

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 September 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan: Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022-2023
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ present the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022-23, for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

2. Recommendations

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

- (1) that the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022-23 be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The new Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022-27 was approved by South Lanarkshire Council on 15 June 2022. The strategy sets out how the council aims to develop sustainably and tackle the climate change emergency over a five-year period, whilst also providing a broad strategic direction for longer term planning to help to deliver on the agreed outcomes and contribute to achieving a longer-term vision.
- 3.2. It was agreed that the action plan for 2022-23 would be an interim action plan, while work continued with Services and Resources across the council to develop the longer-term actions through to 2027. This Quarter 4 report closes off the 2022-23 interim action plan and is the final report against the three sustainable development themes within the previous 2017-2022 strategy.
- 3.3. The new action plan for 2022-2027 was approved at the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee in February 2023, and is now being implemented. Progress against these actions will be monitored using IMPROVe and reported to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee at Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 from this year onwards.
- 3.4. Delivery of actions within these strategies 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.

- 3.5. Progress on all objectives, actions and measures as at Quarter 4 2022-23 is set out in Appendix 1. All data and comments included in the appendix are correct as of June 2023.

4. Sustainable Development Strategy 2022-23 Quarter 4 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. Part One - Performance Measures

The overall summary of performance measures at the end of Quarter 4 is as follows:-

Total number of performance/ contextual measures		28
Status – Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations.	8 (29%)
Status – Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target.	2 (7%)
Status - Red	There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target.	2 (7%)
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	6 (21%)
Contextual	The contextual measures provide 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.	10 (36%)

4.3. Areas for Improvement

Two measures have been classified as "red" (major slippage against timescale or shortfall against target). These are detailed below, together with the reason why, and the management action being taken.

Sustainable Communities		
Homes and communities are energy efficient, environmentally sustainable, and fuel poverty is minimised		
Measure	Comments/Progress	Management Action
% of council stock meeting the SHQS	The changes to the Fire Tolerable standard have continued to impact on the SHQS	In relation to the reporting requirements for Fire Tolerable Standards and Fixed Electrical Testing, a robust programme of work is in place to address these issues, including the appropriate use of forced entry.

Sustainable Communities		
That council's strategies, plans and policies support communities to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate		
Measure	Comments/Progress	Management Action
Percentage of total household waste that is recycled	The Household Recycling Rate for this period was 37.75%. The figure for the full year (2022) was 41.2%. This remains below the target of 50%.	The new bulky waste contract is ongoing, having commenced on 1 April 2022, and continues to increase the quantities of bulky waste being recycled. The service has also now recruited additional Waste Education Officers to rollout the new service change for flatted properties to improve the recycling rates. The majority of the material at the flatted properties tends to be too badly contaminated to recycle and therefore is landfilled as residual waste.

4.4. Part Two - Improvement Actions

The overall summary of improvements actions at Quarter 4 is as follows: -

Total number of improvement actions		47
Status - Blue	Action Complete	8 (17%)
Status – Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations	29 (62%)
Status – Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target	9 (19%)
Status - Red	There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target	0 (0%)
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	1 (2%)

4.5. Areas for Improvement

There are 9 “amber” actions where minor slippage was reported at Quarter 4. The justification for these delays, and associated management actions, are included within Appendix 1.

4.6. Key Highlights

Progress on all objectives, actions and measures is set out in Appendix 1. Some of the key achievements for 2022-23, are noted below:

- ◆ The new Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (2022-27) was approved at Full Council in June 2022
- ◆ 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

- ◆ New Local Nature Reserve sites have been developed by bringing together Scottish Government Nature Restoration Funding with the Climate Emergency Fund. The focus of this Programme is on improving the biodiversity of various council land sites, including for pollinators
- ◆ The Litter Strategy was approved by the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee on 31 August 2022
- ◆ Two temporary Waste Services Assistants have been recruited to facilitate projects aimed at reducing residual waste and increasing recycling rates
- ◆ The Climate Emergency Community Grants scheme has been a huge success with 34 community groups having successfully applied for funding during 2022-23. A mid-term report on the progress and impact of the Fund was presented to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee in November 2022
- ◆ The Food Strategy Community Grants have been extremely popular with over £19,000 allocated in year one (2022-23), rather than over the two years as originally intended
- ◆ The Conference of Schools Climate Conference was successfully held by Education at the Palace Grounds on 11-13 October 2022 with a high level of participation
- ◆ The number of Environmental Volunteering days recorded was 5,212, far exceeding the target of 2,000
- ◆ Get Walking Lanarkshire provided 14 active weekly walks and 2 one-off walks in South Lanarkshire reaching on average 92 walkers per week

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. All Resources are required to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change strategy to ensure that actions and targets are met. Officers within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change team monitor and report the council's progress, however there are officers from all Resources who have responsibility for updating and owning the actions noted within the IMPROVe action plan.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The actions detailed in the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and associated action plan are funded from existing Resource budgets, however the scale and pace of action needed to meet climate change targets and address the current climate crisis will require capital investment and is likely to require external funding and investment. The delivery of the strategy may help to leverage in additional funding and investment, however alternative financial models may need to be considered.

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.
- 7.2. A full Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out alongside preparation of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy. This has ensured a consistency in approach to addressing the climate crisis alongside the ecological emergency. It ensures that the importance of sustainable development is mainstreamed across the council and promoted to communities and partners. Incorporating this sustainable approach across all council led policies, plans, programmes and strategies should result in continued environmental benefits for South Lanarkshire and the people who live, work and visit here.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy has been assessed as part of the council's risk management arrangements and relevant issues have been added to the Resource Risk Registers.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. An Equality Impact Assessment and Fairer Scotland Duty impact assessment have been carried out on the Sustainable Development and Climate Change strategy.
- 9.2. Public and stakeholder consultation was undertaken during the development of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy.

David Booth

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

31 August 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

Values

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Working with and respecting others
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Ambitious, self-aware and improving
- ◆ 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

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council report on 15 June 2022 entitled 'Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022-2027'
- ◆ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee report on 31 August 2022 entitled 'Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022-2027'

List of Background Papers

- ◆ The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- ◆ Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2017-2022
- ◆ Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022-2027
- ◆ UN's Sustainable Development Goals

Contact for Further Information

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

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