



Strategic Environmental Assessment

Post Adoption Statement

Local Development Plan 2

2021 – 2026

June 2021

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If you need this information in a different format or language, phone 0303 123 1015
or email equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Cover note

Part 1

To: The Scottish Government
Directorate for Local Government and Communities
SEA Gateway
Area 2H (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Part 2

A post adoption SEA statement is attached for Local Development Plan 2.

The Responsible Authority is South Lanarkshire Council.

Local Development Plan was adopted on 9 April 2021.

Part 3

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Date: 23 June 2021

Availability of documents

This post adoption statement has been prepared in accordance with Section 18 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

The full Local Development Plan, as adopted, along with its Environmental Reports and this post adoption statement is available on our website, www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

You can also inspect these documents, free of charge, or obtain a copy for a reasonable charge from:

Sheila Alderson
Planning Officer
Community and Enterprise Resources
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Our offices are currently closed to the public due to Covid19 restrictions put in place by the Scottish Government. Should you wish to inspect or obtain a copy of the documents, please contact us by email at localplan@southlanarkshire.gov.uk. Our normal opening hours are Monday to Friday, from 9am to 4pm.

Key facts about Local Development Plan 2

Responsible Authority:	South Lanarkshire Council
Plan title:	South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2)
Plan's purpose:	The purpose of LDP2 is to set out policies and spatial framework for the assessment of future developments in South Lanarkshire based on a comprehensive assessment of economic, environmental, social and other material constraints.
What prompted the Plan:	Local Authorities are required to prepare and update local development plans for their area under the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. This LDP2 replaces the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan (SLLDP) adopted in June 2015.
Subject:	LDP2 provides planning policy and guidance for land use issues within South Lanarkshire.
Period covered:	LDP2 covers the period from 2021 to 2026.
Frequency of updates:	LDP2 will be reviewed and updated in accordance with statutory timescales for development planning as set out by the Scottish Government.
Area covered:	LDP2 is Council wide and not restricted to specific towns or areas. It therefore covers an area of 1,772km ² .
Summary of content:	LDP2 sets out policies and the spatial framework for the assessment of future developments in South Lanarkshire.
Date adopted:	LDP2 was adopted on 9 April 2021.
Contact details:	Sheila Alderson Planning Officer Community and Enterprise Resources South Lanarkshire Council Montrose House 154 Montrose Crescent Hamilton, ML3 6LB Phone: 01698455936 Email: localplan@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Date:	23 June 2021

Strategic Environmental Assessment process

The South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan has been subject to a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This has included the following activities:

- Taking into account the views of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot) and the Scottish Ministers (Historic Environment Scotland) regarding the scope and level of detail appropriate for the Environmental Report and Environmental Report Annex.
- Preparing an Environmental Report and an Environmental Report Annex on the likely significant effects on the environment of the draft LDP2 which included consideration of:
 - the baseline data relating to the current state of the environment;
 - links between LDP2 and other relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
 - existing environmental problems affecting LDP2;
 - the plan's likely significant effects on the environment (positive and negative);
 - measures envisaged for the prevention, reduction and offsetting of any significant adverse effects;
 - an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives chosen;
 - monitoring measures to ensure that any unforeseen environmental effects will be identified allowing for appropriate remedial action to be taken.
- Consulting on the Environmental Report and the Environmental Report Annex.
- Taking into account the Environmental Report, the Environmental Report Annex and the results of consultation in making final decisions regarding LDP2.
- Submitting a Final Updated Environmental Report to Ministers which takes account of all recommendations from the Reporter and the Consultation Authorities following consultation on the Environmental Report Annex.
- Committing to monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of LDP2. This will also identify any unforeseen adverse significant environmental effects and enable the Council to take appropriate remedial action.

Considerations taken into account

Table 1 sets out:

- the environmental problems identified in the Environmental Report and explains how these have been taken into account in the preparation of the adopted version of LDP2;
- the significant negative effects identified in the Environmental Report and whether/how these have been dealt with in the adopted version of LDP2.

Table 1: Issues identified in the Environmental Report (section 4)

Environmental considerations and findings from the Environmental Report	Integrated into LDP2	How the issue has been integrated/taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
Population and human health		
<p>The area's population has grown at a faster rate than the national average. Its people experience poorer health, particularly in social, economic and environmentally deprived areas. There are differences across South Lanarkshire in mortality rates, with clear links between poor health, poverty and deprivation. Life expectancy is lower in deprived areas.</p>	Yes	<p>LDP2 promotes the links between the environment and wellbeing by encouraging the development of sustainable communities where health and life expectancy are likely to be improved. It will help to develop inter-policy links to promote community regeneration and sustainable growth and will help to reduce social, economic and environmental deprivation. It promotes inclusive communities as well as enabling improved access to the natural and historic environment. It will help to reduce deprivation, provide safer and more attractive communities and improve the health and wellbeing of people who live, work and visit the area.</p>
Biodiversity, fauna and flora		
<p>South Lanarkshire has a wide range of habitats, most of which are affected by historical fragmentation and decline. There is a poor level of species richness within urbanised area, with limited pockets of rich habitats. The main environmental pressures having an adverse effect on biodiversity within the area include the invasion of non-native species and the inappropriate location of urban development or development that is insensitive to the local natural environment.</p>	Yes	<p>LDP2 contains policies which protect and enhance local heritage sites and biodiversity assets from adverse impacts from development. This will contribute to stemming the decline of biodiversity assets within South Lanarkshire and will help promote an attractive and functioning environment which is fit for purpose. It will promote and expand the Green Network to enhance the local environment and improve habitat connectivity, particularly within urban areas</p>

Environmental considerations and findings from the Environmental Report	Integrated into LDP2	How the issue has been integrated/ taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
Soil (including geology)		
<p>Soil quality and function in the area is generally good. Human activity, land use and intensity and global climatic effects can be detrimental to soils, reducing their distribution, function and sustainability. Healthy and diverse soils are important for crop growth, carbon storage and sustaining biodiversity across a range of habitats. The majority of potentially contaminated sites in South Lanarkshire have undergone preliminary investigation and about a quarter (27%) of identified contaminated sites have been investigated and remediated.</p>	Yes	<p>LDP2 contains policies which protect priority soils, including peatland and prime agricultural land from inappropriate development. It supports development of contaminated land where appropriate remediation measures are undertaken.</p>
Water		
<p>Water quality in South Lanarkshire is relatively good and continues to improve, particularly for surface water bodies. Climate change predictions indicate a potential risk of increased flooding incidents although the Council's flood defence approach has significantly improved.</p>	Yes	<p>LDP2 contains policies which support the enhancement and management of the quality and quantity of the water resources by promoting measures to safeguard the water environment.</p>
Climatic factors		
<p>South Lanarkshire's climate is linked at the national and global scale, with global changes having a consequence locally. The main climate trends for Scotland are warmer and drier summers and warmer and wetter autumns and winters. Greenhouse gas emissions continue to decrease in South Lanarkshire year on year with emissions per capita notably below the Scottish average. Although both gas and electricity consumption continues to decrease in the area the domestic consumption per household remains about the national average. South Lanarkshire's renewable energy capacity has increased by over 80% since 2011. The area is an energy exporter.</p>	Yes	<p>LDP2 contains policies which will ensure that proposals for new development seek to minimise and mitigate against the effects of climate change. It supports sustainable development and will promote the use of renewable technologies, where appropriate.</p>

Environmental considerations and findings from the Environmental Report	Integrated into LDP2	How the issue has been integrated/taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
Air, noise and light		
<p>Although air quality in South Lanarkshire is generally good, there are some areas where traffic emissions result in poor air quality that exceed limits set to protect health. There are three declared Air Quality Management Areas in South Lanarkshire. There has been a significant reduction in the number of permits issued for smaller scale industrial activities. Airborne nuisance complaints remain relatively low with odour being the main nuisance reported to the Council. Noise complaints remain fairly consistent, with residential noise being the most problematic. There are two Noise Management Areas in South Lanarkshire.</p>	Yes	<p>LDP2 contains policies which will contribute to the protection of air quality by guiding inappropriate development away from sensitive areas, particularly Air Quality Management Areas. It seeks to ensure that new developments are sustainably located thus minimising the need to travel. The plan will ensure that there are no significant adverse impacts on amenity as a result of light, noise, odours, dust or particulates.</p>
Landscape		
<p>South Lanarkshire's landscape is diverse with a mosaic of distinct landscape types. It is an important asset for the area, providing a distinctive character, promoting community wellbeing, supporting biodiversity and contributing to the local economy. It is, therefore, important that the greenbelt, local recreational and greenspace networks are maintained and that development is not detrimental to the overall landscape characteristics of the area.</p>	Yes	<p>LDP2 supports the overall protection of the landscape character of areas as well as their visual quality. It contains policies which protect, where appropriate, designated areas such as Special Landscape Areas from inappropriate development and ensure that new developments are designed and sited to minimise landscape and visual impacts.</p>
Historic and cultural heritage		
<p>South Lanarkshire has a rich heritage with a wide range of designated sites, listed buildings, archaeological sites and scheduled monuments. The area has a wealth of historical and tourist attractions, including the World Heritage Site at New Lanark and two historic battlefields. The cultural richness of the area provides a rich sense of cultural identity which is important for enhancing the quality of life across the region.</p>	Yes	<p>LDP2 contains policies which will help protect the cultural and historic heritage of the area by ensuring that there is no adverse impact on historic environment designations from inappropriate development. The plan will protect these areas and support their enhancement.</p>

Environmental considerations and findings from the Environmental Report	Integrated into LDP2	How the issue has been integrated/ taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
Material assets		
<p>The area of vacant and derelict land has decreased by 25% in the last decade and the remediation and redevelopment of such land is a Council priority. Many areas are well serviced by recreational greenspace, built facilities and sport and leisure amenities, although further improvements are required. Public access to the wider environment is promoted through a wide range of initiatives, including the core path network. Minerals remain an economically important resource in the area with work ongoing to ensure that restoration of former sites is done in an environmentally effective manner. The demand for transport has continually increased with individual vehicle ownership growing. Public transport journeys by train have increased significantly although the percentage of people using bus services has remained constant. The number of people walking and cycling remains low.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>LDP2 supports the development or greening of vacant and derelict land. It contains policies which protect existing greenspace and encourage expansion of the Green Network and the establishment of new quality greenspace, particularly within new developments.</p> <p>The plan promotes community connectivity and supports the use of environmental and community assets to promote community health and wellbeing. The plan will ensure that minerals development is appropriately located to avoid sensitive environmental designations and communities. The plan encourages the reuse and recycling of mineral resources. Restoration of former mineral extraction sites will be pursued using bonds set aside for restoration as part of the original planning consent, if required.</p> <p>The Plan promotes active travel and public transport and encourages a reduction in the reliance for private vehicle use, where appropriate.</p>

Table 2 sets out:

- the measures for prevention, reduction and offsetting of significant effects identified in the Environmental Report and the Environmental Report Annex and any revised measures considered and integrated into the adopted version of LDP2.

Table 2: Mitigation measures identified in the Environmental Report (Table 12) and Annex

Mitigation measure	Integrated into LDP2	How the issue has been integrated/ taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
Main Issues Report		
Minimise effects on communities, health and wellbeing.	Yes	<p>LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will provide safeguards for human health and community wellbeing from development, through the inclusion of appropriate policy criteria.</p> <p>LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will require new developments to meet regulatory standards and to consult with the appropriate services to minimise negative effects.</p>
Minimise effects on species and habitats from development, particularly minerals and renewable energy developments.	Yes	<p>LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will contain safeguards to limit adverse impacts on species and habitats and to ensure the greatest benefits are realised wherever possible.</p> <p>LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will require relevant surveys and plans, for example, Protected Species Surveys, to be prepared where required to protect species and habitats.</p> <p>LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will require new developments to accord with relevant NatureScot and SEPA guidance to reduce and mitigate effects on biodiversity.</p>
Minimise negative effects to the water environment, through the construction, development and operation of developments.	Yes	<p>LDP2 and supporting planning guidance require new developments to accord with relevant SEPA and NatureScot guidance to reduce and mitigate such effects.</p> <p>Relevant supporting planning guidance will require sufficient information about potential Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWTDEs) is provided during application stage.</p> <p>Developments on the flood plain will not be supported. Flood Risk Assessments will be required where there is local flood risk.</p>

Mitigation measure	Integrated into LDP2	How the issue has been integrated/ taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
Minimise effects on sensitive soils, including carbon rich soils and peatlands.	Yes	<p>LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will set criteria to safeguard carbon rich soils and will promote the maintenance and restoration of soil function, where appropriate.</p> <p>LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will require relevant surveys and plans, for example, Peat Management Plans, to be prepared where mitigation measures are needed to protect carbon rich soils and peatlands.</p> <p>LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will require new developments to take cognisance of relevant guidance from SEPA and NatureScot to reduce and mitigate effects, including effective management practices.</p>
Minimise impacts on local air quality from development and minimise noise and light effects.	Yes	<p>LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will require new developments to meet regulatory standards and consult with the appropriate services to minimise such effects.</p> <p>With regards to mineral developments, LDP2 will require the use of measures such as localised buffer zones for sensitive receptors to help reduce local impacts.</p> <p>Supporting planning guidance will contain advice on the appropriate siting of renewable energy developments to reduce risk of glint and glare. It will require appropriate assessments, for example, Noise Assessment and Glint or Glare Assessment, are carried out at application stage.</p>
Minimise impacts on existing infrastructure.	Yes	<p>LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will require new developments to meet regulatory standards and consult with the appropriate services to minimise such effects.</p> <p>LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will require relevant surveys and plans to be prepared to minimise impacts on the transport, road and paths networks, the Green Network, fresh water supply and sewerage infrastructure.</p>

Mitigation measure	Integrated into LDP2	How the issue has been integrated/ taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
Ensure peat, forestry and other waste is disposed of appropriately during construction.	Yes	LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will set criteria to minimise waste from developments. The economic and environmental benefits associated with the disposal of peat, forestry and other waste will be promoted through supporting planning guidance.
Minimise effects on cultural and historic assets.	Yes	LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will set criteria to protect the setting of historic assets. Appropriate assessments will require to be undertaken to safeguard such assets, where appropriate.
Minimise effects on landscape.	Yes	LDP2 and supporting planning guidance will set out safeguards to reduce negative impacts on landscape. Developments will require to provide Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, where appropriate. Developments should accord with the Landscape Character Assessment (2010) and Validating Local Landscape Designation (2010).
Sites assessment		
Many of the potential development sites are too small to offer the potential for generating heat/energy through community-based renewables. Therefore, efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy sources should be promoted on a site by site basis and for individual properties, where appropriate.	Yes	Policy 2 Sustainable Development and Climate Change and Policy 5 Development Management and Placemaking and their associated policies in Volume 2 LDP2 aim to ensure that all developments will address the issues of sustainable developments and are designed to be as carbon neutral as possible.
The demand for travel is a major issue with many of the potential development sites situated either in rural locations or in areas where access to public transport is limited. The use of active travel through the core path network or enhancing the public transport network should be encouraged.	Yes	The assessment process removed the less sustainable sites and only included sites in LDP2 that had access to public transport links or had existing good road and rail links. Connections to the public transport and core paths networks were factors considered and influenced what sites were ultimately included in LDP2 as development opportunities.
The use of vacant and derelict land should be promoted.	Yes	The assessment process prioritised the use of brownfield land and the majority of sites released were on previously used land.

Mitigation measure	Integrated into LDP2	How the issue has been integrated/ taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
<p>The potential for increased vehicle use is a concern with regards to the likely impact of emissions on local air quality and the climate. Consideration should be given to existing local air quality sensitive areas and the potential contribution an increase in emissions can have from individual and numerous development sites.</p>	Yes	<p>The assessment process removed the less sustainable sites and only included sites in LDP2 that had access to public transport links or had existing good rail and road links. Connections to the public transport and core paths networks were factors taken account of and influenced what sites were ultimately included in LDP2 as development opportunities.</p>
<p>There is a need to minimise the risk of introducing sensitive receptors to areas that have a significant air or noise issue which could result in the need to declare a Noise or Air Quality Management Area.</p>	Yes	<p>The sites included in LDP2 were assessed against the Air Quality Management Areas already identified and took account of potential new Air Quality Management Areas. In terms of noise, there were no noise areas declared at the time of the assessment, however, proximity to noise generating uses such as busy roads or industrial areas were taken into account in the site assessments.</p>
<p>Settlement identity is important for communities. Consequently, any potential development that spans across neighbouring communities should be restricted to maintain individual community identity.</p>	Yes	<p>The principal focus of Policy 4 Green Belt and Rural Area is to specifically prevent coalescence of settlements.</p>
<p>Habitat Regulation Assessments will need to be carried out for potential sites that could affect Natura 2000 sites.</p>	Yes	<p>LDP2 was subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal. Most policies and proposals were screened out on the basis that they are not likely to have any significant effects on any Natura sites. A small number of policies contain proposals where mitigation measures were required to ensure no likelihood of significant effects on the Clyde Valley Woods SAC or Coalburn Moss SAC. One housing land site adjoined Clyde Woodlands SAC and a specific caveat was added to the LDP text in respect of this sites. One policy (Policy 12 Housing Land) with a number of associated proposals was identified as likely to have a significant effect on the Westwater SPA. Following an appropriate assessment, it was concluded that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura site from the implementation of this Policy or its associated proposals.</p>

Mitigation measure	Integrated into LDP2	How the issue has been integrated/ taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
Potential development sites that may affect designated habitats or other sensitive habitat areas should be discouraged. The Green Network and greenspace should be safeguarded, enhanced and promoted to support both recreational use and habitat expansion.	Yes	Policy 14 Natural and Historic Environment protects designated habitats from inappropriate development. Policy 13 Green Network and Greenspace promotes the protection and enhancement of the green network and greenspaces.
Sites that have been identified as flood risk areas should be avoided. Mitigation measures, where appropriate, should be identified for sites where there is flood risk. Development should be discouraged where flood risk cannot be mitigated.	Yes	Flooding and flood risk was a major factor taken into account in the assessment of sites. The sites included in LDP2 were not in the floodplain areas or those that have a high risk of flooding.
Developments close to riverbanks should be discouraged as these have the potential to significantly affect the quality and status of the water environment.	Yes	The site assessment process took account of the water environment and no developments were identified that impacted on riverbanks.
Developments within or close to historic and cultural assets should only be promoted if they do not detract from the historical setting of the area.	Yes	The assessment process took account of the impact of proposals on historic and cultural assets, including listed buildings, archaeological sites and conservation areas.
Due to the size of many potential developments consideration should be given to local landscape issues, particularly in areas with several potential sites. The incorporation of greenspace and habitat expansion can be used to mitigate against visual issues.	Yes	All the larger developments released were either development framework sites or residential masterplan sites. These require a masterplan approach so that factors such as landscaping and green network provision are taken into consideration when planning the development.

Table 3 sets out the significant positive effects identified in the Environmental Report and whether/how these have been dealt with in the adopted version of LDP2.

Table 3: Enhancement measures identified in the Environmental Report (Table 13)

Enhancement measure	Integrated in LDP2	How the issue has been integrated/taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
Opportunity to make connections to the core path network and improve overall outdoor access which will support human health and wellbeing.	Yes	LDP2 requires new development proposals to incorporate appropriate Green Network and core path provision.
Opportunity to promote the use of renewable energy within developments, including, district heating and micro-renewables.	Yes	LDP2 promotes the use of renewable energy technologies in new developments.
Opportunity to promote public awareness of historic and cultural heritage assets.	Yes	LDP2 promotes opportunities to open up buried sites for investigation during development. It will also help support the promotion of cultural heritage to a wider audience.
Enhance opportunities to improve the area's biodiversity.	Yes	LDP2 requires new developments to incorporate Green Network provision which will enhance local biodiversity. Restoration of mineral sites and windfarm habitat management plans provide opportunities for new habitat creation.
Opportunity to remediate derelict and contaminated land.	Yes	The Spatial Strategy of LDP2 promotes the redevelopment of brownfield sites that will result in the remediation of derelict and contaminated land.

Considering opinions expressed during consultation

Table 4 sets out how the responses to the consultation of the Environmental Report Annex have been taken into account through the preparation of the adopted LDP2.

Table 4: Taking account of consultation responses

Summary of comments	How the comment was taken into consideration
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	
<p>General Comments We have reviewed the ER and would make the following comments. We acknowledge that the ER has included a table in Appendix 1 to describe how the comments made by the consultation authorities at the scoping stage and on the interim ER had been taken into account through the SEA.</p>	Noted.
<p>Policies We previously highlighted that it may be beneficial to review the existing policies that were to be carried forward from the previous plan and we note that this advice has been followed and that these policies have been reassessed and the findings have been set out in the ER. We acknowledge that all of the 19 policies to be included in LDP2 have been assessed against the SEA objectives and the findings are contained in Appendix 7.</p>	Noted.
<p>How has the SEA informed the LDP2 Proposed Plan? We welcome the commentary included in this section to describe how the plan has been modified as a consequence of the SEA. We support the recommendations made and note that these have been accommodated in the plan and it is our view that this has strengthened the plan. We particularly support and acknowledge the further works that have been undertaken in response to the consultation responses received at the previous stage of the plan process. The works undertaken specifically considered the likely environmental effects that LDP2 may have and how these would be addressed by the Council. It is acknowledged that this subsequently led to a number of changes to LDP2, in particular the raising of the importance of the environment in the spatial strategy as well as highlighting a series of mitigation and enhancement measures for further consideration.</p>	Noted. We welcome your comments.
<p>SEA of Site Allocations We note the inclusion and assessment of the sites being considered in the Council's 'Park and Ride Strategy' in Table 4 and the statement that the preferred options for these facilities will be decided in due course.</p>	Noted.

Summary of comments	How the comment was taken into consideration
<p>We recognise that all the potential development sites identified in the MIR have been subject to further assessment (Appendix 6) and where this exercise resulted in a revised assessment of the site these changes are presented in Appendix 3. It is also noted above since the publication of the MIR further development sites have been proposed and these sites, as detailed in Appendix 4, have been subject to the same assessment. We also accept that the legacy sites from SLLDP have also been assessed and these findings are set out in Appendix 5.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>We welcome these assessments have resulted in specific developer requirements relating to flood risk, infrastructure provision and air quality for a number of the sites. We support the range of mitigation and enhancement recommendations set out in the assessments and on Page 18, Section 4.6 of the ER.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>On completion of this exercise the Council duly identified the sites they are intending to include in the Proposed LDP2 and these have been included in Table 5.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Notwithstanding the above comments we would highlight that the assessment of the proposed mixed use site at 'Duchess Road, Rutherglen – Reference MIR 143' states that air quality is potentially a negative environmental effect at the site, and it is within an AQMA. We note however that no measures are included on how these potential detrimental impacts could be addressed and/or mitigated.</p>	<p>An air quality assessment requirement included in appendix 3 of the LDP development requirements.</p>
<p>Conclusions, SEA Next Steps and Monitoring We welcome the monitoring proposals set out in the ER especially the link that is intended between this and the LDP2 Action Programme. We recommend reference is made to our SEA guidance documents available on our website for further options and indicators which will support the monitoring of the environmental effects of the plan.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Historic Environment Scotland</p>	
<p>Proposed Local Nature Reserves Several of the proposed local nature reserves include heritage assets within their boundary, or are in vicinity of heritage assets. Whilst we agree with the findings of the assessment which generally predict positive effects for the historic environment as a result of this, we also consider that there is potential for some negative effects through decision making which focuses on the natural environment values of the sites, but which does not also consider historic environment impacts. In view of this, we suggest that the proposed planning guidance provide appropriate advice to mitigate this risk.</p>	<p>This will be addressed in the preparation of the appropriate management plan and subsequent supporting planning guidance.</p>

Summary of comments	How the comment was taken into consideration
<p>General Comments We welcome the clarity with which you have set out the way in which the assessment has developed since the MIR consultation, including the updated assessments provided at Appendix 4.</p>	<p>Noted. We welcome your comment.</p>
<p>Assessment of Park and Ride sites Table 4 sets out an initial assessment of the potential locations for new park and ride facilities. Because the reporting of effects does not appear to be comprehensive, does not include mitigation and has not utilised the assessment matrix used elsewhere in the assessment, it is not clear whether the assessment followed the methodology set out in Section 3 of the ER. We understand from Chapter 7 of the Proposed Plan (Volume 1) that a Park and Ride Strategy is being prepared which identifies a number of options to increase park and ride provision. These options include potential extensions to existing park and ride facilities alongside new provision. The outcome of the consultation exercise on the park and Ride Strategy will not be known until later in 2018 at which time specific sites will be identified. In view of this, you should consider SEA requirements in relation to the Park and Ride Strategy itself.</p>	<p>The Park and Ride Strategy has been finalised and covers the period from 2018 – 2027. The potential locations for new and extended facilities were considered both in terms of the LDP and also for the Park and Ride Strategy itself. As these medium to long term actions are further developed, all environmental considerations will be taken into account, and where appropriate, mitigation and enhancement measures identified and actioned.</p>
<p>NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage)</p>	
<p>Consideration of previous comments We commented on the Environmental Report (ER) for the LDP2 Main Issues Report (MIR) on 10 May 2017. We agreed that the environmental issues/concerns and key trends had been correctly identified and the assessment of significant effects on the environment had been carried out satisfactorily. However, we made comments on some sites identified for potential development or change. We note the consideration that has been given to these comments, as contained in Appendix 1 of the ER Annex. However, we also note that no alterations have been to the ER Annex. Given the Council's responses in Appendix 1, particularly in respect of the Glassford Road, Strathaven site, we are unclear as to whether this is an oversight or not.</p>	<p>Noted. The wording for these sites was changed in Appendix 6 of the ER Annex - sites taken forward for development in LDP 2 - to reflect SNH comments where the council considered this appropriate. Some of the landscape comments were unresolved issues and were addressed through the LDP Examination. Any wording changes to LDP as a result of this are listed in Table 2.</p>
<p>Re-assessment of potential and legacy development sites We note the re-assessment that has been undertaken of all potential development sites following the previous ER consultation (Appendix 3), the assessment of sites brought forward since publication of the MIR (Appendix 4) and the assessment of legacy sites from the current South Lanarkshire LDP (Appendix 5). We welcome that this exercise has informed the identification of the proposed development sites included in the proposed LDP2 (Table 5 and Appendix 6).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Summary of comments	How the comment was taken into consideration
<p>While we are generally in agreement with the assessment presented in Appendix 6, we would especially note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To mitigate local landscape and visual impacts, we consider specific and/or more robust developer requirements are required in relation to the sites at East Overton (Strathaven), Peel Road (Thorntonhall), Blairbeth Fernbrae Avenue 1 and 2 and Poneil SEIL. - It remains our view that development of the site West of Redwood Drive, East Kilbride for housing would have an adverse impact on local landscape character and the landscape setting of the existing settlement and A726. - We consider that the likely local landscape and visual impacts associated with the development of the Glassford Road, Strathaven site will be challenging to mitigate. We have therefore recommended removal of this site in our response to the LDP2. <p>Our response to the LDP2 contains further comment on these matters.</p>	<p>The landscape comments made in respect of the SEA for these sites were unresolved LDP2 issues and were, therefore, addressed through the LDP Examination. Any wording changes to LDP2 as a result of this are listed in Table 2. Please note that the sites at Peel Road, Thorntonhall and Blairbeth Fernbrae Avenue site 1 were both deleted from the LDP by the Reporter.</p>
<p>Assessment of LDP2 policies</p> <p>We note the assessments and commentary set out in Tables 7 and 8 and the more detailed assessment matrix provided in Appendix 7. We are generally in agreement with the assessments presented.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Monitoring</p> <p>We note that a draft action programme has been prepared as part of the measures to support South Lanarkshire Council identify the environmental issues (either positive or negative) associated with implementation of LDP2. We further note that the final action programme will consider any appropriate comments received through the consultation process. Whilst we are not identified as a lead partner/delivery organisation against any of the proposals contained in the action programme, we would like to state our willingness to advise partners, as early a stage as possible in development of a proposal, to help promote and enhance the conservation of the natural heritage and mitigate any adverse impacts.</p>	<p>Noted. We welcome your input.</p>
<p>East Mains Community Council, East Kilbride</p>	
<p>With regard to Environmental Report Annex objective – Improve human health and Community wellbeing; We request that the published findings from Glasgow and Edinburgh University are noted – ‘Do ‘environmental bads’ such as alcohol, fast food, tobacco and gambling outlets cluster and co-locate in deprived areas in Glasgow city, Scotland.’ Macdonald L, Olsen J, Shorrtt N. (Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health 2018).We have reviewed the ER and would make the following comments. We acknowledge that the ER has included a table in Appendix 1 to describe how the comments made by the consultation authorities at the scoping stage and on the interim ER had been taken into account through the SEA.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

No further comments relating to the Environmental Report Annex were received during consultation on the proposed LDP2.

Reasons for choosing LDP2 as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives

At the Main Issues stage of developing LDP2, three strategic alternatives were considered during the environmental assessment. These were:

Strategic Alternative 1: Restrict the amount of new development across South Lanarkshire to move towards a zero carbon economy.

Strategic Alternative 2: Encourage all types of development across South Lanarkshire to fully exploit the economic development potential of the area.

Strategic Alternative 3: Encourage sustainable economic growth, regeneration and environmental protection and at the same time move towards a low carbon economy.

Following a full assessment it was considered that **Strategic Alternative 3** demonstrated the best approach for achieving the greatest potential environmental benefits. This would enable a greater balance between the economic, societal and environmental aspects of sustainable development. Subsequently, this was the approach taken when further developing LDP2.

Undertaking an SEA alongside the development of LDP2 provided an opportunity to identify the key environmental issues affecting the area and ensuring these were taken account of as the Plan was developed.

Monitoring significant environmental effects in implementing the Plan

Monitoring of the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 will take place in order to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and to take appropriate remedial action. This is in line with Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Monitoring will take place following the adoption of LDP2 and will use the SEA indicators. In the monitoring of the Plan it may be appropriate to review the baseline data and the effectiveness of measures proposed for prevention, reduction, and offsetting of significant environmental effects. This will be done as part of the monitoring framework set up for LDP2 in conjunction with the Council's other monitoring commitments, including the biennial State of the Environment Report.

The monitoring of the SEA and LDP2 will be undertaken in-house using information gathered from a range of sources, including the statutory Consultation Authorities. The baseline data against which the effectiveness of the guidance will be measured is set out in Table 5.

Table 5: LDP2 SEA monitoring framework

Monitoring Framework	
SEA topic: Population and human health	
SEA objective: To improve human health and community wellbeing and promote access to the wider environment	
Indicator	Source
% of persons economically active	SLC: SoE Report
% of working age population out of work	SLC: SoE Report
Unemployment levels (by electoral ward)	SLC: SoE Report
% of residents feeling 'safe' or 'fairly safe' outside after dark	SLC: SoE Report
% of SIMD in lowest IMD health domain	SG
SEA topic: Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
SEA objective: To protect, promote, improve and enhance biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	
Indicator	Source
% of qualifying species in SPA in 'favourable maintained' condition	NS, SLC: SoE Report
% of qualifying interests in SACs in 'favourable maintained' condition	NS, SLC: SoE Report
% of SSSIs in 'favourable maintained condition or 'unfavourable	NS, SLC: SoE Report
Change in area (ha) of designated biodiversity sites	NS, SLC: SoE Report
Area (ha) and % of woodland types	FLS, SLC: SoE Report
Area of lowland/intermediate raised bog inventory sites (ha)	NS, SLC: SoE Report
SEA topic: Soil	
SEA objective: To protect high quality and sensitive soils	
Indicator	Source
No. of geologically designated SSSIs	NS, SLC: SoE Report
Area of land classifications 1 – 7	SG, SLC: SoE Report
No. of developments on prime agricultural land	SLC

Monitoring Framework	
SEA topic: Water	
SEA objective: To protect and where possible enhance the status of the water environment	
Indicator	Source
No. of new developments located within Flood Zones 2 and 3	SEPA, SLC
No. of properties at risk in Potentially Vulnerable Areas.	SLC: SoE Report
No. of flood incidents	SLC: SoE Report
% of new infrastructure developments incorporating SUDS	SLC
% of waterbodies achieving high or good WFD status	SEPA, SLC: SoE Report
SEA topic: Air, noise, light and nuisance	
SEA objective: To prevent the deterioration of air quality and minimise noise and light pollution	
Indicator	Source
No. of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)	SLC: SoE Report
Annual average concentration of NO ²	SLC: SoE Report
Annual average concentration of PM ¹⁰	SLC: SoE Report
% of people experiencing traffic congestion	SLC: SoE Report
% of noise nuisance complaints	SLC: SoE Report
SEA topic: Climatic factors	
SEA objective: Reduce the causes and effects of climate change, promoting sustainable communities	
Indicator	Source
Change in Co2 emission estimates	DECC, SLC: SoE Report
Change in average gas consumption	DECC, SLC: SoE Report
Change in total electricity consumption	DECC, SLC: SoE Report
Change in road transport energy consumption	DECC, SLC: SoE Report
Level of overall renewable energy generating capacity	SLC: SoE Report
SEA topic: Historic and cultural heritage	
SEA objective: To protect and where appropriate enhance the built and historic environment	
Indicator	Source
No. of applications for listed building and scheduled monument consent	HES, SLC: SoE Report
No. of developments affecting gardens, designed landscapes and battlefields	HES, SLC: SoE Report
No. of developments within or affecting conservation areas	HES, SLC: SoE Report
No. of developments within or affecting the setting on New Lanark World Heritage Site	HES, SLC: SoE Report
No. of developments within or affecting archaeological sites	HES, SLC: SoE Report

Monitoring Framework	
SEA topic: Material assets	
SEA objective: To promote the sustainable use of natural and material resources	
Indicator	Source
No. of vacant and derelict land sites	SLC: SoE Report
Area of vacant and derelict land (ha)	SLC: SoE Report
Reuse/take-up of vacant and derelict land (ha)	SLC
Area of greenspace (ha)	SLC: SoE Report
Length of cycle routes and cycle paths	SLC: SoE Report
No. of public built facilities	SLC: SoE Report
SEA topic: Landscape and townscape	
SEA objective: Protect and enhance the landscape and townscape	
Indicator	Source
No. of Special Landscape Areas	SLC: SoE Report
Change in area of green belt	SLC: SoE Report

Key to acronyms

DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change	FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland
HES	Historic Environment Scotland	NS	NatureScot
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency	SG	Scottish Government
SLC	South Lanarkshire Council	SoE	State of the Environment

Concluding the Post Adoption SEA Statement

The South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 has undergone a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to determine its environmental effects. The SEA demonstrated that LDP2 should result in positive effects across a wide range of environmental issues, particularly through consideration of the sustainable location of development, the protection and enhancement of natural and historic environment, climatic factors, flood risk management, the protection of prime quality agricultural land, landscape and waste minimisation. Where these refinements had a locational dimension they were incorporated into the modified Preferred Spatial Strategy as presented in the Main Issues Report and subsequent Proposed Plan.

The SEA demonstrates that the preferred alternative for LDP2 should provide protection for the environment at the same time as ensuring development encourages growth within South Lanarkshire and still meets the needs of its population. Where potential negative effects were identified, the assessment identified mitigation measures to reduce and offset them. Where potential positive effect were identified, the assessment also identified enhancement measures to optimise them.

We consider that the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 fulfils its purpose by providing a clear framework to direct development in an environmentally sustainable way, incorporating wider environmental issues as far as reasonably possible.

Throughout the SEA process, the Consultation Authorities have confirmed their agreement with the overall assessment approach adopted with no requirement highlighted for further modification of LDP2 following assessment of the Environmental Report and the Environmental Report Annex. Comments received from other stakeholders on the Environmental Report during the public consultation period were considered and actioned appropriately. All comments received on LDP2 itself have been considered and, where appropriate, have been taken account of in the adopted Plan.

Between October 2019 and August 2020, LDP2 was subject to examination and the Reporter's report was received in August 2020. The Examination Report made a number of changes to the wording of the text and policies within LDP2. It also removed two sites and introduced one new site. The site that was added to LDP2 has been subject to SEA. The majority of these changes are minor wording changes which have no implications for the SEA carried out and reported in the Environmental Report and the Environmental Report Annex.

A Final Updated Environmental Report was prepared to take account of all recommendations from the Reporter and the Consultation Authorities following consultation on the Environment Report Annex. This final report was submitted to Scottish Ministers in February 2021. A copy of the Final Updated Report is attached for information.

The South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 was formally approved by the Planning Committee of South Lanarkshire Council in December 2020 and adopted on 9 April 2021.