



SEA of Get to Zero: A Climate Action Plan for East Renfrewshire

Environmental Report

East Renfrewshire Council

Draft Report

Prepared by LUC

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SEA of Get to Zero: A Climate Action Plan for East Renfrewshire

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Introduction to the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan

1.1 East Renfrewshire Council is currently preparing a Draft Get to Zero: A Climate Action Plan for East Renfrewshire' (Get to Zero Action Plan) which sets out how the Council will take action to reduce its own operational emissions, support the community to reduce their emissions and collectively prepare council buildings, infrastructure and spaces to adapt to a changing climate.

1.2 The Get to Zero Action Plan includes more than 100 actions across the Council's operations. The actions fall under 12 themes:

- communication and transparency;
- consumption;
- investing in communities;
- heating and powering homes and businesses;
- how we work;
- improving data and capability;
- our estate;
- our vehicles;
- partnerships;
- the built environment;
- transport; and,

- what we buy – procurement and shaping our supply chain.

What is Strategic Environmental Assessment?

1.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a way of considering the environment when preparing public plans, programmes and strategies. It identifies potential significant environmental effects and, where necessary, describes how these effects can be avoided or reduced. Through consultation, SEA also provides an opportunity for the public to express their views on proposed policies and their potential environmental impacts.

1.4 In this case, SEA is being used to assess the likely environmental effects of the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan.

How was the Strategic Environmental Assessment undertaken?

1.5 This SEA is an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan and the alternatives to it. The Environmental Report considers the environmental effects of the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan as they would influence activities across East Renfrewshire.

1.6 The assessment identifies positive and negative environmental effects and the significance of these; considers whether they would be temporary or permanent; and notes where they would arise in the short, medium or long term. It also distinguishes between effects arising directly from the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan and any 'secondary' effects, which would indirectly impact on the environment.

Which reasonable alternatives have been considered?

1.7 Based on the current legislative context, and the declared climate emergency, it was identified that the current ambition to achieve net zero can only be to achieve the maximum emissions reductions possible. This aim is reflected across all sectors based on current technical, political and practical limitations, and no reasonable alternatives were identified.

What are the key environmental challenges relevant to the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan

1.8 In terms of climatic factors, ambitious targets have been set to achieve net zero emissions by 2045, including a new target to reduce emissions by 75% by 2030. Emissions for East Renfrewshire have fallen between 2005-2020 from 6.6 tonnes per capita to 4.2 tonnes per capita. This is a positive reduction in carbon emissions. Per capita emissions in the plan area within the scope of influence of the local authorities fell most years between 2005 and 2020. Within East Renfrewshire, domestic and transport remained the main contributor of the highest level of emissions.

1.9 East Renfrewshire Council's greenhouse gas emissions for the financial year 2019/2020 were estimated to be 70.2 kilotonnesCO₂e which is equivalent to the emissions from 8,500 homes' heat and power for a year. East Renfrewshire Carbon Baseline report indicates that 57.4% of the council's greenhouse gas emissions come from the supply-chain impacts of purchased goods and 12.17% from municipal landfill.

1.10 The national target is for 60% of all new cars and vans to be electric by 2030. Within East Renfrewshire, there are a total of 27 public electric charging devices of which seven are rapid charging devices. There are approximately 28 charging devices per 100,000 people in East Renfrewshire. This is among some of the lowest levels across Scottish local authorities.

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1.11 East Renfrewshire Council has taken a positive approach to accommodating wind energy development. Several developments, including at Whitelee Windfarm, make a significant contribution to meeting the Scottish Government's targets. East Renfrewshire has 199 turbines (above 100kw in size) with a combined capacity of 468.23 MW. East Renfrewshire Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy has also identified areas that have the possibility of installing district heating systems.

1.12 East Renfrewshire benefits from a rich and varied natural and semi-natural environment. It includes a network of greenspaces, six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs); one Local Nature Reserve; 72 designated Local Biodiversity Sites; 36 unconfirmed Local Biodiversity Sites; three potential Local Biodiversity Sites; and, trees and woodland covered by 68 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). East Renfrewshire is one of three Councils forming a Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnership that covers East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council area.

1.13 In 2021, the population of East Renfrewshire was 96,580. The population of East Renfrewshire has steadily grown since 2010 from 90,410 to 96,580 in 2021. The increase in East Renfrewshire's population is as a result of more people moving into the area. The two age groups expected to see the highest rise in population is children and young people aged 0-15 years and older people aged 85+. In East Renfrewshire, life expectancy at birth was higher for females (83.8 years) than for males (79.54 years) in 2019-21. East Renfrewshire has the highest proportion of children in any local authority in Scotland, and this is expected to grow. East Renfrewshire also has some of the lowest levels of child poverty in Scotland.

1.14 A total of 4,802 new homes across all tenures are to be built to accommodate the rising population in East Renfrewshire through the Local Development Plan 2 during the period 2012 to 2031 of which 3,112 have been completed to date. East Renfrewshire has a high proportion of owner-occupied homes at over 80% of homes. As of December 2022, the average house price in East Renfrewshire was £293,315.

1.15 Schools within East Renfrewshire are consistently amongst the highest performing in Scotland. There are four sports and leisure centres in East Renfrewshire. In 2021, 69% of adults met the moderate or vigorous physical activity guidelines of at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity, 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity, or an equivalent combination of the two per week. 71% of children (2-15 years) met the recommended physical activity level.

1.16 In terms of soil, the majority of East Renfrewshire is covered by sands and gravels. Peat lies to the south east (Whitelee) and north west. Along the South East boundary of East Renfrewshire there are significant areas particularly around Whitelee Forest identified within the Carbon and Peatland 2016 map. East Renfrewshire is rich in geology with three Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI) noted for their important geological features.

1.17 There are no formally identified contaminated land sites in East Renfrewshire. As of 2022, there were 36 sites on the vacant and derelict land register for East Renfrewshire.

1.18 In relation to water, there are approximately 354km of water course (including small burns) within East Renfrewshire. East Renfrewshire falls within the Scotland River Basin District (Clyde River Basin). The mains water supply, which supplies over 97% of East Renfrewshire Residents, is the responsibility of Scottish Water with regard to water quality. Drinking water for East Renfrewshire comes from three Scottish Water sites; Picketlaw, Milngavie Gorbals and Milngavie C1. In Scotland, approximately 3% of the Scottish population uses a private water supply for drinking water. These supplies can originate from a number of sources including lochs, burns or boreholes and are often found in more rural areas of Scotland. Private water supplies are not provided or maintained by Scottish Water.

1.19 Within East Renfrewshire, flood risk is not a significant issue. According to SEPAs flood maps, much of the flood risk within East Renfrewshire is associated with watercourses and its floodplain within rural areas and towns/villages. These areas are considered at a 10% chance of flooding each

year. East Renfrewshire is at risk of surface water flooding. Much of the surface water flooding in East Renfrewshire is small pockets distributed across the towns/villages. However, there are larger areas of surface flooding in the Burnhouse area of Newton Mearns, Williamwood, Whitecraigs and parts of Giffnock and Netherlee. The majority of areas at risk of surface water flooding are at a 10% chance of flooding each year.

1.20 The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 sets out a co-ordinated, plan-led approach to the management of flood risk in Scotland. East Renfrewshire Council is the responsible authority when it comes to flood risk. The Council will take a precautionary approach to flood risk from all sources and will promote flood avoidance in the first instance.

1.21 Air quality is generally of good quality across East Renfrewshire. Within East Renfrewshire, transport is the most significant source of air pollution. There are no major industrial or commercial sources within East Renfrewshire. Barrhead and Neilston are designated as a Smoke Control Area [\[See reference 1\]](#). Smoke Control Areas were introduced by legislation in the 1960s as a result of the heavy smog, and ERC smoke control orders came in the 1970s .

1.22 In terms of cultural heritage and historic environment, East Renfrewshire's historic environment is made of monuments, archaeological site and landscapes, historic buildings, townscapes and designed landscapes. A total of 11 Scheduled Monuments are designated across East Renfrewshire. East Renfrewshire contains 137 listed buildings, including five Category A listed buildings and five Conservation Areas. East Renfrewshire has two designations under the Gardens and Designed Landscape Inventory.

1.23 In terms of landscape, East Renfrewshire is primarily a rural council with pockets of urban centres. The council covers a total area of approximately 17,423 hectares. The area classified as urban within the 2015 Local Development Plan spans approximately 2,804 ha (approximately 16% of the council area). Since 2011 there has been an increase in urban area and loss

of greenbelt due to the urban expansion around Newton Mearns, Barrhead South and Neilston.

1.24 In relation to material assets, a total of 85% of council buildings are suitable for their current use with 84% in satisfactory condition as of 2020-21. According to the Property Asset Management Plan, the current performance of Council buildings is improving but it is recognised that further investment will be required to at least maintain current levels or improve them. Over the next five years from 2019, £15,543,118 will be required for maintenance of Council buildings.

1.25 There are two waste management facilities in East Renfrewshire: Carlibar Road, Barrhead and Greenhags, Newton Mearns. In 2021, 58.1% of household waste was recycled. This is a decrease of 2019 were 67.8% of household waste was recycled. In 2021, 2.4% of waste was sent to landfill.

Which existing environmental protection objectives are relevant?

1.26 Environmental protection objectives which form the context for the assessment include international and national level policies and strategies that aim to reduce greenhouse emissions and achieve net zero. Climatic objectives focus on reducing Scotland's GHG emissions to net zero by 2045. Objectives for biodiversity, fauna and flora are largely aimed at protecting habitats and species from damage and disturbance. Objectives for population and human health focus on setting out requirements for air quality, legislation against noise and vibration nuisance. Soil objectives seek to protect prime quality agricultural land and peatlands. Objectives for water aim to protect rivers, lochs, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater resources. Objectives for air aim to reduce pollution, and to reverse the effects of past emissions. Cultural heritage objectives are primarily focused on valued sites and features, including townscapes, buildings, archaeological sites, battlefields, wrecks and landscapes that have been recognised at the international, national and local levels. Landscape objectives reflect the

importance of all landscapes and the need to help to improve those that have become degraded. Objectives for material assets seek to reduce the overall GHG emissions and make the best use of Scotland's resources and existing infrastructure.

Strategic Environmental Assessment findings

1.27 The environmental effects are considered as direct and indirect effects from the action themes.

Direct effects

1.28 Overall, only some of the actions will result in direct effects. The majority of direct effects relate to climatic factors; population and human health and material assets SEA topics. The Built environment actions were the only actions likely to directly affect cultural heritage and historic environment. During the assessment, no significant negative effects against the SEA topics were identified. Some of the actions within the Built environment action theme are expected to result in significant positive effects in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna.

1.29 No direct effects are identified for improving data and capability actions which aim to improve data collection; provide climate change training for staff; develop a Climate Change Impact Assessment; and, Carbon Budgeting across major decision-making gateways within the Council.

1.30 The *communication and transparency* actions aim to establish a process to monitor the progress of the Get to Zero Action Plan and embed climate change within the school curriculum and encourage achieving the Green Flag Award. Minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health from support for local action and driving behavioural change which supports climate resilience in the short to medium term.

1.31 The *consumption* actions within this theme relate to the circular economy; support the implementation of the National Food Waste Reduction Action Plan; and, developing a Local Food Growing Strategy. The actions within this theme are expected to deliver minor positive effects in relation to climatic factors; biodiversity flora and fauna; population and human health; soil; water; air; and, material assets. The actions support a reduction in energy consumption and GHG emissions. Reducing the use of single use plastics is likely to reduce the risk of exposure to microplastic for humans. Growing local food and the reuse of products and materials can reduce financial costs and help engage communities. The majority of effects will occur in the short term either less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.

1.32 The *heating and powering homes and businesses* actions aim to develop and implement the Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy; support the development of a Local Housing Strategy 2022-27; and, the development of an Energy Awareness Campaign for residents. The actions will also explore opportunities for renewable energy projects. The actions are expected to deliver minor effects in relation to climatic factors; population and human health; and, air. Minor negative effects are expected in relation to material assets. The actions are likely to deliver more energy efficient systems that will reduce GHG emissions improving air quality. Renewable energy generation will help transition to using green energy. Improved energy efficiency will likely result in reduced energy demand and lower running costs.. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year or 1-2 years. Some of the effects will occur within the long term over 5 years.

1.33 The *our estate* actions relate to improving the energy efficiency of council housing and will support improvements to the council estate . Actions also relate to the completion and review of the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust buildings. The actions are expected to deliver minor positive effects in relation to climatic factors; population and human health; and, air. Minor negative effects are expected in relation to material assets. Implementing energy efficient solutions is likely to reduce the GHG emissions and energy demand. More sustainable investments linked with the Council's estate are likely to improve air quality positively impacting on the human

health. There are also opportunities for reducing fuel poverty. However, new materials will be required to retrofit existing buildings and construct new housing. Some effects will occur in the next 1-2 years, however the majority of effects will be beyond 5 or 10 years.

1.34 The *our vehicles* actions aim to deliver council fleet decarbonisation and support investment in depot infrastructure. Actions will also increase access to and availability of pool bikes, e-bikes and electric cars and ensure route optimisation. The actions within this theme are expected to deliver minor positive effects in relation to climatic factors; population and human health; air; and, material assets. Minor negative effects are identified in relation to landscape and geodiversity and material assets. The actions within this theme will reduce transport related GHG emissions improving air quality. Improvements to air quality will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of residents. The construction of new depot infrastructure could negatively impact the local landscape character and require the use of raw materials. There are potential fuel savings to be made through route optimisation encouraging shorter vehicle journeys. The majority of effects will occur in the short to medium term.

1.35 The *transport* actions aim to embed the 20 minute neighbourhood concept. Actions also relate to the development of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and enable the implementation of the Local Transport Strategy and Active Travel Plan including sustainable travel. Additionally, actions within this theme relate to the implementation of a street lighting improvement initiative and ensure participation in the Climate Ready Clyde action group. The actions within this theme are expected to deliver minor positive effects in relation to climatic factors; biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; soil; air; landscape and geodiversity; and, material assets. Minor negative effects are also identified in relation to soil and material assets. The actions within this theme are expected to reduce GHG transport related emissions improving air quality. There are also expected improvements in energy demand through replacement of existing lighting with LED lights which will help lower GHG emissions. The Local Transport Strategy and Active Travel Plan will likely result in improvements to and the creation of active travel routes that will lead to enhanced green infrastructure supporting

biodiversity. Additionally, increased opportunities for active travel will encourage higher levels of physical activity. However, the delivery of new active travel or transport infrastructure is likely to cause disturbance to undisturbed soils. Finally, some of the actions within this theme will require the use of raw materials, but have the opportunity to enhance East Renfrewshire's assets. The majority of effects will occur over the medium to long term. However, some effects will occur with 1-2 years.

1.36 The *partnership* actions aim to deliver partnership working. The actions are expected to deliver minor positive effects in relation to climatic factors; biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; soil; water; air; landscape and geodiversity; and, material assets. The collaborative actions focus on encouraging higher uptake of active travel, planting trees and delivering a green network which will likely result in reduced GHG emissions and improve air quality. The actions are also likely to lead to funding for carbon insetting and offsetting projects. Collaborative action through initiatives such as higher uptake of active travel and delivery of green networks are likely to provide more opportunities for physical activity. A collaborative action of enhancing green networks and planting trees will add a positive asset to East Renfrewshire that enhances biodiversity; protects soils and reduces flood risk. The majority of effects will occur in the medium to long term although some of the effects will occur within 1-2 years.

1.37 The *how we work* actions will promote the use of active travel and public transport to reduce car mileage. Actions also relate to reviewing the climate impacts of IT infrastructure and the handling of waste. All the actions within this theme will deliver short term effects on the environment. The actions are expected to deliver minor positive effects in relation to climatic factors; population and human health; air; and, material assets. Minor negative effects are identified in relation to material assets. Reducing car use for council staff commuting and supporting home working is likely to reduce transport related GHG emissions and improve air quality. This will also provide more opportunities for physical activity. Updating existing IT equipment will lower GHG emissions from older more inefficient equipment but will require the purchase of new IT equipment with impacts on material assets. However, there may be opportunities for updating existing equipment or recycling

equipment. The majority of effects are expected within less than a year or 1-2 years.

1.38 The *investing in communities* actions will scope the opportunity for local 'work hubs' and relate to City Deal projects. The majority of actions have no identified timescale. The actions within this theme are expected to deliver minor positive effects in relation to climatic factors; population and human health; soil; and, air. Minor negative effects are identified in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna; soil; landscape and geodiversity; and, material assets. The actions are expected to reduce transport related GHG emissions improving air quality. The delivery of City Deal projects will incorporate a 'whole lifecycle' approach providing climate adaptation. However, these projects could result in disruption to the local landscape and areas of biodiversity interest. Local work hubs will provide opportunities for social interaction and local active travel. The delivery of City Deal projects will offer employment opportunities and deliver needed infrastructure improvements. Development associated with City Deal will require the use of land but some of this could be vacant/brownfield land. The delivery of City Deal projects and new working hubs will require raw materials and resources. The majority of effects are expected within 1-2 years.

1.39 The *built environment* actions relate to introducing the updated Building Standards and the 2024 New Build Heat Standard. The actions will also enable the completion of an open space audit, climate change risk assessment and a biodiversity protection action plan. Actions will ensure the preparation and implementation of planning guidance and will support the development of LDP3. Actions within this theme will implement changes to management practices for parks and open spaces. The actions within this theme are expected to deliver positive effects in relation to climatic factors; biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; soil; cultural heritage and historic environment; landscape and geodiversity; and, material assets. Minor negative effects are identified in relation to material assets. The actions within this theme will lead to more energy efficient solutions and reduced GHG emissions. Securing the climate resilience of places could include use of better materials and enable carbon sequestration. The Biodiversity Protection Action Plan will ensure that new habitat networks are

created and existing areas of biodiversity value are protected and enhanced. Ensuring the resilience of the population will support improved wellbeing. Reducing the energy demand of buildings will lower energy costs and reduce levels of fuel poverty. The development of specific planning guidance will support the creation of high quality places and encourage good design. The action relating to park management will support soil health due to reduced chemical inputs and mowing. Climate adaptation measures are likely to ensure climate resilience of historic assets and continued protection of local landscapes. The quality of the built environment and active travel infrastructure will improve through changes to management and planning guidance. However, raw materials may be required in infrastructure improvements. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years or over 10 years.

1.40 No direct effects are identified for *what we buy – procurement and shaping our supply chain* actions which aims to support collaboration with public sector procurement; engage with suppliers; and, review supply chain emissions.

Indirect effects

1.41 No indirect effects were identified for *how we work* and *Investing in communities* action themes.

1.42 Indirect minor positive effects were identified in relation to Climatic Factors and Population and Human Health as the *improving data and capability* actions will lead to a reduction in emissions and climate resilience of the community. The majority of benefits will occur in the short term, less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, some effects in relation to this action theme will occur in 2-5 years.

1.43 For the *communication and transparency* actions, indirect minor positive effects for climatic factors and biodiversity, flora and fauna are anticipated

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from improved governance and education reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the implementation of the Green Flag award scheme. The majority of effects will occur within less than 1 year or 1-2 years, however, some effects will occur within 2-5 years.

1.44 For the *consumption* actions, indirect minor positive effects for climatic factors and biodiversity, flora and fauna are anticipated from the emissions savings and reducing harm to wildlife from some of the actions within this theme. The majority of small-scale effects will occur in the less than 1 year and 1-2 years, however some of the effects will be 2-5 years or more than 10 years.

1.45 For the *heating and powering homes and businesses* actions, indirect minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors and population and human health from the delivery of renewable energy projects in the long term.

1.46 For the *our estate* actions, indirect minor positive effects are anticipated in relation to climatic factors and cultural heritage and the historic environment. Options and investment recommendations could potentially lead to reduced GHG emissions from more energy efficient solutions implemented across the Council's estate. Improving energy efficiency through retrofitting could impact on the integrity of these assets. These effects are likely in the longer term, beyond 10 years.

1.47 For the *our vehicles* actions, indirect minor negative effects are identified in relation to material assets from the production and purchase of new electric vehicles. The majority of effects will occur in the short term within 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.

1.48 For the *transport* actions, indirect minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors; water; and, material assets. An increased uptake of public transport is likely to reduce overall transport related GHG emissions. Increasing green and blue infrastructure are likely to reduce flood risk. The expansion of EV charging will provide an important asset to East

Renfrewshire. The majority of effects will occur over medium and long term. Some effects will occur within the short term, 1-2 years.

1.49 For the *partnerships* actions, indirect minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as some actions have the potential to reduce GHG emissions. The majority of effects will occur at the medium to long term timescale at 2-5 year or more than 10 years. Some of the effects will occur within 1-2 years.

1.50 For the *built environment* action theme, indirect minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors; biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; water; air; and, landscape and geodiversity. The Biodiversity Protection Action Plan and Open Space Audit are likely to lead to increased carbon sequestration. The development of LDP3, planning guidance and implementation of climate change adaptation will support reducing energy demand and encourage the enhancement of greenspaces. This will result in reduced GHG emissions improving air quality and opportunities for carbon sequestration. LDP3 and planning guidance is likely to protect and improve the quality of greenspaces offering opportunities for recreation. The Biodiversity Action Plan is likely to include actions that will improve water quality and quantity. Improvements to open spaces and green networks. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years or over 10 years.

1.51 For the *what we buy – procurement and shaping our supply chain* actions, indirect minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors and air as actions included in this theme are likely to lead to reduced GHG emissions improving air quality through improved approach to procurement. Indirect minor positive effects are expected in relation to material assets as actions included in this theme support energy efficient development and improved procurement. The majority of effects will occur in the short term, either less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur between 2-5 years.

Cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects

1.52 All of the action themes contribute positively to climatic factors reflecting the purpose of the Get to Zero Action Plan in reducing GHG emissions and energy demand across the council. Synergistic effects are likely to arise from increasing awareness and understanding of actions and their impacts on climate change. However, many of the actions to reduce emissions require initial infrastructure change, which impacts on the payback period for emissions savings.

1.53 Just under half of the action themes do not have an identified effect in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna. However, positive effects were identified in relation to the built environment; communication and transparency, consumption and partnerships action themes. There is potential for negative in-combination effects on biodiversity through potential loss of habitat from new developments or refurbishment proposed by actions within the heating and powering homes and businesses and investing in communities theme.

1.54 The majority of action themes are cumulatively positive for population and human health as the action themes support actions which benefit physical and mental health and wellbeing.

1.55 Minor positive effects are anticipated in relation to soil from the actions to reduce plastic waste, enhance green networks and improve parks and open space management, however there could be the cumulative loss of soils from the development arising from City Deal projects and transport infrastructure.

1.56 For the majority of action themes, there are no effects on water. Where effects are identified they are positive with benefits for water quality and quantity. These positive effects arise from reduced littering and flood risk.

1.57 Overall cumulative effects for air are expected to be positive due to the action themes reducing GHG emissions through energy efficiency and

decarbonisation also reducing sources of air pollution, which will improve air quality.

1.58 Overall, limited effects for cultural heritage and the historic environment were identified. Mixed effects were identified for Our Estate and the Built Environment action themes through the actions to deliver more energy efficient buildings, improving the structure and resilience of these buildings, but at the same time potentially impacting on the integrity of the structures.

1.59 Overall, positive cumulative effects in relation to landscape and geodiversity are expected from increased provision of green networks, tree planting and improved park management. There are potential in-combination negative effects resulting from increased levels of development including infrastructure to support low carbon and energy efficiency measures.

1.60 Overall, there are likely to be mixed minor positive and minor negative cumulative effects in relation to material assets. Overall the actions seek to improve the quality of infrastructure, reduce waste and increase the energy efficiency of assets. This results in action themes that will require the use of new raw materials, with the associated carbon footprint of these new materials, which enable the actions that reduce future emissions across the council estate.

What measures could be put in place to avoid, reduce or manage the environmental effects of the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan?

1.61 No significant adverse effects are identified from the assessment. Consideration of mitigation is focused on opportunities to avoid, reduce or manage minor adverse effects.

1.62 Initial mitigation and enhancement was identified during the first phase of assessment and through the six workshops. The mitigation and enhancement

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was then considered for inclusion in the revised actions. Some of the initial enhancement will be reflected in the detail of the Action Plan as it is implemented, however other enhancement measures were identified as too detailed. Mitigation was identified for the majority of actions within each theme and relates to improvements to the wording of the actions; adjustments to timescales; and opportunities to be more ambitious within the action. The mitigation proposed will help make the actions within each theme more robust and to ensure they support the council in achieving net zero.

What monitoring is proposed?

1.63 East Renfrewshire Council is currently developing a monitoring framework for the Get to Zero Action Plan. It is anticipated that indicators associated with this could potentially be used to embed the SEA monitoring into the wider monitoring of the GTZAP actions. This will be further considered as the GTZAP is finalised. The proposals for monitoring will be addressed and further outlined within the post adoption statement at the end of the SEA process.

How can I comment on this Environmental Report

1.64 The consultation on the draft Get to Zero Action Plan will run for a 6 week period in spring 2023. Comments on the draft Get to Zero Action Plan and Environmental Report can be submitted to climatechange@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

1.65 Consultation questions on the SEA Environmental Report are as follows:

1. Do you agree with the environmental baseline information referred to in this Environmental Report?

a) [Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree]

Non-Technical Summary Non-Technical Summary Non-Technical Summary

- b) If disagree, please explain what further action the Council should consider.

- 2. To what extent do you agree with the environmental assessment findings?
 - a) [Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree]

 - b) If disagree, please explain what further action the Council should consider.

- 3. Do you agree that the draft GTZAP is maximising the positive environmental effects identified in the environmental report?
 - a) [Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree]

 - b) If disagree, please explain what further action the Council should consider.

- 4. Do you agree with the proposed approach to mitigation and monitoring set out in the environmental report?
 - a) [Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree]

 - b) If disagree, please explain what further action the Council should consider.

- 5. Are you aware of further information that to inform the assessment findings, please explain? If yes, please explain.

1.66 Following the consultation period the consultation responses will be analysed and East Renfrewshire Council will finalise and publish the Get to Zero Action Plan. After the Get to Zero Action Plan is adopted, a Post

Non-Technical SummaryNon-Technical SummaryNon-Technical Summary

Adoption Statement will be produced. This Statement will set out how the SEA and the views received in the consultation process have been taken into account.

Chapter 2

Introduction

Purpose of this Report

2.1 East Renfrewshire Council is currently preparing 'Draft Get to Zero: A Climate Action Plan for East Renfrewshire' (Get to Zero Action Plan) which sets out how East Renfrewshire Council will take action to reduce its own operational emissions, support the community to reduce their emissions and collectively prepare council buildings, infrastructure and spaces to adapt to a changing climate.

2.2 LUC was appointed by East Renfrewshire Council in April 2022 to undertake the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan. The SEA of the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan presents an important opportunity for environmental considerations to be brought to the forefront of the plan-making process and influence the outcome of the Get to Zero Action Plan. SEA can help ensure that unforeseen environmental impacts are avoided and that environmental benefits are optimised.

2.3 The purpose of this Environmental Report is to present the findings of the SEA process.

Study Area

2.4 East Renfrewshire forms part of the wider Glasgow City Region within the west of Scotland. East Renfrewshire covers an area of approximately 67 square miles (174 square kilometers) and has a population of 96,580 [See [reference 2](#)]. The north of East Renfrewshire comprises the urban areas of Giffnock, Newton Mearns, Clarkston, Busby, Thornliebank and Barrhead.

There is an extensive rural hinterland to the south within which the villages of Uplawmoor, Neilston, Waterfoot and Eaglesham are located.

2.5 East Renfrewshire is a popular suburban residential area due to its close proximity to the city of Glasgow. It is well placed in respect of the national transport network with the M77 motorway, good west to east road links and good accessibility to Glasgow and beyond by public transport routes. The public transport network within East Renfrewshire is radial to Glasgow, except in Barrhead where there are links to Paisley. Across East Renfrewshire there are three railway lines serving nine train stations with one planned in Barrhead South. However, East Renfrewshire has a high level of private car ownership.

Get to Zero: A Climate Action Plan for East Renfrewshire

2.6 The Get to Zero Action Plan will support East Renfrewshire Council in achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2045. It will describe how the Council will reduce its own operational emissions which, in 2019/20, stood at 70,000 tonnes CO₂e. This is equivalent to the emissions from heating and powering 8,500 homes for a year. The Council has interim targets of 75% reduction by 2030 and 90% reduction by 2040. The Action Plan will also set out the actions the Council will undertake to help the wider community achieve net zero carbon emissions, and support adaptation of council buildings, infrastructure and spaces to a changing climate.

2.7 The Action Plan includes more than 100 actions across the Council's operations. The actions fall under 13 themes: communication and transparency; consumption; education; heating and powering homes and businesses; how we work; improving data and capability; our estate; our vehicles; partnerships; place-making; the built environment; transport; and, what we buy – procurement and shaping our supply chain. East Renfrewshire Council will work in partnership with the Glasgow City Region and Climate Ready Clyde to meet the actions within the Action Plan and the wider community.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

2.8 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 ('the 2005 Act') [See reference 3], is a means to judge the likely impact of the plan, programme or strategy on the environment and to seek ways to minimise adverse effects, if likely to be significant. East Renfrewshire Council, which is preparing the Action Plan, is the 'Responsible Authority' with a duty to undertake the SEA.

2.9 The SEA process comprises a number of stages:

- Pre-screening.
- Screening (preparation of a Screening Report).
- Scoping (preparation of a Scoping Report).
- Environmental Assessment (preparation of an Environmental Report).
- Main consultation on the Environmental Report and Draft Get to Zero Plan.
- Preparation of a Post-adoption SEA Statement.
- Monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the Get to Zero Action Plan.

2.10 A Scoping Report was prepared in May 2022. It was published for five-week consultation with the three statutory bodies, SEPA, HES and NatureScot, between May and June 2022. The comments received and how these have been addressed are presented in **Appendix B**.

The UK withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021 [See reference 4]

2.11 Section 15 of the Continuity Act places a duty on responsible authorities to have due regard to the guiding principles on the environment when preparing a plan, programme or strategy requiring a SEA under the

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Whilst not yet in force, nonetheless the guiding principles are set out below and will be taken into account in the preparation of the Environmental Report: The guiding principles as set out in Section 13 (1) of the Act are:

- the principle that protecting the environment should be integrated into the making of policies,
- the precautionary principle as it relates to the environment,
- the principle that preventative action should be taken to avert environmental damage,
- the principle that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source,
- the principle that the polluter should pay.

2.12 The Get to Zero Action Plan falls with section 5 (3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requiring an SEA to be undertaken.

Structure of the Environmental Report

2.13 This chapter has described the contents and main objectives of the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan and the requirement to undertake SEA. The remainder of this report is structured into the following sections:

- **Chapter 2** describes the approach to assessment including the **difficulties encountered**.
- **Chapter 3** describes the **review of plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) and environmental protection objectives of relevance to the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan** (this is supported by more detailed information in **Appendix A: Plans, programmes and strategies**).
- **Chapter 4** presents the **baseline information including key trends and environmental problems** which informs the assessment of the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan.

- **Chapter 5** describes the **significant environmental effects** expected from the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan and the approach to **reasonable alternatives**.
- **Chapter 6** describes the **mitigation and enhancement** measures proposed.
- **Chapter 7** describes the approach to **monitoring**.
- **Chapter 8** sets out conclusions and the next steps for the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan and the environmental assessment process.

2.14 The main body of the report is supported by appendices:

- **Appendix A** presents the review of plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives of relevance to the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan.
- **Appendix B** presents the consultation comments received in relation to the SEA Scoping Report, and how these comments have been addressed in this Environmental Report.
- **Appendix C** presents the Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening report.
- **Appendix D** presents the SEA matrices.

Chapter 3

Approach to the Assessment

Requirement under the 2005 Act

3.1 The Draft Get to Zero Action Plan is considered to fall under Section 5(3) of the 2005 Act. Schedule 3(6) of the 2005 Act requires the Environmental Report to consider – “The likely significant effects on the environment, including (a) on issues such as – (i) biodiversity; (ii) population; (iii) human health; (iv) fauna; (v) flora; (vi) soil; (vii) water; (viii) air; (ix) climatic factors; (x) material assets; (xi) cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage; (xii) landscape; and (xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in heads (i)–(xii); (b) short, medium and long-term effects; (c) permanent and temporary effects; (d) positive and negative effects; and (e) secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects”.

Scoping of SEA Topics

3.2 In accordance with Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act, consideration has been given as to whether the environmental effects (both positive and negative) of the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan are likely to be significant.

3.3 Given the high level of some of the proposed measures in the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan, all SEA topics required to be considered by the 2005 Act are scoped into the SEA process. These are set out in **Table 2.1**.

Table 3.1: Scoping in/out of SEA Topics

SEA Topic	Scoped in
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	✓
Population and human health	✓
Soil	✓
Water	✓
Air	✓
Climatic factors	✓
Cultural heritage and the historic environment	✓
Landscape and visual impacts	✓
Material assets	✓

Approach to assessment

3.4 The actions identified under each theme of the Action Plan are assessed against the SEA objectives set out below (see **Table 2.3**). Recommendations for changes to the Action Plan and potential mitigation measures will be set out for the actions.

3.5 Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act identifies criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (see **Table 2.2**) which will be reflected in the approach to scoring.

Table 3.2: Criteria for assessing likely significant effects

SEA Assessment Criteria	Breakdown and Description
a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	<p><u>Probability</u> Low – Not likely to have an effect Medium – as likely to have an effect as not High – Highly likely to have an effect</p> <p><u>Duration</u> Short-term – 0-1 years Medium-term – 1-2 years (up to the end of strategy period) Long-term – 2+ years (beyond the end of the strategy period)</p> <p><u>Frequency</u> Continual; defined by number of occurrences; or intermittent</p> <p><u>Reversibility</u> Whether the effect can be reversed (i.e. can the receptor return to baseline condition) without significant intervention</p>
b) the cumulative nature of the effects	Where several options each have insignificant effects but together have a significant or combined effect. This includes synergistic effects, which occur when effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects.
c) the transboundary nature of the effects	Effects beyond Scotland’s boundary.
d) the risks to human health or the environment	Whether the impact of the effect would present a risk for people and the environment.
e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and	<p><u>Magnitude</u> High – High proportion of the receptor affected Medium</p>

SEA Assessment Criteria	Breakdown and Description
size of the population likely to be affected)	Low – Low proportion of the receptor affected <u>Spatial extent</u> National/Transboundary – Effects on Scotland or England International – Effects extending to the UK or beyond
f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values (iii) intensive land-use	Impact of the effect on the value or condition of the existing area.
g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Impacts on areas with national, or international protection.

SEA Framework

3.6 The development of a set of SEA objectives (known as the SEA Framework) is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a plan, programme or strategy can be described, analysed and compared. The framework consists of a list of ‘sustainability objectives’ referred to in the report as the SEA objectives. These derive from the review of plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) and an analysis of baseline information and key environmental issues.

3.7 The SEA framework reflects that used within the SEA of the East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2. Minor modifications have been made to some of the SEA objectives to ensure they are more appropriate in relation to the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan. The SEA Framework for the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan is presented in **Table 2.3** below.

Table 3.3: SEA Framework

SEA Topic Area	SEA Objective
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	1) Protect, enhance and where necessary restore (specified) species and habitats
Population and human health	2) Provide environmental conditions promoting health and well-being (including levels of physical activity)
	3) Minimise noise and vibration
Soil	4) Promote sustainable use of land including re-use of brownfield land and minimise and reduce soil contamination
	5) Protect valuable soil resources, including carbon soils and best and most versatile agricultural land.
	6) Minimise disturbance to carbon rich soils, in particular peat
Water	7) To protect and enhance the state of the water environment, including protect quantity of water resource aquifers for private water drinking supplies.
	8) Minimise water pollution
	9) Ensure sustainable use of water resources
	10) To improve the physical state of the water environment
	11) To reduce the impact of invasive non-native species on the water environment
	12) Avoid and reduce flood risk

SEA Topic Area	SEA Objective
Air	13) Minimise air pollution and achieve good air quality
	14) Reduce the need to travel
	15) Promote sustainable and active travel
Climatic Factors	16) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
	17) Reduce energy use and ensure sustainable use of energy
	18) Support climate change adaptation
Cultural heritage and the historic environment	19) Protect, enhance and where appropriate restore archaeological sites and the historic environment
	20) Protect, enhance and where appropriate restore the built environment and regenerate degraded environments
Landscape and Geodiversity	21) Protect, enhance and create green spaces important for recreation and biodiversity
	22) Protect, enhance and where necessary restore the landscape quality
	23) Protect, enhance and where necessary restore geological features
Material assets	24) Promote adequate protection of infrastructure, property, material resources and land
	25) Promote sustainable use of material resources
	26) Reduce waste and promote the sustainable use of waste including recycling and composting

Use of the SEA Framework

3.8 The findings from the SEA of the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan are presented in SEA matrices corresponding to the SEA topic areas. The

matrices use a colour coded symbol showing the score for each action and target against each of the SEA objectives and include a concise justification for the score given. The SEA matrices are presented in **Appendix D**.

3.9 The use of colour coding in the matrices allows for likely significant effects (both positive and negative) to be easily identified, as shown in Table 2.4 below.

Table 3.4: SEA Framework Symbol and Colour Coding

Symbol and Colour Code	Description
++	Significant positive effect likely
++/-	Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects likely
+	Minor positive effect likely
++/--	Mixed significant positive and significant negative effects likely
+/-	Mixed minor positive and minor negative effects likely
-	Minor negative effect likely
--/+	Mixed significant negative and minor positive effects likely
--	Significant negative effect likely
0	Negligible effect likely
?	Uncertain effect
N/A	Not applicable or relevant

3.10 Where a potential positive or negative effect is uncertain, a question mark has been added to the relevant score (e.g. +? Or -?) and the score colour coded as per the potential positive, negligible or negative effect.

3.11 Scoring is relative to the scale of proposals under consideration and is determined by the significance of the effect. In order to determine significance, it is important to identify and differentiate between the levels of impact and to consider the following factors:

- The magnitude of the Action Plan's effects, including the degree to which it sets a framework for projects, the degree to which it influences other plans and environmental problems relevant to the Action Plan.
- The sensitivity of the receiving environment, including the value and vulnerability of the area, exceeded environmental quality standards, and effects on designated areas or landscapes.
- The nature of the environmental effect, including aspects such as probability, duration, frequency, reversibility, cumulative effects, transboundary effects, risks to human health or the environment, and its magnitude and spatial extent.

3.12 The likely effects of the actions scoped into the assessment need to be determined and their significance assessed, which inevitably requires a series of judgments to be made. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either (++) or (--) is used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this will be because the effect on the SEA objective in question is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective.

Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives

3.13 Part 14(2) of the 2005 Act requires that:

The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing (a) the plan or programme; and (b) reasonable

alternatives to the plan or programme, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the Plan or Programme.

3.14 Therefore, the SEA must appraise not only the objectives and actions, but reasonable alternatives to these. This implies that alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. It is important to note that when considering the scope of alternatives the 2005 Act does not specify whether this means considering an alternative plan, programme, or strategy, or different alternatives within the plan, programme, or strategy itself that should be assessed. Part (b) of Regulation 14(2) above notes that reasonable alternatives will take into account the objectives of the plan, as well as its geographical scope. Therefore, alternatives that do not meet the objectives of national policy are unlikely to be reasonable.

3.15 The Scottish Government has pledged to achieve 'Net Zero' emissions by 2045. To reach the overall Net Zero emissions target they have also pledged to achieve a 75% reduction by 2030 and to achieve a 90% reduction by 2040. All councils have a role in helping Scottish Government meet their 'Net Zero' emissions by 2045 target and the reductions before then. East Renfrewshire Council has declared a climate emergency and is seeking to accelerate its plans to reduce carbon emissions to zero as soon as practicable.

3.16 Due to the scale of action needed to achieve net zero by 2045, all identified actions are likely to be required to meet this target. East Renfrewshire Council undertook a series of interactive workshops to facilitate discussion on the development of the actions. It was hoped this process would identify and record alternative approaches to prioritising and phasing within and between action themes. However, the workshops did not provide a clear approach to prioritising or phasing actions, as many of these are sequential, involving planning and implementation.

3.17 The initial assessment process identified mitigation and enhancement to increase the positive environmental effects of the actions. These recommendations were reflected on by the sector leads and modifications made to the actions as appropriate.

3.18 Based on the current legislative context, and the declared climate emergency, it was identified that the current ambition to achieve net zero can only be to achieve the maximum emissions reductions possible, reflected across all sectors based on current technical, political and practical limitations, and no reasonable alternatives were identified as a consequence.

Cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects

3.19 The assessment considers any cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects arising from the Action Plan, and these are presented in Chapter 5 of the Environmental Report.

Mitigation and monitoring proposals and opportunities for enhancement

3.20 A key part of the SEA process is the identification of opportunities to mitigate adverse effects and enhance benefits. The process also includes the development of proposals for monitoring post adoption.

3.21 As noted above, initial feedback on mitigation and enhancement measures was provided to allow this to be reflected in the actions as appropriate. This included the recognition of the recommended enhancement, but in some cases acknowledgement that this would be reflected in future work.

3.22 Recommendations for monitoring are covered in Chapter 7.

Difficulties Encountered

3.23 The main difficulties encountered relate to the lack of detail on the scale of the actions and the emissions savings that will be achieved. East Renfrewshire Council is responsible for approximately 5% of the emissions from the East Renfrewshire Council area. However, the extent of emissions savings that will be achieved from the actions is not clearly identifiable, as there are a range of variables. Furthermore, the implementation of many actions requires the new infrastructure or equipment which has an associated carbon footprint and payback period. The baseline information on the carbon emissions from the council is also not directly relatable to the areas of emissions reductions within the Action Plan.

Chapter 4

Environmental Context

Relationship of Plans, Policies, Programmes and Strategies and Environmental Protection Objectives

Introduction

4.1 The Action Plan needs to be consistent with international and national guidance and strategic planning policies, and should contribute to the goals of a wide range of other programmes and plans. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the environmental objectives established at the international, national and local level. Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act requires:

(1) An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship (if any) with other qualifying plans and programmes.

(5) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.

4.2 The review of plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) as part of the SEA process is a useful way of ensuring that the relationship between these documents and the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan is fully explored, and also that the relevant environmental protection and sustainability objectives are taken into account through the SEA. The review of PPS can also provide

appropriate information on the baseline for the plan area and confirm the key environmental and/or sustainability issues.

4.3 This chapter summarises the relationship between the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan and the relevant international and national policies, plans and programmes which should be taken into consideration during preparation of the plan and its SEA, as well as those plans and programmes which are of relevance at a County/sub-regional level. Appendix A identifies the relationship between the PPS and the draft Get to Zero Action plan, and shows how environmental objectives have been taken into account during the preparation of the SEA Framework.

National Policy Context

Climate Change

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

4.4 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 **[See reference 5]** establishes the legal framework for emissions reductions by 2050. The Act sets targets for the reduction in carbon emissions of 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 (1990 baseline). From 2020, Scotland will need to reduce its emissions by at least 3% per year.

4.5 Section 44 of the Act sets out that public bodies (which includes planning authorities) must, in exercising their functions, act in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of the climate change targets set out in that Act. They must also operate in the way best calculated to help deliver any Programme for adaptation to climate change laid before the Scottish Parliament and in a way that they consider is most sustainable.

4.6 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019, amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, setting targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040.

4.7 While the Get to Zero Action Plan can play only a limited role in achieving these national targets, it is important to acknowledge the contribution that reducing Council emissions, together with actions to support carbon reduction within the wider community, can play in achieving net zero.

Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Framework

4.8 The aim of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Adaptation Framework [\[See reference 6\]](#) is to lead planned adaptation across all sectors to increase the resilience of Scotland's communities and the natural and economic systems upon which they depend, to the impacts of climate change. There are three key pillars of the Framework:

- Improve understanding of the consequences of climate change and challenges and opportunities presented;
- Equip stakeholders with skills and tools for adaptation; and,
- Integrate adaptation into wider regeneration and public policy to help address climate change.

Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme

4.9 Climate Ready Scotland: Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024 [\[See reference 7\]](#) sets out Scottish Ministers' objectives, policies and proposals to tackle the climate change impacts identified for Scotland in the UK Climate Risk Assessment as required by section 53 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

4.10 The overarching aim of the Programme is to increase the resilience of Scotland's people, environment, and economy to the impacts of a changing climate. The Programme is structured around seven Outcomes and sets out current policies, proposals and research to increase the capacity of Scotland's communities, businesses and natural environment to adapt to a changing climate.

4.11 The Programme advocates a move towards adapting to climate change across every aspect of society and highlights the use of an ecosystem services approach.

The Climate Change Plan

4.12 The Climate Change Plan [\[See reference 8\]](#) provides an overview of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan for the period 2018-2032. The Climate Change Plan was updated in 2020 [\[See reference 9\]](#) and sets out new commitments to achieve emission reductions of 75% by 2030 (compared with 1990) and net zero by 2045.

4.13 At the heart of the Climate Change Plan is delivery of a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that responds to the climate emergency and meets climate change targets. The Climate Change Plan includes policies and proposals across renewable electricity, heat and energy efficient buildings; decarbonising of transport; low carbon industry, waste and a circular economy; reduced emissions within land use, forestry and agriculture; and, negative emissions technologies.

Climate Emergency

4.14 In early 2019, the UK and Scottish Government both declared a climate emergency, with the Scottish Government amending the Climate Change Bill to have net zero emissions by 2045 [\[See reference 10\]](#) .

4.15 On 25 October 2021, East Renfrewshire Council declared a climate emergency. East Renfrewshire Council will play a role in supporting the Scottish Government reach net zero by 2045. It is likely that these reductions would likely be driven by areas such as transport, energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Get to Zero Action Plan is part of East Renfrewshire's goal to become net zero by reducing emissions from its own operations.

Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands

4.16 Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands [See reference 11] was published in 2004. In 2013, it was supplemented by the 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity [See reference 12]. The two documents together now constitute the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity sets out the major steps needed to improve the state of nature in Scotland. The work needed to deliver this is, however, complex and challenging.

4.17 Scotland's 2020 Challenge aims to:

- protect and restore biodiversity on land and in our seas, and to support healthy ecosystems
- connect people with the natural world, for their health and well-being, and to involve them more in decision making
- maximise the benefits for Scotland of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, contributing to sustainable economic growth.

4.18 To meet the 2020 Challenge, Scotland must focus on tackling the key pressures on biodiversity. Scotland's Biodiversity: A Route Map to 2020 was launched in 2015 to help direct priorities for action by setting out six Big Steps for Nature, plus the various priority projects needed to achieve each big step. Scottish Biodiversity Strategy post-2020: Statement of Intent [See reference 13] sets the direction for a new biodiversity strategy which will respond to the increased urgency for action to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change.

The new strategy will stand alone, replacing both the 2004 strategy and the 2020 Challenge.

The Scottish Forestry Strategy

4.19 The Scottish Forestry Strategy (SFS) (2019) [See reference 14] sets out Scottish Government's aspirations for Scotland's woodland resource, highlighting key themes, issues and policies for expansion and management. The SFS has set a target of increasing Scotland's woodland cover from 19% to 21% by 2032.

4.20 It sets out a vision which looks ahead to the second half of this century, but focuses on the key priorities over the next 10 years. Its vision is that:

In 2070, Scotland will have more forests and woodlands, sustainably managed and better integrated with other land uses. These will provide a more resilient, adaptable resource, with greater natural capital value, that supports a strong economy, a thriving environment, and healthy and flourishing communities.

4.21 The SFS has eleven strategic drivers which will help to achieve its vision for Scotland's woodlands, which are as follows:

- Wood and wood fibre supply and demand;
- Climate Change;
- Markets, value and efficiency;
- Adaptation and resilience;
- Integrated land use;
- Skills and workforce;
- Natural assets, environmental quality and biodiversity;
- Sustaining thriving rural communities;
- Landscape quality and the historic environment;

- Health and well-being;
- Urban forestry.

4.22 The policies of the SFS are supported by the current suite of Forestry Commission guidance in particular the mandatory UK Forestry Standard (UKFS).

Waste

Waste Management Licencing (Scotland) Regulations 2011

4.23 Waste Management Licencing (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended) [See reference 15] set out requirements for the management of waste and related activities with regard to granting site licences and consolidating existing licences.

Scotland's Zero Waste Plan

4.24 The Zero Waste Plan [See reference 16] is intended to create a framework that will provide confidence for the investment necessary to deliver a zero waste Scotland over the next 10 years. It does this by setting out a Mission and Vision for the long term. The Plan sets strategic directions in the key areas of activity for the medium term up to 5 years, with specific actions setting out immediate priorities. Scotland's Zero Waste Plan aims to:

- 70% recycling and a maximum of 5% to landfill by 2025 for all Scotland's waste
- Landfill bans on specific waste types
- Source segregation and separate collection of specific waste types
- Restrictions on inputs to energy from waste facilities.

4.25 The priority of the Zero Waste Plan is to treat resources as high up the waste hierarchy as possible by preventing waste, reusing or recycling resources wherever feasible. The Zero Waste Plan supports the use of waste as a renewable energy source. Zero Waste Scotland will continue to raise awareness and educate to reduce, reuse and recycle through collaboration with local authorities, Scottish Government and SEPA.

Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland

4.26 Scotland's Circular Economy Strategy [\[See reference 17\]](#) aims to build a strong economy, protect our resources and support the environment through the better use of products and materials. Moving to a circular economy is a long-term ambition which will require partnership across supply chains. The Strategy focuses on four priority areas due to resources they use and their importance to the Scottish Economy. These areas are:

- Food and drink
- Remanufacture
- Construction and the built environment
- Energy infrastructure

4.27 The strategy includes a new Scottish food waste reduction target. This target, to cut food waste by a third by 2025, will put Scotland at the front of global action to tackle food waste and is in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 12 target related to food waste.

Transport

National Transport Strategy 2

4.28 The National Transport Strategy 2 [See reference 18] sets out an ambitious vision for Scotland's transport system for the next 20 years. The vision is underpinned by four priorities: Reduces Inequalities, Takes Climate Action, Helps Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth and Improves our Health and Wellbeing, each with three associated outcomes.

4.29 The Strategy sets out a travel hierarchy with active travel measures (which include walking and cycling) at the top. The use of public transport is promoted throughout and therefore reducing reliance on the private car due to the impact of carbon emissions from transport. The strategy supports continued investment in public transport to make it more convenient and accessible to all. The Strategy will continue to support low/zero carbon alternatives to fossil fuels the potential for using hydrogen energy.

4.30 The Active Travel Framework [See reference 19] 2020 sets out the key policies for improving the uptake of walking and cycling in Scotland. It builds on the Active Travel Vision that by 2030 Scotland's communities are shaped around people, with walking or cycling the most popular choice for shorter everyday journeys. This will be achieved by:

- Increasing the number of people choosing walking, cycling and wheeling in Scotland;
- High quality walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure is available to all;
- Walking, cycling and wheeling is safer for all;
- Delivery of walking, cycling and wheeling is promoted and supported by a broad range of partners; and,
- Walking, cycling and wheeling is available to all.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Strategy: A Catalyst for Change 2008-21

4.31 The Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 placed a statutory duty on the seven Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) in Scotland to produce a Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) for their area. The RTS influences all of the future plans and activities of the organisation and informs future national and local transport strategies. The RTS has four strategy outcomes which are:

- Improved connectivity;
- Access for all;
- Reduced emissions; and,
- Attractive, seamless, reliable travel.

4.32 The current position is covered by the SPT Delivery Plan 2018/19 – 2020/2021. A number of action plans were developed as part of the Regional Transport Strategy. The following actions plans are of most relevance to East Renfrewshire:

- Bus Action Plan
- Access to education Action Plan
- Access to Healthcare Action Plan
- Smarter Choices Action Plan
- Walking and Cycling Action Plan

Material Assets

A National Mission with Local Impact: Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26

4.33 The Infrastructure Investment Plan [See reference 20] outlines a coherent, and strategic approach to delivering our National Infrastructure Mission. The Plan demonstrates the vital role infrastructure has to play in helping businesses and communities to adapt and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Infrastructure Investment Plan Vision is:

4.34 Our infrastructure supports Scotland's resilience and enables inclusive, net zero, and sustainable growth.

4.35 The Plan is centred around three themes which will deliver:

- decarbonising transport and active travel
- Decarbonising heat and transforming our building through energy efficiency
- Supporting a circular economy
- Boost resilience and adaptation
- Investing in our natural capital
- Strengthening connectivity
- Supporting long-term inclusive and sustainable growth
- Creating better local places
- Access to high-quality sustainable homes that are affordable and meet people's needs
- High quality social infrastructure.

Energy

4.36 Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan [See reference 21]

aims to help Scotland reach net zero by ensuring that Scotland's energy system is fit for purpose and offers energy security. The Plan is structured around the following areas of action:

- Delivering a just transition for communities and regions across Scotland
- Delivering a just transition for Scotland's energy economy
- Scaling up renewable energy
- Reducing reliance on other energy sources
- Reducing demand and decarbonising energy use across heat, transport, industry and agriculture sectors
- Ensuring energy security and resilience
- Energy networks and market regulation.

4.37 In 2021, the Energy Strategy Position Statement [See reference 22] was published which provides an overview of the key priorities for the short to medium term. These are designed to support a green economic recovery whilst delivering Scotland's net zero ambitions. The key priorities are divided into the below headings:

- Decarbonisation of heat and energy efficiency
- Local energy
- Energy transition
- Renewables
- Consumers
- Strategy.

4.38 Electricity Generation Policy Statement [See reference 23] is constructed around a number of targets and requirements including:

- delivering the equivalent of at least 100% of gross electricity consumption from renewables by 2020
- ensuring a largely decarbonised electricity system by 2030
- enabling local and community ownership of over 500MW of renewable energy by 2020
- lowering energy consumption in Scotland by 12%
- demonstrating the possibility of carbon capture and storage at commercial scale by 2020
- providing interconnection and transmission upgrades to support the projected growth of renewable energy.

Water

4.39 The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 [\[See reference 24\]](#) places a duty on responsible authorities (including local authorities and Scottish Water) to manage flooding in a sustainable manner and ensure the adoption of consistent principles and practices. The Flood Risk Management Act guides the way that land use interacts with flood risk.

4.40 The Third River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River Basin District 2021-2027 [\[See reference 25\]](#) provides detailed information on the environmental quality of rivers, lochs and seas and sets out what needs to be achieved for all water bodies in the area to reach ‘good ecological status’.

4.41 A Sustainable Future Together [\[See reference 26\]](#) sets out how the sector will deliver safe drinking water and provide leadership in responding to the climate emergency. Together Scottish Water will support the health and wellbeing of Scotland. Scottish Water will ensure that all of Scotland gets excellent quality drinking water. Scotland’s waste water will be collected, treated and recycled in ways that generate value and protect the environment. Scottish Water has already made progress in reducing its operational carbon

footprint by 41% since 2006 and is committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2040 and going beyond that thereafter.

4.42 A Flood Risk Management Plan [See reference 27] has been developed for the Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Plan District to reduce the devastating and costly impact of flooding. Flood risk management plans have been designed to ensure effort to reduce flood risk in Scotland is coordinated. The Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Plan District covers an area of around 4,800km² and has a population of approximately 1.9 million. currently it is estimated there are about 170,000 people and 98,000 homes and businesses at risk of flooding. SEPA and the responsible authorities carry out actions in all areas of the Local Plan District which help manage current and future flooding. These actions help to ensure that key aspects of flood risk management are taken forward.

4.43 In Scotland, approximately 3% of the Scottish population uses a private water supply for drinking water. These supplies can originate from a number of sources including lochs, burns or boreholes and are often found in more rural areas of Scotland. The quality of private water supplies can vary depending on the water source, treatment process used and maintenance of it. The 2017 Regulations [See reference 28] in relation to Private water supplies: rights and responsibilities introduced new regulations for private water supplies that:

- supply 50 or more people, or more than 10m³ of water a day
- form part of a commercial or public activity
- are used in a commercial or public activity (for example at village halls, in restaurants and hotels, or on campsites)

4.44 Under these regulations, privately rented properties are considered commercial premises. Smaller, domestic supplies for homeowners aren't covered by these regulations.

Soil

4.45 The Scottish Soil Framework 2009 [See reference 29] aims to raise awareness of the services soils provide to society and the pressures they encounter. Scotland's soil resource is in generally good health, but is under pressure from development, soil carbon loss and the effects of climate change.

4.46 Scotland's National Peatland Plan: Working for our future (2015) [See reference 30] sets out a strategic framework to protect, manage, and where required, restore peatlands. The plan states that peatlands are ecosystems, with a peat deposit exceeding 50cm, which may currently support vegetation that is peat-forming, may not, or may lack vegetation entirely. The plan recognises that carbon stock can be boosted by increasing Scotland's woodland cover out with peatland areas. Bog woodland is recognised as one of the rarest peatland habitats in Scotland. Currently 63% of blanket bog, 60% of raised bog, and 72% of fen, marsh and swamp features on designated sites are in 'favourable condition'.

Air

4.47 Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 – Towards a Better Place for Everyone [See reference 31] sets out the Scottish Government's air quality policy framework for the next five years and a series of actions to deliver further air quality improvements. It summarises broad types of key actions that could help to reduce air pollution and improve air quality including tackling no transport related emissions.

Health

4.48 A Scotland where everybody thrives: Public Health Scotland's three-year plan: 2022–25 [See reference 32] sets out Public Health Scotland's contribution from 2022 to 2025 to aim to achieve a Scotland where everybody

thrives. Public Health Scotland aims to lead and support action across Scotland to improve life expectancy and reduce health inequalities by:

- Preventing disease through vaccination and preventing the spread of infectious diseases;
- Prolonging healthy lives by improving access to and quality of treatment; and
- Promoting health and wellbeing by strengthening the building blocks of health.

4.49 The plan outlines outcomes to deliver these ambitions by 2025, objectives to achieve these and a number of key programmes and projects involved.

4.50 Scotland's Public Health Priorities [\[See reference 33\]](#) sets out the six public health priorities for Scotland and how they are to be developed. The six priorities are:

- A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities
- A Scotland where we flourish in our early years
- A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing
- A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all
- A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active.

4.51 Better Health, Better Care: Action Plan [\[See reference 34\]](#) aims to deliver a healthier Scotland by helping people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care. It endeavours to shift care into communities, raise

quality and reduce inequality. The Action Plan also sets out a range of measures to improve the quality of the National Health Service.

4.52 A More Active Scotland – building a legacy from the Commonwealth Games [See reference 35] is the 10-year physical activity implementation plan. It seeks to adapt the key elements of the Toronto Charter to the Scottish setting and link it directly to the Government’s active legacy ambitions for the Commonwealth Games. Physical inactivity results in around 2,500 premature deaths in Scotland each year (an average of seven a day), costs the NHS around £91 million annually and is the second biggest cause of mortality (joint with smoking, behind high blood pressure). The Strategy is based on five delivery themes: Environment, Workplace Settings, Health and Social Care, Education Settings and Sport and Active Recreation.

4.53 The Greater Glasgow and Clyde Joint Health Protection Plan 2018-2020 [See reference 36] provides an overview of health protection (communicable disease and environmental health) priorities, provision and preparedness for the NHS Board area.

Cultural Heritage

4.54 Our Place in Time: the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland [See reference 37] is a high-level framework which sets out a 10-year vision for Scotland’s historic environment. Evidence suggests that a well-maintained environment contributes to wellbeing and quality of life. This is true for both the ‘natural’ and ‘cultural’ elements. 93% of adults agree that when trying to improve local places it is worth saving their historic features. The key outcome for the Strategy is to ensure that the cultural, social, environmental and economic value of Scotland’s heritage makes a strong contribution to the wellbeing of the nation and its people. It is essential that the historic environment is cared for in a sustainable way, and legally protected where appropriate.

4.55 Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) [[See reference 38](#)] sets out the principles and policies of how the historic environment should be managed. The policy outlines that we collectively have a duty of care for the historic environment and how we should undertake this duty whenever a decision will affect the historic environment. There are six policies within the document which define how the historic environment should be managed:

- Decisions affecting any part of the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of its breadth and cultural significance;
- Decisions affecting the historic environment should ensure that its understanding and enjoyment as well as its benefits are secured for present and future generations;
- Plans, programmes, policies and strategies, and the allocation of resources, should be approached in a way that protects and promotes the historic environment;
- Changes to specific assets and their context should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment. Opportunities for enhancement should be identified where appropriate. If detrimental impact is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place;
- Decisions affecting the historic environment should contribute to the sustainable development of communities and places; and
- Decisions affecting the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of the potential consequence for people and communities. Decision-making processes should be collaborative, open, transparent and easy to understand.

4.56 The Green Recovery Statement for the Historic Environment [[See reference 39](#)] supports the green principles set out by the Scottish Government and highlights key areas where the historic environment can help deliver an economic recovery. It articulates how the historic environment contributes to the national transition as a low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive economy.

Landscape

4.57 Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy 2021-2026 Getting the best from our Land [See reference 40] sets out the vision, objectives and policies to achieve sustainable land use. The Strategy supports sustainable land use, and recognises the interactions between different interests and land use. The objectives of the strategy include:

- Land-based businesses working with nature to contribute more to Scotland's prosperity.
- Responsible stewardship of Scotland's natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland's people.
- Urban and rural communities better connected to the land, with more people enjoying the land and positively influencing land use.

4.58 NatureScot and HES Landscape Position Statement and Action Plan [See reference 41] sets out the vision and approach of NatureScot and HES for managing change in Scotland's landscapes. The Action Plan sets out the main areas of work that both organisations have committed to starting over the next two years to deliver the aims of the Statement. Scotland's landscapes are central to our identity and wellbeing. They are at the heart of our nation and they are central to the Scottish Government aspirations contained in its key historic and natural environment policies. NatureScot's Landscape Policy Framework is currently being revised following public consultation of the NatureScot and HES Landscape Position Statement and Action Plan.

Planning

4.59 The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 [See reference 42] established a system of spatial planning based on the National Planning Framework, Development Plans and Development Management. Although the Get to Zero Action Plan is not a requirement of the Local Development Plan or supplementary guidance, the Act supports sustainable development.

4.60 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 [See reference 43] was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 20 June 2019. The Act includes a number of elements, which put communities, interested people and organisations at the heart of land-use planning. The Act ensures increased resilience to climate change effects through the planning system.

National Planning Framework

4.61 The Fourth National Planning Framework(NPF4) [See reference 44], details the long-term plan for what Scotland could be in 2045, was published in February 2023. NPF4 is part of the development plan, setting out national planning policies, guiding spatial development, designating national developments and highlighting regional spatial priorities. There are three spatial principles that guide NPF4. The national spatial strategy should support the planning and delivery of:

- Sustainable places;
- Liveable places; and
- Productive places.

Regional Policy Context

Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan

4.62 The Strategic Development Plan [See reference 45], now referred to as 'Clydeplan', covers land use and strategic infrastructure issues at the regional level (Glasgow and the Clyde Valley) to help deliver sustainable economic growth and good quality places. Clydeplan was approved in July 2017. East Renfrewshire is one of the eight Local Authorities which comprise the Clydeplan area.

4.63 Clydeplan is committed to playing a part in reducing the risks associated with climate change. The majority of greenhouse gas emissions relate directly to the city region's urban environment either in terms of its built fabric or transport network. The Vision and Spatial Development Strategy, through its focus on regeneration and renewal of urban areas, the delivery of green infrastructure and the integration of land use and sustainable transport, targets a reduction of these types of emissions.

4.64 The implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 means that Clydeplan will be replaced with a Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). RSS will provide a long-term spatial strategy for the region covering East Renfrewshire but will no longer have a statutory status.

Climate Ready Clyde Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

4.65 East Renfrewshire Council is part of Climate Ready Clyde, which is a cross-sector initiative supported by the Scottish Government. Climate Ready Clyde developed Glasgow City Region's first Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, launched in June 2021 [See reference 46]. The Strategy aims to ensure Glasgow City Region's economy, society and environment is not only prepared for, but continues to flourish in the face of the impacts arising from the climate crisis. The Action Plan contains the concrete actions being taken in the City Region to accelerate work to adapt to a changing climate. East Renfrewshire Council will work closely with its regional partners and deliver local solutions that will better prepare our buildings, infrastructure and spaces for a warmer, wetter and windier climate.

Central Scotland Green Network

4.66 Within the pan-regional policy context, the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is a national development within NPF4, which aims to restore nature at scale and acts as an exemplar of green infrastructure in

placemaking that provides benefits for communities and supports a wellbeing economy. Priorities include enhancement to provide multi-functional green and blue infrastructure that provides greatest environmental, lifelong physical and mental health, social wellbeing and economic benefits. It focuses on those areas where greening and development can be mutually supportive, helping to improve equity of access to quality green and blue space, and supporting communities where improving wellbeing and resilience is most needed, including to help people adapt to future climate risks. Nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation may include woodland expansion and peatland restoration as a priority. The connectivity of biodiversity rich areas may be enhanced through nature networks, including corridors and stepping stones to provide enhanced natural capital and improved ecosystem services.

4.67 Development classes contributing to the 'Central Scotland Green Network' national development include:

1. Reuse of vacant and derelict land and buildings for greening and nature-based solutions;
2. New and/or upgraded sustainable surface water management and drainage systems and the creation of blue space;
3. Use of land for allotments or community food growing; and,
4. Routes for active travel and/or recreation.

Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership

4.68 Working at both local and national government level in, the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP) helps to embed Green Network thinking into new policies and guidance, and presents compelling

evidence on the range and scale of benefits that will emerge from the implementation of the Green Network.

4.69 The Partnership's ambition is that the Green Network is easily accessible to everyone who lives and works in the Glasgow City Region (GCR). This will mean that any part of the urban region will be no more than a 5-minute walk to quality greenspace, connected to the wider Green Network. A variety of mechanisms will need to be employed to deliver the region's Green Network. The main mechanism are:

- Planned development
- Public sector activities
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Major projects.

4.70 Partnership working will be essential to ensure that the different mechanisms deliver the component parts of the Green Network as envisaged and that economies of scale and alignment of project objectives are achieved wherever possible.

4.71 As part of the GCVGNP, Clyde Climate Forest was launched. The Clyde Climate Forest will see 18 million trees planted in both urban and rural parts of Glasgow City Region over the next decade. The Clyde Climate Forest builds on the current enthusiasm for tree planting and will channel that interest into worthwhile and well-considered tree planting projects that deliver a broad range of climate and ecological benefits to Glasgow City Region.

Glasgow City Region Economic Strategy

4.72 The Glasgow City Region Economic Strategy [\[See reference 47\]](#) sets the approach for how the Glasgow City Region will handle current and future key challenges, including the impact of Covid-19, the climate emergency, and

unprecedented technological advances. Three key regional challenges are woven through the strategy:

- The imperative to address the climate emergency: This includes managing the risk of rising sea levels, flooding, coastal erosion and heatwaves; supporting businesses to address climate action to improve their efficiency, productivity and competitiveness; and ensuring the transition to net zero is fair and equitable, particularly as the most deprived communities are likely to be impacted most from climate change.
- The need to create a much more inclusive economy. With the Region home to some of the most deprived communities in Scotland, actions need to tackle the underlying drivers such as rising underemployment, economic activity due to ill health and low employment rates for specific groups.
- The long-standing issue of low productivity has constrained the local economy. Actions will need to address growing the number of businesses per capital and business Research and Development spend, both of which need to increase.

Local Policy Context

East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2

4.73 East Renfrewshire Council formally adopted its Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) [See reference 48] in March 2022. The LDP2 sets out a long-term strategy and a policy framework to guide future development, sustainable and inclusive economic growth and regeneration. Delivering sustainable development across East Renfrewshire is supported through a number of strategic policies. East Renfrewshire is required to deliver 4,802 homes across all tenures during the period 2012 to 2031 providing a range of housing sites and supporting the delivery of sustainable mixed communities. During the period 2012 to 2022 there have been 3111 all tenure completions.

4.74 LDP2 aims to set out a clear economic vision which delivers sustainable and inclusive economic growth, encourages inward investment, supports new businesses to grow and to maximise employment opportunities and training for local people. LDP2 will also aim to strengthen the role of town and neighbourhood centres as active, attractive and accessible places, support their vitality and viability.

4.75 LDP2 sets out a range of policies which contribute to tackling climate change through encouraging sustainable site selection; sustainable travel; integrated green infrastructure, reducing waste and pollution; encouraging recycling; promoting sustainable drainage and flood management; and the regeneration of vacant and derelict land. LDP2 also aims to protect and enhance soils (including peat and carbon rich soils), air and water quality as a key element of this approach. The LDP2 will seek to reduce emissions through prioritisation of low zero carbon and sustainable transport.

Local Housing Strategy 2022-2027

4.76 East Renfrewshire's Local Housing Strategy (LHS) [\[See reference 49\]](#) identifies the important housing issues affecting people locally. In turn it sets out the vision the Council and its partners have for tackling these issues and delivering improved housing and related services over the next 5 years. . The LHS's vision is:

We want to provide good quality and affordable housing opportunities within safe and attractive neighbourhoods.

4.77 The LHS is centred around four priority themes:

1. To increase access to housing
2. To build thriving, attractive and sustainable neighbourhoods

3. To facilitate independent living
4. To improve access and participation.

4.78 The LHS aims to deliver 900 private and 225 new affordable homes over the strategy period. Currently, 60% of Council properties meet the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (ESSH). Through the Get to Zero Action Plan, East Renfrewshire Councils plans to develop a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy which will set the framework for heat decarbonisation and reducing energy demand covering Council estate and community domestic and non-domestic properties.

4.79 Consultation has begun on the 2023-2028 Local Housing Strategy which will set out a plan for improving homes, neighbourhoods, and the housing services across East Renfrewshire.

East Renfrewshire Community Plan 2018

4.80 The Community Plan [See reference 50] sets out how local services will work together to create stronger and fairer communities together with the people of East Renfrewshire. The Community Plan includes Fairer East Ren. This part of the plan has a clear focus on tackling inequalities across East Renfrewshire. The Community Plan focuses on five strategic priority areas each with an associated achievable outcome:

- Early years and vulnerable young people
- Learning, life and work
- Environment and economy
- Safe, supportive communities
- Older people and people with long term conditions.

Chapter 5

Environmental Baseline

Introduction

5.1 Section 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires description of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme, a summary of the environmental characteristics and environmental problems/issues of geographical areas that are likely to be significantly affected by a Plan, Policy or Strategy (PPS).

The Likely Evolution of the Environment without the Get to Zero Action Plan

5.2 The SEA process involves an assessment of the environmental impact of plan implementation and additionally an assessment of the evolution of the environment without the Get to Zero Action Plan. Effectively, this requires consideration of the evolution of the environment in the absence of the preparation of the Get to Zero Action Plan, and reliance on the achievement of required actions through other existing policy. The baseline describes the current trends in the likely evolution of the environment for each topic area. This includes:

- A trend for a reduction in CO₂ emissions
- A decline in woodland cover
- Aging population, rising obesity but consistent high educational attainment

- Increased energy efficiency of social housing, although aging housing stock
- Improvement in condition of council buildings
- Minor improvements in water quality and water quantity
- Improvements in air quality
- Increased flood risk due to climate change
- Increase in the area of urban land and loss of greenspace
- A diversion of waste from landfill to energy recovery and a trend for increased levels of recycling (although with an increase in 2020, potentially attributable to the pandemic).

5.3 It would be reasonable to emphasise that the purpose of the Get to Zero Action Plan is to achieve net zero by 2045 by reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the Council's operations. This aim fully aligns with the aspirations of the European Directive, and subsequent Scots law, on Strategic Environmental Assessments.

Climatic Factors

5.4 Climate change has been accelerating at an unprecedented rate over the last 50 years. Scottish Government and Clydeplan have sought to develop policy and strategy that will decelerate climate change triggered by human promulgated greenhouse gasses reported by the IPCC **[See reference 51]**. A growing adaptation framework is developing based around new policies conceived through the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

5.5 Four main identifiable human derived greenhouse gases need to be controlled **[See reference 52]**: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and halocarbons like the ozone depleting chlorofluorocarbons largely eliminated in the 1980s. They are the main contributors to climate change and in human terms are produced through energy generation and transportation and also

activity associated with domestic, industrial, business and agricultural processes.

5.6 The Tyndall Centre has undertaken work to calculate the ‘fair’ contribution of local authorities towards the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Based on the analysis undertaken the following recommendations have been made for East Renfrewshire **[See reference 53]**:

- The Council should stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 2.4 million tonnes (MtCO₂) for the period of 2020 to 2100. It should be noted at 2017 CO₂ emission levels, East Renfrewshire would use this entire budget within 7 years from 2020;
- The Council should initiate an immediate programme of CO₂ mitigation to deliver cuts in emissions averaging a minimum of -13.6% per year to deliver a Paris aligned carbon budget; and,
- The Council should reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2041.

5.7 Ambitious targets have been set by the Scottish Government to achieve net zero emissions by 2045 **[See reference 54]**. This is in line with targets set by the Scottish Government. The Committee on Climate Change estimates that the Council can influence as much as 50% of the emissions in East Renfrewshire **[See reference 55]**. Whilst the energy sector has been identified as the one of the largest contributors to carbon emissions in Scotland, all sectors will require policy development that will assist greenhouse gas mitigation. Despite reductions in emissions, if policy and implementation is successful, atmospheric concentrations will remain high but will be stabilised.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions (CO₂)

5.8 The Government regularly publishes Local Authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics. Emissions for East Renfrewshire have fallen between 2005-2020 from 6.6t per capita to 4.2t per capita. Per capita emissions in the plan area within the scope of influence of the local authorities fell most years between 2005 and 2020 as shown in Table 4.1. Land use,

land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) is defined by the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat as a greenhouse gas inventory sector that covers emissions and removals of greenhouse gases resulting from direct human-induced land use, land use change and forestry activities. In 2020, LULUCF accounted for the removal of 30kt carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in East Renfrewshire [See reference 56] [See reference 57] (a jump occurs in the data between 2017 and 2018 due to estimates of emissions from agriculture livestock, agriculture soils, and landfill being included in the values post-2017).

Table 5.1: Carbon dioxide emissions in East Renfrewshire 2005-2020

Year	Total Emissions (kt CO ₂ e)	Per Capita Emissions (t)
2005	591.8	6.6
2006	576.3	6.4
2007	551.8	6.1
2008	544.5	6.1
2009	523.7	5.8
2010	536.6	5.9
2011	495.3	5.5
2012	485.3	5.3
2013	476.6	5.2
2014	436.3	4.7
2015	434.5	4.7
2016	424.4	4.5
2017	405.6	4.3
2018	462.0	4.9
2019	450.2	4.7

Year	Total Emissions (kt CO ₂ e)	Per Capita Emissions (t)
2020	404.0	4.2

5.9 Domestic and commercial sources of emissions between 2005 and 2019 saw the greatest drop in carbon dioxide emissions, reflecting decarbonisation of electricity generation. Within East Renfrewshire, domestic energy and transport remained the main contributor of the highest level of emissions. However, newly registered cars are becoming more fuel efficient and thus generally emit fewer emissions per kilometre. Average CO₂ emissions in Scotland for new car registrations has fallen by 10% over the last ten years [See reference 58].

Table 5.2: Changes in carbon dioxide emissions by sector for East Renfrewshire between 2005 and 2019 (kt CO₂e)

Source of Emissions	2005	2020
Industry & Commercial Electricity	41.4	8.4
Industry & Commercial Gas	17.5	8.9
Large Industrial Installations	0.0	0.0
Industrial & Commercial Other Fuels	7.2	3.7
Agricultural Combustion	5.1	6.0
Domestic Electricity	101.0	30.6
Domestic Gas	150.4	121.3
Domestic Other Fuels	4.6	4.2
Road Transport (A roads)	67.8	25.7
Road Transport (Motorways)	47.3	30.1
Road Transport (Minor Roads)	90.3	72.9
Diesel Railways	0.6	0.5

Source of Emissions	2005	2020
Transport Other	1.0	0.7
LULUCF Net Emissions	33.8	30.0
Total	538.1	404.0

East Renfrewshire Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions

5.10 East Renfrewshire Council’s greenhouse gas emissions for the financial year 2019/2020 were estimated to be 62ktCO₂e [See reference 59].

5.11 East Renfrewshire Council’s Carbon Emissions Report [See reference 60] indicates that the total estimated emissions for the Council in 2021/22, including supply-chain emissions, was 55,856 tCO₂e. This is a 1,668 tCO₂e (3%) reduction from the previous year (57,524 tCO₂e in 2020/21), and 6,168 tCO₂e (10%) reduction from 2019/20. It is estimated that supply-chain emissions are 40,278 tCO₂e, suggesting it is around 72% of the Council’s total emissions in 2021/22.

5.12 The report outlines that 11% of the council’s greenhouse gas emissions come from natural gas supply in Council buildings, 5% come from electricity use in Council buildings and 4% from natural gas supply in buildings operated by East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust (ERCLT) . The most recent Carbon Emissions Report identifies that this is a significant change to 2019/20 where waste management was the third largest emission source, this is largely as a result of the Clyde Valley Waste Partnership which diverts waste from landfill.

5.13 It should also be noted that procurement emissions have been flat-lined from 2019/20 as the data calculation methodology is not deemed sophisticated enough to monitor progress. Table 4.3 below shows the percentage of

greenhouse gas emissions from each source across East Renfrewshire Council in 2021/22 [See reference 61].

Table 5.3: Percentage of Greenhouse gas emissions per source

Source	Emissions estimates (tCO ₂)	Percentage of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Supply chain emissions	40,278	72.11%
	5,962	10.67%
Council buildings - electricity	2,726	4.88%
Buildings operated by ERCLT - natural gas	1,939	3.47%
Fleet Vehicles - Diesel	1,318	2.36%
Un-metered supplies (i.e. streetlighting, traffic signals etc.) - electricity	1,049	1.88%
Sheltered housing - natural gas	488	0.87%
Buildings operated by ERCLT - electricity	470	0.84%
District municipal waste to Landfill	460	0.82%
District waste to Incineration/combustion	341	0.61%
District recycling	237	0.42%
Fleet Vehicles - Petrol	142	0.25%
Business travel (car)	127	0.23%
District composting	101	0.18%
EVCPs - electricity	77	0.14%
Sheltered housing - electricity	61	0.11%
Council buildings - water supply and treatment	41	0.07%
Domestic properties (close lighting & offices) - electricity	27	0.05%
Buildings operated by ERCLT - water supply and treatment	7	0.01%
Domestic properties (offices) - natural gas	5	0.01%
Total	55,856	

5.14 East Renfrewshire Council’s greenhouse gas emissions for the financial year 2021/22 were estimated to be 55.9kCO₂e.. Most sectors do not change significantly between years, aside from district municipal landfill where

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emissions decreased from 7 ktCO₂e in 2019/20 to 0.4 ktCO₂e in 20221/22. This is due to a reduction in tonnage of waste to landfill from 14.5 kt in 2019/20 to 0.9 kt in 2021/22. Table 4.4 shows the emissions estimated by sector for 2019/20 and 2021/22. [\[See reference 62\]](#).

Table 5.3: Baseline emission estimates (tCO₂e) and change for each sub-sector in the carbon baseline between 2019/20 and 2020/21

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Source	Emissions estimates 2019/20 (tCO ₂)	Emissions estimates 2021/22 (tCO ₂)	Change	% Change
Supply chain emissions	40,278	40,278	N/A	N/A
Council Buildings – Natural gas	6,110	5,962	-149	-2%
Council buildings - electricity	2,964	2,726	-238	-8%
Buildings operated by ERCLT - natural gas	1,584	1,939	355	22%
Fleet Vehicles - Diesel	1,116	1,318	203	18%
Un-metered supplies (i.e. streetlighting, traffic signals etc.) - electricity	1,243	1,049	-194	-16%
Sheltered housing - natural gas	506	488	-18	-4%
Buildings operated by ERCLT - electricity	573	470	-103	-18%
District municipal waste to Landfill	6,369	460	-5,909	-93%
District waste to Incineration/combustion	16	341	325	2039%

Chapter 5 Environmental Baseline

	353	237	-116	-33%
District recycling				
	150	142	-8	-5%
Fleet Vehicles - Petrol				
	154	127	-27	-17%
Business travel (car)				
	129	101	-28	-22%
District composting				
	36	77	41	114%
EVCPs - electricity				
	105	61	-44	-42%
Sheltered housing - electricity				
	123	41	-81	-66%
Council buildings - water supply and treatment				
	28	27	-1	-4%
Domestic properties (close lighting & offices) - electricity				
	29	7	-22	-74%
Buildings operated by ERCLT - water supply and treatment				
	4	5	1	32%
Domestic properties (offices) - natural gas				
	155	0	-155	-100%
District waste - other disposal				

Total	62,024	55,856	-6,167	-10%
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5.15 In 2019/20, 57% of street lights are LED which is an increase of the 2017/18 figure of 40% **[See reference 63]**.

5.16 The national target is for 60% of all new cars and vans to be electric by 2030. Within East Renfrewshire, there are a total of 27 public electric charging devices of which seven are rapid charging devices. There are approximately 28 charging devices per 100,000 people in East Renfrewshire. This is less than half the Scotland average of 68.6 charging devices per 100,000 population **[See reference 64]**.

5.17 The East Renfrewshire Citizens’ Panel **[See reference 65]** continues to provide a means for residents to give their views. In March 2020, East Renfrewshire Council asked the Citizens’ Panel their views on climate change. Key findings included:

- 86% agreed that climate change is an urgent and immediate problem.
- 76% of respondents indicated that they would like to do a lot more to reduce the effects of climate change.
- 96% agreed that the Council should lead by example to communities by taking action on climate change.

Renewable Energy and District Heating

5.18 East Renfrewshire Council has taken a positive approach to accommodating wind energy development. A substantial number of developments, including at Whitelee Windfarm, have taken place, making a significant contribution to meeting the Scottish Government’s targets. The

scale of this development means there is limited capacity for additional wind energy development in East Renfrewshire. Through the Local Development Plan 2, East Renfrewshire has identified areas with potential for further wind energy development, mainly in the southern part of the council area.

5.19 According to the RenewableUK Wind Energy Database [See reference 66], East Renfrewshire has 199 turbines (above 100kw in size) with a combined capacity of 468.28 MW.

5.20 East Renfrewshire Council has identified areas that have the possibility of installing district heating systems [See reference 67]. These areas are:

- Eastwood/Woodfarm District Heating Opportunity based around the municipal buildings on the Eastwood Park campus. The high heat loads of St Ninians secondary school and Eastwood leisure centre provide a significant anchor for the smaller office and recreational loads.
- Neilston District Heating Opportunity focuses on the area of high-density social housing in west Neilston. The network extends to Neilston Primary School, St Thomas Primary and Neilston Leisure Centre.
- Barrhead North District Heating Opportunity focuses on Barrhead North and the master planned areas around Glasgow Road and former Shanks industrial site. The opportunity includes residential connections in the areas of Dunterlie, East Arthurlie and Dovecothall which show a high percentage of socially tenured properties.
- Barrhead South District Heating Opportunity focuses on Barrhead South and the area of high-density social housing around Auchenback. The master-planned areas presents the opportunity to connect approximately 1050 homes.

Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora

5.21 Policies exist that define a hierarchy of protection for biodiversity, flora and fauna and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy also delineates conservation

priorities. It is recognised that beyond national designations there is a requirement for preservation of biodiversity at a local scale. Ecological networks need to be maintained and as well as addressing issues of mechanical and climatic threat to biodiversity, broader impacts require to be understood and safeguarded against.

5.22 Biodiversity is crucial to the sound functioning of ecosystems and their supporting role of sustaining life. Services such as nutrient and chemical cycling, pollination, carbon cycling and environmental cleansing can only be sustained through bio-diverse environments [See reference 68]. Ecosystems need to be maintained as well as addressing issues of climatic threat to biodiversity [See reference 69].

5.23 East Renfrewshire benefits from a rich and varied natural and semi-natural environment. It includes a network of greenspaces, six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs); one Local Nature Reserve [See reference 70]; 72 designated Local Biodiversity Sites; 36 unconfirmed Local Biodiversity Sites; three potential Local Biodiversity Sites; and, trees and woodland covered by 68 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) [See reference 71]. The six SSSIs within East Renfrewshire are:

- Boylestone Quarry SSSI
- Cart and Kitchie Valleys SSSI (majority of site within Glasgow City)
- Rouken Glen SSSI
- Brother and Little Lochs SSSI (Freshwater habitats)
- Brother and Little Lochs SSSI (Non-vascular plants)
- Loch Libo SSSI
- Waulkmill Glen SSSI (site sits between East Renfrewshire and Glasgow City)

5.24 There is evidence of work to improve SSSIs and habitat restoration within the authority area. Table 4.5 below shows the assessment of SSSIs within East Renfrewshire carried out by NatureScot.

Table 5.5: SSSIs in East Renfrewshire

SSSI	Feature Category	Site Condition	Assessment Date
Boylestone Quarry	Mineralogy	Favourable maintained	21/06/2022
Brother and little Lochs	Non-vascular plants	Favourable maintained	21/06/2022
	Freshwater habitats		21/06/2022
Cart and Kitchoch Valleys	Woodland	Unfavourable No change	14/05/2014
Loch Libo	Standing open water and canals	Unfavourable Declining	21/06/2022
Rouken Glen	Stratigraphy	Favourable maintained	21/06/2022
Waulkmill Glen	Earth sciences	Favourable maintained	26/04/2000

5.25 East Renfrewshire is one of three Councils forming a Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnership. The partnership has produced a Local Biodiversity Action Plan which identified priorities to deliver projects designed to maintain the diversity of wildlife across the three Councils [\[See reference 72\]](#).

5.26 One Local Nature Reserve exists within the Dams to Darnley Country Park which spans East Renfrewshire and Glasgow City Council, albeit the majority falls within the Glasgow boundary. Dams to Darnley Country Park is the only country park within East Renfrewshire. The park sits between Barrhead, Darnley and Newton Mearns, and is made up of a mosaic of woodland, grassland, open water, wetland and farmland. The Barrhead dams is a series of five interconnected reservoirs owned and managed by Scottish Water. The Brock Burn is the source for the Barrhead dams [\[See reference 73\]](#).

5.27 There have been actions to redress biodiversity loss within East Renfrewshire at Whitelee as part of the Biodiversity Duty Report [See reference 74]. This has included various projects which have involved wildflower planting, tree planting, collation of wildlife records, badger sett monitoring, reptile identification, and creation of bug hotels.

Forestry and Woodland

5.28 There are pockets of ancient woodland scattered across East Renfrewshire which are identified in the Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory (SAWI). These cover an area of approximately 261 ha [See reference 75].

5.29 In 2012 Forestry Scotland undertook a desktop exercise to identify all areas of Great Britain that had map features classified as woodland. All woodland areas 0.5 ha or greater in extent, with the exception of assumed woodland or low-density areas that can be 0.1 ha or greater in extent, were mapped. The areas were broken down into different types of woodland. The Inventory shows fragmented areas of broadleaved woodland to the north of East Renfrewshire with larger conifer plantations to the south. The dataset was updated in 2014 and subsequently in 2016. The total area of woodland in 2016 was 1,740.74ha.

5.30 Estimates of new woodland established in East Renfrewshire in 2020 are 38.9 ha.

5.31 The Forestry Commission Scotland undertook a field-based survey between 2006-2013 to establish the first authoritative picture of Scotland's native woodlands. The dataset was updated in 2014. There was no change to the native woodland areas in East Renfrewshire of 255ha between the 2009 and 2014 data sets. [See reference 76].

5.32 The Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal [See reference 77] sets out national policy on woodland removal and replacement planting. Its aims include support for the maintenance and expansion of forest

cover in Scotland and achieving an appropriate balance between forested and non-forested land. It contains a strong presumption in favour of protecting Scotland’s woodland resources.

Population and Human Health

Population

5.33 In 2021, the population of East Renfrewshire was 96,580. This is an increase of 0.6% from 95,530 in 2019. The population of East Renfrewshire has steadily grown since 2010 from 90,410 to 96,580 in 2021. East Renfrewshire had the 22nd highest population in 2020, out of all 32 council areas in Scotland. [\[See reference 78\]](#).

5.34 East Renfrewshire’s population is growing faster than the Scottish average with projections expecting a 7.6% growth in people living in the area by 2026. By 2041, East Renfrewshire’s population is expected to rise 110,044 [\[See reference 79\]](#). Table 4.7 below shows the percentage change in population from 1998 to 2020 by age group.

Table 5.7: Percentage change in population by age group 1998-2020

Age Group	1998	2020	% change	Scotland % change
All people	88,310	96,060	8.8	7.7
0 to 15	19,125	19,646	2.7	-8.6
16 to 24	8,594	9,583	11.5	0.2
25 to 44	25,537	20,443	-19.9	-5.5
45 to 64	21,725	26,947	24.0	24.5

Age Group	1998	2020	% change	Scotland % change
65 to 74	7,492	10,154	35.5	31.6
75 and over	5,837	9,287	59.1	35.4

5.35 The increase in East Renfrewshire’s population is as a result of more people moving into the area. The two age groups expected to see the highest rise in population is children and young people aged 0-15 years and older people aged 85+. Older people aged 85+ are projected to increase in number by 18% between 2019 and 2024 [See reference 80].

5.36 In 2020, the number of households in East Renfrewshire was 39,586. This is a 0.6% increase from 39,345 households in 2019. In comparison, the number of households in Scotland overall increased by 0.5%. Between 2018 and 2028, the number of households in East Renfrewshire is projected to increase from 39,108 to 42,139. This is a 7.8% increase. In 2028, the household type One adult is projected to remain the most common (34.4%) and the household type One adult, one or more children is projected to remain the least common (6.4%) in East Renfrewshire. Between 2018 and 2028, the household type Three or more adults is projected to see the largest percentage decrease (-3.2%) and the household type One adult, one or more children is projected to see the largest percentage increase (+13.4%). It should be noted that households do not have the same definition as homes. Households are defined by Office for National Statistics (ONS) as one person or a group of people who have the (same) accommodation as their only or main residence. For groups the individuals in question should share at least one meal a day, or share the living accommodation, that is, a living room or sitting room.

5.37 The population of East Renfrewshire is spread across towns and villages. East Renfrewshire is divided by two areas: Lavern Valley and Eastwood. The majority of the population live within Eastwood which includes Newton Mearns, Clarkston, Giffnock, Thornliebank, Waterfoot, Eaglesham and Busby. Lavern Valley which is less populated includes Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor.

Housing

5.38 The most recent 2022 Housing Land Audit counted a total of 415 houses built across private and public sector between March 2021 to March 2022. Based on the 2019 programming, a total of 2,547 homes will be built between 2022 to 2029 and 994 homes built post 2029 **[See reference 81]**.

5.39 A total of 4,802 new homes across all tenures are to be built to accommodate the rising population in East Renfrewshire through the Local Development Plan 2 during the period 2012 to 2031 **[See reference 82]**.

5.40 The Housing Needs and Demands Assessment (2015) **[See reference 83]** identified that there is a need for 880 affordable homes between 2012 and 2031. The Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023 to 2028 **[See reference 84]** sets the priorities for investment in housing in East Renfrewshire over the 5-year period from 2023 to 2028. Approximately 447 affordable homes will be developed between 2023 to 2028. Of which, East Renfrewshire will deliver 335 new homes for social rent. The majority of affordable housing is located within the Levern Valley area of East Renfrewshire.

5.41 As measured by the Energy Efficiency Standard for social housing, 93.2% of social housing provided by East Renfrewshire Council is energy efficient. The energy efficiency of Council provided social housing has been increasing since 2016 when 66% of homes were energy efficient. The largest increase (14.2%) in energy efficiency of Council provided social housing was between 2019-20 and 2020-21 **[See reference 85]**.

5.42 The Council's Housing Asset Management Plan for 2016-20 identifies that the condition of the housing stock is generally good, but is an ageing stock with particular investment requirements over the next few years. 70% of Council homes are over 50 years old, and 28% over 80 years old. This shapes how the Council will need to target resources going forward, including ongoing spend on external elements such as roofing and rendering. Internal investment is required in central heating, kitchens and bathrooms, windows and doors; and electrical wiring.

5.43 East Renfrewshire has a high proportion of owner-occupied homes at over 80% of homes [\[See reference 86\]](#). This means that the Council will need to rely on home owners to take actions in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation for the majority of properties [\[See reference 87\]](#). This is amplified in Eastwood, where levels of owner occupation and house prices are considerably higher than Scotland and for East Renfrewshire as a whole. As of December 2022, the average house price in East Renfrewshire was £293,315. Whereas in Scotland the average house price was £187,224. House prices for East Renfrewshire and Scotland were rising each year until autumn 2022, where house prices began to decline. House prices saw an increase in East Renfrewshire in December 2022 [\[See reference 88\]](#).

5.44 The needs of Gypsies/Travellers who live or migrate through East Renfrewshire, though low numbers, will continue to be monitored. There is no site provision or significant demand for this [\[See reference 89\]](#).

Health

5.45 Health is a cross cutting topic and as such many topic areas explored in this Scoping Report influence health either directly or indirectly. The Scottish Health Survey provides a detailed picture of the health of the Scottish population in private households.

5.46 Among all adults in 2021, 75% described their general health as 'good' or 'very good'. The age standardised proportion of adults who self-assessed their general health as 'good' or 'very good' varied by area of deprivation with the most deprived areas reporting poorer health. Around 47% of adults reported to be living with (limiting or non-limiting) long term conditions [\[See reference 90\]](#).

Life Expectancy

5.47 In East Renfrewshire, life expectancy at birth was higher for females (83.8 years) than for males (79.4 years) in 2019-21. Life expectancy at birth in

East Renfrewshire is higher than at Scotland level for both females and males [See reference 91]. Since 2014-16 life expectancy for females has increased slightly by 0.5 years and decreased by 0.6 years for males [See reference 92].

5.48 In East Renfrewshire, the leading cause of death for males in 2022 was ischaemic heart diseases (13.6% of all male deaths), followed by dementia and Alzheimer's disease (6.9%). The leading cause of death for females in 2022 was dementia and Alzheimer's disease (13.6% of all female deaths), followed by ischaemic heart diseases (8.9%). In Scotland overall, the leading cause of death for females was also dementia and Alzheimer's disease (12.8%), followed by ischaemic heart diseases (8.5%). The leading cause of death for males was ischaemic heart diseases (13.7%), followed by dementia and Alzheimer's disease (6.2%) [See reference 93].

Obesity

5.49 Being overweight or obese carries numerous health risks, including increased likelihood of type 2 diabetes, cancer, heart and liver disease, stroke and related mental health conditions. It is estimated this health issue places a cost of at least £5.1 billion on the NHS and tens of billions on the wider UK society every year [See reference 94].

5.50 Obesity rates have been rising over the last 10 years both in Scotland and in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area. In 2021, 67% of Scottish adults were overweight with 30% considered obese. In 2021, 18% of children were considered to be at risk of obesity [See reference 95].

5.51 The UK Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food, DEFRA 2002, recommends an increase consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables to benefit the local economy and health. In 2019, around one in five of all adults consumed five or more portions of fruit and vegetables a day, similar to levels recorded since 2003.

Social Isolation

5.52 The Office of National Statistics has attempted to map loneliness rates by local authority between October 2020 to February 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Areas with higher concentrations of younger people and higher rates of unemployment tended to have higher rates of loneliness during the study period. Local authorities in more rural areas had a lower loneliness rate than urban, industrial, or other types of area. Data was not available for East Renfrewshire [\[See reference 96\]](#).

5.53 The Scottish Health Survey 2019 found that adults who felt lonely 'often/all of the time' in the last two weeks had lower mental wellbeing than those who 'rarely/never' felt lonely [\[See reference 97\]](#).

Deprivation

5.54 Deprivation in Scotland is monitored using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) which monitors key areas: Income, Employment, Health, Education, Geographic Access, Housing and Crime. East Renfrewshire has eight data zones out of 122 in the most deprived 20% of Scotland. This represents 7% of data zones in East Renfrewshire. Three of the data zones are classed as being within the 10% most deprived in Scotland and one of these is classed as being within the 5% most deprived [\[See reference 98\]](#).

5.55 Table 4.8 below shows that more than half of East Renfrewshire's population (55%), and 67% of the Eastwood population live in SIMD data zones that are among the 20% least deprived in Scotland in 2020. All of East Renfrewshire's neighbourhoods that are among the 20% most deprived are concentrated in the Barrhead locality with a quarter of the population living in these data zones [\[See reference 99\]](#).

Table 5.8: Least and most deprived SIMD quintile per Locality

Indicators	Eastwood Locality	Barrhead Locality	East Renfrewshire
Population in least deprived SIMD quintile	67%	17%	55%
Population in most deprived SIMD quintile	0%	25%	6.4%

5.56 There are also differing health outcomes for the populations of Barrhead and Eastwood Localities. While life expectancy at birth is above the Scottish average for East Renfrewshire as a whole, it remains below average in the Barrhead locality. Early mortality rates and the prevalence of long-term conditions including cancers are also higher for Barrhead. Data also shows poorer outcomes for the Barrhead local in relation to the percentage of the population prescribed medication for anxiety, depression and psychosis. Hospital admission related to alcohol and drugs are also higher for Barrhead [\[See reference 100\]](#).

5.57 East Renfrewshire has the highest proportion of children in any local authority in Scotland, and this is expected to grow. East Renfrewshire also has some of the lowest levels of child poverty in Scotland, and fewer young mothers than the national average. It is estimated that is 12.79% of children live in poverty in East Renfrewshire in 2020/2021. This is lower than the percentage for Scotland at 20.86%. Child poverty in East Renfrewshire has remained relatively steady overall, though a decrease is seen in the number of children in poverty between 2019/20 and 2020/21 [\[See reference 101\]](#). The Fairer East Ren delivery plan ‘Reducing the impact of Child Poverty’ outlines the positive approach to support children in poverty to have the same opportunities as their peers in terms of achievement, attainment, health and wellbeing [\[See reference 102\]](#).

Education

5.58 Schools within East Renfrewshire are consistently amongst the highest performing in Scotland. In 2020/21, 86.2% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils within East Renfrewshire were meeting the expected level of literacy and 89.9% are meeting the expected level of numeracy. These figures are higher than the percentages for Scotland at 66.8% and 74.7% respectively. 90% of secondary school pupils in East Renfrewshire achieved 5 plus awards at SCQF level 5 or higher in 2020/21. This percentage is significantly higher than Scotland at 67% of secondary school pupils. Secondary school pupil educational attainment has been gradually increasing since 2016 [See reference 103].

5.59 East Renfrewshire's Education department provides an education service for the local area through:

- seven secondary schools
- 24 primary schools (13 of which have nursery classes)
- 10 family centres
- One school for children with additional support needs

5.60 In East Renfrewshire the number of resident pupils has risen by 12% from 2012 to 2018; and based on the National Records of Scotland projections the school age population is expected to grow by a further 5.4% by 2025 [See reference 104]. Therefore, many educational facilities have high occupancy levels and increasingly so within the Eastwood area; however places in the Lavern Valley area are also now starting to face pressure. Through the Local Development Plan 2, the following educational facilities will be upgraded to meet with rising pupil numbers:

- Busby Primary School, Busby – extension
- Eaglesham Primary School, Eaglesham – extension
- Neilston Primary School, Neilston – New joint campus: learning and leisure in Neilston (Madras Family Centre, Neilston Primary, and St Thomas' Primary)

- Crookfur Primary School, Newton Mearns – extension.

Leisure Facilities and Services

5.61 Leisure facilities provide residents space in which they can undertake physical activity and take part in activities to the benefit of public health. Demand of facilities and services is expected to increase with a rising population [See reference 105].

5.62 There are four sports and leisure centres in East Renfrewshire:

- Barrhead Foundry
- Eastwood Park
- Neilston
- Eastwood High

5.63 There are 10 libraries in East Renfrewshire across all main towns and villages.

5.64 Table 4.9 below shows the leisure visits per type of facility within East Renfrewshire [See reference 106].

Table 5.9 : Leisure Visits

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Leisure Centres			
Pool usage	279,035	264,315	236,632
Dryside (games halls, gyms, courts & health suites)	344,779	416,407	405,540

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Outside Usage (jogging, walking and EHSC tracks and pitches)	26,886	28,687	19,409
Pool Usage per 1000 population	3,002	2,818	2,497
Dryside per 1000 population (excludes Outside Usage)	3,710	4,439	4,280
Total Indoor Sports Usage (Excludes Outside, includes halls and schools out of hours)	8,445	9,711	9,372
Community Facilities			
Community Halls and Pavilions	326,360	307,6380	278,717
Schools Out-of-Hours Usage	615,809	628,490	679,071
Libraries			
Physical Visits	558,835	535,667	510,148
Virtual Visits (as revised 2017/18)	352,309	359,335	632,409
Physical visits per 1000 population	6,013	5,710	5,384
Total visits per 1000 population	9,804	9,541	12,057
Eastwood Park Theatre			
Number of Performances & Events	244		

Levels of Physical Activity

5.65 In 2021, 69% of adults met the moderate or vigorous physical activity guidelines of at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity, 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity, or an equivalent combination of the two per week. The proportion of children (2-15 years) who met the recommended physical activity level with a week prior to completing the survey was 71%. This figure was a decrease on the 2016 figure of 76% which appears to be driven by a drop in activity levels among boys with no significant decrease for girls. [\[See reference 107\]](#).

Soil

5.66 Scotland's soils are diverse and are significantly different from those in the rest of the UK. The majority have acidic and organic-rich surface layers. Such soils are often not managed intensively. As a result, they generally have a high biodiversity and landscape value. Scotland's soils are an important carbon sink.

5.67 The majority of East Renfrewshire is covered by diamictaon (poorly sorted sands and gravels) deposited as the glaciers of the last ice age melted. Peat lies to the south east (Whitelee) and north west. Raised marine deposits of sand and gravel and clay and silt are found to the north of the authority at Barrhead and Giffnock. Scattered along the edge of rivers are pockets of undifferentiated alluvium drift. The majority of East Renfrewshire sits upon basalt of the Clyde Plateau Volcanic Formation.

5.68 There is a history of coal mining and sandstone quarrying in northern parts of the authority across Barrhead, Giffnock and Newton Mearns. The same is also true of the western section of the authority beneath Uplawmoor.

5.69 East Renfrewshire is rich in geology. This is highlighted in the three Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI) noted for their important geological features [**See reference 108**]:

- Boylestone Quarry
- Rouken Glen
- Waulkmill Glen

5.70 Along the South East boundary of East Renfrewshire there are significant areas particularly around Whitelee Forest identified within the Carbon and Peatland 2016 map [**See reference 109**]. Much of the areas fall within Class 1 and Class 5 of the carbon and peatland class. These classes are defined as:

- Class 1 – Nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. Areas likely to be of high conservation value.
- Class 5 – Soil information takes precedence over vegetation data. No peatland habitat recorded. May also include areas of bare soil. Soils are carbon-rich and deep peat.

Contaminated Land

5.71 There are no formally identified contaminated land sites in East Renfrewshire. The Environmental Health team hold a database of sites which have been identified as having the potential to be contaminated due to previous uses. There are 833 sites covering a total area of 519.23 ha which have been identified as having the potential to be contaminated. Since 2009 no sites have been investigated or remediated under Part IIA of the Contaminated Land Regulations [[See reference 110](#)].

Vacant and Derelict Land

5.72 Vacant land is land which is unused for the purposes for which it is held and is viewed as an appropriate site for development. Vacant land is generally not in need of rehabilitation before new development can commence.

5.73 Derelict land (and buildings) is land which has been so damaged by development, that it is incapable of development for beneficial use without rehabilitation.

5.74 The remediation and redevelopment of vacant and derelict land and buildings is a priority for the Council. The Council has been proactive in promoting vacant and derelict sites. The majority of sites (approximately 92%) are identified for development or have a current planning consent. As of 2022, there were 36 sites on the vacant and derelict land register for East Renfrewshire. The sites apart from one are all within settlements with the majority privately owned [[See reference 111](#)].

5.75 The former depot site at Walton Street, Barrhead will be transformed into a new river bed and riverside greenspace. Lavern Water will be widened and rechannelled to create an accessible and landscaped waterfront that can absorb increased heavy rainfall caused by climate change. The area will also support wildflower meadows and woodland [\[See reference 112\]](#).

Water

5.76 Scotland's water provides a variety of uses from underpinning health, industry and prosperity to energy generation and leisure. Water also supports biological and ecological diversity recognised as requiring protection under European Legislation covered by Natura2000 designation. Over the last 20 years Scotland's water environment and water quality has improved.

5.77 There are approximately 354km of water course (including small burns) within East Renfrewshire. East Renfrewshire falls within the Scotland River Basin District. Surface water bodies that are monitored by SEPA feed the following four river catchments [\[See reference 113\]](#):

- White Cart Water
- Black Cart Water
- River Garnock
- River Irvine

Water Quality

5.78 The mains water supply, which supplies over 97% of East Renfrewshire residents, is the responsibility of Scottish Water with regard to water quality. Drinking water for East Renfrewshire comes from three Scottish Water sites; Picketlaw, Milngavie Gorbals and Milngavie C1 [\[See reference 114\]](#). These water supplies are regularly tested and are 100% compliant. In Scotland, approximately 3% of the Scottish population uses a private water supply for

drinking water. These supplies can originate from a number of sources including lochs, burns or boreholes and are often found in more rural areas of Scotland. Private water supplies are not provided or maintained by Scottish Water [See reference 115]. Table 4.10 below displays the river classifications for each water body across East Renfrewshire. SEPA produces an annual Water Framework Directive which is a classification for all water bodies in Scotland. Surface water bodies are classified using a system of five quality classes: high status to bad status. Water bodies in a near natural condition are at High status, while those whose quality has been severely damaged are at Bad status [See reference 116].

Table 5.10 : River Classifications in East Renfrewshire

Water body	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lugton Water	Poor	Poor	Poor	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Levern Water	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Annick Water	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Brock Burn (source to A726 Road Bridge)	Good	Good	Good	Good	Moderate	Moderate
Capelrig/Auldhouse Burn	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Moderate	Poor
Earn Water	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Poor	Poor
Kingswell Burn/Fenwick Water/Kilmarnock Water	Poor	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Dunwan Burn (u/s Dunwan Dam)	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Dunwan Burn/Polnoon Water (d/s Dunwan Dam)	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Craufurdland Water/Dunton Water(u/s Hareshawmuir Water)	Poor	Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Good

Water body	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Glen Water	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
White Cart Water (above Kittoch conf)	Poor	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Kittoch Water	Poor	Poor	Poor	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
White Cart Water (Kittoch Water to A726 road bridge)	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Old Patrick Water	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Hareshawmuir Water/ Gawkshaw Burn	Poor	Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Good
Dusk Water	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

5.79 A total of 17 rivers were assessed through the SEPA water classification. The majority of the water bodies have been classified as moderate or good in relation to overall quality status. No water bodies have improved in overall quality status between 2019 and 2020. Capelrig/Auldhouse Burn’s status has worsened from moderate in 2019 to poor in 2020. The remaining 16 water bodies have not changed from their previous status.

Flood Risk

5.80 The NFRA (National Flood Risk Assessment) [\[See reference 117\]](#) addresses a full cross section of issues associated with flooding: health, economy, environment and cultural heritage and looks at the strategy for protecting and reducing the £1.5 billion in damages created annually through flooding in Scotland.

5.81 Flood risk in East Renfrewshire is implicitly linked to climate change considering the changes predicted in weather patterns and the impact this will

have on river levels and the ability for safe infiltration of surface water to be achieved. Historically there has been development in some of the areas identified in SEPAs flood potential maps, however the Local Development Plan 2 has policies in place to ensure the potential for flooding is considered in future development proposals [See reference 118]. Within East Renfrewshire, flood risk is not a significant issue. According to SEPAs flood maps, much of the flood risk within East Renfrewshire is associated with watercourses and its floodplain within rural areas and towns/villages. These areas are considered at a 10% chance of flooding each year. There are small pockets of surface water flooding spread across the rural and urban parts of the Council area. These areas are at a 0.5% or a 10% risk of flooding each year. The most concentrated areas of surface water flooding are around the Burnhouse area of Newton Mearns; Barrhead North; and, residential streets within Williamwood and Giffnock South. Areas at risk of river flooding are mainly limited to the immediate river floodplain and are surrounding a reservoir. Parts of Newton Mearns and Barrhead have a 0.1% or 10% chance of river flooding each year. Due to East Renfrewshire's inland location, the area is not at risk of coastal flooding [See reference 119].

5.82 Scottish Water figures show that at least 120 million cubic metres of waste spilled from combined sewer overflows between 2016 and 2020 [See reference 120]. SEPA has been working with Scottish Water to deliver significant improvements to the water environment through upgrades to the sewage collection and treatment systems. Between 2010 and 2021, SEPA required Scottish Water to improve 279 sewer overflows and 104 wastewater treatment works [See reference 121].

5.83 The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 sets out a co-ordinated, plan-led approach to the management of flood risk in Scotland. East Renfrewshire Council is the responsible authority when it comes to flood risk. The Council will take a precautionary approach to flood risk from all sources and will promote flood avoidance in the first instance.

5.84 Due to the changing climate resulting in higher levels of rainfall, flooding is likely to increase in East Renfrewshire. Fluvial river flooding is responsible for almost half of all flood damage (45%). Pluvial surface water flooding is a

more recent issue and is on the increase, being associated with climate change. Pluvial flooding overwhelms drains and drainage rates of soils [See reference 122]. The Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) is being developed to counter this rising phenomenon. River catchments areas are being developed to slow the passage of water as well as creating new amenity. New urban developments are required to pass grey water through a SUDs scheme [See reference 123].

Air

5.85 Poor air quality affects human health, flora and fauna, water and material infrastructure. Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ground level ozone and particulates have the most significant impact on human health and the environment. Within East Renfrewshire, transport is the most significant source of air pollution. There are no major industrial or commercial sources within East Renfrewshire [See reference 124].

5.86 Air quality has improved significantly since the 1950s, with dramatic reduction in most pollutants [See reference 125]. Air quality objectives seek to improve air quality and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) exist with the aim of reducing emissions concentrations that have adverse effects on public health and the environment. As air quality is generally of good quality across East Renfrewshire, there are no designated Air Quality Management Areas [See reference 126]. East Renfrewshire Council monitors air pollution levels at 23 locations across East Renfrewshire. If levels of pollutants are found to exceed the National Air Quality Strategy objectives, East Renfrewshire Council will develop an action plan for the reduction of emissions [See reference 127].

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

5.87 Nitrogen dioxide is released into the atmosphere when fuels are burned (for example, petrol or diesel in a car engine, or natural gas in a domestic central heating boiler or power station). NO₂ can affect our health. There is

evidence that high levels of it can inflame the airways in our lungs and, over a long period of time, affect how well our lungs work. People with asthma are particularly affected. NO₂ can also affect vegetation [See reference 128]. East Renfrewshire Council undertook non-automatic (passive) monitoring of NO₂ at 22 sites during 2022 using diffusion tubes. All 22 sites were within the annual mean objective of 40 µg/m³ [See reference 129].

PM₁₀ Particles

5.88 East Renfrewshire does not currently monitor PM₁₀.

5.89 The closest air quality monitoring station is located at Waulkmill Glen sited within Glasgow City Council boundary. Monitoring results of PM₁₀ from this location is shown in Table 4.11 below showing low levels of PM₁₀. The levels of PM₁₀ typically fall below the annual mean level of 18 µg m⁻³ when looking at the yearly average. The table below shows that levels of PM₁₀ have improved over a five-year period from 2017 to 2021, however the yearly average increased in 2022[See reference 130].

Table 5.11 : Monthly Average PM₁₀ Concentrations (µg/m³)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Yearly average	10.92	8.58	8.83	7.08	6.92	8.08
January	16	9	9	7	6	9
February	11	9	15	7	6	8
March	12	9	9	9	8	14
April	14	9	19	10	9	8
May	16	10	6	7	6	7
June	10	11	7	7	8	8

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Yearly average	10.92	8.58	8.83	7.08	6.92	8.08
July	11	7	7	5	7	6
August	9	6	7	6	7	8
September	9	6	7	7	8	7
October	9	8	6	6	5	7
November	7	10	8	8	5	8
December	7	9	6	6	8	7

Smoke Control Areas

5.90 Barrhead and Neilston are designated as a Smoke Control Area. Smoke Control Areas were introduced by legislation in the 1960s as a result of the heavy smog which affected many parts of the country.

5.91 Within a Smoke Control Area it is an offence to cause the emission of smoke or burn any unauthorised fuel. This applies to residential properties, as well as commercial/industrial operations. Any fuel being used in a Smoke Control Area must be specifically authorised for use, unless it is being used in an exempt appliance specified within the Statutory Instruments made by the Government. This includes wood-burning stoves and similar appliances.

Cultural Heritage and the Historic Environment

5.92 Sites of recognised cultural heritage value require designation and protection at international, national and local levels. Townscapes, buildings, battlefields, marine wrecks, landscapes and archaeological sites, known and

unknown, need to be protected or enhanced, in keeping with policy that emphasises their cultural importance and significance. The quality of our built and rural environment is enhanced by the presence of cultural heritage. Policy aims to improve the nature of these localities by safeguarding and improving traditional sites and fabric. The historic environment also has key economic and climate change benefits, and has a key role to play in the transition to net zero. Historic Environment Scotland is tasked with managing and protecting Scottish cultural heritage and promoting a collective duty of care for the historic environment.

5.93 East Renfrewshire's historic environment is made of monuments, archaeological sites and landscapes, historic buildings, townscapes and designed landscapes [See reference 131]. A total of 11 Scheduled Monuments are designated across East Renfrewshire containing a mix of prehistoric features and the medieval Polnoon Castle. There is no data on the status of scheduled monuments or archaeological sites. It is therefore not possible to conclude if there has been restoration of such sites or if conditions have deteriorated. East Renfrewshire contains 137 listed buildings, including five Category A listed buildings. There are five Conservation Areas within East Renfrewshire:

- Busby Conservation Area
- Eaglesham Conservation Area
- Giffnock Conservation Area
- Lower Whitecraigs Conservation Area
- Upper Whitecraigs Conservation Area.

5.94 The adopted Local Development Plan 2 (2022) proposed a further two at Netherlee and Crookfur Cottage Homes.

5.95 East Renfrewshire has two designations under the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes: Rouken Glen Park and Greenbank Garden. For a garden or designed landscape to be included in the inventory, it must be

considered to be of national importance. Sites are selected and assessed using the following criteria:

- Value as an individual work of art in their own right
- Historic Value
- Horticultural, arboriculture or silvicultural value
- Architectural value
- Scenic value
- Nature conservation value
- Archaeological value

5.96 Table 4.12 below shows the assessment of Rouken Glen Park and Greenbank Garden [See reference 132] [See reference 133].

Table 5.12: Assessment of Rouken Glen Park and Greenbank Garden Gardens and Designed Landscapes

	Greenbank Garden	Rouken Glen Park
Work of Art	Some	Some
Historical	Some	Some
Horticultural	Some	Some
Architectural	Outstanding	Little
Scenic	Some	Some
Nature Conservation	Little	Outstanding
Archaeological	-	Some

Landscape and Geodiversity

5.97 The European Landscape Convention and other objectives exist with a view to recognising and protecting special national landscapes and improving degraded landscapes. National Scenic Areas and protected geological sites (some of these falling within Sites of Special Scientific Interest – SSSIs) are recognised as underpinning important local, regional and national landscape character. NatureScot and the Scottish Government lead on managing this environmental objective.

5.98 The diverse and distinctive landscapes of Scotland have been recognised for their contribution to natural and cultural heritage as well as to the social and economic well-being of the nation. The European Landscape Convention aims to protect all landscapes, not just protected areas and it is recognised that underlying geology is crucial to realising this objective.

5.99 East Renfrewshire is primarily a rural council with pockets of urban centres. The council covers a total area of approximately 17,423 hectares. The area classified as urban within the 2015 Local Development Plan spans approximately 2,804 ha (approximately 16% of the council area).

5.100 Since 2011 there has been an increase in urban area and loss of greenbelt due to the urban expansion around Newton Mearns, Barrhead South and Neilston. Past trends since the 2003 Local Plan show an increase in the urban area and it is important to protect the most sensitive areas of the greenbelt from further urban sprawl. Annual monitoring shows that applications for development are being made in the greenbelt area. The number of applications received and granted in the greenbelt are given in Table 4.13 below **[See reference 134]**.

Table 5.13: Planning Applications in the Greenbelt

Year	Number of applications in the greenbelt*	Number of applications granted permission in the greenbelt
2017/18	61	44
2016/17	43	33
2015/16	56	42
2014/15	51	35
2013/14	46	30
2012/13	45	31
2011/12	58	42

* Note the type of application ranges from new residential development, erection of extension to existing development, wind turbines and agricultural uses.

5.101 Policy D5 of the adopted Local Development Plan 2 (2022) identifies areas of greenspace to be safeguarded from development. These greenspace areas cover 425 ha, equating to 15% of the general urban area. 76.7% of residential properties are within 200m of these protected green spaces. Within the 2011 Local Plan the greenspace areas to be safeguarded covered 404 Ha equating to 15% of the then general urban area. Therefore, while the urban area has seen growth, the percentage of greenspace within the urban area has also increased to remain at 15% of the overall area. There is not enough data to draw a conclusion as the sustainable use of forestry and agricultural resources.

Material Assets

5.102 As of 2020/21, a total of 85% of council buildings are suitable for their current use with 84% in satisfactory condition. The condition of council buildings has been gradually improving since 2016 in East Renfrewshire. **[See reference 135].**

5.103 According to the Property Asset Management Plan, the current performance of Council buildings is improving but it is recognised that further investment will be required to at least maintain current levels or improve them. Over the next five years from 2019, £15,543,118 will be required for maintenance of Council buildings **[See reference 136].**

5.104 The Property Asset Management Plan suggests that East Renfrewshire Council should not only focus on providing and maintaining buildings, but also be more strategic and innovative. Therefore, going forward the focus will be on:

- Energy efficiency measures will be implemented to reduce future costs and environmental harm;
- Community and customer engagement will be undertaken to help shape the provision of new properties;
- Robust data is used to support options appraisals for all property investment and disposal decisions; and,
- Properties will be upgraded to support modern ways of working.

5.105 The Council has been using the Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency (NDEE) Framework to deliver a rolling investment programme of energy savings by adopting a full building retrofit approach that allows the Council to move to a position of implementing whole building solutions: lighting, heating, cooling, controls and thermal efficiency as one large 'NDEE' project where it can be evidenced that there are savings to be made **[See reference 137].**

Waste

5.106 There are two waste management facilities in East Renfrewshire: Carlibar Road, Barrhead and Greenhags, Newton Mearns.

5.107 There has been a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions with waste being diverted from landfill to energy recovery. A 49% reduction estimated, as a result of the Clyde Valley residual waste contract [See reference 138]. The Clyde Valley residual waste is a partnership with Viridor where non-recyclable household waste collected is diverted away from landfill and used to produce energy that goes back into the national grid.

5.108 In East Renfrewshire, 40,574 tonnes of household waste was generated in 2021. In 2021 58.1% of household waste was recycled. This is a slight increase of 2020 where 57% of household waste was recycled. In Scotland, the overall proportion of household waste recycled was 42.7% in 2021 and 42% in 2020. In 2021, 2.4% of waste was sent to landfill. The total carbon impact of waste managed and generated in East Renfrewshire was 82,061 tCO₂ [See reference 139].

Transport

5.109 East Renfrewshire is a popular suburban residential area due to its close proximity to the city of Glasgow. It is well placed in respect of the national transport network with the M77 motorway, good west to east road links and good accessibility to Glasgow and beyond by public transport routes. The public transport network within East Renfrewshire is radial to Glasgow, except in Barrhead where there are links to Paisley. Across East Renfrewshire there are three railway lines serving nine train stations with one planned in Barrhead South. However, East Renfrewshire has a high level of private car ownership.

5.110 East Renfrewshire is a commuter settlement for Greater Glasgow which generates significant travel to places of employment in the city. The latest data in relation to private vehicles and commuting is from the 2011 Census which showed 17,792 commutes from East Renfrewshire to Glasgow City and 3,777 commutes to Renfrewshire. There were 6,329 commutes within East Renfrewshire. Within East Renfrewshire, a total of 4,440 residents work at/from home [\[See reference 140\]](#). The 2022 Census is currently being conducted and any information from the most recent Census data will be used to provide updates when the data becomes available.

5.111 Between 40-60% of all journeys in East Renfrewshire are under 5km [\[See reference 141\]](#). East Renfrewshire has three rail lines served by nine train stations. 89% of residents live within 400m of a bus stop and 46% live within 800m of a train station.

5.112 In relation to the walking and cycling network, no National Cycle Network routes are within East Renfrewshire. However, there are a network of local on and off road cycle routes in East Renfrewshire, in particular a cycle route runs along the A77. The network of core paths shows a network of strategic routes, although connectivity between some settlements, for example Neilston's connectivity to the north, is poor.

Private Vehicles

5.113 East Renfrewshire has a higher than Scottish average car ownership rate. 42% of households within East Renfrewshire have access to one car, 40% have access to two or more cars and 18% do not have access to a car [\[See reference 142\]](#). It is expected that car ownership rates will increase within East Renfrewshire in line with trends for Scotland. In 2015, Transport Scotland recorded that 70% of households had one or more car for private use. In 2015, 497 cars were registered per 1,000 people aged 17+ in East Renfrewshire. There is a rise in electric and hybrid vehicles in Scotland with 4,500 new electric and hybrid registrations in 2015 which is 25% more than in 2014 [\[See reference 143\]](#).

Commute to Work

5.114 Commuters in East Renfrewshire tend to favour the car in their commute to work with 69% of people traveling in private car or taxi. This figure is above the Scottish average of 62%. Also above the Scottish average is the percentage of people choosing to commute by train. In East Renfrewshire 9% of people commute using trains as opposed to Scottish average of 4%. Below the Scottish average of 10% is the percentage of people opting to travel to work on foot. At only 3%, East Renfrewshire is well below the Scottish average **[See reference 144]**.

5.115 East Renfrewshire has a lower proportion of residents at 4% who travel to work using active travel modes when compared to Scottish average of 11% **[See reference 145]**.

5.116 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there was a rise in the number of people working from home therefore reducing the number of commutes. In April 2020, nearly half (46.6%) of people in employment did some of their work from home, with the vast majority (86.0%) of these homeworkers stating that this was because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic **[See reference 146]**. This rise in homeworking will likely be reflected within the Census 2022 data.

Commute to Study

5.117 The commute to study figures relate to people aged 4 and over and in full time education. Approximately 32% of people in education travel to their place of study by car or taxi. This is above the Scottish average of 22%. Approximately 33% of travel on foot which is below the Scottish average of 39%. As with the travel to work figures, East Renfrewshire has a higher percentage (8%) of train users than the Scottish average (3%). Travel via bus is similar for both East Renfrewshire (18%) and Scotland (22%) **[See reference 147]**.

Chapter 6

Strategic Environmental Assessment findings

6.1 This chapter of the Environmental Report sets out the assessment findings and the significant environmental effects of the Draft GTZAP by theme. The assessment identifies effects arising directly from the draft GTZAP and any effects, which would indirectly impact on the baseline environment. The effects have been assessed against each SEA topic while taking into consideration the SEA objectives within the assessment and the impact of the draft GTZAP on the environmental baseline. The actions numbers below each action theme relate to the actions detailed in the Draft GTZAP, published alongside this draft Environmental Report.

Improving data and capability

Action 1, Action 4, Action 30, Action 31, Action 32, Action 33, Action 34, Action 35

6.2 Action 1 will implement Climate Change Impact Assessment and Carbon Budgeting across major decision-making gateways within the Council. Actions 4, 31, 32 and 33 relate to improving data collection through establishing a platform for data sharing; improve data on transport emissions; and, improving data collection from the community and to better inform decision making. Finally, Actions 34, 35 and 36 deal with climate change training for council staff.

6.3 The actions within this theme are enabling actions meaning that the actions can have effects on the environment which are not directly as a result of the action. Overall, **no direct effects** were identified in relation to the SEA topics for the Improving data and capability action theme. The actions within

this theme are expected to deliver minor positive indirect short and medium term effects in relation to Climatic Factors and Population and Human Health from better decision making and improved data collection that will lead to a reduction in emissions and improved climate resilience of the community. The majority of benefits in relation to this action theme will occur in the short term, less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, some effects in relation to this action theme will occur in 2-5 years.

6.4 In the Improving data and capability action theme, indirect minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health as the actions included in this theme are likely to indirectly enable better decision making and encourage local action against climate change through council staff training which will support healthy living and local community resilience. The effects in relation to this action theme will occur within the short to medium term, 1-2 years or 2-5 years.

Communication and transparency

Action 2, Action 3, Action 12, Action 13, Action 14

6.5 Actions 2 and 3 relate to establishing a process to monitor the progress of the Get to Zero actions and annual progress reporting on achieving net zero. Actions 12, 13 & 15 relate to education through embedding climate change within the school curriculum and increasing the number of schools across East Renfrewshire that achieve the Green Flag Award.

6.6 The actions within this theme are expected to deliver short and medium term effects in relation to climatic factors, biodiversity, flora and fauna and population and human health. Overall, only direct effects were identified in relation to population and human health for the Communication and transparency action theme. These minor positive effects result from support for local action and improved decision making driving behavioural change which supports climate resilience in the short to medium term.

6.7 Indirect effects were identified in relation to climatic factors and biodiversity, flora and fauna as the actions within this theme are enabling actions. Minor positive indirect effects for climatic factors are anticipated in the medium term from improved governance and education reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The majority of effects will occur within less than 1 year or 1-2 years, however, some effects will occur within 2-5 years. Minor positive indirect effects for biodiversity, flora and fauna are anticipated from implementation of the Green Flag award scheme with benefits for biodiversity in school grounds in the medium term, 2-5 years.

Consumption

Action 5, Action 6, Action 7, Action 8, Action 9, Action 10, Action 11

6.8 Actions 5-8 relate to the circular economy including changes in the consumption of textiles and supporting the circular economy through community projects. Action 6 specifically supports the implementation of the National Food Waste Reduction Action Plan. Action 10 and Action 11 relate to improving recycling through a review of recycling service provisions and working with Clyde Valley Residual Waste Contract team to review and act on further opportunities to reduce emissions. Finally, Action 12 seeks to develop a Local Food Growing Strategy.

6.9 The actions within this theme are expected to deliver short, medium and long term effects in relation to climatic factors, Population and Human Health, soil, water, air and material assets.

6.10 Overall, direct effects were identified in relation to the following SEA topics: climatic factors, population and human health, soil, water, air and material assets for the Consumption action theme. However, indirect effects were also identified in relation to climatic factors, biodiversity flora and fauna and population and human health as the actions within this theme are enabling actions.

6.11 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **climatic factors** as adopting a circular economy model supports a reduction in energy consumption and GHG emissions. All of the effects will occur within the medium term, 2-5 years. Indirect minor positive effects are anticipated from the emissions savings from food waste reduction, improved recycling and reuse of materials, and local food growing. The majority of small-scale effects will occur in the less than 1 year and 1-2 years, however some of the effects will be 2-5 years or more than 10 years.

6.12 Growing local food and the reuse of products and materials through a circular economy model can reduce financial costs and help engage local communities, with **indirect minor positive effects** in relation to population and human health. The majority of effects will occur in the short term either less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.

6.13 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **soil** as increased recycling is likely to result in less littering and pollution of soils. All the effects will occur within the short-term, less than one year or 1-2 years.

6.14 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **water** as improved recycling is likely to reduce pollution of local waters. The reuse of textiles reduces water use in the creation of new materials. All the effects will occur within the short-term, less than one year or 1-2 years.

6.15 In the Consumption actions theme, overseas impacts are expected as the production of new textiles is a water intensive process.

6.16 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **air** as reduced food waste; growing local food; adopting a circular economy model; and, a reduction in non-recyclable waste are likely to improve the overall air quality through lower energy consumption and reduced GHG emissions. The majority of effects will occur in the short term either less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.

6.17 Overseas impacts are expected as the reuse of textiles could reduce production associated emissions improving air quality.

6.18 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **material assets** as the Food Waste Reduction Plan is likely to reduce the demand for waste facilities. Increased recycling supports the sustainable use of materials and reduced demand for new materials. The majority of effects will occur in the short term either less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.

6.19 No effects were identified in relation to **Biodiversity, flora and fauna; cultural heritage and historic environment;** and, **landscape and geodiversity.**

Heating and powering homes and businesses

Action 15, Action 16, Action 17, Action 23 and Action 24

6.20 Actions 15 and 16 relate to the development and implementation of the Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy which will set the framework for heat decarbonisation and reducing energy demand across Council estate. Action 18 will support the development of a Local Housing Strategy 2022-27 which will help to improve energy efficiency across all housing tenures. Action 23 will enable the development of an Energy Awareness Campaign for residents within East Renfrewshire. Finally, Action 24 will explore opportunities for renewable energy projects of varying scale and develop business cases for them.

6.21 The actions within this theme are expected to deliver short and long term minor positive effects in relation to climatic factors; biodiversity flora and fauna; population and human health; soil; air; landscape and geodiversity; and, material assets. Overall, direct effects were identified in relation to the following SEA topics: climatic factors; biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; soil; air; landscape and geodiversity; and material assets.

Additionally, indirect effects were identified in relation to climatic factors and population and human health as the actions within this theme are also enabling actions.

6.22 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **climatic factors** as the Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy and Local Housing Strategy 2022- 27 are likely to deliver more energy efficient systems that will have a positive effects on GHG emissions by reducing carbon emissions from housing stock through improved energy efficiency. In terms of renewable energy generation, the developments have the potential to deliver positive effects by transitioning to more green energy and displacing emissions from fossil fuels. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year or 1-2 years, although some of the effects will occur within the long term over 5 years. **Indirect minor positive effects** are expected from the delivery of renewable energy projects through these actions in the longer term. However, this depends on the scope of renewable energy development. All the effects will occur within the long term, 5-10 years.

6.23 Uncertain effects are expected in relation to **biodiversity, flora and fauna, soil and landscape and geodiversity** as there is insufficient information about the scale of the renewable energy projects coming forward. The majority of effects will occur within the long term, 5-10 years.

6.24 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **population and human health** as the Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy and Local Housing Strategy 2022-27 is likely to lead to more energy efficient buildings that have reduced energy demand and lower running costs. In terms of renewable energy generation, these projects and interlinked displaced emissions from fossil fuels have the potential for indirect minor positive effects on the local population by providing access to green energy. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year or 1-2 years. Some of the effects will occur within the long term over 5 years.

6.25 For the Heating and powering homes and businesses action theme, renewable energy projects could provide wider benefits beyond East

Renfrewshire in relation to reduced energy costs. However, this depends on the scope of development. Therefore, **indirect uncertain effects** were identified

6.26 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **air** as the Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy and Local Housing Strategy 2022-27 and renewable energy projects are likely to lead to reduced emissions and as a result improve air quality. Renewable energy generation developments will also reduce reliance on fossil fuels and support an increase in the use of green energy. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year or 1-2 years. Some of the effects will occur within the long term over 5 years.

6.27 Direct minor negative and uncertain effects are expected in relation to **material assets** as there is insufficient information about the scale of the renewable energy projects. However, new renewable energy generation facilities will require materials for construction and maintenance. Effects will occur within the long term, 5-10 years.

6.28 No effects are identified in relation to water and cultural heritage and historic environment.

Our estate

Action 18, Action 19, Action 20, Action 21, Action 22, Action 36, Action 37, Action 38, Action 39, Action 40, Action 41, Action 42, Action 43, Action 44

6.29 Actions 18 – 22 relate to improving the energy efficiency of council housing. Actions 36 – 41 will support the continuous improvement to Council estate through giving greater power to Building Responsible Persons and improving/expanding energy reductions through improvements to the fabric of buildings and installations of low-energy systems. Actions 42-46 relate to the completion and review of the ERCLT; planning, investing in the recommended

actions; and completing actions for short-term improvements in environmental performance at ERCLT facilities.

6.30 The actions within this theme are expected to deliver short, medium and long term effects in relation to climatic factors; population and human health; water; air; cultural heritage and historic environment; and, material assets. Overall, only direct effects were identified in relation to the following SEA topics: climatic factors; population and human health; water; air; and, material assets for the Our estate action theme. However, indirect effects were identified in relation to climatic factors; cultural heritage and historic assets; and, material assets as the actions within this theme are enabling actions.

6.31 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **climatic factors** as more energy efficient solutions implemented within the council's estate are likely to reduce the overall GHG emissions and energy demand. Some effects will occur in the next 1-2 years, however the majority of effects will be beyond 5 or 10 years. Indirect minor positive effects are anticipated from options and investment recommendations that potentially lead to reduced carbon emissions in the longer term from more energy efficient solutions implemented across the council's estate. Short term effects will occur in the next 1-2 years, however the majority of effects will be beyond 5 or 10 years.

6.32 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **population and human health** from more sustainable investments linked with the council's estate which are likely to improve air quality positively impacting on the human health. There are also opportunities for reducing fuel poverty through housing being more energy efficient. Similar reductions in costs are possible for council buildings. Some short term effects will occur in the next 1-2 years, however the majority of effects will be beyond 5 or 10 years reflecting the timescales for investment and change.

6.33 Uncertain effects are expected in relation to **water** as it is unclear if investing in the council estate will include adaptations for reduced demand for water and improved approach to water recycling. Any effects associated with this theme will be in the short term within 1-2 years.

6.34 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **air** from reduced emissions from the council's estate which are likely to result in improved air quality. Improving the energy efficiency of council buildings and housing will reduce energy demand and associated emissions. Some short term effects will occur in the next 1-2 years, however the majority of effects will be beyond 5 or 10 years, reflecting the timescales for investment and change.

6.35 Indirect mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to **cultural heritage and the historic environment** as improving energy efficiency through retrofitting could impact negatively on the integrity of these assets, but also support the viability of their future use and ensure protection from the impacts of climate change. These effects are likely in the longer term, beyond 10 years.

6.36 Direct minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to **material assets** as it is expected that more materials will be recycled and reused where feasible and if new materials are required they will be more sustainable. However, new materials will be required to retrofit existing buildings and construct new housing. Some effects may occur within 1-2 years, however the majority of effects will be within the longer term beyond ten years reflecting the timescale for investment and change. **Indirect minor positive effects** are expected from the use of sustainable materials when upgrading the estate. There are potential negative overseas effects from extraction of the new materials required for improving the energy efficiency of the Council's estate. Some effects may occur within 1-2 years, however the majority of effects will be within the longer term beyond 10 years.

6.37 No effects were identified in relation to **biodiversity, flora and fauna; soil; and, landscape and geodiversity**.

Our vehicles

Action 45, Action 46, Action 47, Action 48, Action 49, Action 50, Action 51, Action 52, Action 53, Action 54, Action 55, Action 56, Action 57, Action 58

6.38 Action 45 will enable the set-up of a fleet decarbonisation taskforce to consider options for vehicles and charging infrastructure. Actions 46 and 47 will support the investment in depot infrastructure. Actions 48-53 will enable an options appraisal and preparation of a business case for investment to decarbonise HSCP, roads, neighbourhood services, education and other Council vehicles. Following this, Actions 54-56 relate to investment to transition to a low-carbon fleet for Council cars, vans and heavy fleet. Action 58 will increase access to and availability of pool bikes, e-bikes and electric cars and promote the use of these modes of transport. Finally, Action 58 will investigate options for route optimisation to minimise mileage across all fleet and investment in improvements.

6.39 The actions within this theme are expected to deliver short and medium term effects in relation to climatic factors; biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; air; landscape and geodiversity; and, materials assets. Overall, only direct effects were identified against the following SEA topics: climatic factors; biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; air; landscape and geodiversity; and, materials assets for Our vehicles action theme. Additionally, indirect effects were identified in relation to material assets as the actions within this theme are enabling actions.

6.40 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **climatic factors** as introducing new electric vehicle fleet and route optimisation will reduce transport related GHG emissions. There is also the potential for reduced demand for electricity to power electric vehicles enabled by optimisation of routes. The use of electric vehicles will be supported by depot infrastructure. During this assessment it was assumed that route optimisation will be implemented for existing petrol/diesel powered vehicles as well as new Electric Vehicles and at least 50% of journeys can be made by pool vehicles. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.

6.41 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **population and human health** as increased use of bikes, e-bikes and electric vehicles will reduce GHG emissions having a positive impact on air quality. Improvements to air quality will have a positive impact on the health and

wellbeing of residents within East Renfrewshire. The introduction of new low carbon fleet gives Council staff more transport options and could increase physical activity levels. All the effects will occur in the short term within 1-2 years.

6.42 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **air** from the higher uptake of electric vehicles, bikes and e-bikes. Route optimisation is likely to lead to reductions in emissions from the Council's fleet. The decarbonisation of the council fleet will reduce GHG emissions, therefore, improving air quality. The majority of effects will occur in the short term within 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.

6.43 Direct minor negative effects are expected in relation to **landscape and geodiversity** as the construction of new depot infrastructure could negatively impact the local landscape character. All the effects will occur in the short term within 1-2 years.

6.44 Direct mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to **material assets**. There are potential savings to be made through route optimisation encouraging shorter vehicle journeys. However, there are indirect minor negative effects from the purchase of new electric vehicles which requires extensive production and construction of new infrastructure and vehicles. During this assessment it was assumed that the majority of materials for depot infrastructure will be sourced from within the UK. The majority of effects will occur in the short term within 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years. There is the potential for minor negative overseas effects from extraction of lithium for Electric Vehicle batteries which leads to mining waste arisings including sulfuric acid, lime and magnesium waste. These effects will occur in the long term.

6.45 No effects were identified in relation to **biodiversity, flora and fauna; soil; water;** and, **cultural heritage and historic environment.**

Transport

Action 88, Action 89, Action 90, Action 91, Action 92, Action 93, Action 94, Action 95, Action 96, Action 97, Action 98

6.46 Action 88 relates to embedding the 20 minute neighbourhood concept into planning, transport and place-making policies. Actions 89 and 90 relate to the development of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Policy and development Strategy and following this the expansion of EV charging points. Actions 91 and 92 enable the publication and implementation of the Local Transport Strategy. Actions 93 and 94 enable the publication and implementation of the Active Travel Plan. Action 95 relates to improving communications, information and advice relating to sustainable transport and active travel options for staff and the public. Actions 96 and 97 relate to the implementation of street lighting improvement initiative. Finally, Action 98 will ensure participation in the Climate Ready Clyde action group.

6.47 The actions within this theme are expected to deliver short, medium and long term effects in relation to all the nine SEA topics except cultural heritage and historic environment. Direct effects, were identified against climatic factors; biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; soil; air; landscape and geodiversity; and, material assets. However, indirect effects were identified in relation to water and material assets as the actions within this theme are enabling actions.

6.48 The following assumptions have been made through this assessment:

- The integration of the 20-minute neighbourhoods concept and new transport strategies will lead to a significant increase in the uptake of active travel and a decrease in private car journeys;
- The integration of the 20-minute neighbourhood concept and Active Travel Strategy will include actions to enhance and deliver more greenspaces;
- A significant proportion of the population will take up active travel;
- An increase in green infrastructure reduces run off and flood risk;

- Development of active travel routes would support increased green infrastructure;
- Demand for private vehicles would decrease;
- The number of electric vehicles would increase;
- EV charging infrastructure will be delivered on existing parking lots;
- The Transport Strategy and Active Travel Plan will deliver development;
- New street lighting installed will be installed where there were none previously;
- Waste LED lights will be recycled in the UK; and,
- There will be an improved public transport system.

6.49 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **climatic factors** from integration of 20-minutes neighbourhoods which are likely to reduce the number of vehicle trips and increase the number of journeys made using active travel. Investment in EV infrastructure will support the transition from petrol/diesel to electric vehicles reducing GHG transport related emissions. The Local Transport Strategy and Active Travel Plan will encourage a sustainable travel hierarchy further reducing GHG transport related emissions. Additionally, immediate effects are expected as replacement of existing lighting with LED lights is likely to reduce energy demand, however there may be a net increase in lighting provision on new active travel routes which may counteract this. It is unclear how many new lights will be installed and replaced. The majority of effects will occur over the medium to long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years. Some effects will occur with 1-2 years.

6.50 Indirect minor positive effects are expected as increased uptake of public transport is likely to reduce overall transport related GHG emissions. The majority of effects will occur over long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years. Some effects will occur with 1-2 years.

6.51 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **biodiversity, flora and fauna** as improvements to and creation of active travel routes is likely to lead to enhanced green infrastructure that will support biodiversity and the creation or improvement of habitat networks. The effects will occur at a range of timescales which include 1-2 years, 2-5 years and longer term at 5-10 years.

6.52 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **population and human health** from increased opportunities for active travel encouraging higher levels of physical activity and from improved air quality due to a reduced number of petrol/diesel cars on the roads. This will support improvements in physical health and mental wellbeing. Encouraging behavioural change will further create positive benefits to population and human health. The increase in EV charging will also help support the transition from petrol/diesel vehicles to electric vehicles through improved accessibility to charging points. The majority of effects will occur over long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years. Some effects will occur with 1-2 years.

6.53 Direct mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to **soil** as the delivery of new active travel or transport infrastructure is likely to cause disturbance to undisturbed soils. However, soils may be protected through the creation of green infrastructure as part of active travel networks. The majority of effects will occur over the long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years.

6.54 Indirect minor positive effects are expected in relation to water as actions that increase green and blue infrastructure are likely to reduce flood risk and improve flood risk. The majority of effects will occur over long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years.

6.55 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **air** from the implementation of the 20 minute neighbourhood concept and new transport and active travel strategies as these are likely to reduce transport related emissions due to the uptake of public transport and active travel modes. The increase in EV charging will support the transition away from petrol/diesel

vehicles which will improve air quality. The majority of effects will occur over long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years.

6.56 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **landscape and geodiversity** as implementation of 20 minute neighbourhoods and active travel routes may support the enhancement and/or the creation of green infrastructure. The majority of effects will occur over short and medium term at either less than 1 year or 2-5 years.

6.57 Direct minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to **material assets** as the expansion of EV charging; enhancement and creation of active travel networks; and, replacement of and new lighting will require the use of materials to support and develop these actions, but will also enhance these assets. The majority of effects will occur over long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years. Some effects will occur with 1-2 years. Indirect minor positive effects are that the expansion of EV charging across East Renfrewshire and through partnership working and funding opportunities will likely support further EV charging across the Glasgow City Region. The majority of effects will occur over medium and long term. Some effects will occur within the short term, 1-2 years.

6.58 No direct effects are identified in relation to **cultural heritage and historic environment**.

Partnerships

Action 59, Action 60, Action 61, Action 62, Action 63, Action 64, Action 65, Action 66, Action 67, Action 68, Action 69 and Action 109

6.59 Actions 59 and 60 relate to climate resilience in regional supply chains, procurement and housing. Action 61 supports the delivery of the NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy's actions to increase active travel and the use of public transport to NHS sites. Action 62 will deliver the commitment as part of Climate Ready Clyde to plant trees as part of the

Clyde Climate Forest. Action 63 supports the delivery of the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network local and regional actions. Additionally, action 64 relates to contributing to the regional climate adaptation strategy and actions, led by Climate Ready Clyde. Action 65 relates to working with major suppliers to investigate the feasibility of establishing a funding mechanism that supports East Renfrewshire based insetting projects. Action 66 will investigate options for an Authority-based insetting approach. Action 67 will seek to deliver insetting projects with community partners to help them achieve net zero. Additionally, Action 68 will set out a plan for investing in offsetting credits for residual emissions. Action 69 relates to working with national partners to follow best practice and share intelligence from action in East Renfrewshire. Action 109 will provide homes and businesses with information on responsible products and suppliers, supporting trusted traders to provide reliable services for upgrading properties, and purchasing vehicles and consumer goods.

6.60 The actions within this theme are expected to deliver short, medium and long term effects in relation to Climatic Factors; biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; soil; water; air; landscape and geodiversity; and, material assets. However, a small number of actions have not been given a timescale. Direct effects have been identified in relation to all the nine SEA topics. No indirect effects were identified for the Partnerships action theme.

6.61 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **climatic factors** from collaborative actions that focus on encouraging higher uptake of active travel, planting trees and delivering green network as they are likely to result in reduced GHG emissions. Actions that focus on the supply chains and implementing of the authority based insetting approach are likely to lead to providing funding for insetting and offsetting projects that will enhance carbon sequestration within East Renfrewshire. However, the scale of insetting is currently unclear which will influence the overall effect on the environment. Climate resilient housing is expected to improve energy efficiency of housing and reduce energy demand. It was assumed through this assessment that there would be a relatively high uptake of active travel by NHS staff to incur a positive benefit. Additionally, it was assumed that the tree planting initiative will be of significant scale, and that the tree species will be climate resilient and planted in accordance with good practice avoiding peat soils. The majority of

effects will occur at the longer term timescale at 2-5 year or more than 10 years. Some of the effects will occur at 1-2 year or have no timescale. **Indirect minor positive effects** are expected from the actions that focus on the supply chains and implementing the authority based insetting approach with the potential for these actions to reduce GHG emissions. The majority of effects will occur at the medium to long term timescale at 2-5 year or more than 10 years. Some of the effects will occur at 1-2 year or have no timescale

6.62 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **biodiversity, flora and fauna** from collaborative action through measures such as planting trees and supporting the delivery of green networks as these have the potential to enrich biodiversity through the creation or enhancement of new habitats. However insetting projects may lead to a compromise to be made between increased carbon sequestration and biodiversity potentially resulting in negative effects. However, the scale of insetting projects is unclear. The majority of effects will occur within 2-5 years. However, some of the effects have no timescale.

6.63 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **population and human health** from collaborative action through initiatives such as higher uptake of active travel and delivery of green networks as these are likely to provide more opportunities for physical activity which is likely to have positive effects on mental and physical health. Reducing GHG emissions and increasing carbon sequestration are likely to lead to improved air quality with benefits for human health. The creation of climate resilient housing will reduce energy demand leading to lower energy costs and reduction in fuel poverty levels. The majority of effects will occur within longer term timescales at 2-5 years or more than 10 years. Some effects currently have no timescale.

6.64 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **soil** from collaborative action from protecting soils through delivery of green networks and the planting of trees which allow for better infiltration of rainwater and prevent soil erosion. The majority of effects will occur within 2-5 years, however some effects have no timescale.

6.65 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **water** from collaborative actions through delivery of green networks and planting trees that are likely to reduce flood risk through the creation of permeable surfaces. All effects will occur within 2-5 years, however some effects have no timescale.

6.66 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **air** from collaborative actions as increased uptake of active travel, tree planting and delivery of green networks will improve air quality through reduced transport emissions and increased filtering of air pollutants by vegetation. The majority of effects will occur within 2-5 years. However, some of the effects have no timescale.

6.67 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **landscape and geodiversity** from collaborative action as tree planting and delivery of green networks are likely to have positive effects on landscape by enhancing the green cover in the area. It was assumed through this assessment that the right tree in the right place approach will be used. The majority of effects will occur within 2-5 years. However, some of the effects have no timescale.

6.68 No effects are identified in relation to **cultural heritage and historic environment**.

6.69 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **material assets** from collaborative action as green networks and planting trees will add a positive asset to East Renfrewshire that can be used by local communities. The majority of effects will occur within 2-5 years. However, some of the effects have no timescale.

How we Work

Action 25, Action 26, Action 27, Action 28, Action 29

6.70 Action 26 will promote active travel and public transport use reducing car mileage by Council staff. Action 27 and 28 relates to reviewing the climate impacts of IT infrastructure and preparing a business case for investment in IT infrastructure. Action 29 relates to reviewing waste across the Council and taking action to reduce, reuse or recycle more material. Action 30 supports the expansion and improvements in IT technology to enable home/remote working.

6.71 All the actions within this theme will deliver short term effects on the environment within less than a year or 1-2 years. Direct effects have been identified in relation to climatic factors; population and human health; air; and, material assets for the How we work action theme. No indirect effects were identified for the How we work action theme.

6.72 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **climatic factors** as reducing car use for Council staff commuting and supporting home working is likely to reduce GHG emissions from transport. Updating existing IT equipment will lower GHG emissions from older more inefficient equipment but will require the purchase of new IT equipment, and the use of new resources which has negative effects on climatic factors. The assessment has assumed that a significant number of Council staff will take up active travel as their key mode of transport. All of the effects will occur within less than 1 year or 1-2 years.

6.73 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **population and human health** as reducing car use for Council staff is likely to provide more opportunities for physical activity improving physical and mental health and wellbeing. However, providing better opportunities for Council staff to work from home may result in staff not needing to travel to work. All of the effects will occur within less than 1 year or 1-2 years.

6.74 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **air** as the actions included in this theme are likely to reduce the overall GHG emissions from recycling IT equipment and encouraging active travel for Council staff

commuting which will improve air quality. All of the effects will occur within less than 1 year or 1-2 years.

6.75 Direct mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to **material assets** from this action theme as there will be a requirement for new IT equipment to replace older and less efficient equipment. However, there may be opportunities for updating existing equipment or recycling equipment that is not required. All of the effects will occur within less than 1 year or 1-2 years.

6.76 No effects are identified in relation to **biodiversity, flora and fauna; soil; water; cultural heritage and historic environment; and, landscape and geodiversity.**

Investing in communities

Action 70, Action 71, Action 72, Action 73

6.77 Action 70 will scope the opportunity for local 'work hubs' enabling a distributed workforce and overcome the dis-benefits of home-working. Actions 71-73 relate to City Deal projects and ensuring that projects are developed and delivered with climate change a key consideration while introducing Scottish Government protocols for calculating a whole lifecycle approach.

6.78 The majority of actions within this theme have no identified timescale. However, the action 71 will be delivered within the short term, 1-2 years. Direct effects, were identified in relation to the following SEA topics: climatic factors; biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; soil; air; and landscape and geodiversity; and, material assets for Investing in communities action theme. No indirect effects were identified for Investing in communities action theme.

6.79 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **climatic factors** from local work hubs as these are likely to reduce the need to travel to work and will reduce transport related emissions within 1-2 years. Additionally, the delivery of City Deal projects will incorporate a 'whole lifecycle' approach supporting reductions in emissions and providing climate adaptation. The majority of effects have no current timescale.

6.80 Direct minor negative effects are expected in relation to **biodiversity, flora and fauna** as the delivery of City Deal projects could result in disruption to the local environment and areas that contain biodiversity interest. All effects have no specified timescale.

6.81 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **population and human health** as local work hubs will provide opportunities for social interaction and local active travel within 1-2 years. In addition the delivery of City Deal projects will offer employment opportunities and deliver needed infrastructure improvements within East Renfrewshire. The majority of effects have no current timescale.

6.82 Direct minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to **soil** as development associated with City Deal projects will require the use of land but some of this could be vacant/brownfield land. All effects have no specified timescale.

6.83 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **air** as use of local work hubs and increased use of active travel modes and public transport through the delivery of City Deal projects will lead to better air quality through a reduction in transport related emissions. Some effects will occur within 1-2 years.

6.84 Direct minor negative effects are expected in relation to **landscape and geodiversity** as delivery the City Deal Projects could result in disrupting the natural environment and local landscape. All effects have no specified timescale.

6.85 Direct minor negative effects are expected in relation to **material assets** as delivery of new working hubs may require resources. The delivery of City Deal projects will require raw materials during construction phase. Some effects will occur within 1-2 years.

6.86 No direct effects are identified in relation to water and cultural heritage and historic environment.

The built environment

Action 74, Action 75, Action 76, Action 77, Action 78, Action 79, Action 80, Action 81, Action 82, Action 83, Action 84, Action 85, Action 86, Action 87

6.87 Action 74 relates to introducing the Scottish Government's updated Building Standards and the 2024 New Build Heat Standard. Actions 75 and 76 enable the completion of an open space audit and publishing a biodiversity protection action plan. Actions 77-82 relate to preparing and implementing planning guidance for Developer Contributions, Green Network, Affordable Housing, Householder Design Guide, Place making and Low and Zero Carbon. Action 83 will support the development of LDP3 to strengthen the framework for a zero carbon future. Action 84 will support working with developers, partners and across the Council to investigate ways that a lifecycle assessment approach can be introduced. Actions 85 and 86 enables the completion of a Climate Change Risk Assessment and the implementation of the recommended actions. Action 87 will implement changes to management practices for parks and open spaces to reduce operational emissions and review opportunities for increased carbon sequestration and biodiversity.

6.88 The actions within this theme are expected to deliver short, medium and long term effects in relation to all the nine SEA topics. Direct effects were identified against the nine SEA topics. However, indirect effects were identified in relation to climatic factors; population and human health; biodiversity, flora

and fauna; soil; water; air; and, landscape and geodiversity as the actions within this theme are enabling actions.

6.89 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **climatic factors** as lower operational emissions and more energy efficient solutions will result in lower GHG emissions. Additionally, securing the climate resilience of places, buildings and people could include use of better materials, selecting plants and species suitable for the changing climate which will enable continued carbon sequestration. It is assumed through this assessment that low carbon materials and energy efficiency systems will be required through the building standards update and LDP3. It is also assumed that the Householder Design Guide will include specific reference to improving energy efficiency of homes. The final assumption made was that that climate adaptation measures will enhance carbon sequestration. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years or over 10 years. **Indirect minor positive effects** are expected in relation from the Biodiversity Protection Action Plan and Open Space Audit as it is likely to lead to increased carbon sequestration through the enhancement of existing and new greenspaces. Green Networks supplementary planning guidance will support the use of active travel modes and enhancement of green networks. The development of LDP3, additional planning guidance and implementation of climate change adaptation will support reducing energy demand of buildings and encourage the enhancement of greenspaces. This will result in reduced GHG emissions and offer opportunities for carbon sequestration. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years or over 10 years.

6.90 Direct significant positive effects are expected in relation to **biodiversity, flora and fauna** as it is likely that the measures with the Biodiversity Protection Action Plan will ensure that new habitat networks are created and existing habitats are protected and areas of biodiversity value are protected and enhanced. The assessment is assuming that the Biodiversity Protection Action Plan will include actions that will significantly boost the quality of biodiversity. The implementation of the Action Plan will be in the short term, less than 1 year, with effects both immediate and increasing over

the longer term. If parks and open spaces are not managed, this could result in an increasing number of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed/Horsetail. This could have a negative effect on local biodiversity resulting in **direct minor negative effect** in relation to **biodiversity, flora and fauna**. **Indirect minor positive effects** are expected from the improved management of parks and open spaces for carbon reduction also bringing biodiversity benefit. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years.

6.91 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **population and human health** as ensuring the resilience of the population against climate change will support improved wellbeing. Reducing the energy demand of buildings will lower energy costs and reduce levels of fuel poverty. The development of specific planning guidance will also support the creation of high quality places and encourage good design while supporting the enhancement of local facilities and services. It is assumed through this assessment that climate adaptation measures will enhance the climate resilience of the local population. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years or over 10 years.

6.92 Indirect minor positive effects are expected as LDP3, planning guidance and Biodiversity Protection Action Plan is likely to protect and improve the quality of greenspaces providing better opportunities for recreation. Development contributions planning guidance could provide funding to support projects that enhance energy efficiency, sustainable travel, and enhancements to local infrastructure. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years or over 10 years.

6.93 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **soil** as the action relating to park management will support soil health due to reduced chemical inputs and mowing. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, 1-2 years. Indirect minor positive effects are also expected from actions within the Biodiversity Action Plan also bringing benefits to soil. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years.

6.94 Direct uncertain effects are expected in relation to **water** as improvements in parks management could improve water quality through the reduced use of chemicals. It is uncertain if the development of specific planning guidance will reduce the overall demand for water and reduce the risk of water pollution. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, 1-2 years. Indirect effects are also expected from actions within the Biodiversity Action Plan also bringing benefits to water.

6.95 For the built environment action theme, **indirect minor positive effects** are expected in relation to **water** as the Biodiversity Action Plan is likely to include actions that will improve water quality and maintain water quantity. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years.

6.96 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **air** as some of the actions within this theme including improving parks management are likely to reduce emissions associated with heating and transport and enhance green spaces supporting carbon sequestration. Overall, increased vegetation will help to improve air quality. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years or over 10 years. Indirect minor positive effects are expected from increased vegetation from green networks capturing air pollutants.

6.97 For the built environment action theme, **indirect minor positive effects** are expected in relation to **air** as green networks will help capture GHG emissions and support active travel reducing transport related emissions. Planning guidance will support sustainable development and achieving net zero reducing GHG emissions and improving air quality. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years or over 10 years.

6.98 Direct minor positive and uncertain effects are expected in relation to **cultural heritage and the historic environment** from climate adaptation measures as they are likely to ensure climate resilience of historic assets where possible. There are uncertain effects resulting from the development of

specific planning guidance as it is unknown the impacts the guidance could have on the retrofitting of historic buildings. It is also unclear if the guidance will cover best practice in retrofitting of historic buildings. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years.

6.99 Direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to **landscape and geodiversity** as the actions within this theme will continue the protection of local landscapes and countryside particularly through improvements to parks management and the completion of an open space audit. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. Indirect minor positive effects are expected in relation to improvements to open spaces and green networks.

6.100 For the built environment action theme, **indirect minor positive effects** are expected in relation to **landscape and geodiversity** as any improvements to open spaces and green networks are likely to have positive effects on the local landscape. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years.

6.101 Direct minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to **material assets** as the quality of the built environment, active travel infrastructure and greenspaces will improve through changes to management and the development of guidance. New housing will be more energy efficient and the sustainable use of materials will be encouraged. However, construction of new infrastructure will require raw materials. Developer contributions planning guidance will offer the opportunity to enhance material assets within East Renfrewshire. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years.

What we buy – procurement and shaping our supply chain

Action 99, Action 100, Action 101, Action 102, Action 103, Action 104, Action 105, Action 106, Action 107, Action 108

6.102 Action 100 relates to exploring implications and complete a cost-benefit-analysis to mandate that all major projects follow the voluntary Net Zero Public Buildings Standard. Action 101 relates to the implementation of the Scottish Government guidance on the Sustainable Procurement Duty. Action 102 enables engaging with suppliers with the largest carbon footprints to explore what data on life-cycle-assessment can be shared to establish best practice and to affirm the Council's commitment to reducing emissions in its supply chain. Action 103 supports the collaboration with public sector procurement community to improve the assessment, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of GHG emissions through the supply chain. Actions 99 and 104-108 relate to reviewing supply chain emissions from digital equipment, food, social care, building & construction, roads and furniture.

6.103 Overall, **no direct effects** were identified against the SEA topics for What we buy – procurement and shaping our supply chain action theme. However, minor positive indirect effects were identified in relation to climatic factors; air; and material assets as the actions within this theme are enabling actions. These effects are expected within the short to medium term, as an improved approach to procurement and the supply chain reduces greenhouse gas emissions, reductions in carbon emissions are associate with improved air quality, and sustainable procure is expected to reduce resource use, benefiting material assets.

6.104 For the What we Buy – Procurement and Shaping our Supply Chain action theme, **indirect minor positive effects** are expected in relation to climatic factors as actions included in this theme are likely to lead to reduced carbon emissions through improved approach to procurement and a better understanding of the supply chain emissions. The majority of effects will occur

in the short term, either less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur between 2-5 years.

6.105 For the What we Buy – Procurement and Shaping our Supply Chain action theme, indirect minor positive effects are expected in relation to air as actions included in this theme will enable future improvements to air quality. Effects will either occur at less than 1 year or 2-5 years.

6.106 For the What we Buy – Procurement and Shaping our Supply Chain action theme, indirect minor positive effects are expected in relation to material assets as actions included in this theme support energy efficient development and improved procurement decisions. The majority of effects will occur in the short term, either less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur between 2-5 years.

6.107 No indirect effects were identified in relation to landscape and geodiversity for Heating and powering homes and businesses; Our vehicles; Transport; Partnerships; Improving Data and Capability; Consumption; What we Buy – Procurement and Shaping our Supply Chain; Our estates; and, How we work; and, Investing in communities action theme.

6.108 In the Consumption action theme, overseas impacts are expected as the use of recycled textiles supports the sustainable use of materials.

6.109 No indirect effects were identified in relation to material assets for Consumption; Heating and powering homes and businesses; Partnerships; Investing in communities; Improving Data and Capability; The built environment and, How we Work action theme.

Cumulative, secondary, and synergistic effects

6.110 This section of the Environmental Report sets out the potential cumulative, secondary, and synergistic effects which may arise from the actions in the Get to Zero Action Plan. It explores potential effects in relation to each of the SEA topics and identifies key issues arising for each topic. Table 5.1 provides an overview of the scores for each action theme.

Table 5.1: Overview of SEA scores

SEA topic	Communication	Consumption	Heating and powering	How we work	Investing in communities	Improving data and capability	Our estate	Our vehicles	Partnerships	The built environment	Transportation	What we buy
Climatic factors	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Biodiversity	+	0	?	0	-	0	0	0	+	+	+/-	0
Population and human health	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
Soil	0	+	?	0	+/-	0	0	0	+	+	+/-	0
Water	0	+	0	0	0	0	?	0	+	?	+	0
Air	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cultural heritage and historic environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	+/-	0	0
Landscape and geodiversity	0	0	?	0	-	0	0	-	+	+	+	0
Material assets	0	+	-	+/-	-	0	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+

Climatic factors

6.111 All of the action themes contribute positively to climatic factors reflecting the purpose of the GTZAP in reducing GHG emissions and energy demand across the Council either directly or indirectly. Across all action themes there is an overall positive cumulative effect for climatic factors through actions that reduce GHG emissions, lower energy demand and increase carbon sequestration. Synergistic effects are likely to arise from increasing awareness and understanding of actions and their impacts on climate change, which will further improve the implementation of actions to support net zero across all sectors. However, many of the actions to reduce emissions require initial infrastructure change, which impacts on the payback period for emissions savings, although these should achieve emissions savings in the longer term.

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

6.112 Just under half of the action themes do not have an identified effect in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna. However, positive effects were identified in relation to the built environment; communication and transparency, consumption and partnerships action themes. There is potential for negative in-combination effects on biodiversity through potential loss of habitat from new developments or refurbishment proposed by actions within the heating and powering homes and businesses and investing in communities theme.

Population and human health

6.113 The majority of action themes are cumulatively positive for population and human health as the action themes support actions which benefit physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Soil

6.114 Minor positive effects are anticipated from the actions to reduce plastic waste, enhance green networks and improve parks management, however there could be the cumulative loss of soils from the development arising from City Deal projects and the development of transport infrastructure.

6.115 Uncertain effects are identified in relation to soil as there is insufficient information about the scale of the renewable energy projects proposed through the Heating and powering homes and businesses action theme.

Water

6.116 For the majority of action themes, there are no effects on water. Where effects are identified they are positive with benefits for water quality and quantity for East Renfrewshire. These positive effects arise from reduced littering, reduced flood risk from green network enhancements. However, uncertain effects were identified for The Built Environment and Our Estate themes due to the unknown effect on water quality and quantity.

Air

6.117 Overall cumulative effects for air are expected to be positive due to the action themes reducing GHG emissions through energy efficiency and decarbonisation also reducing sources of air pollution, which will improve air quality.

Cultural heritage and historic environment

6.118 Overall, limited effects for cultural heritage and the historic environment were identified. Mixed effects were identified for Our Estate and the Built Environment action themes through the actions to deliver more energy efficient buildings, improving the structure and resilience of these buildings, but at the same time potentially impacting on the integrity of the structures. A key area of uncertainty is the proportion of buildings of cultural heritage value which would be impacted by the potential energy efficiency or heating changes.

Landscape and geodiversity

6.119 Overall, positive cumulative effects in relation to landscape and geodiversity are expected from increased provision of green networks, tree planting and improved park management. There are potential in-combination negative effects resulting from increased levels of development including infrastructure to support low carbon and energy efficiency measures.

Material assets

6.120 Overall, there are likely to be mixed minor positive and minor negative cumulative effects in relation to material assets. Overall the actions seek to improve the quality of infrastructure, reduce waste and increase the energy efficiency of assets through replacement and refurbishment. This results in action themes that will require the use of new raw materials, with the associated carbon footprint of these new materials, which enable the actions that reduce future emissions across the Council estate.

Chapter 7

Mitigation and enhancement

7.1 The 2005 Act states that ‘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’ are outlined within the Environmental Report. These measures are often referred to as mitigation measures. The following text summarises the mitigation measures identified from the assessment.

7.2 The SEA of the draft GTZAP has been undertaken as an iterative process. As such initial mitigation and enhancement was identified during the first phase of assessment and through the six workshops. The mitigation and enhancement was then considered for inclusion in the revised actions. Some of the initial enhancement will be reflected in the detail of the Action Plan as it is implemented, however other enhancement measures were identified as too detailed

7.3 No significant environmental effects have been identified, however a range of enhancement measures are described in relation to the actions below.

Table 7.1: Improving data and capability - Mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Ensure effective decision making framework for climate change Council decisions	Implement Climate Change Impact Assessment and Carbon Budgeting across major decision-making gateways in the Council.	The process of governance and decision making will be reviewed periodically and keep pace with SG requirements and public sector best practice.	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year
Community information and data sharing to support local action	We will establish a platform or channel to share data and intelligence with local action groups to support community action.		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Improve data collection from the community to inform decision-making and target investment	We will establish effective data/information needed to shape decision making for community investment and make improvements in the publication and availability of the data to the public and community partners.		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Improved data on transport emissions	We will review current data sources and work with experts and community partners to find ways of improving information on transport emissions within ERC. This will support achievement of the 2030 target to reduce car Kms by 20%.		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Improve data collection to better inform decision-making and prioritising action for the Council	We will improve the collection, analysis and reporting of data, considering both the range of information being collected and the processes to gather and analyse data		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Climate change training for priority staff and community partners	We will deliver training to support knowledge development and competence in priority personnel to take forward climate solutions across services	Identifying priority personnel should be linked to the main decision makers within this action plan.	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1 year
Climate change training for all staff	We will deliver training to support knowledge development and competence for all personnel, including induction training.	Identifying priority personnel should be linked to the main decision makers within this action plan.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Specific climate training for key service staff	Source and complete training for staff where specialist knowledge is required (e.g. carbon accounting, building standards, circular procurement)	The updated action could support the training of staff in appropriate data collection.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

Table 7.2: Communication and transparency - Mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Establish and maintain effective governance processes	Establish a governance process to monitor and report progress against GTZ actions, taking consideration of both Council operations and community impacts. This will be periodically reviewed to keep pace with Scottish Government requirements and public sector best practice.	Ensure action to support climate change considerations are given sufficient weight in decision making requirement for the longer-term view.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Establish annual reporting framework for GTZ progress	Commence annual cycle of reporting on progress towards Net Zero, outlining areas where actions are falling behind or progress is exceeding expectation. Annual reporting will keep pace with Scottish Government requirements and public sector best practice.	Ensure action to support climate change considerations are given sufficient weight in decision making requirement for the longer-term view.	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1 year
Embed climate change into primary and secondary curriculum	Build on progress to date by developing the scope and depth of climate change learning within the ERC schools curriculum		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Strengthen the uptake and effectiveness of 'Green Flag' scheme for ERC schools	We will support a further increase in the number of educational establishments achieving the Green Flag award and work with those schools who have Green Flag status to strengthen action		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Provide tools and information for public, staff, school pupils to take climate action	In collaboration with local and national partners we will provide one-to-many tools and information resources and, where appropriate, support campaigns to promote energy efficiency, responsible consumption, active travel and other important climate behaviours. This will specifically include our Education/Social Housing customers.		East Renfrewshire Council	< 1 year

Table 7.3: Consumption - Mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Textiles	Addressing the cost of school day - linking to uniforms to reduce consumption and enable reuse. This action will be explored in more detail following completion of the GTZAP.	To align with a circular economy model, the recycling of materials for school uniforms could be encouraged. This would reduce carbon emissions in the use of raw materials, and increase accessibility of uniforms to those on low income.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Food waste reduction plan	Support the implementation of the National food waste reduction action plan (FWRAP) to meet SG target of 33% reduction by 2025. Upon publication of the FWRAP, we will publish a set of actions that the Council shall deliver locally, involving communities, schools, and local businesses. This action will be explored in more detail following completion of the GTZAP.	If the Council were to go over and above the requirement set out in the FWRAP they could lower further food waste resulting in less waste going to landfill or composting.	East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Support a circular economy through community projects	We will identify community projects where Council support can help implement circular economy principles of prevent, reuse, refill, remake, remanufacture, share or function as a service. We will prepare recommendations for support and monitor the impact of these projects.	Ensure community projects are set up as soon as possible to bring benefits within a shorter timescale.	East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Single-use plastics - supporting water refill	We will work with partners, such as Scottish Water, to develop 'top-up' taps infrastructure to encourage use of refillable water bottles.		East Renfrewshire Council, Scottish Water	1-2 years
Work with contractor to further reduce emissions from non-recyclable waste	We will work with the Clyde Valley Residual Waste Contract team, and the contractor, to review and act on further opportunities to reduce emissions from waste disposal.		East Renfrewshire Council	>10 years
Improve recycling	We will undertake a review of recycling service provision, in light of changes arising from Deposit Return Scheme and Extended Producer	Set the ambition for recycling as high as possible.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
	Responsibility scheme and implement actions recommended by the review.			
Develop a local food growing strategy	We will complete a Food Growing Strategy to support citizens to grow more food and highlight the benefits of local food growing.	The Food Growing Strategy should be ambitious to ensure there is adequate land availability for food growing and the strategy promotes net zero growing practices, including use of peat, single use plastic, artificial fertilizer and other energy intensive products.	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year

Table 7.4: Heating and powering homes and businesses - mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)	Develop Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) which will set the framework for heat decarbonisation and reducing energy demand covering Council estate and community domestic and non-domestic properties.	Ensure that actions included in the Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy make use of solutions such as green roofs and walls which provide cooling in an energy efficient manner	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
		Explore opportunities for district heating at scale however ensuring that the solution is also cost efficient for the tenants		
Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) Action Plan	We will implement the actions determined by the LHEES where the Council has been identified as lead actor and support partners to implement their actions.	Ensure that actions included in the Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy make use of solutions such as green roofs and walls which provide cooling in an energy efficient manner.	East Renfrewshire Council	>10 years
Develop updated Local Housing Strategy 2022-27	Develop the Local Housing Strategy 2022-27, which will include key targets / tasks to improve energy efficiency across all tenures to meet legislative obligations, maximise grant funding and contribute towards the Council's 'Get to Zero' agenda.	The action could support going above legislative obligations where possible to improve energy efficiency and further reduce carbon emissions.	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1 year
Communication campaign	We will develop an Energy Awareness Campaign for residents, including Council house tenants linking to the work on fuel poverty	This could be linked to monitoring to understand effectiveness of the campaign and more targeted future action to achieve greater carbon reductions.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Explore potential for council and public renewable projects	Investigate and scope opportunities for renewable energy projects of varying scale and develop business cases for them where applicable and appropriate.	The action could make specific reference to scoping opportunities for district heating where cost effective.	East Renfrewshire Council	5-10 years

Table 7.5: Our estate - mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Develop an investment strategy to achieve EESH 2	Upon completion of the Local Housing Strategy we will develop business cases for investment to achieve the EESSH 2 requirements by 2032, subject to Scottish Government guidance	The action could support going above legislative obligations where possible to improve energy efficiency and further reduce carbon emissions.	East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Assess energy efficiency in Council housing	We will assess energy efficiency in Council housing stock to inform investment strategies.		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Invest in Council housing stock to achieve EESH 2	We will invest in Council-owned housing to achieve the EESSH 2 requirements in line with targets (EPC C by 2025)(EPC B by 2032)	The action could support going above legislative obligations where possible to improve energy efficiency and further reduce carbon emissions.	East Renfrewshire Council	5-10 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Progress pilot projects to test and adapt implementation of EESH 2	Implement a baseline survey and pilot initiative of 10% ERC housing properties and propose a 10-15 year refurbishment plan to achieve EESH2 2032 target /net zero	EPC B target is by 2032 and therefore the refurbishment plan should be moved forward. In doing so will speed up the development of more energy efficient properties. Additionally the pilot could cover more than 10% of properties.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
New Council housing	We will develop a business case to ensure new-build social housing meets net zero requirements for energy efficiency, construction impacts, electric vehicle charging and climate adaptation	The action could refer to the encouragement of using green roofs and walls to improve energy efficiency.	East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Establish 'Future Estate' groups to consider options and recommend investment priorities.	We will create a 4 groups to lead the strategy for each part of our estate (Offices - led by 'Way We Work' project; Education; ERCLT; Other) and consider the accommodation needs, which will include the target to have zero-emission heating by 2038 (or earlier) and make recommendations to refurbish, rebuild or dispose of properties.	The action target of 2038 could be more ambitious to improve energy efficiency at an earlier date.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Evidence to support future estate decision making	In support of the 'Future Estate' groups, we will prepare evidence required to make the necessary recommendations. This will include, but not limited to: condition surveys; building		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
	operations best practice guidance; Footfall assessments.			
Invest in Council building estate to achieve Net Zero	Upon conclusion of the recommendations from the 'Future Estate' groups, we will invest in council buildings to achieve net zero requirements.	The timescale of the action could be more ambitious to make some achievements within a 10-year period. This would help to achieve 75% reduction in emissions by 2030.	East Renfrewshire Council	>10 years
Leased estate - supporting energy efficiency for tenants	We will undertake a review of our energy efficiency and related obligations where the Council is a landlord and provide necessary support to tenants to reduce their energy use and make improvements to the fabric and energy sourcing.	Additional detail on the scale and scope of the support would provide more definitive carbon emissions savings. This should also be linked to awareness raising actions. This will bring additional benefits for population and human health.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Continuous improvement to Council estate	We will give greater autonomy to Building Responsible Persons (i.e. the people who manage safety and security for each property), providing them with data, information, training and advice to reduce energy consumption across our current estate.		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Continuous improvement to Council estate	We will continue to improve/expand efforts for energy reduction at all sites through fabric improvements, installation of low-energy systems (e.g. lighting & heating), improved controls and insulation etc. This will be supported by improved asset management planning and carbon reduction plans for each property informed by Building Responsible Persons.	The timescale of the action could be more ambitious to make some achievements within a 10-year period. This would help to achieve 75% reduction in emissions by 2030.	East Renfrewshire Council	>10 years
ERCLT emissions reduction plan	We will complete a strategic review and action plan for the ERCLT, recognising the opportunities for emissions reduction, staff engagement and customer experiences.	Focus on improving energy efficiency and insulation prior to considering other low carbon heating.	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1 year
ERCLT emissions reduction actions	Upon completion of the strategic review and action plan for the ERCLT, we will invest in the recommended actions.		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
ERCLT short-term environmental improvements	We will explore, plan and complete actions for short-term improvements in environmental performance at ERCLT facilities		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

Table 7.6: Our vehicles - mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Council fleet - planning and decision-making across services	We will set-up a fleet decarbonisation taskforce to consider the options for our vehicles and the charging infrastructure required, involving all services with fleet.	The timescale could be reduced to <1 years to ensure that the taskforce is set up from the start. The taskforce could consider the option to introduce e-bikes and increase the efficiency of vehicle use reducing car travel to achieve carbon emissions savings sooner.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Depot infrastructure, maintenance and charging requirements - options appraisal	We will complete an options appraisal and prepare a business case for investment on the depot/operational requirements, including power supply and space requirements for our future fleet.		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Depot infrastructure, maintenance and charging requirements - investment	Upon completion of the business case, we will invest in the recommended actions to meet the depot requirements for our future fleet		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
HSCP vehicles - we will complete an	We will complete an options appraisal and prepare a business case for investment to decarbonise our HSCP vehicles		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
options appraisal for social work vehicles				
Housing vehicles - we will complete an options appraisal for housing vehicles	We will complete an options appraisal and prepare a business case for investment to decarbonise our HSCP vehicles		East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year
Roads vehicles - we will complete an options appraisal for housing vehicles	We will complete an options appraisal and prepare a business case for investment to decarbonise our roads vehicles		East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year
Neighbourhood services - we will complete an options appraisal for neighbourhood services vehicles	We will complete an options appraisal and prepare a business case for investment to decarbonise our Neighbourhood services (Waste, Parks) vehicles		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Education vehicles - we will complete an options appraisal for education vehicles	We will complete an options appraisal and prepare a business case for investment to decarbonise our education vehicles		East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year
Other vehicles - we will complete an options appraisal for all remaining vehicles	We will complete an options appraisal and prepare a business case for investment to decarbonise plant and equipment and other vehicles not covered by options appraisals led by specific services.		East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
not covered by other services				
Council cars - investment	Following completion of the investment business cases (cars) we will invest to transition to a low-carbon fleet.		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Council vans - investment	Following completion of the investment business cases (vans) we will invest to transition to a low-carbon fleet.		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Council heavy fleet - investment	Following completion of the investment business cases (heavy/specialist fleet) we will invest to transition to a low-carbon fleet.		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Supporting reduced business mileage in petrol/diesel vehicles	We will increase access to and availability of pool bikes, e-bikes and electric cars and promote the use of these to staff.	Support use of e- bikes to replace car journeys, increase efficiency of vehicle use. Provide incentives for staff members to use active travel for business journeys.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Fleet - route optimisation	We will investigate options for route optimisation to minimise mileage across all fleet and invest in improvements where a business case has been approved.		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

Table 7.7: Transport - mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Integrate 20-minute neighbourhood concepts to planning, roads, economic development and regeneration activities	We will embed the 20 minute neighbourhood concept into planning, transport and place-making policies to support less carbon emissions from transport and encourage active travel	The action could reference green infrastructure as a way to encourage active travel and reduce carbon emissions, and achieve biodiversity benefits.	East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - Policy and Development Strategy	<p>We will develop a Council policy on EV Charging infrastructure to ensure the council’s public charging network remains equitable, affordable, and accessible. The policy will also cover requirements to support the decarbonisation Council fleet and improving provision at Council offices and facilities, as well as in the Planning of New Developments.</p> <p>Our Development Strategy will outline Council plans to expand the availability of public EV charging provision. We will work with Scottish Futures Trust to ensure our approach is aligned with Scottish Government’s draft vision for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Scotland. We will also work closely with Glasgow City Region in the development of a Regional Strategy and Expansion Plan.</p>	Working with national/regional partners to develop a consistent approach.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - Investment and implementation	Upon completion of the EV charging policy, we will expand EV charging points across estate and public infrastructure, working in partnership with Council, Community, Regional and National partners unlocking investment and funding opportunities from the private and public sector.		East Renfrewshire Council	5-10 years
Prepare a new Local Transport Strategy	We will publish a Local Transport Strategy that will provide an overarching framework for transport decision making and investment in the area over the next 10 years. The Local Transport Strategy will prioritise the sustainable travel hierarchy: promoting walking, cycling, public transport, shared transport and then private vehicles as its guiding principle.		East Renfrewshire Council	< 1 year
Implement a new Local Transport Strategy	We will implement the policies and actions outlined in the Local Transport Strategy.	<p>Active travel and public transport should be a key priority followed by EV.</p> <p>Explore opportunities for enhancing car share availability for local residents to reduce private car use.</p> <p>Explore opportunities for making public transport cheaper in conjunction with SPT.</p>	East Renfrewshire Council	5-10 years

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Publish a new Active Travel Plan	We will prepare and consult on a revised Active Travel Action Plan. This will facilitate planning and delivery to enhance active travel opportunities - including funding for the development of new links and improved maintenance of existing routes - to create a safe, accessible and connected walking, cycling and wheeling network. This will be co-ordinated alongside future capital investment programmes such as City Deal and support more active school travel through the development of 'School Zones', enhancement of 'Safe Routes to School' and delivery of updated School Travel Plans.	<p>Ensure that active travel plan is focused on providing safe active travel routes to schools and key employment sites.</p> <p>Provide local residence with personal active travel plan that will outline potential route options for their individual needs.</p> <p>Ensure that benefits of active travel are clearly communicated.</p> <p>Enforce 2023 legislation on preventing pavement parking to encourage more active travel.</p> <p>Introduce dropped kerbs to encourage active travel.</p>	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year
Implement a new Active Travel Plan	We will implement the policies and actions outlined in the Active Travel Plan.		East Renfrewshire Council	5-10 years
Encourage behaviour change towards active travel	Improve communications, information and advice relating to sustainable transport and active travel options for staff and the public. This will relate to wider infrastructure support and national actions for active travel.		East Renfrewshire Council	5-10 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Street lighting for active travel - pilots	We will implement a street lighting improvement initiative on active travel routes to enhance safety, prioritising remote footpaths and school routes. This will be assessed and a business case for further investment considered.		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Street Lighting LED replacement programme	We will continue our programme to replace remaining CosmoPolis and High Pressure Sodium street lamps.	Prioritise streetlights which will deliver most benefits and minimal harm to biodiversity (routes outside schools, etc.). Explore opportunities for co-benefits of streetlamp improvement through plug-ins such as air quality monitoring or cameras.	East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Regional transport climate resilience group (CRC: Flagship Action 8)	We will participate in the Climate Ready Clyde action group to build resilience into regional transport infrastructure		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years

Table 7.8: Partnerships - mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
	Climate resilience integrated into regional supply chains and procurement (CRC: Flagship Action 15)		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
	Climate resilient housing retrofit (CRC Flagship Action 7)		East Renfrewshire Council	
Supporting NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy's actions	Delivering the NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy's actions to increase active travel and the use of public and community transport to NHS sites, including expand use of 'NHS Near Me' and encourage home working for NHS staff		East Renfrewshire Council	
Clyde Climate Forest	Deliver commitment as part of Climate Ready Clyde to plant trees as part of the Clyde Climate Forest	Ensure tree planting and carbon insetting reflects biodiversity priorities, to ensure no loss to biodiversity.	East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Collaborative action with Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network	Support the delivery of the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network local and regional actions.		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Participate and contribute to regional adaptation	We will contribute to the regional climate adaptation strategy and actions, led by Climate		East Renfrewshire Council	>10 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
	Ready Clyde, co-ordinating action across services in the Council.			
Scope procurement supply chain funding options for local inseting projects	We will work with our major suppliers to investigate the feasibility of establishing a funding mechanism that supports East Renfrewshire based inseting projects, working in a similar way to community benefit clauses.		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Scoping an Authority Based Inseting approach	We will investigate options for an Authority-based inseting approach to identify and select projects that attract funding to mitigate or absorb carbon within East Renfrewshire.	Include reference to considering biodiversity priorities when implementing carbon inseting. This would ensure that valuable non woodland habitats are not lost to higher carbon sequestration habitats. This would further enhance the local environment and contribute to carbon offsetting.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Delivering Authority-based inseting projects with community partners	Following the scoping report, we will seek to deliver inseting projects with community partners to help them achieve net zero, utilising 3rd party investment or Council offsetting budgets.		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Develop an offsetting investment plan	We will set out a plan for investing in offsetting credits for our residual emissions, which seek	The offsetting investment plan should prioritise investments in offsetting projects within the	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
	the best outcome for our community and are of the highest recognisable international standards.	UK such as peatland restoration and afforestation projects. This would support carbon sequestration.		
Work with national partners to follow best practice and share intelligence from action in East Renfrewshire	Work with National partners, such as SSN/COSLA/Improvement service to contribute to, and follow best practice across climate mitigation and adaptation actions. Share examples of best practice in East Renfrewshire, including communities, to enrich the local and national awareness of climate actions.		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Consumer support for safe, honest and reliable services	We will provide homes and businesses with information on responsible products and suppliers, supporting trusted traders to provide reliable services for upgrading properties, and purchasing vehicles and consumer goods, which will be required for climate emission reduction and adaptation.		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years

Table 7.9: How we work - mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Reducing car use for staff commuting	We will promote active travel and public transport, including cycle to work scheme/lift-sharing to staff to decrease car miles travelled by staff	The action should support staff as well to help them make the changes to travel more sustainable. This will help ensure the success of the action. The timescale could be reduced to <1years if the schemes are available.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Review climate impacts of IT infrastructure	We will complete a review of the GHG impacts and adaptation requirements for our IT infrastructure.	Consider climate impacts of replacement equipment and optimal replacement for carbon benefit.	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year
Consider, decide and invest in IT infrastructure to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change	Upon completion of the review of GHG impacts and adaptation requirements we will prepare a business case for investment in any recommended improvement.		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Internal waste - monitor and identify improvements	We will review wastes arising across the Council and take action to reduce, reuse or recycle more material, with a particular focus on the ERC Education estate.	This action needs to consider that wider training is required to support behavioural change to encourage recycling. Overall, the action could have	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
		a positive effect in reducing waste going to landfill.		
Support home/remote working for staff to reduce commuting travel	We will continue to expand and improve ICT technologies to reduce need for staff travel (i.e. video calls/remote access, field and mobile working)	This action should consider that training may be required to support increasing use in technology.	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year

Table 7.10: Investing in communities - mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Local work hubs to support reduced commuting	We will scope the opportunity for local ‘work hubs’ to create local offices enabling a distributed workforce and overcome dis-benefits of home-working	The action could include wording to ensure that local ‘work hubs’ are located in sustainable locations close to essential services and facilities and active travel networks. This would reduce the need to travel and use of the private car further reducing carbon emissions.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
City deal - adapting business cases	We will adapt our City Deal projects so that business cases are developed to include	The City Deal projects could set a precedent for future	East Renfrewshire Council	

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
	specific analysis on climate change impacts, both emissions reduction and adaptation.	projects and developments. The City Deal projects should incorporate the circular economy principles to reduce waste as well		
City deal - developing whole-life carbon specifications	We will introduce Scottish Government protocols for calculating a 'whole lifecycle' approach to the development of city deal project business case, design and contract specification for city deal, working in partnership with other Councils and major contractors.		East Renfrewshire Council	
City deal - delivery of projects with climate benefits	We will deliver city deal projects with clear climate benefits, supporting reductions in community emissions and adaptation.	The action should reflect carbon sequestration as part of City Deal projects.	East Renfrewshire Council	

Table 7.11: The built environment - mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Building standards update	We will fully introduce the Scottish Government's updated Building Standards, expected in 2022, and the 2024 New Build Heat Standard.	Explore achievement of gold standard for building standards.	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year

Chapter 7 Mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Complete open-space audit	We will complete an open-space audit and identify resource requirements for compiling a biodiversity action plan. This will be completed in collaboration with neighbouring Councils and national partners.	Open space audit and biodiversity protection action plan should consider carbon sequestration enhancement, linking to public realm, implementing green infrastructure first and positive messaging.	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year
Develop a biodiversity protection action plan	We will update and publish a plan to maintain and enhance biodiversity across East Renfrewshire.		East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year
Planning guidance - 'Development Contributions'	We will prepare and implement Supplementary Guidance relating for 'Development Contributions' (Strategic Policy 2)	Closer working with developers to achieve benefits	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year
Planning guidance - 'Green Network'	We will prepare and implement Supplementary Guidance relating for 'Green Network' (Policy D4)	Ensure supplementary guidance covers all relevant issues including carbon sequestration	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year
Planning guidance - 'Affordable Housing'	We will prepare and implement Supplementary Guidance relating for 'Affordable Housing' Policy SG4)	Closer working with developers to achieve carbon reduction benefits. The impact of energy efficiency on the built heritage should be an element of the guidance.	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1year

Chapter 7 Mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Planning guidance - 'Householder Design Guide'	We will prepare and implement Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to 'Householder Design Guide' (Policy D1)	Ensure supplementary guidance covers all relevant issues including carbon sequestration	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1 year
Planning guidance - 'Place making'	We will prepare and implement Planning Guidance relating to 'Place making' which will include aspects of wider design and nature-based solutions	Ensure supplementary guidance covers all relevant issues including carbon sequestration	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Planning guidance - 'Low and Zero Carbon'	We will prepare and implement Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to 'Low and Zero Carbon' which will include energy efficiency and renewable energy (Policy E1 and E2)		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Strengthen Local Development Plan 3 to tackle climate change requirements	We will develop LPD3 to strengthens framework for zero carbon future including policies on sustainable design, renewables, enhanced green network and nature based solutions to carbon mitigation and adaptation.		East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Support a planning 'culture' that requires whole-life climate impacts of development	We will work with developers, partners and across the Council to investigate ways that a lifecycle assessment approach (i.e. whole life assessment) to planning can be introduced. This will link closely to the implementation of new building standards and support the wider green skills development that is being progressed in a hub arrangement with city region Councils.	Closer working with developers to achieve benefits	East Renfrewshire Council	>10 years

Chapter 7 Mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement Measure	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Risk assess the climate impacts to buildings and infrastructure	We will complete a Climate Change Risk Assessment (i.e. flood, storm, heat resilience) for buildings and infrastructure across the area and report on the implications and recommendations for further action.	The risk assessment should consider risks to infrastructure in neighbouring authorities, and how these impact on vulnerability within East Renfrewshire. This joined up approach will increase resilience and planning, with benefits for population and human health.	East Renfrewshire Council	< 1 year
Implement climate adaptation measures	Upon completion of the Climate Risk Assessment we will implement recommended actions for the Council estate and infrastructure and facilitate adaptation within the community	Ensure planning policy is aligned with adaptation responses to facilitate adaptation. The action could facilitate carbon sequestration as well as adaptation within the community.	East Renfrewshire Council	>10 years
Parks management	We will implement changes to management practices for parks and open spaces (including reduced mowing regimes, reduced chemical use) to reduce operational emissions and review opportunities for increased carbon sequestration and biodiversity	The timescale on this action should be relatively short given that the changes to be implemented could also save costs. Working with developers could achieve better management practises in the future for new developments that supports increased carbon sequestration and biodiversity.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

Table 7.12: What we buy - procurement and shaping our supply chains - mitigation and enhancement

Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement measures	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Procurement (Building & Construction) review of supply chain emissions and action plan development	We will review the supply chain emissions from our building and construction services, looking at major sources of emissions. This will require engagement with suppliers and include matching spend categories more accurately with emissions factors. Upon completion of the assessment stage, we will identify product/service categories where carbon reductions can be achieved and implement action plans to realise savings in supply chain emissions.	Assess different construction methods to reduce environmental costs. Use knowledge within supply chain to explore innovative, low carbon materials.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Future buildings - alignment with Net Zero Public Buildings Standard	We will explore implications and complete a cost-benefit-analysis to mandate that all major projects follow the voluntary Net Zero Public Buildings Standard. If agreed, this will be applied to all buildings within the scope of the standard.		East Renfrewshire Council	< 1 year
Strengthen sustainable procurement duty on services and provide related training, where appropriate	We will implement the Scottish Government guidance on the Sustainable Procurement Duty, working across services to provide training where it is needed.	Introduce a new procurement model to ensure that carbon and sustainability are considered. Consider communicating carbon cost/savings when changes	East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement measures	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
		are made to get people's buy in.		
Engage suppliers and contractors to improve intelligence on the products we buy	We will engage suppliers with the largest carbon footprints to explore what data on life-cycle-assessment can be shared to establish best practice and to affirm the Council's commitment to reducing emissions in its supply chain. We will consider joint actions with suppliers that supports emissions reduction across the products and services we buy.	<p>Develop a monitoring process for supply chain to deliver more accurate and live data and carry out supply chain audits.</p> <p>Develop and engagement plan to work with more locally based suppliers and collaborate with neighbouring Councils regarding carbon emissions from supply chain.</p> <p>Ensure that there are benchmarks in place to enable future evaluation and monitoring.</p>	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Public sector procurement collaboration on emission reduction	Collaborate with public sector procurement community to improve the assessment, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of GHG emissions through the supply chain. This will consider: quality assurance of carbon assessments; data transparency/reliability; audits of supply chains.	Order goods in bulk to reduce transportation / packaging emissions.	East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement measures	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
Procurement (Digital equipment) review of supply chain emissions and action plan development	We will review the supply chain emissions from our digital equipment (Laptops, Phones, Server equipment), looking at major sources of emissions. This will require engagement with suppliers and include matching spend categories more accurately with emissions factors. Upon completion of the assessment stage, we will identify product/service categories where carbon reductions can be achieved and implement action plans to realise savings in supply chain emissions.	Explore the circular economy approach to IT equipment.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Procurement (Food) review of supply chain emissions and action plan development	We will review the supply chain emissions from our food, looking at major sources of emissions. This will require engagement with suppliers and include matching spend categories more accurately with emissions factors. Upon completion of the assessment stage, we will identify product/service categories where carbon reductions can be achieved and implement action plans to realise savings in supply chain emissions.	Consider scope for growing own food across the estate to reduce mileage and enhance food security. Consider purchasing locally produced food.	East Renfrewshire Council	2-5 years
Procurement (Roads materials) review of supply chain emissions and action plan development	We will review the supply chain emissions from our roads materials, looking at major sources of emissions. This will require engagement with suppliers and include matching spend categories more accurately with emissions factors. Upon completion of the assessment	Recommend the exploration of different construction methods which could reduce carbon footprint, increase energy efficiency and sequester carbon.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

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Action Name	Action	Mitigation and enhancement measures	Lead authority	Proposed timescale
	stage, we will identify product/service categories where carbon reductions can be achieved and implement action plans to realise savings in supply chain emissions.			
Procurement (Social Care) review of supply chain emissions and action plan development	We will review the supply chain emissions from our social work services, looking at major sources of emissions. This will require engagement with suppliers and include matching spend categories more accurately with emissions factors. Upon completion of the assessment stage, we will identify product/service categories where carbon reductions can be achieved and implement action plans to realise savings in supply chain emissions.		East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years
Procurement (Furniture) review of supply chain emissions and action plan development	We will review the supply chain emissions from our furniture, looking at major sources of emissions. This will require engagement with suppliers and include matching spend categories more accurately with emissions factors. Upon completion of the assessment stage, we will identify product/service categories where carbon reductions can be achieved and implement action plans to realise savings in supply chain emissions.	Support the ordering of goods in bulk to further reduce transportation emissions and waste from packaging.	East Renfrewshire Council	1-2 years

Chapter 8

Monitoring

8.1 Monitoring significant environmental effects is a statutory requirement within the 2005 Act. Monitoring seeks to ensure that plans avoid generating unforeseen adverse environmental effects and enables the responsible authority to undertake appropriate remedial action.

8.2 East Renfrewshire Council is currently developing a monitoring framework for the Get to Zero Action Plan. It is anticipated that indicators associated with this could potentially be used to embed the SEA monitoring into the wider monitoring of the GTZAP actions. This will be further considered as the GTZAP is finalised.

8.3 The proposals for monitoring will be addressed and further outlined within the post adoption statement at the end of the SEA process.

Chapter 9

Conclusion and next steps

Conclusion

9.1 No significant environmental effects have been identified.

9.2 The draft environmental report is subject to consultation, set out in 1.64 and 1.65.

9.3 Following the consultation period the consultation responses will be analysed and East Renfrewshire Council will finalise and publish the Get to Zero Action Plan. After the Get to Zero Action Plan is adopted, a Post Adoption Statement will be produced. This Statement will set out how the SEA and the views received in the consultation process have been taken into account.

Next steps

9.4 Table 5.1 sets out an indicative timetable for the development of the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan and associated SEA process.

Table 9.1: Indicative Timetable

Indicative Timing	Development of the Get to Zero Action Plan	Stage of the SEA
Spring 2023	Publish and consult on the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan.	Consult on the Environmental Report for a period of 6 weeks.

Indicative Timing	Development of the Get to Zero Action Plan	Stage of the SEA
Summer 2023	Analysis of responses on the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan	Analysis of responses on the Environmental Report.
Autumn 2022-23	Finalise and publish the Draft Get to Zero Action Plan	Produce and publish the SEA Post Adoption Statement for the Get to Zero Action Plan.

Appendix A

Plans, programmes and strategies

General

International

A.1 Aarhus Convention (1998) – To develop a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for:

- The right of everyone to receive environmental information
- The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making
- The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.

A.2 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002) – To make a significant commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all.

European

A.3 The Scottish Government has committed to alignment between Scots and EU law as a result of EU exit. Although the statutory governance arrangements are not yet in place, European legislation is included in the text below.

A.4 EU Public Participation Directive – Directive 2003/35/EC on providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment and amending with regard to public

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participation and access to justice Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC. Provides a legal framework for community involvement by requiring public participation in decision-making and regulation, including through access to information and consultation.

A.5 SEA Directive 2001 – Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The key objective of the SEA Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.

A.6 European Sustainable Development Strategy (2009) – Long term objectives in Europe for sustainable development considering issues such as climate change, transport, health and natural resources.

National (Legislation)

A.7 Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 – Determines the future structure of the modernised planning system. It contains a range of changes made across the planning system. It provides the insertion of ‘Purpose of planning’ in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

A.8 Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) governs the use and development of land within Scotland. The 1997 Act forms the basis of the Scottish planning system. It sets out the roles of Scottish Ministers and designates local authorities as ‘planning authorities’ with a responsibility for producing local development plans and handling most aspects of development management and enforcement. All planning applications in Scotland are required to be determined against the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

A.9 Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 formed a central part of the reform of the Scottish planning system. One of its key effects was the creation of

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Strategic Development Planning Authorities, which comprise several local planning authorities and are charged with producing long-term development plans.

A.10 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 (as amended) – Sets out provisions for granting planning permission in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

A.11 Planning (Scotland) Bill – An Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision about how land is developed and used. This bill is an update to the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The Bill is part of a wider planning system reform responding to an independent review of planning, which includes changes to secondary legislation made under existing powers as well as non-legislative changes. Some of the key aspects of the Bill are its provisions in relation to the system of development plans; the opportunities for community engagement in planning; the effective performance of planning authorities' functions; and a new way to fund infrastructure development.

A.12 Planning Advice Note 1/2010: Strategic environmental assessment of development plans aims to help those who are undertaking an SEA of a strategic or local development plan.

National and Sub-national (Plans, Programmes and Strategies)

9.5 The Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4), which details the long-term plan for what Scotland could be in 2045, was published in February 2023. NPF4 is part of the development plan, setting out national planning policies, guiding spatial development, designating national developments and highlighting regional spatial priorities. There are three spatial principles that guide NPF4. The national spatial strategy should support the planning and delivery of:

- Sustainable places;

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- Liveable places; and
- Productive places.

A.13 Levelling Up the United Kingdom includes details of a new devolution framework, the establishment of a new independent data body and a new Levelling Up Advisory Council.

A.14 The White Paper also provides details of 12 new missions across four broad areas: boosting productivity and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging; spreading opportunities and improving public services, especially in those areas where they are weakest; restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost; and, empowering local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency. It commits to further consultation on the metrics used to measure the success of these missions and to creating a statutory responsibility on Government to report on their progress.

A.15

A.16 Scottish Planning Policy (2014) – The purpose of the Scottish Planning Policy is to set out national planning policies on how to address land use matters across the country. It is non-statutory, however, it is in line with the Town and Country Planning (Scotland).

A.17 Clydeplan – Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan 2017 – The SDP, now referred to as ‘Clydeplan’, covers land use and strategic infrastructure issues at the regional level (Glasgow and the Clyde Valley) to help deliver sustainable economic growth and good quality places. East Renfrewshire is one of the 8 Local Authorities which make up Clydeplan.

A.18 Choosing Our Future: Scotland’s Sustainable Development Strategy – Outlines a strategic framework for the Scottish Government’s strategies on climate change, transport, renewable energy, energy efficiency, green jobs and

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biodiversity. Also notes the need for urgent action in response to growing problems and pressures.

A.19 Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation (2022)

sets out the priorities for Scotland's economy as well as the actions needed to maximise the opportunities of the next decade to achieve our vision of a wellbeing economy. Our vision is to create a wellbeing economy: a society that is thriving across economic, social and environmental dimensions, and that delivers prosperity for all Scotland's people and places. We aim to achieve this while respecting environmental limits, embodied by our climate and nature targets.

A.20 A Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland (2010) is an integral part of the Government's Economic Strategy to secure sustainable economic growth, and a key component of the broader approach to meet Scotland's climate change targets and secure the transition to a low carbon economy in Scotland.

A.21 Glasgow City Region Economic Strategy and Action Plan (2017) aims to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth across the region and links in with each Council's City Deal projects.

Implications

9.6 The Get to Zero Action Plan has an important role to play in supporting the efficiency of Council supply chains and buildings across social care, procurement, furniture, education and roads.

Climatic Factors

International

A.22 The Glasgow Climate Pact 2021 was adopted at the COP26 UN climate conference in November 2021. The Pact sees signatory countries increase climate ambition and action from the Paris Agreement in 2015 and sets out new rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including phasing down coal and a global carbon market. The Glasgow Climate Pact is the first global agreement to explicitly include parties pledging to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

A.23 IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change (2014) – To limit and/or reduce all greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change.

A.24 Paris Agreement (United Nations 2015) – The main aim of the Paris Agreement centres on keeping global temperature rise this century below 2°C above preindustrial levels. Frameworks are to be put in place to help achieve these goals.

European

A.25 Emissions Trading System Directive 2009 – Directive 2009/29/EC to improve and extend the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading scheme of the Community. The main aim of the Directive is to improve and extend the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading scheme of the Community.

A.26 Renewable Energy Directive 2009 – Directive 2009/28/EC on the use of energy from renewable sources. The Directive sets targets for renewable energy use within the EU, which requires that 20% of the energy consumed within the EU is renewable.

A.27 Energy Efficiency Directive 2012 – Directive 2012/30/EU on energy efficiency. The purpose of the Directive is to promote energy efficiency by establishing a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.

A.28 European Climate Change Programme 2000 contains a variety of cross cutting themes including energy, industry and transport with the aim of combating climate change.

National (Legislation)

A.29 Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Creates the statutory framework for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Scotland by setting an interim 42 per cent reduction target for 2020 and an 80 per cent reduction target for 2050. The Act places duties on public bodies, which requires them in exercising their functions to act:

- in the way best calculated to contribute to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
- in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme; and
- in a way that it considers most sustainable.
- The duties come into force on 1 January 2011 and apply to all 'public bodies'.

A.30 The Environment Act 2021 sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. The Environment Act will deliver:

- Long-term targets to improve air quality biodiversity, water, and waste reduction and resource efficiency.
- A target on ambient PM2.5 concentrations.
- A target to halt the decline of nature by 2030.

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- Environmental Improvement Plans, including interim targets.
- A cycle of environmental monitoring and reporting.
- Environmental Principles embedded in domestic policy making.
- Office for Environmental Protection to uphold environmental law.

A.31 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040.

A.32 Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019 sets targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including a 56% reduction target by 2020, and net-zero emissions by 2045.

A.33 Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012 designed to eliminate or minimise emissions to air, water and land and extends pollutions controls to previously unregulated sectors.

National and Sub-national (Plans, Programmes and Strategies)

A.34 The Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet net zero targets by 2050. It sets out strategies to keep the UK on track with carbon budgets, outlines the National Determined Contribution (NDC) and sets out the vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050. Its focus includes:

- Policies and proposals for reducing emissions across the economy in key sectors (power, fuel supply and hydrogen, industry, heat and buildings, transport, natural gas and waste); and
- Policies and proposals for supporting transition across the economy through innovation, green investment, green jobs, embedding net-zero in

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government, local climate action, empowering people and businesses, and international leadership and collaboration.

A.35 Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan aims to help Scotland reach net zero by ensuring that Scotland's energy system is fit for purpose and offers energy security. The Plan is structured around the following areas of action:

- Delivering a just transition for communities and regions across Scotland
- Delivering a just transition for Scotland's energy economy
- Scaling up renewable energy
- Reducing reliance on other energy sources
- Reducing demand and decarbonising energy use across heat, transport, industry and agriculture sectors
- Ensuring energy security and resilience
- Energy networks and market regulation.

A.36 Onshore wind: policy statement 2022 outlines the Scottish Government's ambitions and aspirations for the Onshore Wind Sector, highlighting how these can be delivered. Key aims include:

- An onshore wind capacity target of at least 20 GW by 2030 - this will represent an additional 11 GW of capacity by the end of the decade, as Scotland currently has about 9 GW of operational onshore wind.
- Establishing an Onshore Wind Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) that will lead the delivery of the 2030 target and comprise members of government, industry, supply chain stakeholders and community groups.

A.37 The UK Hydrogen Strategy sets out the Government's approach to developing a thriving low carbon hydrogen sector in the UK, with the ambition for 5GW of capacity by 2030. The Strategy outlines the role of hydrogen in meeting net zero targets, the existing opportunity within the UK, a strategic

framework, a roadmap for the economy, and the UK Government's commitments for a hydrogen economy.

A.38 Hydrogen action plan sets out the actions that will be taken over the next five years to support the development of a hydrogen economy. It addresses the key role that both the offshore and onshore wind industries could play in supporting and facilitating the development of hydrogen projects in Scotland. It also sets out how the steps taken in the plan will contribute towards a just transition to net zero. The plan explores the export opportunities which would become open to Scotland with the development of a hydrogen economy and considers Scotland's potential in this industry in the decades ahead. A key aim is for Scotland to have capacity to produce 5 GW of Hydrogen by 2030 and 25 GW of Hydrogen by 2045.

A.39 Climate Change Adaptation Framework presents a national, co-ordinated approach to ensure that Scotland understands the risks and opportunities these changes present and is adapting in a sustainable way. It sets out:

- The overarching model for adapting to climate change in Scotland; and,
- Summaries of climate change adaptation in key sectors.

A.40 The aim of the Adaptation Framework is to lead planned adaptation across all sectors, including the forestry sector, to increase the resilience of Scotland's communities, and the natural and economic systems on which they depend, to the impacts of climate change.

A.41 Climate Change Delivery Plan Meeting Scotland's Statutory Climate Change Targets – To meet the highly ambitious targets set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act, the Scottish Government has prepared a delivery plan to target investment and effort across a range of relevant sectors, and renewable energy has a fundamental place in this strategy. One of the four transformational outcomes which the Scottish Government is working towards is to ensure that carbon is fully factored into strategic and local decisions about rural land use through encouraging the sequestration of carbon through

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woodland planting; minimising emissions for agriculture and other land use businesses (forestry operations); and the use of natural resources to generate renewable energy (woody biomass).

A.42 Combating Climate Change – A Role for UK Forests – This report commissioned by the Forestry Commission presents the findings of the first national assessment of the UK forestry and climate change and it forms part of the UK's response to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 4th Assessment Report. The report illustrates the threat of climate change; the current impact on trees and woodland; and the adjustments the UK can make to deal with the changing environment.

A.43 Electricity Generation Policy Statement – The Statement is constructed around a number of targets and requirements including:

- delivering the equivalent of at least 100% of gross electricity consumption from renewables by 2020;
- ensuring a largely decarbonised electricity system by 2030;
- enabling local and community ownership of over 500MW of renewable energy by 2020;
- lowering energy consumption in Scotland by 12%;
- demonstrating the possibility of carbon capture and storage at commercial scale by 2020; and
- providing interconnection and transmission upgrades to support the projected growth of renewable energy.

A.44 Four Agency Statement – Action on Climate Change – Four key agencies (Forestry Commission Scotland, SEPA, NatureScot, and Historic Scotland) have come together to make a joint statement on climate change. The value of woodland and forests is acknowledged in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

A.45 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development .

A.46 Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting the Emissions Reduction Targets 2010- 2022, published on 14 March 2011, describes the measures identified to meet the emissions reduction targets established by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, over the period 2010-2022. By 2020 renewable electricity generation must account for at least 80% of gross electricity consumption.

A.47 On 27 June 2013 the Scottish Government published the Low Carbon Scotland: **Meeting the Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-2027: The Second Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP2)**. The report sets a decarbonisation target of 50gCO₂/kWh by 2030 to meet overall emissions targets. The Ministerial Foreword notes that the target set is challenging and that the decarbonisation of electricity is a key driver in the progress towards a low carbon economy. The report highlights that Scotland missed its annual carbon reduction target for 2011 by 0.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) having also missed its targets in 2010 by 1.1 million tonnes of CO₂e.

A.48 A Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland – Scotland, A Low Carbon Society (2010) – The main purpose of the Low Carbon Economic Strategy is to achieve the targets as set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The document provides a comprehensive framework for developing a low carbon economy across Scotland. The strategy sets out measures that could be undertaken by Parties to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. This vision relates to the energy sector, the built environment, Scotland's resources and businesses.

A.49 Towards a Low Carbon Scotland – Smart Cities (2012) – The purpose of the document is to highlight the ways in which Scotland can become a low carbon society by presenting a number of case studies about sustainable urban development in Scottish cities such as district heating development and a

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hydrogen bus project in Aberdeen, renewable energy projects in Edinburgh and the 'Energy from Waste' project In Glasgow.

A.50 Climate Change Bill Consultation Paper (2017) contains proposals to amend the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 in relation to only those parts that relate to emission reduction targets (including associated reporting duties).

A.51 The Scottish Energy Strategy (2017) sits alongside the aforementioned Climate Change Delivery Plan. Three key themes underpin the Strategy;

- A whole-system view in which energy supply and consumption are seen as equal priorities
- A stable energy transition towards renewable energies and sustainable transport
- A smarter model of local energy provision which promotes local energy, community involvement and community ownership of energy generation

A.52 Scottish Emissions Targets 2028-2032 – The high ambition pathway towards a low-carbon economy (2016) sets out recommendations by the Committee on Climate Change which involves the following;

- Significant rollout of low-carbon heat pumps and heat networks
- Promoting sales of electric cars
- Stimulating afforestation in Scotland
- Expanding renewable power and shutdown of coal-fired power

A.53 Climate Ready Scotland: Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024 – A five-year programme to prepare Scotland for the challenges we will face as our climate continues to change. The Programme takes an outcomes-based approach, derived from both the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Scotland's National Performance Framework.

A.54 Climate Change Plan (2018) sits alongside the Scottish Government's Energy Strategy, and provides the strategic framework for our transition to a low

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carbon Scotland. Building on previous reports on policies and proposals, the Plan sets out the path to a low carbon economy while helping to deliver sustainable economic growth and secure the wider benefits to a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland in 2032.

A.55 Update to the Climate Change Plan 2018-2032 Securing a Green Recovery on a Path to Net Zero sets out the Scottish Government's pathway to our new and ambitious targets set by the Climate Change Act 2019. It is a key strategic document on our green recovery from COVID-19.

A.56 Renewables Action Plan (2009) set out short term actions towards the delivery of 2020 targets for renewable energy.

A.57 2020 Routemap for Renewable Energy in Scotland (2011) reflects the new target to meet an equivalent of 100% demand for electricity from renewable energy by 2020, as well as our target of 11% renewable heat.

A.58 Biomass Action Plan for Scotland sets out a coordinated programme for the development of the biomass sector in Scotland and aims to:

- to provide a summary of the wide range of existing activities, actions and initiatives;
- to provide a focus for a strategic coordinated approach to developing biomass for energy production across the heat, electricity and transport sectors;
- to identify roles and responsibilities for government, industry and public stakeholders to develop a vibrant bio-energy industry in Scotland; and,
- to identify future actions and gaps.

A.59 Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019 – The aim of this strategy is to place forestry policy at the heart of government and help delivering the aims of the National Performance Framework. It adheres to the principle of 'the right tree, in the right place, for the right purpose'. The overall objectives are to increase

Scotland's woodland cover to 21% by 2032 and to increase use of Scottish wood products in construction up to 3 million m³ by 2031/32.

Implications

9.7 The Get to Zero Action Plan should support key measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide low carbon initiatives. The Strategy needs to support adaptation and resilience to climate change both for the natural environment and people.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

International

A.60 Bern Convention (1979) – To ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats (listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention), to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species) listed in Appendix III. To this end the Convention imposes legal obligations on contracting parties, protecting over 500 wild plant species and more than 1,000 wild animal species.

A.61 Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979) – To ensure that contracting parties work together to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species and their habitats (on a global scale) by providing strict protection for endangered migratory species. The overarching objectives set for the Parties are:

- Promote, co-operate in and support research relating to migratory species
- Endeavour to provide immediate protection for migratory species included in Appendix I
- Endeavour to conclude Agreements covering the conservation and management of migratory species included in Appendix II

A.62 Ramsar Convention (1971) – To promote the wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention’s mission is the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world .

A.63 The Convention on Biological Diversity (2010) – The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a multilateral treaty which served three main goals, including:

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable use of its components
- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic

European

A.64 The Habitats Directive 1992 – Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. To promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. Conservation of natural habitats and maintain landscape features of importance to wildlife and fauna.

A.65 The Birds Directive 2009 – Directive 2009/147/EC is a codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended. The preservation, maintenance, and re-establishment of biotopes and habitats shall include the following measures:

- Creation of protected areas.
- Upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones.
- Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes.
- Creation of biotopes.

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A.66 EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 – The European Commission has adopted an ambitious new strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. The six targets cover:

- Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity
- Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure
- More sustainable agriculture and forestry
- Better management of fish stocks
- Tighter controls on invasive alien species
- A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss

A.67 EU Seventh Environmental Action Plan to 2020 – The EU's objectives in implementing the programme are:

A.68 to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital

A.69 to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low carbon economy;

A.70 to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing;

A.71 to maximise the benefits of the Union's environment legislation;

A.72 to improve the evidence base for environment policy;

A.73 to secure investment for environment and climate policy and get the prices right;

A.74 to improve environmental integration and policy coherence;

A.75 to enhance the sustainability of the Union's cities;

A.76 to increase the Union's effectiveness in confronting regional and global environmental challenges.

National (Legislation)

A.77 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) – The Act implements the principles of the Bern Convention and the EU Birds Directive in the UK. Since it came into force, the Act has been amended several times. The act applies to the terrestrial environment and inland waters. According to the Act, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is a regulator of the Wild and Countryside Act and is legally responsible for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and to enforce law when necessary. It is important to note that specific amendments, which only apply in Scotland due to devolution, have been made to the Act.

A.78 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 – The Act amends the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for Scotland. The Act, together with the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, implements the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.

A.79 Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 – The Act amends the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for Scotland, and makes provision for the further conservation of biodiversity. The Act requires the Scottish Government to report on progress in relation to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

A.80 Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (as amended) – The Act amends the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for Scotland. The Act mainly changed the way land and the environment is managed in Scotland e.g. it made operational changes to how SSSIs are managed.

A.81 The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 – The Regulations form the legal basis for the implementation of the Habitats Directive and the Bird Directive in terrestrial areas and territorial waters.

National and Sub-national (Plans, Programmes and Strategies)

A.82 Biodiversity strategy to 2045: tackling the nature emergency sets out the Scottish Government's ambition for Scotland to be Nature Positive by 2030, and to have restored and regenerated biodiversity across the country by 2045. The strategy's vision sets out Scotland's response to the challenge:

- By 2045, Scotland will have restored and regenerated biodiversity across our land, freshwater and seas.
- Scotland's natural environment, our habitats, ecosystems and species, will be diverse, thriving, resilient and adapting to climate change.
- Regenerated biodiversity will drive a sustainable economy and support thriving communities and people will play their part in the stewardship of nature for future generations.

A.83 Delivering Scotland's Blue Economy approach sets out the first phase of delivery towards the Scottish Government's **Blue Economy Vision** (published March 2022). It provides a clear picture of where Scotland is in relation to the six Blue Economy outcomes and sets out next steps in delivering a collaborative approach in Scotland.

A.84 UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework – The Framework shows how the work of the four UK countries joins up with work at a UK level to achieve the 'Aichi Biodiversity Targets' and the aims of the EU biodiversity strategy. The Framework identifies the following strategic goals:

- Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.
- Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.
- Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.
- Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystems.

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- Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

A.85 Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands presents a 25-year strategy (until 2030) for the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's biodiversity. It sets out a number of outcomes in relation to;

- Species and habitats
- People
- Landscapes and Ecosystems
- Integration and Co-ordination
- Knowledge

A.86 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity – A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland – The aims of the 2020 Challenge are in line with the targets set by the aforementioned United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (2010) and the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy for 2020, and include:

- Protect and restore biodiversity on land and in Scotland's seas
- Involve and engage people in decisions about the environment
- Promote sustainable economic growth

A.87 The 2020 Challenge and the 'Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands' together make up the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

A.88 Scotland's Biodiversity: A Route Map to 2020 – The 'Six Big Steps for Nature' identified in the Route Map are:

- Ecosystem restoration
- Investment in natural capital
- Quality greenspace for health and education benefits

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- Conserving wildlife in Scotland
- Sustainable management of land and freshwater
- Sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems

A.89 The Environment Strategy for Scotland (2020) – The Environment Strategy creates an overarching framework for Scotland’s existing environmental strategies and plans, including the Climate Change Plan. The Environment Strategy will sit alongside existing high-level Scottish Government policy frameworks.

Implications

9.8 The SEA will assess the extent to which the Get to Zero Action Plan will contribute to the core aims of the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. The Get to Zero Action Plan should aim to conserve Scotland’s biodiversity for future generations by conserving habitats and species and raising public awareness on the importance of biodiversity. The Get to Zero Action Plan should also aim to conserve the natural woodland whilst continuing to plant trees.

Population and human health

International

A.90 International Health Regulations, 2007 – The International Health Regulations provide a legal instrument for upholding global public health security by preventing and responding to acute public health risks. The Regulations require countries to report certain disease outbreaks and public health risks to the World Health Organisation.

European

A.91 The Bathing Water Quality Directive 2006 – Directive 2006/7/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption. The overall objective of the revised Directive remains the protection of public health whilst bathing.

A.92 The Drinking Water Directive 1998 – Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption. Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.

A.93 The Noise Directive 2000/14/EC –

- Monitor the environmental problem by drawing up strategic noise maps.
- Informing and consulting the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures considered to address noise.
- Addressing local noise issues by requiring authorities to draw up action Plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise where it is good.

National (Legislation)

A.94 Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008 – The Act updates the law on public health, enabling Scottish Ministers to protect public health. It also makes provision for law on statutory nuisances.

National and Sub-national (Plans, Programmes and Strategies)

A.95 Social isolation and loneliness: Recovering our Connections 2023 to 2026 is a Plan to take forward the delivery of **A Connected Scotland**, the Scottish Government's strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness and

building stronger social connections. The strategy sets out four priorities and the actions being taken to address them:

- Empowering Communities and Building Shared Ownership
- Promote Positive Attitudes and Tackle Stigma
- Create Opportunities for People to Connect
- Support an Infrastructure that Fosters Connections

A.96 The Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper sets out how the UK Government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It comprises 12 UK-wide missions to achieve by 2030. Missions which relate to population, health and wellbeing state that by 2030:

- The gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.
- Well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
- Homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.
- Pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
- The number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
- Renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the Government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.

A.97 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care sets out the UK Government's new plan for health and social care. It provides an overview of how this plan will tackle the electives backlog in the NHS and put the NHS on a sustainable footing. It sets out details of the plan for adult social care in England, including a cap on social care costs and how financial assistance will work for those without substantial assets. It covers wider support that the government will provide for the social care system, and how the government will improve the integration of health and social care. It explains the government's plan to introduce a new Health and Social Care Levy.

A.98 National Performance Framework – The main purpose of the National Performance Framework is to promote sustainable economic growth by setting out a measurement set that can be used to determine the extent to which key targets are being fulfilled. It sets seven broad targets in relation to:

- Growth – stimulating economic growth
- Productivity – improving productivity
- Participation – improving economic participation
- Population – increase population growth
- Solidarity – reduce income equality
- Cohesion – reduce inequalities in economic participation
- Sustainability – reduce greenhouse gas emissions

A.99 Cycling Action Plan for Scotland More people cycling more often – The action plan includes the vision that by 2020, 10% of all journeys taken in Scotland will be by bike. It supports skills development, improvements to the cycle network, and active travel.

A.100 Scotland's Public Health Priorities (2018) – Sets out the six public health priorities for Scotland and how they are to be developed. The 6 priorities are:

- A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities

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- A Scotland where we flourish in our early years
- A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing
- A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all
- A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active

A.101 A More Active Scotland: Scotland's Physical Activity Delivery Plan (2018) – The main purpose of this plan is to promote physical activity in Scotland and create a Scotland where people are more active, more often.

A.102 Better Health, Better Care: Action Plan – The Scottish Government's Action Plan aims to deliver a healthier Scotland by helping people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care. It endeavours to shift care into communities, raise quality and reduce inequality.

A.103 Good Places, Better Health (GPBH) was launched in 2008 as the Scottish Government's Strategy on health and the environment. The document recognises that, to achieve the Government's purpose, themes and national outcomes, there is a need for greater connections around how physical environment influences health.

A.104 National Walking Strategy Let's Get Scotland Walking sets out a vision where everyone benefits from walking as part of their everyday journeys, and everyone has access to welcoming and safe environments to walk in. First published in 2014 by the Scottish Government, the National Walking Strategy (NWS) is a long-term plan to get more people in Scotland walking more often, improving the nation's health and wellbeing. It places walking at the heart of everyday life, from walking to work and school and having easy access to greenspaces, to creating towns and cities which are walkable and attractive.

Implications

9.9 The Get to Zero Action Plan actions should ensure positive benefits to East Renfrewshire residents and Council staff. The Action Plan should support the resilience of community projects. The Get to Zero Action Plan needs to ensure that a high quality of housing continues whilst ensuring that the most energy efficient methods are used within construction and energy use of the house. The use of low carbon energy systems in buildings should ensure financial energy savings for the Council and residents.

Soil

European

A.105 EU Landfill Directive sets a reduction of target of 75% of the 1995 levels and 35% of the 1995 levels of waste sent to landfill by 2013 and 2020 respectively.

A.106 European Soil Charter (1972) – In 1972 the European Commission Committee of Government Ministers, including the UK, recognised the increasing biological deterioration of the soil in many parts of Europe and adopted a charter for soil protection. Among other things the charter recognises that:

- soil is a precious asset;
- soil is a limited resource which is easily destroyed;
- farmers and foresters must preserve the soil's quality; and,
- soil must be protected from erosion and pollution.

A.107 EU Management of Waste from Extractive Industries (2006/21/EC) – The purpose of the Directive is to prevent water and soil pollution from the deposition of waste into heaps or ponds and puts emphasis on the long-term

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stability of waste facilities to help avoid major accidents. The main elements of the Directive are:

- Conditions for operating permits.
- General obligations concerning waste management.
- The obligation to characterise waste before disposing of it or treating it.
- Measures to ensure the safety of waste management facilities.
- A requirement to draw up closure plans.
- An obligation to provide for an appropriate level of financial security.

A.108 The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010 – Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control). This Directive lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.

A.109 Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection (2006) – Includes a thematic strategy which aims to:

- Establish common principles for the protection and sustainable use of soils
- Mitigate potential threats to soils
- Preserve soil functions
- Restore degraded and contaminated soils

National (Legislation)

A.110 Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) – Sets out legislation for the management and remediation of contaminated land that, in its current states, is causing or has the potential to cause significant pollution of the environment.

A.111 Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations 2005 – The Regulations which amend Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 details activities that are prohibited to prevent the contamination of land and watercourses.

A.112 Pollution Prevent and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2000 – Set out a regime for preventing and controlling pollution. Identifies activities that are subject to pollution control.

A.113 The Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 – The Regulations bring into force the waste management licensing system under Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which is designed to control the disposal of waste materials, including sewage sludge, waste soil, and waste wood, bark and other plant material.

National and Sub-national (Plans, Programmes and Strategies)

A.114 The Scottish Soil Framework (2009) sets out a vision for the enhancement and protection of soil consistent with the economic, social and environmental needs of Scotland. The Framework identifies 13 key outcomes, as follows:

- Protecting and enhancing soil organic matter
- Reducing soil erosion
- Maintaining soil structure
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from soils
- Protecting soil biodiversity
- Ensuring that soils contribute to sustainable flood management
- Enhancing water quality through sustainable soil management
- Enhancing soil's productive capacity
- Reducing soil contamination

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- Reducing pressure on greenfield land and redirect development to brownfield sites where appropriate
- Protecting soils with significant historical and cultural features
- Enhancing knowledge base
- Promoting effective coordination between stakeholders

A.115 Scotland's National Peatland Plan Working for our future (2015) sets out proposals for the sustainable use, protection, management and restoration of Scotland's peatlands. It identifies the following outcomes:

- Protect those areas of peatland currently in good condition and supporting their potential range of ecosystem functions;
- Enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change through appropriate management;
- Restore peatland ecosystem functions and biodiversity, evaluating and understanding the benefits to help inform future decisions;
- Secure greater peatland restoration capabilities and understanding of these amongst land managers, developers, advisers and the public;
- Ensure peatland values are reflected in the support given to those who manage and restore them; and
- Demonstrate and communicate the wider public benefits of healthy peatland landscapes and peatland restoration.

A.116 Management of carbon rich soils – The Scottish Government's discussion paper notes the importance of peatlands and other carbon-rich soils in holding carbon. Emphasises the multiple benefits of peatland in particular, and the complexity of restoration.

A.117 PAN 33: Development of Contaminated Land – This PAN provides advice with regards to the development of contaminated land, which any developments will need to adhere to.

Implications

9.10 The SEA will assess the extent to which the Get to Zero Action Plan protects valuable soil resources. The Get to Zero Action Plan should support management measures which support the protection of all soil resources, and support the use of vacant and derelict land and buildings.

Water

International

A.118 Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) defines the rights and responsibilities of national in their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of natural resources.

European

A.119 The Water Framework Directive 2000 – Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy. The main aim of the Directive is to protect of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and ground waters.

A.120 The Bathing Water Quality Directive 2006 – Directive 2006/7/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption. The overall objective of the revised Directive remains the protection of public health whilst bathing.

A.121 The Nitrates Directive 1991 - Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources. Reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and prevent further such pollution.

A.122 The Floods Directive 2007 – Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks. Establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods.

National (Legislation)

A.123 Bathing Waters (Scotland) Regulations 2008 – The Act implements the EU Bathing Water Quality Directive.

A.124 Water Environment (Miscellaneous) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 amend existing general binding rules and introduces requirements for particular projects to have a construction license in place before works can commence.

A.125 Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 requires authorities to secure compliance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. In particular it requires the Authority to:

- Have regard to the desirability of protecting the water environment,
- Promote sustainable flood management, and act to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, and
- Adopt an integrated approach by co-operating with each other with a view to co-ordinating the exercise of their respective functions

A.126 Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 emphasises a sustainable approach to flood risk management and considers the impact on climate change. It also promotes a coordinated process to manage flood risk at a national and local level. Specific measures include:

- A framework for coordination and cooperation between all organisations involved in flood risk management
- Assessment of flood risk and preparation of flood risk management plans

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- New responsibilities for SEPA, Scottish Water and local authorities in relation to flood risk management
- New methods to enable stakeholders and the public to contribute to managing flood risk, and;
- A single enforcement authority for the safe operation of Scotland's reservoirs.

A.127 Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations

2011 (as amended) (CAR) outlines the different levels of authorisations to allow for proportionate regulation depending on the risk an activity poses to the water environment. Some activities require authorisation including point source discharges, impoundments and abstractions.

A.128 The Flood Risk Management (Flood Protection Schemes, Potentially Vulnerable Areas and Local Plan Districts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017 provides a regulatory framework for flood risk management amending the previous regulations made in 2009.

A.129 Water Resources (Scotland) Bill (as introduced) makes provision for the development of water resources. Sets out responsibilities of Scottish Water and Scottish Ministers. Key elements relate to water abstraction, water quality, water supplies and sewerage services.

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A.130 National Marine Plan 2015 covers the management of both Scottish inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles) and offshore waters (12 to 200 nautical miles). It also applies to the exercise of both reserved and devolved functions. It provides guidance to decision-makers and users within Scotland's marine environment.

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A.131 Scotland's Bathing Waters: A Strategy For Improvement – The main purpose of this strategic document is to reduce water pollution in bathing waters by implementing changes to agricultural practices, ensuring compliance with controls on industrial discharges and making use of SUDs.

A.132 The Third River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland river basin district 2021 – 2027 outlines the actions to be taken to protect Scottish waters currently in good condition and to improve the quality of others.

A.133 The National Flood Risk Assessment – SEPA identifies geographical areas across Scotland, called Local Plan Districts, which include whole river catchments and cross local authority boundaries. The Assessment identifies potentially vulnerable areas where the potential impact of flooding justified further assessment and appraisal of actions to address flooding. This will be taken forward in the Flood Risk Management Strategies which are due to be published in December 2015, and the Local Flood Risk Management Plans which will be produced and published by each local authority in June 2016.

A.134 Scottish Water A Sustainable Future Together sets out how the sector will deliver safe drinking water and provide leadership in responding to the climate emergency.

Implications

A.135 The SEA assesses the potential impacts on the water environment. The Get to Zero Action Plan should support the protection and enhancement of the water environment, and support flood management measures where required.

Air

International

A.136 UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution –

The purpose of the UNECE Convention was to address the environmental consequences of air pollution. The main aim of the Convention was to reduce and prevent air pollution in order to improve air quality on the local, regional and national levels. To achieve this, the Convention sets out measures to be taken by parties to cut their emissions of air pollutions. The UNECE Convention has been extended by eight other protocols that identify measures to be undertaken by Parties to cut their emissions of air pollutants. These eight protocols include the following:

- EMEP Protocol on Long-Term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutions in Europe (1984)
- Helsinki Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (1985)
- Nitrogen Oxide Protocol (1988)
- Volatile Organic Compounds Protocol (1991)
- Oslo Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (1994)
- Protocol on Heavy Metals (1998)
- Aarhus Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (1998)
- Gothenburg Protocol on Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (1999)

European

A.137 The National Emissions Ceiling Directive 2001 – Directive 2001/81 EC on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants. The Directives

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sets limits for the main causal factors of acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone.

A.138 The Air Quality Directive 2008 – Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. Avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of air pollution on human health and the environment. The Directive Brings together existing legislation (at the time) on air quality, including objectives for key pollutants such as SO₂, NO_x, particulates, lead, benzene and ozone. The Directive sets out statutory limits for the concentration of different pollutants (Annex XI) and thresholds for human and environmental health (Annex II).

A.139 The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010 - Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control). This Directive lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.

A.140 The Clean Air Policy Package and Clean Air Programme for Europe 2013 set targets up to 2030, and also introduces measures and proposals to reduce emissions and improve air quality across the EU.

National (Legislation)

A.141 The Environment Act 1995 requires the UK government and devolved administrations to produce a national air quality strategy. The most recent version of this national air quality strategy is The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which defines the roles of the local and central government, as well as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), industry, business, transport, individuals and other groups. In addition, the Act sets objectives for specific emissions and measures for monitoring. Where limits are not met, the local authority must declare it an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

A.142 The Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 as amended by the Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2002 and the Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016 Sets out air quality objectives for several substances in line with the Environment Act 1995. In contrast to EU requirement, Scotland has set stricter levels for specific pollutants including PM10 and PM2.5.

A.143 The Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations (2010) sets statutory targets for concentrations of pollutants in ambient air in accordance with EU Directives. The Act allows for Air Quality Management Zones to be identified and makes provision for the sharing of this information with the public. The Regulations were amended through The Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016.

A.144 Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012 implements the requirements of the EU Industrial Emissions Directive in Scotland. The Act states that emissions to air, water and land must be considered together, and permits are considered based on the nature of the activity. The Act has been amended several times since 2012.

National and Sub-national (Plans, Programmes and Strategies)

A.145 The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2017) establishes the framework for air quality improvements across the UK.

A.146 Scotland's National Transport Strategy 2 sets out an ambitious vision for Scotland's transport system for the next 20 years. The vision is underpinned by four priorities: Reduces Inequalities, Takes Climate Action, Helps Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth and Improves our Health and Wellbeing, each with three associated outcomes. This Strategy was developed following a review of the original National Transport Strategy (2006), based on three pillars:

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collaborative working with partners, engaging with stakeholders and building an evidence base.

A.147 Regional Transport Strategy influences all of the future plans and activities and informs future national and local transport strategies.

A.148 Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 – Towards a Better Place for Everyone (2021) setting out the Scottish Government’s air quality policy framework for the next five years and a series of actions to deliver further air quality improvements. It summarises broad types of key actions that could help to reduce air pollution and improve air quality.

A.149 Respiratory Care Action Plan 2021 to 2026 sets out our vision for driving improvement in the prevention, diagnosis, care, treatment and support of people living with respiratory conditions. The Plan identifies five key priorities for respiratory care in Scotland. It is intended to be an enabling document which will continue to drive continuous improvement.

Implications

9.11 The SEA will assess the extent to which the Get to Zero Action Plan could help to reduce, or may increase emissions of pollutants to air at a strategic level.

Cultural Heritage and the Historic Environment

International

A.150 European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1992) – Revision of the 1985 Granada Convention. Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that

can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.

European

A.151 European Spatial Development Perspective (1999) – Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.

National (Legislation)

A.152 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 provides main legislation to:

- list buildings of special architectural or historic interest
- providing requirements in relation to changes affecting listed buildings and conservation areas
- setting out a framework for designating and managing Conservation Areas

A.153 National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 Sets out for main aims for the National Parks of Scotland:

- Conserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage of the area
- Promoting sustainable use of the natural resources of the area
- Promoting understanding and enjoyment of the area by the public
- Promoting sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

A.154 Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 established Historic Environment Scotland (HES) as a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB). Under the Act, HES will be a statutory consultee in relation to listed buildings

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and conservation area consents, as well as in relation to EIA. The Act also amended statutory processes in relation to the historic environment by changing the processes for the designation of sites and buildings (by scheduling and listing) and for consents relating to scheduled monuments, listed buildings and conservation areas.

A.155 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended by Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 provides protection of scheduled ancient monuments and areas of archaeological importance.

National and Sub-national (Plans, Programmes and Strategies)

A.156 Our Place in Time – The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland, March 2014 provides a high-level framework which sets out a 10-year vision for the historic environment. The key outcome of the strategy is to ensure that the cultural, social, environmental, and economic value of Scotland’s heritage makes a strong contribution to the wellbeing of the nation and its people.

A.157 Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) 2019 sets out how Historic Environment Scotland fulfils its regulatory and advisory roles and sets out the principles and policies of how the historic environment should be managed.

Implications

9.12 The SEA will assess the extent to which the Get to Zero Action Plan will impact on cultural heritage in East Renfrewshire. The Get to Zero Action Plan should safeguard and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment.

Landscape and Geodiversity

European

A.158 European Landscape Convention (2002) – The convention promotes landscape protection, management, and planning.

National and Sub-national (Plans, Programmes and Strategies)

A.159 Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy 2021-2026 Getting the best from our Land sets out vision, objectives and policies to achieve sustainable land use. The Strategy supports sustainable land use, and recognises the interactions between different interests and land use. The objectives of the strategy include:

- Land-based businesses working with nature to contribute more to Scotland's prosperity.
- Responsible stewardship of Scotland's natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland's people.
- Urban and rural communities better connected to the land, with more people enjoying the land and positively influencing land use.

A.160 Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement 2017 sets out 6 principles relating to land rights and responsibilities. It aims to work towards a Scotland with a strong and dynamic relationship between its land and people, where all land contributes to a modern and successful country, and where rights and responsibilities in relation to land are fully recognised and fulfilled. The 6 principles outlined are:

- The overall framework of land rights, responsibilities and public policies should promote, fulfil and respect relevant human rights in relation to land, contribute to public interest and wellbeing, and balance public and private

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interests. The framework should support sustainable economic development, protect and enhance the environment, help achieve social justice and build a fairer society

- There should be a more diverse pattern of land ownership and tenure, with more opportunities for citizens to own, lease and have access to land.
- More local communities should have the opportunity to own, lease or use buildings and land which can contribute to their community's wellbeing and future development.
- The holders of land rights should exercise these rights in ways that take account of their responsibilities to meet high standards of land ownership, management and use. Acting as the stewards of Scotland's land resource for future generations they contribute to sustainable growth and a modern, successful country
- There should be improved transparency of information about the ownership, use and management of land, and this should be publicly available, clear and contain relevant detail.
- There should be greater collaboration and community engagement in decisions about land

A.161 Designing Places: A Policy Statement for Scotland sets out Government aspirations for design and the role of the planning system in delivering these. It aims to demystify urban design and demonstrate how it can contribute to quality of life.

A.162 Designing Streets: A Policy Statement for Scotland on street design changing the emphasis of guidance on street design towards place-making and away from a system focused upon the dominance of motor vehicles.

A.163 Forests and Landscape: UK Forestry Standard Guidelines set out the forest design process (landscape character, landscape and visual sensitivities, etc.) and principles (shape, landform, scale, diversity, etc.).

Appendix A Plans, programmes and strategies

A.164 National Scenic Areas Programme – Scotland has 40 National Scenic Areas, covering 13% of the total area. NatureScot published information on the special qualities of each area, with further guidance expected on how protection of these characteristics can be achieved.

A.165 PAN 65 Planning and Open Space provides advice on the role of the planning system in protecting and enhancing existing open spaces and providing high quality new spaces.

A.166 Scotland's Landscape Charter sets an agenda for landscape planning and management. Reflects the key principles of the European Landscape Convention and emphasises the need to maintain distinctiveness and sense of place within Scotland. Calls on public bodies to recognise the importance of landscape in decision making, encourage involvement of communities in managing landscape change, recognise the need for landscape expertise within planning, raise awareness of the role of local and national designations in safeguarding landscapes.

A.167 Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 supports an increase in Scotland's forests and woodlands that will be sustainably managed and better integrated with other land uses. It has 3 main objectives:

- Increase the contribution of forests and woodlands to Scotland's sustainable and inclusive economic growth
- Improve the resilience of Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their contribution to a healthy and high-quality environment
- Increase the use of Scotland's forest and woodland resources to enable more people to improve their health, well-being and life chances

A.168 Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership is working to remove the barriers to effective delivery of green infrastructure (GI) in the built environment. This will be an important component to the delivery of the GCV Green Network.

A.169 NatureScot and HES Landscape Position Statement and Action Plan (2019) sets out the vision and approach of NatureScot and HES for managing change in Scotland's landscapes in more detail. As the lead heritage bodies in Scotland, our organisations have statutory roles in the conservation, management and sustainable use of our landscape resources, and in promoting their enjoyment and understanding.

Implications

9.13 The SEA will assess the impacts of the Get to Zero Action Plan on protected landscapes. The Action Plan should support the protection of important landscape resources, and support the role of planting more trees in achieving landscape benefits.

Material Assets

European

A.170 The Landfill Directive 1999 – Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste. Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.

A.171 The Waste Framework Directive 2008 – Directive 2008/98/EC on waste. Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.

National (Legislation)

A.172 Environmental Protection Act 1990 – The Act implements the EU Waste Framework Directive (2008) and includes provisions for improved control of pollution and waste generation arising from certain industrial processes. Moreover, the Act places a duty on local authorities, as the primary regulators, to identify and secure the remediation of contaminated land in their respective areas.

A.173 Waste Management Licencing (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended) sets out requirements for the management of waste and related activities with regard to granting site licences and consolidating existing licences.

National and Sub-national (Plans, Programmes and Strategies)

A.174 Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement 2022 addresses how land reform in Scotland, including matters relating to the ownership, use and management of land and associated rights and responsibilities, is continually evolving. The statement articulates the Government's vision for the ownership, use and management of land, setting out how they see the balance between the rights of landowners, managers, local communities and society at large.

A.175 Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 was published on 4 February 2021. It sets out a long-term vision of infrastructure in Scotland, which supports an inclusive, net zero carbon economy and includes details on over £26 billion of major projects and large programmes.

A.176 Scotland's National Transport Strategy sets out an ambitious vision for Scotland's transport system for the next 20 years. The vision is underpinned

Appendix A Plans, programmes and strategies

by four priorities: Reduces Inequalities, Takes Climate Action, Helps Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth and Improves our Health and Wellbeing, each with three associated outcomes.

A.177 Zero Waste Plan is intended to create a stable framework that will provide confidence for the investment necessary to deliver a zero waste Scotland over the next 10 years. It does this by setting out a Mission and Vision for the long term. Within that context, the Plan sets strategic directions in the key areas of activity for the medium term up to 5 years, with specific actions setting out immediate priorities. The Zero Waste Plan sets out the following targets:

- Target of 70% recycling and maximum 5% to landfill by 2025 for all Scotland's waste;
- Landfill bans for specific waste types;
- Source segregation and separate collection of specific waste types; and
- Restrictions on inputs to energy from waste facilities.

A.178 Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland aims to build on a strong economy, protect our resources and support the environment through the better use of products and materials.

Implications

A.179 The SEA will assess the extent to which the Get to Zero Action Plan will impact on the material assets within East Renfrewshire. The Get to Zero Action plan should ensure reduction in emissions from waste and increase recycling rates in line with Clyde valley residual Waste. The Get to Zero Action Plan should ensure it is compliant with the National Transport Strategy 2. The Get to Zero Action Plan should continue to reduce transport emissions and encourage active travel and use of public transport.

Appendix B

Consultation comments received in relation to the SEA Scoping Report

B.1 In order to meet the requirements of the 2005 Act, the views of the three statutory consultees were sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in this Environmental Report:

- The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA);
- NatureScot; and
- Historic Environment Scotland.

B.2 The SEA Scoping Report (May 2022) was published for a five-week consultation period between May and June 2022. A summary of their responses and how they have been addressed in this Environmental Report is provided below.

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

Relationship with other Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS)

- Some of the PPS included themselves have been subject to SEA. Where this is the case you may find it useful to prepare a summary of the key SEA findings that may be relevant to the GTZAP. This may assist you with data sources and environmental baseline information and also ensure the current SEA picks up environmental issues or mitigation actions which have been identified elsewhere.

Appendix B Consultation comments received in relation to the SEA Scoping Report

- Please note that the third River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) (2021-2027) has been published.

LUC response

Noted.

With relation to the third RBMP, Chapter 3 and Appendix A of this Environmental Report have been updated to reflect this update.

Baseline information

- SEPA holds significant amounts of environmental data which may be of interest to you in preparing the environmental baseline, identifying environmental problems, and summarising the likely changes to the environment in the absence of the PPS, all of which are required for the assessment. Many of these data are now readily available on SEPA's website. Additional local information may also be available from our Access to Information unit. Other sources of data for issue that fall within SEPA's remit are referenced in our SEA topic guidance notes for air, soil, water, material assets, climatic factors and human health.

LUC response

Several of SEPA's sources of data have been used to prepare the environmental baseline.

Environmental problems

- We consider that the environmental problems described generally highlight the main issue of relevance for the SEA topics within our remit.
- Whilst there are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) declared in East Renfrewshire Council's area the Glasgow AQMA follows the northern extent of the council boundary. You may wish to consider the cross boundary implications of this in terms of your assessment.

LUC response

Noted.

Reference to the neighbouring Glasgow AQMA has been included in the baseline.

Alternatives

- Note that alternatives are still being considered. They will relate to the prioritisation of different actions within the GTZAP rather than the inclusion or exclusion of particular policies or approaches. Any reasonable alternatives identified during the preparation of the plan should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings of the assessment should inform the choice of the preferred option.

LUC response

Reasonable alternatives have been assessed and the assessment findings are presented in Chapter 6 of this Environmental Statement.

Scoping in/out of environmental topics

- We agree that in this instance all environmental topics should be scoped into the assessment.

Methodology for assessing environmental effects

- Including a commentary section within the matrices in order to state, where necessary, the reasons for the effects cited and the score given helps to fully explain the rationale behind the assessment results. This allows the Responsible Authority to be transparent and also allows the reader to understand the rationale behind the scores given.
- Where it is expected that other plans, programmes or strategies are better placed to undertake more detailed assessment of environmental effects this should be clearly set out in the Environmental Report.
- We would expect all aspects of the PPS which could have significant effects to be assessed.
- We would support the use of SEA objectives as assessment tools as they allow a systematic, rigorous and consistent framework with which to assess environmental effects.
- When it comes to setting out the results of the assessment in the Environmental Report, 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.
- It is helpful if the assessment matrix directly links the assessment result with proposed mitigation measures.

LUC response

Noted.

Comments on wording of proposed SEA objectives

- Welcome the wording of the SEA objectives, however recommend considering having headline objectives and sub-objectives in order to give an overview of what you want to achieve and then breaking it down in more specific parts. For example, for water we recommend that you use as objective:

- *To protect and enhance the state of the water environment*

And for sub-objectives adding to the ones already identified:

- *To improve the physical state of the water environment*
- *To reduce the impact of invasive non-native species on the water environment*

Please note that the water environment includes rivers, lochs, streams, reservoirs, wetlands, aquifers, estuaries, coastal waters and marine waters.

- Recommend that you consider, instead of *Ensure development does not increase the risk of flooding to avoid and reduce flood risk*
- The soil objective could also be expanded and the sub-objectives divided to consider separately carbon rich soil and agricultural land, in order to identify more specific mitigation and enhancement measures (*to minimise disturbance to carbon rich soils, in particular peat*). There are other sub-objectives that can be considered in the SEPA SEA topic guidance. We therefore recommend you consider the wording in the SEA topics guidance (air, soil, water, etc.) available at:
<https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/land/planning/strategic-environmental-assessment/>

LUC response

The wording of Objective 8 has been updated to *Avoid and reduce flood risk, as recommended.*

Mitigation and enhancement

- We would encourage you to use the assessment as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final option; hence why we support proposals for enhancement of positive effects as well as mitigation of negative effects.
- It is useful to show the link between potential effects and proposed mitigation / enhancement measures in the assessment work.
- We would encourage you to be very clear in the Environmental Report about mitigation measures which are proposed as a result of the assessment. These should follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate).
- One of the most important ways to mitigate significant environmental effects identified through the assessment is to make changes to the plan itself so that significant effects are avoided. The Environmental Report should therefore identify any changes made to the plan as a result of SEA.
- Where the mitigation proposed does not relate to modification to the plan itself then it would be extremely helpful to set out the proposed mitigation measures in a way that clearly identifies: (1) the measures required, (2) when they would be required and (3) who will be required to implement them. The inclusion of a summary table in the Environmental Report such as that presented below will help to track progress on mitigation through the monitoring process.

Monitoring

- Although not specifically required at this stage, monitoring is a requirement of the Act and early consideration should be given to a monitoring approach particularly in the choice of indicators. It would be helpful if the Environmental Report included a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan.

Consultation Period

- We are satisfied with the proposal for a six weeks consultation period for the Environmental Report.

Outcome of the Scoping exercise

- We would find it helpful if the Environmental Report included a summary of the scoping outcomes and how comments from the Consultation Authorities were taken into account.

LUC response

A summary of the scoping comments and how the comments from Consultation Authorities were taken into account is presented in this appendix.

NatureScot

Baseline information

- The baseline information covered in Chapter 4 of the report will help provide a good frame of reference for assessing the plan. In the material assets section, existing path and cycle networks could be included, as one of the actions in the Plan might be about increasing and linking these active travel routes.

Significant issues

- The added value of nature-based solutions and green infrastructure should be borne in mind, when determining the actions of the plan.

Effects on European sites

- If the Habitats Regulations Appraisal is undertaken in parallel with SEA, it is important that the findings of both appraisals are separately and clearly documented and that the record of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal uses the correct terminology, applying them appropriately. In practice, it is easier to set out the Habitats Regulations Appraisal in a separate record, and where appropriate provide a cross-reference to it in the Environmental Report.
- Given the nature of this Plan however, as well as the absence of any specific European Sites within the boundary of the East Renfrewshire Council area, it is likely that any such Habitats Regulations Appraisal will quickly conclude that the Plan will not give rise to any likelihood of significant effects on any European Site.

Report structure

- Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 sets out the information to be included in the Environmental Report.

LUC response

Noted.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES)

Scoping

- We welcome that the historic environment has been scoped into the assessment.

Assessment methodology

- The methodology proposed for the assessment is sound. We note that a standard matrix approach is to be adopted with SEA Objectives identified for the historic environment in order to test the actions of the plan. In considering the performance of the action plan against these objectives it will be important to recognise where the historic environment can contribute towards the aims of the plan and progress towards targets as well as where potential conflicts can occur.

LUC response

Noted.

Mitigation, monitoring and enhancement

- As the scoping report notes, any monitoring will largely be driven by the identification of significant environmental effects. We therefore look forward to further information on the proposed approach in the Environmental Report.

Relationship of plans, programmes and strategies

- The Historic Environmental Scotland Policy Statement referred to in this section was an interim document and has been superseded by The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland. This was launched in April 2019 and sets out the principles and policies of how the historic environment should be managed.
- Also of relevance here would be our recent publication The Green Recovery Statement for the Historic Environment which sets out how the historic environment can make a vital contribution to our recovery from the pandemic and the transition to net zero and a climate resilient society. The need for greater reuse, maintenance and repair of our existing assets is

Appendix B Consultation comments received in relation to the SEA Scoping Report

also recognised within the Infrastructure Investment Plan within its sustainable investment hierarchy and we welcome that this key plan is noted in the material assets section.

LUC response

Amendments have been made to Chapter 3 and Appendix A to reflect these recommended updates to the PPS.

Environmental baseline

- We welcome the historic environment baseline discussed in this section and would encourage the holistic consideration of the historic environment and how it will interact with the aims of the action plan. As noted above, the historic environment has a key role to play in the transition to net zero. In making decisions towards net zero in areas such as estate management research has shown that typical well maintained and retrofitted traditional buildings will emit less carbon by 2050 than if they were demolished and replaced with a new building.
- In noting the statement that Historic Environment Scotland is tasked with managing and protecting Scottish cultural heritage we would clarify that we collectively have a duty of care for the historic environment.

LUC response

Wording amendments/additions have been made to the environmental baseline to reflect these points.

Appendix C

Habitats Regulations Screening Appraisal

C.1 The Council has considered the GTZAP should be subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisal. To determine if an appraisal is required the Council followed the procedures required by regulations 48 and 85b of the Habitats Regulations, and considered the following questions:

- Is the Plan directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of a European site?;
- Would the plan be likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European Offshore Marine Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects?

C.2 The Council’s response to the above two tests is that the GTZAP is not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management Natura site. Nor does the GTZAP adversely affect the integrity of a Natura site. In accordance with the guidance there is no requirement to carry out further assessment under the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA).

C.3 In reaching this conclusion the Council has followed Stage 1 of SNH’s recommended approach to methodology and reporting as detailed in the Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans Guidance for plan-making bodies in Scotland (2015). The Council’s assessment is based on screening the following scenarios:

Possible impact on Natura Site	Screening Result
Natura sites within East Renfrewshire	No sites
Proposals that could affect the aquatic environment of Natura sites upstream or downstream of East Renfrewshire	The Clyde Estuary SAC is downstream of East Renfrewshire but there are no major proposals in the

Appendix C Habitats Regulations Screening Appraisal

	GTZAP that will significantly affect the water environment.
Peatland and other wetland Natura sites with relevant hydrological links to East Renfrewshire	No Natura sites are hydraulically linked to East Renfrewshire. The closest peatland SAC site is Bankhead Moss 7 miles south west of the East Renfrewshire Boundary.
Natura Sites which have significant ecological links with land in East Renfrewshire. For example, land in the plan area may be used by migratory birds, which also use a SPA site outwith the LDP2 area at different times of the year.	There are no actions in the GTZAP which will adversely affect migratory birds in East Renfrewshire with consequent impacts on SAC sites in other areas.
Natura sites where there may be an increase in recreational pressure and are potentially vulnerable to such pressure	There are no actions in the GTZAP that will increase recreational pressure on Natura sites beyond the authority boundaries.
Natura sites that may be impacted by increased development irrespective of distance from the plan area. For example sites that could be affected by, discharge of effluent from waste water, that could be affected by transport or other infrastructure, that could be affected by increased deposition of air pollutants arising from including emissions from significant increases in traffic	The focus of the GTZAP is to influence actions to improve the energy efficiency of existing infrastructure and to influence the energy efficiency of new infrastructure and vehicles. The main outcomes of the GTZAP are to reduce emissions from transport and heating, reducing current levels of air pollution.
Natura sites beyond East Renfrewshire boundaries which may be vulnerable to the cumulative impacts of different plans and proposals.	The implementation of the development actions within the GTZAP is within the scope of the existing planning framework of LDP2.

Methodology

C.4 It is understood that distance from a Natura site does not necessarily mean there will be no impact, but proximity was still considered a significant issue because of the potential for wider ecological connectivity. Reflecting the desk

Appendix C Habitats Regulations Screening Appraisal

top mapping exercise undertaken for the HRA of the LDP2 which checked the distance of East Renfrewshire to Natura sites, the nearest Natura sites to East Renfrewshire are:

- Renfrewshire Heights SAC 10 miles to the west,
- Bankhead Moss SAC 7 miles to the south west
- Blackcart Water SAC 11 miles to the North West and
- the Clyde Estuary SAC 12 miles to the north.

9.14 It is considered there is no ecological connectivity between the draft GTZAP area and these sites.

C.5 The mapping exercise showed that the Clyde SAC is downstream of watercourses in East Renfrewshire. This prompted a check of those actions that might impact on the water environment. It was concluded that the GTZAP does not contain actions that promote downstream environmental impacts, there are no proposals for major development that will have wider impacts on water courses or hydrology.

C.6 The Environmental Report (ER) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (2019) of the draft GTZAP have extensively researched the impact of the plan's policies on the environment. There are no impacts on Natura sites identified in the SEA.

Conclusion

C.7 The proposed GTZAP does not significantly impact on any European site and is not subject to Habitat Regulations Appraisal.

Appendix D

Assessment tables

Communication and transparency

SEA topic	Assessment	Score	Summary
Climatic factors	Direct effects: No direct effects identified	+	Overall indirect minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as improved governance and education can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Majority of effects will occur within <1 year or 1-2 years, however, some effects will occur within 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as improved governance and education can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.		
Biodiversity	Direct effects: No effects identified	+	Overall, indirect minor positive effects resulting from the implementation of the Green Flag award scheme with benefits for biodiversity. All effects will occur within 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive indirect effects as a result of increased biodiversity in school grounds.		
Population and human health	Direct effects: Minor positive direct effects are expected in relation to population and human health as the actions are likely to have a positive effect on behavioural change and enhancing people's resilience to climate change.	+	Overall, direct minor positive direct effects are expected in relation to population and human health as supporting local action and improved decision making will be important in driving behavioural change and enhancing climate resilience of the population. Majority of effects will occur within <1 year or 1-2 years, however, some effects will occur within 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: No indirect effects identified		
Soil	Direct effects: No direct effects identified	0	No effects identified.
	Indirect effects: No indirect effects identified		
Water	Direct effects: No direct effects identified	0	No effects identified.
	Indirect effects: No indirect effects identified		

Appendix D Assessment tables

SEA topic	Assessment	Score	Summary
Air	Direct effects: No direct effects identified	0	No effects identified.
	Indirect effects: No indirect effects identified		
Cultural heritage and historic environment	Direct effects: No direct effects identified	0	No effects identified.
	Indirect effects: No indirect effects identified		
Landscape and geodiversity	Direct effects: No direct effects identified	0	No effects identified.
	Indirect effects: No indirect effects identified		
Material assets	Direct effects: No direct effects identified	0	No effects identified.
	Indirect effects: No indirect effects identified		

Consumption

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Climatic factors	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as adopting a circular economy model supports a reduction in energy consumption and GHG emissions.	+	Overall, minor direct and indirect positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as the actions within this theme support reduced GHG emissions and energy consumption. Majority of small scale effects will occur in the less than 1 year and 1-2 years, however some of the effects will be 2-5 years or more than 10 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as food waste reduction; improved recycling; reuse of materials; and, local food growing supports a reduction in energy consumption and GHG emissions.		
Biodiversity	Direct effects: no effects were identified.	+	No environmental effects are identified.
	Indirect effects: no effects identified		
Population and human health	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health. Growing local food and the reuse of products and materials through a circular economy model can reduce financial costs.	+	Overall, minor direct and indirect positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health as the actions in this theme will likely to instil good behaviours in relation to food; and support recycling and lower expenses. Minor indirect positive effects are expected as the cost associated with production

Appendix D Assessment tables

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
	Indirect effects: Minor indirect positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health as the cost associated with production of new textiles may be cheaper supporting reductions in poverty levels.		of new textiles may be cheaper supporting reductions in poverty levels. The majority of effects will occur in the short term either less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.
Soil	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to soil as increased recycling is likely to result in less pollution of soils and littering.	+	Overall, minor direct positive direct are expected in relation to soil as the actions within this theme will reduce the level of litter. All the effects will occur within the short-term, less than one year or 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		
Water	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to water as improved recycling is likely to reduce pollution of local waters. The reuse of textiles preserves water being used in the creation of new materials.	+	Minor positive effects are expected in relation to water as the actions within this theme support the sustainable use of water resources and reduce water pollution through littering. All the effects will occur within the short-term, less than one year or 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		
Air	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to air as reduced food waste; growing local food; adopting a circular economy model; and, reduction in non-recyclable waste are likely to improve the overall air quality through lower energy consumption and GHG emissions.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to air as actions included in this theme are likely to reduce GHG emissions improving air quality. The majority of effects will occur in the short term either less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		
Cultural heritage and historic environment	Direct effects: No effects are identified.	0	No environmental effects are identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		
	Direct effects: No effects are identified.		No environmental effects are identified.

Appendix D Assessment tables

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Landscape and geodiversity	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.	0	
Material assets	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to material assets as food waste reduction plan is likely to reduce the demand for waste facilities. Increased recycling supports the sustainable use of materials and reduced demand for new materials.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to material assets as the actions included in this theme are likely to support sustainable use of materials and reduce the overall demand for new materials. The majority of effects will occur in the short term either less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		

Heating and powering homes and businesses

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Climatic factors	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as the strategy and action plan are likely to deliver more energy efficient systems that will have a positive effects on the GHG emissions and reduce carbon emissions from housing stock by improving energy efficiency. In terms of renewable energy generation, the developments have the potential to deliver positive effects by reducing the overall emissions from energy generation and displacing emissions from fossil fuels.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as it is expected that actions associated with this theme will lead to reduction in the overall emissions from energy and heating with a reduction in energy demand and use of fossil fuels. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, <1 year or 1-2 years. Some of the effects will occur within the long term over 5 years.
	Indirect effects: Renewable energy projects could provide wider benefits beyond East Renfrewshire in relation to reduced energy costs. However, this depends on the scope of development. Therefore, negligible effects are expected.		

Appendix D Assessment tables

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Biodiversity	Direct effects: Due to the scale of development and type of renewable energy development the effect is uncertain in relation to biodiversity.	?	Overall, uncertain effects were expected in relation to biodiversity as there is insufficient information about the scale of the renewable energy projects. The majority of effects will occur within 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: no effects are expected.		
Population and human health	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health as the strategy and action plan are likely to lead to more energy efficient buildings that have reduced energy demand and lower running costs. In terms of renewable energy generation, these projects and interlinked displaced emissions from fossil fuels have the potential to benefit population and human health by providing access to green energy.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health as it is expected that the actions included in this theme will lead to overall reductions in energy and heat demand. Reducing energy consumption and the use of green energy will support lower energy costs and reduce fuel poverty. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, <1 year or 1-2 years. Some of the effects will occur within the long term over 5 years.
	Indirect effects: Renewable energy projects could provide wider benefits beyond East Renfrewshire in relation to reduced energy costs. However, this depends on the scope of development. Therefore, negligible effects are expected.		
Soil	Direct effects: Due to the scale of development and type of renewable energy development the effect is uncertain in relation to soil.	?	Overall, uncertain effects are expected in relation to soil as there is insufficient information about the scale of the renewable energy projects. Effects are likely to occur within 5-10 years.
	Indirect effects: no effects are expected.		
Water	Direct effects: no effects are expected.	0	No effects are expected.
	Indirect effects: no effects are expected.		

Appendix D Assessment tables

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Air	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to air as the strategy and action plan and renewable energy projects are likely to lead to reduced emissions and as a result improve the air quality. Renewable energy generation developments will also reduce reliance on fossil fuels and support an increase in the use of green energy.	0	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation air quality as the actions associated with this theme will lead to reduced emissions and as a result improve the air quality. Renewable energy generation developments will also reduce reliance on fossil fuels and support an increase in the use of green energy. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, <1 year or 1-2 years. Some of the effects will occur within the long term over 5 years.
	Indirect effects: no effects are expected.		
Cultural heritage and historic environment	Direct effects: no effects are expected.	0	No effects are expected.
	Indirect effects: no effects are expected.		
Landscape and geodiversity	Direct effects: Due to the scale of development and type of renewable energy development the effect is uncertain in relation to landscape and geodiversity.	?	Overall, uncertain effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity as there is insufficient information about the scale of the renewable energy projects. Effects are likely to occur within 5-10 years.
	Indirect effects: no effects are expected.		
Material assets	Direct effects: New renewable energy generation facilities require materials for construction. Minor negative and negligible effects are expected as the scope of development is currently unknown.	-	Overall, minor negative and negligible effects are expected in relation to material assets as there is insufficient information about the scale of the renewable energy projects. Effects will occur within 5-10 years.
	Indirect effects: no effects are expected.		

How we work

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Climatic factors	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as reducing car use for staff and supporting home working is likely to reduce the overall emissions from transport and updating IT equipment will reduce emissions through recycling older equipment.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as reducing car use, supporting home working and updating IT will lead to reduced emissions. All of the effects will occur within less than 1 year or 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Biodiversity	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No effects are expected.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Population and human health	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health as reducing car use for staff is likely to provide more opportunities for recreation improving physical and mental health. Negligible effects are expected in relation to population and human health as staff may not need to travel for work as often. However, the effect of this to health is unknown.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health as the actions included in this theme are likely to deliver more opportunities for physical activity and improve health and wellbeing. All of the effects will occur within less than 1 year or 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Soil	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No effects are expected.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Water	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No effects are expected.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		

Appendix D Assessment tables

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Air	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to air from reducing car use as it is likely to reduce air pollution and positively impact air quality.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to air as the actions included in this theme are likely to reduce the overall emissions which will improve air quality. All of the effects will occur within less than 1 year or 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Cultural heritage and historic environment	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No effects are expected.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Landscape and geodiversity	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No effects are expected.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Material assets	Direct effects: Mixed minor negative and minor positive effects are expected in relation to material assets as to reduce emissions will require purchase of new devices and IT equipment. In relation to monitoring waste and identifying improvements, minor positive indirect effects are expected as this process will only be a first step to enable reduced waste and emissions.	+/-	Overall, mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to material assets from this action theme as there will be a requirement for new IT equipment to replace older more efficient equipment. All of the effects will occur within less than 1 year or 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		

Investing in communities

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Climatic factors	Direct effects: minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors from local work hubs as these are likely to reduce the need to travel to work and will reduce the overall transport emissions. The delivery of City Deal projects will incorporate a 'whole Lifecycle' approach supporting reductions in emissions and adaptation.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as this action theme is likely to reduce overall emissions through the reduced use of the private car and providing climate adaptation and emissions reduction through the delivery of City deal projects. The majority of effects have no current timescale. Some effects will occur within 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: no effects were identified.		
Biodiversity	Direct effects: Minor negative effects are expected in relation to biodiversity as the delivery of City Deal projects could result in disruption to the local environment and areas that contain biodiversity interest.	-	Overall, minor negative effects are expected in relation to biodiversity as the delivery of City Deal projects could result in disruption to the local environment and areas that contain biodiversity interest. All effects have no specified timescale.
	Indirect effects: no effects were identified.		
Population and human health	Direct effects: minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health as local work hubs will provide opportunities for social interaction. The delivery of City Deal projects will offer employment opportunities and deliver needed infrastructure improvements.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health from this action theme as there will be improvements to the working environment for residents local infrastructure improving the quality of life of the population. The majority of effects have no current timescale. Some effects will occur within 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: no effects were identified.		
Soil	Direct effects: Minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to soil as development associated with City Deal projects will require the use of land but some of this could be vacant/brownfield land.	+/-	Overall, mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to soil as any development will require the use of land but some of this could be vacant/brownfield land. All effects have no specified timescale.
	Indirect effects: no effects were identified.		

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Water	Direct effects: no effects were identified.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: no effects were identified.		
Air	Direct effects: minor positive effects are expected in relation to air as increased use of active travel modes and public transport will lead to better air quality.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to air as this action theme is likely to improve the overall air quality. The majority of effects have no current timescale. Some effects will occur within 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: no effects were identified.		
Cultural heritage and historic environment	Direct effects: no effects were identified.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: no effects were identified.		
Landscape and geodiversity	Direct effects: Minor negative effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity as delivery the City Deal Projects could result in disrupting the natural environment and local landscape.	-	Overall, minor negative effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity as delivery the City Deal Projects could result in disrupting the natural environment and local landscape. All effects have no specified timescale.
	Indirect effects: no effects were identified.		
Material assets	Direct effects: minor negative short term effects are expected in relation to material assets as delivery of new working hubs may require resources.	-	Overall, minor negative effects are expected in relation to materials assets as this action theme will increase the demand for materials and use of land. The majority of effects have no current timescale. Some effects will occur within 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: no effects were identified.		

Improving data and capability

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Climatic factors	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	+	Overall, minor positive indirect effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as the actions included in this theme are likely to enable better decisions and local action that will lead to a reduction in overall emissions. The majority of effects will occur in the short term at either <1 year or 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur at 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects in relation to climatic factors as it enables better decision making and local action in relation to reducing carbon emissions.		
Biodiversity	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Population and human health	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	+	Overall, minor positive indirect effects are expected in relation to population and human health as the actions included in this theme are likely to enable better decisions that will protect human health and support local community resilience. The effects will
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health as it will enable better decision making and local action that is likely to enhance climate resilience of the local community.		

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
			occur at either 1-2 years or 2-5 years.
Soil	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Water	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Air	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Cultural heritage and historic environment	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Landscape and geodiversity	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Material assets	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		

Our estate

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Climatic factors	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as more energy efficient solutions implemented within the council's estate are likely to reduce the overall GHG emissions.	+	Overall minor positive direct and indirect effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as the actions within this theme are likely to lead to reduced overall GHG emissions from buildings through improvements to energy efficiency; reduced reliance on fossil fuels; and, reduced energy consumption. Small scale effects will occur in the next 1-2 years, however the majority of effects will be beyond 5 or 10 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors from the options and investment recommendations that can potentially lead to reduced carbon emissions enabled by more energy efficient solutions implemented across the council's estate.		
Biodiversity	Direct effects: No effects are identified.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		
Population and human health	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health from more sustainable investments linked with the council's estate as these are likely to improve the air quality positively impacting on the human health. There are also opportunities for reducing fuel poverty through housing being more energy efficient. Similar reductions in costs are possible for council buildings.	+	Overall minor positive direct effects are expected in relation to population and human health as the actions within this theme are likely to reduce running costs of a building which will help people move out of fuel poverty and reduce council costs. Small scale effects will occur in the next 1-2 years, however the majority of effects will be beyond 5 or 10 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		
Soil	Direct effects: No effects are identified.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		
Water	Direct effects: Effects are uncertain in relation to water as it is unclear if investing council estate will include adaptations for	?	Overall uncertain effects are expected in relation to water as it is unclear if investing in

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
	reduced demand for water and improved approach to water recycling.		the council estate will include adaptations for reduced demand for water and improved approach to water recycling.
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		
Air	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to air from reduced emissions from the council's estate which are likely to result in improved air quality. Improving the energy efficiency of council buildings and housing will reduce energy demand and associated emissions.	+	Overall minor positive direct effects are expected in relation to air as the actions with this theme will improve energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions from the councils buildings, improving air quality. Small scale effects will occur in the next 1-2 years, however the majority of effects will be beyond 5 or 10 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		
Cultural heritage and historic environment	Direct effects: No effects are identified.	+/-	Overall minor indirect mixed positive and negative effects are expected in relation to cultural heritage and historic environment as the actions within this theme is likely to focus on retrofitting existing historic buildings to be up to the required energy efficiency standard and protecting the longevity of the historical asset, but which could also affect the integrity of the assets. These effects are likely in the longer term, beyond ten years.
	Indirect effects: Mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to cultural heritage and historic environment as improving the energy efficiency could impact on the integrity of these assets, but also support the viability of their future use and ensure protection from the impacts of climate change. However, the extent of council housing stock within historically significant buildings is unknown.		
Landscape and geodiversity	Direct effects: No effects are identified.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		
Material assets	Direct effects: Minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to material assets as it is expected that more materials will be recycled and reused where feasible and if new materials are required they will be more sustainable. However, new	+/-	Overall, minor positive and minor negative direct and indirect effects are expected in relation to material assets as the actions within this theme supports more energy efficient

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
	materials will be required to retrofit existing buildings and construct new housing.		buildings. However, new materials will be required to retrofit existing buildings and construct new housing. Some effects may occur within 1-2 years, however the majority of effects will be within the longer term beyond ten years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to material assets from planning for net zero as it is likely to reduce the overall use of materials and require use of sustainable materials where necessary.		

Our vehicles

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Climatic factors	Direct effect: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as introducing new electric vehicle fleet and route optimisation will encourage reduced transport related GHG emissions. There is also the potential for reduced demand for electricity to power EV enabled by optimisation of the routes.	+	Overall, direct minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as the actions within this theme support reducing transport related GHG emissions. The majority of effects will occur in the short term within 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Biodiversity	Direct effect: No effects are expected.		No environmental effects were identified.

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.	0	
Population and human health	Direct effect: Minor positive effects from increased use of bikes, e-bikes and EV on peoples health and wellbeing and from improved air quality delivered by the decreasing numbers of EV on the roads. The introduction of new low carbon fleet gives staff more transport options.	+	Overall, minor positive direct effects are expected in relation to population and human health as the actions within this theme reduce vehicle mileage and support healthy lifestyles through encouraging and offering a variety of sustainable travel options. All the effects will occur within 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Soil	Direct effect: No effects are expected.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Water	Direct effect: No effects are expected.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Air	Direct effect: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to air from the EV and the higher uptake of bikes and e-bikes. Indirect effects. Route optimisation is likely to lead to reductions of emissions from the Council's fleet. The decarbonisation of the council fleet will reduce GHG emissions, improving air quality.	+	Overall, minor positive direct effects are expected in relation to air as the actions within this theme support the decarbonisation of the council fleet reducing GHG emissions and improving air quality. The majority of effects will occur in the short term within 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Cultural heritage	Direct effect: No effects are expected.	0	No environmental effects were identified.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
and historic environment			
Landscape and geodiversity	Direct effect: Minor negative effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity as the construction of new infrastructure could negatively impact the local landscape.	-	Overall, minor direct negative effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity as the construction of new infrastructure could negatively impact the landscape. All the effects will occur within 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Material assets	Direct effect: Mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to material assets. There are potential savings to be made through short journeys. This includes prolonging the lifetime of a vehicle and reducing the demand for the number of vehicles needed. However, the purchase of new vehicles requires extensive production and construction of new infrastructure.	+/-	Overall, minor positive and minor negative direct and indirect effects are expected in relation to material assets as the actions within this them will require the production and purchase of an extensive number of new council fleet. However, route optimisation will ensure the longevity of electric vehicles. The majority of effects will occur in the short term within 1-2 years. However, a small number of effects will occur within 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to material assets as it will preserve the longevity of an electric vehicle.		

Partnerships

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Climatic factors	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors from collaborative actions that focus on encouraging higher uptake of active travel, planting trees and delivering the green network as they are likely to result in reduced emissions. Actions that focus on the supply chains and implementing of the authority based insetting approach are likely to lead to provide funding for insetting and offsetting projects that will enhance carbon sequestration in the area.	+	Overall, minor direct and indirect positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as actions included in the theme are likely to reduce carbon emissions and increase carbon sequestration in the area. The majority of effects will occur at the longer term timescale at 2-5 year or more than 10 years. Some of the effects will occur at 1-2 year or have no timescale.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive indirect effects are expected from the actions that focus on the supply chains and implementing the authority based insetting approach.		
Biodiversity	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to biodiversity from collaborative action through measures such as planting trees and supporting the delivery of green networks as these have the potential to enhance biodiversity. However insetting projects may lead to a compromise to be made between increased carbon sequestration and biodiversity potentially resulting in negative effects.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to biodiversity as the majority of actions included in this theme are likely to enhance biodiversity. The majority of effects will occur within 2-5 years. However, some of the effects have no timescale.

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Population and human health	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health from collaborative action through initiatives such as higher uptake of active travel and delivery of green networks as these are likely to provide more opportunities for active travel and enhance physical activity which is likely to have positive effects on their health. Reducing overall emissions and increasing carbon sequestration are likely to lead to improved air quality.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health as actions included in this theme are likely to enhance opportunities for physical activity and improve air quality. The majority of effects will occur within longer term timescales at 2-5 years or more than 10 years. Some effects currently have no timescale.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Soil	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to soil from collaborative action from protecting soils through green networks and new trees being planted which allow for better infiltration of rainwater and prevent soil erosion.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to soil as actions included in this theme are likely to improve the soil quality and prevent soil erosion. All effects will occur within 2-5 years, however some effects have no timescale.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Water	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to water from collaborative actions through delivery of green networks and planting trees that are likely to reduce flood risk	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to water as actions included in this theme are likely to reduce flood risk through the enhancement of greenspaces. All

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
	through the creation of permeable surfaces.		effects will occur within 2-5 years, however some effects have no timescale.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Air	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to air from collaborative actions as increased uptake of active travel, tree planting and delivery of green networks will improve air quality. Reduced carbon emissions from the supply chain and from enhanced carbon sequestration.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to air as actions included in this theme are likely to reduce carbon emissions from the supply chain and enhance carbon sequestration improving air quality. The majority of effects will occur within 2-5 years. However, some of the effects have no timescale.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Cultural heritage and historic environment	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No environmental effects are identified
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Landscape and geodiversity	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity from collaborative action as planting more trees and delivery of green networks are likely to have positive effects on landscape.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity as actions included in this theme are likely to positively impact on the landscape by enhancing the green cover in the area. The majority of effects will occur within 2-5 years. However, some of the effects have no timescale.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Material assets	Direct effects: minor positive effects are expected in relation to material assets from collaborative action as green	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to material assets as green networks and planting trees

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
	networks and planting trees add a positive asset to the area.		add a positive asset to the area. The majority of effects will occur within 2-5 years. However, some of the effects have no timescale.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		

The built environment

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Climatic factors	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as lower operational emissions will result in less GHG emissions being released.	+	Overall, minor positive direct and indirect effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as the actions in this theme will support reduced energy demand and a reduction in GHG emissions. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years or over 10 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors from biodiversity protection action plan and open space audit as it is likely to lead to increased carbon sequestration through the enhancement of existing greenspaces and new greenspaces. Green Networks supplementary planning guidance will support the use of active travel modes. The creation of LDP3, planning guidance and implementation of climate change adaptation will support reducing energy demand of buildings and encourage the enhancement of greenspaces. This will result in reduced GHG emissions and offer opportunities for carbon sequestration.		
Biodiversity	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to biodiversity as it is likely that the measures will include actions such	+	Overall, minor positive direct and indirect effects are expected in relation to biodiversity as the actions in the theme offer the opportunity

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
	<p>as ensuring habitat networks are protected and enhancing areas of biodiversity value.</p> <p>Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to biodiversity as it is likely to enhance the quality of biodiversity and open greenspaces improving habitats and habitat networks through an open space audit. The improved management of parks will also support higher levels of biodiversity.</p>		to enhance areas of biodiversity and create habitat networks. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years.
Population and human health	<p>Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health as ensuring the resilience of the population against climate change will support improved wellbeing. Reducing the energy demand of buildings will lower energy costs and support a decrease in fuel poverty. Planning guidance will also support the creation of high quality places and encourage good design and support the enhancement of local facilities and services.</p> <p>Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health as it is likely to protect and improve the quality of green and open spaces by providing better opportunities for recreation through the open space audit. Developer contributions could provide funding to support projects that enhance energy efficiency, sustainable travel, and enhancements to infrastructure.</p>	+	Overall, minor positive direct and indirect effects are expected in relation to population and human health as the actions in the theme will support the development of high quality places that are of good design and contain energy efficient systems that will reduce energy consumption and lower energy costs of running the building through sustainable development. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years or over 10 years.
Soil	<p>Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to soil as it will allow soils to replenish with the soils not continually being disturbed by chemicals and mowing through better parks management. .</p>	+	Overall, minor positive direct and indirect effects are expected in relation to soil as the actions in the theme are likely to improve the soil quality and prevent from further

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to soil as a Biodiversity Action Plan is likely to improve the quality of biodiversity and soil.		deterioration. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years.
Water	Direct effects: Uncertain effects are expected in relation to water as improvements in parks management will improve water quality through the reduced use of chemicals. Uncertain effects are also identified as to whether the actions will reduce the overall demand for water and reduce the risk of water pollution.	?	Overall, uncertain direct and minor positive indirect effects are expected in relation to water as the actions in the theme offer the opportunity to reduced demand for water, improve water quality and reduce flood risk. However, the impact of this is uncertain. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to water as the Biodiversity Action Plan is likely to include actions that will improve the quality of water.		
Air	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to air as some of the actions within this theme including improving parks management are likely to reduce emissions from heating and transport and enhance green spaces improving overall air quality.	+	Overall, minor positive direct and indirect effects are expected in relation to air as the actions in the theme are likely to enhance green spaces and reduce GHG emissions from heating and transport improving overall air quality. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years or over 10 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor indirect positive effects are expected in relation to air as green networks will help capture air pollutants and support active travel reducing car related emissions. Other additional planning guidance will support sustainable development and achieving net zero reducing GHG emissions and improving air quality.		
Cultural heritage and historic environment	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to cultural heritage and the historic environment from climate adaptation measures as they are likely to ensure climate resilience of historic assets where possible. There are potential minor negative effects resulting from the impacts of retrofitting to historic buildings.	+/-	Overall, minor mixed positive and negative direct effects are expected in relation to cultural heritage and historic environment as the actions in the theme are likely to ensure climate resilience of historic assets where possible and ensure the longevity of these buildings. The

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years.
Landscape and geodiversity	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity as the actions will continue the protection of local landscapes and countryside particularly through improvements to parks management.	+	Overall, minor positive direct effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity as the actions in the theme will continue the protection of local landscape and support rewilding. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity as any improvements to open spaces and green networks are likely to have positive effects on landscape.		
Material assets	Direct effects: Minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to material assets as the quality of the built environment, active travel infrastructure and greenspaces will improve through changes to management. Buildings will be more energy efficient and encourage sustainable use of materials, and more climate resilient. However, construction of new infrastructure will require raw materials. Developers contributions will offer the opportunity enhance material assets within East Renfrewshire.	+/-	Overall, minor positive and minor negative direct effects are expected in relation to material assets as the actions in the theme improve the quality of the built environment, active travel infrastructure and greenspaces. However, construction of new infrastructure will require raw materials. The majority of effects will occur within the short term, less than 1 year and 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur within 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are identified.		

Transportation

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Climatic factors	<p>Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors from integration of 20-minutes neighbourhoods and new strategies as these are likely to reduce the number of vehicle trips and increase the number of journeys carried out using active travel. Investment in EV infrastructure will support the transition from petrol/diesel to electric vehicles reducing GHG emissions. The Local Transport Strategy and Active Travel Plan encourages a sustainable travel hierarchy further reducing GHG emissions. LED lights are likely to reduce energy demand, however new lights installed may counter act this.</p>	+	Overall, minor positive direct and indirect effects are expected in relation to climatic factors, as actions included in this theme are likely to reduce private car use and reduce overall emissions and increase active travel uptake. The majority of effects will occur over long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years. Some effects will occur with 1-2 years.
	<p>Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as increased uptake of public transport is likely to reduce overall transport emissions.</p>		
Biodiversity	<p>Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to biodiversity as enhancement and creation of active travel routes are likely to lead to enhancement of green infrastructure that will support biodiversity and create or improve habitat networks However street lighting as it is likely to increase light pollution and negatively impact habitats and species.</p>	+/-	Overall mixed minor negative and minor positive effects are expected in relation to biodiversity as actions included in this theme are likely to enhance and create new habitat networks and support biodiversity. However, installation of additional lighting is likely to increase light pollution and impact on habitats and species. The effects will occur at a range of timescales which include 1-2 years, 2-5 years and longer term at 5-10 years.
	<p>Indirect effects: No effects are expected.</p>		

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Population and human health	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to population and human health from increased opportunities for active travel supporting improvements in physical health and mental wellbeing and improved air quality due to a reduced number of petrol/diesel cars on the roads. Improved communications to support behaviour change will support the uptake of active travel improving mental and physical wellbeing. The increase in EV charging will also help support the transition from petrol/diesel vehicles to electric vehicles through improved accessibility to charging points. Street lighting is likely to increase safety and provide more opportunities for active travel throughout the year.	+	Overall, minor positive direct are expected in relation to population and human health as actions included in this theme are likely to increase opportunities for active travel supporting physical and mental health and wellbeing and improving air quality. The majority of effects will occur over long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years. Some effects will occur with 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Soil	Direct effects: Mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to soil as the delivery of new active travel or transport infrastructure is likely to cause disturbance to undisturbed soils. However, soils may be protected through the creation of green infrastructure as part of active travel networks.	+/-	Overall, mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to soil as actions included in this action theme are likely to lead to disturbance of undisturbed soils. However, soils may be protected through the creation of green infrastructure as part of active travel networks. The majority of effects will occur over long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Water	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	+	Overall, minor positive indirect effects are expected in relation to water as actions included in this theme that focus on improvements of green and blue infrastructure are likely to have positive effects on water quality and reduce the risk of flooding. The majority of effects will occur
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to water from implementation of the 20 minutes neighbourhoods concept as they are likely to result in the enhancement and creation of green and blue infrastructure which could have a positive effect on water quality and reduce the risks of flooding.		

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
			over long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years.
Air	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to air from the implementation of the 20 minute neighbourhood concept and new transport and active travel strategies as these are likely to reduce emissions from vehicles due to the uptake of public transport and active travel. The increase in EV charging will support the transition away from petrol/diesel vehicles. This will improve air quality.	+	Overall, minor positive effects are expected in relation to air as actions included in this theme are likely to positively impact the air quality through reduced GHG emissions. The majority of effects will occur over long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Cultural heritage and historic environment	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	No effects are expected in relation to cultural heritage and historic environment as it is assumed that existing planning policy will ensure the protection of historic assets.
	Indirect effects: No indirect effects are expected.		
Landscape and geodiversity	Direct effects: Minor positive effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity as implementation of 20 minute neighbourhoods and active travel routes may support the enhancement and/or the creation of green infrastructure.	+	Overall minor positive effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity as actions included in the theme could support the enhancement and/or creation of active travel routes and green infrastructure. The majority of effects will occur over long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years.
	Indirect effects: No indirect effects are expected.		
Material assets	Direct effects: Minor negative effects are expected in relation to material assets as the expansion of EV charging; enhancement and creation of active travel networks; and, replacement and new	+/-	Overall, minor negative and minor positive effects are expected in relation to material assets as new infrastructure will be required to support the actions. This however will be balanced by the reduced number of private

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SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
	lighting will require the use of materials to support and develop these actions.		vehicles on the roads resulting in less road improvements. There are opportunities for partnership working across the Glasgow City Region to deliver further EV charging. The majority of effects will occur over long term at either 2-5 years or 5-10 years. Some effects will occur with 1-2 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected for material assets from reduced demand for private vehicles caused by a higher uptake of public transport. The expansion of EV charging across East Renfrewshire and through partnership working and funding opportunities will likely support further EV charging across the Glasgow City Region.		

What we buy

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Climatic factors	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	+	Overall, minor positive indirect effects are expected in relation to climatic factors as actions included in this theme are likely to lead to reduced carbon emissions through improved approach to procurement and a better understanding of the supply chain emissions. The majority of effects will occur in the short term, either less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur between 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive effects are expected from strengthened sustainable procurement duty and reviewing supply chains as these are likely to guide better decisions and favour those that will lead to reduced carbon emissions.		
Biodiversity	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	Overall, no effects are expected in relation to biodiversity.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		

Appendix D Assessment tables

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Population and human health	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	Overall, no effects are expected in relation to population and human health.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Soil	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	Overall, no effects are expected in relation to soil.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Water	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	Overall, no effects are expected in relation to water.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
Air	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	+	Overall, minor positive indirect effects are expected in relation to air as actions included in this theme will enable future improvements to air quality. Effects will either occur at less than 1 year or 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive indirect effects are expected in relation to air from review of building and construction supply chain emissions and cost analysis of the Net Zero Public Buildings Standard, which are likely to guide future decisions regarding building and construction producing less emissions and positively impact on air quality. The review of supply chain emissions and procurement will be an important step for the future decisions and have a potential to improve air quality.		
Cultural heritage and historic environment	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	Overall, no effects are expected in relation to cultural heritage and historic environment.
	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		
	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	0	

Appendix D Assessment tables

SEA topic	Assessment	Overall score	Summary
Landscape and geodiversity	Indirect effects: No effects are expected.		Overall, no effects are expected in relation to landscape and geodiversity.
Material assets	Direct effects: No effects are expected.	+	Overall, minor positive indirect effects are expected in relation to material assets as actions included in this theme support energy efficient development and improved procurement decisions. The majority of effects will occur in the short term, either less than 1 year or 1-2 years. However, some effects will occur between 2-5 years.
	Indirect effects: Minor positive indirect effects are expected from material assets from the development of more sustainable buildings and from reduced procurement resulting from increased awareness of the carbon emissions associated with procurement decisions.		

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