Sharing knowledge	Raise at the next SEA Forum	SG, CAs	Spring 2018
17	Promotion of a streamlined approach to SEA of policies that prioritises assessment of departures from SPP and locally-specific policy.	Improving assessment techniques	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs	Spring 2019
18	Advice and guidance on making the most of available tools, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting the best out of GIS in analysing baseline spatial data (aligned to any agreed changes to SEWeb); • What questions to ask to better understand key environmental problems; • Using this analysis to identify where more detailed, locally-specific assessment would be beneficial. 	Improving assessment techniques	Environmental Information for planning – informing delivery of LDP - workshop Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	BGS, CAs SG, CAs, PAs	Early 2018 Spring 2019

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19	Ensure that replacements for the Development Planning Circular (6/2013) and PAN 1/2010 promote a strongly integrated approach to SEA as part of the plan-making process.	Embedding SEA into the new LDP preparation processes	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular, using the findings of the recent SEA review as a guide to issues	SG, CAs	Spring 2019
20	Provide guidance that defines how strategic national themes are assessed through SEA , to ensure consistent approach to their assessment and to provide clarity on how this should be reflected in the local SEA. This will include consideration of the impacts of national themes on the identification and assessment of reasonable alternatives at the local level.	Improving assessment techniques	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs	Spring 2019
21	Provide guidance on how the SEA of NPF and SPP relates to the SEA of local development plans, and the alignment of local plan policies with these. This could include options for scoping out policy where wording adheres closely to SPP or can be shown to result in no material change in effects.	Improving assessment techniques	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs	Spring 2019
22	Provide guidance on the role of the SEA in setting out the audit trail of the plan development and the consideration of alternatives, reflecting removal at the MIR stage.	Improving assessment techniques	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs	Spring 2019

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23	The ten year plan period will increase the requirement for the SEA to reflect longer term effects and clarity will be needed on the requirement for any updates to SEA within this timeframe, particularly in relation to substantial changes in the baseline.	Improving assessment techniques	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs	Spring 2019
24	Ensure the gatecheck process is aligned with SEA requirements to achieve maximum efficiencies.	Embedding SEA into the new LDP preparation processes	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs	Spring 2019
25	Align the provision of more information on site viability at the site allocation stage with the SEA requirements to streamline the two processes.	Embedding SEA into the new LDP preparation processes	Consider when preparing new planning related guidance, replacing the current PAN or Circular	SG, CAs	Spring 2019
26	Align actions towards getting more people involved in planning with improving levels of community engagement in the SEA process.	Improving public engagement	In developing policy and guidance on community engagement on development plans, we will consider how best to integrate consideration of SEA issues into the plan preparation & engagement process.	SG, CAs, PAs	Spring 2019