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| Report to: | Executive Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 14 December 2011 |
| Report by: | Executive Director (Community Resources) |

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| Subject: | Sustainable Development Strategy Quarter 2 Update |
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ inform the Committee of the status of Sustainable Development Strategy actions and measures at the end of Quarter 2 of 2011/2012.
- ◆ request approval for the fourth annual public report detailing the Council's progress on meeting its commitments under Scotland's Climate Change Declaration (SCCD)
- ◆ advise the Committee of the Council's position within the first Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) national performance league table

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the 2011/2012 Quarter 2 position in respect of actions and measures within the Sustainable Development Strategy be noted
- (2) that the proposed fourth annual public report detailing the Council's progress on meeting its commitments under Scotland's Climate Change Declaration (SCCD) be approved.

3. Background

3.1. The current Sustainable Development Strategy covers the period from September 2007 to September 2011. The strategy provides a focus for actions which the Council has been taking since that time to improve its environmental performance.

3.2. A mid-term review was carried out on the Council's Sustainable Development Strategy Action Plan at the beginning of 2010. The review identified actions in the Strategy that still had to be achieved, made actions smarter where possible and aligned actions with Resource Plans. These actions are still current and section 4 of this report provides an update on progress at quarter 2 of 2011/2012.

3.3. The Council signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration on 16 January 2007. Our commitments under the declaration are being progressed via the Sustainable Development Strategy. On the 29 June 2010, 7 Community Planning Partners joined South Lanarkshire as signatories to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration. As a signatory there is a commitment to taking action on climate change, working in partnership to promote good practice on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the local area and publishing an annual climate change report. Reporting on climate change action is also now part of the Council's statutory duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

3.4 The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme is a UK wide mandatory greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme introduced by the Government under the UK Climate Change Act 2008. From April 2012, the Council, and 1,300 other large energy using organisations, will have to purchase allowances for the CO₂ it emits as a result of its energy use in buildings. Under the rules of the scheme, emissions have to be reported for financial year 2010/11 onwards and a national league table of participants' performance is published.

4. Sustainable Development Strategy 2011/12 Q2 Update

4.1 The lifespan of the current Sustainable Development Strategy is from September 2007 to September 2011. Although the period of the Strategy has expired we continue to monitor the actions and measures and this penultimate report gives the 2011/2012 Q2 position in respect of actions and measures within the Sustainable Development Strategy. A final report with a closing statement will be presented at Q4.

4.2 Of the 83 Sustainable Development Strategy measures, 65 (78%) are classed as *green* so have been achieved or are on course to be achieved, 5 (6%) are classed as *amber* so have seen some minor slippage and three (4%) are classed as *red* and have not been achieved. Ten (12%) measures will be reported later when data is available. Progress on all objectives, actions and measures is noted at Appendix 1.

4.3 There are three 'red' measures at 2011/2012 Q2. They are listed below together with the current status and action to be taken.

| Sustainable Development Strategy Objective: Secure quality living and working environments for health, wellbeing and economic prosperity | | | |
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| Action | Measure | Progress | Action |
| Identify ways of integrating the health and sustainable development agendas through partnership working | With partners, promote active travel as a theme in the South Lanarkshire Physical Activity Strategy | The Physical Activity Strategy is currently on hold following the transfer of cultural services to South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture | The Council continues to promote active travel where possible. It has been proposed that a new leisure and cultural strategy will be developed. This action will be reviewed at this time. |

| Sustainable Development Strategy Objective: Foster responsible citizenship and awareness of sustainable development | | | |
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| Action | Measure | Progress | Action |
| Develop a local climate impacts profile (LCLIP) for South Lanarkshire | Publish a local climate impacts profile | It was not possible to complete this project due to the departure of the Council's Sustainable Development Officer in 2010. There have since been changes in the methodology for carrying out this type of assessment. | Local climate change adaptation issues will be addressed as part of the new Sustainable Development Strategy |
| Engage Community Planning Partners in joint action with the Council on climate change | Undertake a partnership-wide LCLIP by March 2012 | As above | As above |

5. Annual Climate Change Declaration Report

- 5.1 At the Sustainability Partnership in October 2010, partners supported the proposal of a combined South Lanarkshire Climate Change annual report for 2011 onwards. Contributions from Community Planning Partners have been submitted and the annual climate change declaration report has been updated to reflect this. The draft annual report for 2011 is attached at appendix 2 for approval. Once approved, the report will be available to the public alongside similar reports from all other Scottish councils. The report will also be made available via the Council's website.
- 5.2 Last year the annual report deadline was 30 November 2011, however COSLA has now extended the deadline to the end of March 2012. COSLA has also agreed a position among Scottish councils that publication of the annual SCCD report should be taken as fulfilling the public reporting aspect of the public sector duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

6. Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)

- 6.1 The first UK national league table for the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme covering financial year 2010/2011 was published on 8 November. The league table places South Lanarkshire Council in the top quartile at 284th out of 1,301 participants in the scheme. The Council was ranked 9th out of the 27 Scottish councils that are required to take part in the CRC.
- 6.2 The Council's favourable position in this first annual league table is due to having successfully achieved accreditation to the Carbon Trust Standard for all of its energy use and having implemented automatic meter reading in a number of larger properties. These were the two so called 'early action' measures designed into the first stages of the CRC by the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

- 6.3 Future CRC league table rankings increasingly will be determined by the Council's success in reducing energy emissions in buildings relative to other participants. A reduction of just over 1% was achieved in 2010/2011.
- 6.4 Initially the league table was to be used to redistribute revenues raised by the CRC through rebates for good performance. Government policy changed however at the time of the 2010 Spending Review and the CRC is now in effect a carbon tax. The league table was retained as a reputational driver of good performance.
- 7. Employee Implications**
- 7.1 Development of the new strategy will be a key task for the Sustainable Development Officer. All Resources will need to contribute to the development of the strategy to ensure that it reflects the full breadth of Council activity.
- 8. Financial Implications**
- 8.1 The Council begins paying for carbon emissions under the CRC scheme from April 2012. It is estimated that the annual cost will be in the region of £700,000. This is equivalent to an 8% increase in the Council's annual energy bill.
- 9. Other Implications**
- 9.1 The Sustainable Development Strategy sets out the Council's objectives and planned actions in relation to sustainable development. The current strategy includes a section on risk management.
- 10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 10.1 An equality impact assessment was carried on the Sustainable Development Strategy and its development involved consultation with partners and the general public as required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Norrie Anderson
Executive Director (Community Resources)

22 November 2011

Link(s) to Council Values/Improvement Themes/Objectives

- ◆ Vision and strategic direction (sustainable development priority)

Previous References

- ◆ Sustainability Partnership report entitled Public bodies' annual reporting on climate change presented in October 2010

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Sustainable Development Strategy 2007-2011

Contact for Further Information

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

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