

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	2 February 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Update – Q2 2021/2022
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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 2 of 2021 2022.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) That the 2021-2022 Q2 position in respect of actions and measures within the Sustainable Development Strategy is noted

3. Background

3.1. The Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (SDCCS) was approved 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.

4. Sustainable Development Strategy 2021-2022 Q2 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 quarter two is as follows:-

Total number of performance/ contextual measures		36
Status – Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations	6 (17%)
Status – Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target	3 (8%)
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	15 (42%)
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	12 (33%)

4.3. The three amber performance measures relate to household waste and recycling. There had been slippage on these performance measures for the first 2 quarters of 2021. The reduction in performance can be attributed to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. Multiple lockdowns meant more people working from home which led to an increase in the amount of household waste being generated and there were higher contamination levels in recycling bins. 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. All available employees were used to support statutory collection services and so there was limited scope to undertake any Waste Awareness activities. It is anticipated that performance will improve as Covid restrictions continue to ease.

4.4. The overall summary of improvements actions at quarter two is as follows: -

Total number of improvement actions		74
Status - Blue	Action Complete	4 (5%)
Status – Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations	46 (62%)
Status – Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target	7 (10%)
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	17 (23%)

4.5. There are 7 amber improvement measures that have had minor slippage. The table below provides details on these actions and provides management action taken ensure no further slippage: -

Improvement Action	Measures	Management Action
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	New procurement officer identified that will have specific responsibility in the sustainable procurement toolkit and flexible framework updates
	Using the prioritisation tool undertake prioritisation assessments for construction, social care and information technology categories	Sustainable Procurement sessions with resources for initial completion of prioritisation tool to be identified and progressed by March 2022
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	Component parts of the strategy are currently being developed along with cooperative working with a range of departments within the Council. It is anticipated that the Litter Strategy for South Lanarkshire will now be launched in June 2022
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 retrofitting 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	Planning Committee approval has been given for draft Supporting Planning Guidance on Electric Vehicle Charging Points. Planning Committee approval has also been given for the formal declaration of 16 new Local Nature Reserves and extension of Langlands Moss Nature Reserve. Following the publication of the draft NPF4 further SPGs are programmed in relation to Biodiversity and Climate Change and Sustainability in the first half of 2022/23
	Awareness sessions to be developed for planning officers and developers/agents to ensure roll out in 2022-23	Following the publication of the draft National Planning Framework 4 in November 2021 work will begin on developing interim Supporting Planning Guidance on this theme and thereafter on the preparation of South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 3. Awareness sessions for both planning officers and developers will form part of the engagement process

Review and update guidance for building standards surveyors in relation to climate change mitigation in new buildings and the adaptation of existing buildings	Monitor effectiveness of actions implemented in March 2021 and consider further service specific actions by March 2022	Building Standards officers receive regular updates on changes to legislation and best practice on this theme which in turn is fed into the building warrant assessment process. The Council has responded to Scottish Government consultation on changes to the Building Regulations in relation to energy standards, heating standards and ventilation and it is anticipated these changes will come into effect in early 2022/23
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	Owing to continued pressures on resources, as a consequence of Covid-19 emergency, business grant funding continuing to summer 2021, the draft Economic Recovery Strategy is now nearing completion for final consultation and approval at a future Community and Enterprise Resources Committee.

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

- ◆ The planning committee approved a further 16 sites as Local Nature Reserves and an extension to the existing one at Langlands Moss. The legal process of designation is still ongoing and hopefully will be completed by Quarter 4 for the majority of sites
- ◆ 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 CPP 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
- ◆ During Quarters 1 and 2, 10,489 food parcels have been distributed by the Council (the equivalent of 167,824 meals) and 485 households have also reached help through the council Community Wellbeing Line
- ◆ SLC has been able to further develop its Nature Restoration Programme by bringing together its Scottish Government Nature Restoration Funding with the SLC 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
- ◆ The Council was a core partner in the Green Heat in Greenspace project being led by Greenspace Scotland. This project was set up to identify and quantify specific opportunities in green and blue spaces within urban settlements across Scotland to support low carbon heat solutions (heat pumps and district heating networks). This project was primarily focussing on solutions for decarbonising the public sector. The findings of this report will be incorporated into the Council's Strategic Energy Review.
- ◆ A Young People's Sustainability Forum has been established to discuss how young people they 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.

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 officer 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 grant funding.

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. The sustainable development and climate change strategy has undergone public consultation and through 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 was undertaken.

Alistair McKinnon

Interim Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

12 January 2022

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

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

Previous References

- ◆ Executive Committee report on 6th 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
- ◆ UN's Sustainable Development Goals

Contact for Further Information

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

Lesley Hinshelwood, Sustainable Development Officer

Ext: 4610 (Tel: 01698 454610)

E-mail: lesley.hinshelwood@southlanarkshire.gov.uk