

# Report

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| Report to:       | <b>Climate Change and Sustainability Committee</b>             |
| Date of Meeting: | <b>31 August 2022</b>  |
| Report by:       | <b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b> |

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| Subject: | <b>Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Update – Quarter 4 2021/2022</b> |
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Committee of the status of Sustainable Development Strategy actions and measures at Quarter 4 of 2021/2022.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the 2021/2022 Q4 position in respect of actions and measures within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy be noted.

## 3. Background

3.1. The Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (SDCCS) was approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 6 December 2017 and covers a five-year period from 2017 to 2022. The Strategy sets out outcomes and actions organised around three sustainable development themes:-

- ◆ Sustainable Council
- ◆ Sustainable Environment
- ◆ Sustainable Communities

3.2. Delivery of actions within the Strategy provides the main focus for our sustainable development activity and also enables the Council to fulfil its duties under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Council's contribution to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

3.3. The Strategy action plan sets out specific actions to be undertaken to deliver objectives under each theme. The action plan is monitored using IMPROVe and the progress on the action plan will be reported to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee following Q2 and Q4.

3.4. This report is the final update for the current Strategy and has been supplemented with a report outlining some key achievements over the last five years.

#### 4. Sustainable Development Strategy 2021/2022 Q4 Update

4.1. The action plan progress report comes in two parts; the first part contains performance/contextual measures towards the Strategy's outcomes, and the second part contains improvement actions for each of the themes within the Strategy.

4.2. The overall summary of performance measures at the end of quarter 4 is as follows:-

|  |   |           |
|--|---|-----------|
| Total number of performance/ contextual measures |   | <b>36</b> |
| Status – Green                                   | The timescale or target has been met as per expectations  | 20 (55%)  |
| Status – Amber                                   | There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target   | 0 (0%)    |
| Status - Red                                     | There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target   | 2 (6%)    |
| Reportable at a later stage                      | For some measures, the statistics are not yet available to allow us to report whether the target has been reached or not. These will be reported when available   | 9 (25%)   |
| Contextual                                       | The contextual measures provides a health check for South Lanarkshire. The Council's activities contribute to these measures, however there are many factors that could influence these measures which are not fully within the Council's scope | 5 (14%)   |

4.3. The two red performance measures relate to household waste and recycling. These measures are reported per calendar year to December 2021. There had been slippage on these performance measures in 2021. The percentage of household waste recycled in 2021 was 41.5% (against a target of 50%) and the percentage of household waste recycled at the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres was 59.3% in 2021 (compared to a target of 64.5%). In the main this is due to residents producing more non-recyclable waste and not segregating waste streams. Both factors can be attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic, as residents continued to work from home, generating additional waste. Waste recycling centres remained open during this period but demand for the sites continued to be extremely high and there was an increase in the amount of residual waste being brought into the sites. It is anticipated that performance will improve as Covid restrictions continue to ease.

4.4. The overall summary of improvements actions at the end of quarter 4 is as follows:-

|                                     |   |           |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Total number of improvement actions |   | <b>74</b> |
| Status - Blue                       | Action Complete   | 15 (20%)  |
| Status – Green                      | The timescale or target has been met as per expectations                          | 40 (54%)  |
| Status – Amber                      | There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target | 14 (19%)  |
| Status - Red                        | There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target | 2 (3%)    |

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| Reportable at a later stage/<br>contextual | For some measures, the statistics are not yet available to allow us to report whether the target has been reached or not. These will be reported when available | 3 (4%) |
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- 4.5. Those improvement actions that have a green status are ongoing and will continue to be actioned as part of the new strategy. The actions and measures marked as report later will be reported to Committee along with the Q2 progress report for 2022/2023.
- 4.6. There are two red improvement measures that have had major slippage. As above, these relate to household waste and recycling issues due to the Covid pandemic and the consequent high staff absence levels in the service. There are also 14 amber improvement measures that have had minor slippage. Seven of them had minor slippage as a result of Covid-19 restrictions or Resources reprioritised to continue service delivery during the pandemic. The table below provides details on the seven improvement actions that had slippage not related to Covid-19, and the management action which has been taken:-

| Improvement Action  | Measures  | Management Action  |
|---|---|--|
| Enable employees to walk and/or cycle for business travel and commuting   | Develop case study examples from the 'Cycle to Work' Scheme on the impact this scheme has had on staff engaging in active travel  | A survey was completed during 2021/22 and results have been used to action common issues arising from the Cycle to Work Scheme. The findings from the survey will be used during 2022/23 to develop case studies.  |
| Continue to develop procurement processes to improve environmental outcomes and ensure compliance with the Council's sustainable procurement duty | Progress with sustainable procurement actions as identified through the Flexible Framework action plan  | Changes to Sourcing Strategy will now be concluded in 2022/23 with guidance from Sustainable Procurement Scotland now issued.  |
| Work in partnership to reduce land and air pollution within South Lanarkshire, minimising the impacts on human health and the natural environment | Progress the development of a formal Litter Strategy that identifies a range of options and timescales to promote the new Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, with particular emphasis on prevention | The development of the Litter Strategy is progressing for a launch later in 2022. An appropriate timeline for the launch of the Strategy is being confirmed with the new Executive Director of Community and Enterprise Resources. The components of the Strategy, along with certain initiatives have also been started and are progressing well with the main focus on prevention. |
|   | Implement projects approved within the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF) framework for 2021/22   | A delay in the implementation of an associated project (Clyde Gateway Cuningar Ph.2) has impacted the delivery of 2021/22 funded VDLF projects.  |

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|   |   | These projects are being progressed for implementation in 2022/23 on completion of the Cuningar Ph.2 works in summer 2022.   |
| Prepare an Open Space Strategy in partnership with Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership and other council services. Strategy will contain standards on access to and quality of open spaces   | Continue with the preparation of the Strategy during 2021/22, which includes audits of existing open space and analysis   | The Scottish Government published a consultation on regulations for the preparation of Open Space Strategies in December 2021. It is expected that the regulations will be approved in late 2022. In the meantime, an audit of existing open space continues.  |
| Develop supporting planning guidance in support of the Local Development Plan and the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy action plan to ensure new buildings are designed to be as carbon neutral as possible and resilient to climate change and to encourage the retro fitting of appropriate technology in existing buildings | Supporting Planning Guidance (SPG) to be developed and presented to committee for approval by March 2022 and thereafter be subject to public consultation   | The delay in the publication of the draft national planning policy, National Planning Framework 4, has resulted in the timescale for the preparation of the Supporting Planning Guidance to be reviewed. Supporting Planning Guidance on Community Infrastructure Assessment and Local Nature Reserves has commenced and will be out later in 2022. Work has commenced on issues relating to Climate Change. |
| Provide advice and support to businesses in the transition to a net-zero economy  | Develop an Economic 'Response, Recovery and Renewal' Strategy framed around three themes: People, Place and Business, whilst creating the right conditions for a low carbon economy for Committee approval by June 2021 | The draft strategy was presented to South Lanarkshire Council on 15 June 2022 as part of a suite of documents accompanying the new Council and Community Plans.  |

4.7. Progress on all objectives, actions and measures is set out in appendix 1. Some of the highlights from the report include:-

- ◆ The Council's vehicle emissions have continued to fall and it is on target to replace the entire fleet of diesel/petrol cars and small vans with fully electric vehicles by the end of 2024. 28% of the car and small van fleet (202 of 711) are now fully electric.
- ◆ The quality of the paper and card collected at the kerbside improved in 2021, and now exceeds the target of 97%.

- ◆ The Planning Committee approved a further 16 sites as Local Nature Reserves and an extension to the existing one at Langlands Moss. Formal legal declaration of the new Reserves is now underway.
- ◆ Community Planning Partners across Lanarkshire joined both North and South Lanarkshire Councils and the Improvement Service in an event to further embed climate change in community planning. The event focussed on the climate emergency, a green recovery, a just transition, and policy coherence for climate change. Findings from the discussion have been reported back to the Community Planning Partnership Board with recommendations on how to further embed climate change across community planning.
- ◆ Beat the Street Cambuslang and Rutherglen game took place with approximately 60,000 miles travelled sustainably by almost 8,000 people within the first two weeks of the project.
- ◆ The Cycle To Work Scheme launched in May 2021 with 92 applications received and a further launch in November 2021, to coincide with COP26, resulted in a further 18 applications.
- ◆ The Council has been able to further develop its Nature Restoration Programme by bringing together its Scottish Government Nature Restoration Funding with the Council's Climate Emergency Fund. The focus of this Programme is on improving the biodiversity of various Council land sites, including for pollinators.
- ◆ The Council has installed a tree asset management software system that allows the recording of the quantity, quality, nature and condition of the Council's tree assets along with the value they provide in terms of ecosystem. The software will help manage, protect and enhance council trees and support the Clyde Climate Forest.
- ◆ Strathaven Park, Cambuslang Park and Castlebank Park have retained their Green Flag status. Strathaven Park has once again been voted in the top 10 in the UK People's Choice vote.
- ◆ A Young People's Sustainability Forum has been established to discuss how young people can lead on aspects of climate change and sustainability within the school curriculum but also how they can influence decision making across the authority. An offshoot of the Forum has been the Climate emergency Newsroom that took place during COP26. The young people reported on events and decision making to their primary school audience. The blog has now been accessed across the world.
- ◆ The Climate Emergency Community Grants scheme was funded by the Climate Emergency Fund and was opened to applicants mid-January 2022, for allocation in 2022/23. By the end of March, 18 applications had been received with approval given on £27,000 worth of grants.

## **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. All Resources are required to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Management Plan to ensure that actions and targets are met. The sustainable development officers and carbon management officer monitor and report the Council's progress.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. Actions within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and associated action plan are funded from existing Resource budgets and external funding grants.

## **7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. The Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy contributes towards the Public Sector Climate Change Duties, the Biodiversity Duty and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

## **8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. Failure to build resilience and act to the impacts of a changing climate is included in one of the Council's top risks. The development of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and action plan is a mitigation measure of this risk.
- 8.2. The Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy has undergone the Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. An equality impact assessment was carried out on the sustainable development and climate change strategy.
- 9.2. Public and stakeholder consultation on the sustainable development and climate change strategy were undertaken.

**David Booth**

**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

22 August 2022

### **Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

#### Values

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable

#### Priorities

- ◆ We will work to put people first and reduce inequality
- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places
- ◆ We will work to recover, progress and improve

#### Outcomes

- ◆ Our children and young people thrive
- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Thriving business, fair jobs and vibrant town centres
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities
- ◆ People live the healthiest lives possible
- ◆ Inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships

### **Previous References**

- ◆ Executive Committee report on 6 December 2017 entitled 'Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy'

### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- ◆ Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2017-2022

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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