

By email only to:
sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

**Economy, Planning and
Employability Services**

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SEPA Ref: PCS/164056
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HES case ID: 300035822

Date: 16 April 2019

Dear SEA Gateway/Consultation Authorities,

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
Screening Determination
01445 – Fife Council – Tay Cities Regional Economic Strategy**

This letter contains Fife Council's determination under Section 10 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 as to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for the above strategy.

Fife Council submitted a Screening Request to the SEA Gateway on 20 February 2019. Following receipt of the responses from the Consultation Authorities on 20 March 2019 and in the context of the criteria set out in the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Council has determined under Schedule 2 of the Act that the Tay Cities Regional Economic Strategy is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects that have not been assessed before. Therefore, it is concluded that a SEA is not required.

The Council's statement of reasons for this determination is as follows:

- The Strategy sets out a strategic, high-level direction of travel rather than defining and approving the specific nature of projects and actions.
- The Strategy will be in line with Tayplan and the Tactran and SEStran Regional Transport Strategies which have all undergone an SEA.
- Any physical projects or programmes that could be deemed to cause significant environmental effects will be progressed through the Local Development Plan process, through which there is a statutory requirement for an SEA.

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- As per the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Strategy will not set out a framework for future development consent of projects and will therefore not constrain decision-making within TAYplan, SESplan, Local Development Plans and the Regional Transport Strategies.
- Two out of the three Consultation Authorities (Historic Environment Scotland and SNH) agreed that the Strategy is not likely to have significant environmental effects.
- The concerns raised by SEPA relate to the Tay Cities Deal not having an SEA, and that the Strategy may lead to significant (both negative and positive) environmental effects that have not been assessed before. In response to these concerns, we would seek to highlight that:
 - Capital investment projects (development and transport) identified within the Tay Cities Deal are all contained within the respective Local Development Plan. Each project will also be subject to full business cases which will use HM Treasury Green Book methodology and SEA screening.
 - Revenue projects (the only ones likely to be exempt from an SEA screening process) are all skills and employability-related and will have no direct and minimal indirect environmental impacts.

If you have any queries or would like me to further clarify/discuss any points, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Montador-Stewart

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Service Manager – Economy, Tourism & Town Centres