

West Lothian Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2013-2022 – Strategic Environmental Assessment

Statement of Reasons for Screening Determination

The West Lothian Community Planning Partnership (WLCPP) has undergone a substantial screening process to determine whether the new Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) will have a significant impact on the environment and if it is necessary to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

In April 2012, the WLCPP submitted a screening report to the SEA Gateway suggesting that the new SOA is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and so an SEA **is not** required.

The reasons for this are outlined below:

- The SOA is a high-level document that sets out the CPP's vision for West Lothian and the outcomes we wish to achieve for our communities.
- As such, the SOA is deemed too high-level and strategic for an SEA.
- It is the lower tier plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) will contain the details of how the plan will be implemented and will take action to realise local priorities and outcomes.
- It is these PPS that will be subject to SEA, for example the Local Development Plan is currently going through a substantial SEA.

The three Consultation Authorities (Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland) agreed that the SOA is unlikely to have significant environmental impact and that an SEA is not required. The WLCPP will therefore not be undertaking an SEA for the new SOA. A determination to this effect has been made and sent to the Consultation Authorities.