

# SEA Screening Report

## Details of the Plan

Responsible Authority:	Orkney Islands Council.		
Title of the plan:	"Your Kirkwall" Urban Design Framework		
Purpose of PPS:	To provide a strategy for planning, development and movement across Kirkwall; guiding future planning applications and development proposals.		
What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)?	Voluntary initiative on the part of Orkney Islands Council		
Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005			
Based on boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:		An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant.	
Please indicate which section of the Act the plan falls within:		Section 5(3)	Section 5(4)
	X	An SEA is not required, as the effects are unlikely to be significant	
Please indicate which section of the Act the plan falls within:		Section 5(3)	X Section 5(4)
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Date:	10 September 2018		

## Context and description of the Plan

Context of the Plan:	<p>The plan will set out a vision for Kirkwall's future based on design principles generated by the community. It will provide a strategy for planning, development and movement across Kirkwall, and will guide future planning applications and development proposals.</p> <p>The plan will become supplementary guidance and will sit alongside the Orkney Local Development Plan (OLDP).</p>
Description of the Plan:	<p>The plan sets out a strategy for planning, development and movement across Kirkwall, with design principles generated by the community during an extensive engagement process. It provides town-wide design principles, as well as six 'areas of focus' to guide development in the town. The six focus areas are: Town Centre; Town Centre West; Peedie Sea and Pickaquoy Area; Hatston and Seafront; Papdale; and Kirkwall South.</p> <p>The plan provides a delivery framework, with an implementation timeline for each of the proposed plan elements.</p>
Key components of the Plan:	<p>The key components are the Kirkwall vision, strategic parameters, design principles (Kirkwall-wide and focus areas), focus area project proposals, and focus area action plans.</p>
Have any of the components of the Plan been considered in previous SEA work?	<p>Environmental impacts of policies and proposals relating to physical development of the Your Kirkwall area have already been subject to SEA in preparing the OLDP. The OLDP recognises that the Urban Design Framework for Kirkwall (and other settlements) will be reviewed and approved as supplementary guidance.</p> <p>The Your Kirkwall plan respects the key principles contained in the OLDP with respect to design, settlements/ town centres, housing, green infrastructure, coastal development, flooding and drainage, and transport.</p>

<p>Components of the Plan that are likely to require screening:</p>	<p>The components of the plan which require screening are the strategic parameters and design principles.</p> <p>Specific development proposals, i.e. specific projects proposed under each focus area, would be subject to the development planning process with detailed environmental assessment required as appropriate to each proposal (EIA for sizeable developments with potentially significant environmental effects, HRA where there are potentially significant impacts on European Protected Species or Natura sites, and standalone environmental assessment reports as appropriate for others). These specific proposals are therefore not considered to individually require SEA screening.</p>
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**Identifying interactions of the Plan with the environment and considering the likely significance of any interactions**

Plan component.	SEA receptor.	Assessment.	Potential Environmental Effects	Significance of Environmental Effects
Strategic parameters and design principles	Climatic factors:	+	<p>The principles of improving movement (including active travel), focusing future residential development within reasonable walking distance of the town centre, and improving/expanding path networks are beneficial in terms of vehicle traffic and associated emissions.</p> <p>The strategy includes for putting in place measures to sustainably manage surface water drainage across the town; specific development proposals will require flood risk assessment and appropriate drainage design.</p>	Potentially beneficial but likely minor and not significant
	Local air quality:	+	<p>The principles of improving movement (including active travel), focusing future residential development within reasonable walking distance of the town centre, and improving/expanding path networks are beneficial in terms of vehicle traffic and associated emissions.</p>	Potentially beneficial but likely minor (given current baseline) and not significant
	Biodiversity:	?	The strategy includes potential for development of path networks and landscaping in areas with high	Potential beneficial effects however likely minor and not

Plan component.	SEA receptor.	Assessment.	Potential Environmental Effects	Significance of Environmental Effects
			<p>biodiversity value. Detailed analysis and survey work will be required to inform optioneering and design, to ensure adverse impacts on biodiversity are avoided, minimised and/or mitigated. This includes potential impacts on European Protected Species and other protected species and habitats and the potential requirement for species licensing will need to be considered as part of detailed analysis.</p> <p>The provision of better connected functional greenspace is beneficial in terms of improving biodiversity links and corridors.</p> <p>There is an opportunity for biodiversity and habitat enhancement via delivery of new parks and greenspace.</p>	<p>significant.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse effects to be avoided or mitigated via project-specific survey and assessment work as part of the development planning process.</p>
	Water:	+	<p>The strategy includes for putting in place measures to sustainably manage surface water drainage across the town.</p> <p>There is an opportunity for greenspace improvements to assist in dealing with water management issues.</p> <p>Specific development proposals will require flood risk assessment and appropriate drainage design.</p>	<p>Potentially significant beneficial effects locally. Overall likely minor and not significant.</p>

Plan component.	SEA receptor.	Assessment.	Potential Environmental Effects	Significance of Environmental Effects
	Soil:	0	<p>The strategy aims to make the best use of brownfield land, with potential benefits with respect to remediation of ground contamination.</p> <p>No highly sensitive soil or geological receptors have been identified, although there is potential for peat to be present in some areas. Further analysis and, if appropriate survey work, will be required to inform optioneering and design, to ensure adverse impacts on sensitive geological resources such as peatlands are minimised and/or mitigated.</p>	Not significant.
	Geology:	0		Not significant.
	Landscape:	+	<p>The strategy focuses future residential development in/near the town centre with use of brownfield land where possible. New/extended/improved path networks and parks are proposed, together with a landscaping strategy. The design principles include for consideration of significant views, areas of natural habitat and green spaces.</p> <p>Specific development proposals will require assessment of impacts on landscape and visual receptors as appropriate to the nature of the proposals.</p>	Potentially beneficial however likely minor and not significant.

Plan component.	SEA receptor.	Assessment.	Potential Environmental Effects	Significance of Environmental Effects
	Cultural heritage:	+	<p>The strategy and design principles refer to creation of architecture with an Orcadian character, and protecting the historical environment.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to enhance community and visitor interaction and understanding of cultural heritage via the Orkney Heritage App proposed in the plan.</p>	Neutral to minor beneficial (not significant).
	Population & human health:	+	<p>The principles of improving movement (including active travel), focusing future residential development within reasonable walking distance of the town centre, and improving/expanding path networks have potential health benefits for the local population in terms of enhanced activity and reduced emissions.</p> <p>Proposed new/expanded/improved path networks and parks also have the potential to increase activity and exercise, with associated health benefits.</p> <p>The strategy aims to make the best use of brownfield land, with potential benefits with respect to remediation of ground contamination.</p> <p>The plan seeks to guide development towards better neighbourhoods, built on well-designed streets and spaces –</p>	Potentially significant beneficial in the long term

Plan component.	SEA receptor.	Assessment.	Potential Environmental Effects	Significance of Environmental Effects
			ultimately providing benefit to the local community.	
	Material assets:	0	The plan is not anticipated to significantly impact material assets.	Not significant
	Interrelationships:	+	Aspects of the plan may be beneficial in terms of the inter-relationship between landscape and drainage, landscape and biodiversity, greenspace and health, transport and health.	Not significant

**Legend:**    **+** positive effects        **-** negative effects        **0** neutral effects        **?** effects uncertain



The “Your Kirkwall” plan sets out a strategy for planning, development and movement across Kirkwall, with design principles generated by the community during an extensive engagement process. It provides town-wide design principles, aiming to deliver enhanced greenspace, improved transport, well-designed streets and better neighbourhoods.

The plan has the potential to result in beneficial environmental effects across a range of receptors, including climatic factors, local air quality, water/flooding/drainage, landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage and human health.

There is potential for adverse effects on biodiversity, associated with proposed development (e.g. paths and landscaping) within ecologically sensitive areas. Any such proposals will be subject to detailed design and assessment, including consideration of any requirement for protected species licensing, as part of the development planning process.

Environmental impacts of policies and proposals relating to physical development of the Your Kirkwall area have already been subject to SEA in preparing the OLDP. The Your Kirkwall plan respects the key principles contained in the OLDP with respect to design, settlements/ town centres, housing, green infrastructure, coastal development, flooding and drainage, and transport.

It is therefore considered that SEA of the Your Kirkwall plan is not required, given that it would provide little or no additional assessment beyond that already undertaken for the OLDP SEA, and that which would be required as part of the development planning process for specific project proposals.