

Our Ref: SEA00126/scr/
SB

Ciara Duffy
Perth & Kinross Council
The Environment Service
Pullar House
35 Kinnoull Street
Perth
PH1 5GD

01 December 2006

By email: sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Ms Duffy

**Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations, 2004
Auchterarder Expansion- Townhead and North East Development Framework – Screening
Consultation**

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 10th November 2006 via the Scottish Executive SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan.

In accordance with Section 14(3) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004, SEPA has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 1 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

Having reviewed the Screening Report, SEPA considers that the plan has the potential to have significant environmental effects. Please note, while SEPA considers that significant environmental effects may result from the plan, it is the responsibility of Perth and Kinross Council as the Responsible Authority to formally determine whether the plan qualifies for SEA under the Regulations. It is noted that the Council has indicated its view that SEA is required.

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. The Consultation Authorities typically expect to receive a concise Scoping Report at this stage. For further advice and guidance about this stage and the level of information to include in a Scoping Report, please refer to the draft Information Note published jointly by the Consultation Authorities available at www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/consultation/closed/2006/sea/annex_b.pdf. This note also provides details of the information held by SEPA.

Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0131 4497296 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sofia Billett
Senior Planning Officer (SEA)
Environmental Partnership Unit (South East)

Chairman
Sir Ken Collins

Chief Executive
Dr Campbell Gemmell

SEPA Corporate Office

Erskine Court, Castle Business Park, Stirling FK9 4TR
tel 01786 457700 fax 01786 446885
www.sepa.org.uk