**Screening report**

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| **Responsible Authority:** | Scottish Environment Protection Agency |
| **Title of the plan:** | Corporate Plan 2024-27 |
| **What prompted the plan:**  (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision) | Statutory requirement. |
| **Plan subject:**  (e.g. transport) | Environmental protection |
| **Screening** is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.  Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that: | **An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant:** Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within  Section 5(3)  Section 5(4)  **An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant:** Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within  Section 5(3)  Section 5(4) |
| **Contact details:** | Anne Turner  anne.turner@sepa.org.uk |
| **Date:** | 31/08/2023 |

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| **Context of the Plan:** | SEPA’s current Corporate Plan expires on 31 March 2023. This plan is a replacement that will set out the strategic direction for SEPA from 2024-2027. It will be supported by annual operating plans which will provide more detail about how the direction in the corporate plan will be delivered. |
| **Description of the Plan:** | The Plan will be high-level and will set out SEPA’s key objectives for the period 2024-2027. It will not describe all SEPA’s work. It will identify the priority activities SEPA will pursue to achieve its objectives and measures of success. |
| **What are the key components of the plan?** | The key components of the plan are set out in the Scottish Government / SEPA [Framework](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/593782/sepa-framework-document-2021.pdf) Agreement. This includes the following:  “The corporate plan for SEPA should include:  • the purpose and principal aims of SEPA;  • an analysis of the context in which SEPA operates;  • key objectives and associated key performance targets for the period of the plan, the strategy for achieving those objectives and how these will contribute towards the achievement of the SG’s primary purpose and alignment with the NPF;  • how SEPA’s activities contribute to Scotland’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)  • indicators against which performance can be judged;  • details of planned efficiencies, describing how SEPA proposes to achieve better value for money, including through collaboration and shared services;  • other matters as agreed between the SG and SEPA”. |
| **Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?** | Previous corporate plans have been screened out on the basis that they are high level, so will not have significant environmental effects. The plan will be highlighting work that will be delivered to support existing strategies and policies that have previously been considered in SEAs. Any new policy development needed during the period of the plan would be subject to a separate SEA. |
| **In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:** | Many of the elements are statements of fact (eg the purpose and principal aims of SEPA) and do not require screening. The component requiring screening is the setting of outcomes / objectives. |

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| **Plan Components – does you plan cover the following** | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Population and human health | Soil | Water | Air | Climatic factors | Material assets | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Inter-relationship issues |  |  |
| Component 1 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 🗶 | 🗶 | ✓ | SEPA’s work covers a wide range of environmental topic areas reflective of SEPA’s wide range of statutory functions. The Plan will provide the context for delivery of these functions. | The Corporate Plan will provide an overarching context for SEPA’s work but will not identify detail or specific policies. This will flow from other plans and programmes, often prepared by others. |
| Component 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Component 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Etc. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Example: Revision of standards for replacement of windows | 🗶 | ✓ | 🗶 | 🗶 | 🗶 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 🗶 | 🗶 | Potential for noise reduction, improved energy efficiency, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, likely effects for building owners/tenants and potential impacts on properties with value for cultural heritage. | Potential for significant effects identified, particularly given the national and human health focus of the proposal.  Potential for significant cumulative effects (positive and negative) also noted for several topic areas, including human health. |

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| **Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:**  (Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.) | SEPA’s Corporate Plan interacts with the environment in so far as it sets the context for delivery of SEPA’s statutory and other duties over the coming three years. Given SEPA’s role as Scotland’s environmental regulator it will interact with many environmental topics. In itself the Corporate Plan does not make policy nor does it provide the framework, for example, for specific regulatory decisions or consents.  The role of the Corporate Plan is to set out how SEPA will deliver its functions within the context of the 2024-27 period. It will set outcomes / objectives that will establish what SEPA wants to achieve through the delivery of these functions. It will also set indicators to measure progress. The functions themselves will not change as a result of the Corporate Plan, these are set out in legislation and any changes will be the subject of consultation and, where appropriate, environmental assessment.  Accordingly, it is SEPA’s view that the Corporate Plan, in itself, will not lead to significant environmental effects. |
| When completed send to: [SEA.gateway@gov.](mailto:SEA.gateway@gov.)scot or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ. | |

Please note: (A) The plan has to fall into Section 5(4) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 & (B) you should apply the criteria specified within Schedule 2 of this Act to reach a conclusion on no or minimal environmental effects: [www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/15/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/15/contents) ***(delete this note before submission)***