



# Promoting an SEA-led approach to Planning for Climate Change

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*Sustaining and improving  
the quality of people's lives*

# Climate Change demands a SEA change in Planning

## Adaptation

- Improved Resilience – Severe Weather Events
- Floods & Risk Management
- Sustainable Site Selection
- Impacts – Cost Reduction
- Improving Standards
- Maximising Adaptation Potential & Opportunities

## Mitigation (Emissions Reduction)

- Energy Efficiency, Demand Reduction & Renewables
- Resource Use & Sustainable Sourcing/ Materials Selection
- Waste Management & Energy Recovery
- Carbon Capture & Storage
- Optimising Land Use, LUC & Carbon Sequestration

- **Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture: Next Steps**
- **Development Masterplan for A96 Growth Corridor**
- **North Edinburgh Transport Action Plan**
- **Scottish Soil Framework**
- **Scottish Climate Change Bill Proposals**
- **Nigg Development Masterplan**

- Planning aims to achieve the right development in the right place in order to encourage **sustainable** economic growth
- Planning aims to improve the human condition
- In Planning the 'environment' is traditionally considered for its amenity value, making places attractive to live and work
- By default, Planning adopts an anthropocentric world view
- Scottish Planning is currently going through a fundamental review under the Planning, etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and the new National Planning Framework

- **Economic & Social development at the expense of the environment, or ecological integrity**
- **Environmental impacts are uncoded and ‘acceptable’ in isolation**
- **EIA is employed to minimise and mitigate impacts at the site specific or project level**
- **Often too little, too late**
- **Doesn’t recognise cumulative impacts or ecological tipping points**
- **Planning under ‘Business as Usual’ conditions...?**

- **Recognises ecological inter-relationships and cumulative impacts**
- **Recognises that future development must be within ecological carrying capacities (limits to growth...?)**
- **Requires mechanisms whereby previously uncoded environmental impacts are made evident and accounted for**
- **Provides a foundation for proper integration of environmental considerations (eg. costs to society) within the process of decision making**
- **Sustainable Development that has ecological sustainability at its core is more immediately understandable/ justifiable**

In future Local Authorities and Planners are likely to have to:

- Assess, monitor and report on the long-term carbon impacts associated with developments and planning decisions
- Help Government deliver against challenging (80%!!) emission reduction targets
- Participate in new regulatory schemes
- Report on how Planning is driving climate change adaptation
- Set the frameworks to facilitate and realise low carbon development
- Drive emissions and efficiency standards

***Planners are central to local delivery and long-term integration***

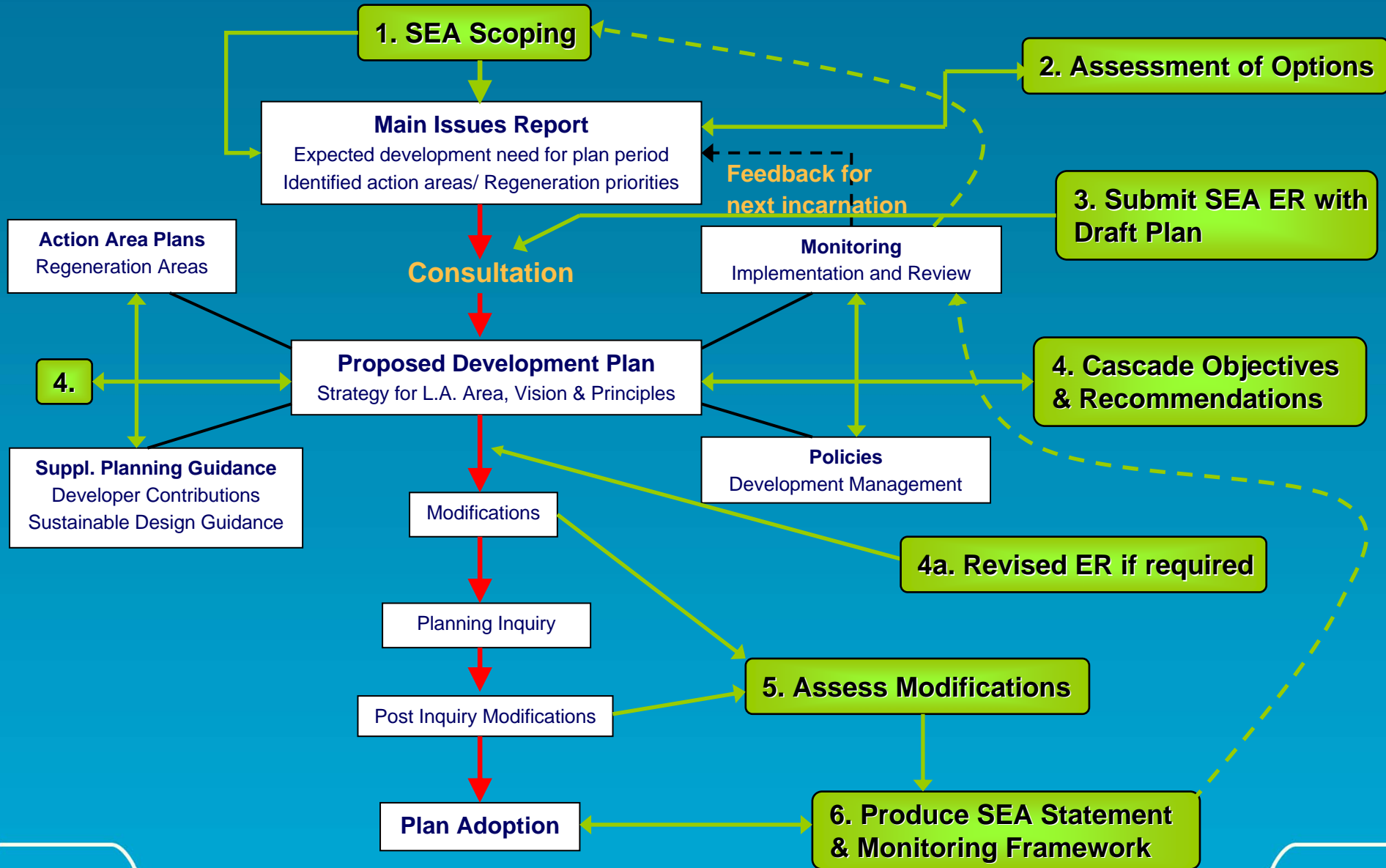
*To provide a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development*

(Article 1 of the EU SEA Directive 2001/42/EC)

*The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that **all** public plans, programmes and strategies in Scotland undergo SEA consideration*

Scottish Ministers envisaged  
Scotland as a **world leader** in SEA





- **Planning Summit – Delivering Planning Reform**



- **Introducing Climate Change Guidance for SEA Practitioners in Scotland (Scottish Government project led by SEPA)**
- **Review of Guidance on SEA for Development Plans (SG Project led by the SEA Gateway)**
- **SNIFFER Guidance on Air, Water & Soils in SEA**

- **Develop a strategic approach to strategic environmental assessment**
- **Should not be seen as two separate processes**
- **Has to be seen as an integrated LDP process with SEA embedded and driving sustainable option development from the outset**
- **SEA has to become an in-house skill**
- **More useful to have a good consultant facilitating the SEA through workshops, training, scheduling and capacity building**

**Climate Change demands a SEA change in Planning**

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***Thank you for listening!***

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