

Inner Moray Firth
Local Development Plan 2
Strategic Environmental Assessment
Plana Leasachaidh
Ionadail Linne Mhoireibh A-Staigh 2
Measadh Àrainneachd Ro-innleachdail

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Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
2. The Plan.....	2
3. Relationship with other relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	4
4. The Environment	6
5. Scope of Assessment.....	1
6. Alternatives.....	2
7. Approach and Level of Detail	3
8. Period of Consultation	6
Appendix A - Relevant Legislation, PPS and Environmental Objectives	7
Appendix B - Environmental Baseline Data Sources	13
Appendix C – Assessment Matrix.....	15

1. Introduction

The Highland Council (THC) is preparing the second Local Development Plan (LDP) for the Inner Moray Firth area. The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report is to set out sufficient information on the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan (IMFLDP) to enable the Consultation Authorities to form a view on the scope/level of detail that will be appropriate and the consultation period for the Environmental Report. This Scoping Report reflects THC's recent experience of the Strategic Environment Assessment process for other local development plans. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The approach outlined in this scoping report should not be seen as conclusive as it will be refined as the format of the Main Issues Report and Proposed Plan evolves.

2. The Plan

Key Facts and Figures

Name of Responsible Authority: The Highland Council

Title of draft plan, programme or strategy (PPS): Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan

Requirement for the PPS: Legislative requirement under Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006

Subject of the PPS: Land use planning

Period covered by the PPS: 2022-2032 for land use allocations; 2022-2042 for scale and direction of growth

Frequency of updates: Within a five year cycle

Geographic area covered by the PPS: Inner Moray Firth area (shown on map overleaf)

Area covered: 5,128km²

Objectives of PPS: The purpose of the IMFLDP is to provide an up to date land use framework for the settlements in the area covered by the Local Development Plan. The plan will promote the growth of the area by identifying suitable land uses in settlements. It will sit alongside the Highland-wide Local Development Plan which sets the context for strategic growth and provides general policies.

Contents of the Plan:

The plan will be in a similar format to the existing IMFLDP. The contents are likely to be as follows:

Introduction – explain the purpose of the document and its relationship to other plans and policies.

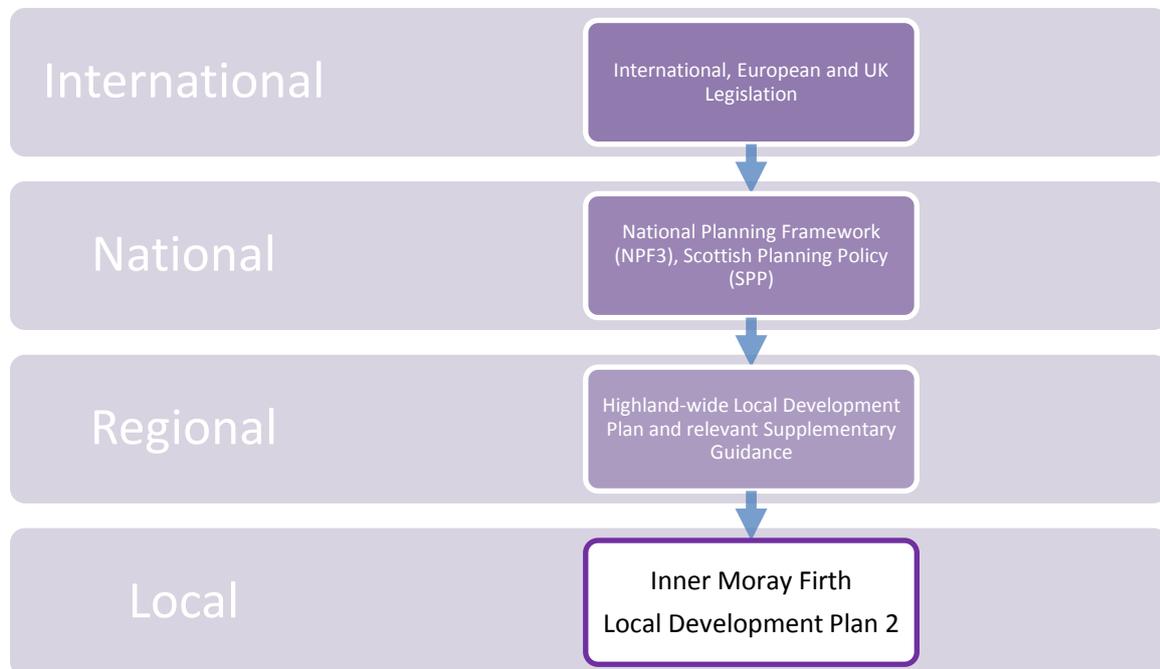
Guiding and delivering development – set out the factors that will guide future development towards the most appropriate locations in the plan area, including identification of the Hinterland boundary. It will also provide policies on town centres, delivering development and criteria based policy for development in specified ‘growing settlements’.

Strategy for growth areas – set out the strategy for the two main growth areas (Inverness to Nairn and Ross-shire), including identification of areas where significant housing and business allocations are planned and strategic transport projects.

Development allocations – provide maps and details of land use allocations, including developer requirements, for the city of Inverness and other specified town and local centres.

3. Relationship with other relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The IMFLDP will sit within a wider planning framework which consists of a hierarchy of plans, programmes and strategies. This is outlined below:



The relevant PPS and associated environmental objectives to be considered in the Environmental Report are shown in Appendix A. PPS above the national level have not been considered in detail primarily because it is assumed the environmental protection framework provided by European legislation has been integrated into national and regional plans, policies and guidance.

The key environmental objectives to be considered in the assessment and preparation of the IMFLDP, as identified in Appendix A, include:

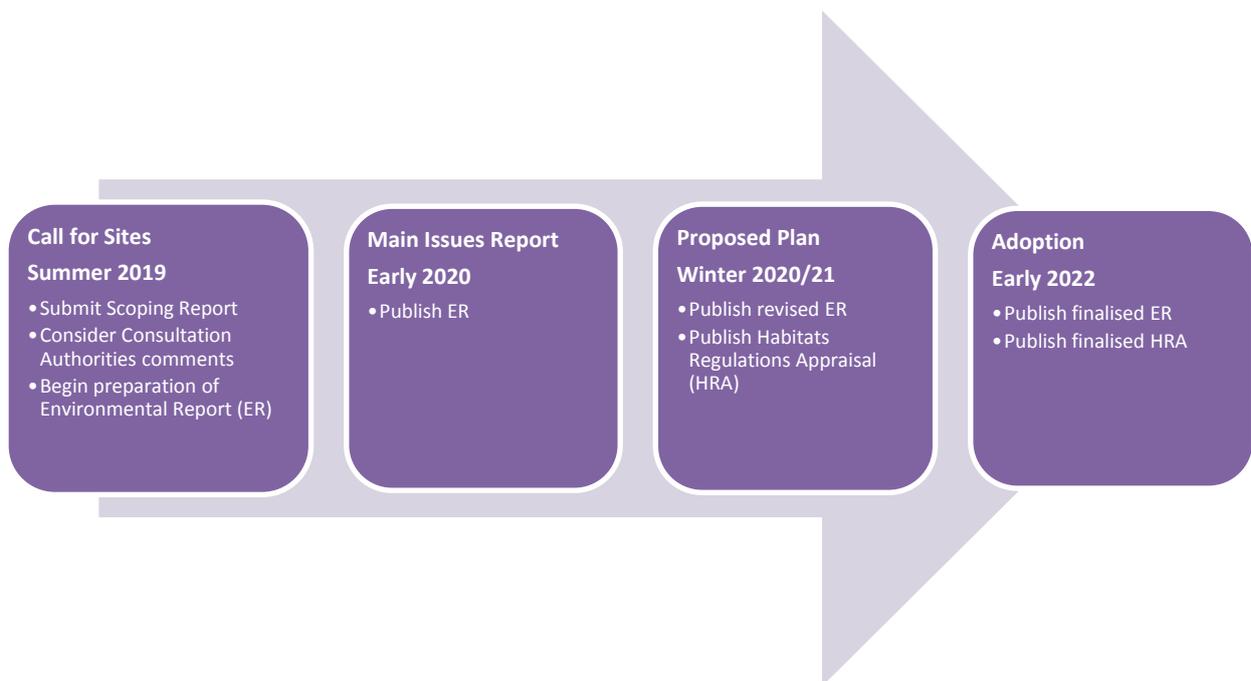
- **Biodiversity:** Highland Council has a duty to further the conservation of biodiversity under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. Particular focus should rest on protecting areas of outstanding ecological quality.
- **Climate change:** The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 sets out a framework for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and a transition to a low carbon economy. The Act introduces a new duty to all public sector bodies to exercise their functions in a way that is best calculated to contribute towards green house gas targets of 80% reduction by 2050 with an interim target of 42% by 2020.
- **Landscape:** The Highland Council has a duty to promote the protection, management and planning of all landscapes, following guidelines from the European Landscape Convention and all relevant landscape designations. The Highland Council will hold responsibility in managing and carefully allocating appropriate land use designations to particular sites.
- **Flooding:** The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 provides a statutory framework for delivering a sustainable and risk-based approach to managing flooding.

The Highland Council has a responsibility under the Act to exercise its functions with a view to managing and reducing flood risk and promotion of sustainable flood risk management.

- Cultural Heritage: National and regional policy sets out principles which must be followed in order to protect and enhance, where appropriate, the area's rich historic environment. This should promote an understanding of local history, and further enhance the areas unique local character and distinctiveness.
- Other objectives include protecting and enhancing the water environment, soil quality, air quality and encouraging immigration alongside the retention of a younger population through delivering sufficient employment opportunities, facilities and services.

Timescales for Local Development Plan and SEA Preparation

The programme for the preparation of the IMFLDP and accompanying Environmental Report and Habitats Regulations Appraisal are set out in the diagram below. Any changes to these timescales will be set out our Development Plan Scheme which is published annually.



4. The Environment

As part of the SEA process it is important to consider the current baseline environmental conditions together with understanding the issues, problems and trends of relevance to the PPS. A summary of the environmental characteristics of Inner Moray Firth area will be provided in the Environmental Report. To ensure that an up to date dataset is used we will utilise Scottish Government's online environment tool "Scotland's Environment" (<https://www.environment.gov.scot/>). This website brings together environmental information and data in one place so that is easy to search, discover, analyse and interpret. It covers a wide range of topics including:

- Air
- Climate
- Habitat and species
- Land
- People and environment
- Water
- State of environment

A key part of the site assessment process will be the analysis of GIS data. Set out in Appendix B is a list of the main baseline data and corresponding sources of that data.

5. Scope of Assessment

To fully assess the environmental impact of the development plan it is essential to identify the environmental topics that are likely to contribute to or be affected by the strategy. Taking into account the environmental characteristics and environmental problems highlighted in section 4 above it is considered that there is potential for the plan to have significant environmental effects on all environmental topics set out in Schedule 3 of the Act, and therefore all environmental topics will be scoped into the assessment. These are:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Population and Human Health
- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Climatic Factors
- Material Assets
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape

6. Alternatives

The SEA process requires that the Environmental Report identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing reasonable alternatives to the plan being assessed. The preparation of the IMFLDP itself is a statutory requirement under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and amended by Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and must therefore be undertaken. However, the Main Issues Report, as it is required to do, will present at least one reasonable alternative to each of the options presented. The Environmental Report will seek to be clear where policy and land allocations are 'constrained' by the existing policy framework and focus only on genuine alternatives. It will assess all options presented, with the results of the assessment helping to inform the Council's preferred option.

Potential Environmental Implications without the Plan

The IMFLDP will provide a planning framework which will guide decisions on where development should and should not go for up to the next 20 years (but will be reviewed every five years). The existing IMFLDP is now four years old and there is legislative requirement to update the plan every five years. Given that the IMFLPD area contains many of the largest settlements in Highland and is where demand for development is greatest and an up-to-date development plan framework is essential to reflect changes and identify new development opportunities in appropriate locations that balance environmental considerations.

It is likely that without a renewed planning framework for the area, development may have detrimental and unsustainable impacts on the environment. In addition, a lack of a Local Development Plan would mean that the area may not benefit from the positive impacts, environmental and development opportunities, arising from an up-to-date planning framework of policies and land use allocations.

7. Approach and Level of Detail

The overarching strategy and policy direction of the IMFLDP will largely be set by national planning policy and the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. The assessment of the IMFLDP will focus on the policy and development proposals (land allocations) presented, including the reasonable alternatives. Policy and development proposals that are unchanged from the adopted IMFLDP will be reassessed.

Where Supplementary Guidance is proposed as part of the IMFLDP policy framework, the scope of this guidance will be assessed within the Environmental Report as it will be necessary to set out the principles of the proposed Supplementary Guidance within the LDP.

SEA Objectives

The table below highlights the SEA objectives together with associated criteria which will form the basis against which the environmental effects of the IMFLDP will be assessed. These have been identified by the general aims of the IMFLDP, experience of past development plans, the review of relevant PPS and environmental objectives, and the environmental factors within the IMFLDP area.

SEA Topic	SEA Objective	SEA Considerations
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	To conserve and where possible enhance biodiversity and accord to the protection of valued nature conservation habitats and species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any designated (international, national or local) nature conservation site Protected, 'priority', and/or 'flagship' species Trees and forestry Connectivity of habitats (including green networks)
Population and Human Health	To improve the living environment for all communities and promote improved health of the human population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to open space Active travel Provision of additional services for increasing elderly population Residential amenity, including noise
Soil	Safeguard the soil quality, geo-diversity and improve potentially contaminated land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good agricultural or crofting land Diversity of geology, natural landforms and processes Carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peat land habitats Potentially contaminated land
Water	Reduce and avoid flood risk and protect and where possible improve the water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality Areas within flood risk areas or flood plains, "potentially

	environment.	vulnerable areas”
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste water treatment, SUDS • River Basin Management
Air	To protect and improve air quality, reduce levels of air pollution and reduce levels of nuisance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Management Areas • Information on SEPA-regulated sites • Information on nuisance (odour, dust and noise)
Climatic Factors	Reduce greenhouse gases and contribute to the adaptation of the area to climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon emissions • Contribute to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change • Heat mapping
Material Assets	Manage, maintain and promote sustainable use of material assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental resources including materials • Connectivity of open space, movement and access, including green network
Cultural Heritage	Protect and enhance, where appropriate, the area’s rich historic environment and setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed Buildings • Scheduled Monuments • Conservation Areas • Inventory of Historic Battlefields • Gardens and Designed Landscapes • Historic Environment Record
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character, diversity and unique qualities of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Scenic Areas • Wild Land Areas • Special Landscape Areas • Landscape Character Assessments • Landscape Capacity Studies

Assessment Methodology

The Main Issues Report will present general principles and locational proposals for development in the Inner Moray Firth area. As a statutory requirement, for each site option within the Main Issues Report a preferred or non-preferred status will be assigned based on a variety of factors including impacts on the environment.

The majority of general policies are contained within the Highland-wide Local Development Plan, however a number of policies will also be contained within the IMFLDP. Similar to the existing IMFLDP these policies are likely to focus on delivering development, ‘growing settlements’ and town centres. The policy matrix intended to be used to assess the preferred and alternative policies in the Main Issues Report is contained in appendix C. This matrix will also be used to assess the preferred options and alternatives for the strategy and vision and policy approaches.

To assess the sites we will use a specific detailed site assessment matrix. This matrix is currently being finalised to incorporate feedback from the consultation authorities. The matrix will identify any potential positive and negative environmental impacts of development sites and thereafter identify any appropriate mitigation measures if required. The matrix will be finalised in the coming weeks and agreed informally with the consultation authorities.

Habitats Regulations Appraisal

The Council will also carry out a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA). Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive requires that any plan which is not directly connected with the management of a European site, but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site shall be subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of its implications in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) have produced guidance on Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans (2015) which outlines a thirteen stage appraisal process. This guidance will be followed to prepare the Plan's HRA. All the policies and potential development sites will be subject to HRA, in regard to any likely significant effect on a European designated site (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and/or Ramsar Sites). The SEA Site Assessment Matrix has been designed to allow early screening of sites that are likely to require HRA. The matrix will contain a question which relates to impacts on international designations and note that if a negative effect is identified for this particular question then Habitats Regulation Appraisal will be required. Therefore any sites where negative effects are identified will be flagged up to be appraised as part of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal. The remainder of the appraisal will be carried out alongside, but reported separately from, the Environmental Report in line with the SNH guidance.

8. Period of Consultation

In line with statutory requirements the Environmental Report will be submitted through the SEA Gateway. It will be made available for people to view on the Highland Council website and at Council HQ in Inverness. A notice will be published to this effect in a local newspaper. Comments will be able to be submitted in by email during this period.

Environmental Report

It is intended that the Environmental Report will be published in parallel to the Main Issues Report. There will be at least an eight week consultation period for the consultation authorities and other interested parties to submit their opinions on the Environmental Report and the Main Issues Report.

Revised Environmental Report

A revised Environmental Report will be published alongside the Proposed Plan. There will be at least an eight week period for the consultation authorities and other interested parties to submit their opinions on the revised Environmental Report and Proposed Plan.

Appendix A - Relevant Legislation, PPS and Environmental Objectives

Outlined in the table below are some of the key plans, programmes and strategies which are relevant to the IMFLDP. Also included is a brief summary of how these relate to the Environmental Objectives.

Legislation, Plans, Programmes or Strategies	Summary of relevant Environmental Objectives to be reflected in IMFLDP
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	
<p>Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>EU Birds Directive & EU Habitats Directive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Habitat Regulations</p>	<p>The Habitats Regulations transpose the provisions of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives into Scottish Law and require that local development plans are subject to HRA of their implications for Natura sites. Habitats regulations also require protection for European protected species.</p>
<p>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)</p> <p>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</p> <p>Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011</p> <p>Protection of Badgers Act 1992</p>	<p>IMFLDP will further conservation of biodiversity consistent with the proper exercise of its functions and protect and enhance precious natural features and wildlife.</p> <p>To prevent the release and spread of non-native animal and plant species into areas where they can cause damage to native species and habitats and to economic interests.</p>
<p>Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>UK Biodiversity Action Plan/Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (Scotland's Biodiversity – It's in Your Hands)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Highland Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>Conserve species and habitats in Inner Moray Firth area that are considered vulnerable or threatened on a local or national basis, and in turn contribute to the conservation of our global biodiversity; promote awareness of local natural resources; promote community engagement in, and ownership of, the practical conservation of natural resources; and promote the sustainable and wise use of resources.</p>
<p>Scotland's Forestry Strategy 20019-2029</p> <p>Control of Woodland Removal Policy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Highland Forest and Woodland Strategy (2019)</p>	<p>Environmental objectives include reducing the impact of climate change; make access to and enjoyment of woodlands easier for all to improve health; protect the environmental quality of our natural resources; and help to maintain, restore and enhance Scotland's biodiversity.</p>

Population & Human Health	
<p>Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Highland Council Core Paths Plan (2011)</p>	<p>Establishes the statutory rights of access to land and inland water for outdoor recreation. Prepared under the Act, the Core Paths Plan provides a system of path in Highland which, as a whole, gives the public reasonable access throughout the plan area.</p>
Soil	
<p>Scottish Soil Framework (2009)</p> <p>Scotland's National Peat Plan (2014)</p>	<p>To promote the sustainable management and protection of soils consistent with the economic, social and environmental needs of Scotland, achieved through targeted activities including reducing soil erosion; greenhouse gas emissions from soil; and contamination.</p> <p>Manage, protect and restore peatlands to maintain their natural functions, biodiversity and benefits.</p>
Water	
<p>EU Water Framework Directive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS) Act</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>The River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River Basin District: 2015-2027</p>	<p>To prevent deterioration in the status of the water environment, including rivers, lochs, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwaters and protect, enhance and restore all surface water bodies to 'good' status.</p> <p>IMFLDP will safeguard the water environment through the site assessment process, and where necessary by safeguarding specific water environments associated with land allocations. It will also identify opportunities for enhancement and restore water bodies where required.</p>
<p>EU Floods Directive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009</p>	<p>To reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity through improved assessment and the sustainable and coordinated management of flood risk.</p> <p>The Act imposes a duty on local authorities to exercise their flood risk related functions with a view to reducing overall flood risk and establishes the requirement to prepare plans to</p>

	manage flood risk which will provide a framework for coordinating actions across catchments to deal with all forms of flooding and its impacts.
<p>EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Marine (Scotland) Act 2010</p>	<p>Aims to achieve good environmental status of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. The Marine (Scotland) Act transposes the Directive into Scots law and makes provision for a new statutory marine planning system to sustainably manage demands on the marine environment.</p>
Air	
<p>EU Air Quality Directive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Inverness Air Quality Management Area Inverness Air Quality Action Plan (2016)</p>	<p>Air quality targets have been set at the European and UK levels. The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland sets objectives for Particulate Matter (PM), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and ozone (O3) amongst others.</p> <p>The Air Quality Action Plan for Inverness establishes six areas of action to help reduce concentrations of nitrogen dioxide at the junction of Academy Street and Queensgate in Inverness City Centre. The most relevant areas of action to the plan include promoting smarter travel choices and using the planning system to ensure that air quality is fully considered for new development.</p>
Climatic Factors	
<p>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Getting the Best Use from our Land: A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016 - 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Adapting to the Impacts of Climate Change in Highland (2012)</p>	<p>The Act introduces a duty on the Council (and all public bodies) to exercise their functions in a way that is best calculated to contribute towards the greenhouse gas reduction targets of reducing emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050.</p> <p>A national land-use strategy has been prepared under the Act. This identifies key principles for the sustainable use of land, including: encouraging land uses which deliver multiple benefits; land highly suitable for primary uses should be recognised in decision-making; and examining options for restoring derelict or vacant land should be a priority.</p> <p>The Council's own strategy sets out how it will</p>

	mitigate against the causes of climate change and adapt to the likely impacts.
Material Assets	
<p>Zero Waste Plan (2010)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Highland Council & Moray Waste Strategy</p>	To achieve a zero waste Scotland, where we make the most efficient use of resources by minimising Scotland's demand on primary resources, and maximising the reuse, recycling and recovery of resources instead of treating them as waste.
<p>Highland Council Local Transport Strategy</p> <p>Highland Council Core Paths Plan (2011)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Active Travel Masterplans</p>	<p>The local transport strategy guides policy and investment on transport and aims to promote more sustainable forms of travel.</p> <p>The Core Paths Plan and Active Travel Masterplan provides a system of path in Highland which, as a whole, gives the public reasonable, diverse and sustainable access/connections throughout the plan area.</p>
Cultural Heritage	
<p>Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (2019)</p> <p>Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (2016)</p> <p>Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Historic Battlefields (2016)</p> <p>Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Gardens and Designed Landscapes (2016)</p> <p>Conversation Area Appraisals (various within Inner Moray Firth Area)</p> <p>Conservation Area Management Plans (various within Inner Moray Firth Area)</p>	<p>Effective management of the historic environment.</p> <p>Sets out the principles that apply to development affecting the setting of historic assets or places, historic battlefields and gardens and designed landscapes.</p> <p>Provide context and understanding of buildings within conservation areas.</p> <p>Provide a framework for the management of change in the built environment.</p>
Landscape	
<p>European Landscape Convention</p> <p>European Landscape Convention 2004</p> <p>Scotland's Scenic Heritage (1978)</p> <p>The Special Qualities of National Scenic</p>	To promote the protection, management and planning of all landscapes, including natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas, and special, everyday and also degraded landscape.

<p>Areas (2010)</p> <p>Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas (2011)</p> <p>SNH National Landscape Character Assessment (2019)</p>	
<p>Wildness in Scotland's Countryside Policy Statement 02/03</p> <p>Wildness Qualities Mapping</p> <p>Wild Land Areas (2014)</p>	<p>To protect the elemental qualities of some of Scotland's most remote mountain and coastal areas which many people derive psychological and spiritual benefits.</p>
<p>Other Relevant PPS</p>	
<p>National Planning Framework 3 (2014)</p>	<p>The National Planning Framework 3 aims to guide Scotland's development over the next 20-30 years and sets out strategic development priorities to support the Government's goal of sustainable economic growth. The Framework will play a key role in co-ordinating policies with a spatial dimension and will help move Scotland towards a low carbon economy.</p>
<p>Scottish Planning Policy (2014) (including Circulars and PANs)</p>	<p>The SPP sets out the Scottish Government's planning policy on nationally important land-use planning matters. This places planning within the wider context of the Scottish Government's overarching aim to increase sustainable economic growth.</p>
<p>Highland-wide Local Development Plan (2012)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Supplementary Guidance</p>	<p>To continue to provide a strong platform for economic growth, together with adequate levels of housing and community facilities while also protecting and conserving the built and natural environment.</p>
<p>Programme for the Highland Council 2017 – 2022: 'Local Voices, Highland Choices'</p>	<p>Make the Highlands a stronger, healthier and more resilient region, where we are confident in our culture and heritage and where more people choose to live, work, study and visit.</p> <p>Safeguard and enhance Highland's significant reputation and standing nationally and internationally.</p>
<p>The Highland Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-2027</p>	<p>Sets out the vision, purpose and focus for the Highland Community Planning Partnership in order to reduce inequalities in Highland. The outcomes focus on poverty reduction; community participation and dialogue;</p>

	infrastructure; community safety and resilience and mental health and wellbeing.
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Appendix B - Environmental Baseline Data Sources

The information in this section highlights the main baseline data which will be presented and taken into account when producing the IMFLDP.

Baseline Environmental Data	Source
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	
European sites (SPA, SAC, Ramsar)	SNH
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	SNH
National Nature Reserve	SNH
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland Inventory	THC
Native Woodland and Nearly Native Woodland	Forestry and Land Scotland/Scottish Forestry
Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites	Forestry and Land Scotland/Scottish Forestry
Tree Preservation Orders	THC
Marine Protected Areas	SNH
Protected Species	SNH
Wild Land Areas	SNH
Seal Haul-out Sites	SNH
Population & Human Health	
Demographic data	General Register Office for Scotland/THC
Climatic Factors	
UK Climate Change Impact	
The Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership	Climate Adapt
Climate change allowances for flood risk assessment in land use planning	SEPA
Soil	
Carbon Rich Soil, Deep Peat and Priority Peat Land Habitat	SNH
Land Capability for Agriculture	Scotland's Soils
Contaminated Land	THC
Water	
Water Quality (Ecological Status)	SEPA
Flood Maps	SEPA
Potentially Vulnerable Areas	SEPA
Air	
Air quality	Scotland's Environment/SEPA
Air Quality Action Plan: Inverness Results	THC
Material Assets	
Land Use Plan & Open Space Audit	THC
Core Path Plan & Rights of Way	THC
Cultural Heritage	
World Heritage Sites	HES

Listed Buildings	HES
Scheduled Monuments	HES
Conservation Areas	THC
Inventory of Historic Battlefields	HES Inventory Record
Gardens and Designed Landscapes	HES Inventory Record
Historic Environment Record Sites	THC

Landscape

National Scenic Areas	SNH
Wild Land Areas	SNH
Special Landscape Areas	THC
Landscape Character Assessments	SNH/THC
Landscape Capacity Studies	SNH/THC

Appendix C – Assessment Matrix

Policy Assessment Matrix

This matrix will be used in the analysis of the vision, spatial strategy and each of the policies within the IMFLDP.

SEA Objective	Impact Score	Justification and Assumptions	Mitigation	Post-mitigation Score
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna				
Population and Human Health				
Soil				
Water				
Air				
Climatic Factors				
Material Assets				
Cultural Heritage				
Landscape				

Scoring Matrix:

Significant Positive Impact	No or minimal positive impact	No or minimal negative impact	Significant negative impact
++	+	-	--

Site Assessment Matrix

The site assessment matrix is currently being finalised to incorporate feedback from the consultation authorities. A template, including definitions for scoring, and completed matrices for each potential development site will be provided in the Environmental Report.