

SCREENING REPORT

STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

Fife Council on behalf of the four local authorities (Fife, Dundee City, Angus and Perth & Kinross Councils) and partners in the Tay Cities Region.

Title of the plan:

Tay Cities Regional Economic Strategy 2019-2029.

What prompted the plan:

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

The four Tay Cities Region local authorities have committed to developing a collaborative approach to drive forward an ambition for achieving accelerated regional economic growth particularly through the Tay Cities Region Deal. A strategy is required to provide a framework for this collaboration and an update and refresh of the current strategy is needed to reflect recent developments including the approval of the Tay Cities Deal Heads of Terms in November 2018.

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

Economic development, employability and skills development, incorporating aspects of agriculture, energy, industry, connectivity and tourism.

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 below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

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Date:

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STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

The Strategy takes into account current relevant national and regional policies and strategies, in particular the objectives and priorities of Scotland's Economic Strategy (2015) and Economic Action Plan (2018), the UK Government's 2017 Industrial Strategy, the TAYplan Strategic Development Plan (2016-36), the Tay Cities Region Deal Heads of Terms Agreement (November 2018) and the Tactran and SEStran Regional Transport Strategy 2015-2036 Refreshes and Delivery Plans.

It will provide the framework for the Tay Cities Region Deal and other regional collaboration. It will also inform (and be informed by) the economic strategies, policies and plans of each local authority and their economic development and employability partners.

Description of the Plan:

The Strategy provides a framework for collaborative employability and economic development activity carried out in the Tay Cities Region (comprising the area covered by Dundee, Angus and Perth & Kinross Councils and North East Fife).

It sets out the key issues, challenges and opportunities for the Tay Cities Region economy and how the four local authorities and their partners will collaborate to respond to these over the next 10 years.

It aims to ensure a commitment from the local authorities and their partners to a range of priorities and to shape how the various agencies will work together over the next 10 years, including through the Tay Cities Region City Deal, in order to achieve inclusive economic growth.

The final version of the Strategy will be approved by the Tay Cities Joint Committee in autumn 2019 following consultation with key stakeholders and ratification by each of the four individual local authorities.

Delivery will be coordinated via new governance arrangements being put in place to accompany the approval of the Tay Cities Deal Heads of Terms Agreement and refresh of the Strategy. It is anticipated that the Strategy will be reviewed every 3 to 5 years.

What are the key components of the plan?

The Strategy prioritises a number of collaborative projects along with locally-led projects which will make a significant contribution to regional outcomes within the following areas:

- Skills and employability development.
- Supporting key regional growth sectors (including tourism, food & drink, renewable energy/oil and gas decommissioning, advanced and sustainable manufacturing, the creative industries, biomedical, digital).
- Improving digital and transport connectivity.
- Promoting international trade and investment.
- Preparing for a low carbon future.

Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?

Tactran carried out an SEA in 2015 as part of the refresh of the Tactran Regional Transport Strategy. The 2008-2023 SEStran Regional Transport Strategy was subject to an SEA. The subsequent refresh of the SEStran RTS in 2015 did not result in any significant changes to objectives or policy, and it was therefore proposed under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act that the refreshed strategy had no modification to the SEA carried out in 2005.

The TAYplan Strategic Development Plan (2016-36) was subject to a SEA and any physical and land use projects which are taken forward as a result of the strategy will be included in the respective Local Development Plans which are subject to full SEAs. Each individual project will have its own appraisal and development process which, if required, will include SEA screening.

In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:

As the Tay Cities Regional Economic Strategy 2019-2029 only serves to set out the high-level direction of travel in relation to priorities for action, no component of the Strategy requires screening.

Individual projects being taken forward as a result of the strategy will require to have their own appraisal and development process which, if needed, will include SEA screening.

The strategy may inform and influence other plans, policies or strategies. SEA screening will be carried out on any subsequent lower-level plans or specific physical projects where required.

**STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Error! Reference source not found.)**

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues		
Skills and employability development.	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	Proposed actions within this priority are concerned with strengthening the labour market, actions which will have a positive impact on population and health.	No significant direct environmental effects are anticipated.
Supporting key regional growth sectors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Whilst some of this part of the strategy will encourage investment in business and industrial premises, any specific developments taken forward will be in-line with TAYplan and Local Development Plans which are subject to full SEAs. Encouragement of the renewables and low carbon sectors will have a positive environmental impact.	No significant direct environmental effects are anticipated.
Improving digital and transport connectivity.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	Whilst this part of the strategy encourages investment in transport infrastructure, any projects will be aligned with the Tactran and SEStran Regional Transport Strategy 2015-2036 which were subject to SEAs.	No significant direct environmental effects are anticipated.

Promoting international trade and investment.	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	These priorities and actions are largely concerned with helping businesses to increase their exports and sales.	No significant direct environmental effects are anticipated.
Preparing for a low carbon future.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	This priority will have positive environmental impacts. Any specific physical developments taken forward will be in-line with TAYplan and Local Development Plans which are subject to full SEAs.	No significant direct environmental effects are anticipated.

STEP 4 – STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING

Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:

(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

Once approved by the local authorities and partners in the Tay Cities Region, the Tay Cities Regional Economic Strategy will provide a strategic framework to guide future collaborative economic development and employability activities in the region.

Although the Strategy encourages investment in infrastructure – transport connectivity and industrial and commercial premises – any specific physical developments that are taken forward will be in line with TAYplan and each local authority’s Local Development Plan which are all subject to full SEAs. Any transport proposals will align with the Tactran Regional Transport Strategy (which was subject to an SEA carried out in 2015) or the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy (which was subject to a SEA carried out in 2005). Each specific project will also have its own appraisal and development processes which, where relevant, will include SEA screening.

As the Strategy sets out a strategic high level direction of travel, rather than defining and approving the specific nature of projects and actions, an SEA is not required.

When completed send to: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

