

PRE-SCREENING NOTIFICATION

SEA PRE-SCREENING DOCUMENT

Responsible Authority:

Scottish Land Commission

Title of the plan:

Strategic Plan 2020-2023

What prompted the plan:

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

Legislative requirement to produce a Strategic Plan every three years under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 to be approved by Scottish Ministers.

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

Land reform

Brief summary of the plan:

(including the area or location to which the plan related)

The Scottish Land Commission was established in April 2017, shortly after it published its first three year strategic plan 'Making More of Scotland's Land'.

It is now three years since the publication of our first strategic plan and we will be publishing our second strategic plan in September 2020. The plan is looking ahead to the coming three years outlining how to rethink the way we own, manage and use land to unlock greater economic, social and environmental wellbeing for people in urban and rural Scotland.

The Strategic Plan sets out the strategic direction for the Scottish Land Commission and the priority areas of work for the next three years. The vision of the strategic plan is 'a fair, inclusive and productive system of ownership, management and use of land that delivers greater benefit for all the people of Scotland'. To help achieve this there are three outcomes the plan is working towards:

- Scotland's land is owned and used in ways that are fair, responsible and productive
- More of Scotland's people are able to influence and benefit from decisions about land
- The way we own and use Scotland's land is creating public value and economic wellbeing.

The outcomes contribute to the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The plan focuses on three areas to achieve the outcomes:

1) Reforming land rights – reforming the governance of land rights and ownership to drive community and economic resilience and reduce inequalities

- Develop policy proposals to stimulate a more diverse and productive pattern of land ownership
- Review and promote new governance models that widen the range of people benefitting from land rights and stimulate greater productivity

- Address the human rights relationship between property rights and the public interest in realising economic, social and cultural rights;
- 2) Embedding responsible land ownership and use – embedding accountability and promoting responsible approaches to land ownership and use
- Strengthen the practical implementation of the Scottish [Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement](#) principles by supporting good practice on the ground
 - Review ways to further embed land rights and responsibilities in public policy and in responsible business conduct across all relevant sectors
 - Support a better functioning system of agricultural tenure through the functions of the Tenant Farming Commissioner.
- 3) Reforming land markets – the ways in which the value and benefits of land are created and shared to support a fair and productive economy.
- Identify potential changes to the tax system to support recovery and renewal, particularly in relation to town centre regeneration
 - Review current approaches to land valuation, including the factors influencing the difference between market values and economic value, and factors likely to influence land values in the future, particularly in a transition to a net zero economy
 - Identify practical options for reforming land markets to operate more effectively in the public interest.

The plan sets out how the Commission will achieve the outcomes through combining leadership and non-regulatory culture change with statutory functions to review and advise on legislative and policy change. We will deliver our strategy by:

- Research and review – providing evidence and analysis leading to advice and recommendations to Scottish Ministers, Parliament, and stakeholders
- Leading change in practice – providing clear expectations and support to strengthen realisation of the Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement principles
- Engagement and strategic partnerships – engaging widely with the public and stakeholders and building strategic partnerships to increase our impact
- Supporting the Tenant Farming Commissioner – delivering the statutory functions of the Tenant Farming Commissioner as an integrated part of our organisation.

Brief summary of the likely environmental consequences:

(including whether it has been determined that the plan is likely to have no or minimum effects, either directly or indirectly)

The strategic plan is a high-level document setting out the Commission’s outcomes and activities for 2020-2023; the plan is supported by a programme of work which outlines the priority areas over the three-year period. The plan does not provide the detail of how these outcomes and activities are delivered.

The plan helps to deliver the Scottish Government’s Economic Recovery Implementation Plan, Land Use Strategy, Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement, planning reform and a just transition to meet net zero emissions.

As stated in the plan, land ownership and use are key to driving Scotland’s economic recovery and renewal. “So it is even more important that the way decisions about land are made are inclusive and accountable, address those they impact and help drive public interest outcomes.” Scotland’s land rights and responsibilities statement principles can help guide a just transition. The plan

delivers this primarily through embedding responsible landownership and use including developing policy proposals to stimulate a more diverse and productive pattern of land ownership and reviewing new governance models that widen the range of people benefitting from land rights and stimulate greater productivity.

“The ways we own and use land are central to our national ambitions for climate action, infrastructure, regeneration and growth, and to empowering regions, cities, towns, communities and individuals. Our Strategic Plan focuses on where land reform can make the biggest difference to drive change, recovery and renewal.”

Due to the high-level nature of the strategic plan and the focus of our work, it is anticipated that there will be minimal environmental impact.

Contact details:

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Date of opinion:

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