3   SEA Framework

3.1   About the SEA Framework

3.1.1   SEA uses a framework of objectives, decision-making criteria, indicators and (where available) targets to measure the predicted environmental performance of a plan or programme. During the assessment it provides a way of ensuring that each proposed action considers the needs of, and environmental effects on the baseline. It also enables the environmental effects of proposed actions to be described, analysed and compared.

3.1.2   One of the main purposes of the Scoping Report was to seek views on an initial version of the SEA Framework. Following the receipt of responses on the Scoping Report, the SEA Framework was updated to address the comments received.

3.1.3   **Appendix IV** presents the updated SEA Framework for the Highways PFI.

3.2   SEA Objectives

3.2.1   There is no statutory basis for setting SEA Objectives but they are a recognised way of considering the environmental effects of a programme and comparing alternatives. In this context the SEA Objectives provide the basis from which effects of the Highways PFI can be tested. The SEA Objectives were derived from a combination of sources including the PPP review, baseline data collection and the identification of key issues. They are aligned with the SEA topics identified in Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive (**Appendix I**) to ensure the assessment process is robust, comprehensive and meets regulatory requirements.

3.2.2   The SEA Objectives included within the SEA Framework, and the environmental information themes to which they relate are presented in **Table 3.1**.   See **Appendix IV** for the full SEA Framework.

Table 3.1: SEA Objectives for the Isle of Wight Highways PFI

No.	SEA Objective	Related theme
1	Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.	*Historic environment*
2	Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities.	*Landscape, historic environment*
3	Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity, and the natural processes on which they depend.	*Biodiversity and geodiversity*
4	Maintain and improve the water quality of the Isle of Wight's rivers, coasts and groundwater.	*Water*
5	Conserve the Island's natural resources.	*Material assets, soil, water*
6	Protect and enhance the Island's soils resource.	*Soil*
7	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	*Air quality*
8	Minimise the Island's contribution to climate change.	*Climate change*
9	Plan for the anticipated effects of climate change.	*Climate change, water*
10	Reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas on the Isle of Wight and the rest of the Island.	*Accessibility and transport, population*
11	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being.	*Health*