

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 August 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022 to 2027 - Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ Provide an update on the preparation of the next Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022 to 2027

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) the progress on the preparation the next Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022-27 be noted, and
- (2) the revised timeframe for completing the development of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022 to 2027 be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The current sustainable development and climate change strategy is a five-year strategy that will end in March 2022. The Climate Change and Sustainability Committee approved the development of the next strategy on 17 September 2020. At this time, the committee were provided with a breakdown on the different stages involved in the preparation of the strategy – Review, Development, and Implementation - and an indicative timeframe for each of the stages.
- 3.2. The strategy will set out how the Council aims to develop sustainably and tackle climate change over a five-year period from April 2022 to March 2027. The strategy will also provide a broad strategic direction for longer term planning, beyond the five-year period, to help to deliver on agreed outcomes and contribute to achieving the longer-term vision
- 3.3. The preparation of the strategy is a comprehensive and lengthy process that consists of different stages and involves engagement, communication, and consultation with Council Services and employees, partners, relevant stakeholders, the business community, community groups and individuals.

4. Progress on the development of the strategy

4.1. The review stage is now complete, this involved:-

- ◆ an analysis of the Council's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats in relation to sustainable development and climate change. This also included reviewing progress made to date
- ◆ an analysis to identify any internal and external factors from five key areas - Political, Environmental, Social, Technology, Economic and Legislative - that will have implications for the current strategic approach in terms of sustainable development and climate change
- ◆ understanding all the key milestones, targets and legislative requirements that need to be included in the strategy and identifying
- ◆ reviewing the current vision and strategic outcomes and identifying any gaps in terms of outcomes and interventions in the current strategy

4.2. The preparation of the strategy is currently in the development stage. To date this has involved:-

- ◆ an internal workshop in February with officers from across the Council to identify future challenges and opportunities. It also provided an opportunity for 'creative thinking' which was informed by a guest speaker Chris Stark, CEO of the UK's Committee on Climate Change
- ◆ during March to June there have been a series of engagement sessions and focus groups. This has included a focus group in each of the geographical areas across South Lanarkshire, focus groups with specific community groups, the business sector, the voluntary sector, community planning partners, representatives from the Youth Council and Seniors Together. There have been 10 sessions in total and included over 100 people.
- ◆ meetings with all Resource Management Teams to discuss actions and interventions that need to happen to meet key milestones and targets, and ambitious and innovative interventions.
- ◆ work is in progress on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Equalities Impact Assessment

4.3. The findings from all engagement sessions and focus groups are currently being analysed and will help to shape the structure of the strategy - vision, outcomes and priorities. The findings will also form the basis of questions for a series of surveys with the general public, our young people, community groups, and the business sector. The surveys will provide a deeper dive into some of the key issues raised during the focus groups. This is a new step added to the preparation of the strategy to help to widen community engagement in the development of the strategy beyond the 100 people involved in the engagement sessions.

4.4. Initial findings from the engagement sessions have identified four key themes that are emerging: -

Emerging Theme	Overview	Key Priorities
People	People are at the heart of the vision of a sustainable South Lanarkshire's. Health and well-being are paramount, no one is disproportionately affected, it is a just transition to a net-zero future, inequalities and fuel poverty are reduced and there is harmony between society and nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Improving health and wellbeing- Good Food- Air Quality- Outdoor Access- Climate Justice- Resilience- Active Travel- Awareness raising and education- Reduce consumption- Heritage and Culture

Community and Place	Communities are empowered and invigorated to create sustainable, inclusive and thriving places, that are carbon-neutral, well connected, low carbon, energy efficiency and climate resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning for place - 20-minute neighbourhoods - Construction and infrastructure - Awareness raising and education - Empowering communities - Climate Adaptation and resilience - Sustainable transport and infrastructure - Community Wealth Building - Nature-based solutions - Food growing - Reduce, reuse and recycle - homes and buildings - Heritage and culture
Green Economy	Demonstrates leadership and innovation in our thriving low carbon and circular economy, protecting and enhancing our natural resources and the health and wellbeing of citizens, building community wealth, re-skilling and training, and leaving no one behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green recovery - Circular economy - Wellbeing economy - Training and skills - Just transition - Awareness raising and education - Support the business sector
The Natural Environment	South Lanarkshire's natural environment, greenspace, and biodiversity is restored, protected, and respected, enabling basic needs like clean air, clean water, and healthy soils, as well as many other health and wellbeing and economic benefits for citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecological emergency - Biodiversity - Land Management - Nature-based solutions - Awareness raising and education - Heritage and Culture

4.5. There are also several cross-cutting themes that are emerging, these include: - Procurement, Awareness raising and Education, Communication and Engagement, Heritage and Culture, Nature-based solutions.

4.6. The development stage included engagement with Councillors. Given that the outcome from the initial engagement with community groups and stakeholders is now complete, it is considered that the timing to undertake that engagement session with Members is now right. The format of this session will mirror those with the stakeholders and will seek to ascertain members views and how this should shape the strategy, its objectives and the Council's ambitions. In that way, it will differ from the previous awareness sessions delivered by officers. The details and date for this session are currently being finalised and members will be updated directly.

5. Next Steps

5.1. There has been a degree of slippage in the original timeframe due to the engagement sessions taking longer to arrange than first anticipated, however this was a vital element of the development of the strategy, therefore it was important to give this stage the appropriate time needed and push some of the other steps back. The original timeframe was indicative and had slippage time built in. The strategy is still on track to be launched for April 2022.

5.2. The next steps in the preparation of the strategy are outlined in the revised timetable:-

Next Steps	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe
Continue as planned with the SEA process and impact assessments	August 2021 – June 2022	August 2021 – June 2022
Finalise the analysis of the engagement sessions	July 2021	August 2021
Members Engagement Session	August	September 2021
New step: Prepare and issue surveys – 4 weeks end date		September 2021
Write first draft of the strategy	August 2021	October 2021
First draft of the new strategy presented to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee	August 2021	November 2021
Public consultation: 4 weeks	September - October 2021	November 2021
Consultation comments considered and reflected in final strategy as appropriate	October 2021	December 2021
Production of desk top designed version of final strategy and environmental statement	November to December 2022	December - March 2022
Implementation stage: Communication plan, prepare first year's plan (actions will have been agreed during the development stage), Raise awareness, Training	November 2021 – March 2022	December - March 2022
Final draft of the new strategy to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee for approval	December 2022	Feb 2022
Launch of new strategy	April 2022	April 2022

6. Employee Implications

6.1. Development of the next strategy will be a key task for the sustainable development officer with support and direction from the climate change and sustainability steering group. All Resources will have a responsibility to contribute to the implementation of the strategy to ensure that actions and targets are met.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. Financing the strategy will be explored during the development stage of the strategy and may need to be funded from a range of finance options. Some actions may be 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 external funding and investment. The development of the strategy may help to leverage in additional funding and investment however alternative financial models may need to be considered.

7.2. Council Resources may require to further assess financial impacts and balance these against the social and environmental impacts in line with the principles of sustainable development and best value.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. The sustainable development and climate change strategy contributes towards the Public Sector Climate Change Duties, the Biodiversity Duty and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. Failure to meet sustainable development and climate change objectives is one of the Council's top risks, therefore, this strategy will help to mitigate that risk by providing a strategic approach, targets and timescales to tackling climate change and developing sustainably
- 9.2. The city region's climate risk and opportunities assessment that was prepared through Climate Ready Clyde will also be used in the development of the strategy to identify and mitigate potential risks and maximise opportunities that a changing climate poses.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. A public consultation on the strategy and the SEA will be undertaken. The strategy will also undergo an equalities impact assessment and a fairer Scotland assessment.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

4 August 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ♦ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities

Previous References

- ♦ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee - 17 September 2020

List of Background Papers

- ♦ Sustainable Development 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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Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy