

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination**

**Planning Guidance (PG)  
Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution)  
and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption**

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## 1. Introduction

This statement sets out West Lothian Council's determination in accordance with Section 10(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 on whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for Planning Guidance (PG) - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption.

Screening is the first stage in the SEA process. The purpose of screening is to establish whether or not a Plan, Programme or Strategies (PPS) will have significant environmental effects. Screening takes the form of a formal submission, where the responsible authority (the Council) seeks the views of the following Consultation Authorities on whether a PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore whether a SEA is required:

- ◆ Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- ◆ Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), and
- ◆ Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

As well as consulting the above bodies, responsible authorities are required to take into account the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act when determining whether or not the plan is likely to have significant effects. The details of this process are contained within the Screening Report.

If the responsible authority and the consultation authorities agree that the plan or programme is unlikely to have significant environmental effects, the responsible authority is required to make a determination to that effect under section 8(1) of the 2005 Act.

## 2. Record of SEA Determination and Publicity Requirements

<b>Title of Plan, Programme or Strategy:</b>	Planning Guidance (PG) - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption.
<b>Responsible Authority:</b>	West Lothian Council

### Record of SEA Determination:

In accordance with section 9(1) of the 2005 Act, West Lothian Council submitted to the Consultation Authorities a screening report summarising its views as to whether West Lothian Local Development Plan Planning Guidance (PG) – Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption will have significant environmental effects.

In formally determining under Section 8(1) of the Act whether a SEA is required, the Council has taken into account the views of the three Consultation Authorities; Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland which were issued through the SEA Gateway on 3 March 2020.

West Lothian Council and the Consultation Authorities are in agreement that the West Lothian Local Development Plan Planning Guidance (PG) – Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption is not likely to have significant environmental effects and the Council has therefore determined that an SEA will not be required for the plan under Regulation 13(1) of the 2005 Act.

CONSULTATION AUTHORITY	LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS
Historic Environment Scotland	No
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	No
Scottish Natural Heritage	No
<b>OVERALL VIEW ON LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS</b>	<b>No</b>

Formal Determination	Statement of Reason
6 March 2020	<p>West Lothian Council’s reasoning for determining that there are no overall likelihood of significant environmental effects is as follows:</p> <p>West Lothian Council has prepared a Local Development Plan to replace the West Lothian Local Plan 2009 (WLLP 2009) in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning (Scotland) etc. Act 2006.</p>

	<p>The new West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 4 September 2018 and is consistent with the Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SDP).</p> <p>The LDP focuses on providing for, and managing, future land use change across the council area in line with SESplan SDP requirements. The LDP comprises a development strategy for the period to 2024 and a detailed policy framework to guide future land use in a way which best reflects the SDP vision, strategic aims and objectives.</p> <p>The West Lothian Local Development Plan Planning Guidance (PG) - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption sets out a framework that West Lothian Council will use to assess planning applications for development on sites in the adopted West Lothian Local Development Plan. The role of the West Lothian Local Development Plan Planning Guidance (PG) – Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption is simply to help interpret and provide further detail in respect of policies that are already set out in the adopted West Lothian Local Development Plan which was subject of a full Strategic Environmental Assessment and which will also be reviewed in the Post Adoption Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>
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<b>Publicity Requirements for the Determination:</b>	
<p>In accordance with section 10(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, within 28 days of the determination having been made, the Council will send a copy of the formal determination and related statement of reasons (prepared in accordance with section 8(2)(b) to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway and the three Consultation Authorities.</p> <p>In accordance with section 10(2) of the 2005 Act, within 14 days of the determination having been made, a copy of the determination, along with the Screening Report, shall be provided for inspection by the public at West Lothian Council’s principal office at the West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF or on request from <a href="mailto:wldp@westlothian.gov.uk">wldp@westlothian.gov.uk</a>.</p>	
<p>The determination shall also be published in the West Lothian Courier and Linlithgow Journal &amp; Gazette newspapers to notify the public and will be available to view at <a href="http://www.westlothian.gov.uk">www.westlothian.gov.uk</a> from 12 March 2020. A copy of the statutory notice is provided as Appendix 2.</p>	
<b>Signature:</b>	Craig McCorriston, Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration
<b>Date:</b>	6 March 2020

### 3. SEA Screening Report

#### Cover Note

#### Part 1

**To:**

SEA.Gateway@gov.scot

or

SEA Gateway  
Scottish Government  
2-H (South)  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

#### Part 2

**An SEA Screening Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:**

Planning Guidance (PG) - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption

**The Responsible Authority is:**

West Lothian Council

#### Complete Part 3 or 4 or 5

#### Part 3

**Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that:**

An SEA is required because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5 (3) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects.

An SEA is required because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects.

An SEA is not required because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

**Part 4**

The PPS does not require a SEA under the Act. However we wish to carry out a SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that because the SEA is voluntary the Statutory 28 days timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

**Part 5**

None of the above apply. We have prepared this screening report because:

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.....  
.....

**Part 6**

**Contact Name:** Steve Lovell

**Job Title:** Principal Planning Officer

**Contact Address:** c/o Civic Centre, Howden South, Livingston, EH54 6FF

**Contact Phone:** 01506 282430

**Contact email:** [steve.lovell@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:steve.lovell@westlothian.gov.uk)

**Part 7**

**Signature:** Steve Lovell

**Date:** 6 March 2020

**Key Facts**

West Lothian Council has undertaken screening of Planning Guidance (PG) – Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption with regard to the requirements of section 9 of the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

The Screening Report has been submitted to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway, setting out the views of West Lothian Council on the likelihood of the significant environmental effects of Planning Guidance (PG) – Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption with regard to the requirements of section 9 of the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the potential for requiring a SEA.

<b>Responsible Authority:</b>	West Lothian Council
<b>Title of PPS:</b>	Planning Guidance (PG) - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and reducing Lighting Energy Consumption.

<p><b>Purpose of PPS:</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this Planning Guidance (PG) is to support Local Development Plan policies DES 1 (Design Principles) and NRG 1 (Climate Change and Sustainability) of the adopted LDP which collectively seek to prevent/minimize visually and environmentally intrusive development and to reduce energy use and carbon emissions</p> <p>In particular, this PG further defines the terms used in the policies and explains and interprets other matters necessary for the implementation of the policy and provides general planning criteria applicable to all sites.</p>
<p><b>What promoted the PPS: (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)</b></p>	<p>The current Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) was adopted in 2009 in support of Policies HOU 7 and HOU 9 of the West Lothian Local Plan (2009), policies which specifically required developers to have regard to energy efficiency principles and to ensure that new development had no adverse impact on adjacent uses.</p> <p>While continuing to provide valid and pertinent guidance it does nevertheless pre-date the now adopted West Lothian Local Development Plan. As a consequence there is recognition of the need to ensure that the council's planning guidance is up to date and reflective of the most current policies and practices.</p> <p>West Lothian Council adopted the West Lothian Local Development Plan on 4 September 2018 after Scottish Ministers confirmed the council could do so. It now forms part of the Development Plan for West Lothian along with the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for Edinburgh and South-east Scotland.</p> <p>The Council has a programme to prepare a suite of new guidance to support the recently adopted West Lothian Local Development Plan,</p> <p>Specifically, Planning Guidance (PG) – Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and reducing Lighting Energy Consumption has been written with the intention of becoming non-statutory planning guidance (PG).</p>

<p><b>PPS Subject:</b> (e.g. transport)</p>	<p>The policies are integral to the strategic spatial land use strategy which applies across West Lothian. In terms of this PG they are particularly related to development which may have a consequential impact on environmental (light) pollution and climate change.</p>
<p><b>Period covered by the PPS:</b></p>	<p>Anticipated date of adoption (April 2020) onwards.</p>
<p><b>Frequency of updates:</b></p>	<p>Planning Guidance will ordinarily be reviewed and updated every 5 years, but sooner if circumstances require.</p>
<p><b>Area Covered by the PPS:</b></p>	<p>This PG covers the West Lothian Local Development Plan area. It applies equally to sites in both the countryside and within and on the periphery of settlements and the effect and impact of such development will ordinarily be of a localized nature.</p>
<p><b>Summary of nature/content of PPS:</b></p>	<p>A Local Development Plan (LDP) is prepared by the local planning authority, in this case West Lothian Council. It sets out a local interpretation of the requirements of national and strategic policy. In particular it must conform to the approved Strategic Development Plan (SDP) which has been prepared by the strategic planning authority (SESplan) and its purpose is to implement requirements on a more detailed site-specific basis than exists within the SDP.</p> <p>The LDP comprises a written statement detailing a spatial strategy, including policies and proposals together with a Proposals Map.</p> <p>LDP's are intended to provide the vision and strategy for how communities will grow and develop in the future and also to provide certainty for communities and prospective investors about where development should take place and where it should not. LDP's also identify detailed policies and proposals which are the basis for decision making on future planning applications.</p> <p>The guidance sets out detailed criteria to assist the development and assessment of proposals for development across the plan area and specifically supports policies DES 1 (Design</p>



	Principles) and NRG 1 (Climate Change and Sustainability) of the adopted LDP which collectively seek to prevent/minimize visually and environmentally intrusive development and to reduce energy use and carbon emissions.
<b>Are there any plan objectives?</b>	No
<b>Copy of PPS attached</b>	Yes
<b>Date:</b>	6 March 2020

Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment
<p>The Council has considered the likely significance of effects on the environment of the Planning Guidance (PG) – Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and reducing Lighting Energy Consumption with regard to the requirements of section 9 of the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The screening was undertaken with references to the criteria in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act and is set out in Table 1 (below).</p>

**Table 1: Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment**

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment <i>[The paragraph numbers in the table 1(a), 1(b), 2(a), 2(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.]</i>	Likely to have significant environmental effects? (Yes / No)	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
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The characteristics of plans and programme		
<b>1(a): The degree to which the PPS sets a framework for the projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</b>	No	<p>It is the adopted Local Development Plan which sets a framework for assessing applications for new development and this PG contributes to that assessment.</p> <p>The PG does not seek to change or amend policies contained in the LDP or to identify new ones.</p> <p>The implementation of the Planning Guidance is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects that are additional to those previously identified when Policies DES 1 and NRG 1 underwent SEA assessment as part of the adopted Local Development Plan.</p>

<p><b>1(b): The degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in the hierarchy.</b></p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Planning Guidance (PG) – Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and reducing Lighting Energy Consumption provides background guidance to policy within the adopted Local Development Plan and does not seek to directly influence other programmes and strategies.</p> <p>Although in itself new, this PG is essentially a refresh and an update of previous Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) which supported the now superseded West Lothian Local Plan.</p> <p>The guidance sets out detailed criteria to assist the development and assessment of proposals for development across the plan area and specifically supports policies DES 1 (Design Principles) and NRG 1 (Climate Change and Sustainability) of the adopted LDP which collectively seek to prevent/minimize visually and environmentally intrusive development and to reduce energy use and carbon emissions.</p> <p>It is at the same time consistent with the wider objectives of the overarching West Lothian Local Development Plan which has itself already undergone SEA.</p>
<p><b>1(c): The relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</b></p>	<p>No</p>	<p>This PG focuses on protecting the environment, particularly with regard to avoiding, or at least minimising light intrusion created by new development and ensuring that the hardware deployed is energy efficient. The PG will help to integrate environmental considerations and promote sustainable development in a supportive role.</p> <p>It is concluded that its likely overall impact will have a positive effect on the environment by providing an additional layer of scrutiny of proposals and affording protection from potentially unacceptably damaging development.</p> <p>The general premise of policies that govern new development (and reinforced by the PG) is that development will only be permitted in circumstances which do not adversely affect the environment and which the PG assists in</p>

		further defining.
<b>1(d): Environmental problems relevant to the PPS</b>	No	<p>The West Lothian Local Development Plan has regard to the multitude of environmental issues which have the potential to affect the natural heritage of West Lothian.</p> <p>The PG is one of a series which are designed to help protect and safeguard its environmental assets.</p> <p>The PG does not introduce any new policy considerations and consequently no negative environmental consequences are foreseen as being directly attributable to the PG.</p>
<b>1(e): The relevance of the PPS for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example PPS linked to waste management or water protection)</b>	No	None identified. The PG does not introduce any new policy considerations and would not be directly relevant to this issue. If subsequently applicable, however, this could be considered in the assessment of individual planning applications.

<b>The characteristics of the effects and the area likely to be effected</b>		
<b>2(a): The probability, duration frequency and reversibility of the effects</b>	No	There are no significant environmental effects that can be attributed to the PG.
<b>2(b): The cumulative nature of the effects</b>	No	<p>There are no significant environmental effects that can be attributed to the PG.</p> <p>A key purpose of the PG is to promote and secure development which is sensitive to local biodiversity and geodiversity and to encourage best practice and thereby reduce and minimise any significant adverse effects on the environment in cumulative terms. Adherence to the PG should, if anything, have a positive effect on the environment of West Lothian.</p>
<b>2(c): Trans-boundary nature of the effects ( i.e. environmental effects on other EU Members States</b>	No	<p>No trans boundary effects have been identified.</p> <p>The PG is in itself unlikely to have significant environmental impact beyond West Lothian, but that is not to diminish the positive value</p>

		of the policy in a local context.
<b>2(d): The risks to human health or the environment (for example due to accidents)</b>	No	No significant effects have been identified. The PG will, if anything, have a benign effect and will generally facilitate more environmentally sensitive developments which can only be beneficial to human health and wellbeing. Proposals will in any event be assessed in detail as and when planning applications are submitted.
<b>2(e): The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of population likely to be affected)</b>	No	There are no significant effects identified. The PG will support other relevant policies in the LDP which will be relied upon to help determine the acceptability of new development but the PG only applies to development that takes place within the administrative area of West Lothian and its effect is invariably constrained.
<b>2(f): The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</b>  <b>(i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</b> <b>(ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;</b> <b><u>or</u></b> <b>(iii) Intensive land use</b>	No	The PG seeks to protect natural heritage assets from the effects of inappropriate and detrimental development and will have only positive effect in a localised area.  The overarching SEA for the LDP has previously considered any potential significant environmental effects and provided mitigation measures where necessary.  It is considered that adherence to the requirements of the PG will be of negligible consequence and will not in any event adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the criterion.
<b>2(g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</b>	No	Any development will also need to comply with the development plan which includes a range of policies to ensure the cumulative impact of development does not adversely affect designated landscapes and the principal landscape character/type of the area. There will be no implications for this PPS.  The overarching SEA for the LDP has previously considered potential effects. It is considered that adherence to the requirements of the PG will be of negligible consequence and will not in any event

		adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the criterion.
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**Summary of Environmental Effects**

The Council has considered the likely significance of effects on the environment of Planning Guidance (PG) – Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption and these are set out below.

<p><b>Table 2: Summary of Environmental Effects</b></p> <p>Planning Guidance (PG) - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption supports Local Development Plan Policies DES 1 (Design Principles) and NRG 1 (Climate Change and Sustainability) which collectively seek to prevent/minimize visually and environmentally intrusive development and to reduce energy use and carbon emissions. The guidance provides further detail on the circumstances in which development will be permitted within the West Lothian Local Development Plan area and sets out general planning criteria to be applied in decision-making.</p> <p>The West Lothian Local Development Plan has itself already undergone an extensive SEA examining its policies, proposals and land use allocations. They demonstrate West Lothian Council’s commitment to environmentally sensitive development and the addition of Planning Guidance (PG) - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption is considered to strengthen and re-inforce this position.</p> <p>The PG does not propose new development but instead forms part of a framework for considering and assessing applications for development.</p> <p>Development always has the potential to have adverse environmental consequences and the guidance therefore encourages and requires (where appropriate to do so) additional care to be exercised in relation to minimising the effects of obtrusive lighting and maximising its efficiency. The specific policies referenced in the guidance will also not be applied in isolation; There are other environmental protection policies included in the Local Development Plan which will additionally be applied in the assessment of planning applications.</p> <p>The council considers it unlikely that the supporting Planning Guidance (PG) - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption will have any significant environmental effects as it will provide only information for decision makers, the public and other stakeholders and will primarily serve as a management tool in relation to the impact of new development on the environment.</p> <p>Overall, it is considered that the Planning Guidance (PG) - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption is a qualifying plan or programme that will not have significant environmental effects and that, as part of a wider policy framework, significant environmental effects arising from new development permitted under the terms of the adopted Local Development Plan and associated guidance will be avoided.</p> <p>It is for this reason that West Lothian Council believes that Planning Guidance (PG) - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. However, should a particular instance arise where</p>
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adherence to the PG was considered to be potentially detrimental to the environment, the Development Management process would be expected to have regard to such matters and to apply appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures through planning conditions on any planning permissions released by the council.

#### 4. Responses from Consultation Authorities

<b>CONSULTATION AUTHORITY</b>	<b>LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS</b>
Historic Environment Scotland	No
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	No
Scottish Natural Heritage	No
<b>OVERALL VIEW ON LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS</b>	<b>No</b>

- SEA GATEWAY
- SEPA
- HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND
- SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

#### 5. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Planning Guidance (PG) - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption

Appendix 2 - Statutory Notice



T: 0131-244 5036  
E: [SEA.Gateway@gov.scot](mailto:SEA.Gateway@gov.scot)

Steve Lovell  
West Lothian Civic Centre  
Howden South Road  
Livingston  
United Kingdom  
EH54 6FF

### 01553 - Screening - West Lothian Council - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption

3 March 2020

Dear Steve

With reference to the Screening document you submitted on 4 February 2020.

The Consultation Authorities have now considered your screening request as per **Section 9(3)** of the **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005**. For convenience I have set out, in the table below, their individual views on whether there is a likelihood of significant environmental effects.

Please note, these are the views and opinions of the Consultation Authorities on the likelihood of significant environmental effects arising from the plan or programme and not a judgement on whether an SEA is required. It is therefore for the Responsible Authority to determine whether an SEA is required in the circumstances. I have attached the individual letters from the Consultation Authorities, outlining their views and opinions. Where possible the Consultation Authorities may have offered supplementary information and/or advice for you to consider, which you should find helpful.

CONSULTATION AUTHORITY	LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS
Historic Environment Scotland	NO
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	NO
Scottish Natural Heritage	NO
<b>OVERALL VIEW ON LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS</b>	NO

As the Consultation Authorities have now notified you of their views, you should now refer to the 2005 Act to consider your next step. You should of course take into account the advice offered by the Consultation Authorities.



You should note, as per Section 10 of the 2005 Act, within 28 days of your determination about whether an SEA is required or not, a copy of the determination and any related statement of reasons must be passed to the Consultation Authorities. This may be done via the SEA Gateway.

If you have any queries or would like me to clarify any points, please call me on 0131 244 5036.

Kind regards,

Grant Munro  
SEA Gateway Administrator

Steve Lovell  
Principal Planning Officer  
West Lothian Council Civic Centre  
Howden South Road  
Livingston EH54 6FF

Sent by email via: [sea.gateway@gov.scot](mailto:sea.gateway@gov.scot)

Date: 28 February 2020  
Our ref: CEA148245

Dear Steve

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption – Screening Determination**

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 04 February 2020 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan. We have considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

We understand that the supplementary guidance provides further detail in support of Local Development Plan (LDP) policies DES1: Design Principles and NRG1: Climate Change and Sustainability. It does not make provision for further development or change beyond that already assessed during the LDP preparation process. On that basis, **we agree that the guidance is not likely to have significant environmental effects.**

Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the plan or programme to have significant environmental effects. We cannot comment on whether or not the plan or programme meets other criteria determining the need for SEA as set out in the Act. Should you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0131 316 2644 or via SNH's SEA Gateway at [sea.gateway@nature.scot](mailto:sea.gateway@nature.scot).

Yours sincerely

Vivienne Gray  
Planning Advisor  
Supporting Good Development Team



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA

By email to: [sea.gateway@gov.scot](mailto:sea.gateway@gov.scot)

Mr Steve Lovell  
Principal Planning Officer  
SESplan  
Development Planning  
West Lothian Council

Longmore House  
Salisbury Place  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716  
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600  
[HMConsultations@hes.scot](mailto:HMConsultations@hes.scot)

Our case ID: 300020246  
Your ref: 01553 Screening

03 March 2020

Dear Mr Lovell

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
01553 Screening - West Lothian Council - Planning Guidance - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption

### Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 5 February 2020 about the above screening report. We have reviewed this report in our role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act, in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). In doing so we have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment.

### Historic Environment Scotland's view

In light of the information and reasoning set out within the screening report, we are content to agree with your view that there are **unlikely to be significant environmental effects** for the historic environment.

### Historic Environment Scotland's comments

We understand that Planning Guidance - Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption (the PG) will set out detailed criteria to assist the development and assessment of proposals for development across the plan area and specifically supports policies DES 1 (Design Principles) and NRG 1 (Climate Change and Sustainability) of the adopted LDP which collectively seek to prevent/minimize visually and environmentally intrusive development and to reduce energy use and carbon emissions. The parent policies have been subject to SEA as part of the LDP process. You consider that the PG will not have any significant additional environmental effects. On the basis of the information provided, we agree that significant effects on the historic environment are not likely.

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**

VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA

## Next steps

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires you as the Responsible Authority to determine within 28 days whether an environmental assessment is required and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly. This may be done via the SEA Gateway ([sea.gateway@gov.scot](mailto:sea.gateway@gov.scot)).

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Virginia Sharp who can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8704 or by email on [Virginia.Sharp@hes.scot](mailto:Virginia.Sharp@hes.scot).

Yours sincerely

**Historic Environment Scotland**

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**

VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**

Our ref: PCS/169945  
SG ref: SEA01553/scr

If telephoning ask for:  
Silvia Cagnoni-Watt

19 February 2020

Steve Lovell  
West Lothian Council  
Planning, Economic Development  
and Regeneration  
West Lothian Civic Centre  
Howden South Road, Livingston  
EH54 6FF  
By email only to: [SEA\\_Gateway@gov.scot](mailto:SEA_Gateway@gov.scot)

Dear Steve

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
West Lothian Council – Planning Guidance (PG) Controlling Obtrusive Lighting  
(Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption - Screening Report**

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 05 February 2020.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 we have considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. Having reviewed the Screening Report, we consider that in respect of our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets (of which we have a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the Planning Guidance (PG) Controlling Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) and Reducing Lighting Energy Consumption is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are not likely, it is for the West Lothian Council as Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received.

We agree that the PG is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects that are additional to those previously identified when policies DES 1 (Design Principles) and NRG 1 (Climate Change and Sustainability) underwent an SEA assessment as part of the Local Development Plan.

If it is formally determined that SEA *is* required, you will be aware that the next stage requires the Responsible Authority to consult the Consultation Authorities on the proposed scope and level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report. This can be undertaken through preparation of a concise Scoping Report. We would encourage you to use the scoping process to focus the assessment on those SEA issues upon which there are likely to be significant environmental effects, to outline the baseline information you consider as most relevant and explain your proposed method of assessment. To assist with this process we have produced [SEA topic guidance](#) for those issues which fall within our remit. Further information on scoping can be found in the [Scottish Government SEA Guidance](#) (sections 3.4 to 3.8 in particular).

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We are committed to providing early and focused advice and supporting continuous engagement and therefore if it is determined that SEA is required we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these issues prior to the formal consultation.

Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation please do not hesitate to contact me on 01786 452430 or via our SEA Gateway at [sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Silvia Cagnoni-Watt  
Senior Planning Officer

Ecopy: [sea.gateway@hes.scot](mailto:sea.gateway@hes.scot); [SEA\\_GATEWAY@nature.scot](mailto:SEA_GATEWAY@nature.scot)