SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE) PART 1 To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk **SEA Gateway Scottish Government** Area 2-H (South) Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ PART 2 An SEA Screening Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled: Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2010 The Responsible Authority is: **Dundee City 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 or 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 <u>or</u> an SEA is not required because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects PART 4 The PPS does not require an SEA under the Act. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, because this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 28 day 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	
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Signature (electronic signature is acceptable) Date	24th September 2010	

SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority	Dundee City Council	
Title of PPS	Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2010	
Purpose of PPS	Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy will direct outdoor access provision in Dundee. It will provide a series of strategic guidelines and specific actions designed to meet the outdoor access needs and aspirations of Dundee's people.	
What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2010 will replace "Discovering the Liveable City - Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy 2005-2010". The new strategy will continue to direct local implementation of the Land Reform (Scotland) 2003 and contribute to the Dundee Single Outcome Agreement and Local Community Plan.	
Subject (e.g. transport)	Outdoor Access	
Period covered by PPS	2010-2015	
Frequency of updates	Every 5 years	
Area covered by PPS (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	Dundee City Council area	
Summary of nature/ content of PPS	The plan will set out a vision for the management and development of Outdoor Access in Dundee through agreed actions and through the co-ordination of a number of service delivery providers. These actions will encourage people to be more active, more healthy and more included through regular access to green spaces.	
Are there any proposed PPS objectives?	YES NO (not at this stage)	
Copy of objectives attached	YES NO	
Date	24th September 2010	

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Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of *Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2010* is set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2010 RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY		
Dundee City Council		
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
1(a) the degree to which the PPS sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	Yes	The strategy will specify path and infrastructure works to improve access identified in the core path plan.
1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy.	Yes	The Outdoor Access Strategy is in a hierarchy of plans, including Environment Strategy, Sports and Physical Activity Strategy, Core Path Plan and Public Open Space Strategy each will influence each other.
1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Yes	The strategy will promote sustainable and active travel.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(d) etc. refer to paras in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS	Yes	The strategy will promote the access improvement in green spaces and promote responsible activity for users. This could have both negative and positive affects on biodiversity, however Dundee's urban biodiversity has greater pressures from other developments. Active travel outcomes could improve local air quality.
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)	Yes	The strategy is unlikely to affect any Natura sites, which are confided to the estuary. Consideration may be required for the impact of access improvements and access promotion on European Protected species such as otter. An increase in the public demand of control of alien invasive species (especially Giant Hogweed) is likely with increased access.
2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Yes	The strategy has the potential for higher environmental impact if paths are introduced in more sensitive sites: selecting appropriate routes, monitoring, management and maintenance measures should seek to minimise these. Certain attractive areas e.g. along watercourses can be particularly sensitive to this through disturbance.
2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects	Yes	There is likely to be an increase in use of path networks and therefore the potential for cumulative effects, and that further assessment and ongoing monitoring will be required.
2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	No	No transboundary effects are anticipated.
2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	Yes	Potential risks to the environment are as outlined above in access improvement, increased use and maintenance of routes. Impacts on health should be positive.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (2(e), 2(f) etc refer to paras in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Yes	The strategy covers the whole of Dundee. While the strategy identifies links to neighbouring authorities, the main impact will be on Dundee. All of Dundee's population (100,000) could benefit equally from improved and promoted access.
2 (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to- (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use.	Yes	i) Promoted outdoor access has the potential for increased disturbance to areas of natural and cultural interest. The strategy will promote responsible access and encourage users away from the most sensitive areas. ii) Effect not likely iii) Effect not likely
2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Yes	Important designed landscapes at Camperdown and Baxter Parks could be affected by the strategy. Access will be focused on the paths which fit within the designed landscapes. Promoted access is likely to encourage public appreciation of these and other local landscapes.

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A summary of our considerations of the significant environmental effects of *Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2010* is given below.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2010 is to supersede "Discovering the Liveable City - Dundee's Outdoor Access Strategy 2005-2010". The strategy will be prepared by the Outdoor Access Officer with full consultation with Dundee Local Access Forum and the Outdoor Access Strategy Working Group. Many of the actions and intentions of the old access strategy will be retained and as such, the environmental impact will not change.
The Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2010 will be linked to the updated Local Community Plan and Dundee Single Outcome Agreement. It will guide the way the Council and other members of the Dundee Partnership deliver access in the city. The strategy will sit below and support the Dundee Open Space Strategy, above the Dundee Core Path Plan and along side Dundee's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.
The strategy will identify actions promoting sustainable and active travel, social inclusion and healthy recreation. Access developments should improve Dundee's environment for all without reducing the quality of our natural habitats, our water and air or our historic buildings and landscapes.