

## 8 Monitoring Strategy

### 8.1 Monitoring Requirements

Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act requires the Responsible Authority, in this instance, South Ayrshire Council, to monitor the significant adverse effects resulting from the implementation of the LDP so that any unforeseen effects can be identified at an early stage and remedial action taken where required.

The purpose of monitoring is to measure the environmental outcome of the plan (such as improved access to services), the performance of the plan against the pre-defined environmental objectives or targets e.g. improved air quality. Effective monitoring can contribute to managing uncertainty, improving knowledge, enhancing transparency and accountability and managing environmental information.

A monitoring report will be integrated into the adopted LDP to constantly monitor the significant environmental effects. Table 8-1 on the following page, outlines the proposed framework for monitoring the significant effects of implementing the measures in the LDP.

### 8.2 Key Elements of the Monitoring Strategy

The monitoring strategy has been developed from the SEA objectives and indicators, the existing environmental baseline, significant effects identified during the environmental assessment and proposed mitigation measures to alleviate any adverse effects.

Monitoring is a key part of the ongoing SEA process and the framework (as presented in Table 8-1) is likely to be refined throughout the development of the LDP. The focus for monitoring should be on:

1. The significant environmental effects that give rise to irreversible effects on environmental attributes of a recognised value. Monitoring seeks to identify trends in advance of such irreversible damage being caused;
2. Significant effects where considerable uncertainty has been evident throughout the SEA process and where monitoring would enable preventative mitigation measures to be taken; and,
3. Effects where a lack of information could constrain the decision making process associated with the delivery of projects e.g. the gathering of data over an extended timescale.

Monitoring helps consider whether predictions made within the SEA assessment process are accurate and if the proposed mitigation measures will be effective. If monitoring indicates a significant issue, remedial action is required. This involves a review of the failing aspects of the plan prior to the development of avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures to make amendments to the plan.

**Table 8-1: Monitoring Strategy**

What needs Monitoring?	SEA Objectives	Information required (indicators)	Source of Information	When to consider remedial action	Who is responsible for Monitoring?	Updates / Frequency
Biodiversity	Ensure that the integrity of all internationally designated sites within or in close proximity to the South Ayrshire Council (SAC) area is preserved.	Number and quality of designated biodiversity sites.	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). SAC's Wildlife Strategy. Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).	When plan is reviewed.	SNH and South Ayrshire Council.	Annually.
	Safeguard national and local designated sites and habitats (particularly hedgerows and woodland) from loss and / or fragmentation.	Number of priority habitats in the LBAP	Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). SAC's Wildlife Strategy. SNH Monitoring.	When proposals are recommended as a departure from SAC's Local Development Plan (LDP) policies.	SNH and SAC LDP team.	Annually.
	Biodiversity should be enhanced & protected in line with Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) targets including protection of European protected and priority species from loss and / or fragmentation.	Number of European Protected and Priority species in South Ayrshire.				
Cultural Heritage	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development.	Reduction in the number of historic assets (including archaeological sites) at risk from human or natural impacts.	Historic Scotland. Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland.	When proposals are supported which are a departure from the LDP.	Historic Scotland and the LDP Team.	Annually – Review of LDP policies.
		Increase in number of historic buildings restored.	Planning applications.	When it is identified that planning permission is being granted for development not in accordance with policy.	SAC Planning Department.	Annually.
Water	Protect, and where necessary, enhance water quality to good chemical & ecological status by 2015 in line with the Water	Improvement to water quality and maintain the ecological status of water bodies	Bathing and river water quality (SEPA) River Basin	When the water quality of particular water bodies has not improved or	SEPA and SAC.	Annually.

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	Framework Directive (WFD).	including rivers, lochs, estuaries and the coastline.	Management Plans (SEPA)	suddenly deteriorates. When planning applications are granted that do not comply with policies that govern water quality.		
	Avoid areas of flood risk in the first instance and then ensure mitigation against any potential flood risk from new development.	Reduction in number of new developments built in areas of flood risk.	SEPA Indicative River and Coastal Flood Map (Scotland). Flood Risk Assessments.	When planning applications are granted for development in areas considered at risk of flooding.	SEPA and Flood Prevention Authority.	Annually.
	Ensure that all new infrastructure is designed in such a way that it reduces flood risk through the provision of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).	Increase in number of developments incorporating SUDS.	Planning applications.	When the plan is reviewed.	Flood Prevention Authority (SAC) and SAC Planning Department.	Annually.
Soils and Geology	The MIR should promote use of vacant & derelict brownfield land over that of greenbelt.	Increase in the amount of vacant and derelict brownfield land used for new developments.	Planning applications.	When the plan is reviewed or when it is identified that planning permission is being granted for development not in accordance with policy.	SAC Planning Department.	Annually.
		Remediation of contaminated land.	South Ayrshire Council remediation register		SAC Environmental Health.	
	Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites.	Reduction in amount of prime agricultural land used for new development.	Planning applications.		SAC Planning Department.	
Landscape	Protect and enhance the area's landscape character and designated Scenic Areas.	Decline in the quality of South Ayrshire's landscape and Scenic Area.	LDP monitoring of policies.	When the plan is reviewed.	SAC LDP team.	Biennially.
	Maintain and protect greenbelt areas in South Ayrshire.	Reduction in number of new developments situated on greenbelt land.	Planning applications.	During review of the plan and through planning applications.	SAC LDP team and Development Management.	Annually.
Air Quality	Promote development in such a way that avoids air quality standards being breached	Reduction in NO <sub>2</sub> and PM <sub>10</sub> emissions particularly in	SAC Air Quality Documents.	Through Plan review.	SAC LDP Team and Environmental	Annually

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	within SAC and adjoining areas. Promote development in such a way as to alleviate air quality issues in those areas where air quality standards may be breached.	areas close to breaching air quality objectives.			Health.	
Climatic Factors	Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with Scottish Government targets of 80% by 2050 with interim targets of 34% by 2020 and 18% by 2013.	Reduction in carbon emissions per annum.	National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory. SAC's Local Transport Strategy.	When plan is reviewed.	SAC LDP Team and Transportation Service.	Annually.
		Decrease in people travelling to work or study by car.	SAC's Local Transport Strategy.			
		Reduction in SAC's carbon emissions.	SAC's Carbon Management Plan and Sustainable Travel Plan.			
	Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change.	Decline in number of properties built in areas of flood risk.	SEPA Indicative River and Coastal Flood Map (Scotland). Flood Risk Assessments.	When planning applications are granted for development in areas considered at risk of flooding.	SEPA, Flood Prevention Agency (SAC) and SAC Planning Team.	
		Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from new developments.	Building Standards.	When planning applications are being approved contrary to national guidance and standards.	SAC LDP Team.	Annually.
	The MIR should promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport.	Rise in public transport usage.	SAC's Local Transport Strategy.	When plan is reviewed.	SAC LDP Team and Transportation Service.	Annually.
Increase in the number of renewable energy developments.		Planning applications.	During a review of the plan.	SAC LDP Team.	Annually.	
Decrease in the proportion of		South Ayrshire	During review of plan.	SAC – Transport	Annually.	

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		people travelling to work or study by car	Council's Local Transport Strategy.		Department.	
Noise	The MIR should avoid where possible the positioning of residential properties within areas with a noise level exceeding Noise Exposure Category C.	Decrease in the number of residential properties in areas with noise levels exceeding Noise Exposure Category C.	SAC Environmental Health Service and planning applications.	When planning applications are being approved which are contrary to national guidance and standards.	SAC Environmental Health and Planning Services.	Annually.
	The MIR needs to establish & protect quiet areas, & avoid deterioration in the noise regime in noise sensitive areas.	Reduction in noise emissions in quiet and noise sensitive areas.	SAC Environmental Health Service	During review of plan.	SAC LDP Team.	
Human Health	To enhance and protect human health & promote healthy living through improved active travel opportunities, particularly the quality of and, availability to, walk & cycle.	Increase in the percentage of the population considered to be in good health.	Scottish Census data and General Register Office for Scotland.	During a review of the plan.	SAC Environmental Health & General Register Office for Scotland.	Review of Plan and Annually.
		Increase in use of the walking and cycling network in South Ayrshire.	SAC's Core Paths Plan. Coastal Strategy.		SAC Planning and Environment.	Review of Core Paths Plan.
	Maintain and improve recreational facilities and promote access to health, social and recreational facilities.	Rise in the number of and access to, health, social and recreational facilities.	SAC's Local Transport Strategy. Planning Applications.	During a review of the plan.	SAC Transportation and Planning Services.	Annually and during review of Plan.
Population	Improve the community environment & quality of life of residents.	Improved community environment within settlements.	The South Ayrshire Community Plan 2006 – 2010.	During a review of the plan.	South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership. SAC Community Care and Housing Service.	Annually and during review of Plan.
	Maintain or enhance sustainable access to key services, amenities & employment particularly for rural communities.	Improvements in access to services, amenities and employment.	SAC's Local Transport Strategy. SAC's Core Paths Plan.	During a review of the plan and through a reduction in planning applications for new	SAC Transportation Service.	Annually.

What needs Monitoring?	SEA Objectives	Information required (indicators)	Source of Information	When to consider remedial action	Who is responsible for Monitoring?	Updates / Frequency
	Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population.	A rise in the number of businesses and industry locating in South Ayrshire.	Planning applications.	businesses.	SAC Planning Team.	Annually and during review of Plan.
		Population growth, particularly of working age.	Scottish Census data and General Register Office for Scotland. The South Ayrshire Community Plan 2006 – 2010.		General Register for Scotland. South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership.	Annually.
Material Assets	The LDP should ensure that areas important for the production of materials for construction and energy generation are protected from development.	Reduction in the amount of new development located in areas with significant natural resources and with energy generation potential.	Planning applications.	During a review of the plan.	SAC LDP Team and Planning Department.	Annually.
	Promote sustainable and efficient use of natural resources in the construction of existing and future developments.	Increase in the use of sustainable materials in new build and conversions.	Building Standards.	When planning applications are being approved contrary to national guidance and standards.	SAC LDP Team.	Annually.
	Ensure that waste management in South Ayrshire is based on the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle, as set out in the Area Waste Plan Best Practical Environmental Option (BPEO).	Increase the number of Waste Management facilities built that addresses the requirements of the waste plan.	SEPA quarterly landfill allowance scheme data.	When the requirements of the Waste Plan cannot be achieved.	SEPA & SAC LDP Team.	Annually through review of LDP.
	Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development.	New development with adequate provision of sewerage and drainage infrastructure.	Scottish Water Wastewater and Water Plans and planning applications.	When Scottish Water requirements are not met.	SAC LDP Team and Planning Service.	