


Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030)

SEA Environmental Report

Version 0.2 March 2023

Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030): SEA Environmental Report

SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – COVER NOTE – SECTION 1	
To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk	
SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – COVER NOTE – SECTION 2	
An environmental report is attached for:	Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030)
The Responsible Authority is:	Fife Council
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Date:	10/03/2023

FOOD4FIFE – STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN (2023-2030)	
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1. Non-Technical Summary

What is this document?

This document provides a summary of the results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Fife Council's draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030).

This non-technical summary has been designed to help consultees, including residents of the Fife Council area and other interested stakeholders, to easily understand the findings of the assessment. The detailed results are presented in the full body of the Environment Report which follows this summary. Responses will be used to help shape the scope of the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030), associated activities and the assessment of its potential effects on the environment.

What is the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030)?

Food4Fife is a strategy and an action plan that will cover the entire Fife local authority area, operate for a seven-year period from 2023 to 2030 and will set the direction and focus of food activities in Fife.

Table 1.1. Summary of Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030)

Summary of the strategy	
Responsible authority	Fife Council
Title of plan	Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030)
Mandate for the plan	Climate Fife (2020-2030) / RE06 / Publish a Food Strategy for Fife. Climate Fife actions also include delivery. Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 / S.10.1 Each relevant authority must publish a good food nation plan / a) a health board (b) a local authority. S.10.6 (b) have regard to ...the environment. Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Allotments, duty to prepare Food Growing Strategy
Subject	Creating a sustainable food culture, for a healthy Fife.
Period covered	2023-2030
Review frequency	Every 2 years. Annual reporting will be undertaken as part statutory and recommended Public Bodies Duties.
Plan area	Fife local authority area (see accompanying map in Chapter 4)
Purpose of plan	Food4Fife - Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) will set the direction and focus of food activities in Fife, initially for the coming 7 years with planned in reviews and revisions. It is based around five pillars:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming, Soils and Climate • Sustainable Food Economy • Sustainable Food Procurement • Healthy Food for All • Community Food <p>The strategy is intended to help the Council to meet duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022.</p>
Contact	<p>For enquiries regarding the SEA, contact:</p> <p>Lauren Bennett – Policy Officer Fife Council, Fife House (Third Floor Main), Glenrothes KY7 5LT Email: Lauren.Bennett@fife.gov.uk</p> <p>For general enquiries relating to Food4Fife, contact:</p> <p>Hugh Muschamp - Lead Officer (Climate Change & Zero Waste) Fife Council, Fife House (Third Floor West), Glenrothes KY7 5LT Email: Hugh.Muschamp@fife.gov.uk</p>

SEA activity to date

As the Food4Fife - Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) (Food4Fife strategy) as a PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and requires a SEA under the Act, a scoping report was submitted on Monday 3 October 2022. The responses from Scoping Consultation were incorporated into a more comprehensive, updated Scoping Report in January 2023. Comments on the scoping from Consultation Authorities, received Monday 7 November 2022, have been considered in the preparation of the Environmental Report and are detailed in table 5.5.

What is SEA and how is it relevant to me?

A SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) is an assessment of the effects on the environment (including health and wellbeing) of a plan, programme or strategy (PPS). It is also an opportunity to avoid or mitigate adverse environmental effects and enhance environmental benefits.

The main focus of the SEA is to ensure that key environmental factors (e.g. biodiversity, climate, air quality, human population & health, soil, material assets, cultural heritage and water) are considered throughout the development of the strategy. This ensures that the strategy is less likely to be detrimental to these factors.

The SEA process is also about making the planning process transparent, with the information used in the environmental assessment openly available to the public. The public have an opportunity to comment on the SEA process once the Environmental Report is published.

The SEA will be considered throughout the revision and implementation of the Food4Fife strategy and will allow environmental concerns to be taken into consideration from an early stage to ensure development will take place with minimal environmental impact. Starting at an early stage, the SEA will inform decisions made throughout the production of the strategy and action plan.

Purpose of the Environmental Report

A SEA is required to assess the likely significance of the Food4Fife strategy on the environment. The assessment indicates the environmental benefits and potential environmental impacts of implementing the strategy and action plan. This Environmental Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act (2005) (the Act), which requires an SEA for a wide range of PPS. The purpose of the SEA is to provide a high level of environmental protection and to contribute towards integrating environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development.

The SEA informs the Food4Fife strategy as part of an iterative process to ensure that the environment is considered within all elements of the strategy and action plan. This approach ensures that environmental issues are identified and resolved at a strategic level.

The SEA requires environmental assessment to be transparent to allow the public to comment on the environmental assessment and therefore affect the outcome of potential environmental impacts under the Food4Fife strategy's jurisdiction.

Alternative Options considered by the study

It is a statutory requirement of a SEA to consider alternatives to achieve the desired outcomes of the strategy. When determining options for the Food4Fife strategy, it was accepted that the options available to Fife Council are guided by the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 and requirements under the various climate legislation, as well as the Council's own commitments.

In line with the Scoping responses from the Consultation Authorities, three options were identified for assessment within the SEA:

Option 1 - 'Do nothing': This would continue 'business as usual' and the present ad-hoc action of food in Fife; with little or no monitoring or progress reporting against Scottish Government climate targets or de-risking food security for Fife as the ever-increasing effects of climate change affect global food supplies and prices. If this option were chosen, Fife Council would not achieve a suitable level of ambition for ensuring Fifiers will have access to affordable healthy sustainable food and meeting its climate targets. This would not seem to fulfil the Council's requirements under the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022.

Option 2 - ‘Do the minimum’: This option would see Fife Council do the minimum action needed to make change to the food system in Fife, by addressing only the essential requirements of enabling change of the food system in Fife. Projects and programmes in the Food4Fife strategy would be delivered and measured, but the scale of carbon reductions, food resilience and reduction in poverty would be less significant. There would be minimum management of environmental impacts, and potential benefits and opportunities would be lost. This option would only achieve minimal obligations under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022.

Option 3 - ‘The preferred option’: Where Fife-wide stakeholders work in partnership across all sectors to develop the Food4Fife - Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030) that looks to deliver a holistic approach across the whole Fife food system from farm to fork. This approach would consider emissions and food issues (for example, food poverty and health) across the local authority area. This option develops the Food4Fife strategy through a strategic, co-operative and partnership approach. It would most likely realise the greatest environmental, economic and health and wellbeing benefits, including carbon emission reductions. It is intended that the impact of delivering the Food4Fife strategy would have a significant positive impact on the environment, with the SEA process supporting this aim. This option accepts that the Council will aim to influence activities that it does not have complete control over, as well as those activities it does.

Key environmental problems and existing environmental characteristics of each topic area are identified in subsequent sections of this Environmental Report. Some of these may not be greatly affected by the policies and proposals of the Food4Fife strategy. However, in many cases, the absence of an up-to-date strategy may exacerbate these problems.

Likely Significant Environmental Effects of the Food4Fife strategy and Proposed Mitigation

The assessment carried out on the three options suggests the Food4Fife strategy may have a combination of both positive and negative significant impacts. Overall, most impacts are positive for the Preferred Option, with collaborative work across Fife to reduce greenhouse gas emissions relating to the local food system and to make food become resilient to the effects of climate change. The impacts of the Alternative Options are a mix of both positive and negative.

The assessment of impacts was undertaken by Council officers. Conclusions from the assessment of the three options are detailed in the Environmental Report Section 5 and following the assessment, Option 3 remained the Preferred Option. This was because the overall impact of this option was more positive for the environment than Options 1 and 2.

There were a range of impacts that were uncertain for both options; due in part to the high-level policy nature of the Food4Fife strategy. Uncertainty as to whether an

impact will occur within or out with the Council area, and/or from the fact that some projects and programmes are targeted on activities where the Council has influence but does not have actual control.

Overall, the implementation of the Food4Fife strategy has the potential to have environmental effects on all the SEA themes: biodiversity, flora and fauna, population and human health, soil, water, air, material assets, climatic factors, cultural heritage and landscape.

The assessment of environmental effects of the Food4Fife strategy is presented in full in Section 5. The assessment concludes that the implementation of the Food4Fife strategy through the Preferred Option is not predicted to have many significant adverse environmental effects. Overall, the Preferred Option is predicted to have generally significant positive environmental effects, particularly in relation to population and human health, material assets and climatic factors.

Monitoring and Adoption

Following adoption of the final strategy, the effects on the environment will need to be monitored. This will ensure that any unforeseen negative environmental impacts are identified, and appropriate action taken. It will also help to identify whether positive environmental benefits are being maximised as far as possible. Section 7 sets out the suggested monitoring framework.

Next steps

In accordance with Section 15 (3) of the Act, Fife Council agreed a 6-week statutory consultation period for statutory responses (Scottish Ministers / Historic Environment Scotland (HES) / the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and NatureScot). The Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) will be accompanied by the Environmental Report for this consultation. A summary record of the outcomes, including comments from NatureScot, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland, as well as other stakeholders and members of the public are documented. This will be included in the committee report finalising the strategy.

Once adoption has taken place, a SEA Post-Adoption Statement will be issued.

If you would like to provide comments on the Environment Report, please use the relevant contact details below and respond by Friday 28 April 2023.

Please return consultation responses to:

Lauren Bennett, Policy Officer – Fife Council

By email at Lauren.Bennett@fife.gov.uk

Or by mail to

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Structure of this Environmental Report

The Environmental Report sets out the approach to, and the key findings of, the SEA in relation to the draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030). The report is structured as follows;

- *Section 1* provides a non-technical summary to the document
- *Section 2* introduces the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) and SEA activities to date
- *Section 3* summarises the context of the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) and its relationships with other PPS
- *Section 4* summarises the current environmental baseline, giving a brief overview of the environmental characteristics of Fife, data gaps, SEA objectives, and summarises likely future changes to the environment without the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030)
- *Section 5* presents the SEA assessment method; identifying alternative options, and setting out the scoring and SEA assessment matrices used
- *Section 6* presents the SEA assessment results which predict the environmental effects of implementing the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) and considers mitigation of any potential adverse effects
- *Section 7* describes the proposed monitoring programme to assess any significant environmental impacts arising from the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030)
- *Section 8* outlines the next steps in the SEA process and the finalisation and adoption of the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030).

Supplementary information pertinent to this Environmental Report is presented in a series of appendices. The contents of these appendices are as follows:

- *Appendix A* presents the draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030), which is the subject of this SEA
- *Appendix B* presents the policy context and the relevant PPS

- *Appendix C* comprises the Scoping Report responses from the Consultation Authorities and considerations made by the Responsible Authority in response

2. Introduction

The SEA Process

As part of the preparation of the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) (Food4Fife strategy), Fife Council is carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of certain Plans, Programmes or Strategies (PPS). The SEA aims to:

- integrate environmental factors into PPS preparation and decision-making
- improve PPS and enhance environmental protection
- increase public participation in decision making
- facilitate openness and transparency of decision-making

The SEA is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The key SEA stages are:

Screening: Determining whether the PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether a SEA is required.

Scoping: Deciding on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report, and the consultation period for the report. This is done in consultation with NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

Environmental Report: Publishing an Environmental Report on the PPS and its environmental effects, and consulting on that report.

Adoption: Providing information on the adopted PPS; how consultation comments have been taken into account; and methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS.

Monitoring: Monitoring significant environmental effects in such a manner to also enable the Responsible Authority to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and undertake appropriate remedial action.

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

- Provide information on the Food4Fife strategy;
- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Food4Fife strategy and its reasonable alternatives
- Provide an early and effective opportunity for the Consultation Authorities and the public to offer views on any aspect of this Environmental Report

Key Facts

The key facts relating to the Food4Fife strategy are set out in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 Key Facts about the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030)

Summary of the strategy	
Responsible authority	Fife Council
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Subject	Creating a sustainable food culture, for a healthy Fife.
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Plan area	Fife local authority area (see accompanying map in Chapter 4)
Purpose of plan	<p>Food4Fife - Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) will set the direction and focus of food activities in Fife, initially for the coming 7 years with planned in reviews and revisions. It is based around five pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming, Soils and Climate • Sustainable Food Economy • Sustainable Food Procurement • Healthy Food for All • Community Food <p>The strategy is intended to help the Council to meet duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022.</p>
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SEA activities to date

The activities and actions that have taken place up until this point are detailed in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2 SEA activities to date

SEA Action / activity	When carried out
Screening to determine whether the PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects	August – October 2022 Internal
Scoping, the consultation periods and the level of detail to be included in the Environment Report	August – October 2022
Outline and objectives of the PPS	As per the updated Scoping Report.
Relationship with other PPS and environmental objectives	As per the updated Scoping Report. Feedback from consultation will also be incorporated.
Environmental baseline established	As per the updated Scoping Report. Feedback from consultation will also be incorporated.
Environmental problems identified	As per the updated Scoping Report. Feedback from consultation will also be incorporated.
Assessment of future of area without the PPS	August - October 2022
Alternatives considered	August - October 2022 Three alternatives were considered at the Scoping Report stage. 1. Optimise; 2. Alternative; and 3. Do nothing. One of these, the Status Quo/Do Nothing option was considered unfeasible and therefore excluded from further assessment.
Environmental assessment methods established	As per the updated Scoping Report
Selection of PPS alternatives to be included in the environmental assessment	During Screening, Scoping and Environmental Report stages of the SEA. Feedback from consultation will also be incorporated.
Identification of environmental problems that may persist after implementation and measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects	January 2023 Scoping and Environment Report stages. Feedback from consultation will also be incorporated.
Monitoring methods proposed	As per the updated Scoping Report and Environmental Report. Feedback from consultation will also be incorporated.

Pre-consultation stakeholder engagement event	Workshop for councillors held on Friday 10 February 2023
<p>Consultation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publication and submission of Environmental Report and Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) to SEA gateway, 2. Public notice published, online consultation ran and hard copies available from head office. 3. Feedback incorporated into both the Environmental report and draft strategy and action plan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation period from Monday 20 March – Friday 28 April 2023 2. Monday 20 March 2023 3. May 2023

3. Policy Context for the Food4Fife – Strategy and Action Plan

Outline of the strategy

Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) will set the direction and focus of food activities in Fife. It will contain a strategic vision, governance, objectives and actions to 2030, as well as monitoring and reporting.

It will be approved by the Council Cabinet and will be governed through the Food4Fife Partnership.

The Food4Fife - Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) covers the entire Fife local authority area. It will operate initially for a 7-year period. It is proposed that the strategy's actions will be reported every 2 years in line with the monitoring and reporting guidelines of Climate Fife and reviewed every 5 years as required under Section 17 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 (once enacted). Further progress will be reported via statutory reporting, such as Public Bodies Duties.

The Food4Fife strategy is being developed to ensure Fife meets its obligations set out in Climate Fife and Scotland's Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022.

Strategy purpose and proposed objectives

The Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) aims to create a sustainable food culture, for a healthy Fife. It is structured around five pillars, based on the 6-pillar model from Sustainable Food Places. The five pillars of Food4Fife are:

1. Farming, Soils and Climate
2. Sustainable Food Economy
3. Sustainable Food Procurement
4. Healthy Food for All
5. Community Food

The Food4Fife - Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) is being created to help Fife produce:

- More climate friendly produced food
- Increase access to sustainable, healthy, and affordable food for Fifers
- Increased procurement of local food to ensure short supply chains
- Create and support the infrastructure of a local food system and increase in sustainable environment friendly food businesses to increase community wealth building
- Reduce food poverty and food insecurity/ resilience for the region
- Reduce carbon emissions associated with food

The Draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) has the following structure:

- Introduction – setting out the ambition, challenges, policy context and vision for Food4Fife

- Five pillars – the ambition, challenge, successes and action for each pillar
- Governance
- Involvement of stakeholders and citizens
- Implementation and monitoring process
- The Food4Fife Action Plan (2023-2030) - actions to meet the strategy's objectives
- Additional evidence

For each decadal phase of the SECAP (e.g. 2020-2030) there will be a prioritised action plan – detailing a programme of projects to meet the strategy objectives.

The Food4Fife strategy's aims and objectives will be set in line with national legislation, as well as national and local strategies, policies and plans which impact on Fife's food system and climate change action, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation. The Environmental Report's Appendix include lists of key documents, with links, and where these have been subject to a SEA. Actions in the Draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) will be considered within this SEA where: they are in addition to, or augment, actions or policies within existing documents that have undertaken a SEA; or where no SEA has been undertaken. The Food4Fife - Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) is being developed alongside the SEA process.

Background and legal requirement for the Food4Fife strategy

Fife Council is developing the Food4Fife - Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) on behalf of the Food4Fife Partnership.

Fife Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and approved the Climate Fife: Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan in March 2020. Climate Fife committed Fife Council to work "...with local stakeholders to produce a local food strategy for Fife which will look at improving the quality, health benefits, affordability, access to and reduce the environmental impacts of food consumed within Fife." (RE06 p73)

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 underpins in law the work that is already being done nationally to make Scotland a Good Food Nation. Section 10 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 places a duty on local authorities and NHS health boards to prepare and publish a Good Food Nation Plan.

Legislative drivers

Section 10 S(6)¹ of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 states: "In determining the content of its good food nation plan, a relevant authority must have regard to the scope for food-related issues to affect outcomes in relation to, among other things—

- (a) social and economic wellbeing,

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2022/5/crossheading/good-food-nation-plans-of-public-bodies>

- (b) the environment, including in particular in relation to—
 - climate change, and
 - wildlife and the natural environment,
- (c) health and physical and mental wellbeing (including in particular through the provision of health and social care services),
- (d) economic development,
- (e) animal welfare,
- (f) education,
- (g) child poverty, and
- (h) any other matter specified by the Scottish Ministers.”

National Context: United Kingdom

The [UK Government Food Strategy 2022](#) sets out what actions to create a more prosperous agri-food sector that delivers healthier, more sustainable and affordable diets for all.

National Context: Scotland

The Scottish Government recognises that significant transitions are needed in the way we live – developing a circular economy, decarbonising our transportation system, improving the environmental stewardship of land-use, adapting our places and environment to unavoidable climate change, and transforming how our communities and our economy engage and draw benefits from these challenges.

The Food4Fife - Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) aims to support the delivery of the Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

Procurement: The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 details the Sustainable Procurement Duty, which Fife Council and other public bodies must action.

Transport: The National Transport Strategy (NTS2)³⁶ sets out Scotland's vision for the next 20 years. This redefines investment priorities, putting sustainable transport at the heart of decision-making.

South East of Scotland Transport Partnership SEStran leads the development of a transportation system for South East Scotland. The Regional Transport Strategy 2015-2025 states the importance of climate change and emissions reductions in transport policy. The strategy recognises the economic risks due the dependency on road transport such as: environmental and health issues; increasing recognition and awareness of climate change, and therefore pressure on the continued use of fossil fuels; and medium-term uncertainty concerning the security and longevity of current energy supply.

Planning: The National Planning Framework 3 sets out a long-term vision for where development and infrastructure is needed across Scotland over the next 20 to 30

years. The Revised Draft National Planning Framework 4 has been published and sets out the long-term spatial strategy for Scotland as well as a set of comprehensive national planning policies.

Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 has recently received Royal Assent. There are new duties for local authority planning services, including the part planning must play in addressing climate change and ensuring we sustain and support communities across Scotland. This includes a new duty to develop a Forestry Strategy and regional Land Use Strategies.

Requirements are also put onto planning through Scottish Planning Policy. For example, Heat demands: planning advice covering the inclusion of heat in local development plans through to the use of heat mapping in planning and support for others.

Fife is within two regional planning areas: South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan and the Tayside Strategic Development Plan.

Economic: Scotland's Economic Strategy 2015 recognises the need for action on resource efficiency and climate change. The strategy looks to reduce the cost to the Scottish economy of climate change, while maximising opportunities.

Air quality: Cleaner air for Scotland: the road to a healthier future 2015⁴⁵ recognises the need for clean air is essential for our health, wellbeing, and helps to protect the environment as a natural asset. Air quality is seen as a co-benefit when delivering against climate and energy targets.

Land use, forestry and biodiversity: 2019 Scottish Programme for Government highlighted how greening of the urban environment enhances their environmental performance and climate resilience to make sure that people in our urban areas can benefit from nature and nature-based solutions to climate change.

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004⁴⁶ places duties on public bodies in relation to the conservation of biodiversity and increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity⁴⁷ is the strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland. The strategy recognises the pressures on the natural environment from climate change, how this influences the functioning of ecosystems, and how to support resilience to unavoidable climate change such as through adaptive management. It also recognises the ecosystem services provided by biodiversity such as climate regulation and mitigating some of the effects of climate change by increasing the capacity to lock carbon into soils and vegetation (carbon sequestration).

Farming for a Better Climate (2011)⁴⁸ outlines opportunities for farmers to find practical ways to cut carbon, improve profitability and move towards net-zero emissions.

Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029⁴⁹ includes a 50-year vision for Scotland's forests and woodlands and sets out a 10-year framework for action. The strategy outlines forestry in Scotland significant role in driving forward the ambitions to make

Scotland a low carbon economy and as a world leader in dealing with the threat of climate change. Forestry has a role in climate change mitigation by continuing to store captured carbon (sequestration), and in adaptation to unavoidable climate change by, for example, providing natural flood management and shelter for livestock. The strategy also recognises the need for Scotland's forests and woodlands to adapt to a changing climate and become more resilient to the growing threats and challenges they face.

Historic Environment: Historic Environment Policy for Scotland⁵⁰ 2019 recognises the significant impact both mitigating and adapting to climate change can have on the historic environment. The policy supports and enables good decision making about changes to the historic environment.

Flood Risk Management: Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009⁵¹ considers whole catchments and takes risk-based decisions on how to act. This is supported by the Flood Risk Management (Flood Protection Schemes, Potentially Vulnerable Areas and Local Plan Districts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017. Local strategies include prioritised and coordinated approach to flood protection schemes or engineering works. In addition, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency provides flood maps⁵² to aid with future planning and resilience. Local Flood Risk Management Plans are provided for 14 districts across Scotland. Fife is within the Forth Estuary Local Plan District⁵³ and the Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin Local Plan District⁵⁴. These plans highlight potentially Vulnerable Areas for flooding.

Waste: The Zero Waste Plan outlined that a package of regulatory measures. The Regulations provide for the collection, transport and treatment of key recyclable materials (paper, card, plastic, metal and glass) and food waste, placing additional requirements on local authorities and businesses in this regard. The approach to waste is integral to resource use, energy, greenhouse gas emissions and the circular economy.

Circular Economy: Making Things Last - A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland sets out Scottish Government priorities for moving towards a more circular economy – where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible. It builds on Scotland's progress in the zero waste and resource efficiency agendas. Benefits include cutting carbon emissions and reducing reliance on scarce resources. Examples include construction and the built environment and energy infrastructure such as the reuse of equipment from wind turbines and decommissioned oil and gas platforms.

Local Context: Fife

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan –**Plan for Fife 2017-2027** - is the Fife Partnership Plan and Council Plan and provides a focus for all other plans in Fife. Climate change is highlighted as the main environmental challenge, and risks from flooding as major concerns.

The **Recovery & Renewal Plan for Fife 2021-2024 Update** is the three-year review of the Plan for Fife combined with the experience of the Covid-19 pandemic. The

Update prioritises: Addressing the Climate Emergency, Leading Economic Recovery and Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis. These are underpinned by an overarching Community Wealth Building approach that Fife will be taking locally.

Climate Fife: Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (2020-2030) sets out the Fife-wide approach to tackling the climate emergency and considers the actions that need to be taken urgently to limit the most harmful impacts. It sets out how all aspects of day-to-day life will need to change, including how we use land and what we eat.

Planning: The Local Development Plan (FIFEplan) 2019 sets out the planning policies and proposals for the development and use of land across Fife. The plan is supported by Supplementary Guidance which explains in greater detail how planning policies will be used.

The Low Carbon Fife Supplementary Guidance provides a context for assessing all types of low carbon energy applications; information on demonstrating compliance with CO2 emissions reduction targets and district heating requirements; and requirements for air quality assessments.

Housing: Fife Local Housing Strategy 2015- 2020 is the leading strategic Fife wide plan for housing and related services across all tenures. The plan includes priorities linked to reducing carbon emissions, energy and adapting to unavoidable climate change.

Economic: Fife's Economic Strategy 2017-2027 focuses on achieving stronger, sustainable and more resilient economic growth for Fife. The plan recognises the need to tackle climate change and the continuing shift to a low carbon economy. The Fife Economic Strategy 2023-2028 is currently under development.

Transport: Fife Local Transport Strategy is to provide a transport system that provides people the necessary access to the goods, services and needs they desire to enable them to lead a rewarding everyday life. The strategy recognises the challenge of climate change and use more sustainable travel choices.

Air Quality: Air Quality Strategy for Fife 2015-2020 includes particular focus on hotspots of road traffic-related pollution as well as national drivers including climate change. The Annual Progress Report 2018 outlines how air quality is being considered during the development of Climate Fife and how this links to other policy areas such as transport and the move to Electric Vehicles.

Procurement: Fife Council Sustainable Procurement Policy commits the Council to purchase goods, materials and services that minimise or reduce the impacts of its activities on the local and global environment. This includes the option to use of Whole Life Costing.

Land use, forestry, biodiversity and access: Fife Council has a range of strategies and plans covering land use, forestry and biodiversity. The Green Space Audit and Strategy 2011-2016 provides the approach to ensuring access to, and better use, of green space in Fife.

Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2013-2018 sets out the nature conservation priorities and projects in Fife. It outlines the link to ecosystem services both in sequestering greenhouse gases, how biodiversity planning can support adaptation to unavoidable climate change, and the threat to ecosystems, ecosystem services and species from climate change.

Fife Forest and Woodland Strategy 2013-2018 set out to guide the future expansion and restructuring of woodlands in Fife to maximise these benefits and inform future woodland management and planting proposals. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires local authorities to produce a Forestry Strategy.

Fife Access Strategy Review links modal shift to walking and cycling with opportunities to reduce carbon emissions. Fife Council has an adopted Core Path Plan 2012 and a core path map.

Food4Fife action linked to legislation, strategy and policy

As Fife's first food strategy, Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) will set the direction and focus of food activities in Fife over the next 7 years. It is a partnership strategy setting the direction for not only Fife Council but all members of the Food4Fife Partnership and other interested stakeholders.

The Food4Fife strategy will fulfil the role of Fife's Good Food Nation Plan under the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 and will be included in reporting for Public Bodies Duties.

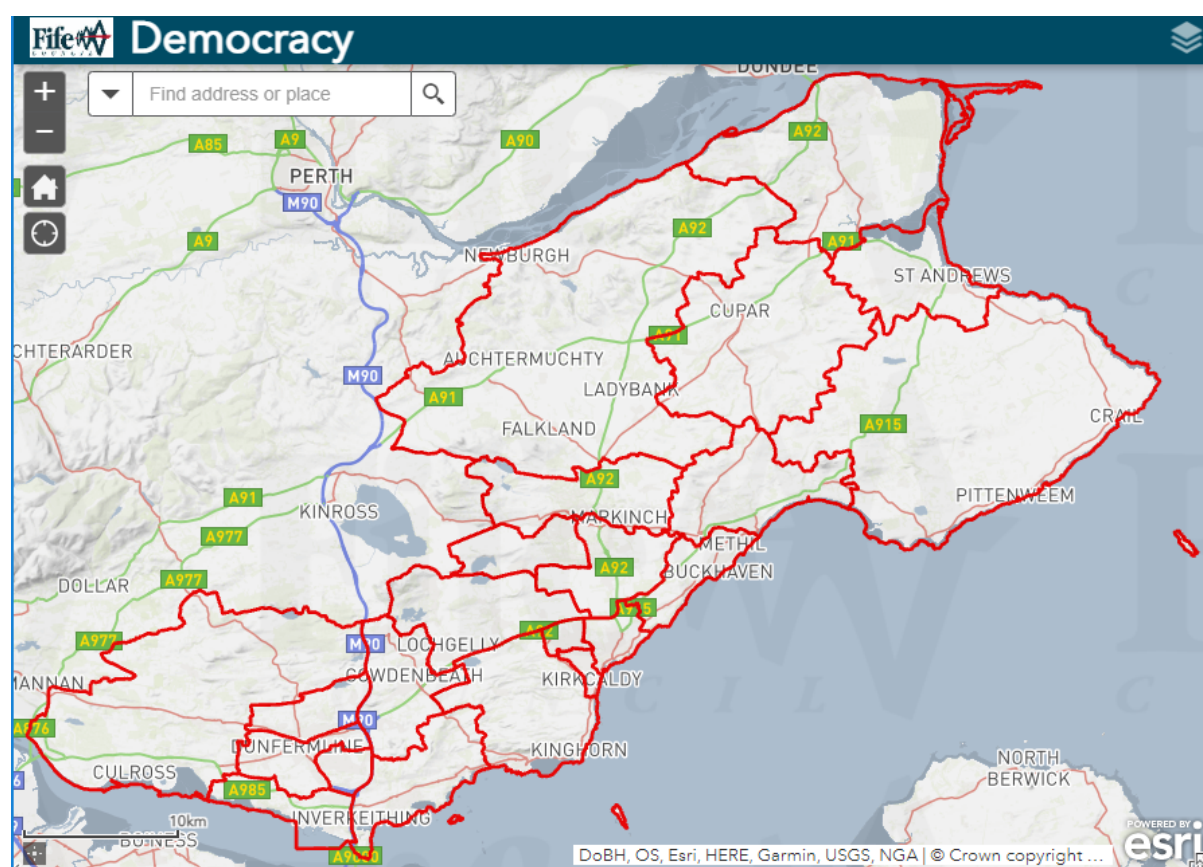
A fuller list of plans, programmes and strategies that provide a policy context for the Food4Fife strategy is provided in Appendix B. This list is meant to be indicative and not exhaustive.

4. Environmental Characteristics and SEA Objectives

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Schedule 3 requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected by the plan being assessed. This section describes the current state of the environment in the Fife Council area and any existing problems. It also includes the SEA objectives that we have used in the assessment, plus suggested indicators and data sources for future monitoring.

A map of Fife Council local authority area is presented below for reference.

Figure 4.1 Fife Council local authority area



Environmental Assessment Themes

Schedule 3(6) of the Act outlines twelve environmental themes which must be considered in the SEA; all of which have been considered in this Environmental Report. The Act also requires the interrelationships in the environmental impacts of the listed criteria to be considered. Examples of common interrelationships include:

- Areas sensitive to the cumulative effects of different development types e.g. single houses in the countryside, mineral workings or windfarms;
- Areas sensitive to an accumulation of different environmental effects, e.g. noise and visual intrusion;

- The coastal zone, including areas of particular sensitivity or under particular pressures for change.

These, and other interrelationships between SEA themes, are considered in more detail in the table below.

Table 4.1 Environmental assessment themes and interrelationships

SEA Theme	Act Schedule Reference	Potential impact of the Food4Fife - Strategy and Action Plan	Interrelationships
Ecology and biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna, flora	<p>The Food4Fife - Strategy and Action Plan is likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity where this encourages the increase in regenerative and organic food production methods. This type of food production protects soils, fungal networks and bacteria, enabling healthy soils to take carbon out of the air and store it. It also can provide opportunities, protection and resilience for biodiversity.</p> <p>Where existing food production methods continue to be used, there is a risk of negative effects resulting from continued practice. This can include soil disturbance and degradation, including the release of carbon. There is potential for change or loss of habitat, or habitat disturbance due to existing farming practices.</p> <p>Change in land use for processing could lead to changes in management practices, which has the potential for positive and negative effects. Changes could include loss, increase or change of habitat, fragmentation or disturbance. Inappropriate development may result in the loss of sites protected for their nature interest and a reduction in the value of unprotected habitats which support the variety of species currently found in the area.</p>	It's unlikely to significantly affect areas of high landscape or biodiversity value as there are policies in place to ensure protection of such areas, including local policies such as the Local Development Plan and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, and national policies such as Scotland's Land Use Strategy. However new developments may have impacts on neighbouring protected sites.
Population and human health	Human health, material assets, population	<p>Moving to less use of pesticides fertilisers and fungicides on food production in Fife will reduce the demand for energy air pollution and associated human health issues.</p> <p>Where more regenerative and organic farming methods are used these offer</p>	Increases in local population and household numbers will see increasing food demand in Fife. Not utilising local sustainable sources of food where this can be

		<p>the potential for more nutrient dense foods with less artificial chemicals, hormones and antibiotics so lessening the stress on human immune systems.</p> <p>Increased access to local and sustainable food in every community will reduce travel of goods and potentially encourage increased active travel which will also improve human health.</p> <p>Increased local growing opportunities will in turn increase seasonal access to fruit and vegetables locally so encouraging the opportunity for a healthier diet.</p> <p>Increased cooking skills and access to local ingredients could also reduce the amount of processed food purchased. Processed foods are linked to higher intakes of fat, sugar and salt which is linked to the alarming increases in diabetes and obesity across all ages.</p>	<p>done could increase emissions, costs and potential risk of food shortages.</p> <p>Increased community growing spaces and local spaces for upgrading skills and capacity around food not only empowers people, but also encourages and strengthens community wellbeing and cohesion. Something that has been sorely missed and reduced with Covid.</p> <p>Local food can help tackle challenges such as food poverty.</p>
Soil and geology	Soil, material assets, contaminated land	<p>Overall impacts on soil are considered to be positive.</p> <p>Where there is an increase in sustainable or regenerative food production methods for food, this protects soils and their bacteria enabling greater carbon sequestration. Encouraging farmers and food producers in Fife to make the move to more sustainable and regenerative methods supported by grants from Scottish government can benefit to soils that are presently depleted.</p> <p>Increased used of derelict land for local food production re allotments small holdings and community gardens, as long as its sustainable, can also have a positive effect.</p> <p>Where existing food production methods continue to be used, there is a risk of negative effects including soil disturbance and degradation, including loss of carbon. Thus, encouraging farmers to adopt more sustainable and regenerative methods is key to soil protection.</p>	<p>It is unlikely that there will be any impact on areas of high landscape or geological value. There are policies in place to protect such areas including the LDP, LBAP and national strategies such as Scotland's Land Use Strategy.</p> <p>See Water and hydrology, and ecology and biodiversity</p>

Water and hydrology	Water (including quality and flood risk), human health, biodiversity, fauna and flora	<p>Increased local food production and adaptation to a changing climate may impact upon water resources.</p> <p>Increased local food production can potentially see increased use of water, especially as the climate change effects become more extreme with increased drought periods.</p> <p>Increased heavy rainfalls in short time frames also risk loss of fertile topsoil and washing away nutrients.</p> <p>Food production methods can impact water and hydrology risks. Food production may consider reducing monoculture growing in large expanses of land for smaller field sizes, rotation and variety of crops with different root systems to protect soils.</p> <p>Pollution to water and run-off caused by food production can impact water courses and other water bodies, bathing waters and underground aquifers. Reduction in artificial fertilisers, fungicides and pesticides can reduce pollution runoff.</p> <p>Some areas are vulnerable to flooding from water courses as indicated in SFRA. Locating development sites carefully is essential to prevent further pollution. Lack of drainage, water treatment and flood defence infrastructure are a constraint on development.</p> <p>Any new assets associated with the Strategy should be designed to have minimal impact or to make a positive contribution on water quality and flooding.</p>	<p>Water borne pollution has negative implications for human health, and ecology and biodiversity. Developments need to be sited appropriately to accommodate greater potential flooding risks because of climate change.</p> <p>The Food4Fife - Strategy and Action Plan can work alongside Climate Fife and the land use plans for Fife.</p>
Air (including Air pollution, noise, dust, hazardous installations)	Air, human health	<p>Some actions within the Food4Fife - Strategy and Action Plan may influence air quality (both positively and potentially adversely), such as changes to how or where food is produced through to where it is consumed. Changes such as increased use of biofuel may have local impacts. Any impacts to air quality will be aligned and addressed within the Air Quality Strategy for Fife and its SEA.</p>	<p>See climate and energy (traffic volumes and safety), population and human health and ecology and biodiversity.</p>

		<p>Air pollution can negatively affect human health. Inappropriate development / technology options could lead to an increase in sources of pollution affecting communities, including inappropriately located industrial activities and traffic increases. There is a need for the Strategy to reduce risks to human health by controlling and separating housing and other social facilities from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sources of air pollution, including pollution 'hotspots' associated with transport or development; • sources of noise; • sources of dust; and • hazardous installations. 	
Climate and energy	Climate factors, human health, biodiversity, soil, water, material assets	<p>Encouraging a low carbon food production, manufacture and distribution systems for Fife and increased local food procurement can reduce the use of carbon fuels and their climate emissions both within and export from Fife. Reduced use of pesticide fertilizers and fungicides can reduce carbon energy emissions. The reduction of goods into Fife which have higher energy costs, such as those airfreighted, can reduce carbon fuels. Supporting food business in Fife to work towards net zero for their premises and production methods will also positively impact on climate and energy use. Changes to land use may have positive or negatives effects on how carbon is captured or released due to farming practices.</p>	<p>A changing climate will impact on energy demand for greenhouse and covered food production for both heating and cooling. Longer growing seasons or milder winters are likely to impact on human health, landscape, biodiversity, energy generation, food and soil resilience. Climate Fife and the Recovery and Renewal Plan for Fife 2021-24 update set out key actions for addressing climate change, including energy generation and demand.</p> <p>Significant climatic changes in temperature affect soil fertility and the biodiversity that pollinates our food.</p> <p>How land is used can impact the amount of carbon that is captured or released in soils. However, some protection is in place through local and national policies – LDP, LBAP, Scotland's Land Use Strategy.</p>

Materials and waste	Climatic factors, material assets, soil, water, air	<p>Reducing food waste from all areas of the food system to include farms, hospitality, food business and food processing will have a positive effect not only on the environment and climate but also on the economy and food poverty.</p> <p>There is likely to be some small effect on material assets such as increased transportation infrastructure for redistribution of food excess. It may see an increase in the production and installation of food hubs and stores for storage and redistribution. May result in change to urban design, settlement layouts and planning.</p> <p>The also has the potential to lead to: a more circular economy where food is no longer ploughed back into the soil or put to landfill but redistributed to where it is needed or processed and frozen for use later.</p>	The Food4Fife - Strategy and Action Plan will support the implementation of the Fife Council Resources Strategy, encouraging efficient use of resources and a move further up the waste hierarchy. This will result in greater investment in redistribution of excess food storage and distribution hubs.
Cultural heritage	Cultural heritage, material assets	This is not a site-specific strategy and action plan. Therefore local cultural heritage impacts would be considered as part of the development process for individual projects within the action plan. However, it has been noted that there is a potential impact on the built environment from actions arising from the plan and this will be considered in the future should sites for developments. Generally, these issues will be addressed through the Local Development Plan and planning permission / EIA process as required.	There can, on occasions, be a conflict of interest between conservation of the built heritage and the provision of essential infrastructure or the preservation or enhancement of landscape features and habitats to promote biodiversity which may require to be managed within the context of the Food4Fife - Strategy and Action Plan.
Landscape and land-use	Cultural heritage, material assets, landscape	<p>Different approaches to agriculture can have an impact on landscape. Protection is in place through local and national plans and strategies – LDP, LBAP and Scotland's Land Use Strategy.</p> <p>This is not a site-specific strategy and therefore landscape impacts are considered as being generally outside the control of this strategy. However, it has been noted that there is a potential impact on the landscape if changes to agricultural practices are taken on at a large-scale.</p>	Brownfield sites often present scars within settlements and within the countryside – redevelopment or restoration of such sites can make a significant contribution to enhancing the local amenity of the areas affected. Food production and processes may be on existing brownfield sites. Biodiversity may be improved, depending on

		Infrastructure linked to food may be addressed through the Local Development Plan but have also been included here.	the use of sites – although in some cases brownfield sites may have naturally become locally significant habitats, particularly within built up areas.
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Baseline Information Sources

Baseline information has been collated from a range of sources and will be updated and refined as necessary for subsequent monitoring. The baseline of this Environmental Report also includes relevant social and economic data. This baseline aims to establish, where possible:

- The current state of the environment
- Past and likely future trends
- Information gaps
- Current environmental issues in Fife

The table below lists the main data sources of the baseline information that have been used to undertake the environmental assessment for each of the SEA themes identified above.

Table 4.2 Data Sources

SEA Topic	Relevant Data Sources
Ecology and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) [SSSI sites cover: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Ramsar sites; National Nature Reserves (NNRs). • Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Local wildlife sites • UK BAP and LBAP priority habitats and species. • Habitat maps including network opportunities. • Fife Nature Records Centre • NBN Gateway
Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and size of settlements • Population figures • Wellbeing profiles (life expectancy and mortality by cause) • Fife Council's greenspace audit • Allotment sites • Food producers and businesses • SIMD • Number of children in households living in relative/absolute poverty (DWP) • Fife Council – Fife Food Map
Soil and geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil types and quality, agricultural land (JHI) • Mining workings • Contaminated land, brownfield land • Vacant and Derelict land (Scottish Government - Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2016)

Water and hydrology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality monitoring data • SEPA flood mapping • Local flood risk assessments
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality monitoring data / NAEI data • Proximity to settlement and other noise receptors
Climate and energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of greenhouse gas emissions UK Government – Local Authority CO2 emissions estimates 2005-2017 (kt CO2) – Subset dataset (i.e. Local Authority influence)
Materials and waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste disposal and recycling
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Environment Scotland (spatial downloads) • Scheduled monuments / archaeological sites • Listed buildings and buildings at risk • Conservation areas • Archaeological sensitive areas • Inventory and non-inventory gardens and designed landscapes • Inventory of Historic Battlefields
Landscape and land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape assessment • Land use classification • National Scenic Areas • Regional Scenic Areas

At this stage, environmental baseline information has been collected for all aspects of the environment that may broadly be affected through implementation of the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030). The types of activity likely to be proposed in the Food4Fife strategy were used to identify the likely types of environmental effects, and this was used to focus the collation of environmental baseline information. Comments have been received from the statutory Consultation Authorities during the consultation process after submission of the Scoping Report, and these comments have been included in framing the final assessment structure presented in this document. Full Scoping Report consultation responses from the Consultation Authorities are presented in Appendix C.

Data Gaps

There are actions set out in the Food4Fife action plan that aim to gather data and information that will benefit the planning and coordination of a range of activities. Data gathered over the course of the strategy and action plan timeframe will be used to develop and support future work.

General Overview of the Environment

Fife is Scotland's third largest local authority area by population. It has a resident population of just over 374,000 (2020), over a 170,000 (2020) of whom live in the the

City of Dunfermline and the two principal towns of Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes. According to the 2012 estimate, Dunfermline (76,210) is the largest settlement by population followed by Kirkcaldy and Dysart (50,370) then Glenrothes (44,760). The next most sizeable towns by population are St Andrews, Cowdenbeath, Rosyth, Methil and Dalgety Bay. Smaller towns include: Inverkeithing, Kincardine, Anstruther, Lochgelly, Burntisland, Leven, Newburgh, Tayport and Cupar, and villages such as Springfield, Kinglassie, Kinghorn, Elie, Auchtertool, Crossgates, Ballingry and Auchtermuchty. Unlike many local authority areas there is no clear 'County town' and the shopping, service and employment are divided between the three main centres with Glenrothes acting as the administrative centre.

The Fife Council area extends to some 1,325 sq. km. and is located in the east of Scotland's Central Belt. Fife is situated between the Firth of Tay and the Firth of Forth, with inland boundaries to Perth and Kinross and Clackmannanshire. The area exhibits a considerable variety of landforms and habitats and is bounded by coastline / estuarine waters on three sides. There are substantial areas of agricultural land in central and east Fife. There are extinct volcanic features, such as the Lomond Hills which rise above rolling farmland, and Largo Law, a volcanic plug in the east. At 522 metres (1,713ft), West Lomond is the highest point in Fife. The coast has fine but small harbours, from the industrial docks in Burntisland and Rosyth to the fishing villages of the East Neuk such as Anstruther and Pittenweem. The large area of flat land to the north of the Lomond Hills, through which the River Eden flows, is known as the Howe of Fife. North of the Lomond Hills can be found villages and small towns in a primarily agricultural landscape. The areas in the south and west of Fife, including the towns of Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy and the Levenmouth region are lightly industrial and more densely populated.

The area benefits from excellent road, rail and sea connections. It is at the hub of the motorway and railway network, whilst Rosyth is a major port. There are important river crossings within Fife notably the Forth Bridge, Forth Road Bridge, Queensferry Crossing, Tay Bridge and the Kincardine Bridge. Transport routes to the west are partially blocked by the mass of the Ochil Hills. Almost all road traffic into and out of Fife must pass over one of the bridges, the exception being traffic headed north on the M90.

Fife has a long history of agricultural and industrial. Many traditional industries have now largely disappeared from Fife. This has left a legacy of vacant, derelict and contaminated land, although considerable progress has been made over recent decades in terms of land renewal. Today, the economy is more diverse, with agriculture and engineering still important but the service sector and public sector being increasingly predominant. The area has good accessibility. The fishing industry on which the East Neuk settlements were built has declined in recent years with the main fishing fleet now operating from Pittenweem and the harbour in Anstruther being used as a marina for pleasure craft.

Mineral extraction has diminished in recent times, with activity currently limited to hard rock quarrying in central Fife (particularly close to the coast, i.e. between Dalgety Bay and Kirkcaldy). There are no operational coal mines within Fife today.

However, there are still exploitable coal reserves within the area. The area has a wealth of built and cultural assets reflecting its interesting and varied history.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Existing environmental characteristics

There are many sites of nature conservation interest located within Fife, these are summarised in the table below.

Table 4.3 Designated sites of ecological value in Fife

Designation	Type	No. of sites in Fife	Area (Ha)
Country Park	National	3	489
Local Nature Reserve	National	7	1,650
National Nature Reserve	National	2	596
RAMSAR site	International	3	13,302
Regional Park	National	1	6,645
RIGS	Local	7	88
Special Area of Conservation	International	3	15,856
Special Protection Area	International	4	13,407
Site of Special Scientific Interest	National	54	18,700
Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve	National	10	84
Wildlife site	National	83	2,313

Interactions

Climate friendly farming practices can have positive impacts for nature and biodiversity by protecting soils, plants and other areas of farmland. Intensive farming processes can cause significant negative impacts for biodiversity.

Existing environmental issues

Within the biodiversity, flora and fauna theme the following environmental issues are already extant within the assessment area:

- Fife has several important species and habitats sensitive to development and which are protected by statute and / or through UK and local designations;
- Pressures from development, agricultural practices and other land uses, resulting in habitat disturbance;
- Decline in national, regional and /or locally important species;
- Spread of invasive, non-native species;

- Loss of or damage to sites/areas of high ecological importance; and
- Impacts of climate change on biodiversity (flooding, drought, storm damage, temperature parameters for existing habitats)

Likely future changes to the environment without implementation of the strategy

The Food4Fife strategy would encourage sustainable and regenerative farming practices which in turn encourage a positive relationship between agriculture and nature. The strategy can help to encourage farmers to take up more climate friendly practices and work with nature. There is also potential for improving biodiversity through local community food initiatives like allotments and growing spaces that work with nature.

Table 4.4 SEA objectives and assessment questions

SEA theme	Draft SEA objective	Draft assessment questions Does the Food4Fife strategy...	Proposed indicator/s
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Ensure the maintenance or (where possible) enhancement of biodiversity and avoid damage to designated wildlife sites and protected species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the diversity of species and habitats? • Impact on any international, national or locally designated sites? • Avoid habitat fragmentation and increase green network connectivity? • Benefit natural heritage in the built environment and open countryside (e.g. improve biodiversity/ blue/green infrastructure)? • Impact on areas of existing native trees, woodlands and hedges? • Seek to promote watercourses as valuable landscape features and wildlife habitats? 	<p>Reported condition of locally, nationally and internationally important wildlife sites.</p> <p>Achievement of Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets.</p>

Population and human health

Existing environmental characteristics

Estimates for Population as of 2020 are as follows:

- Total Fife Population Estimate - 374,000 (7% of Scotland's total population)
- Roughly 16% of the Total Fife Population lives in settlements with populations less than 2,000 inhabitants

In West Fife, 59% of the population lives in Dunfermline and Rosyth; 17% of the population live in settlements with less than 2000 inhabitants. Retail, commercial and leisure facilities are located mainly in Dunfermline and settlements in the surrounding area.

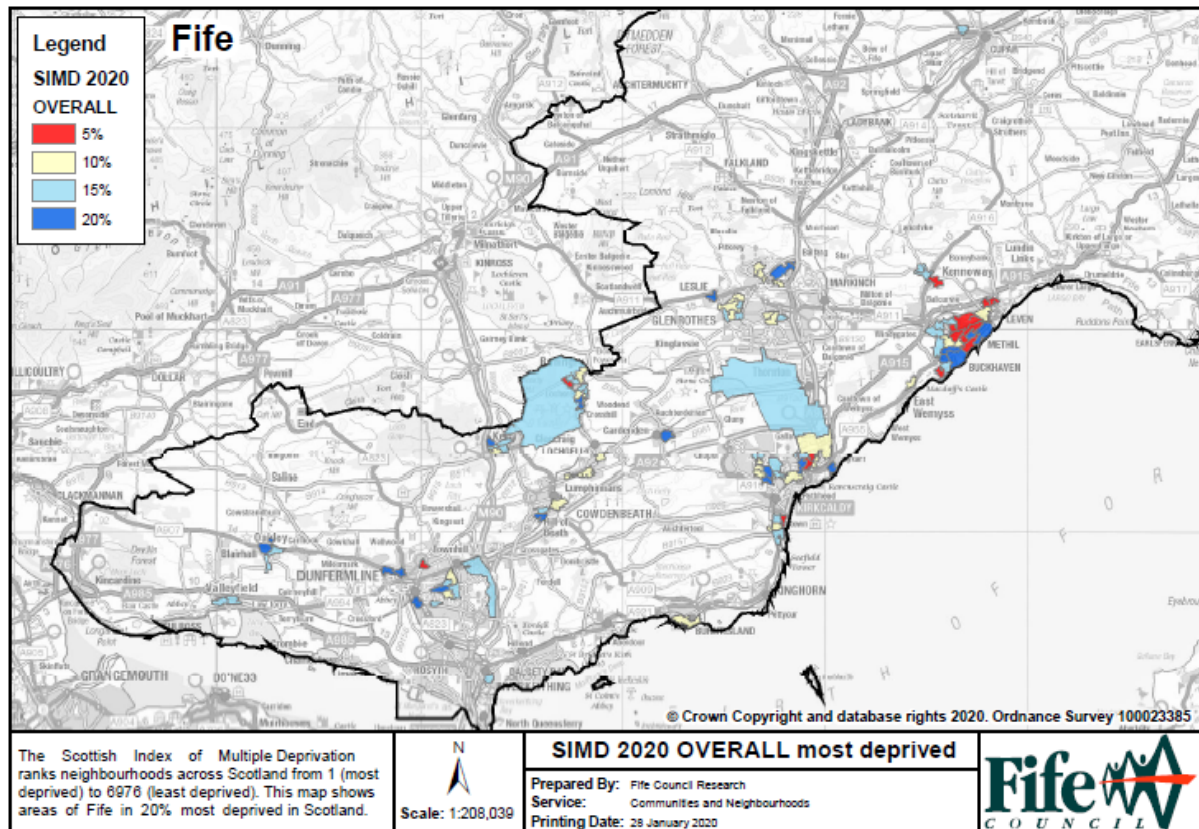
In Mid Fife, 61% of the population lives in Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes or the Levenmouth area; only 9% of the population live in settlements with less than 2000 inhabitants. Retail, commercial and leisure facilities are located mainly in Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes, however much of the population travels out of the area to access a greater range of facilities.

In East Fife, 33% of the population lives in St Andrews or Cupar; 41% of the population lives in settlements with less than 2000 inhabitants – these are mostly small, dispersed villages and hamlets. There is a substantial retired population in St Andrews and a number of the East Neuk communities. A significant amount of the employed population travels out of the area for work – mainly to Dundee and Edinburgh. People also travel out of the area for major retail, commercial and leisure facilities.

In terms of deprivation, Fife continues to track what is happening with Scotland as a whole in relation to both income and employment deprivation. Fife's most deprived areas continue to be concentrated in Mid Fife, with some areas now show as more deprived relative to other areas of Scotland. Across domains, Fife's deprived areas are becoming more deprived. Fife continues to see a relative worsening of Health deprivation, but still within what is expected.

The map below shows the SIMD 2020 overall most deprived communities in Fife².

² [KnowFife, SIMD 2020 Quick Brief](#)



Interactions

The likely interactions of the Food4Fife strategy and the SEA theme are considerable given many of the actions focus on producing and increasing access to healthier food. The strategy looks to reduce levels of food insecurity and food poverty meaning more people can access better food. There are also actions around community food initiatives and community growing which not only improve access to lower cost food but can work to reduce social isolation and engage communities in various strands of food.

Existing environmental issues

Within the population and human health theme the following environmental issues are already extant within the assessment area:

- Predicted continued population growth combined with trends towards smaller household sizes, suggests that pressure for provision of housing and amenities will continue to grow.
- Population may be adversely affected by climate change.
- Primary health issues are ageing population and Scotland-wide health issues. Consideration must also be given to the potential health impacts from the post-industrial legacy of contaminated and potentially contaminated sites.
- Open space within urban areas is also under increasing development pressure, particularly for residential development. Open Space across the

Council area has been identified as having a significant positive effect on human health and wellbeing. Countryside access provision has improved over recent years. Outdoor amenities and recreational landscapes are important for community wellbeing and tourism but under pressure from development.

- Risk to human health of increased transport and emissions in the area.

Likely future changes to the environment without the implementation of the strategy

Without the food strategy, there will continue to be good work to address food poverty and food insecurity, however the food strategy provides strategic direction and focus as well as linking up several areas of the food system that may otherwise operate in silos. Increasing access to healthier foods, grown locally in Fife, could have health benefits alongside increased awareness of different foods and how to cook them could improve diets and encourage healthier eating habits.

Table 4.5 SEA objectives and assessment questions

SEA theme	Draft SEA objective	Draft assessment questions Does the Food4Fife strategy...	Proposed indicator/s
Population and human health	To improve the health and wellbeing of communities in Fife and reduce inequalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support identified population needs? • Exacerbate or improve air, water or noise pollution in communities? • Contribute towards the improvement of the environment of communities? • Improve and make provision of open space? • Impact on waste? 	<p>Years of healthy life expectancy / infant mortality rate.</p> <p>Litter and fly tipping statistics (SEPA & Council).</p> <p>Impact on traffic levels.</p> <p>Waste collection tonnages.</p>

Soil

Existing environmental characteristics

There are several major quarries for aggregate material (hard rock and sand and gravel) such as Clatchard Craig, Cruicks and Collessie; and two major silica sandstone quarries – Burrowine and Devilla. In addition, there are a few opencast coal sites such as Muirdean and St Ninians.

Restoration of these is an important factor and there is a mine wastewater treatment works at the former Frances Colliery in Dysart. There is a history of coal mining in West and Mid Fife which has left extensive areas of derelict and/or contaminated land and areas where stabilisation would be required prior to development. However, there are several schemes underway to reclaim coal from bings – such as Comrie Colliery – and to remediate them. The deep mining of coal in Fife ended in 2001.

There is a history of industrial use in Mid Fife which has left extensive areas of derelict or contaminated land.

Interactions

Better, quality soils will lead to better food as increased nutrients in the soil will produce healthier more nutritious food. Improved soils will also be important for mitigating climate change and improving biodiversity outcomes.

Existing environmental issues

Within the soil theme the following environmental issues are already extant within the assessment area:

- Fife has significant areas of higher quality agricultural soils and some soils with higher peat content.
- There are a few sites which have been classified as being potentially contaminated. Due to historical pollution, there is the potential for more contaminated sites to be uncovered in the future.
- There are numerous old coal workings within Fife. No comprehensive record of abandoned mineral workings is kept on a Scotland-wide basis – this can present several problems. Land surrounding old mine workings can be contaminated and prone to subsidence. Mines can leave areas of unstable ground and abandoned mine workings can be a potential source of contamination. Such sites can detract from the visual quality of the area and can also present problems in the form of contaminated soils, pollution of water bodies and potential risks to human health.
- Scotland-wide issues of erosion, including adaptation to unavoidable climate change affecting organic content.
- Run off as a risk from compaction, crop production systems and developed land.

Likely future changes to the environment without the implementation of the strategy

The Food4Fife strategy encourages more sustainable and regenerative farming practices, which would lead to better quality soils. Without the strategy, it may be that the take up of these practices is not as strong

Table 4.6 SEA objectives and assessment questions

SEA theme	Draft SEA objective	Draft assessment questions Does the Food4Fife strategy...	Proposed indicator/s
Soil	To ensure that soil improvement and protection is taken into account with regard food system activities and as far as possible prevent loss of land. Food4Fife - Strategy and Action Plan activities should avoid damage and encourage improvement of peat or carbon rich soil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage improvement of soils quality and quantity, including soil carbon• Impacts protection or loss of soil• Particular impact an area of peat or carbon rich soil?• Increase opportunity of soils for growing food, including improvement of brownfield or Vacant Derelict Land sites.	Soils impacts. Vacant and Derelict land statistics

Water

Existing environmental characteristics

Fife has an extensive coastline – being surrounded on three sides by tidal waters. Much of the significant nature conservation interest in the area is associated with the coastline and the relevant parts are protected through Ramsar, SPA, SSSI and LNR designations. Both the Firth of Tay / Eden Estuary that is fed by River Eden, and the Firth of Forth (fed by the River Forth) are significant conservation areas.

Water quality along Fife's shoreline is indicated as good by SEPA. Water treatment facilities are located in Dunfermline, North Queensferry, West Wemyss, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Leven and St Andrews. Inland there are some stretches of water classified as poor. This is mainly associated with diffuse pollution from agriculture and some from development.

There are expansive water networks that cover the whole of Fife. Many watercourses are important in terms of ecology and habitat and are often part of designated nature conservation areas. Important watercourses that form the catchment for the Firth of Forth are: River Leven / Ore, Black Devon / Saline Burn, Bluther Burn, Lyne Burn, Inverkeithing Burn, Tiel Burn, East Burn, Den Burn, Dreel Burn and Hatton / Keil's Burn. Important watercourses that form the catchment for Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary are River Eden, Kinness Burn and Swilken Burn.

There are many lochs and reservoirs located across Fife with several designated as areas of nature conservation. Cameron Reservoir is a RAMSAR, SPA and SSSI site. Birnie & Gaddon Lochs and Gillingshill Reservoir are Local Nature Reserves. The following are SSSIs: Ballo & Harperleas reservoirs, Carriston Reservoir, Cullaloe Reservoir, Black Loch (Abide), Black Loch (Cleish), Camilla Loch, Kilconquhar Loch, Lindores Loch, Lochmill Loch, and Otterston Loch. The following are Wildlife Sites: Balyarrow Loch, Black Loch (Dunduff), Loch Fitty, Miller's Loch, Moor Loch, Loch Glow Reservoir, Carlhurlie Reservoir, Roscobie Reservoir, Carnbee Reservoir, Coul Reservoir, Craigluscar Compensation Reservoir, Gillingshill Reservoir and Stenhouse Reservoir.

There are some flood plains associated with inland water courses and some coastal areas are potentially vulnerable to flooding, but much of the inhabited coastline is protected by cliffs, and coastal defences (such as rock armour).

Interactions

There are links between the Food4Fife strategy and water due to the strategy having a focus on encouraging climate friendly farming practices. This could increase water retention, which could help in times of drought, and better soil quality.

Existing environmental issues

Within the water theme, the following environmental issues are already extant within the assessment area:

- Significant areas of land are at risk to flooding from the rivers, estuaries and sea.
- Significant areas of land are at risk to water shortages and drought.
- While water bodies show long term trends of improvements in quality, there remains a need to improve conditions for aquatic biology and reduce instances of chemical pollution in some areas.
- There remains a risk of overflowing by leachate and from drainage/sewer systems into water bodies during periods of heavy rain.
- Both diffuse source and point source pollution are problematic on the main rivers in Fife (the Forth, Tay, Leven and Eden).
- Areas at risk of pluvial flooding or flooding from reservoirs have not yet been identified.
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS): Development generally affects water runoff rates and water quality. SUDS is now required on new development sites as a matter of course and can offer opportunities for the promotion of biodiversity and improved water quality.
- Threats to ecology: Morphological impact on water bodies which are a problem in area include: barriers to fish migration, poor quality of riparian zone and wetland habitats, poor quality of river channel / bed and / or banks / shoreline habitat.

Likely future changes to the environment without the implementation of the strategy

The strategy provides direction on the adoption of more climate friendly farming practices which may result in improved levels of water quality due to their being less farming run off and improved water retention. The strategy provides an opportunity to look at various areas of action and ensure they are working together to link in with the strategy's desired food practices.

Table 4.6 SEA objectives and assessment questions

SEA theme	Draft SEA objective	Draft assessment questions Does the Food4Fife strategy...	Proposed indicator/s
Water	To protect and enhance the status of the water environment, manage use of water, and to avoid and reduce flood risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on the levels of water pollution (including contamination in surface or groundwater)? • Ensure sustainable use of water resources? • Offer the opportunity to improve the physical state of the water environment? 	Surface Water Quality – SEPA Ground Water Quality – SEPA Flood zone mapping – SEPA Ecological status of the water environment

	Consider risks of limits to and shortages of water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the area at risk from flooding, or result in increased flooding in other areas? • At risk of exacerbating areas designated as being at risk of future flooding as a result of climate change? • Approaches that increase the retention of water, including in soils. • Approaches that reduce the demand for water, including changes to crops and cropping. 	<p>(SEPA Water Environment hub)</p> <p>Areas where there has been or might be a risk to water shortage.</p>
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Air

Existing environmental characteristics

Air quality is generally good in most parts of Fife, but there are a few specific areas within town centres where hotspots of pollution have been identified and action is required. The main pollutants of concern in these hotspot areas are nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and fine particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) mainly sourced from road vehicle emissions.

PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} is measured at the four automatic sites within Fife at Cupar, Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and Rosyth. During 2021 all concentrations were below the annual mean objective of 18 µg m⁻³ for PM₁₀ and 10 µg m⁻³ for PM_{2.5}.

There are currently two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) for PM₁₀ located within the Fife Council boundary, these are:

- Bonnygate, Cupar, declared in October 2008
- Appin Crescent, Dunfermline, declared in August 2012

During 2021, Fife Council revoked the NO₂ element of both AQMAs after recommendations from the Scottish Government and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

For further information on Fife's air quality, please visit www.fife.gov.uk/airquality

Interactions

There is likely to be minimal interaction between food and air, besides from some instances where farming practices result in pollutants distributing into the air (ammonia and methane) and the related carbon emissions resulting from the distribution of food across Fife and wider into the surrounding city regions.

Existing environmental issues

Within the air theme, the following environmental issues are already extant within the assessment area:

- Areas of soil may be lost to drying and wind blow.
- Local air quality is generally good but emissions from the transport sector continue to rise. There are a couple of locations in Fife where air quality is problematic and requires active management.
- Generally, the level of emissions from individual vehicles is decreasing as emission control technologies improve. However, the increase in volume of traffic has counteracted this (approximately 70% particulate pollution from traffic is from tyres and roads).
- A potential future problem is with biomass combustion.

Likely future changes to the environment without the implementation of the strategy

The strategy provides direction on the adoption of more climate friendly farming practices which may result in less pollution and the distribution of soil dust during period of drought.

Table 4.6 SEA objectives and assessment questions

SEA theme	Draft SEA objective	Draft assessment questions Does the Food4Fife strategy...	Proposed indicator/s
Air	Keep air pollution below Local Air Quality Management thresholds and enhance air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Result in the temporary release of particulate matter in new process, or seasonal activity?• Increase vehicle traffic, negatively impacting on air quality?• Impact on air quality due to soil loss by air	Air pollution levels measured by Environmental Health Studies or report on air quality impacts from agriculture

Material Assets

Existing environmental characteristics

The type of waste and resource management infrastructure within the area is currently mixed, with a predominance of landfill and residual waste treatment infrastructure alongside more modern sorting facilities. There is also an environmental legacy arising from a range of historic landfill sites nearing the end of their life or awaiting restoration.

The Council provides 11 household waste recycling centres, located at Dunfermline (Lochhead), Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly, Dalgety Bay, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes, Methil, Ladybank (Lower Melville Wood), Cupar, St Andrews and Pittenweem. In addition, 280 local recycling points are provided in local settlements. Two major integrated waste management facilities are in operation; one at Lower Melville Wood, near Ladybank and one at Lochhead, near Dunfermline. Both incorporate Materials Recovery Facilities, green-waste composting, wood-waste processing, landfill and energy recovery. The Lochhead site in addition incorporates an Anaerobic Digestion facility for the processing of food and garden waste. Both landfills are permitted to accept non-hazardous waste. Lower Melville Wood is also permitted to dispose of non-reactive hazardous waste and low-level radioactive waste.

Fife Council is currently a high performer for recycling / composting within Scotland's 32 local authorities with rates of 54.7% for 2017. This compares to the Scottish local authority average of 45.6% for the same period. While the Council has successfully undertaken a range of waste prevention actions it is unclear whether the downward trend of waste arising in recent years will continue. It is also unclear how much of the downward trend over the last five years is a result of the recent economic downturn, and how much is long term change due to the waste prevention actions taken by the Council and national bodies such as Zero Waste Scotland.

Estimated high level infrastructure need for the Council's collected waste in 2025, based on current levels of total waste arising, are:

- 70% recycling/composting – 152,070 tonnes per annum.
- 30% non-recyclable waste treatment – 65,172 tonnes per annum
- 5% landfill of residual materials (after treatment) – 10,000 tonnes per annum

In 2017, Fife Council was granted an exemption from pre-sorting its waste prior to waste treatment. This is based on the current recycling provision and performance of the waste services within Fife Council. The council is now in the process of procuring a long-term residual waste treatment contract that will treat the non-recyclable waste in the long term. This infrastructure is a key priority Fife Council if it is to be able to comply with the upcoming biodegradable municipal waste landfill ban from January 2021. Additional infrastructure may also be required to treat waste that cannot be processed via an energy from waste plant.

Perhaps the most significant drivers of the increase in the total waste arising are population and household growth. Over the next 25 years, the number of Fife households are expected to rise by just under 21,000, and the average household size currently at 2.21, is projected to continue to decline to around 2.12. The most

recent population projections, using 2014 National Records of Scotland information², are that Fife Council area will see a 5.4% increase from during the period 2014 - 2039. This compares to a 6.4% increase in Scotland's total population over the same period.

Interactions

The likely interactions of the Food4Fife strategy and the SEA theme focus on food waste, including household food waste, business (private sector) food waste and public sector food waste. The strategy considers how local surplus food can be better distributed around Fife, which would help to increase access to food and minimise waste.

Existing environmental issues

Within the material assets theme, the following environmental issues are already extant within the assessment area:

- Fife has recycling and composting rates above the national average. However, most recyclates are taken out with Fife for processing and recycling. Some food waste is still put in the landfill waste stream.
- Existing landfill sites are at or approaching capacity.
- Flood risk areas restrict availability of land.
- There would be slight changes in road traffic volumes as resulted of changes to an increased local Fife food economy.
- Recycling of materials and the use of materials from sustainable sources in new development is not routinely practised, and this is not yet seen as a factor that the planning system can influence strongly.

Likely future changes to the environment without the implementation of the strategy

The strategy and action plan outline actions that address food waste. Without these actions, there may be limited action taken from key stakeholders to reduce their food waste. It is likely that some food waste activity relating to behaviour change may get picked up by other actions related to Climate Fife and the Plan for Fife, however, the strategy will provide a mandate for more engagement and solutions to distributing surplus food and ensuring less food is wasted.

Table 4.6 SEA objectives and assessment questions

SEA theme	Draft SEA objective	Draft assessment questions Does the Food4Fife strategy...	Proposed indicator/s
Material assets	Reduce total waste arisings and progress more efficient and sustainable use of material assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce arisings of food waste, including activity that increases availability of food in local Fife • Increase capture of food waste in waste system for Anaerobic Digestion and composting. 	<p>Total Waste Arising (SEPA WDF Data)</p> <p>Waste Composition Data (periodic studies)</p> <p>Recycling / Composting and Recovery rates (SEPA WDF data)</p> <p>Waste diverted from landfill</p> <p>Food grown and utilised in Fife.</p>

Climatic Factors

Existing environmental characteristics

In 2017, total Fife-wide carbon emissions were estimated to be 2,991,175tCO₂e¹, this is a fall of some 31.6% in the region's carbon emissions since 2005 (when the local authority dataset began to be recorded), when Fife-wide emissions were estimated to be 4,258,600 tCO₂e per annum. 2017 figures show that Fife-wide emissions can be attributed to the following activities: 51% industrial / commercial, 24% domestic and 21% from transport. While emissions from other sectors have consistently fallen since 2005, emissions from transport have continued to rise since 2012.

In 2017-18, Fife Council's carbon footprint was 75,966.89 tCO₂e. 2017-18 saw a 8.62% reduction in the footprint which is the biggest annual reduction observed since our 2011-12 baseline and the lowest carbon footprint on record for the Council.

A heat map has been produced for Fife; to help identify locations where direct heat distribution (such as via district heating networks) is most likely to be beneficial and economical to local communities. The Council is trialling the development of Local Energy Masterplans with Fife communities and recently completed a masterplan for the town of Burntisland, in partnership with community groups and residents.

Fife has a substantial renewable energy resource due to coastal winds, waves, tides and high levels of insolation. The development of renewable energy technologies is promoted at the Westfield Development Centre, Kinglassie and Energy Park Fife in Methil. Fife Energy Park includes renewable energy production from wind, waste and tidal sources; a hydrogen production facility; and research facilities. Fife is also developing alternative transport fuel options (such as hydrogen fuel) and the area has a considerable electric vehicle charging network.

Due to its coastal setting, there are many onshore windfarms within Fife to generate energy from the plentiful wind resource. Increasingly renewable energy planning applications are for solar PV farms and biomass technologies due to the falling costs in the solar industry and removal of support mechanisms for onshore wind, therefore we anticipate a divergence in the type of renewable energy being deployed across Fife in the coming years.

Interactions

Climate change will have significant impacts on the local food system. Extreme weather will result in periods of drought and flooding, which will disrupt farming and could lead to crop losses and failures. Impacts on infrastructure can affect farmers more widely as well as food businesses, which may also be vulnerable to seasonal shocks. Large scale flooding and droughts can affect soil quality for growing crops and have the potential to damage agricultural land.

Existing environmental issues

Within the climatic factors theme, the following environmental issues are already extant within the assessment area:

- Continued need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases through all stages of food production, distribution, sale and consumption.
- The Scottish Energy Strategy and Climate Change Plan commit Scotland to dramatic carbon emission reductions which will necessitate the transformation of energy generation, distribution and use within Scotland.
- The UKCP 18 presents findings from climate change models down to a local level. The main changes of importance to Fife include an overall rise in temperature, a decrease in summer rainfall and an increase in winter rainfall. It is also notable that the change in relative sea level is negligible within the timespan of this strategy, although it is recognised that this element of the projections is perhaps the least robust and that the projections are based on incomplete modelling. Nationally, the increased temperatures and changes in rainfall are being associated with risks of flooding, water shortage, rising sea levels and increased storms. Locally, larger scale flooding and run off events, as well as more extreme wet weather may pose a threat to food production within the timespan of the strategy.
- Potential risks from climate change to food in Fife include increased flood risk of coastal and fluvial areas, temperature extremes, drought, increased risk of fires, more extreme storms and changes to seasonal production and crop types, as well as ecosystems and species distribution.
- Large scale flooding may cause permanent damage to the quality of land, such as areas at risk of flooding and drought.

Likely future changes to the environment without the implementation of the strategy

Without the implementation of the strategy, local action on food may miss out on opportunities to act on local climate issues and raise awareness of how climate change will impact on people locally. The strategy aims to encourage more climate friendly farming practices, and whilst the impact of the strategy is unknown, the strategy could have a significant role to play in promoting and supporting the use of sustainable and regenerative farming.

Table 4.6 SEA objectives and assessment questions

SEA theme	Draft SEA objective	Draft assessment questions Does the Food4Fife strategy...	Proposed indicator/s
Climatic factors	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure resilience to a changing climate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce GHG emissions within food system? • Promote low carbon and local energy opportunities in food system? • Maximise sequestration opportunities in food system? • Ensure energy and resource efficiency and recovery in food system? • Consider future climate change projections (including changes to sea level and areas at risk from flooding)? 	GHG emissions from land/food related activities.

Cultural Heritage

Existing environmental characteristics

Fife has a rich and varied historic built environment with places of historic interest across the County and especially in the East Neuk and around Falkland. Fife has a number of medieval burghs, 48 conservation areas, more than 6,250 listed buildings, over 10,000 archaeological sites, 31 gardens and designed landscapes, and one battlefield site (Inverkeithing II). This is an important resource for Fife to but it is also a fragile and finite resource.

Important cultural heritage sites include Falkland Palace, Kellie Castle, Dunfermline Palace, St Andrews Castle, Culross Palace, Ravenscraig Castle, St Andrews Cathedral and Dunfermline Abbey. The east corner of Fife, generally that east of a line between Leven and St Andrews is recognised throughout Scotland as the East Neuk (or corner) of Fife, which is characterised by small historic settlements around sheltered harbours, with distinctive vernacular “Dutch” or corbie (crow) stepped gabled and stone-built architecture. The historic town of St Andrews is located on the northeast coast of Fife. It is well known for the University of St Andrews, one of the most ancient universities in the world and is renowned as the home of golf.

Interactions

The strategy is unlikely to have any impact on cultural heritage as there are no planned developments to existing buildings of cultural or historic importance. There may be some impact if water run-off from fields reaches buildings, however, the strategy aims to improve soils and increase water retention, and the likelihood of the strategy having any direct impact is minimal.

Existing environmental issues

Within the cultural heritage theme, the following environmental issues are already extant within the assessment area:

- Environmental change can impact not only buildings of cultural and historic importance, but the landscape around them. It is important to consider the historic environment more holistically and recognise the links between agriculture and archaeology more widely.
- There are many highly valued buildings and gardens of historical importance which need to be protected and conserved if they are impacted by any proposal.

Likely future changes to the environment without the implementation of the strategy

The Food4Fife strategy is likely to have little direct impact on cultural heritage. Management of Fife’s cultural heritage resources will be undertaken primarily through Fife Council’s Cultural Heritage Strategy, Local Outcome Improvement Plan

and Local Development Plan. However, the topic will still be considered in the assessment given the potential for environmental impacts resulting from actions.

Table 4.6 SEA objectives and assessment questions

SEA theme	Draft SEA objective	Draft assessment questions Does the Food4Fife strategy...	Proposed indicator/s
Cultural heritage	Minimise impact on cultural heritage and avoid damage to designated sites and their setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affect any Conservation Areas, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, Archaeological sites, Garden and Designed landscapes, and/or their settings? • Result in the opportunity to enhance or improve access to the historic environment? 	<p>Reported condition of locally and nationally important cultural heritage sites including battlefield sites.</p> <p>Number of locally and nationally important cultural heritage sites, including battlefields sites.</p>

Landscape

Existing environmental characteristics

The plan area comprises the entirety of Fife. West Fife predominantly consists of lowland hills and valleys, with upland areas to the north and coastal flats to the south. Much of the land is of a high quality being predominantly prime agricultural. There are some substantial forest areas, mainly coniferous plantations. Fife has substantial forest areas – notably Tentsmuir on the northeast coast, Devilla in West Fife, and Blairadam in Mid Fife.

East and Mid Fife are predominantly open landscape, with upland areas and extensive low-lying agricultural land, much of which, particularly in the Howe of Fife, is high quality.

Fife's landscape provides considerable leisure and amenity value both to local Fifers and to tourists from outwith Fife. There are 3 country parks in Fife which are Craigtoun (near St Andrew's), Townhill (on the outskirts of Dunfermline) and Lochore Meadows (mid Fife) and one Regional Park, the Lomond Hills (mid Fife).

Generally, most areas have good access to greenspace throughout Fife. Glenrothes has high ratings for quantity, quality and access. Areas of Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline would benefit from improvements to the quality and access to greenspace.

Cowdenbeath and the Levenmouth area have good quantities of and easy access to greenspace, some of the greenspaces would benefit from quality improvements. There are clear links to quality of space and social inequality: in social inequality areas such as Methil / Buckhaven / Kennoway, Ballingry, Lochgelly, Templehall, Sinclairtown and Kirkcaldy the majority of spaces are low quality. In North East Fife all the settlements have good quality greenspace but some of the towns and villages would benefit with increased quantities and access to greenspace. In South West Fife, due to the rural and urban nature of the area, many of the settlements have reasonable quantity, quality and access to greenspace and there are other settlements where it would be beneficial to increase quantity, quality and access to greenspace.

Interactions

The development of infrastructure can have a direct impact on the visual appearance of the landscape in which it is located. The strategy can influence this topic by directing the scale and location of developments.

Existing environmental issues

Within the landscape theme, the following environmental issues are already extant within the assessment area:

- Despite having no landscapes of National Scenic Area designation, there is a diverse landscape character and settlement pattern within Fife, and there are numerous coastal and rural landscapes of high quality including what were

formerly known as Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and which are now termed as Local Landscape Areas (LLA).

- Future changes in the farming systems and food grown may impact the landscape. This includes the crops and cropping systems, and the infrastructure to support the food system. The cumulative impact of such incremental growth can be not insignificant changes the landscape.
- There is a continuing and sustained loss of agricultural land to development. In part this is due to historic commitments and in part due to the reducing supply of suitable brownfield sites in relation to housing demand.

Likely future changes to the environment without the implementation of the strategy

The Food4Fife strategy is unlikely to directly affect Fife's landscape. Infrastructure projects included in the action plan are likely to go through their own environmental assessment and be assessed against what impact they will have to Fife's environment including the landscape.

Table 4.6 SEA objectives and assessment questions

SEA theme	Draft SEA objective	Draft assessment questions Does the Food4Fife strategy...	Proposed indicator/s
Landscape	Ensure the character, diversity and special quality of the Fife landscape is protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the distinctive character of the landscape? 	Reported condition of locally and nationally important designated landscapes.

5. Assessment Method Summary

This section summarises the approach taken to the SEA assessment, the data sources, questions and indicators used for the assessment, and presents the results of the SEA exercise. More detail on the baseline for each SEA topic can be found in Chapter 4 of this document.

Scope of the SEA

The SEA scope was developed in light of the responses received from the Consultation Authorities to the Scoping Report.

Table 5.1 Topics scoped into the SEA

SEA topic	Scoped in	Scoped out
Ecology and biodiversity	Yes	
Population and human health	Yes	
Soil and geology	Yes	
Water and hydrology	Yes	
Air	Yes	
Climate and energy	Yes	
Materials and waste	Yes	
Cultural heritage	Yes	
Landscape and land use	Yes	

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the effects of the following issues be considered: biodiversity; population; human health; fauna; flora; soil; water; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage (including archaeological and architectural heritage); and landscape.

As can be seen from Table 5.1 above, all these topics have been scoped into the assessment at this stage, none of the SEA issues have been scoped out of the assessment as the Food4Fife strategy is so wide ranging in its coverage that it is not possible to meaningfully scope SEA issues in or out. During the Scoping stage, one of the Consultation Authorities advised us to scope out air as the effects may not be significant. The Responsible Authority consulted with internal Fife Council Air Quality colleagues and determined that air would remain in scope of the assessment. Air Quality colleagues were consulted to assess and inform the scoping of air in the assessment.

Summary of Existing Environmental Sensitivities

A summary of the key existing environmental problems and sensitive areas organised by SEA topic and identified as relevant to Fife are summarised in the table below.

Table 5.2 Existing Environmental Sensitivities within Fife

SEA Topic	Key Environmental Problems and Sensitive Areas in Fife
Biodiversity , flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife has several important species and habitats which are sensitive to development are protected by statute and through UK and local designations. • Pressures from development, agricultural practices and other land uses, resulting in habitat disturbance. • Decline in national, regional and /or locally important species. • Spread of invasive, non-native species. • Loss of or damage to sites/areas of high / critical ecological importance. • Impacts of food growing and production on biodiversity (land use change, flooding, drought, storm damage, temperature parameters for existing habitats)
Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicted continued population growth suggests that pressure for local food will continue to grow. • Population would be adversely affected by food poverty. • Primary health issues are ageing population and Scotland-wide health issues. Consideration must also be given to the potential health impacts from access to food, quality and type of food (such as more processed / less processed). • Risk of food poverty and human health increasing. • Growing space within urban areas is limited with more being sought. Outdoor activities such as food growing as recreational activity and approaches to reduce risk of food poverty are important for community wellbeing. • Growing space is under pressure the need for energy generation, land impacted by unavoidable climate change and the need for carbon sequestration.
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife has significant areas of higher quality agricultural soils and some soils with higher peat content. • There are a few sites which have been classified as being potentially contaminated. Due to historical pollution, there is the potential for more contaminated sites to be uncovered in the future. • There are numerous old coal workings within Fife. No comprehensive record of abandoned mineral workings is kept on a Scotland-wide basis – this can present several problems. Land surrounding old mine workings can be contaminated and prone to subsidence. Mines can leave areas of unstable ground and abandoned mine workings can be a potential source of contamination. Such sites can detract from the visual quality of the area and can also present problems in the form of contaminated soils, pollution of water bodies and potential risks to human health. • Scotland-wide issues of erosion, including adaptation to unavoidable climate change affecting organic content. • Runoff as a risk from compaction, crop production systems and developed land
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant areas of land are at risk to flooding from the rivers, estuaries and sea. • Significant areas of land are at risk to water shortages and drought.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While water bodies show long term trends of improvements in quality, there remains a need to improve conditions for aquatic biology and reduce instances of chemical pollution in some areas. • There remains a risk of overflowing by leachate and from drainage/sewer systems into water bodies during periods of heavy rain. • Both diffuse source and point source pollution are problematic on the main rivers in Fife (the Forth, Tay, Leven and Eden). • Areas at risk of pluvial flooding or flooding from reservoirs have not yet been identified. • Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS): Development generally affects water runoff rates and water quality. SUDS is now required on new development sites as a matter of course and can offer opportunities for the promotion of biodiversity and improved water quality. • Threats to ecology: Morphological impact on water bodies which are a problem in area include: barriers to fish migration, poor quality of riparian zone and wetland habitats, poor quality of river channel / bed and / or banks / shoreline habitat.
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of soil may be lost to drying and wind blow. • Local air quality is generally good but emissions from the transport sector continue to rise. There are a couple of locations in Fife where air quality is problematic and requires active management. • Generally the level of emissions from individual vehicles is decreasing as emission control technologies improve. However, the increase in volume of traffic has counteracted this (Approx.. 70% particulate pollution from traffic is from tyres and roads.). • A potential future problem is with biomass combustion.
Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife has recycling and composting rates above the national average. However, most recyclates are taken out with Fife for processing and recycling. Some food waste is still put in the landfill waste stream. • Existing landfill sites are at or approaching capacity. • Flood risk areas restrict availability of land. • There would be slight changes in road traffic volumes as resulted of changes to an increased local Fife food economy. • Recycling of materials and the use of materials from sustainable sources in new development is not routinely practised, and this is not yet seen as a factor that the planning system can influence strongly..
Climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases through all stages of food production, distribution, sale and consumption. • The Scottish Energy Strategy and Climate Change Plan commit Scotland to dramatic carbon emission reductions which will necessitate the transformation of energy generation, distribution and use within Scotland. • The UKCP 18 presents findings from climate change models down to a local level. The main changes of importance to Fife include an overall rise in temperature, a decrease in summer rainfall and an increase in winter rainfall. It is also notable that the change in relative sea level is negligible within the timespan of this strategy, although it is recognised that this element of the projections is perhaps the least robust and that the projections are based on incomplete modelling. Nationally, the increased temperatures and changes in rainfall are being associated with risks of flooding, water shortage, rising sea levels and increased storms. Locally, larger scale flooding and run off events, as well as more extreme wet weather may pose a threat to food production within the timespan of the strategy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential risks from climate change to food in Fife include increased flood risk of coastal and fluvial areas, temperature extremes, drought, increased risk of fires, more extreme storms and changes to seasonal production and crop types, as well as ecosystems and species distribution. • Large scale flooding may cause permanent damage to the quality of land, such as areas at risk of flooding and drought.
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental change can impact not only buildings of cultural and historic importance, but the landscape around them. It is important to consider the historic environment more holistically and recognise the links between agriculture and archaeology more widely. • There are many highly valued buildings and gardens of historical importance which need to be protected and conserved if they are impacted by any proposal.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite having no landscapes of National Scenic Area designation, there is a diverse landscape character and settlement pattern within Fife, and there are numerous coastal and rural landscapes of high quality including what were formerly known as Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and which are now termed as Local Landscape Areas (LLA). • Future changes in the farming systems and food grown may impact the landscape. This includes the crops and cropping systems, and the infrastructure to support the food system. The cumulative impact of such incremental growth can be not insignificant changes the landscape. • There is a continuing and sustained loss of agricultural land to development. In part this is due to historic commitments and in part due to the reducing supply of suitable brownfield sites in relation to housing demand.

Summary of SEA Objectives and Proposed Indicators

A range of SEA objectives have been determined from the Scoping Report, when considering environmental problems, and from input from the statutory consultees at the Scoping Stage. A full list of these objectives is shown in Table 5.3 below.

The objectives and questions listed have been used in the Assessment Matrix process detailed in this chapter. The proposed SEA objectives used within the assessment, the assessment questions considered and the proposed indicators for monitoring impact on receptors are presented in Table 5.3 below.

Table 5.3 Proposed SEA Objectives and Indicators

SEA theme	Draft SEA objective	Draft assessment questions (does the Food4Fife Strategy...)	Proposed indicator/s
Biodiversity , flora and fauna	Ensure the maintenance or (where possible) enhancement of biodiversity and avoid damage to designated wildlife sites and protected species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the diversity of species and habitats? • Impact on any international, national or locally designated sites? • Avoid habitat fragmentation and increase green network connectivity? 	<p>Reported condition of locally, nationally and internationally important wildlife sites.</p> <p>Achievement of Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit natural heritage in the built environment and open countryside (e.g. improve biodiversity/ blue/green infrastructure)? • Impact on areas of existing native trees, woodlands and hedges? • Seek to promote watercourses as valuable landscape features and wildlife habitats? 	
Population and human health	To improve the health and wellbeing of communities in Fife and reduce inequalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support identified population needs? • Exacerbate or improve air, water or noise pollution in communities? • Contribute towards the improvement of the environment of communities? • Improve and make provision of open space? • Impact on waste? 	<p>Years of healthy life expectancy / infant mortality rate.</p> <p>Litter and fly tipping statistics (SEPA & Council).</p> <p>Impact on traffic levels.</p> <p>Waste collection tonnages.</p>
Soil	To ensure that soil improvement and protection is taken into account with regard food system activities and as far as possible prevent loss of land. Food4Fife - Strategy and Action Plan activities should avoid damage and encourage improvement of peat or carbon rich soil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage improvement of soils quality and quantity, including soil carbon • Impacts protection or loss of soil • Particular impact an area of peat or carbon rich soil? • Increase opportunity of soils for growing food, including improvement of brownfield or Vacant Derelict Land sites. 	<p>Soils impacts.</p> <p>Vacant and Derelict land statistics</p>
Water	To protect and enhance the status of the water environment, manage use of water, and to avoid and reduce flood risk. Consider risks of limits to and shortages of water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on the levels of water pollution (including contamination in surface or groundwater)? • Ensure sustainable use of water resources? • Offer the opportunity to improve the physical state of the water environment? • Increase the area at risk from flooding, or result in increased flooding in other areas? 	<p>Surface Water Quality – SEPA</p> <p>Ground Water Quality – SEPA</p> <p>Flood zone mapping – SEPA</p> <p>Ecological status of the water environment (SEPA Water Environment hub)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At risk of exacerbating areas designated as being at risk of future flooding as a result of climate change? • Approaches that increase the retention of water, including in soils. • Approaches that reduce the demand for water, including changes to crops and cropping. 	Areas where there has been or might be a risk to water shortage.
Air	Keep air pollution below Local Air Quality Management thresholds and enhance air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result in the temporary release of particulate matter in new process, or seasonal activity? • Increase vehicle traffic, negatively impacting on air quality? • Impact on air quality due to soil loss by air 	<p>Air pollution levels measured by Environmental Health</p> <p>Studies or report on air quality impacts from agriculture</p>
Material assets	Reduce total waste arisings and progress more efficient and sustainable use of material assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce arisings of food waste, including activity that increases availability of food in local Fife • Increase capture of food waste in waste system for Anaerobic Digestion and composting. • 	<p>Total Waste Arising (SEPA WDF Data)</p> <p>Waste Composition Data (periodic studies)</p> <p>Recycling / Composting and Recovery rates (SEPA WDF data)</p> <p>Waste diverted from landfill</p> <p>Food grown and utilised in Fife.</p>
Climatic factors	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure resilience to a changing climate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce GHG emissions within food system? • Promote low carbon and local energy opportunities in food system? • Maximise sequestration opportunities in food system? • Ensure energy and resource efficiency and recovery in food system? • Consider future climate change projections (including changes to sea level and areas at risk from flooding)? 	GHG emissions from land/food related activities.

Cultural heritage	Minimise impact on cultural heritage and avoid damage to designated sites and their setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affect any Conservation Areas, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, Archaeological sites, Garden and Designed landscapes, and/or their settings? • Result in the opportunity to enhance or improve access to the historic environment? 	<p>Reported condition of locally and nationally important cultural heritage sites including battlefield sites.</p> <p>Number of locally and nationally important cultural heritage sites, including battlefields sites.</p>
Landscape	Ensure the character, diversity and special quality of the Fife landscape is protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the distinctive character of the landscape? 	Reported condition of locally and nationally important designated landscapes.

Summary of likely impacts arising from the Food4Fife Strategy

The strategy has five pillars, or objectives, which provide focus and structure for the strategy and action plan. These are:

1. Farming, soils and climate
2. Sustainable food economy
3. Sustainable food procurement
4. Healthy food for all
5. Community food

The vision, strategy and action plan are likely to have significant positive effects on population and human health, material assets and climatic factors. Whilst some actions may have a positive or negative impact on other SEA topics depending on their aim and focus.

It is anticipated that the main aims and objectives of the strategy will help to achieve the following positive environmental effects:

- Improved soil quality and nutrient quality leading to positive impacts on population and human health, soil, water and climatic factors.
- Improved diet and greater choice of locally produced food leading to positive impacts on population and human health and climatic factors.
- Improved resilience of soils and water retention due to more climate friendly farming practices which should lead to positive impacts on soils, water and climatic factors.
- Reduction in food insecurity and food poverty due to greater use of local supply chains meeting gaps in markets and better circulation of food to reduce food waste. This should lead to positive impacts on population and human health, material assets and climatic factors.
- Reduction in food waste as food can be transported to food deserts or other areas in the supply chain which is likely to have a positive impact on population and human health, material assets and climatic factors.

- Reduced carbon emission from food miles if more food is being circulated locally. This should result in a significant positive impact on climate factors with positive synergistic impacts on all other SEA themes, especially population and human health and air.
- Improved resilience to climate change from more climate friendly, climate ready and climate just practices would lead to significant positive impacts on population and human health, material assets and climate factors.
- Set medium- and long-term priorities to meet current and future legislative requirements on food and climate, as well as wider policy objectives such as poverty reduction. This should lead to positive impacts on population and human health, soils, water, material assets and climatic factors.
- A circular economy should lead to a positive effect on biodiversity, soils, water, air, material assets and climatic factors.
- Improved stakeholder engagement which should lead to a positive cumulative impact across all SEA themes

Projects within the action plan are more likely to have a wider range of potential significant environmental effects. The action plan will be structured by pillar and will show the interdependencies of actions with other sections/actions of the action plan. This will help to understand the wider environmental impacts projects and actions could have, rather than sitting in isolation.

Both the strategy and action plan have been assessed in the SEA assessment (see Section 6).

Comments have been incorporated from the Consultation Authorities and interested stakeholders. These were further refined in subsequent stages of the SEA process in discussion with Fife Council and other appropriate stakeholders. The environmental problems and sensitive areas identified will be considered throughout the SEA process and used to inform the development of the draft Climate Fife – Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (2020-2030) at key decision-making stages.

Summary of likely future changes to the environment without the Food4Fife Strategy

The logic of carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment is to understand the likely environmental effects of the implementation of the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030).

In the absence of the Food4Fife strategy there would be no overall strategic approach to food and its various topics (such as food insecurity, food poverty, community food, food and drink sector). Demographics within the Fife population may be disadvantaged by the strategies and/or actions that are implemented.

Without a Food4Fife strategy there would be no strategic direction to ensure the approach to food was joined up and coordinated across interested stakeholders and partners. Without this strategy, Fife Council would still require Good Food Plan as per requirements of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022.

Some environmental characteristics may not be greatly affected by the policies and proposals of the Food4Fife strategy, however, in many cases, the absence of an up-to-date strategy may exacerbate these problems. The detail of likely future changes to each environmental topic area without the implementation of the Food4Fife strategy are summarised within Chapter 4 of this document.

SEA Method

This section of the Environmental Report describes the scope and approach to the assessment including the approach proposed for the SEA itself (such as identifying alternative options, predicting the environmental effects of implementing the Climate Fife Plan, considering appropriate mitigation and monitoring of any potential adverse effects and the scoring system proposed for the environmental impact assessment).

The Food4Fife strategy has been assessed both on:

- Aims and objectives
- Action/work packages/projects that will be undertaken as part of the Action Plan, based on the option assessed to have the most positive impact on the environment of Fife

The proposed approach for the assessment is summarised in Table 5.4 below.

Table 5.4 SEA Assessment sub-tasks and their Purpose

SEA sub-task	Purpose
1. Taking account of screening responses	To establish whether a SEA is required and to allow consultees to provide an early steer on the process. Not required for the Food4Fife strategy as deemed a SEA was required.
2. Taking account of scoping responses	To refine the approach to the SEA and fill essential gaps identified in the environmental baseline.
3. Optioneering	To assist in the development and refinement of the policy options and alternatives for achieving the draft objectives of the SECAP.
4. Testing the draft Food4Fife strategy objectives against the SEA objectives	To ensure that the overall objectives of the draft Food4Fife strategy are in accordance with environmental principles and that it provides a framework for developing options.
5. Predicting and evaluating the effects of the draft Food4Fife strategy, including alternatives	To predict and evaluate the effects of the draft Food4Fife strategy and its alternatives and assist in the refinement of the draft.
6. Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and proposing measures to monitor the environmental effects of draft Food4Fife strategy implementation	To ensure all potential mitigation measures and measures for maximising beneficial effects and minimising any negative impacts are considered and, as a result, residual effects identified. To propose a monitoring framework to assess the environmental performance of the draft Food4Fife strategy.

Screening

The PPS was assessed in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3) of the Act using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. As such the PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects and an SEA was required, therefore a Scoping Report was submitted.

Consideration of scoping responses

Fife Council submitted a Scoping Report for the draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) to the SEA Gateway on Monday 3 October 2022. As required under Section 15(2) of the Act, the Consultation Authorities considered the document submitted and provided comments in respect of the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report.

The scoping responses received from the Consultation Authorities has been used to finalise the set of SEA objectives formulated for each environmental topic area.

These were derived from the Scoping Report environmental baseline work documented in Chapter 4, and adjustments to accommodate responses on the Scoping Report from the Statutory Consultees. Consultation Authorities comments also helped us to determine the scope and focus of the assessment.

The table below summarises the consultation responses received during the Scoping stage; these have all been taken on board and been used to shape the development of this assessment. Note that the full Scoping responses received from the Consultation Authorities are included in Appendix C of this document.

Table 5.5 Summary of Scoping Responses

Consultation Authority	Summary of Scoping Response	Note
SEPA	<p>Relationships with other Plans, Policies and Strategies</p> <p>SEPA recommends summarising SEAs from relevant PPS to assist with data sources and environmental baseline information.</p> <p>There is a suggestion to include additional PPS including the River Basin Management Plan, the draft NPF4 and the Zero Waste Plan to Appendix B.</p> <p>Baseline Information</p> <p>SEPA recommends different sources for data and baseline information.</p> <p>Environmental Problems</p>	<p>Response noted with thanks.</p> <p>The Food4Fife SEA has been looked at for assisting with this assessment. Other SEAs may be looked at if required to assist with data and information. PPS recommended by SEPA have been included in Appendix B.</p> <p>We have considered other sources for data since the Scoping Report. These are reflected in this</p>

	<p>SEPA recommended a change of text in a bullet point regarding UKCP 18 to clarify that within the timescale of the strategy change in relative sea level is negligible.</p> <p>Alternatives</p> <p>SEPA were satisfied with the alternatives outlined in the Scoping Report.</p> <p>Scoping out of Environmental Topics</p> <p>SEPA recommended scoping out the SEA topic 'air'.</p> <p>Methodology for assessing environmental effects</p> <p>SEPA recommends that assessment of all relevant effects of the strategy are undertaken at this stage.</p> <p>SEPA noted that there is no draft assessment questions relating to food poverty in the Scoping Report.</p> <p>Mitigation and enhancement</p> <p>SEPA proposed a method for considering the monitoring of proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>Monitoring</p> <p>It would be helpful if the Environmental Report captured the measures used for monitoring the environmental effects of the plan.</p> <p>Consultation Period</p> <p>SEPA satisfied with 6-week consultation period.</p> <p>Outcomes of the Scoping Exercise</p> <p>SEPA welcomes the inclusion of commentary on how comments provided by the Consultation Authorities are taken into account for the Environmental Report.</p>	<p>Environmental Report in Section 4.</p> <p>Suggested change to text noted and now reflected in Scoping Report.</p> <p>After consulting Fife Council's Air Quality team, Fife Council decided to leave air scoped into the project, given there may be some actions where an impact may occur.</p> <p>On food poverty data – there is currently no central held data regarding the impact of food poverty in Fife. There are actions set out in the Food4Fife action plan that seek to gather data and find a valuable measure for food insecurity. Information has been included in the Scoping Report and Environmental Report on food insecurity and SIMD based on SEPA's feedback.</p> <p>Monitoring – measures have been captured through the SEA Scoping process and further measures will be captured through the consultation of both the Food4Fife strategy and Environmental Report.</p>
NatureScot	<p>NatureScot is content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the environmental report.</p> <p>NatureScot support much of the proposed environmental assessments and the approach to the SEA but outline considerations for the Responsible Authority. The full Fife Council response is available in Appendix C.</p> <p>NatureScot noted that on assessment methodology, this should include consideration of alternatives, assessment criteria and indicators and monitoring arrangements (where known).</p>	<p>Response noted with thanks.</p> <p>Recommendations from NatureScot on environmental themes and interrelationships have been considered and action has been taken.</p> <p>Consideration has been given to the assessment methodology as set out in the Scoping Report and Environmental Report.</p>

	<p>NatureScot recommends data sources not included in the Food4Fife Scoping Report.</p> <p>NatureScot recommends linking assessment questions with appropriate measurable indicators.</p> <p>NatureScot suggest carrying out a Habitats Regulations Appraisal.</p> <p>NatureScot is content with the proposed period for consultation.</p>	<p>Data sources have been adopted and are reflected in applicable reports.</p> <p>Assessment questions have been linked with measurable indicators but will continue to be added to as the SEA progresses.</p>
Historic Environment Scotland	<p>HES are content with this approach and are satisfied with the scope and level of detail proposed for the assessment, subject to the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HES recommends considering other PPS and how these are not constrained by the Food4Fife strategy. • HES recommends adding Inventory of Historic Battlefields sites of which there is one in Fife (Inverkeithing II). • HES recommends that consideration is given to the historic environment more holistically, particularly in terms of the relationship between agriculture and archaeology. • HES recommends having indicators that consider the condition or number of sites and these should be clearly linked to effects arising from the strategy/plan. • HES recommends explaining the scoring matrix used in the assessment and providing further detail on monitoring requirements. • HES is content with the consultation period timescale. 	<p>Response noted with thanks.</p> <p>Fife Council's full response can be found at Appendix C.</p> <p>PPS are considered in Appendix B.</p> <p>The scoring matrix used in the assessment is explained fully in the Environmental Report alongside the detailed results of the assessment.</p>

SEA Scoring

In addition to environmental commentary, the likely significant environmental effects of the key options/alternatives will be predicted and evaluated. This will be informed by the development of significance criteria and the results will be recorded in an assessment matrix. The purpose of this will be to inform decision-making over the selection of options/alternatives with regards to their potential environmental effects. Proposed criteria with which to assess the significance of predicted effects is shown below in Table 5.6.

Table 5.6 SEA Significance Criteria

Score	Description
Major positive (++)	An action very likely to lead to a significant improvement, or a series of long-term improvements, leading to large-scale and permanent benefits to the SEA objective being appraised. A major positive effect is also likely to have cumulative and indirect beneficial effects and is also likely to have positive transboundary effects.
Minor positive (+)	An action likely to lead to moderate improvement in both short and long-term, leading to large scale temporary, or medium scale permanent benefits to the objective being assessed. Even where beneficial effects are felt to be temporary, they should not be easily reversible in the long-term (to detriment of the SEA objective).
Neutral (0)	An action which is unlikely to have any beneficial or negative effects on the SEA objective being assessed in either the short, or long-term. Neutral scoring should only be used where it is very likely that the effect will be neither positive, nor negative. A neutral score is not the same as 'uncertain', where an appraiser is not sure if an effect is likely to be positive or negative, or 'mixed'. Where the appraiser feels that the effects are likely to be both positive and negative (see below for more detail).
Minor negative (-)	An action likely to lead to moderate damage or loss in both short and long-term, leading to large-scale temporary, or medium scale permanent negative effect on the objective. An action which may also have limited cumulative and indirect detrimental effects and / or limited degradation of conditions outside the specific strategy area. It is also likely that it will be possible to mitigate or reverse a minor negative effect through policy or project intervention.
Major negative (- -)	<p>A scheme / measure likely to lead to a significant or severe damage or loss, or series of long-term negative effects, leading to large-scale and permanent negative effects on the SEA objective being assessed.</p> <p>A scheme / measure which may also have significant cumulative and indirect detrimental effect and / or degrade conditions outside the specific scheme area, so will have negative transboundary effects.</p> <p>An action which is likely to threaten environmental thresholds or capacities in areas already under threat.</p> <p>The detrimental effects of an action which will be hard to reverse and are unlikely to be easily mitigated through policy or project intervention.</p> <p>Any damage or detrimental effect in or to environmentally sensitive areas, issues or landscapes which are recognised and / or protected locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.</p>
Mixed (e.g. +/- etc)	The effect is likely to be a combination of beneficial and detrimental effects, particularly where effects are considered on sub-issues, areas or criterion. For example, an action may enhance the viability of certain protected species or habitats (such as native woodlands), but, through this, damage existing (non-native) habitats which may themselves be important. Such mixed effects will be hard to predict, but could be significant in the long-term, or when taken with other effects e.g. cumulative or synergistic.

Enhancement (E)	The effect of the option, or the mitigation measure specified, is likely to enhance the existing environment. This scoring option provides a link between effects and mitigation / enhancement measures in the proposed assessment framework and the consideration of mitigation of impacts.
Uncertain (?)	The effect of an action is not known or is too unpredictable to assign a conclusive score. The appraiser is not sure of the effect. This may be the case where an action covers a range of issues, or where the manner in which the action is implemented will have a material impact on the effects it will have.

After detailed consideration was given to the magnitude of likely environmental effects, mitigation measures were suggested in an attempt to reduce potential negative environmental effects and to maximise environmental benefits. Mitigation may extend to recommending that the alternative is not selected as a preferred option.

The assessment considered measures to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects as far as possible, before measures are considered to mitigate residual adverse effects. Mitigation measures were selected on the basis of the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate).

An example of the scoring matrix that was used for the prediction and evaluation of potential effects is shown below in Table 5.7.

Table 5.7 Scoring system used in the impact assessment

Symbol / colour	Meaning
++	Major positive effect
+	Positive effect
0	Neutral effect
-	Negative effect
--	Major negative effect
++/- +/- etc.	Mixed effect
?	Uncertain effect
S	Short-term effect
M	Medium-term effect
L	Long-term effect
IMP	Effect which will depend on how the Action Plan is implemented

Summary of the Strategy Aims that have been Assessed

The aims of the Food4Fife strategy were tested against the SEA indicators and objectives with the results presented in an assessment matrix. The set of SEA objectives used in the assessment was formulated for each environmental topic area incorporating comments from the Consultation Authorities, and these are reported in the previous chapter.

The Food4Fife strategy's objectives which were assessed as part of this SEA are presented below:

1. Farming, Soils and Climate:

Tackling the climate and nature emergency is the single greatest challenge of our time and will require a radical shift in our food and farming system towards agroecological production, sustainable diets and an end to food waste.

By changing what we, as individuals and institutions, choose to eat, we can transform what, how and where food is produced and thus help to minimise any negative impacts on climate and biodiversity.

At the same time, by tackling the tragedy of food waste, we can balance the need to feed a growing global population while remaining within planetary boundaries

2. Sustainable Food Economy:

Making good food a defining characteristic of Fife depends, ultimately, on ensuring healthy and sustainable food businesses are mainstreamed as part of a revitalised local food economy. From producers and processors to retailers and caterers.

Putting good food entrepreneurs and enterprises at the heart of local economic development and promoting them to consumers not only ensures that buying healthy and sustainable food becomes the easy choice but also creates jobs, businesses and prosperity while regenerating high streets and city centres.

3. Sustainable Food Procurement:

Catering and procurement provide uniquely powerful levers for promoting good food.

By transforming catering across a wide range of settings - from nurseries, schools and colleges through hospitals and care homes to workplace canteens and smaller scale catering outlets - it is possible not only to improve the eating habits of many thousands of people but also to create the large-scale demand for healthy, sustainable and local food. This underpins a fundamental shift in the food production and supply system.

4. Healthy Food for All:

Good food is a right not a privilege and everyone should be able to eat healthily every day, no matter who they are, what they do or where they live.

Key to achieving this is:

- Ensuring all those in danger of going hungry or suffering malnutrition can access nutritious food while working to address the underlying causes of food poverty.
- Raising awareness of what constitutes a healthy diet and giving people the skills, resources and support needed to feed themselves well.
- Changing people's food environment - from institutional settings to high streets - to ensure affordable healthy food is available and accessible to all.

5. Community Food:

A shift towards healthier and more sustainable food requires high public awareness of food issues and widespread participation in food-related activity, by both individuals and institutions, as part of a growing movement of active food citizenship.

Key to achieving this is:

- Communications and events that can inspire people about the role, importance and joy of good food and practical engagement opportunities such as growing, cooking and sharing food in every community.
- A facilitated network through which food actors of every kind can connect and collaborate online and in person as part of a local good food movement.

Summary of the projects that have been assessed

The Food4Fife action plan was assessed against the SEA topics. These are high level and draft until after the main strategy consultation. The list can be found in the scoring results below - Table 6.4.

Summary of alternative options considered

It is a statutory requirement of a SEA to consider alternatives to achieve the desired outcomes of the PPS.

Three initial options have been identified for assessment within this SEA:

Option 1 - Do nothing, which would continue 'business as usual' and ad-hoc action on food in Fife. This would not fulfil the requirements of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 for a Good Food Nation Plan, nor would it achieve the action set out in Climate Fife that has committed Fife Council to work "...with local stakeholders to produce a local food strategy for Fife which will look at improving the quality, health benefits, affordability, access to and reduce the environmental impacts of food consumed within Fife." (RE06 p73).

Option 2 - Alternative option. This option would see Fife Council do the minimum action needed to make change to the food system in Fife, by

addressing only the essential requirements of enabling change of the food system in Fife. Projects and programmes in the Food4Fife strategy would be delivered and measured, but the scale of carbon reductions, food resilience and reduction in poverty would be less significant. There would be minimum management of environmental impacts, and potential benefits and opportunities would be lost. This option would only achieve minimal obligations under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022.

Option 3 - Preferred option. Where Fife-wide stakeholders work in partnership across all sectors to develop the Food4Fife - Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030) that looks to deliver a holistic approach across the whole Fife food system from farm to fork. This approach would consider emissions and food issues (for example, food poverty and health) across the local authority area. This option develops the Food4Fife strategy through a strategic, co-operative and partnership approach. It would most likely realise the greatest environmental, economic and health and wellbeing benefits, including carbon emission reductions. It is intended that the impact of delivering the Food4Fife strategy would have a significant positive impact on the environment, with the SEA process supporting this aim. This option accepts that the Council will aim to influence activities that it does not have complete control over, as well as those activities it does.

Options appraisal

Clearly, the option that allows Fife to best contribute to the above legislative drivers is option 3. It is SEA best practice to include a “do nothing option” when assessing the environmental effects of alternative scenarios to the proposed plan

Given Fife Council, as a local authority, is required to produce a Good Food Plan under the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022, a plan will need to be produced – this eliminates option 1. It seems appropriate that this plan should coordinate objectives and action to ensure they are joined up locally across partners to ensure a partnership approach. Thus, option 3 to produce the Food4Fife strategy is key to achieving this and creating a sustainable food culture for a healthy Fife, suggesting option 2 would not achieve our partnership goals and would only make minimum impact.

6. SEA Results

Assessment results – Food4Fife strategy objectives

Table 6.1 Option 1 - Do Nothing: Food4Fife strategy - SEA results

SEA objective	SEA objective score	Summary of impact on SEA objectives.
Biodiversity, flora, and fauna	0/-	Doing nothing may have a minor negative impact on biodiversity or no impact at all. There would still be a Local Biodiversity Action Plan in Fife, but the food strategy provides focus for engaging agriculture, food and drink businesses and community groups on the impacts some practices can have on the local environment and biodiversity. Without the promotion of climate friendly farming practices, Fife's soils may continue to degrade making them less adaptable to the changing climate and surrounding farmland may not be habitable for the range of wildlife in Fife.
Population and human health	-	Without increased access to locally grown food that is better quality and more nutritious, population and human health may be negatively impacted as people still rely on food being imported and food that is heavily processed.
Soil	-	The strategy seeks to promote the use of climate friendly farming practices which could have a positive impact on soils. Without this strategic direction, there may not be any action taken to encourage farmers to adopt sustainable and regenerative agriculture, which could lead to the continued degradation of soils.
Water	-	Without the adoption of climate friendly farming practices, there is less of a chance for farmers to be able to adapt or mitigate the effects of changes to the climate and impact of weather events such as drought or flash flooding. This means there is likely to be a negative impact on water without the strategy. Doing nothing will mean there is no strategic direction around the promotion of sustainable practices that could help make land more adaptable to climate change.
Air	0	No impact - pollutants may continue to be distributed into the air in the event of doing nothing, but the impact of doing nothing is unlikely to cause significant negative impacts.
Material assets	--	Doing nothing may have a negative impact as there are either no strategies or only small projects dedicated to addressing food waste. These may not be coordinated or will lack the strategic focus and direction to bring them together to have a positive impact. Without the strategy, food will continue to be wasted and there may be no means to distribute food surplus around the region.
Climatic factors	--	Without increased access to locally grown food, there may be a significant negative impacted on the climate as people still rely on imported food from markets external to Fife. This would mean higher food miles and continuing carbon emissions from the transportation and distribution of food and drink being brought into Fife. Without the promotion of carbon friendly farming practices,

		methane will continue to be emitted and soil degraded so it is weaker during times of drought and floods more easily.
Cultural heritage	0	No impact - there is unlikely to be any impact on cultural heritage from doing nothing.
Landscape	0	No impact - there may at some time be some impact on the landscape if infrastructure development goes unchecked. But in the context of implementing the strategy or doing nothing, impact is negligible.
Comments (including information on short, medium, long term; permanent, temporary; secondary, cumulative, synergistic effects)		Whilst there will be no impact on some topics from doing nothing, there may be several negative impacts of allowing current practices to continue without changes being made, i.e. through the promotion of sustainable and regenerative agriculture. In the short-term, one-off projects may negate some negative impacts, however they may lack the longevity and overall impact of a more coordinated, long-term approach.

Table 6.2 Option 2 - Alternative Option: Food4Fife strategy objectives - SEA results

Aim/ objective										Comments (including information on short, medium, long term; permanent, temporary; secondary, cumulative, synergistic effects)
	Biodiversity, flora, and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Material assets	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape	
Farming, Soils and Climate	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	Some projects would be picked up through Climate Fife, however, there wouldn't be a coordinated approach between climate change projects and food insecurity projects, therefore there is likely to be less of an impact across topics.
Sustainable Food Economy	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	Action on the food economy would likely happen given food and drink is one of Fife's key sectors, however it may not happen in a coordinated way that links with climate change and food insecurity meaning there might be less of a positive impact on some SEA topics. There may still be positive impacts on population and human health and climatic factors as the economic strategy links with climate

										change and food poverty policies, but it is likely to be minor and not coordinated.
Sustainable Food Procurement	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	Under option 2 there is still a chance for positive impacts on population and human health, material waste and climatic factors, however this may be minimal as work may lack the coordination of a strategic focus. Projects may be one-off and occur in silos without the oversight of the Food4Fife governance.
Healthy Food for All	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	There is likely to be a positive impact on population and human health as Fife Council would still be required to develop and produce a Good Food Nation Plan, however, it might be small scale and not capture the broader themes related to Fife's food system. There may be some positive impacts on material assets and climatic factors, but it is unlikely to be significant given the focus would primarily be on food poverty.
Community Food	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	There is likely to be a positive impact on population and human health as Fife Council would still be required to develop and produce a Good Food Nation Plan, however, it might be small scale and not capture the broader themes related to Fife's food system. There is scope for positive work on material assets and climatic factors given the links this pillar has to food waste and a focus on climate, however, without the strategy to link these things up, there is a chance for minimal positive impact or for there to be no effect.

Option 2 Alternative	Overall cumulative impact of the option 2, Alternative, on the SEA objectives.	Overall cumulative score
Biodiversity, flora, and fauna	There may be some positive impact on biodiversity from broader climate change work, however, this would be unlikely to originate from any work dedicated to looking at Fife's food system.	0
Population and human health	There would be a positive impact on population and human health as there would be a commitment to develop and produce a Good Food Nation Plan. There would also be ongoing activity to reduce levels of food poverty, however, actions may not always align to climate change.	+
Soil	There may be some positive impact on soils from broader climate change work, however, this would be	0

	unlikely to originate from any work dedicated to looking at Fife's food system.	
Water	There may be some positive impact on water from broader climate change work, however, this would be unlikely to originate from any work dedicated to looking at Fife's food system.	0
Air	There may be some positive impact on air from broader climate change work, however, this would be unlikely to originate from any work dedicated to looking at Fife's food system.	0
Material assets	There is potential for one-off projects that consider food waste, which would have minor positive impacts on material assets.	+
Climatic factors	Climate Fife outlines an action to be taken on food so there is likely to be some positive impact on climatic factors from option 2, given the potential for climate change to be linked in with the Good Food Nation Plan. There may be one-off projects that link in with other topics.	+
Cultural heritage	Likely to be no effect on cultural heritage as there are no cultural heritage projects planned that align with Fife's food system.	0
Landscape	Likely to be no effect on landscape as a result of option 2.	0
Comments	Overall, there may be positive effects in terms of population and human health, material assets and climatic factors with little to no effect on the other SEA topics. Without a strategic focus and direction, there would likely be no coordinated approach that links these facets together.	

Table 6.3 Option 3 - Preferred Option: Food4Fife strategy objectives - SEA results

Aim/ objective	Biodiversity, flora, and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Material assets	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Comments (including information on short, medium, long term; permanent, temporary; secondary, cumulative, synergistic effects)	Proposed changes to the PPS or proposed mitigation
Farming, Soils and Climate	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	One focus of the strategy is promoting sustainable and regenerative, or climate friendly, agricultural practices. These practices, if adopted by more Fife farms, could have significant positive impacts on a range of SEA topics. It could impact biodiversity as practices work with nature rather than against it. There may be positive impacts on population and human health as better-quality crop yields could provide more nutritious food for Fifers. Climate friendly practices could benefit soil, water and air as soil is improved and can retain more water, there may be less pollutants dispersed into the environment due to there being reduced use of pesticides, etc. These could lead to positive impacts on material assets and climate factors as farming and soils can withstand climate shocks and be more adaptable.	No proposed changes to the strategy. Changes may come from the consultation period.

Sustainable Food Economy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	<p>A sustainable food economy could lead to positive environmental impacts as more local food and drink is distributed locally. Greater use of locally produced food means fewer food miles as produce stays in the local area or region. This could have positive impacts on biodiversity and climatic factors. Increase promotion and distribution of good quality local food may encourage more farmers and businesses to adopt more sustainable practices leading to improved soil, water, and air benefits. Increased distribution of locally grown food can improve population and human health by increasing access to more nutritious food across Fife. There may also be less food waste as surplus food can be used in innovative ways or be circulated to more people. The creation of new local markets may bring significant benefits to Fifiers and lead to positive impacts on the environment. Specific projects around infrastructure development and increased distribution networks are why there is less of a positive impact, but these individual projects should be assessed on a case-by-case basis and should align and be reflective of Food4Fife's strategic direction.</p>	As above
Sustainable Food Procurement	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	<p>Public procurement has a role in how locally grown, produced and processed food gets distributed and consumed in Fife. There are benefits for population and human health as more local food can be offered in places like schools, hospitals and care homes, etc. There is also the impact of positive climate friendly policies that are reinforced by public procurement on the environment, similarly to sustainable food procurement on topics such as biodiversity, soil, water and air. There may be less food waste as new local markets are established for the public sector, which can contribute positively to material assets as well as climatic factors as less food is wasted and distribution stays in the region.</p>	As above

Healthy Food for All	0	++	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	<p>The Healthy Food for All pillar is about ensuring everyone has access to good, nutritious food. This section of the strategy will have a major positive impact on population and human health through increased access to locally grown and produced food. Better distribution of surplus food and more knowledge about food such as seasonal fruit and veg, and cooking could lead to there being less food waste and a positive impact on material assets. This could also contribute to a positive impact on climatic factors.</p>	As above
Community Food	0	++	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	<p>Community food will have a major positive impact on population and human health as the strategy aims to increase access to local food and education people on eating and cooking healthily. There is also potential for positive impacts on material assets and climatic factors as people grow more seasonally and learn how to not waste food by increasing people's knowledge of food and how to cook using different ingredients.</p>	As above

Overall cumulative impact of the option on the SEA objectives.	+	++	+	+	+	++	++	0	0
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Assessment results – Food4Fife action plan projects

Table 6.4 Option 3 - Preferred Option: Food4Fife action plan - SEA results

Action Ref	Aim/ objective	Biodiversity, flora, and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Material assets	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Comments (including information on short, medium, long term; permanent, temporary; secondary, cumulative, synergistic effects)	Proposed changes to the PPS or proposed mitigation
Farming, Soils and Climate												
FSC01	Work with partners and anchor organisations to map the supply chain activity in Fife as a baseline to grow opportunities for new markets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action. Further action on the supply chain could influence procurement requirements that included environmental factors. However, the action is to map only, which would have no clear impact on ground.	
FSC02	Explore and understand the Economic Nutrition of the Fife (and wider) food supply chain Would a labelling system where information showed how your purchase impacts the local and global economy by detailing how the money you spend is distributed help drive the local food market?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	Review wording of the action to make it more action focused. This is unlikely to result in change to a direct impact.

FSC03	Work with and share understanding of timeframes and planting planning with partners and how best this works for the tender process through events and workshops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action. As a result of this action the crops planted could then influence land and soils that include environmental factors.	
FSC04	Collaborate with partnership on how planting programmes can best support a 5-year procurement pipeline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC05	Explore opportunities for co-op development to enable a number of farmers to work together on larger tenders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC06	Working with the food partnership explore and research processing and infrastructure opportunities for Fife and potential funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC07	Assess how data flowing up and down the supply chain can be structured and used to inform choices and policy so we can increase climate friendly food production NB Soil Association Exchange enables farmers to reap benefits of farming more regeneratively to help protect the land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC08	Work with partners to plan for water shortages in farming to assess where there is need for water supplies, storage and monitoring in time of plenty for use in drought.	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	The action itself may not lead to a direct impact on the Fife environment, however if there is action taken post-assessment, then there could be a minor benefit to water and climate resilience.	Consider changing the wording of action FSC08 to add text about putting together a plan of action following assessment.

FSC09	Develop soil water resilience by building soil organic matter across Fife.	+	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	0	The action could benefit biodiversity due to their being more water and organic matter in soils, thus increasing soil health and retention, increasing water retention and reducing additional water demand. It could increase sequestering of carbon. Also potential to reduce soil blow which seems likely to be beneficial to air quality.	Check any links to Ammonia. - Checked and no change to the PPS. Any impacts from ammonia on soil organic matter can be picked up as part of the project.
FSC10	Work with farmers, SEPA and water companies etc. to minimise diffuse pollution from run-off from fields.	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	Minimising diffuse pollution can benefit soil and water and have a minor positive impact on climatic factors. There is potential to have a positive impact on population and human health due to improved water suppliers including improvements for water-based activities, such as swimming.	Clarify if diffuse pollution is nitrates in water? - Checked and no change to action as minimising diffuse pollution could result in a reduction of nitrate in groundwater.
FSC11	Plan for food storage and preservation options in time of plenty for shortages	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	There is potential to reduce food waste, therefore having a minor impact on material assets. There could also be a minor positive impact on population and human health due to there being a greater variety of food in times of shortage.	Clarify if this is action is to plan only or if there is scope to do further work to develop it.
FSC12	Create a protein strategy and explore protein producing opportunities in Fife	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC13	Create a land plan for Fife	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	Reword action to "Ensure food is part of a wider land plan for Fife..."
FSC14	Create an energy plan for food production, storage and distribution.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	Reword action to "Ensure food is part of a wider energy plan for Fife..."
FSC15	Develop a decarbonised distribution system for local food	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	The action could have potential benefits for population and human health, air quality and climate factors from reduced vehicle emissions.	

FSC16	Working with farmers across Fife to promote and encourage increased agroecological food production methods	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0		Combine actions 16 and 17? Who is taking action. What is meant by this? Potential to clarify language / less divisive. Climate Friendly, ready, just food production.
FSC17	Explore opportunities to work with Scottish Government and NFU for funding opportunities to support transference to agroecological food production.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	Combine actions 16 and 17? Who is taking action. What is meant by this? Potential to clarify language / less divisive. Climate Friendly, ready, just food production.
FSC18	Look to grow new markets for Climate friendly produce	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC19	Work to increase the average Soil Organic Matter content of farms in Fife.	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	Increasing the organic matter content in soils will result in minor positive impacts for biodiversity, soil, water and air.	Link back - combine with 09.
FSC20	Agree a monitoring system to collect types and amounts of food data of food not used from supermarket contracts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC21	Livestock mortality is also an important source of food loss and waste. Explore what data can be collected and support farms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC22	Waste in primary production in the aquaculture and wild fisheries sector. Explore what data can be collected and support offered.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC23	Explore opportunities for redistribution of excess food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	

	production and input into a circular economy											
FSC24	Explore communication opportunities to promote best practices and new ideas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC25	Direct nutrient-rich residues to feed to ruminant animals rather than feeding them fresh barley.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC26	E.g. Innovative Scottish businesses such as Horizon Proteins are extracting protein from whisky residues to create salmon feed– making both sectors more sustainable. Can be an alternate for chicken feed also. DDGS are rich in protein, fat, minerals and vitamins and could provide a sustainable alternative feed with co-benefits for the whisky industry. (Innovative Farmers project, Link)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	Clarify if this is an action or if it is an example of FSC25.
FSC27	Explore ideas and % of cattle and sheep to be fed entirely or mostly on grass and trees.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action. Different foods may increase or decrease methane from ruminants.	
FSC28	Zero Waste Scotland household food waste research project in collaboration with Fife Council	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	Reductions in household food waste could result in a minor positive impact for material assets. Whilst the action itself may not have a direct impact, resulting actions could have a potential positive impact.	
FSC29	Economic development projects and surveys for businesses within catering, hospitality, tourism, processing, and manufacturing.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC30	Work with the French small holding project promoted by Pete Ritchie and Scottish government to explore what land could be made available across Fife and understand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	

	whether its business model could work in Fife											
FSC31	Work with SRUC to understand how students can be involved and supported as new farmers for small holdings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
FSC32	Work with food distributors in Fife to see what opportunities there are for redistribution of excess food to where it is needed	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	There could be a minor positive impact on material assets due to better opportunities for food distributors to coordinate redistribution and minimise food waste.	
FSC33	Communication campaigns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	Clarify wording of the action - comms campaign on what?
Sustainable Food Economy												
SFE01	Host and promote events and workshops to raise understanding of how to tender with the public sector.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFE02	Collaborate and integrate Fife's key anchor organisations (Public Sector) Procurement pipelines to understand future opportunities.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFE03	Establish and publish Fife's food and drink rolling public procurement pipeline for the next 5 years to help develop "tender ready" pathway support for the sector.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFE04	Enhance Supplier Development Programme and deliver bespoke tender ready Health Check via Business Gateway Fife Expert Help Framework.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFE05	Identify, via Economic Development, investment and disposal programme opportunities	0	0	0	0	0	-/+	0	0	0	This action may largely impact on material assets, which could be minor positive or negative, but it will depend on what is built.	Think Ec Dev properties. When develop then consider if food drink. Clarify - if

	that support the food and drink sector priorities.											includes action to create/find bespoke premises for food and drink.
SFE06	Refresh Sector Guide to Support Services & Regulatory requirements for food and drink start-up businesses to help demystify the process	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFE07	Help to sustain and grow businesses, refresh Sector Guide to Support Services and regulatory requirements for food and drink growth businesses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFE08	Work with Sector ambassadors to engage Agri-food producers to identify opportunities to increase sustainable food production.	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	There is potential for positive change, however uncertain how much. We assume a small positive impact in the short- to medium-term. We understand "sustainable" to mean sustainable economy, people and environment.	
SFE09	Work with the sector businesses and partners to understand the barriers to public and private sector contracts and align to SFE04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFE10	Work with businesses and partners to understand the supply chains of existing contracted suppliers and identify opportunities for growing and shortening Fife's supply chain contribution.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFE11	Collaboration Development - support businesses to develop market capacity through collaborative working e.g.co-ops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFE12	Refresh supplier guide and the community benefits guide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	

SFE13	Work with partners to map Fife's food and drink supply chain activity as a baseline to grow opportunities and reduce carbon footprint.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	Review action as it links with other actions relating to mapping and the Fife food map
SFE14	Promote Transition to Net Zero toolkits to the sector and encourage their use for example: Business sustainability - Scottish Enterprise (www.scottish-enterprise.com) providing easy links for business development and improvement support services e.g., Funding, Finance, Expert Help to help deliver the resulting suitability action plans.	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	The action promotes net zero therefore could result in a minor positive impact on climatic factors.	
SFE15	Increase sustainability webinars offer via Business Gateway Fife	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFE16	Support and work with businesses to develop and implement Net Zero and circular economy activity	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	This action is dependent on the scale of activity, but could have minor positive impacts on material assets and climatic factors. This is based on the existing support offer to business.	
SFE17	Stimulating and raising awareness of transition to Net zero through enterprise and education with young people.	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	The action promotes net zero therefore could result in a minor positive impact on climatic factors.	
SFE18	Research & Development and innovation activity Leading to business improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFE19	Support Industry and Academia Collaborations e.g., with universities and colleges e.g., SRUC to support knowledge transfer, innovation and adoption of creative solutions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	

SFE20	Review the reconditioning & opportunities new build business premises (Business Property Portfolio) suitable for the sector including production, processing, storage and warehousing (process/ store/ distribute).	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	This action is dependent on the scale of activity, but could have minor positive impacts on material assets and climatic factors. This is based on the existing support offer to business.	
SFE21	Provide support to businesses investing in developing sustainable premises. (Expert help. Planning, energy audits, lean	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	This action is dependent on the scale of activity, but could have minor positive impacts on material assets and climatic factors. This is based on the existing support offer to business.	
SFE22	Investigate demand and carry out various feasibility studies for food and drink infrastructure. For example: Abattoir, Shared Bottling distribution, Food hubs/interchanges. Increased storage facilities (e.g., grain)	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	This action is dependent on the scale of activity, but could have minor positive impacts on material assets and climatic factors. This is based on the existing support offer to business. Any infrastructure development would likely have its own impact assessment.	
Sustainable Food Procurement												
SFP01	Understand what produce Fife SMEs can supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP02	Produce a research document /update our Mutual food report 2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP03	Work with regional partners to do the same	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP04	Examine supply chains in the industry and identify opportunities to drive innovation within SMEs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	

SFP05	Identify infrastructure projects that will attract new Food and Drink businesses to Fife.	0	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	Any infrastructure development would likely have its own impact assessment and it would depend on the infrastructure project and what the food and drink business is. It could have a minor positive or negative impact on population and human health and material assets depending on these factors.	
SFP06	Tie into CWB (Community Wealth Building) Delivery Plan (action2.1) Baseline assessment of % local spend (April 2023)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP07	Commence pilot project at the Glen Pavilion and Lochore Meadows to procure, sell and showcase local food products.	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	The aim of these projects have a climate focus meaning they would have a climate impact due to the use of more local and more sustainable food, resulting in minor positive impacts for biodiversity, population and human health, soil, water, material assets and climatic factors.	
SFP08	Work with 4 local kitchen primary schools to trail local organic meat, seasonal veg and local food supplies.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP09	Work with the pilot kitchen schools to share where their local food comes from with the kids and staff in partnership with corporate comms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP10	Research what local suppliers can deliver locally/ are they set up for local markets. (Link to Food Economy data report)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP11	Research distribution options and gaps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP12	Pilot procurement projects. See above for details	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	

SFP13	Research how smaller producers' lots can be built and advertised through PCS (Public Contracts Scotland)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP14	Research the use of dynamic purchasing systems (DPS) and how that can benefit all stakeholders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP15	Work with Economic Development and Community Development Scotland to develop Co-Operatives between smaller suppliers in order that they can submit tenders for contracts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP16	Increased number of supplier events and workshops to assist SMEs to understand procurement process better	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP17	Create and publish Pipeline of future contracts to allow SME to upskill and invest in order to be able to bid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP18	Work with Scot Excel to examine frameworks for local climate friendly food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP19	Analyse the country of origin of procured supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP20	Analyse data to understand what goods could have shorter supply chains.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP21	Understand difference between air freighted and shipped and support shipped.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	

SFP22	Analyse what products are produced in a climate friendly manner e.g., organic or regenerative farming (e.g., farms that protect soils)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP23	Understand what processing is sustainable and climate friendly and input into procurement contracts. (e.g., Red tractor labelling does not go far enough)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP24	Project to research additional values for contracts, agree and establish, real living wage, recovery growth, community wealth building	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP25	Explore working practises of companies for the pilots.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP26	Agreed % of food value and types	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP27	Create menus that use seasonal food.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP28	Report to include data on what and where seasonal food is available in Fife.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP29	Pilot project report to include calculations of carbon emission reduction as well as projected carbon savings to roll out across all school's cafes and care homes and their associated costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP30	Examine how to incorporate the trial of Greenhouse GF Calculator (tuco.ac.uk) on menus for carbon footprint analysis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	

SFP31	Discuss with partners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP32	Understand types and amount of food waste from different locations.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP33	Explore how to improve the systems for distributing surplus meals to those in need.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP34	Work with anchor organisations in Fife to ensure standard procurement policies.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP35	Use Scottish Real Living Wage as criteria across Fife Anchor Organisations.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Promotion of the Real Living Wage would result in a minor positive impact for population and human health.	
SFP36	Embed the Scottish Government Fair work policy into all tenders for Food and Drink	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Fair Work policies would result in a minor positive impact for population and human health.	
SFP37	Research the additional value of foods on health produced from healthy soils (organic and regenerative)	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	For this action in particular, any actions following the research may have a positive impact on population and human health and climatic factors.	
SFP38	Work with procurement partners and business to offer support and opportunities for food banks and pantries.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP39	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	Clarify what this refers to in the full action plan. - Checked and removed.
SFP40	Create a risk log to share understanding of risks for each partner.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	

SFP41	Assess Financial implication of investment in infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP42	Assess financial implication of potential using smaller local producers.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	
SFP43	To agreed KPI's? - Quality of products – consistence - On time deliveries - Training and well -being plans for staff - Sustainability/climate measures - Percentage of local produce - Examine the creation of a joint dashboard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	Reword as it isn't written as an action.
SFP44	NHS Fife to gain commitment from all the Health Boards within the East Coast area. Fife Council to gain Commitment from Senior Management and Elected members (Environment committee/ ACE (Addressing the Climate Emergency) and Economic Recovery boards) Fife College to gain commitment from College Board.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The action itself will not have a direct impact on the Fife environment. The impact of resulting actions is dependent on the outcome of the action.	Reword into one action.
Healthy Food for All												
HFA01	Investigate ongoing data collection to better understand need and efficacy of responses	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
HFA02	Strengthen links between Fife-wide work and area responses to share and build on good practice	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	

HFA03	Build capacity in local areas to support the growth and development of food projects	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	This is likely to have a minor positive impact on human health and material assets.	
HFA04	Establish a community food providers network	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	This is likely to have a minor positive impact on human health and material assets.	
HFA05	Increase community-led food support - e.g., pantries, larders, community fridges	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	This is likely to have a minor positive impact on human health and material assets.	
HFA06	Increase take-up of free school meals	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
HFA07	Explore different options for free school meals	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
HFA08	Develop and deliver holiday provision	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
HFA09	Investigate sharing of donations and surplus between food providers	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
HFA10	Explore redirection of food excess from farms to food providers	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
HFA11	Identify or develop an improved distribution mechanism	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	Minor positive impact due to improved distribution of food which will impact positively on material assets and climate.	Check if there is duplication of actions.
HFA12	Deliver a staff and volunteer support programme based on Dignity principles and nutritional guidance	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
HFA13	Ensure standards of nutrition are maintained across provision (e.g., holiday hunger programmes)	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	

HFA14	Increase the number of local growing projects, in particular in deprived areas, and raise awareness of these	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	Increasing the number of local growing projects can have the potential minor benefits for population and human health, soil, material assets and climatic factors as these products would likely be climate just, climate friendly and climate ready.	
HFA15	Build capacity in communities to share positive messages around healthy eating through Community Food Champions programme	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
HFA16	Deliver targeted cooking skills programmes for individuals and families facing financial hardship	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	This is likely to have a minor positive impact on human health and material assets as it could encourage people to eat more health, local grown food and minimise food waste.	Assumption that this would minimise food waste, however need to clarify.
HFA17	Enhance comms around food and health	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	This is likely to have a minor positive impact on human health and material assets as it could encourage people to eat more health, local grown food and minimise food waste.	Assumption that this would minimise food waste, however need to clarify.
HFA18	Roll out Type 2 Diabetes Prevention programme	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
HFA19	Implement a range of early intervention and prevention programmes	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
HFA20	Test and evaluate placement of advice workers in food banks	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
HFA21	Ensure that information on financial advice is routinely circulated to food providers	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health as financial issues are more likely to be addressed.	
HFA22	See Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Action Plan	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
HFA23	See Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Action Plan (actions related to fuel and childcare costs)	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	

HFA24	See Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Action Plan	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
Community Food												
COF01	Collect data of existing Community Food Groups, Organisations, Programmes	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF02	Create annual calendar of information Community Food events, classes, festivals	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF03	Expand Outreach via Newsletter & Media Program to promote local sustainable food across Fife.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF04	Increase connection with community to Fife's food Heritage	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF05	Work with Food Insecurity Group to establish links between food networks and Local Community Plans/ Local Neighbourhood Plans	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF06	Increase membership of Community Food Group	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF07	Explore establishing a Growers Network.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF08	Identify & enhance links between Fife-wide work and local area work to share good food growing practice, address issues	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF09	Create interactive map of available land for food growing opportunities.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	Reword action as it is similar to COF10. Create a Fife food map that...

COF10	Map existing community gardens, allotments, orchards for interactive resource.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	Reword action as it is similar to COF09. Create a Fife food map that...
COF11	Achieve gold standard in sustainable food places award	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	Revisit this one... what is the criteria for achieving that award and what would we need to do to meet it?
COF12	Support community food initiatives	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF13	Establish volunteering opportunities at local farms and community gardens.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF14	Create volunteering opportunities with local food growers.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF15	Provide Food-based classes and workshops in the areas of: - Vegetables, herbs, fruit growing - Orchards - Sustainable Foraging – Mushrooms & wild plants - Beekeeping - Coastal Foods; Seaweed, Mussels, Oysters, etc. - Urban Farming - Soil health, Regenerative Growing	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF16	Provide Food Preservation Classes & Workshops in areas of: - Jams, Chutneys, Juice - Dehydration - Fermentation - Cheese Making - Honey - Preserving & Storing Seeds for Future	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health and material assets.	

COF17	Facilitate Skills Development in areas of: - Food Waste - Savvy Shopper	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF18	Facilitate certification of Food Hygiene and Horticulture for food growing	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF19	Support the Food Champions programme	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF20	Increase visits to working farms for: - School, Young Carer, Adults with Special Needs - School Kids - Senior Groups - Scouts, Rainbows, Duke of Edinburgh	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF21	Utilise mapping information to understand what land is available for community food growing	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Identifying areas of land are broadly positive. An increase in community food growing could have minor positive impacts on population and human health.	Linked to Fife Food Map actions above. Link these together. Reword? Related to COF22 and COF24 - one action across partners.
COF22	Work with FC Economic Development team to identify FC land for food growing	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF23	Increase the numbers of allotments	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	Revise. More of an output from actions 21, 22 and 24.
COF24	Work with NHS to identify NHS land that can be used for food growing	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF25	Increase food growing in unconventional spaces such as homes, schools, churches, urban farms.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	

COF26	Establish home growing initiatives	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	Review. This feels like an example of COF25 - Review. Do these need to be broken down into individual actions?
COF27	Reach out to churches initiating community gardens.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	Review. This feels like an example of COF25 - Review. Do these need to be broken down into individual actions?
COF28	Support Men's Shed's Projects to have growing spaces	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	Review. This feels like an example of COF25 - Review. Do these need to be broken down into individual actions?
COF29	Support existing food growing spaces, projects, and organisations.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF30	Support & expand on Andrew Carnegie seed library	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF31	Run & promote seed and plant swapping events	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF32	Work with Food Insecurity Group to Explore and research where excess food exists in Fife & look to redirect it (Farms, allotments. Community gardens, food businesses)	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF33	Establish Fife's own Fair share model	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	

COF34	Establish central food hub in Fife	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	A food hub could help make improvements which could result in minor positive impacts for population and human health, material assets and climatic factors due to better access to locally grown food and better distribution systems that may reduce vehicle emissions.	Review. Check action - should this be one food hub or multiple given the scale of Fife and the aim of creating more local food. Is this about directing excess food from one area to another? Needs an action to investigate?
COF35	Support community food groups to work with FC procurement suppliers to have cost price fruit/veg for local foodbanks & pantries	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	
COF36	Support access to community kitchens for community organisations producing (jams, chutney, juice, etc.)	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health and material assets.	
COF37	Promote community products (e.g. Buckyne products)	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health and material assets.	Review action. Clarify what it means
COF38	Support new community shops (e.g. Dunshalt)	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is likely to be a minor positive impact on population and human health.	Review action. Clarify what it means

Assessment Commentary

Assumptions were made regarding areas of the strategy and action plan as these are high level and set the direction and focus for subject matter over the next seven years. The assessment was based on the likely desired outcomes of the programmes, objectives and actions, and how likely they were to result in a positive or negative effect.

Scoring has been based around current discussions and the guidance available. Representatives from various services and organisations were present at the assessment and had opportunity to consider scoring from various perspectives in order to give the most rounded view of each objective and action.

It may be that once detailed plans and business cases are developed for the projects and actions that the impacts identified in the assessment may change. Where possible, business cases and plans will be incorporated into the process to allow for as accurate an assessment to be carried out as possible into implications for the environment.

Outcome of Assessment

Overall, the assessment concluded that option 3 – the preferred option – is anticipated to deliver the best possible outcomes for the environment than the other options considered. This view is based on the anticipated cumulative impact of each option which was calculated by taking account of the overall impacts of the strategy's "five pillars" (or five objectives).

The implementation of the action plan is likely to have generally positive effects on most of the SEA topics, whilst cultural heritage and landscape is unlikely to be impacted by any of the projects and programmes (neutral).

Overall, the *preferred option* is predicted to have generally significant positive environmental effects, particularly on population and human health, material assets, and climatic factors. It is anticipated that the action plan will also have positive effects on soil, water and air.

The assessment concluded that the implementation of the action plan is not predicted to have any major significant adverse environmental effects and actions where minor negative effects have been identified also have the potential for positive effects depending on how the action is implemented – these have been rated as mixed impacts.

Since the assessment, changes have been made to the action plan in response to comments from the assessment workshop and as part of a general review of the action plan. Therefore some action codes/references may not align precisely to those in the draft action plan used for consultation.

Mitigation of significant adverse effects

The assessment concluded that there were unlikely to be any significant adverse long-term effects as a result of the action plan. However, two actions were flagged as having the potential for (minor) positive or negative effects depending on how they are implemented (both involve investment and infrastructure). The mitigation measures proposed by the SEA are for the specific negative impacts and are summarised in the table below. Actions correspond to those in Table 6.4.

Table 6.5 Summary of mitigation measures

Issue / Impact Identified in SEA	Mitigation Measures	Responsible body	Proposed Timescale
Action SFE05 to identify investment and disposal programme opportunities that support the food and drink sector priorities could have a minor positive or negative impact on material assets but depends on what is built.	The impact will largely depend on what is built. Any development would likely require its own environmental impact assessment. The Food4Fife strategy should be used to set the strategic direction for any infrastructure project related to food and drink, which should also safeguard against any negative consequences.	Fife Council	2026-2030 (Based on action plan timeline)
Action SPF05 to identify infrastructure projects that will attract new food and drink businesses to fife could have a minor positive or negative impact on population and human health and material assets depending on what the infrastructure project is and what type of food and drink businesses are involved.	Any infrastructure development would likely require its own environmental impact assessment, which would flag up any significant negative effects. The Food4Fife strategy should be used to set the strategic direction for any infrastructure project related to food and drink, which should also safeguard against any negative consequences.	Fife Council	2023-2024 (Based on action plan timeline)

Monitoring requirements for the SEA of the Climate Fife Plan are presented in the next chapter.

Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA)

A HRA will be undertaken after the SEA assessment if major developments are proposed by the Plan. There are actions within the Food4Fife action plan that may result in infrastructure development and individual assessments and appraisals will be undertaken at the appropriate time for specific projects if required.

7. Monitoring

Section 19 of the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires a Responsible Authority to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS to ensure that any adverse and unforeseen impacts do not arise or can be identified and remedied. Progress on the delivery of the Food4Fife strategy will be included in annual reporting that is undertaken as part of statutory and recommended Public Bodies Duties. In addition, the strategy will be reviewed every 2 years.

The monitoring method is outlined in the Draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030). The wide range of other PPS in Appendix B will also monitor the status of the environment and assess performance against established environmental indicators.

Key performance indicators have been identified for each of the SEA topics to assist in the monitoring of the significant effects of the plan.

Table 7.1 Summary of monitoring indicators

SEA Topic	Indicator	Responsible Authority
Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Reported condition of locally, nationally and internationally important wildlife sites. Achievement of Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets.	Fife Council
Population & human health	Years of healthy life expectancy / infant mortality rate Litter and fly tipping statistics (SEPA & Council) Impact on traffic levels Waste collection tonnages	NHS Fife Council SEPA
Soil	Soils impacts Vacant and Derelict land statistics	SEPA Fife Council
Water	Surface Water Quality – SEPA Ground Water Quality – SEPA Flood zone mapping – SEPA Ecological status of the water environment (SEPA Water Environment hub) Areas where there has been or might be a risk to water shortage	SEPA
Air	Air pollution levels measured by Environmental Health Ammonia levels	Fife Council

	Studies or report on air quality impacts from agriculture	
Material Assets	<p>Total Waste Arising (SEPA WDF Data)</p> <p>Waste Composition Data (periodic studies)</p> <p>Recycling / Composting and Recovery rates (SEPA WDF data)</p> <p>Waste diverted from landfill</p> <p>Food grown and utilised in Fife</p>	<p>SEPA</p> <p>Fife Council</p>
Climatic Factors	GHG emissions from land/food related activities	
Cultural Heritage	<p>Reported condition of locally and nationally important cultural heritage sites including battlefield sites</p> <p>Number of locally and nationally important cultural heritage sites, including battlefields sites</p>	HES
Landscape	Reported condition of locally and nationally important designated landscapes	

8. Next Steps

The next steps of the SEA will involve:

- Consulting on the draft Environmental Report
- Taking account of consultation responses
- Updating the assessment where appropriate, and
- Preparing the Post-Adoption Statement.

These steps are summarised in more detail below. A consultation Response Table will be prepared which will demonstrate how comments have been considered and taken into account in the next iteration of the Environmental Report.

In addition to the assessment findings, the Environmental Report will also contain proposed mitigation measures and a monitoring scheme. Proposed indicators have been included in this report and these and any other indicators suggested by Consultation Authorities will be incorporated into the monitoring scheme.

It is proposed that consultation will be undertaken on the Environmental Report and the Draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) at the same. The form of this consultation is likely to be:

- Circulating copies of the Draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) and Environmental Report to key agencies and stakeholders and asking them to comment on the documents and answer the specific consultation questions on each issue.
- Making the Draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) and Environmental Report available for comment on the Fife Council website, at public buildings and advertised locally.
- Hosting a workshop event with key stakeholders such as the Food4Fife Partnership and the Fife Environmental Partnership.

The consultation will last for 6 weeks from Monday 20 March to Friday 18 April 2023. A summary record of the outcomes, including comments from NatureScot, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland, as well as other stakeholders and members of the public will be documented in a Table (see example below in Table 8.1). This will be included in the committee report finalising the strategy.

Table 8.1 Example consultation response table

Consultee	Comments	Fife Council response
Name of consultee / respondent organisation	Comments / key points raised	Details of how the comment will be incorporated / reason for excluding comment / further explanation

The strategy will be finalised in the light of consultees' comments and once the strategy has been adopted a SEA Post-Adoption Statement will be prepared.

9. Consultation

How to comment on this report and the Draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030):

Copies of the draft documents may be viewed and commented on from 9.00am on Monday 20 March 2023 online at <https://our.fife.scot/food4fife> and in person between 9am to 5pm at Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5LT

Written responses can be sent to:

Climate Change & Zero Waste
Planning Service
Fife Council
Fife House (Third Floor Main)
Glenrothes
KY7 5LT

OR by email to Lauren.Bennett@fife.gov.uk

Please note that responses must be received no later than midnight on Friday 28 April 2023.

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Appendix A: Draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030)

During the period of the consultation these documents can be viewed at:

<https://our.fife.scot/food4fife>

The final versions of these documents will be uploaded to the same web address after the consultation period is over, and the Food4Fife strategy has been approved and adopted. The final Food4Fife strategy will be attached as appendices to the final SEA when it is submitted to the SEA Gateway.

Appendix B: Policy Context for Food4Fife strategy (the PPS)

This schedule lists the international, national and regional policies and strategies which have the most immediate relevance to the Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030).

Table B.1 Summary of SEA topic and applicable PPS

SEA Topic	Summary of environmental objectives	Legislation, plan, programme or strategy	PPS subject to SEA (Fife Council PPS only)?
All (general)	<p>The general PPS shaping the context for the Food4Fife strategy provide an overarching framework for all SEA issues i.e. climate change policy, adaptation policy and mitigation policy (energy and sequestration), planning policy, local outcome improvement plans, Council plans including the Local Housing Strategy, Economic Strategy, etc.</p> <p>Food systems and food policies provide the basis for action, whilst related PPS such as climate change also provide a foundation for the Food4Fife strategy.</p> <p>A significant body of Scottish legislation, strategy and policy includes requirements for food-related PPS and explicit requirements and targets for actions regarding climate change.</p>	International	
		Sustainable Development Goals	n/a
		National	
		The Climate Change Act 2008	n/a
		The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019	n/a
		The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	n/a
		Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019	n/a
		Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) 2019-2024 (2019)	n/a
		Update to the Climate Change Plan 2018-2032 (2020)	n/a
		The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019	n/a
		National Planning Framework 4 (2022)	n/a
		Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy 2021-2026	n/a

The River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2021 – 2027	n/a
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	n/a
Flood Risk Management (Flood Protection Schemes, Potentially Vulnerable Areas and Local Plan Districts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017	n/a
Scotland's Fuel Poverty Strategy (2021)	n/a
Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019	n/a
Scottish House Condition Survey Local Authority Analysis 2017-2019	n/a
The National Transport Strategy (NTS2)	n/a
Energy Efficient Scotland route map to 2040	n/a
Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003	n/a
Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015	n/a
Scottish Government: Programme for Government 2022-2023	n/a
Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation	n/a
Future Skill: Action Plan	n/a
Making Scotland's Future – a recovery plan for manufacturing: June 2021	n/a
Clean Growth Strategy (UK Government)	n/a
Cleaner air for Scotland: the road to a healthier future 2015	n/a

Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012	n/a
Scotland's Zero Waste Plan	n/a
Food Waste Reduction: Action Plan	n/a
Making Things Last - A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland	n/a
Historic Environment Policy for Scotland 2019	n/a
The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	n/a
2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity	n/a
Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018	n/a
Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029	n/a
Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 and Good Food Nation policy	n/a
Public Health Priorities for Scotland	n/a
Dignity: Ending Hunger Together in Scotland	n/a
National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework	n/a
A Healthier Future: Scotland's diet and healthy weight delivery plan	n/a
A Healthier Future: type 2 Diabetes prevention, early detection and intervention: framework	n/a
If not now, when? - Social Renewal Advisory Board report: January 2021	n/a

		Fife	
		Plan for Fife: Fife's Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-2027	No
		Recovery and renewal - Plan for Fife 2021-24	No
		Climate Fife: Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (2020-2030)	Yes
		FIFEplan – Fife Local Development Plan	Yes
		FIFEplan – Fife Local Development Plan: Supplementary Guidance	Yes
		Draft Local Housing Strategy 2022-2027	Draft
		Fife Economic Strategy 2017 – 2027	Screened
		Local Transport Strategy for Fife 2006-2026	Yes
		Fife Council Procurement Strategy	No - screened
		Air Quality Strategy for Fife 2015-2020	Yes
		Zero Waste Fife: Resource Strategy & Action Plan 2018-2028	Yes
		Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2013-2018	Yes
		Fife Forest and Woodland Strategy 2013-2018	No
		Fife Council Allotments Strategy 2018-2023	No
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Biodiversity policies from international to local levels aim to conserve habitats, species and ecosystems. Halting the	National	
		The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	n/a

	decline of key species is important, and where possible remedial action and enhancement should be implemented in degraded areas. Policies also note the importance of an ecosystem approach – a holistic, landscape approach to biodiversity conservation that goes beyond the traditional emphasis on protecting individual sites.	2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity	n/a
		Fife	
		Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2013-2018	Yes
		Fife Forest and Woodland Strategy 2013-2018	No
Population and human health	Legislation and other PPS in this area seeks to improve human health and quality of life, and to prevent or minimise any negative impacts (concerned with direct physical health impacts but also secondary risks and risk pathways i.e. fuel poverty, economic disadvantage, noise, vibration, increase in road traffic, dust, odours etc.).	International	
		Sustainable Development Goals	n/a
		National	
		Public Health Priorities for Scotland	n/a
		Dignity: Ending Hunger Together in Scotland	n/a
		National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework	n/a
		A Healthier Future: Scotland's diet and healthy weight delivery plan	n/a
		A Healthier Future: type 2 Diabetes prevention, early detection and intervention: framework	n/a
		Fife	
		Draft Local Housing Strategy 2022-2027	Draft
		Fife Economic Strategy 2017-2027	Screened
		Air Quality Strategy for Fife 2015-2020	Yes
Soil	Legislation and other PPS regarding soil seeks to protect soil health and mineral resources from a range of	National	
		Scottish Soil Framework (2009)	n/a

	impacts, including soil sealing by development, increased susceptibility to erosion and soil pollution. Other PPS seek to conserve designated geological features and to restrict development on and / or maximise remediation of contaminated land.	<table> <tr> <td>SPP 2014 – Minerals PAN64: Reclamation of Surface Mineral Workings</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PAN33: Development of Contaminated Land</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Fife</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fife Woodland and Forestry Strategy</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fife Contaminated Land Strategy</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	SPP 2014 – Minerals PAN64: Reclamation of Surface Mineral Workings	n/a	PAN33: Development of Contaminated Land	n/a	Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations	n/a	Fife		Fife Woodland and Forestry Strategy	No	Fife Contaminated Land Strategy	Yes				
SPP 2014 – Minerals PAN64: Reclamation of Surface Mineral Workings	n/a																	
PAN33: Development of Contaminated Land	n/a																	
Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations	n/a																	
Fife																		
Fife Woodland and Forestry Strategy	No																	
Fife Contaminated Land Strategy	Yes																	
Water	Water related policies aim to protect and improve the water environment. This includes all rivers, lochs, estuaries, coastal waters, canals, reservoirs, groundwater and wetlands. River Basin Management Plans, which were prepared under the Water Framework Directive and WEWS Act set specific objectives for the protection and improvement of water resources within each river basin. An integrated and sustainable approach to flood risk management is also required by the 2009 Act.	<table> <tr> <td colspan="2">National</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2021 – 2027</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flood Risk Management (Flood Protection Schemes, Potentially Vulnerable Areas and Local Plan Districts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Fife</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Climate Fife: Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (2020-2030)</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FIFEplan – Fife Local Development Plan</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fife Shoreline Management Plan 2011</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	National		The River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2021 – 2027	n/a	Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	n/a	Flood Risk Management (Flood Protection Schemes, Potentially Vulnerable Areas and Local Plan Districts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017	n/a	Fife		Climate Fife: Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (2020-2030)	Yes	FIFEplan – Fife Local Development Plan	Yes	Fife Shoreline Management Plan 2011	Yes
National																		
The River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2021 – 2027	n/a																	
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	n/a																	
Flood Risk Management (Flood Protection Schemes, Potentially Vulnerable Areas and Local Plan Districts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017	n/a																	
Fife																		
Climate Fife: Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (2020-2030)	Yes																	
FIFEplan – Fife Local Development Plan	Yes																	
Fife Shoreline Management Plan 2011	Yes																	
Air	Legislation and other PPS relating to air seeks to improve air quality, reduce particulate concentrations and reduce the health impacts associated with air pollution. Air quality targets have been set at the European and UK levels. The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland sets	<table> <tr> <td colspan="2">National</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The UK Air Quality Strategy</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Fife</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fife Air Quality Strategy (2015-2020)</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	National		The UK Air Quality Strategy	n/a	Fife		Fife Air Quality Strategy (2015-2020)	Yes								
National																		
The UK Air Quality Strategy	n/a																	
Fife																		
Fife Air Quality Strategy (2015-2020)	Yes																	

	objectives for Particulate Matter (PM), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and ozone (O3) amongst others. Good progress is being made towards meeting them.		
Material assets (waste and resources)	Legislation and other PPS relating to promoting waste minimisation in accordance with the waste hierarchy, the disposal of waste in accordance with relevant legislation with minimal impact on soil, air and water quality. The aim is to move to a Zero Waste society.	National	
		Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012	n/a
		Scotland's Zero Waste Plan	n/a
		Food Waste Reduction: Action Plan	n/a
		Making Things Last - A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland	n/a
		Fife	
		Zero Waste Fife: Resource Strategy & Action Plan 2018-2028	Yes
Climatic factors	The need to help mitigate the causes of climate change and the need to adapt to its short- and long-term impacts should be taken into account in all decisions throughout the planning system. The importance of adequate, planned adaptation to future climates is noted in order to increase the resilience of communities, and natural and economic systems. In addition, policy recognises the importance of increasing public engagement and awareness through co-ordinated awareness programmes.	National	
		The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	n/a
		Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019	n/a
		Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) 2019-2024 (2019)	n/a
		Update to the Climate Change Plan 2018-2032 (2020)	n/a
		Energy Efficient Scotland route map to 2040	n/a
		Fife	
		Recovery and renewal - Plan for Fife 2021-24	No
		Climate Fife: Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (2020-2030)	Yes

Cultural heritage	Historic environment policies aim to identify and protect historic buildings and sites from inappropriate development and damage. Policies extend beyond specific designated sites to reflect the value of wider townscapes, the setting of monuments and historic buildings, and wider cultural landscapes. PPS also encourage good design so that any form of development has the potential to become the conservation areas and listed buildings of the future and valued by the communities that use them.	National	
		Historic Environment Policy for Scotland 2019	n/a
		Fife	
		FIFEplan Supplementary guidance: Low Carbon Fife; Affordable Housing; and Making Fife's Places	Yes
Landscape	Landscape policies aim to not only safeguard protected areas, but to recognise and conserve wider landscapes. These may not be formally designated but make an important contribution to the quality of environment. The PPS emphasise the importance of considering how the strategy can maintain and restore natural habitats to ensure biodiversity and landscapes.	National	
		Scottish Natural Heritage Landscape Policy Framework	n/a
		Historic Environment Policy for Scotland 2019	n/a
		National Planning Framework for Scotland 4 (2022)	n/a
		Planning (Scotland) Act 2019	n/a
		Fife	
		FIFEplan – Fife Local Development plan	Yes

Table B.2 List of PPS and implications for Food4Fife strategy

Ref	Name of PPS	Main Requirements/purpose of the PPS	Implications for Food4Fife strategy on ongoing development and delivery
International			
1	Sustainable Development Goals	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out the Sustainable Development Goals – urgent calls for action by all countries. They recognize that ending poverty and other	The Food4Fife strategy aligns well with several of the SDGs, including no poverty; zero hunger; good health and wellbeing; responsible consumption and production;

		deprivations must go together with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.	climate action; life below water; life on land.
National			
2	Climate Change Act 2008	The act is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are reduced and that climate change risks are prepared for.	The Food4Fife strategy aims to provide strategic direction and focus for action on food that supports Fife to achieve its local climate change ambitions and aligns with wider climate change PPS and legislation.
3	The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019	Amended the UK target to 100% by 2050	The Food4Fife strategy aims to provide strategic direction and focus for action on food that supports Fife to achieve its local climate change ambitions and aligns with wider climate change PPS and legislation.
4	Clean Air Strategy 2019	The strategy sets out at a UK level, the actions for protecting the nation's health, protecting the environment, securing clean growth and innovation, reducing emissions from transport, homes, farming and industry.	Minimal implications for Food4Fife but may direct action relating to air quality resulting from agriculture practices.
5	Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	Creates the statutory framework for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Scotland by setting an interim 42% reduction target for 2020 and an 80% reduction target for 2050. Part 4 of the Act places duties on public bodies relating to climate change.	The Food4Fife strategy aims to provide strategic direction and focus for action on food that supports Fife to achieve its local climate change ambitions and aligns with wider climate change PPS and legislation.
6	Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019	Increased targets in line with the Committee on Climate Change recommendations to net zero reduction by 2045, including interim targets.	The Food4Fife strategy aims to provide strategic direction and focus for action on food that supports Fife to achieve its local climate change ambitions and aligns with wider climate change PPS and legislation.

7	Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) 2019-2024	A five-year programme to prepare Scotland for adapting to unavoidable climate change.	The Food4Fife strategy aims to provide strategic direction and focus for action on food that supports Fife to achieve its local climate change ambitions and aligns with wider climate change PPS and legislation.
8	Update to the Climate Change Plan 2018-2032	An update to Scotland's 2018-2032 Climate Change Plan, setting out the Scottish Government's pathway to achieving the targets set by the Climate Change Act 2019. A key strategic document on the green recovery from COVID-19.	The Food4Fife strategy aims to provide strategic direction and focus for action on food that supports Fife to achieve its local climate change ambitions and aligns with wider climate change PPS and legislation.
9	Planning (Scotland) Act 2019	Includes new duties for local authority planning services, including the part planning must play in addressing climate change and ensuring we sustain and support communities across Scotland. This includes a new duty to develop a Forestry Strategy and regional Land Use Strategies	Food4Fife will support planning policy development for land use and new infrastructure for food and drink producers and businesses.
10	National Planning Framework 4	The Revised Draft National Planning Framework 4 is the national spatial strategy for Scotland. It sets out the spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy.	Food4Fife may have a role in supporting actions within the National Planning Framework for directing land and infrastructure for the use in the local food system.
11	Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy 2021-2026	Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy sets out the vision, objectives and policies to achieve sustainable land use. The strategy covers the next five years and aims to provide a more holistic understanding of Scotland's land, the demands placed upon it and the benefits/opportunities from land.	Food4Fife should take account of relevant spatial and environmental issues set out in the Land Use Strategy.
12	The River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2021 – 2027	Sets out a framework for protecting and improving the benefits provided by the water environment across Scotland.	Food4Fife should align with River Basin Management Plans for the Fife area (Tay and Forth).

13	Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	Considers whole catchments and takes risk-based decisions on how to take action on flood risks.	Food4Fife should promote sustainable flood risk management for better soil health and flood risks for farming land and food and drink businesses.
14	Flood Risk Management (Flood Protection Schemes, Potentially Vulnerable Areas and Local Plan Districts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017	These plans highlight potentially Vulnerable Areas for flooding.	Food4Fife should promote sustainable flood risk management.
15	Tackling fuel poverty in Scotland: a strategic approach (2021)	The fuel poverty strategy sets out policies and proposals for national government, local authorities and third sector partners to help meet the targets set out in the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019.	Food4Fife acknowledges the links between food poverty and food insecurity and wider poverty-related issues, such as fuel poverty.
16	Fuel Poverty (Target, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019	Sets targets relating to the eradication of fuel poverty; to define fuel poverty; to require the production of a fuel poverty strategy; and to make provision about reporting on fuel poverty. By 2040: no more than 5% of households in Scotland are in fuel poverty; and no more than 1% of households in Scotland are in extreme fuel poverty.	Food4Fife acknowledges the links between food poverty and food insecurity and wider poverty-related issues, such as fuel poverty.
17	Scottish House Condition Survey Local Authority Analysis 2017-2019	Local Authority figures for 2017-2019, including fuel poverty rates, energy efficiency ratings, the condition of housing and the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.	Food4Fife acknowledges the links between food poverty and food insecurity and wider poverty-related issues, such as fuel poverty.
18	The National Transport Strategy (NTS2)	Sets out Scotland's vision for the next 20 years. This redefines investment priorities, putting sustainable transport at the heart of decision-making.	Food4Fife will support low carbon transport opportunities for food distribution.
19	Energy Efficient Scotland: route map	The route map for the Energy Efficient Scotland programme sets out the journey for homes,	Food4Fife will support the route map for food and drink producers and businesses.

		businesses and public buildings to become more energy efficient.	
20	Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003	Introduced a range of new duties for local authorities, including requirements to secure best value, engage in community planning and additional enforcement and financial functions.	Food4Fife will support the Act 2003 in securing best value and engaging in community planning.
21	Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015	Helps to empower community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services.	Food4Fife will support the Act 2015 in strengthening community voices in relation to food policy and decision making.
22	Scottish Government: Programme for Government 2022-2023	Sets the Programme for Government for the period 2022-2023.	Food4Fife will reflect on the programme for government and consider linkages where it can support national objectives.
23	Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation	Sets out the priorities for Scotland's economy as well as the actions needed to maximise the opportunities of the next decade to achieve a wellbeing economy.	Food4Fife supports the local and regional food and drink economy.
24	Future Skills: Action Plan	Sets out actions for supporting people to develop skills and reach their potential.	Food4Fife supports the development and training of individuals involved in the food and drink sector, agriculture and other related industries.
25	Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 - Towards a Better Place for Everyone	A new air quality strategy to replace Cleaner Air for Scotland - The Road to a Healthier Future, 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.	Ensuring synergies between air quality and agriculture.
26	Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012	The Regulations provide for the collection, transport and treatment of key recyclable materials (paper, card, plastic, metal and glass) and food waste, placing additional requirements on local authorities and businesses in this regard. The approach to waste is integral to resource use, energy, greenhouse gas emissions and the circular economy.	Food4Fife will support actions that are in line with the regulations, and that help to reduce food waste.

27	Scotland's Zero Waste Plan	The plan sets a target of 70% recycling and maximum 5% to landfill by 2025 for all Scotland's waste.	Food4Fife will support actions that are in line with the regulations, and that help to reduce food waste.
28	Food Waste Reduction: Action Plan	Sets out how Scotland can work to deliver its commitment to reduce food waste by 33% by 2025.	Food4Fife will support actions that are in line with the regulations, and that help to reduce food waste.
29	Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland (2016)	This strategy sets out Scottish Government priorities for moving towards a more circular economy – where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible. It builds on Scotland's progress in the zero waste and resource efficiency agendas. Benefits include cutting carbon emissions and reducing reliance on scarce resources. Examples include construction and the built environment and energy infrastructure such as the reuse of equipment from wind turbines and decommissioned oil and gas platforms	Food4Fife will support actions that are in line with the regulations, and that help to reduce food waste.
30	Historic Environment Policy for Scotland 2019	Scotland has a duty of care for the historic environment. The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) outlines how we should undertake this duty whenever a decision will affect the historic environment.	Ensuring synergies between the historic environment and the local food system.
31	The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	Places duties on public bodies in relation to the conservation of biodiversity and increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).	Ensuring synergies between nature conservation and the local food system.
32	2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity	The strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland.	Ensuring synergies between nature conservation and biodiversity and the local food system.
33	Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018	Makes new provisions regarding Scottish Ministers' functions in relation to forestry.	Food4Fife should consider linkages between forestry and the local food system.
34	Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029	Outlines a 50-year vision for Scotland's forests and woodlands	Food4Fife should consider linkages between forestry and the local food system.

		and sets out a 10-year framework for action.	
35	Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 and Good Food Nation policy	<p>The Act underpins in law the work that is already being done across the Scottish Government to make Scotland a Good Food Nation. The Act places duties on Scottish Ministers and certain public authorities to produce plans of their policies in relation to food and set out what they will do to make those plans real.</p> <p>The policy sets the vision for Scotland: that by 2025 Scotland will be “a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day.”</p>	The Food4Fife Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) is Fife’s Good Food Nation Plan and aims to meet the requirements of the Act.
36	Public Health Priorities for Scotland	Sets out six public health priorities for Scotland.	Food4Fife aligns with Priority 6: A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active.
37	Dignity: Ending Hunger Together in Scotland	Report of the Independent Working Group on food poverty.	Food4Fife sets out actions to address food insecurity and food poverty in Fife.
38	National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework	Guidance framework on the national health and wellbeing outcomes which apply to integrated health and social care.	Ensuring synergies between health and wellbeing and local food.
39	A Healthier Future: Scotland’s diet and healthy weight delivery plan	Sets out how the Scottish Government will work with partners in the public and private sector to help people make healthier choices about food.	Ensuring synergies between health and wellbeing and local food.
40	A Healthier Future: type 2 Diabetes prevention, early detection and intervention: framework	Framework detailing action for the prevention, early detection and early intervention of type 2 diabetes.	Ensuring synergies between health and wellbeing and local food.
41	If not now, when? - Social Renewal Advisory Board report: January 2021	The Social Renewal Advisory Board was set up by Scottish Ministers to make proposals that can renew Scotland once we start to emerge from the pandemic. The	Food4Fife takes stock of the Social Renewal Advisory Board report and has been influenced through the Plan

		final report “If not now, when?”, sets a course towards this future.	for Fife (recovery and renewal update).
Regional			
42	South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan	Provides strategic planning polices that include Fife.	Food4Fife will support planning policy development for land use and new infrastructure for food and drink producers and businesses.
43	Tayside Strategic Development Plan	Provides strategic planning polices that include Fife.	Food4Fife will support planning policy development for land use and new infrastructure for food and drink producers and businesses.
Fife			
44	Plan for Fife 2017-2027	The local outcome improvement plan. It provides a focus for all other plans in Fife, sets out the vision for Fife and ambitions including Opportunities for All, Thriving Places, Inclusive Growth and Jobs, and Community-led Services.	Food4Fife will look to maximise opportunities for action on food that benefit the aims of the Plan for Fife. Food4Fife will support synergies and coordination between Fife plans and opportunities for action.
45	Recovery and renewal - Plan for Fife 2021-24	An update to the Plan for Fife reflecting on learning from the pandemic. Sets out three priorities, unlined by a Community Wealth Building approach: Addressing the Climate Emergency, Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis and Leading Economic Recovery.	Food4Fife will look to maximise opportunities for action on food that benefit the aims of the Plan for Fife. Food4Fife will support synergies and coordination between Fife plans and opportunities for action. Food4Fife demonstrates an area that cuts across all priorities and illustrates interdependencies between all sections of the plan.
46	Local Development Plan (FIFEplan) 2019	sets out the planning policies and proposals for the development and use of land across Fife. The plan is supported by Supplementary Guidance which explains in greater detail how planning policies will be used	Food4Fife will support planning policy development for land use and new infrastructure for food and drink producers and businesses.
47	Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance 2019	Low Carbon Fife Supplementary Guidance; Affordable Housing Supplementary Guidance; and	Food4Fife will support planning policy development for land use and new

		Making Fife's Places Supplementary Guidance. The Low Carbon Fife Supplementary Guidance provides a context for assessing all types of low carbon energy applications; information on demonstrating compliance with CO2 emissions reduction targets and district heating requirements; and requirements for air quality assessments.	infrastructure for food and drink producers and businesses.
48	Draft Local Housing Strategy 2022-2027	The draft strategy provides a vision for housing in Fife across all tenures. It sets out outcomes and actions within the following five priority areas which will help us achieve our vision to 'Provide housing choices for people in Fife': Ending Homelessness; More Homes in the Right Places; A Suitable Home; A Quality Home; and A Warm Low Carbon Home.	Food4Fife acknowledges the links between food poverty and food insecurity and wider poverty-related issues, such as fuel poverty.
49	Fife's Economic Strategy 2017-2027	Focuses on achieving stronger, sustainable and more resilient economic growth for Fife. The plan recognises the importance of the Fife's local food and drink sector and the need to tackle climate change and the continuing shift to a low carbon economy.	Food4Fife will support the continued development of economic policy and delivery to deliver action on the local food economy.
50	Local Transport Strategy for Fife	Sets out the vision for a transport system that provides people the necessary access to the goods, services and needs they desire to enable them to lead a rewarding everyday life.	Food4Fife will support the continued development of transport and opportunities for distributing food locally in a more climate friendly way.
51	Fife Council Sustainable Procurement Policy	Commitments from the Council to purchase goods, materials and services that minimise or reduce the impacts of its activities on the local and global environment. This includes the option to use of Whole Life Costing.	Food4Fife will support and encourage more sustainable procurement activity within the public sector to promote greater use and access to locally grown and produced food.
52	Air Quality Strategy for Fife 2021-2025	Outlines ongoing local air quality management work.	Food4Fife will support synergies and coordination between air quality and food production.

53	Zero Waste Fife: Resource Strategy and Action Plan 22018-2028	A refreshed 10-year strategy and action plan for Fife to reflect the move towards a circular economy and a move away from materials being perceived as 'waste'.	Food4Fife will support actions that help to reduce food waste.
54	Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2013-2018	Sets out the nature conservation priorities and projects in Fife. It outlines the link to ecosystem services both in sequestering greenhouse gases, how biodiversity planning can support adaptation to unavoidable climate change, and the threat to ecosystems, ecosystems services and species from climate change.	Ensuring synergies between nature conservation and biodiversity and the local food system.
55	Fife Council Allotments Strategy 2018-2023	An action plan to deliver long term, sustainable improvements to existing allotments and develop new allotment sites across Fife over the next five years.	Food4Fife supports allotments and encourages local community food growing initiatives that support the local food system and economy and promotes a community food movement.

Appendix C: Scoping Report and Scoping Responses

The full scoping report for the Draft Food4Fife – Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2030) can be viewed at the following website during the consultation period, and will be attached to the final version of the SEA submitted to the SEA Gateway:

<https://our.fife.scot/food4fife>

Scoping responses were received from the following Consultation Authorities during the Scoping stage of the SEA.

- NatureScot
- Historic Environment Scotland
- SEPA

The scoping responses are attached in full below.

Response from NatrueScot

Dear Climate Change & Zero Waste Team, Fife Council

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: 01763 Scoping - Fife Council - Food4Fife Strategy and Action Plan (2022 – 2030)

I refer to your scoping report, sent to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway On 11 October 2022. In our role as a Consultation Authority, in accordance with Section 15(2) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, we have reviewed the above report. Our comments on the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report and on the duration of the proposed consultation period are set out below.

Scope of assessment and level of detail

Subject to the specific comments set out below and in the annex to this letter, SNH is content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the environmental report.

Environmental assessment themes and interrelationships

We support much of the proposed environmental assessments and the approach to the SEA, however we would like to offer the following comments.

Ecology and biodiversity – as part of the proposed assessment there is an assumption that increases and/or changes to food growing/production associated with this strategy would involve '*regenerative and organic food production methods*'. Although this might be the case, we believe that further consideration is required of impacts where existing food production methods continue to be used. These impacts may include habitat loss and fragmentation, impacts on soil quality and levels of erosion, impacts on water through run-off, chemical inputs (fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides etc.) and extraction, and associated impacts on plant and animal species.

Under the interrelationship column, we recommend that land use strategy documents are included. These provide a strategic overview of land use in Scotland.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-third-land-use-strategy-2021-2026-getting-best-land/>

Soil and geology – Please see comments above.

Climate and energy – impacts from increased food production (under current practices) and intensification of land use will increase carbon emissions, and negative impacts on biodiversity and soils will increase. Again, we recommend consideration of Scotland's Land Use Strategy as reference for this theme.

Assessment Methodology

This should include consideration of alternatives, assessment criteria and where known indicators and monitoring arrangements. It may be that Responsible Authorities will wish further consultation on these matters.

Data sources

We welcome the inclusion of designated sites as part of the data sources for the ecology and biodiversity theme. We recommend that further consideration is given to quantitative metrics, as this will allow 'change' to be measured across Fife. Impacts on biodiversity from land use for food production are often about impacts on habitats, species, soils and water, with many of these existing **outwith** designated sites.

We recommend that a reliable source of data for these metrics would be Fife Nature Records Centre <http://www.fife.gov.uk/fifenature> and the NBN Gateway <https://nbn.org.uk/the-national-biodiversity-network/archive-information/nbn-gateway/>

Examples *could be change in the presence/absence of certain species, and their numbers, and in the area of woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, riparian zones, hedgerows, area of INNS and soil types. Fife Council may well also hold other useful data related to their green space audits.

SEA objectives and indicators

SEA objectives provide a tool for assessing the potential environmental effects arising from the implementation of the plan. This is distinct from the environmental objectives of the plan, which are used to consider the environmental performance of the plan through its lifetime.

We advise that it is important to link your 'assessment questions' with appropriate, measurable indicators. This should be achieved across all themes.

Biodiversity, flora and fauna – as mentioned above* we recommend inclusion of measurable indicators such as habitat and species gains/losses. As this is a partnership approach, there will be opportunities to understand and access data obtained and held by other organisations involved in this process. This approach should be taken across all themes.

Natura sites/species in Structure and Local Plans

Plans of public bodies that require appraisal under the Habitats Directive are also likely to fall within the scope of section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Further advice on considering the Habitats Regulations in the consideration of Development Plans can be found at: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B698695.pdf>

This guidance notes that plan-making bodies can consider opportunities to combine the earlier stages of SEA and Habitats Regulations Appraisal, where appropriate, even though the differing requirements mean that the two assessments cannot be fully integrated. One option is to conduct the earlier stages in parallel, such as environmental information gathering, prediction of plan effects, and some early consultation stages.

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.

Report structure

Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 sets out the information to be included in the Environmental Report.

SNH notes that the period proposed for consultation on the Environmental Report, and is content with this proposed period.

I hope that these points are of assistance to you. Please note that this response is in the context of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and our role as a Consultation Authority. We understand that we will be separately consulted on our views regarding the Environmental Report and on the Strategy/ Plan/Programme.

Regards

Keith Dalgleish | Operations Officer – South

NatureScot | Elmwood Campus | Carslogie Road | Cupar | Fife | KY15 4JB
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba | Àrainn Elmwood | Rathad Carslogie | Cùbar | Fìobha | KY15 4JB
01738 458803
nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

Response from HES



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

By email to: sea_gateway@gov.scot

Lauren Bennett
Policy Officer
SEA Gateway
Communities & Neighbourhoods
Fife Council

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Our case ID: 300061164
Your ref: 01763

07 November 2022

Dear Lauren Bennett

[Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)
[Fife Council - Food4Fife Strategy and Action Plan \(2022 - 2030\)](#)

Scoping Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 03 October 2022 about the above scoping report. We have reviewed this in our role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act. This letter contains our views on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report. Please note that our view is based on our main area of interest for the historic environment.

Scope and level of detail

It is our understanding that this strategy and action plan sets out the direction for food in Fife around programme areas of procurement, food economy, food for the planet, community food, food insecurity and partnership.

We note that the historic environment has been scoped into the assessment. On the basis of the information provided, we are content with this approach and are satisfied with the scope and level of detail proposed for the assessment, subject to the detailed comments provided below.

Environmental Assessment Themes and Interrelationships

We note that you consider that, as the plan is not site specific, much of the consideration of impact on the historic environment will likely take place through other plans such as local development plan. It will be beneficial for the assessment to point to where it is considered that other plans, programmes and strategies will assess impacts and to ensure that these are not constrained by the Food Strategy.

However, we welcome the recognition of the useful role that SEA can play at this level in considering interactions across competing land-use policies.

Environmental Information Sources

We welcome the inclusion of baseline data for the historic environment. To this list we would add Inventory of Historic Battlefields sites of which there is one in Fife (Inverkeithing II). Spatial downloads of historic environment designations can be found at [Downloads \(historicenvironment.scot\)](https://historicenvironment.scot/downloads)

Existing Environmental Sensitivities

While the need to protect high-valued buildings and gardens is noted in this section it will be important that consideration is given to the historic environment more holistically, particularly in terms of the relationship between agriculture and archaeology.

Proposed SEA Objectives and indicators

We are content to agree with the SEA Objectives and assessment questions put forward for the historic environment. In terms of the proposed indicators it is important that these are developed in order to understand the actual effects of the strategy/plan. In light of this these should reflect the actions being taken within the plan. Therefore such indicators that consider condition or numbers of sites should be clearly linked to effects arising from the strategy/plan.

Proposed Scope and Approach to the Assessment

We note that the historic environment has been scoped into the assessment and are content to agree with this. In terms of the approach to the assessment we note that a standard matrix methodology is to be used. With any such matrix approach it is important that scores are clearly explained and we therefore welcome the inclusion of commentary boxes to set out the reasoning behind findings presented.

Monitoring

As the scoping report notes, monitoring will be driven by the identification of significant effects. We therefore look forward to further detail on any monitoring requirements in the environmental report.

Consultation period for the Environmental Report

We note that you intend to consult on the Environmental Report and relevant documents for a 6 week period. We can confirm that we are content with this timescale. Please note that, for administrative purposes, we consider that the consultation period commences on receipt of the relevant documents by the SEA Gateway.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Andrew Stevenson who can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8960 or by email on andrew.stevenson2@hes.scot.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland

Response from SEPA



Our ref: 7010
SG ref: SEA01763

Lauren Bennett
Policy Officer
Communities & Neighbourhoods
Fife Council
Fife House
Glenrothes
KY7 5LT

SEPA email contact:
sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk

4 November 2022

By email only to: sea_gateway@gov.scot

Dear Lauren Bennett

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 **Food4Fife: Fife's Food Strategy - Scoping consultation**

Thank you for your Scoping consultation submitted under the above Act in respect of the Food4Fife: Fife's Food Strategy. This was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 3 October 2022.

As required under Section 15(2) of the Act, we have considered the document submitted and comment as follows in respect of the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report (ER). The [Scottish Government SEA Guidance](#) provides guidance to Responsible Authorities about the type of information that is expected to be provided at each SEA stage; we have also produced [SEA topic guidance](#) for those issues which fall within our remit. We have used the guidance to inform our detailed scoping response which is attached as an appendix.

On completion, the Environmental Report and the Food4Fife: Fife's Food Strategy to which it relates should be submitted to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway (SEA_Gateway@gov.scot) which will forward it to the Consultation Authorities.

Should you wish to discuss this scoping consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Sheena Jamieson
Senior Planning Officer
Planning Service
Ecopsy: sea.gateway@hes.scot; sea_gateway@nature.scot



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Appendix: Comments on the scoping consultation

1. Relationship with other Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS)

- 1.1 Some of the PPS included have themselves 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 Food4Fife: Fife's Food Strategy. 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 may have been identified elsewhere.
- 1.2 With reference to Appendix B we highlight that the current [River Basin Management Plan](#) is 2021, that in addition to NPF3 the draft NPF4 is available and finally we recommend that the Zero Waste Plan (ZWP) is included to the list. A link to the ZWP is provided in our material assets topic guidance (link available on the front page of this response, or in paragraph 2.3 below).

2. Baseline information

- 2.1 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 [Environmental data | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#).
- 2.2 Additional local information may also be available from our Access to Information unit (foi@sepa.org.uk).
- 2.3 Other sources of data for issues 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. In particular, the NatureScot Carbon and Peatland map would be a relevant baseline source under the soils topic, and a link to the Scotland's soil website, where the data is available is in our soil topic guidance.

3. Environmental problems

- 3.1 We consider that the environmental problems described generally highlight the main issues of relevance for the SEA topics within our remit. However, we recommend that the text within the bullet point regarding UKCP 18 in climatic factors is expanded to clarify that within the timespan of the strategy change in relative sea level is negligible.

4. Alternatives

- 4.1 We are satisfied with the alternatives outlined. These should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings of the assessment should inform the choice of the preferred option. This should be documented in the Environmental Report.

5. Scoping out of environmental topics

- 5.1 Based on the information provided to date we consider that the assessment could be more focused by reconsidering those environmental topics to be scoped into the assessment. From the information available in the scoping report and from the consultation documents, it is our view that the effects related to the SEA Topic of AIR could be scoped out of the assessment as we do not foresee these to be significant.

6. Methodology for assessing environmental effects

- 6.1 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.

- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 We would expect all aspects of the PPS which could have significant effects to be assessed.
- 6.4 We support the use of SEA objectives as assessment tools as they allow a systematic, rigorous and consistent framework with which to assess environmental effects.
- 6.5 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.

Design of the Assessment Matrices

- 6.8 We are content with the proposed detailed assessment matrix and particularly welcome the commentary box to fully explain the rationale behind the assessment results. We also welcome the link between effects and mitigation measures in the proposed assessment framework and the consideration of mitigation of impacts.
- 6.9 We note that in Table 4.6 there is a symbol IMP for effects dependent on how the action plan is implemented. Please ensure however that assessment of all relevant effects of the strategy is undertaken as much as possible at this stage.

Comments on wording of proposed SEA objectives

- 6.10 We note that the indicators for soil topic are vague and we recommend that our soil topic guidance is reviewed to inform the indicators chosen as it contains relevant information.
- 6.11 With regards Population and Human Health topic, it is noted that there are no draft assessment questions relating to food poverty, although it is an aim of the strategy. With regards indicators for this issue it is suggested that Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) data and/or food bank use could be relevant. We recommend that our topic guidance on human health is reviewed as it contains a link to SIMD.

7. Mitigation and enhancement

- 7.1 We would encourage you to use the assessment as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final option; hence we support proposals for enhancement of positive effects as well as mitigation of negative effects.
- 7.2 It is useful to show the link between potential effects and proposed mitigation / enhancement measures in the assessment framework, therefore we recommend that 'enhancement' is added to mitigation in the relevant section of the assessment table.
- 7.3 We support the proposals for covering mitigation in the table on pages 37/38 of the scoping report, including the commitment that changes to the strategy in light of mitigation will be recorded.
- 7.4 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.

8. Monitoring

- 8.1 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.

9. Consultation period

- 9.1 We are satisfied with the proposal for a 6 week consultation period for the Environmental Report.

10. Outcomes of the Scoping exercise

- 10.1 We welcome proposals for the inclusion of a summary of how the comments provided by the Consultation Authorities at the Scoping stage have been taken into account in the preparation of the Environmental Report.

As the Responsible Authority, Fife Council has considered and taken into account each of the comments by the Consultation Authorities in relation to the Scoping responses. The table below presents comments from the Consultation Authorities that suggested an action or recommendation for Fife Council. The council's response is also given in the table and amendments have been made in response to comments where indicated.

Table C.1 SEA Scoping Report Consultation Response

Consultee	Comments	Fife Council response
NatureScot	Environmental assessment themes and interrelationships Ecology and biodiversity: Further consideration is required of impacts where existing food production methods continue to be used.	Consideration has been given to the impacts of existing food production and its likely effects if no action is taken. Amendments have been made to Table 3.1 in Scoping Report.
NatureScot	Environmental assessment themes and interrelationships Ecology and biodiversity: Under the interrelationship column, we recommend that land use strategy documents are included.	Greater reference to local and national policies has been made to the interrelationship column for ecology and biodiversity in Table 3.1 in Scoping Report, including specific mention of Scotland's Land Use Strategy.
NatureScot	Environmental assessment themes and interrelationships Soil and ecology: See comments above	Consideration has been given to the effects of existing farming practice on soils and geology and amendments have been made to Table 3.1 in Scoping Report.
NatureScot	Environmental assessment themes and interrelationships Climate and energy: We recommend consideration of Scotland's Land Use Strategy as reference for this theme.	Consideration has been given to the Scotland's Land Use Strategy and land use in general in reference to this theme. Amendments have been made to Table 3.1 in Scoping Report.
NatureScot	Assessment Methodology This should include consideration of alternatives, assessment criteria and, where known, indicators and monitoring arrangements. It may be that Responsible Authorities will wish further consultation on these matters.	Proposed indicators and assessment criteria are set out in Table 3.5 in the Scoping Report. Fife Council would welcome further consultation with NatureScot to assist on the further consideration of indicators and monitoring arrangements. Invite to NatureScot for the SEA consultation workshop in January 2023.

NatureScot	<p>Data sources</p> <p>We recommend that further consideration is given to quantitative metrics, as this will allow 'change' to be measured across Fife.</p> <p>We recommend that a reliable source of data for these metrics would be Fife Nature Records Centre http://www.fife.gov.uk/fifenature and the NBN Gateway https://nbn.org.uk/the-national-biodiversity-network/archive-information/nbn-gateway</p>	<p>Consideration has been given to the use of quantitative metrics. The Responsible Authority has included reference to impacts on the biodiversity and ecology theme.</p> <p>The Responsible Authority will consider the use of metrics highlighted by NatureScot and will assess what data from the recommended sources can be used to support monitoring. Recommended data sources have been added to Table 3.2 in the Scoping Report.</p> <p>Invite to the local Biodiversity Officer, Fife Coast & Countryside Trust to SEA consultation workshop in January 2023 to assist with assessing the most appropriate use of information.</p>
NatureScot	<p>SEA objectives and indicators</p> <p>We advise that it is important to link your 'assessment questions' with appropriate, measurable indicators. This should be achieved across all themes.</p>	<p>Consideration has been given to the use of measurable indicators for assessment questions.</p> <p>Fife Council would welcome views from NatureScot on what indicators would be useful for the assessment questions.</p>
NatureScot	<p>SEA objectives and indicators</p> <p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna - as mentioned above* we recommend inclusion of measurable indicators such as habitat and species gains/losses. As this is a partnership approach, there will be opportunities to understand and access data obtained and held by other organisations involved in this process. This approach should be taken across all themes.</p>	<p>As mentioned above, Fife Council welcomes the views of NatureScot and any guidance on what indicators would be appropriate for measuring change.</p>
NatureScot	<p>Natura sites/species in Structure and Local Plans</p> <p>Plans of public bodies that require appraisal under the Habitats Directive are also likely to fall within the scope of section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Further advice on considering the Habitats Regulations in the consideration of Development Plans can be found at:</p>	<p>The Responsible Authority has considered the Habitats Regulations Appraisal, https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/environmental-assessment/habitats-regulations-appraisal-hra and notes that: "In order to carry out an HRA the competent authority must have sufficient details about all aspects of</p>

	http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B698695.pdf	<p>the proposal and how this will be carried out.”</p> <p>As this is a high-level strategy that is still in the development stage, there are insufficient details to inform a Habitats Regulations Appraisal. Any projects that require an appraisal may be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Historic Environment Scotland	<p>Environmental Assessment Themes and Interrelationships</p> <p>It will be beneficial for the assessment to point to where it is considered that other plans, programmes and strategies will assess impacts and to ensure that these are not constrained by the Food Strategy.</p>	<p>Relevant plans, programmes and strategies are set out in Appendix B.</p> <p>Where relevant, plans, programmes and strategies have been referenced in Table 3.1 in the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The Food4Fife Strategy works alongside other strategies and plan and does not intend to constrain what other plans, programmes and strategies intend to achieve, but work with them to ensure objectives can be met.</p>
Historic Environment Scotland	<p>Environmental Information Sources</p> <p>We welcome the inclusion of baseline data for the historic environment. To this list we would add Inventory of Historic Battlefields sites of which there is one in Fife (Inverkeithing II).</p>	<p>The Inventory of Historic Battlefields sites has been added to the baseline data list in Table 3.2 and Historic Battlefields has been included in the cultural heritage section on page 26 of the Scoping Report.</p>
Historic Environment Scotland	<p>Existing Environmental Sensitivities</p> <p>While the need to protect high-valued buildings and gardens is noted in this section it will be important that consideration is given to the historic environment more holistically, particularly in terms of the relationship between agriculture and archaeology.</p>	<p>Further consideration has been given to the relevance of agriculture, archaeology and other sites in terms of cultural heritage. As per the Consultation Authority's recommendation, further consideration has been added to the cultural heritage section in Table 3.4 in the Scoping Report.</p>
Historic Environment Scotland	<p>Proposed SEA Objectives and indicators</p> <p>In terms of the proposed indicators, it is important that these are developed in order to understand the actual effects of the strategy/plan. In light of this these should reflect the actions being taken within the plan. Therefore, such indicators that consider condition or numbers of sites should be clearly</p>	<p>As the strategy and action plan is still in development and will be going through a period of consultation, further consideration will be given to indicators through that process.</p> <p>The number of sites has also been included in Table 3.5 of the Scoping Report, alongside the proposed indicator on the condition of sites.</p>

	linked to effects arising from the strategy/plan.	
SEPA	<p>Relationship with other PPS</p> <p>Some of the PPS included have themselves 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 Food4Fife. 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 may have been identified elsewhere.</p>	<p>Where possible, the Responsible Authority has found and included links to the SEAs of relevant plans, programmes and strategies in Appendix C.</p> <p>The Responsible Authority feels this sufficiently meets the requirements of the SEA but will consider what is covered in other SEAs at the SEA consultation workshop.</p>
SEPA	<p>Relationship with other PPS</p> <p>With reference to Appendix B we highlight that the current River Basin Management Plan is 2021, that in addition to NPF3, the draft NPF4 is available and finally we recommend that the Zero Waste Plan (ZWP) is included in the list.</p>	<p>The plans, programmes and strategies highlighted by the Consultation Authority have been included in Appendix B.</p>
SEPA	<p>Baseline information</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Fife Council recognises the wealth of available environmental data held by SEPA and will consider it when reviewing the strategy and its specific projects, which look like they would benefit from considering additional data.</p>
SEPA	<p>Environmental problems</p> <p>We recommend that the text within the bullet point regarding UKCP 18 in climatic factors is expanded to clarify that <u>within the timespan of the strategy</u> change in relative sea level is negligible.</p>	<p>Changes have been made to the Climatic Factors section in Table 3.4 of the Scoping Report to reflect the timespan of the strategy.</p>
SEPA	<p>Scoping out of environmental topics</p> <p>We consider that the assessment could be more focused on reconsidering those environmental topics to be scoped into the assessment.</p> <p>It is our view that the effects related to the SEA topic of AIR could be scoped out of the assessment as we do not foresee these to be significant.</p>	<p>Fife Council has considered this point. Fife Council Air Quality colleagues were consulted to assess and inform the scoping of air in the assessment. It was agreed that Air would stay within scope of the assessment.</p>

SEPA	<p>Methodology for assessing environment effects</p> <p>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....</p> <p>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 the assumptions that are made during the assessment and difficulties and limitations encountered.</p>	<p>The Responsible Authority will include a commentary section during the SEA consultation workshop and in the Environmental Report to provide reasons for the effects cited and the rationale behind the score.</p>
SEPA	<p>Methodology for assessing environment effects</p> <p>Design of the assessment matrices</p> <p>Please ensure however that assessment of all relevant effects of the strategy is undertaken as much as possible at this stage.</p>	<p>The Responsible Authority will host a workshop for the SEA assessment, which will ensure this point is undertaken.</p> <p>The workshop was undertaken on Wednesday 25 January 2023.</p>
SEPA	<p>Methodology for assessing environment effects</p> <p>Comments on wording of proposed SEA objectives</p> <p>We recommend that our soil topic guidance is reviewed to inform the indicators chosen as it contains relevant information.</p> <p>Regarding Population and Human Health topic... it is suggested that SIMD data and/or food bank use could be relevant. We recommend that our topic guidance on human health is reviewed as it contains a link to SIMD.</p>	<p>The Responsible Authority has considered the recommendations and has included information in Section 3 of the Scoping Report on SIMD, poverty and community food (pantries, food banks, etc.) availability in Fife as part of the Population and Human Health topic.</p>
SEPA	<p>Mitigation and enhancement</p> <p>We would encourage you to use the assessment as way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final option; hence we support proposals for enhancement of positive effects as well as mitigation of negative effects.</p>	<p>Mitigation and enhancement will be captured during the SEA workshop, including commentary from participants.</p> <p>Where we recommend an action (on mitigation or enhancement), we will consider what, when and who, for inclusion in the Environmental Report.</p>

	<p>... We recommend that 'enhancement' is added to mitigation in the relevant section of the assessment table.</p> <p>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 (what); 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 progress.</p>	
SEPA	<p>Monitoring</p> <p>...It would be helpful if the Environmental Report included a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan.</p>	<p>Fife Council will capture other measures for monitoring the strategy through the strategy and SEA Environmental Report consultation.</p>