

GLASGOW AND THE CLYDE VALLEY 2006 STRUCTURE PLAN ALTERATION

THE TWENTY YEAR DEVELOPMENT VISION

ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Part 1

Context of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Non-Technical Summary

April 2006

1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1 As part of the 2006 Alteration to the Structure Plan, it was decided, by the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee, to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on those parts of the Structure Plan that were being altered. Whilst reserving the Joint Committee's position on whether this is a legal obligation, it is seen as good practice. This assessment is not required to cover sections of the plan that will remain unaltered, which includes the core Structure Plan Strategy.

1.2 The SEA is being developed in line with the requirements of the Directive, good practice and in close consultation with the Consultative Authorities (SEPA, SNH and Historic Scotland). The SEA report is being produced in four sections which together form the Environment Report. They deal with the following issues:

Section 1 – Context of the Structure Plan Review and SEA Process

Section 2 – Current State of the Environment in the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Area

Section 3 – Assessment of 2006 Structure Plan Alteration

Section 4 – Next Steps in SEA and Structure Plan Process

1.3 In line with good practice, the assessment is being carried out as the policies and supporting text are produced. The SEA also assesses the options that were considered during the Plan Alteration process and includes a full assessment of both those chosen and those rejected.

2.0 MAIN ISSUES RAISED BY ASSESSMENT

2.1 There are several key areas that emerge as the main focus of the assessment process. These are as follows:

- Growth Option – The plan promotes a higher level of economic growth which clearly could have environmental implications. Both the growth option chosen and those other options considered need to be assessed.
- Urban Expansion Areas – The identification of locations for future development has a bearing on the environment of the individual areas and also at a regional level due to their cumulative impacts. Assessment needs to be undertaken to check the environmental implications of all sites considered and their effect on the environmental capacity of the area.
- Renewable Energy – An assessment process has been carried out to identify areas suitable for large windfarm developments. This has a potential impact on the landscape and on communities that needs to be investigated.

2.2 The results of the assessment have been subject to updating as required, until such time as the plan has been submitted to the Scottish Ministers. Revised assessments as required have depended on whether changes of environmental significance have been made to the plan as a result of further public consultation at the various stages.

3.0 STAGES

3.1 When the assessment is complete, it would be normal practice then to submit the Environmental Report to the Scottish Executive along with the final version of the Structure Plan. The SEA would also be submitted to the three Consultative Authorities and the SEA Gateway for their comments on both the process and content of the SEA. However, an extra round of consultation has been added to the process, prior to

submission to the Ministers and further discussions have taken place with the Consultative Authorities on the content of the Environment Report.

- 3.2 Following these discussions, the Environmental Report has been published, and submitted to the Scottish Ministers as part of the submitted 2006 version of the Structure Plan and its accompanying statutory material. Following submission, changes to the SEA fall within the remit of the Scottish Ministers.

4.0 INTRODUCTION

4.1 The main purpose of this Environment Report is to set out a framework that have been used to assess the impacts on the environment of the changes proposed as part of the 2006 Structure Plan.

4.2 The report itself is divided into four parts, each dealing with issues that the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004 require to be covered in an Environment Report. These are as follows, in the order they appear in the report:

Part 1 – Context

- Introduction
- Details of the SEA process, setting out its main aims and stages.
- Outline of the relationship between the Structure Plan process and the SEA.
- An outline of the stages completed to date.
- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Structure Plan, and its relationship to other plans and programmes.
- The environmental protection objectives, established at International, Community or Member State level which are relevant to the Structure Plan.
- Details of the objectives that have been devised through the process to date for the assessment of the Structure Plan.
- Details of the methodology that will be used for the SEA of the Structure Plan.
- How the assessment of alternative options considered in the review process will be incorporated into the SEA.
- Assessment of cumulative impacts, length of term of impact.
- The extent of the assessment based on the fact that only certain parts of the Structure Plan will be changing through the 2006 Plan.
- Details of by whom and how the SEA will be undertaken.

Part 2 - State of the Environment

- The environmental characteristics of the area likely to be affected significantly.
- An overall summary of the issues affecting the Glasgow and Clyde Valley at a strategic level.
- Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.

Part 3 - The Assessment

- The likely significant effects on the environment of the changes proposed in the 2006 Structure Plan. The objectives that will be used for this assessment are shown **Appendix 1** to this part.

- An outline of the alternative options considered as part of the 2006 Plan, reasons for selecting those that were chosen in the Structure Plan and details of how the assessment was undertaken.
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and off set any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Structure Plan changes.
- A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the Structure Plan.
- Advice and requirements on other parts of the development plan process regarding policy development and SEA.

Part 4 – Next Steps in Process

- Aims of Consultation on the Structure Plan and SEA.
- Who will be consulted and for what period.
- Proposals for dealing with responses.
- Further stages in the Structure Plan and SEA process.

PART 1

CONTEXT OF THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT

5.0 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 The existing Structure Plan was approved in 2002 by the Scottish Ministers, but takes its name from the start of the process. It is therefore referred to as the 2000 Plan. The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Committee, whose responsibility it is to prepare and update the Structure Plan, has now proposed a third alteration to the 2000 Plan. This alteration is known as the 2006 Plan. The 2006 Plan also has Technical and Background Reports to which there are references in this document and these are available with the CD that accompanies the submitted plan.
- 5.2 A Consultation Draft of the 2006 Plan was produced in May 2005. At that time, a scoping/draft environment report was published which set out the proposals for undertaking the SEA on the 2006 Structure Plan. The 2006 Plan will involve the alteration of only parts of the 2000 Plan, with the core of the strategy remaining unchanged.
- 5.3 Following that consultation, the Joint Committee has now produced the final version of the 2006 Plan for submission to Scottish Ministers. The stages that are involved in this process are shown on **Diagram 2** and in **Appendix 5**.
- 5.4 The SEA process ran in parallel with the preparation of the 2006 Plan. It is a requirement of the legislation that assessment is carried out at all the stages of the plan process, with the results of the assessment feeding back into the structure plan policy making process. It should be noted that because this is an alteration to the Structure Plan, the process will differ slightly from that given in the Scottish Executive's SEA guidance and good practice as they tend to deal with the assessment of plans that are being developed from the beginning.

6.0 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

- 6.1 This Environment Report been prepared to comply with recent legislation which has been implemented in Scotland to meet the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC. This legislation requires that plans and programmes, that will have a significant impact on the environment, and that are to be approved after July 2006, are subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. All structure plans will fall into this category.
- 6.2 Although the Structure Plan 2006 will be submitted to the Scottish Ministers before July 2006, it is the decision of the Structure Plan Joint Committee to carry out an SEA for the benefit of clarity and to demonstrate that all environmental issues have been properly considered during the 2006 plan's evolution. It should be noted, that in undertaking this SEA process, the Joint Committee reserves its position about whether this is a statutory requirement. This is due to the fact that the Plan is to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers for approval before July 2006.
- 6.3 The Environment Report is the main written output of the SEA process. It serves three main aims:
- Most of the SEA process is set out within the report. It allows for active and transparent consultation on the environmental impacts of the Structure Plan alterations
 - It provides the decision maker with information on the environmental effects of the plan and will thus improve the decision making and clarity of the Structure Plan process
 - On a legislative level, the Environment Report also highlights the level of compliance with the requirements of the SEA legislation
- 6.4 **Diagram 1** below highlights the benefits that can be achieved through carrying out an SEA process by both those preparing a plan and stakeholders.

Plan/ Decision-Maker	Stakeholders
Achieves more informed and accountable decision making and possibly better plan.	Provides opportunity to raise environmental concerns regarding Structure Plan policy
Provides an assurance that all relevant environmental concerns have been considered during plan preparation.	Provides opportunity to gain knowledge on environmental effects of different policy options.
Decision making is seen as transparent and informed.	Increased understanding of how policy making process works.
Promotes good relations with the public and environmental bodies.	Hopefully empowers people by giving them more of a role in decision making.
Can help avoid delays in Plan process.	Ensures all relevant issues are dealt with prior to the adoption of final plan.
Assists in integration between Structure Plan process and other plans and programmes.	

Diagram 1 – Benefits of actively involving the public and environmental bodies in the Structure Plan and SEA process. (Adapted from IEMA 2002)

- 6.5 The Environment Report is produced as a requirement of Regulation 16 (1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004.
- 6.6 Regulation (16)2 sets out the basic requirements for the content of the Environment Report stating that the report .."shall describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing
- (a) the plan or programme: and
 - (b) reasonable alternatives; while
 - (c) taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme"
- 6.7 Schedule 2 of the Regulations also identifies the requirements of the content of the Environment Report. The details of these requirements form the basis of the contents list at the beginning of this report.

7.0 RELATIONSHIP OF STRUCTURE PLAN TO THE SEA

- 7.1 The SEA process is an iterative one which has key stages which correlate with the stages of the Structure Plan-making process. This is a key aspect of the SEA process and it ensures that the assessment of the plan proceeds in parallel with its preparation. As each part of the 2006 Structure Plan was formulated, it was assessed and the findings of this assessment fed back into the process to inform the final draft of the plan that was to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers.
- 7.2 There are several reasons why this is important:
- It ensures that all the potential environmental impacts of the plan are identified at an early stage and prior to the writing of policy.
 - A comprehensive assessment of the different options can be clearly undertaken.

- The results of the assessment can be properly integrated into the policy making process at each stage of the plan.

7.3 **Diagram 2** highlights the different stages of the Structure Plan and the SEA and how they interrelate.

**DIAGRAM OF SEA PROCESS IN THE
CONTEXT OF STRUCTURE PLAN
PREPARATION**

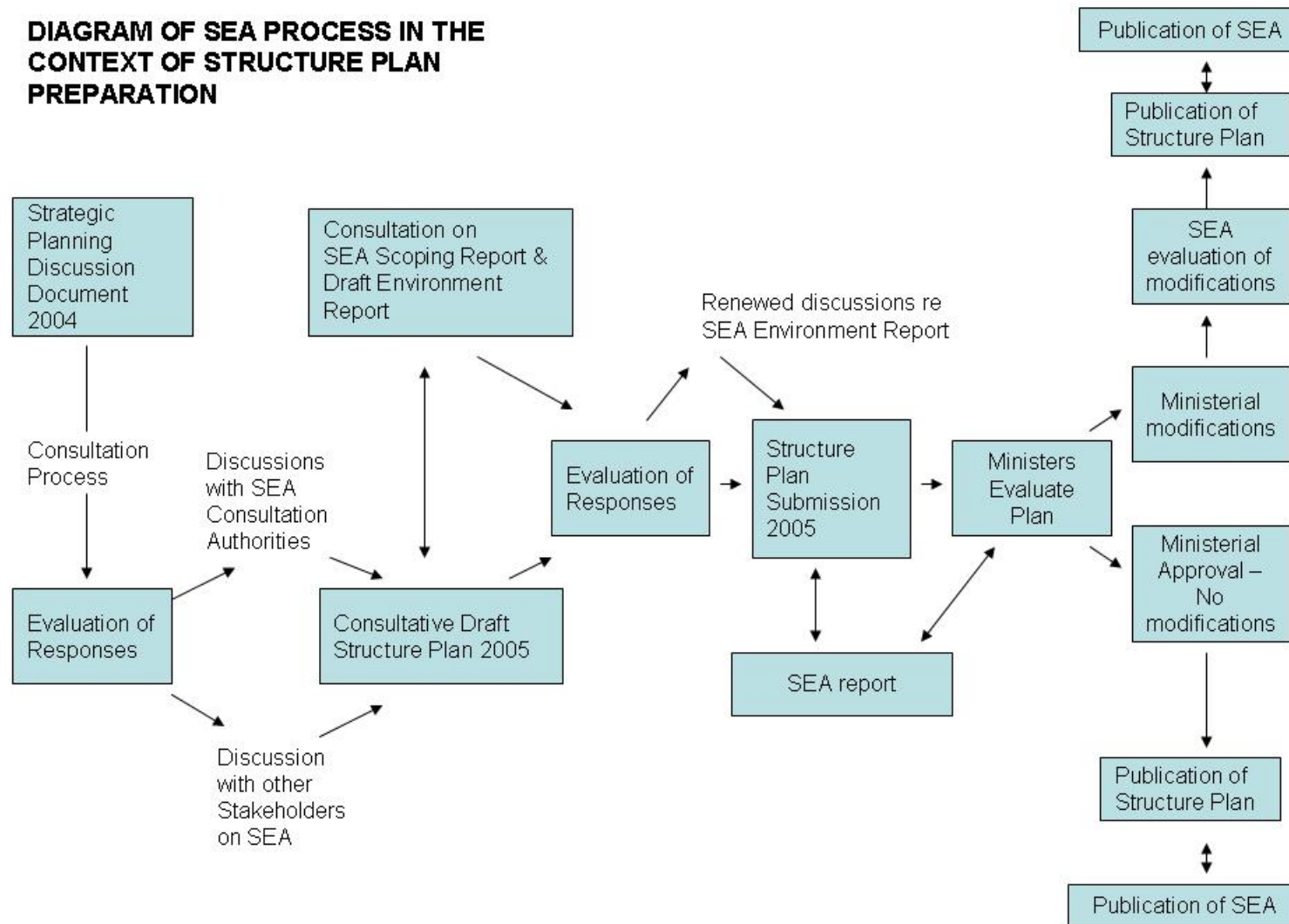


Diagram 2
Interrelationships of SEA and Structure Plan Process

8.0 STAGES COMPLETED TO DATE

- 8.1 As is instructed in the Regulations, this Environment Report has been produced in parallel with the final drafting of the 2006 Structure Plan Alteration.
- 8.2 In May 2006, a consultation document was produced on the 2006 Structure Plan Alteration. This set out an outline of the issues which were to be addressed as part of the Alteration and invited comments on the policy and locational aspects of the development strategy.
- 8.3 In parallel with this document, a Scoping/Draft Environment Report was produced that set out the proposals for the final Environment Report and the scope of the final assessment. The document also included draft objectives and a methodology that it was proposed to be used throughout the assessment of the Structure Plan 2006.
- 8.4 This document was developed in close liaison with the Consultation Authorities, which are identified in the Regulations as Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Historic Scotland (HS) and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).
- 8.5 The Scoping/Draft Environment Report was on consultation for the same six weeks as the Structure Plan draft. A wide range of stakeholders were consulted and a number of comments were received, many of which have been incorporated into this Environment Report.
- 8.6 A further round of consultation on the Structure Plan was carried out in October 2005. The Structure Plan was accompanied by a full Environmental Report. The version of the Structure Plan produced for this consultation was prepared in correlation with an assessment of the environmental impacts of the plan's policies. The results of this assessment are illustrated in Part 3 of this Environment Report.
- 8.7 The Environment Report was produced using national guidance, good practice and by taking into account the comments made during earlier stages of the SEA process, in particular the Scoping/Environment Report.
- 8.8 The final draft version of the 2006 Alteration has been completed and this Environment Report accompanies its submission to Scottish Ministers. At this stage, both the Alteration to the Structure Plan and the Environment Report are placed on deposit for the statutory six-week 'Objection' period. Responses to this stage of the process are submitted to Scottish Ministers who will decide on whether any changes are required to the plan.

9.0 PURPOSE OF STRUCTURE PLANS

- 9.1 The content and function of Structure Plans is set out in the Scottish Executive's Scottish Planning Policy 1 (SPP1) which gives guidance on the Planning System as a whole. It states that:

“The Structure Plan should provide a long-term vision, looking forward at least 10 years, as part of an overview of an area's development requirements, considering the functions and inter-relationship of places, expressing the settlement strategy for the area and identifying priorities for urban and rural regeneration”.
- 9.2 The plan must identify an overall supply of land to meet the requirements for development, identify infrastructure priorities, support sustainable development patterns of travel and promote and protect the environment.

9.3 The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, Sections 6-10 and the Town and Country Planning (Structure and Local Plans) (Scotland) Regulations 1983 set out the statutory requirements for Structure Plans.

10.0 PURPOSE AND CONTENTS OF THE GLASGOW AND CLYDE VALLEY JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN

10.1 The Structure Plan sets the context for land use issues across the eight councils of, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire

10.2 It covers issues relating to the three strands of sustainability, economic, social and environmental. The chapters it contains are as follows:

‘Overall Vision’

‘Shared Targets and Guiding Principles’

‘Strategic Development Priorities’

‘Integrated Land use and Transport’

‘Infrastructure Requirements’

‘Economic Competitiveness’

‘Quality of Life and Health of Local Communities’

‘Wider Environmental Framework’

11.0 OBJECTIVES OF GCV STRUCTURE PLAN

11.1 The Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan 2000 (the 2000 Plan) set a development vision for a twenty year period. Over this period, the plan set out four main aims. These are:

Aim 1: To increase Economic Competitiveness

Aim 2: To promote greater Social inclusion and integration

Aim 3: To sustain and enhance the Natural and Built Environment

All three need to be underpinned by the following fourth aim:

Aim 4: To integrate Land Uses and Transportation

11.2 These four aims are developed into a Vision for the area which is as follows:

“The area will be amongst the most attractive business locations in Europe because of the improved quality of the transport system, the labour force and the physical environment;

The quality of life in all communities will be valued because of the improved access to jobs, town centre facilities and residential environment, reinforced by a well defined high quality green belt;

The image of the area as a place to live, work and visit will be transformed by the greening of urban and rural areas; and

Public transport, walking and cycling will be as attractive modes as the car for most trips, because of their improved quality and integration”

11.3 This vision is to be achieved through the:

- Enhancement of the environment, for not only its own sake, but also in support of economic growth and community regeneration; and
- The creation of a Green Network which enhances not only the amenity and quality of life within and around towns and villages, but also strengthens the attractiveness of the area for economic investment.

11.4 A series of shared commitments and targets also are set out at the beginning of the document, representing scales of change that need to be achieved to deliver the Vision and representing the overall actions necessary to achieve this delivery.

11.5 These Structure Plan objectives do not change in the 2006 Plan so their assessment is not required under the SEA process.

12.0 RELATIONSHIP OF 2006 PLAN TO OTHER PLANS, POLICES AND PROGRAMMES

12.1 In addition to the functions mentioned above, one of the main roles of the Structure Plan is to set out the regional context for International and Regional land use policy.

12.2 The Structure Plan also sets the context for more local land use decisions and all Local Plans require to accord with the policies set out in the Structure Plan. Other Local Government Plans such as Local Biodiversity Action Plans and Access Strategies are guided by the policies in the Structure Plan.

12.3 Outwith local government, various strategies and policy statements are produced by organisations like the Forestry Commission, the Enterprise Companies and SEPA. Other organisations like Scottish Water produce long term investment plans whose contents have major implications on both the location and timing of development. These documents need to consider land use implications, but likewise need to be heeded themselves by local authorities when preparing Structure Plans. This mutual relationship means that they need to be developed through close consultation.

12.4 The relationship of the Structure Plan and details of specific International, National and Regional documents to which the Structure Plan has to accord is show in **Appendix 2**.

12.5 In principle, however, it needs to be recognised that the Structure Plan is set within a hierarchy of national plans, frameworks, policies and guidance on environmental issues with which it must be in accordance. The 2000 and 2006 Plans fully accords.. The SEA demonstrates the linkages between the SEA and this national hierarchy. The SEA Directive, however, stresses the importance of taking account of the hierarchical relationship of policies and programmes. Therefore, the SEA for the 2006 Plan does not seek to undertake an assessment of those polices which are transpositions and translations of government policy. This issue is discussed further in the section on the Scope of the Assessment.

13.0 RELATIONSHIP OF STRUCTURE PLAN TO OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND POLICY

13.1 There is a wide range of environmental objectives and policy that come in the form of guidance and legislation which is relevant and which needs to be considered when developing a Structure Plan.

- 13.2 Many of these, like the SEA process itself, originate at international level and have been transcribed into national legislation from whence it becomes an obligation on documents such as the Structure Plan to heed their contents.
- 13.3 A list of the components of the environmental framework within which the Structure Plan works and the authority responsible for administering each is shown in Appendix 3.
- 13.4 Within this environmental framework there are a range of environmental objectives that the Structure Plan has to help to implement. A list of the main environmental protection objectives that are relevant to the Structure Plan is shown in Appendix 4. As part of the assessment of the Structure Plan, later in this document, the extent to which the Structure Plan has incorporated these objectives will be assessed.

14.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE SEA

- 14.1 The SEA Regulations indicates that the Environment Report be prepared.....'taking account of – (a) current knowledge and methods of assessment'. (*Part 3 Section 3(a)*).
- 14.2 Current best practice involves the development of a series of objectives against which the 'environmentally significant' changes in the plan or programme can be assessed. In line with this best practice and by referring to a range of sources, including guidance from other parties, a series of objectives have been developed that reflect the following main issues:
- The environmental issues and trends in the GCV area – it is important that the Structure Plan addresses the environmental concerns facing the area, be they positive or negative, and implements policy that will alter negative trends and promote positive trends. These trends are shown later in this report
 - The issues that the Structure Plan is legally required to cover – as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
 - The issues that are listed in Schedule 2 (6) of the SEA Regulations, to which plans and programmes require to have regard
 - The objectives shown in the Interim Planning Guidance as examples of objectives that could be used to assess plans.
 - The requirements of the Habitats Directive.
- 14.3 In order to highlight the relationship between the objectives chosen and the SEA regulations, each of the objectives is cross-referenced to the points in Schedule 2 (6) of the SEA Regulations to which it relates. A list of the objectives to be used is shown in **Appendix 1** to this document.
- 14.4 One of the objectives is the need to address the issue of climate change. Although this is a global issue requiring international action and regulations, the Structure Plan still has a major role to play in helping to combat the related global trends. Many of the Structure Plan topics, such as reduction in the use of the car, renewable energy and flooding are fundamental to tackling and mitigating the effects of climate change. An assessment has been included that looks at the role which policies play in addressing these issues.

15.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 15.1 One of the requirements of the Regulations is that plans identify the 'positive and negative effects' of any proposed policy (Schedule 1, Regulation 16). To comply with this part of the Regulations it is proposed to do an assessment that identifies these impacts for each of the changes in the 2006 Structure Plan Review. The assessment will concentrate on those changes that could have a 'significant environmental effect' (Part 2, Regulation 6, (2a)). The changes to the plan that could have a 'significant environment effect' are highlighted at the end of this section. For simplicity sake and to ensure no potential impacts have been overlooked, this includes all the changes that will be made to the Structure Plan through the 2006 review.
- 15.2 There are several steps to the assessment process. Again following good practice, these are as follows:
- Firstly a matrix will be completed for each Alteration which summarises the relationship between the policy being assessed and the objectives of the plan. Details of this matrix are shown in Diagram 3 which has been annotated to explain the meaning of its constituent parts.
 - An assessment will be made if each of the objectives is relevant to the policy change in question and whether there is a possible connection between the actions proposed in the Alteration and the aims of each of the objectives.
 - Following this a judgement will be made on the potential impact of each of the Alterations on the relevant objectives. This impact will be designated positive, negative, not known. Account will also be made of circumstances where issues are not covered in a particular policy but are dealt with adequately elsewhere in the Plan. This assessment will be guided by the criteria that are shown in the central column of Appendix 1.
- 15.3 There will be many situations where there is limited information and in these cases the expected impact will be shown as 'Not known'. In such situations a commentary will be placed in the summary part of the Matrix speculating on what the most likely outcome may be. This will be based upon the best judgement that can be made related to experience elsewhere or the advice from other agencies.
- 15.4 Another reason for impacts not being discernable is due to the level of detail that Structure Plans go into. There is a requirement through legislation that the policies and proposals of the Plan are not site specific. Therefore due to the strategic nature of the policies the precise environmental effects will often be only determinable by the way that the policy is implemented in Local Plans and which specific sites are chosen.
- 15.5 In these instances the assessment will highlight the need for further detailed assessment to be carried out as part of Local Plans preparation or the assessment of individual applications.
- When any negative or potentially negative effects are identified a section in the matrix and detailed assessment will also be included as to how the plan aims to mitigate these effects.
 - This will be followed in each case by a body of text which will set out in more detail the reasons, issues and conclusions behind the assessment. The length of this section will depend on the complexity of the assessment.

- As each section is assessed the results are fed back into the plan making process and any potential negative impacts or mitigation issues that have been highlighted can be taken into account in the preparation of the final version of the Structure Plan that is submitted to Ministers.

16.0 RELATIONSHIP OF 2000 PLAN TO THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES

- 16.1 Structure Plans are designed to be read as a whole with different policies dealing with different thematic or spatial issues. Consequently it is not the role of each policy to cover every subject. This is especially apparent with environmental policies. Many policies deal with issues like Strategic Development Locations and will advocate particular locations or criteria that should be followed when planning future development. Often these will not mention directly the need for environment protection. However, due to the nature in which the Structure Plan should be read, these development related policies should be read in conjunction with the other policies of the plan, some of which will cover environmental impacts.
- 16.2 Sometimes this system is simplified by having cross referencing, with the reader being direct to the other most relevant policies that back up the one they are reading. The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan adds to this by having two Strategic Policies at the end which summarise the issues that applications will have to take into account, also giving reference to the policies that deal with specific issue or subject.
- 16.3 It is not the role of the Structure Plan policy to cover every issue as it would go against this style of document and lead to a great deal of repetition. Also good practice states that the Structure Plan should be as concise as possible, meaning that repetition and excessive discussion of issues should be avoided.
- 16.4 The context within which the Structure Plan has been developed needs to be borne in mind when assessing the plan. Therefore, if a policy does not contain a direct reference to environmental protection then it will not be seen as necessarily having a negative score. In such instances the rest of the plan will be taken into account and if the issue is dealt with appropriately in another section, then this will be deemed adequate. A full explanation will be given on this issue as part of each assessment.
- 16.5 Also, not only the parts of the plan that will change in the 2006 review will be used in the assessment. Clearly the parts of the 2000 Plan that will prevail form the cornerstone of the future 2006 Structure Plan and consequently the text they contain will be used in the assessment process. Although not being assessed themselves these unchanging policies may be used to justify those which are altering under the 2006 Review.
- 16.6 Likewise the technical reports that back up the plan will also be used to justify assessment decisions. As mentioned above there is a drive to make Structure Plans more concise. One result of this is to push more detail into background documents. Therefore, they need to be seen as integral parts of the plan and their content included for use in the assessment process.

16.7 So in summary, the text that will be used for the assessment process is as follows:

- Revised wording developed through the 2006 Structure Plan Review Process.
- Wording in the 2000 Structure Plan that is remaining unchanged through the 2006 review.
- Technical Reports that provide additional detail to justify the content of the 2006 Review.

Diagram 3 - Sample Assessment Sheet

A Summary will appear here highlighting the main changes that are being made to the policy and why it is envisaged by the Joint Committee that the change may result in a 'significant environmental impact .if any.

Reference is given on which of the 18 Objectives shown in Appendix 1 is being assessed against the policy proposal.

An initial assessment has been made to identify which of the objectives the policy change could impact on. The results are shown here with Yes or No signifying a potential impact.

Policy (Name and reference inserted here)			
Objective	Relevance	Impact	Justification for predicted impact
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
Summary A summary of the overall impact of the policy on the objectives appears here.			
Mitigation Depending on the results in the above assessment this section will identify what, if any, mitigation measures are needed to combat the environmental impacts of the proposed policy change.			

A brief summary highlighting the main reasons for the predicted impact of each policy on each relevant objective appear

The predicted impact of the policy on each of the objectives will be shown here. Symbols will be used to highlight the impacts as follows:
 * = policy relevant to objective;
 P = policy will have positive impact on objective
 N = Negative impact on objective;
 ? = Impact is unknown or undeterminable;
 N/a = Policy will impact on the objective but details in Structure Plan relating to particular environmental issue is dealt with elsewhere in the Structure Plan.

Commentary on the Assessment of Environmental Impacts of the proposed Changes

A section follows each of the assessment summary tables which providing more in depth analysis of the environmental issues facing this policy change and the reasons for identifying it in the plan as the preferred policy choice or development option.

17.0 ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVE POLICIES AND PROPOSALS

- 17.1 The SEA Regulations require that the Environment Report shall 'identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing – (b) 'reasonable alternatives'.
- 17.2 It is clear that the assessment of this issue has to concentrate not only on those alternatives that are realistic, but also those which fall within the remit of the Structure Plan. Clearly any policy options that are decided at a national level do not need to be re-assessed as part of the Structure Plan Alteration as it is not within the powers of the Structure Plan to alter them or consider alternatives.
- 17.3 The Structure Plan is developed within the context of a wide range of legislation and guidance from international and national sources. Its purpose is to interpret these issues into a regional context that promotes a sustainable future for the area.
- 17.4 As such, there is national policy guidance and advice which sets controls over what subjects the Structure Plan should cover and the way it should express its policy content. National policies also set out the strategic framework within which the Structure Plan is prepared. Therefore the core strategy contexts for the Structure Plan are set elsewhere. These are set out in summary form in the 2000 Plan in paragraphs 2.1 – 2.3 and their accompanying table.

Other planning policies, set out in the Government's Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance notes, complement PPS1 in delivering sustainable development:

- ▶ Planning policies for housing ensure that brownfield land is developed first for new housing, and that new housing is built at higher densities than previously, reducing the need for development on greenfield sites
- ▶ Other national policies ensure that new developments are located in areas such as town centres which are accessible by means of walking, cycling and public transport thereby reducing reliance on the private car
- ▶ Policies for the natural and historic environment ensure the conservation and reuse of buildings and the protection of wildlife resources, and
- ▶ Policies for rural areas ensure that there are strict controls on development in the open countryside and that our finest countryside and landscapes are protected for the benefit of everyone.

- 17.5 The 2000 Structure Plan accords with the Government's Sustainable Development Strategy. This has been recently updated. The Scottish Executive's vision, priorities and indicators for sustainable development were set out in 'Meeting the Needs' in April 2002, since then progress reports have been published annually. A Scottish sustainable development strategy is being developed, working closely with key stakeholders, during 2006. The UK strategy however stresses the importance of factors which also underpin the Structure Plan and this is demonstrated later in this report.
- 17.6 However one of the main roles of the Structure Plan is to put these policies into a regional spatial context. This exercise was carried out as part of the production of the 2000 Structure Plan and a number of options were tested to identify which one gives the most sustainable spatial option and best meets the aims, vision and shared targets of the Structure Plan.

- 17.7 The Strategic Issues Report for the 2000 Plan identified the development scenarios that the area could face and which challenge the prospects for sustainable development of the area. These were described as 'Risk' Scenarios in terms of urban sprawl and urban stress. The strategy set out in the 2000 Plan therefore sought to address these risks and considered in particular the need to control and manage further urban expansion. This was summarised in the Consultative Draft 2000 Plan (*refer page 4*) and confirmed in the finalised 2000 Plan.
- 17.8 Although changes are planned to the growth assumptions, the core strategy still provides a very positive and sustainable context for land use planning in the GCV area and is delivering its sustainability goals. It also implements the aims of national policy as described above. Therefore, this core strategy will not change as part of the 2006 Plan and will not be assessed as part of this SEA process.
- 17.9 There are other alternatives, however, that the 2006 Alteration considers. The principal one is the identification of urban expansion areas that assist in meeting the needs of the growth scenario being promoted in the 2006 Review, and the options for the development of renewable energy supplies.
- 17.10 There is also the issue of the Agenda for Sustained Growth itself and of the environmental implications which might occur of not accommodating the levels of growth proposed, especially based on the environmental capacity of the area.
- 17.11 In these and other instances where a series of alternative policies or locations have been considered, a detailed assessment has been carried out of all the 'reasonable' options and the impact on the SEA objectives.

18.0 ASSESSMENT OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, PERMANENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME OF IMPACT

18.1 The SEA legislation (*Schedule 1, Regulation 16*), also requires that plans assess whether their effects will be short, medium or long term, whether secondary impacts, cumulative or synergistic effects, and possible permanent or temporary effects.

Cumulative, Secondary or Synergistic effects

18.2 SPP 1 sets out the overall context for the planning system in Scotland. In terms of Structure Plans, it sets out their role as being'to provide a long term vision, looking forward at least 10 years, as part of an overview of an areas development requirements, considering the functions and inter relationship of places, expressing the settlement strategy for the area and identifying priorities for urban and rural regeneration..'

18.3 It is clear from SPP 1 that the assessment of cumulative, synergistic and secondary effects is part of the Structure Planning process. At the heart of the locational strategy of the Structure Plan is an assessment of the interrelationship between issues like housing, industry, retail and transport provision and how together they impact on the environment of the area. The Plan, in effect, controls the potential effects of cumulative impact by setting out the total scale of change that should be provided for within the Plan period, thus enabling locational choices to have regard to the aggregate effect of change. The Plan also addresses the opportunity costs (i.e. indirect impacts) through its policy analysis. This is critical to the mitigation of the impact of change. Thus, for example, where there is a need for urban expansion, it is accepted that there will be negative environmental consequences which are mitigated by the selection process and criteria that are used to identified the preferred locations for development.

18.4 These principles underpin the Guiding Principles of Sustainable Development that are built into the Plan decision-making process which have mainstreamed key principles that are necessary for a more sustainable approach to development. These are :

- (a) Defining the Environmental Capital / Resources of the Metropolitan Area that need to be safeguarded or enhanced for future generations.
- (b) A precautionary approach to changes which make demands upon these resources by maximising their reuse and renewal, and ensuring that demands relate to the need for the development and not speculative consumption.
- (c) A sequential approach to achieve a wise or prudent use of resources to ensure that the lesser environmental assets are used before the better environmental assets. These include, in particular,
 - the use brownfield land before greenfield,
 - poorer agricultural land before better
 - locating in town centres before out of centre
 - being related to public transport network and not just the road network
 - applying the Hierarchy of Movement and the Hierarchy of Waste Management
 - avoiding functional flood plains where possible
 - giving relatively differential weight to local, regional, national and international designation of environmental resources
- (d) Where a defined need is met in the most prudent location, the developer should contribute appropriately to any wider costs on the community, including environmental remediation.

18.5 This decision making framework is built into the approved 2000 Plan as the key development control policy for assessing development proposals including locations identified for development in the Plan itself. It is central to ensuring that Cumulative,

Secondary or Synergistic effects have been taken into account. The following sections therefore do not reiterate throughout each assessment this analytical approach which has been built into all policy changes. The assessments therefore concentrate upon identifying the direct effects, except for the areas of urban expansion and wind farm development. These two are singled out because they are the two policies which have changed where there are considered to be significant potential negative environmental effects because of the nature of the development activity involved, and the key issue for the Structure Plan has been to mitigate these by choosing locations which are least damaging (in particular related to those principles listed in (c) above) or which can have the greatest associated benefits (e.g. in terms of being linked to regeneration initiatives).

- 18.6 Therefore, the SEA has been carried out as part of the plan-making process. With the core strategy of the plan not changing, an assessment of this part of the plan is not required. However, the SEA does have a role in looking at situations where different policy options have been considered including their implications in terms of environmental impacts. Beyond this, there is no need for any further specific assessment of this issue as part of the SEA.
- 18.7 A final consideration has been the fact that any development is linked to consumer demands that will have general environmental consequences. For example, the growth in retail floorspace for which the Structure Plan is required to cater, is linked to an annual growth in consumer expenditure with its associated consumption of natural resources and waste production. These effects are not referred to since it is assumed that they would occur wherever the development occurred or are regulated and assessed through other competent authorities (e.g. SEPA and the area waste strategies, or SPT and traffic reduction targets).

Short, Medium of Long Term Effects

- 18.8 The Structure Plan 2006 sets out a vision for the next 20 years at the end of which it aims to have made significant progress in implementing its policy aims. These policy aims are devised to provide beneficial and suitably located land use change for the long term future of the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley area. Therefore, none of the policies are aimed at only short or medium term impacts.
- 18.9 It is accepted that as the policies are implemented on the ground, there may be more short term impacts. Individual applications may require the erection of temporary structures or storage areas and there may be environmental disturbance from the construction process such as increased traffic or earth movement. However the detail and impacts of these works are indeterminable at the strategic scale and are more appropriately assessed as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment on individual applications.
- 18.10 There is also an issue of future predictions of the longevity of particular types of development. It is often argued that developments like windfarms will only have 20 year lifespan, after which the land can be returned to its original state.
- 18.11 This view is not shared by the Joint Committee which regards development of this kind as being of long term significance since once the principle of development is accepted, it often leads to redevelopment in other forms. Also, even if areas of land are restored, then it will be unlikely to match the undeveloped nature that it had previously, thus making its effects long term.
- 18.12 The same reasoning is applied to mineral extraction. Even though the land may be restored after 10 or 20 years and the landscape may be replaced to a higher standard, it still has a long term, albeit positive, effect.

18.13 As a result, all proposals in the Structure Plan are regarded as having a potentially long term effect and are assessed accordingly. The same argument applies to those issues as to that of short, medium or long term impacts.

Temporary or Permanent Impacts

18.14 It is not the aim of the Structure Plan to identify policy interventions that have only a temporary effect. The aim is to set a policy framework that will have positive long term and permanent impacts of the area.

18.15 It may transpire that some of the impacts have shorter duration than others. Areas of derelict land that are planted with woodland through the Green Network programme may eventually be developed with housing or industry. Windfarms may be removed and replaced with other development or returned to natural state. But whether this will happen is unknown at this stage.

18.16 Although these issues and others may occur, it is not the policy intention of the Structure Plan to plan specifically for these occurrences. Therefore, all policy proposals in the Structure Plan should be regarded as being permanent in their intentions.

19.0 SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

19.1 The Structure Plan looks 20 years into the future and sets out a vision and a development strategy for the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley area and a series of land use based policies that will implement it.

19.2 The core of the development strategy in the 2000 Plan which implements this vision was developed through an assessment of a range of options and by taking into account a variety of economic, social and environmental issues. The strategy is still seen as the most appropriate vehicle through which the aims of the plan can be realised, as it has recently been reinforced by European and National Guidance and it is beginning to be realised through significant actions on the ground.

19.3 For this reason, the core spatial aspects of the strategy are not changed and the 2006 Plan concentrates on aspects of how it will be implemented.

19.4 As part of the 2006 Plan, an assessment has been made by the Joint Committee on the parts of the plan that need to be altered. An assessment was also made as to whether the changes to the plan would have a 'significant effect on the environment' and whether their potential impacts needed to be assessed through the SEA process.

19.5 Taking the responses from consultation into consideration, a list of the parts of the plan to be assessed was finalised. Due to the difficulty in deciding the exact level of environmental impact at the scoping stage, it was decided to assess all the parts of the plan within the 2006 Plan. This would ensure that no environmental impacts would be overlooked.

19.6 In terms of which areas the report should concentrate its assessment on and at what level, the Regulations state that:

‘the report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 to these Regulations as may be reasonably required, taking account of:

(b) the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of assessment’. (*Part 3, Section 3(d)*).

19.7 Therefore the assessment concentrates on the strategic issues that are within the purview of the Structure Plan, such as the spatial interpretation of national guidance. Other areas where the Structure Plan is simply implementing national policy, such as promoting development on brownfield land, will not be assessed further in this report. This matter is given further consideration however in a later section.

19.8 **Diagram 4** is a list of the sections of the Structure Plan, and whether they have been changed as part of the 2006 Plan. Those parts of the Structure Plan highlighted in section (i) are those that will be assessed through this SEA process. The exact impacts are outlined in the formal assessment which forms Part 3 of this Environment Report.

Diagram 4 - List of Strategic Policies and Related Schedules

<i>Policy Reference</i>	<i>Policy Theme</i>	<i>Status</i>
Strategic Policy 1:	Strategic Development Locations	EXTENDED
Schedule 1(a):	Town Centre Renewal and Safeguarding Priorities	CHANGED
Schedule 1(b):	Urban Renewal Areas	CHANGED
Schedule 1(c):	Community Growth Areas	CHANGED
Schedule 1(d):	Rural Investment Areas	UNCHANGED
Schedule 1(e):	Joint Transport Priorities	NEW
Schedule 1(f):	Green Network - Priorities for Promotion and Manage	UPDATED
Strategic Policy 2:	Long-term Potential for Development	CHANGED
Schedule 2:	Areas identified with long-term development potential	CHANGED
Strategic Policy 3:	Strategic Management of Travel Demands	UNCHANGED
Schedule 3:		UNCHANGED
Strategic Policy 4:	Strategic Transportation Network	UNCHANGED
Schedule 4 (i):	Strategic Walkways and Cycleways	UNCHANGED
Schedule 4 (ii):	Public Transport Schemes	ADDITIONS
Schedule 4 (iii):	Rail Stations	UNCHANGED
Schedule 4 (iv):	Road Schemes	ADDITIONS
Schedule 4 (v):	Routes of Committed and Inherited Schemes	CHANGED
Schedule 4 (vi):	Opportunities for Motorway Service Areas	ADDED TO
Strategic Policy 5:	Competitive Economic Framework	EXTENDED
Schedule 5 (a):	Strategic Business Centres	UNCHANGED
Schedule 5 (b):	Strategic Industrial and Business Locations	ADDITIONS
Schedule 5 (c):	Core Economic Development Areas	UNCHANGED
Schedule 5 (d):	Nationally Safeguarded Inward Investment Locations	CHANGED
Schedule 5 (e):	Tourism Development Areas	UNCHANGED
Schedule 5 (f):	International Transport Facilities	ADDED TO
Schedule 5 (g):	University Campuses	ADDED
Strategic Policy 6:	Quality of Life and Health of Local Communities	UNCHANGED
Schedule 6(a)(i):	Local Employment Opportunities - Local Plan Requirements	UPDATED
Schedule 6(a)(ii):	Local Employment Opportunities - Local Plans Assessment	UPDATED
Schedule 6(b)(i):	Housing Market Areas	UNCHANGED
Schedule 6(b)(ii):	Effective Housing Land Supply and Additions to the Supply	UPDATED
Schedule 6(b)(iii):	Local Plan Priorities for Improving the Range and Choice of Affordable Housing Provision	NEW
Schedule 6(b)(iv)	Local Plan Priorities for Re-provisioning Social Rented Housing Stock	NEW
Schedule 6(c)(i):	Assessment of Significant Retail Development Proposals	EXTENDED
Schedule 6(c)(ii):	The Sequential Approach to Retailing & other Town Centre Use	UNCHANGED
Schedule 6(c)(iii):	Additional Retailing Floorspace Requirements	UPDATED
Schedule 6(c)(iv):	Additional Retailing Opportunities and Consents	REPLACED
Schedule 6(d):	Environmental Improvement Priorities	ADDED TO

Strategic Policy 7: Strategic Environmental Resources UNCHANGED
 Schedule 7: Strategic Environmental Resources UNCHANGED

Strategic Policy 8: Sustainable Development of Natural Resources CHANGED
 Key Diagram Inset F SUPPLEMENTED
 Key Diagram Inset G CHANGED
 Schedule 8: Search Areas for Minerals - Local Plans UNCHANGED

Strategic Policy 9: Assessment of Development Proposals RESTRUCTURED
 Schedule 9: Scales of Development likely to be Significant EXTENDED

Strategic Policy 10: Departures from the Structure Plan RESTRUCTURED

Joint Policy Commitment 1	Flagship Initiatives	CHANGE
Joint Policy Commitment 2	Local Plan Priorities	UPDATED
Joint Policy Commitment 3	Joint Transport Priorities	NEW

List of Diagrams and Illustrations

Key Diagram CHANGE

Key Diagram Inset A: Green Belt Framework UPDATED
 Key Diagram Inset B: Strategic Transport Network Development
 Proposals ADDED TO

Key Diagram Inset C: Competitive Economic Framework ADDED TO
 Key Diagram Inset D: Strategic Environmental Resources UNCHANGED
 Key Diagram Inset E: Agricultural Land UNCHANGED
 Key Diagram Inset F: Forestry UNCHANGED
 Woodland Action Framework NEW
 Key Diagram Inset G: Renewable Energy CHANGED
 Key Diagram Inset H: Search Areas for Opencast Coal Extraction UNCHANGED

20.0 RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNDERTAKING THE ASSESSMENT

20.1 The SEA process and the writing of an Environment Report has to be carried out by the Responsible Authority. Regulation 4 defines the Responsible Authority as:

‘.....any body or person exercising functions of a public character’. (*Regulation 4 (1)*).

‘.....the authority by which, or on whose behalf, the plan or programme is prepared’. (*Regulation 4 (2)*).

Or in the case where one or more authority is responsible for a plan:

‘.....agreed upon amongst those authorities with an interest in the plan or programme.....’. (*Regulation 4 (3)*).

20.2 In the case of the Structure Plan, the responsible authority is the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee. As it is the responsibility of the Joint Committee to undertake the preparation of the plan, it likewise has to carry out the relevant stages of the SEA that coincide with the various parts of the plan process.

20.3 At the stage of submission, the Scottish Ministers statutorily embark upon a six week ‘Objection’ period. It is the duty of Scottish Ministers to take account of the responses from this period and to decide whether to modify the Plan. As part of this process, they consider representations on the Environment Report which undergoes consultation concurrent with the Structure Plan.

20.4 From this point, the Scottish Ministers become the responsible authority. If they decide to modify the submitted Plan and deem there to be modifications of ‘environmental significance’ then it will be their responsibility to carry out an SEA on these changes. A further round of consultation on the findings of this assessment would also be required. Details of the different stages in the Structure Plan and SEA process and who is the responsible authority at each point can be seen in **Diagram 2** and **Appendix 5**.

APPENDIX 1: SEA OBJECTIVES – USED FOR ASSESSING

No	Environmental Objective	Assessment Criteria	Relevant Environmental Factors (Annex B Schedule 2 (6) of Development Planning Regulations)
1	Protect the landform of the area as defined in planning designations and Landscape Character Assessment for Glasgow & the Clyde Valley (GCV).	Does the policy or proposal respect the landform of the area and ensure that the type of development proposed would be appropriate in this landscape and that it is well integrated?	Biodiversity, human health, flora, fauna, water, air, climatic factors and landscape.
2	Protect the most valuable soils as defined in Schedule 7(e) of the 2000 Plan.	Does the Policy ensure that development is steered away from areas with the most valuable soils?	Soils.
3	Protect and enhance the water environment.	Does the policy ensure that all aspects of the water environment are given adequate protection from negative impacts, and where possible actually enhanced?	Water, biodiversity, human health, flora, fauna, air, climatic factors, landscape, material assets, cultural heritage.
4	Protect, enhance and where necessary restore species and habitat.	Does the policy protect and where possible help to restore habitats of significance?.	Biodiversity, flora, fauna, water, and landscape.
5	Protect and where necessary restore, landscape character, especially those designated as having particular worth.	Does the policy promote the restoration of the character of the landscapes to their form as identified in the landscape character assessment. This deals with the protection of landscape type and land cover.	Water, biodiversity, landscape, material assets, cultural heritage and population.
6	Protect and enhance green spaces for recreation and biodiversity	Does the policy help to implement the Green Network and the wider environmental framework of the metropolitan area?	Water, biodiversity, human health, flora, fauna, air, climatic factors, landscape, population.

7	Regenerate degraded environments, both urban and rural	Does the policy help to promote the regeneration of derelict and vacant land, be it to a developed use or restoration to a natural area or recreation use?	Water, biodiversity, human health, air, climatic factors, landscape, material assets, population.
8	Respect urban form, settlement pattern and identity	Does the policy promote land use change that respects the existing urban form and helps to enhance its most valuable characteristics?.	human health, landscape, material assets, cultural heritage.
9	Protect, enhance and where necessary restore building character, and townscape	Does the policy promote the protection and enhancement of buildings and their environs and the valuable aspects of the existing townscape?	Population, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape.
10	Protect, enhance and where appropriate restore the historic environment	Does the policy promote the protection and restoration of sites of historic importance?	Population, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape.
11	Improve design quality in new development	Does the policy include a requirement that all development has to be designed to a high standard and one which complements the existing townscape?	Biodiversity, population, human health, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape.
12	Promote energy efficiency	Does the policy include a requirement that all development it helps to facilitate must be designed in a way that leads to greater energy efficiency?	Air, climatic factors, water, biodiversity, population, human health.
13	Assist in the sustainable development of renewable energies	Does the policy encourage the implementation of renewable energy production methods in appropriate locations?	Air, climatic factors, water, biodiversity, population, human health, landscape.

14	Reduce the need to travel and journey length	Does the policy look to locate housing, employment and services within walking distance of each other so as to avoid the need to use the car?	Air, climatic factors, water, biodiversity, population, human health.
15	Encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport	Does the policy encourage urban form that makes walking or cycling to services possible or locates new development close to public transport nodes?	Population, human health, water, air, climatic factors, biodiversity and landscape
16	Reduce Waste	Does the policy encourage the reduction of waste and the use of recycled materials?	Human health, water, air, soils and material assets
17	Protect the environment from pollution (this includes air, water and land pollution).	Does the policy ensure that all potential pollution impacts have been assessed and development promoted in a way that will ensure that they do not occur? Where appropriate has the opportunity to remediate contaminated land been taken?	Population, human health, water, air, climatic factors, biodiversity and landscape
18	Promote environmental capacity and the precautionary principle	Does the policy bear in mind the attributes of the areas environment and ensure that the level of development promoted can be accommodated in a way that does not put it under too much pressure?	Population, human health, water, air, climatic factors, soils, biodiversity, fauna, flora, landscape, cultural heritage and material assets
19	Reduce the impacts on climate change from the GCV area.	Does the policy encourage urban form and transport solutions that will reduce the carbon usage and the levels of energy that the area consumes?	Population, human health, water, air, climatic factors, soils, biodiversity, fauna, flora, landscape, cultural heritage and material assets

APPENDIX 2: DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE STRUCTURE PLAN

The following table sets out the range of policies to which the 2006 Plan will relate. The main development implications of those national policies which the Plan must have regard to are set out in the 2000 Plan Chapters 2 and 3.

Document/Plan	Responsible Authority	Content of Plan/Relationship to Structure Plan
International Legislation	UK or Scottish Parliament (includes Ramsar Sites SPA's and World Heritage Sites).	This legislation is transcribed into the legislation of the relevant country and implemented by its environmental authority. The Structure Plan has to ensure that issues in this legislation are abided by in the GCV area.
European Legislation	Scottish Parliament, Scottish Executive and other relevant body, ie SEPA on Water Framework Directive.	The Structure Plan must help to promote this legislation and put it into a regional context for local delivery.
National Planning Framework	Scottish Executive	Sets out land use issues at a national level. It sets out a vision and national plan with which the Development Plan and particularly the Structure Plan should accord.
Planning Legislation	Scottish Executive	This legislation sets out the scope and structure of the Development Plan system. Structure Plans must conform to the content of this.
National Planning Policy Guidance	Scottish Executive	Guidance is set out under a number of general themes and it is the job of the Structure Plan to interpret these into a regional context.
Planning Advice Notes	Scottish Executive	Provide advice on good practice and other relevant information. The Structure Plan would normally be expected to accord with the content of these unless there is a good reason otherwise. The subjects of these tend to be much more specific than Planning Guidance.
Planning Circulars	Scottish Executive	These provide statements of government policy, contain guidance on policy implementation through legislative or procedural change.
Local Plans	Local Authorities	Local Plans form the site and area specific detail of the Development Plan and must conform to the policies in the Structure Plan.

Local Strategies	Local Authorities	These strategies put the local detail on a variety of issues and as such they provide the site specific basis content for many of the policies set out in the Structure Plan. Examples include Local Biodiversity Action Plans, Area Waste Plans and Air Quality Action Plans.
Regulatory Bodies Plans	Various organisations such as SNH, SEPA, Forestry Commission and Central Scotland Forest	These plans set out the policy and action plans for each of the various organisations. The Structure Plan is not legally bound to heed the policy in these documents but it will always try its best to coordinate its actions with them and encourage a partnership approach to the implementation of policy.

APPENDIX 3: ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK OF STRUCTURE PLAN AND RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

Environmental Policy	Responsible Authority
Special Protection Areas	European Legislation (managed by SNH, RSPB)
Ramsar Sites	International Legislation (managed by SNH,)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	SNH
Water Framework Directive	European Legislation (managed by SEPA)
World Heritage Sites	UNESCO
Listed Buildings	Historic Scotland, Local Authorities
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	Historic Scotland
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	SEERAD
National Parks	Scottish Executive
Regional Parks	SNH
National Nature Reserves	SNH, RSPB, Scottish Wildlife Trust
Special Areas of Conservation	SNH
Country Parks	SNH
Regional Scenic Areas	SNH
High Quality Agricultural Land	SEERAD
Floodplains	SEPA and Local Authorities.
Air Quality	SEPA
Air Quality Management Areas	SEPA, Local Authorities.
Contaminated Land	SEPA, Scottish Executive and Local Authorities.

APPENDIX 4: WIDER ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES RELEVANT TO THE STRUCTURE PLAN

Environmental Objective	Responsible Authority	Structure Plan Reference
Water Framework Directive	SEPA	Strategic Policies 7 and 9
Landfill Directive	SEPA, Local Authorities	Strategic Policy 9
National Renewable Targets	Scottish Executive	Strategic Policy 8
Ramsar Protocol	SNH	Strategic Policy 7
Air Quality Directive	SEPA	Strategic Policy 9
Air Quality Management Plan	SEPA, Local Authorities	Strategic Policy 9
Habitats Directive	SNH, Local Authorities	Strategic Policy 7
Area Waste Plan	SEPA, Local Authorities	Strategic Policy 9

APPENDIX 5: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SEA PROCESS AND THE 2006 PLAN

Responsible Authority	Stages of Structure Plan Review	Stages of SEA
GCVSPJC	2004 Discussion Document Report	Meeting with Consultative Authorities to discuss 2006 Plan and required extent of SEA.
GCVSPJC	Assessment of Responses (March 2006)	Development of SEA Objectives and Methodology.
GCVSPJC	Preparing the Consultative Draft	Meeting with Consultative Authorities to discuss draft scoping report.
GCVSPJC	Production of Consultation Draft of 2006 Plan	Production of Scoping Report/Environment Report (including assessment of growth options and other more detailed policy available at this stage).
GCVSPJC	Consultation on Draft 2006 Plan (May-June 2005)	Consultation with Consultative Authorities and other stakeholders on scoping/environment report.
GCVSPJC	Assessment of Responses on Draft 2006 Plan including those on the SEA of growth options.	Assessment of Responses on Structure, scope and methodology of SEA. Also assessment of comments on assessment of policy content.
GCVSPJC	Discussions on content of final version of the 2006 Plan	Alteration of SEA methodology and scope if required.
GCVSPJC	Writing/Production of Final Structure Plan	Assessment of Structure Plan
GCVSPJC	Publication of Finalised Draft Structure Plan, incorporating the findings of the SEA.	Publication of Environment Report
GCVSPJC	Consultation on Draft Finalised 2006 Plan (October – December 2005)	Consultation on Environment Report
GCVJSPC	Assessment of Responses on Draft Finalised 2006 Plan (January 2006)	Assessment of responses on the Environment Report
GCVJSPC	Publication of Finalised Structure Plan, incorporating comments on the Environment Report	Publication of final Environment Report
Scottish Ministers	Assessment by Scottish Ministers of Structure Plan and consultation responses, taking into account findings on SEA.	Assessment of comments on SEA by Scottish Ministers.

Scottish Ministers	Decision by Scottish Ministers on final plan and possible proposed modifications.	Conclusions on comments on SEA by Scottish Ministers.
Scottish Ministers		Assessment of Modifications by Scottish Ministers if seen to have 'significant environmental impact'.
Scottish Ministers	Publishing of Final Modifications by Scottish Ministers	Production of SEA on Modifications (if required).
GCVJC	Decision on Modifications by Joint Committee.	Assessment of SEA on Modifications by Joint Committee.
Scottish Ministers	Structure Plan Adopted (Assuming acceptance of Modifications by Joint Committee).	Publication of SEA on all changes including modifications.

APPENDIX 6: CORE DATASETS USED IN ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Subject	Data sets used
Landscape	(Natural Heritage Trends Scotland 2001). GCV Landscape Character Assessment 1998
Land Cover	(Natural Heritage Trends Scotland 2001). GCV Landscape Character Assessment 1998
Forestry	Information note series scottish natural heritage 2004. GCV Landscape Character Assessment 1998
Ecology	(Natural Heritage Trends Scotland 2001) GCV Landscape Character Assessment 1998.
Built Heritage	Historic Scotland/ www.pastmap.org.uk and the SMR for the GCV area. GCV Landscape Character Assessment 1998
Air Quality	DEFRA/Scottish Executive www.airquality.co.uk . Air Quality Management Plans.
Water Quality	SEPA, Water Framework Directive Information
Travel Patterns	Scottish Transport Statistics 2004 and 2006. 2001 Census.
Urban Quality of Life	Structure Plan monitoring
Flooding	SEPA 1994 Flood Maps Local Authority Flood Assessments.
Renewable Energy	Structure Plan Technical Report
Vacant and Derelict Land	Structure Plan Monitoring. Scottish Executive Vacant and dErelict Land Assessments.
Waste	Glasgow and Clyde Valley Area Waste Plan. Scottish Executive - Review of Scotland Cities
Environmental Capacity	Scottish Executive - Review of Scotland Cities
Climate Change	Scottish Executive - Review of Scotland Cities

