

Report

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Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 September 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Community Resources)

Subject:	Sustainable Development Strategy Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Inform Committee of the status of Sustainable Development Strategy actions and measures at Quarter 4 (year end) 2010/11
- ◆ Inform Committee of the progress on the preparation of the new Sustainable Development Strategy 2012-2015.
- ◆ Inform Committee of the proposed outline structure and themes of the strategy

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the 2010/11 year end position in respect of actions and measures within the Sustainable Development Strategy be noted
- (2) that progress on the preparation of the strategy be noted
- (3) the proposed outline and themes be approved for inclusion in the new draft Sustainable Development Strategy 2012-2015 consultation process

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 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 3 of this report provides an update on progress at quarter 4, 2010/11.

3.3. In February of this year the Executive Committee agreed that a new Sustainable Development Strategy should be prepared in the light of changes in a local government context and in particular the new public sector climate change responsibilities applying to the Council which came into effect earlier this year under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. This report provides a brief update on progress and proposes broad themes to be used for a draft version of the new Strategy to be prepared for consultation in line with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

4. Sustainable Development Strategy 2010/11 Q4 Update

4.1. The vast majority of Sustainable Development Strategy actions and measures are now being tracked using IMPROVe, including updates provided by Services for their own Resource Plans.

4.2 Of the 83 Sustainable Development Strategy measures, 60 (72%) are classed as *green* so have been achieved or are on course to be achieved, 13 (16%) are classed as *amber* so have seen some minor slippage and 4 (5%) are classed as *red* and have seen major slippage. 6 (7%) measures will be reported later when data is available. Progress on all objectives, actions and measures is noted at Appendix 1.

4.3 Achievements during 2010/11 include:

- ◆ Sustainable Development Strategy mainstreamed in Resource Plans and reported through IMPROVe
- ◆ BREEAM assessments completed on all new buildings over £2m
- ◆ Energy Strategy approved and energy champions appointed in all Resources
- ◆ 2% reduction in energy consumption in buildings has been achieved
- ◆ Council-wide pool car scheme launched
- ◆ Continued refresh of PCs in schools with very low carbon units
- ◆ Carbon Management Plan reviewed to take account of new duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Greenspace Strategy completed
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan completed
- ◆ £215,000 awarded by Scottish Government to South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership for low carbon vehicles
- ◆ Social Work Resources Green Champions initiative underway
- ◆ 97% of schools engaged with Eco Award or similar programmes
- ◆ Schools GLOW teaching package developed on local environmental indicators
- ◆ 107 schools have developed, or are developing, sustainable travel plans
- ◆ 560 Council staff have now undergone sustainability awareness training
- ◆ 2010 employee surveys indicated a high level of awareness of the Council's sustainable development objectives
- ◆ Achieved community planning sign up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration

4.4 There were 4 'red' measures during 2010/11. They are listed below together with the current status and action to be taken.

Sustainable Development Strategy Objective: Improve effective use of our buildings and transport to reduce greenhouse gas emissions			
Action	Measure	Progress	Action
Implement and monitor the Council's employee travel plan	Conduct the second Employee Travel Plan by April 2011 to monitor employee travel patterns	Survey delayed due to potential impact of new pool car scheme	Survey will take place when pool car scheme has been established to provide a more accurate and up to date picture of employees' travel habits

Sustainable Development Strategy Objective: Secure quality living and working environments for health, wellbeing and economic prosperity			
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. This action may be reviewed if a new physical activity/leisure strategy is developed

Sustainable Development Strategy Objective: Foster responsible citizenship and awareness of sustainable development			
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	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		

5 Sustainable Development Strategy 2012-15 progress and proposed themes

- 5.1 The new Sustainable Development Officer has begun work on preparing the next Sustainable Development Strategy. A strategic environmental assessment (SEA) screening report has been completed and a scoping report is currently being prepared for submission to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway.
- 5.2 The statutory guidance on the public sector climate change duties published by the Scottish Government in January of this year will have a significant influence on the strategy. There are 3 broad areas of activity which need to be addressed and it is proposed to confirm these as the themes of the new Strategy. These are set out in the table below together the strategic direction which it is proposed that the draft strategy should adopt.

Theme	Council role/relevant issues	Strategic direction
Sustainable Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Carbon management and energy efficiency ◆ Sustainable building design ◆ Sustainable procurement decisions ◆ Minimising the use of resources and promoting reuse/recycling ◆ Sustainable development integrated in decision making ◆ Employee engagement 	<p>Continuing to improve our own environmental performance</p> <p>Our decisions help promote a low carbon economy</p> <p>Our employees are fully engaged in delivering sustainable outcomes</p>
Sustainable environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Greening the landscape ◆ Biodiversity and ecosystem services ◆ Countryside access ◆ Ensuring environmental quality (air/water/land) ◆ Environmental deprivation ◆ Environmental impacts ◆ Planning system role in securing environmental benefits 	<p>Ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment for all in South Lanarkshire</p> <p>Enhancing the services the local environment provides for people and communities</p> <p>Strengthening partnership working between services</p>
Sustainable communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sustainable waste management ◆ Energy efficiency in the home ◆ More sustainable transport choices ◆ Community involvement in sustainable development ◆ Role of the planning system in promoting low carbon communities ◆ Working with community planning partners ◆ Sustainable development education ◆ Green jobs and business 	<p>Using our powers and influence to promote more sustainable communities and lifestyles</p> <p>Helping to promote Scotland's low carbon economy of the future</p> <p>Adapting to a changing climate and low carbon lifestyles</p>

5.3 The first of the proposed themes largely flows from the current Sustainable Development Strategy. Further progress can be made in these areas by pursuing actions, such as carbon management, sustainable procurement, and SEA, which are already fairly well established in the Council. The second proposed theme, which is concerned with what the natural and physical environment provides for people, is also fairly well developed, but is an area where there are potential benefits from further coordination across different service areas and with partner agencies.

5.4 The third proposed theme, Sustainable Communities, was largely absent from the first Sustainable Development Strategy and presents the greatest challenge for the next one. Essentially, this theme is about what the Council needs to do to help communities adopt more sustainable lifestyles and prepare for the changes that will come about as result of the gradual shift taking place in Scotland and the UK to a low carbon economy. Current and potential policy measures have been outlined recently by the Scottish Government in its report 'Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting the Emissions Targets 2010-2022' and many of these will have significant implications for communities across Scotland.

- 5.5 Internal consultation on the strategy is now underway and Resource engagement workshops took place in July and August for each of the proposed themes. The workshops provided an opportunity to review what the Council is already doing and what more may be done to promote sustainable development in South Lanarkshire. The next stage of the pre-consultation process will involve a staff questionnaire asking all employees to comment on our progress over the last four years and their views on the way forward for each of the themes.
- 5.6 Information obtained during the pre-consultation process will form the basis of the draft strategy which we plan to present to Executive Committee in the near future before a period of public consultation.
- 6. Employee Implications**
- 6.1 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.
- 7. Financial Implications**
- 7.1 At this point there are no financial implications.
- 8. Other Implications**
- 8.1 The strategy sets out the Council's objectives and planned actions in relation to sustainable development. The current strategy includes a section on risk management and this will be updated as part of the proposed review.
- 8.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required and this process is being carried out in parallel to the development of the Strategy. The SEA screening determination for the new Strategy is currently available for public inspection. This can be found on the SEA Gateway Database using the following link [SEA Gateway Database](#) and case number SEA\00580.
- 9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 9.1 An equalities impact assessment was carried out on the previous Sustainable Development Strategy and this will be updated at an appropriate point during the development of the new strategy.
- 9.2 Consultation will be carried out with all Council Resources, and there will be a survey for SLC employees. Public and stakeholder consultation will take place during the autumn of this year.

Norrie Anderson
Executive Director (Community Resources)

8 August 2011

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

- ◆ Vision and strategic direction (sustainable development priority)

Previous References

- ◆ Executive Committee report entitled Sustainable Development Strategy 2012-2015 dated 23 February 2011

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Sustainable Development Strategy Update, dated 25th August 2011
- ◆ Sustainable Development Strategy 2007-2011
- ◆ Guidance to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act on public sector duties

Contact for Further Information

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

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