



SEA Post Adoption Statement

The City of Edinburgh Council

2030 Climate Strategy
23 January 2023

Document history and status

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0.2	January 2023	Final PAS	Erika Schmolke	Ailsa Collin	Steve Isaac	Bruce Moir

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Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
1.1 Purpose of this Statement.....	2
1.2 Key Facts.....	2
1.3 SEA Activities to date.....	1
1.4 Background to the Climate Strategy.....	2
2. How Consultation Comments have been considered in the Climate Strategy and this PAS.....	4
2.1 Consultation Response to the Strategy.....	4
2.2 Consultation Response to the Environmental Report.....	4
2.3 Public Consultation comments and responses.....	8
3. Updates to the Environmental Report Baseline and Policy.....	9
3.1 Update to Baseline.....	9
3.2 Update to Policy.....	9
3.3 Update to Assessment.....	9
4. Monitoring Approach.....	11
4.1 Overview.....	13
4.2 Implementation Plan Recommendations.....	13

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Statement

The City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC) 2030 Climate Strategy was published in December 2021 after a live version of the strategy was agreed by city partners to enable priority actions to be progressed as part of the council's commitment to tackling the climate emergency. This Post Adoption Statement (PAS) is required under part 3, Section 18 of the 2005 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) (Scotland) Act.

A PAS should present the following:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Strategy;
- How the environmental report (ER) has been considered in the final Strategy;
- How the results of any public and statutory consultation have been taken into account;
- The reasons for choosing the final strategy as adopted in light of the other reasonable alternatives considered; and
- The measure that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the strategy.

Given the nature of the Climate Strategy the environmental considerations are already integrated into the strategy.

1.2 Key Facts

The key facts relating to the Climate Strategy are set out below. The [full strategy](#) can be found on the City of Edinburgh Council's website.

Key Facts	
Name of Responsible Authority	The City of Edinburgh Council
Title of Plan	2030 Climate Strategy
Requirement for the PPS	As noted by the Climate Emergency Response Group, if Scotland is to meet its 2045 target, our cities need to make faster progress and Edinburgh needs to play its part by striving to reach net zero by 2030.
Subject of PPS	Climate Change
Period covered by PPS	2021 - 2030
Frequency of Updates	At least every three years
Area covered by PPS	The City of Edinburgh Council area (see Figure 1)
Purpose of the PPS	This PPS sets out the clear and practical steps Edinburgh will take to tackle the challenge of climate change and achieve our aim of becoming a net zero city by 2030.
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SEA Post Adoption Statement

Key Facts

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1.3 SEA Activities to date

Table 1 outlines the key steps of the SEA process to date.

Table 1.1: SEA Activities to Date

April 2022

SEA Scoping Report

- Scoped in all SEA topics: air quality, climatic factors, population and human health, cultural heritage, material assets, landscape and townscape, water, biodiversity and land and soil.
- Scoped in the Climate Strategy six 'Strategic Action' areas

May 2022

Consultation on Scoping Report

- Issued to Consultation Authorities (NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) for a period of five weeks.
- Comments provided by the Consultation Authorities
- All feedback was incorporated into the ER and a summary of the comments and the City of Edinburgh Council's response provided within Appendix C of the ER.

August 2022

Draft of Environmental Report

- Assessment of the climate strategy 'strategic actions' on the SEA objectives.
- Enhancement recommendations for the Climate Strategy Implementation Plan were provided.
- Consultation with the public and statutory Consultation Authorities at the end of August.

October 2022

Consultation on Environmental Report

- Consultation feedback provided by the public on 11 October 2022.
- Consultation feedback also provided from NatureScot, HES and SEPA.
- Initial response to comments provided in the Committee Report for the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 17 November 2022.

December
2022

Post Adoption Statement

- Provides detailed response to all consultation comments received in October
- Outlines monitoring approach for the Climate Strategy Implementation Plan.

1.4 Background to the Climate Strategy

The Climate Strategy was drafted in response to the City of Edinburgh Council declaring a climate emergency in 2019 and setting an ambition for both the Council and the city to become net zero by 2030. For Edinburgh to deliver the 2030 net zero carbon target the council requires system-wide change across the city. Recognising this, the Council has worked with key city partners to put together actions that can be implemented now, using tested approaches and lessons learned from experiences in other cities.

The Council began its city engagement process on climate change with the Edinburgh Talks Climate survey in November 2019. The Edinburgh Talks Climate Report summarised the views of more than 2,000 residents of all ages and backgrounds who were directly involved in the Edinburgh Talks Climate Survey, online Dialogue and communications campaign, and the city's first Youth Summit on Climate Change which took place in February 2020. This activity informed the development and delivery of consultation and engagement with public and private sector organisations across the city, alongside further engagement with citizens, including through a series of focus groups. This activity was originally planned for spring/summer 2020 but was delayed due to Council resources being diverted towards COVID-19 response and recovery, and so took place over the latter part of 2020 and first part of 2021. Those views informed the creation of the Draft Climate Strategy, in addition to ongoing partnership working with the Edinburgh Climate Commission and the Council's strategic partners.

The Draft 2030 Climate Strategy was publicly consulted on between June and September 2021. The consultation report included the views of around 920 residents and other stakeholders who took part in the Council's online survey, submitted a letter, or participated in one of the virtual focus groups held over the summer. A summary of the comments received from the public are presented in the council's October 2021 Policy and Sustainability Committee report. This was followed by the Committee agreeing a 'live' strategy document in November 2021, with this being published following consideration by city partners via the Edinburgh Partnership Board in December 2021.

The 2030 Climate Strategy is for the whole city and recognises the Council must take a leading role in co-creating a green, clean, and sustainable future for the city and ensuring a just transition to net zero, but it also recognizes the Council cannot do this alone. The strategy was developed following engagement with key city partners - public, private and voluntary sector, communities, and individual citizens, who can have an impact on the city's emissions by reducing their own footprints or collaborating to unlock change. The strategy does not seek to replicate all the individual organisational plans that exist to reduce emissions and tackle climate change. The strategy is supported by a detailed implementation plan which sets out the actions that partners are already committing to in the early stages of Edinburgh's journey to net zero.

A recent committee report presented at the Policy and Sustainability committee on 17 November 2022 identified actions for the council to deliver over the next two years in order to reduce city emissions and ensure future resilience to climate change. These actions are needed to address the largest sources of climate emissions, where investment is expected to have the greatest impact, and where the Council can exert direct influence or control.

Using this approach, it is proposed that Council priority actions should focus on the decarbonisation of transport; active and public transport; climate change adaptation; improving the energy efficiency of public buildings and the delivery of enabling infrastructure needed for a 'net zero' city.

These priorities are aligned to and consistent with three of the ten outcomes included in the draft Council Business Plan¹ as outlined in Table 1.2. These also under consideration by the Policy and Sustainability Committee.

Table 1.2: Council Business Plan Outcomes relevant to the Climate Strategy

¹ [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Policy and Sustainability Committee, 17/11/2022 10:00 \(edinburgh.gov.uk\)](#)

Outcomes Over the next two years the Council will ensure that:	Objectives To deliver this outcome, the Council will:
<p>People can access public services locally and digitally in ways that meet their needs and expectations and contribute to a greener net zero city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve access to and co-location of services by embedding the 20- minute neighbourhood approach in all council building and public realm projects - Deliver Council led infrastructure investments, policies and strategies that enable Edinburgh's transition to a net zero city / Delivering a green investment plan for the City
<p>People use decarbonised public transport and active travel as the first-choice way to get round the city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver agreed investment increases in active travel, street design and local mobility systems in alignment with City Mobility Plan² commitments and related action plans. - Work in partnership with local bus companies to agree plans for the decarbonisation of the bus infrastructure and improve Edinburgh's public transport offer in alignment with City Mobility Plan commitments and emerging Public Transport Action Plan - Complete the Trams to Newhaven project and develop plans for further expansion of the network in alignment with City Mobility Plan commitments. - Delivering the approved Low Emission Zone scheme - Increase the number of publicly accessible EV chargers and continue to invest in the transition of the Council fleet
<p>Edinburgh is a climate adapted city, with biodiverse green spaces, and cheaper cleaner networks for energy use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a new Adaptation plan to climate proof our infrastructure, communities, business and the natural and built environment - Create new publicly accessible open space and biodiverse green space within the Granton development working towards a ground-breaking coastal park. - Deliver final business cases for approval to begin construction of the first phase of climate ready regeneration in Granton, the BioQuarter and West Edinburgh - Develop a city-wide heat and energy masterplan including plans to expand renewable energy generation in the city

Decisions relating to these priorities (outcomes) and their supporting actions will be taken by full council as part of the Council Business Plan. This will represent the priority outputs for the delivery of the Edinburgh 2030 Climate Strategy over the next two years.

² <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/city-mobility-plan-1>, accessed 05/12/22.

2. How Consultation Comments have been considered in the Climate Strategy and this PAS

2.1 Consultation Response to the Strategy

As outlined in the Policy for Sustainability Committee report from November 17th, a summary of feedback received on the draft ER was presented to councillors. Feedback received from the public broadly reflected feedback which was considered as part of the initial strategy consultation in 2021. Responses on the climate Strategy itself were minimal but also of a mixed nature (15 agreed that the strategy has the right vision and approach for Edinburgh, 16 disagreed and 18 don't know). Some responses were sceptical of the requirements to cut carbon emissions and the capacity of the Council and partners to effect change at scale or within time, as well as the benefits that would result from moving to a zero-carbon lifestyle.

The committee report suggested that previous engagement with the public had highlighted that climate scepticism is a factor influencing uptake and support for change and support for a net zero future. However, these responses were small in number in comparison to the larger number in support of the strategy in 2021, when over 300 citizens responded.

2.2 Consultation Response to the ER

There were no new, removed or significantly altered actions as a result of consultation responses to the Strategy therefore there was no requirement to revise the ER on this basis. All comments received from the Consultation Authorities and the response to these comments were published by City of Edinburgh Council's Policy and Sustainability Committee on 17 November 2022. Table 2.1 provides a summary of the Consultation Authorities' comments. The City of Edinburgh Council responses identifies where amendments were considered and where appropriate adopted in the ER and its Appendices or this Post Adoption Statement.

Table 2.1: Consultation Authorities comments and responses to the ER

Section of ER	Comment	The City of Edinburgh Council Response
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)		
General	In large part, we are content that the SEA issues we previously highlighted have been adequately addressed. Please see Appendix 1 below for details of where we consider our advice has been taken and areas where we consider work is needed for the ER and to inform the Climate Strategy.	Noted
Appendix 1	We have focussed our comments on the draft ER in four subject areas. Energy and Air Quality relate to the reduction of the causes of climate change and the achievement of Net Zero Emissions. Flood Risk and The Water Vision/Strategic Water Management relate to the need to adapt to inevitable climate change. In addition, we are pleased to see that comments made at a later meeting about "sifting" have been taken into account: We asked the consultants to ensure that there is a clear overarching document showing that items that were not taken forward in the ER, following a sifting exercise, are being covered by other PPS (City Plan, City Mobility Plan, etc.). This is to ensure that this SEA can point people in the right	Noted

SEA Post Adoption Statement

	<p>direction for implementing actions and ensuring nothing is forgotten.</p> <p>Appendix D – Strategic Actions Sifting Exercise – shows exactly that, even pointing at the page number of those PPS.</p>	
Appendix 1	<p>The ER states: "The Strategy is focused on putting in place actions that can be implemented now, using approaches that will work and drawing from lessons learned and experience from other cities.</p> <p>As discussed at the meeting following the scoping exercise, we consider the post adoption statement may be the most appropriate place to highlight these actions</p>	Noted.
Energy	<p>We consider that our advice in our scoping response has been included and we agree with the conclusion of the draft ER that the strategy will have a significant, positive, cumulative impact.</p>	Noted
Air Quality	<p>Our advice on amending the SEA to assess air quality effects has been taken forward by the City of Edinburgh Council and its consultants. We agree with the conclusion in the draft ER that overall, a significant, positive, cumulative effect on air quality is expected from the Strategy.</p>	Noted
Flood Risk	<p>We have reviewed the draft ER in relation to the advice given from SEPA in the previous consultation (PERMS 5254, SH Ref: SEA01724, 10th June 2022). We consider that some of the recommendations we have made have now been incorporated in the updated SEA Environmental Report, whereas several others have not been captured or omitted. It is for Jacobs and the Council to determine the risks and benefits associated with not including the advice provided by SEPA.</p>	Noted – see response to detailed comments below
Flood Risk	<p>In relation to PERMS 5254, we raised under 'Adaptation', Section 2.5 that updates to SEPA pluvial flood maps are currently underway and the flood map outputs (including climate change impacts are anticipated to be available in the next 18 months. This project is ongoing and SEPA/JBA have provided updates to the City of Edinburgh Council regarding timescales for each milestone prior to delivery of the maps. We note the SEA has not identified these updated pluvial flood maps are future additions for understanding baseline flood risk.</p>	Noted. Reference to the updated pluvial flood maps has been included in Section 3 of this Post Adoption Statement – Updates to the ER.
Flood Risk	<p>Similarly, in relation to Section 2.6, we note there has been no reference to future updates on the next iteration of coastal flood hazard maps for South-East Scotland (including Edinburgh) which are due to be progressed in the earlier part of the next 6 year cycle.</p>	Noted. Reference to the updated coastal flood maps has been included in Section 3 of this Post Adoption Statement - Updates to ER.
Flood Risk	<p>We acknowledge that 'surface water management plans' will be considered and incorporated in the SEA in line with our advice.</p>	Noted

SEA Post Adoption Statement

Flood Risk	We previously raised (Section 3.20, PERMS 5254) SEPA's recently published Climate Change Allowances (Version 2: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/594168/climate-change-guidance.pdf) which provides updated rainfall and flow uplifts based on the Future Drainage Project and the CEH 2020 Study. Contrary to our advice we note this guidance source has not been referred to in the current SEA to reflect the latest developments in climate change science, particularly for application to the Forth River Basin Region which is most relevant to Edinburgh.	Noted. Reference to this guidance note is included in Section 3 of this Post Adoption Statement - Updates to the ER
Flood Risk	Similarly, as requested in Section 3.21 (PERMS 5254), we note that no reference to the updated Dynamic Coast 2 dataset has been included in the current ER report contrary to our advice. Based on the draft National Planning Framework 4, we note that coastal erosion will also be an important consideration for existing and future development siting, so this is a further reason to ensure the SEA refers to all available datasets.	Noted. Reference to the updated coastal flood maps is included in Section 3 of this Post Adoption Statement - Updates to the ER.
Flood Risk	We are pleased that the statement regarding flood risk avoidance pertaining to all flood sources, not just surface water risk, has been reflected in the latest iteration of the ER report.	Noted
Flood Risk	The ER report has not referenced the Edinburgh and Lothian Strategic Drainage Partnership (as requested in PERMS 5254, Section 3.23) which we consider to be a key partnership that could help to deliver some of the objectives from the 2030 Climate Strategy and linkages should be considered.	Reference to the ELSDP was made in the ER Appendix B.
The Water Vision/Strategic Water Management	As indicated at point 8 in Flood Risk, we would emphasise what we consider as the need for the Climate Strategy to align more explicitly with the City of Edinburgh Council's Water Vision and all work streams flowing from it including work on Green Blue Infrastructure. One means of doing that might be amendments to the section on Water on pages 9 and 10.	Noted. We have included this as a post consultation amendment in Section 3 of this Post Adoption Statement - Updates to the ER.
NatureScot		
General	We are content with the assessment, which has taken on board many of our comments made at SEA scoping stage, and which was also discussed at a recent meeting with the consultants and the consultation bodies. We note that strategic actions which have been assessed by SEAs of other plans and strategies have not been included within the main assessment of this SEA. However, the ER appears to be missing the appendices which would further clarify this sift. That aside, we have no specific comments to make on the assessment.	Noted. Appendices were provided on the City of Edinburgh Council consultation hub at 2030 Climate Strategy - Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment - City of Edinburgh Council - Citizen Space. The sift is clarified in Appendix D.

<p>General</p>	<p>It is also noted that due to the nature of the strategy, there will be no negative impacts and therefore no mitigation required to address such impacts. The assessment has therefore taken the opportunity to list some enhancement recommendations that could feedback into the strategy and its implementation plan (Table 5.1). We welcome these positive recommendations which help to focus the detail and practicalities of taking forward the strategy and environmental enhancements, for example, in how nature-based solutions can be used to help infrastructure adapt, and detail of biodiversity enhancements, tree planting etc.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Historic Environment Scotland (HES)</p>		
<p>Environmental Report</p>	<p>We are content to agree with the findings of the Environment Assessment and have no detailed comments to offer.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Edinburgh World Heritage</p>		
<p>Maladaptation</p>	<p>The negative impacts of maladaptation on Cultural Heritage and Landscape and Townscape due to inappropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions should be more specifically mentioned in the Environmental report. This could affect historic buildings, public realm/green spaces and the historic urban and natural setting across the city and, in particular, the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage and Conservation Areas.</p>	<p>Noted. At this Strategic level impact on the historic environment was considered neutral as the SEA specialists didn't have sufficient detail to assess a specific approach to adaptation or consider where proposals could be considered 'maladaptation'. Further assessment will be undertaken as adaptation/retrofit proposals are taken forward. Recommendations were included in the ER that seek to ensure that 'maladaptation is avoided'</p> <p><i>Include commitment to ensure a collaborative approach with World Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland when developing an approach to retrofit properties located in conservation areas or listed buildings.</i></p> <p><i>Include general, high-level reference to cultural heritage resources in the city at risk of climate impacts, describing how they are vulnerable (e.g. parks and gardens, historic</i></p>

		<i>buildings, archaeological resources) and how they will be protected.</i>
City Views	<p>Regarding Cultural Heritage and Landscape and Townscape:</p> <p>a) the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site's skyline and setting are vulnerable to unsympathetic development – including cumulative (negative) impacts resulting from inappropriate incremental changes. The city's topography and visual characteristics (landmarks, townscape characteristics) create a uniquely visible landscape setting for the city. A majority of key views from the 'Skyline Study' cut across the World Heritage Site; their protection is essential to the protection of the historic environment. Key views should also be monitored and included in the SEA baseline environmental conditions.</p>	Noted. We have included this as a post consultation amendment in Section 3 of this Post Adoption Statement - Updates to the ER.
City Views	<p>b) it is important to consider, quantify and monitor traditional buildings - built before 1919 and made of traditional materials – whether they are listed or not as they contribute to the character of an area - in the Old and New Town of Edinburgh World Heritage Site, in Conservation Areas but also across the city.</p>	<p>At this strategic level a recommendation was included in the ER that stated:</p> <p><i>Include general, high-level reference to cultural heritage resources in the city at risk of climate impacts, describing how they are vulnerable (e.g. parks and gardens, historic buildings, archaeological resources) and how they will be protected.</i></p>

2.3 Public Consultation comments and responses

The majority of public consultation responses were related to the Climate Strategy itself. Two comments were identified for the SEA ER, these are presented in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2: Public Consultation Comments and Responses to the ER

Section of ER	Comment	Response
Strategic Alternatives	Due to the climate emergency reasonable alternatives are not explored and are therefore not presented to people for comparison purposes.	The rationale for the approach to the consideration of alternatives was presented in section 3.7 of the ER and agreed with the Statutory Authorities.
Simplified Version of the Report	Request a simplified version as the Environmental Report is considered a very technical document	A Non-Technical Summary was provided as part of the ER. This Post Adoption Statement provides a less technical summary of the purpose of the SEA and how the SEA influenced the Strategy.

3. Updates to the ER Baseline and Policy

Feedback from consultation authorities on the findings of the Environment Assessment was broadly positive, with detailed responses provided in Section 2. As a result, no changes were made to the ER and Assessment Matrices. A few minor amendments, however, were suggested to the baseline, policy summaries and summary assessments provided within the ER and these have been included in this section to ensure completeness for forthcoming monitoring.

3.1 Update to Baseline

In response to SEPA's comments on the baseline, we note that future baselining of the City of Edinburgh will use the latest pluvial and coastal flood maps currently being created by SEPA. These are available at: [Flood Risk Management Maps \(sepa.org.uk\)](https://sepa.org.uk) and show the flood risk under present day conditions. The latest mapping will be used to understand the level of surface water and coastal flood risk across the city and will be included in any baselining activities undertaken by the City of Edinburgh Council for individual environmental assessments. This post consultation amendment would be made in Appendix C of the ER under the 'Water' section.

Edinburgh World Heritage asked that consideration of major key views from the 'Skyline Study' be included in the ER. This post consultation amendment would be made in Appendix A of the ER under the 'Landscape' section.

3.2 Update to Policy

SEPA also asked that reference be made to a number of important policies relating to flood risk. This included SEPA's recently published [Climate Change Allowances for flood risk assessment in land use planning](#) (SEPA, 2022). This guidance document sets out recommended allowances for climate change that can be used for flood risk assessment. An 'allowance' is a prediction of anticipated change of a metric. The document links to an interactive map which shows the peak river flow, sea level rise and peak rainfall intensity allowances for each river basin region in Scotland. The Forth river basin region has the following allowances:

- Peak River Flow Allowance - Total Change to 2100: 56%
- Sea Level Rise Allowance - Cumulative rise from 2017 to 2100: 0.86m
- Peak Rainfall Intensity Allowance - Total Change to 2100: 39%

SEPA asked for reference to be made to the Dynamic Coast Two dataset produced by the Scottish Government and updated in March 2022³. This dataset shows the level of coastal erosion in Scotland and aims to improve the evidence on coastal change, awareness of coastal change and to help support decision makers to ensure that the coastline and assets are able to adapt to the future climate. These post consultation amendments would be made in Table B.1 of Appendix B of the ER under the 'Water' section.

3.3 Update to Assessment

SEPA asked that the importance of the integration of the delivery of the Climate Strategy and the City of Edinburgh Council Water Visions be highlighted to ensure a holistic approach to development and enhancement of green blue infrastructure. The following text has been recommended:

'Through SEPA's and SW's engagement with the City of Edinburgh Council departments and interaction under the Edinburgh and Lothians Strategic Drainage Partnership, aligning with the Adaptation partnership and Infrastructure Investment Board, wider private public and finance and community partners we are working to deliver the City's Water Vision. In doing so, the City of Edinburgh Council is working to embed future fitting water resilience as part of place led design & retrofit in such a way that measures also contribute to social and economic capital. It is recognised that weather extremes are likely to become much more frequent. Implementing interconnected Blue Green Infrastructure, at all scales, across the City will not only Improve

³ <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/075d3d49-e1aa-4f46-a6aa-5bad8ba54692/national-coastal-change-assessment-dynamic-coast-two>, accessed 05/12/2022.

water management-reducing the risk of flooding and support resilience in times of drought. It will also enhance the water quality, amenity value and accessibility of Edinburgh's water bodies.

Collaborating with green finance experts to support the resourcing and delivery of major city climate projects, beginning with the city Water Vision would have an indirect positive impact on the water objective, by improving water quality and reducing flood risk. These interactions can also be tied to business incentivisation schemes, bolstering private business interaction and learning. An alignment of water resilience action to wider climate resilience and place led objectives will support the development of project pipelines with associated narrative, attractive to private investors. All of this interaction has potential to support new Natural Capital markets and a new innovative job market.

A post consultation amendment to include this text in the assessment tables in Section 4 of the ER under the SEA 'Water' topic and the non-technical summary.

4. Reasons for choosing the Strategy as Adopted

Alternatives for the Strategy were primarily considered in the development of the Strategic Action Areas at Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Strategy Development. At this stage, environmental criteria including impacts on emissions, impacts to the resilience to the effects of climate change, the impact of emissions on human health, air quality management targets, and a just transition were key factors in determining the final list of Strategic Actions.

The context for the assessment of reasonable alternatives was limited by the requirement to meet the ambitious climate change targets. Given the current legislative context, and the declared climate emergency, it was identified that the current ambition can only be to achieve the maximum emissions reductions possible, reflected across all sectors. Do minimum or precautionary approaches were not considered viable strategic alternatives.

The strategy and its Strategic Actions on which this SEA focused, was developed through an iterative process, linked closely to the evidence base setting out city emission sources and opportunities for the City. The strategic actions were refined through a collaborative process where thoughts and feedback from elected members, city partners, the public, and the Edinburgh Climate Commission were sought and used to shape the approach and strategic actions.

Figure 4.1 outlines the process that was undertaken by the strategy development team and partners in the production of the Strategy and Strategic Actions.

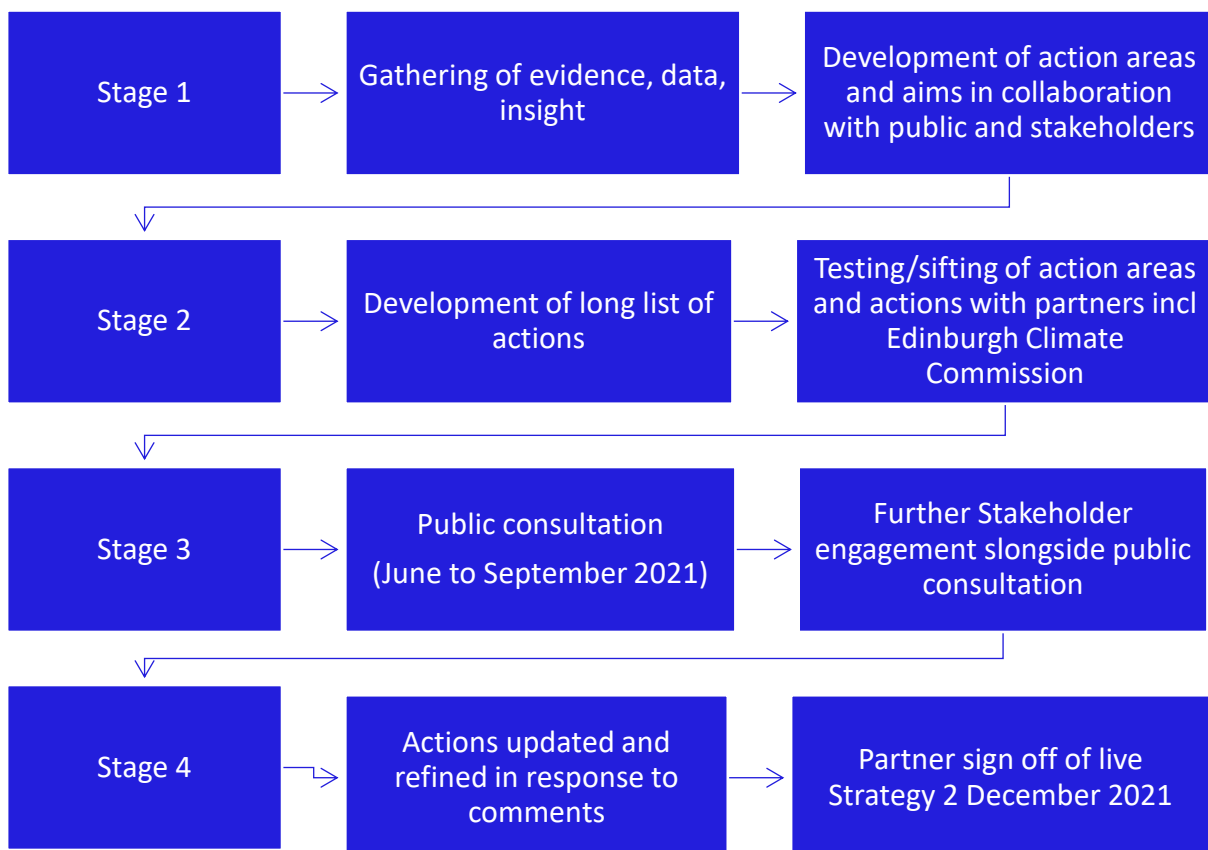


Figure 4.1: Approach to the Development of the Live Climate Strategy 2030 (provided by the City of Edinburgh Council)

Alternatives for the Strategy were primarily considered in the development of the Strategic Action Areas at Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Strategy Development. At this stage, environmental criteria including impacts on emissions, impacts to the resilience to the effects of climate change, the impact of emissions on human

health, air quality management targets, and a just transition were key factors in determining the final list of Strategic Actions.

The 1st version of the Strategy was published in December 2021. It was then reviewed in October 2022 following the second public and stakeholder consultation exercise as summarised in Section 3 of this PAS.

The Council stipulates that this is a living strategy which will be updated and refined in accordance with the SEA recommendations identified in this report and the ongoing monitoring approach set out in the Strategy and this PAS. Priorities for action will be identified at least every three years in discussion with partners and the implementation plan will be updated accordingly.

5. Monitoring Approach

5.1 Overview

Monitoring the effects of the implementation of the Climate Strategy on the SEA objectives is a key part of the SEA process. Part 3, Section 19 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 sets out the requirements for monitoring the implementation of qualifying strategies: *'monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan; these may include arrangements which enable the authority to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and undertake appropriate remedial action.'*

Best practice in SEA monitoring requires that a monitoring framework reflects the implementation of the PPS, identifies where existing indicators (from the delivery of related PSS) can be used to track progress and, ideally, is embedded within the final plan to ensure that monitoring is undertaken as part of a plan's delivery.

The City of Edinburgh Council has developed a monitoring framework to determine the success of the Climate Strategy. This is referred to as the Climate Strategy Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan identifies a number of indicators that relate to outcomes identified within the Strategy. The SEA provided a detailed list of recommendations to be considered to enhance the Implementation Plan and influence the monitoring approach. Table 5.1 sets out the recommendations and provides the City of Edinburgh Council's response as to how these will be taken on board.

The Implementation Plan will be reviewed at least every three years to determine progress and its success. A review will also be undertaken to determine the priorities for delivery.

The first iteration of Climate Strategy Implementation Plan was produced and signed off by partners in December 2021.

5.2 Implementation Plan Recommendations

The SEA recommendations to enhance the Climate Strategy Implementation Plan and how the Council would take these recommendations on board are provided in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Implementation Plan Recommendations

Recommendations for Implementation Plan	Relevant SEA Topic	The City of Edinburgh Council response
Net zero, climate resilient development and growth		
Develop an outline business case for a programme of building assessments, beginning with buildings in areas identified for future joint retrofit investment.	Climatic factors	Recommendation accepted. The Council and the Energy Efficiency and Public Buildings partnership has a robust programme of work to map building archetypes and technical solutions. In the Council this is being taken forward through the Green Growth Accelerator Programme and the Partnership board is looking for opportunities for future joint investment.
Clarify the members of the city's climate adaptation partnerships referred to in the outcome 'Renewing the focus on climate resilience and accelerating the adaptation of the city'.	All topics	Recommendation accepted. Membership of the Edinburgh Adapts partnership and will be added to the implementation plan. The council has worked with partners to refresh the Edinburgh Adapts partnership, appointing a new chair from Scottish Water who will ensure connectivity with wider flood risk activity and widened the membership of the partnership.

		<p>Additional members of the partnership will be considered on an ongoing basis and as areas of work are identified</p> <p>Other adaptation partnerships include the Multi-Agency Risk Group established by the Lothian and Borders Local Resilience Partnership, and the Edinburgh and Lothians Strategic Drainage Partnership, comprising the Council, SEPA and Scottish Water.</p>
<p>Include actions that show ongoing collaboration between sectors and neighbouring councils to reduce GHG emissions.</p>	<p>Climatic Factors, Air Quality, Biodiversity, Water</p>	<p>Recommendation accepted. The Council collaborates with neighbouring Councils through the Edinburgh and South East City Region Deal and the regional growth framework with prioritisation being given to transport, energy and adaptation at a regional level.</p> <p>The Edinburgh and Lothians Strategic drainage partnership is another example of regional collaboration on water management.</p>
<p>Include commitment to ensure a collaborative approach with World Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland when developing an approach to retrofit properties located in conservation areas or listed buildings.</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage, Material Assets</p>	<p>Recommendation accepted. Collaborative working has and is being done in relation to adaptation as Edinburgh World Heritage and HES have been long term members of Edinburgh Adapts</p>
<p>Include actions that show ongoing collaboration with national and international organisations to share best practice on GHG emissions reduction, climate adaptation and nature-based solutions.</p>	<p>All topics</p>	<p>Recommendation accepted. The implementation plan includes the following actions to share best practice:</p> <p>Nationally</p> <p>3.1 "Share learning from public sector partners approaches to improving energy efficiency in public sector new build operational estate with the new Energy Efficient Public Buildings Partnership"</p> <p>1.1 "Share learning from the Edinburgh CST programme to support capacity building across Scotland's cities and local authorities"</p> <p>Internationally</p> <p>The Council will continue to report to CDP, sharing climate action progress transparently.</p>
<p>Include wider description of how the city's infrastructure will be resilient to specific climate impacts, including specific reference to changes in temperature extremes, flooding, high winds and storminess.</p>	<p>Climatic Factors</p>	<p>Recommendation accepted. This will be included in the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan.</p>
<p>Include actions that describe how land management practices on council-owned land will be adapted to enable increased carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancement (e.g. type of land cover, vegetation cutting regimes).</p>	<p>Biodiversity, Climatic Factors</p>	<p>Recommendation accepted. This will be included in the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan.</p>
<p>Add annual milestone targets in relation to tree planting for the Million Tree City Initiative. In addition to target numbers, this</p>	<p>Population and Human Health,</p>	<p>Recommendation accepted. This will be covered by the action plan for the Million Tree City programme which has been drafted. It is under review by the Million Tree City board and to be shared with the</p>

SEA Post Adoption Statement

<p>should also consider, for example, referring to areas of the city where tree planting could be most effective for amenity value, pollutant removal, cooling and shading.</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p>	<p>forum. The current annual target (as reported to Committee in April 2022) is 25,000 trees planted per year. However, this target may likely change after the planned i-tree eco survey next year. This will have consideration of the impact of ash dieback and other diseases on tree losses over coming years.</p>
<p>Include general, high-level reference to cultural heritage resources in the city at risk of climate impacts, describing how they are vulnerable (e.g. parks and gardens, historic buildings, archaeological resources) and how they will be protected.</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Recommendation accepted. Page 10 of the strategy states "Increased flooding, coastal erosion and more severe weather will disrupt business, including the city's cultural events, and cause damage to homes and the city's public and commercial buildings, including Edinburgh's UNESCO World Heritage Site." The implementation plan includes the following action to protect heritage resources: 4.3 "Adapt Edinburgh's World Heritage Site to be resilient to the impacts of climate change" The Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment being undertaken by the Council and Atkins will describe in more details how heritage resources are vulnerable, and the Climate Ready Edinburgh plan will describe how these will be protected.</p>
<p>Add milestone targets in relation to reducing flood risk to the population. These should be informed by and linked to the Water Management Vision and Strategy, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, and other relevant flood risk management plans. The targets should include reference to the specific locations of population most at risk and areas of deprivation.</p>	<p>Water</p>	<p>Recommendation accepted. Submission of bids for consultancy fees for Green Finance options studies to be completed by summer 2022.</p>
<p>Add milestone targets in relation to SUDS installation and the efficacy of new and existing SUDS for surface water management. Monitoring of their biodiversity and amenity value should also be considered.</p>	<p>Water</p>	<p>Noted. This is linked to the flood studies being undertaken as SuDS is one part of the solution. Target setting is dependent on funding being secured.</p>
<p>Consider public education campaigns and demonstrator projects to show the benefits of SUDS techniques (e.g. green roofs, rainwater harvesting) for private homes.</p>	<p>Water</p>	<p>Noted. The Edinburgh and Lothians Strategic drainage partnership has a Community Plan and part of that plan is public education, but demonstrator projects are not possible without funding resources.</p>
<p>Include commitment to reduce water demand on the public sector estate and through working with the general public, private sector and Scottish Water.</p>	<p>Water</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Include general reference to the use of Green blue infrastructure or nature-based solutions to be</p>	<p>Biodiversity, Water, Land use,</p>	<p>Recommendation accepted. Green blue infrastructure is being used to help address climate change adaptation in the Green blue</p>

explored and used to help infrastructure adapt to climate change	Climatic Factors	neighbourhood plan work for the three water sensitive catchments in the city. These three catchments have been identified by the Council and Scottish Water as the top priority for work.
Net zero emission transport		
Include actions for city partners to use their procurement and purchasing power to support reductions in emissions from freight and shipping.	Climatic Factors, Water, Air Quality	Recommendation accepted. The Council's Commercial and Procurement services can influence transport emissions at the planning stage (using the Scottish Government's Sustainable Procurement Tools); by making specific requirements in the contract specifications (e.g. reduced deliveries, vehicle type/age, bearing in mind we can't discriminate between providers coming from outwith the UK); by including carbon reduction measures in the award criteria; and by adding specific clauses in the contract conditions. Action 6.3 in the Implementation Plan includes specific actions to tackle supply chain emissions. As a member of the national Climate and Procurement Forum and the Edinburgh Climate Compact, the Council can influence key stakeholders to drive reductions in emissions from freight and shipping.
Supporting a more circular economy and reducing waste		
Develop an outline business case for new circular economy projects in Edinburgh, including appropriate output and outcome targets.	Material Assets	Noted. The Council is committed to collaboration with partners such as the Chamber of Commerce and Zero Waste Scotland on circular economy projects subject to available resources.
Consider what milestone targets would be appropriate to help achieve the City of Edinburgh Council target of all new investment and purchase decisions being net zero by 2030.	Material Assets	Recommendation accepted. The City of Edinburgh Council will work with the Just Economic Transition partnership to undertake a workshop with city procurement leads from different organisations to maximise best practice and consider milestones to get to 2030. The council is also already a member of the national Climate and Procurement Forum looking at these issues.
Add milestones to increase the number of businesses participating in the Circular Edinburgh programme across each of the implementation plan delivery phases.	Material Assets	Noted. The Council is committed to collaboration with partners such as the Chamber of Commerce and Zero Waste Scotland on circular economy project subject to available resources.
Add reference to the need to consider carbon emissions at construction, operational and maintenance project stages and consider life cycle analysis for materials and technologies in relation to public sector procurement.	Air Quality, Climatic Factors, Material Assets	Recommendation accepted. The implementation plan includes the following action: "1.2 Subject to support for legislative change, review local planning guidance to encourage net zero climate resilient development decisions (including higher density/mix of use sites), including using whole life carbon scenario assessments when replacing existing buildings. / Engage with developers to support the application of existing guidance and best practice for assessing whole of life costs and emissions impacts of planned developments" "3.4 Building on the construction methodology pilot, carry out further research into approaches to

SEA Post Adoption Statement

		<p>delivering whole-life net zero developments across primary, operational and embodied emissions”</p> <p>The Council’s Sustainable Procurement Strategy includes the following action “Increasing whole-life costing approach to evaluation criteria and learn from others through best-practice forums”</p>
<p>General</p>		
<p>Ensure implementation plan actions and milestone are clearly attributed to the new city partnerships established to drive delivery of the Strategy priorities</p>	<p>All topics</p>	<p>The Council does not have the power authorities to set milestones for city partners, but we continue to collaborate through the IIPB and its partnerships infrastructure to drive delivery of the strategy priorities.</p> <p>The current Climate Strategy Implementation Plan goes as far as possible to attribute actions and milestones as negotiated with city partners.</p>