

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 Update – Quarter 4 2020/2021
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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 4 of 2020/2021.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the 2020/2021 Q4 position in respect of actions and measures within the Sustainable Development Strategy be 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 2020/2021 Q4 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 the end of quarter 4 is as follows:

Total number of performance/ contextual measures		37
Status – Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations	10 (27%)
Status – Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target	1 (3%)
Status - Red	There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target	3 (8%)
Reportable at a later stage/ contextual	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	23 (62%)

4.3. The three red and one amber performance measures are all household waste and recycling measures. There has been slippage on these performance measures due to the knock-on effect from Covid19. Household waste increased during lockdown periods which led to higher contamination rates and higher residual waste tonnages. Waste recycling centres were closed during lockdown and when they did open the type of recycling was restricted to manage the operations at the sites. All resources were redeployed to front-line duties therefore there was no scope to carry out any other activities. It is anticipated that these performance measures will start to improve again as Covid restrictions are eased.

4.4. The overall summary of improvements actions at the end of quarter four is as follows: -

Total number of improvement actions		66
Status - Blue	Action Complete	1 (2%)
Status – Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations	41 (62%)
Status – Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target	10 (15%)
Status - Red	There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target	13 (19%)
Reportable at a later stage/ contextual	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. All but three improvement actions that had minor or major slippage are a result of Covid-19 restrictions or resources reprioritised to continue service delivery during the pandemic. The table below provides details on the three improvement actions that had slippage but not related to Covid, and management action taken: -

Improvement Action	Measures	Management Action
Prepare an Open Space Strategy in	Draft strategy to be presented to Planning	There has been slippage on drafting the strategy as draft

partnership with Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership and other council services.	Committee for approval by March 2021 and thereafter be subject to public consultation Status at Q4: Amber	regulations for planning authorities on the preparation of Open Space Strategies (OSS) from the Scottish Government was not available prior to March 2021. To date the Scottish Government has not consulted on the draft regulations therefore it is difficult to set a new date for a draft of the OSS to be presented to the planning committee. This action has been carried forward to the 2021/2022 action plan.
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 retro fitting of appropriate technology in existing buildings	Supporting Planning Guidance to be presented to committee for approval by March 2021 and thereafter be subject to public consultation. Awareness sessions to be developed for planning officers and developers/agents to ensure roll out guidance in 2021/022 Status at Q4: Amber	The development of the supporting planning guidance will be required to take account of emerging national planning policy. The Scottish Government originally intended to consult on a draft version of National Planning Framework 4 in September 2020 but this has been delayed due to the pandemic and the timescale for consultation has been delayed until Autumn 2021 with approval anticipated for June 2022. This action has been carried forward to the 2021-22 action plan.
Explore options for innovative and affordable low carbon energy and heating solutions in local areas that will contribute towards national climate change ambitions	During 2020/2021 develop and propose a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) in line with the Scottish Governments pilot programme Status at Q4: Amber	Work in the preparation of developing a full LHEES for the Council has continued during 2020/2021, however the development of the strategy has not been able to progress further until the guidance on LHEES is provided from the Scottish Government. It was anticipated that this would have been issued during 2020/2021. Preparation work will still continue during 2021/2022 and once the guidance has been received the work to develop the actual strategy will commence.

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

- ◆ the Council reduced its vehicle emissions by 28% compared to the previous year. The reduction must be taken in context as Covid-19 resulted in fewer vehicle journeys being made in the last year than would normally be the case. It is nevertheless a positive outcome and Fleet Services will continue to work with Resources to reduce vehicle use and emissions in 2021/2022
- ◆ the Council is sending less residual waste to landfill as the use of energy from waste becomes an alternative to landfill. During the calendar year 2020, the Council sent less than 10% of its residual waste to landfill which is well below the current 25.2% target.
- ◆ there was a 188% increase on the uptake for the cycle to work scheme for 2020 compared to the previous year. The scheme was launched in June which was during lockdown where the nation witnessed more taking to active travel and enjoying the outdoors for health and wellbeing. We have also seen an increase in people using electric bikes; 30% of the applications for the 2020 scheme were for electric bikes.
- ◆ a refreshed walking and cycling campaign was launched with a 'think what you could get done if you leave the car at home' theme to support uptake of more active and sustainable travel
- ◆ the launch of Glasgow city region's first climate adaptation strategy and action plan, of which the Council was fully involved in its development, was approved by the Executive Committee
- ◆ despite Covid restrictions, the Countryside and Greenspace Team were still able to provide support to volunteer groups which resulted in an impressive 2,380 volunteer days being recorded. A survey was conducted with individuals who took part in environmental volunteering, with 100% of respondents having expressed a positive experience/health benefits from participating in environmental volunteering
- ◆ Milton Tile Works, a proposed Local Nature Reserve in Carlisle which includes Vacant and Derelict Land (VDL), has been rejuvenated as an accessible greenspace, led by Economic Development Services. Three sites were removed from the VDL register in 2020 due to naturalisation, these were the banks of the Clyde at Shawfield, Glasgow Road in Blantyre and Carlisle Road in Larkhall
- ◆ new woodland creation at Chatelherault has contributed to the initiation of the Clyde Climate Forest with the planting of 120 trees consisting of oak, sycamore and beech in March 2021
- ◆ Helping Hands for Butterflies is a partnership project with Butterfly Conservation Scotland to create new habitats for butterflies in urban places which includes three sites in South Lanarkshire. Relaxation of restrictions in summer 2020 allowed for some sowing and planting events with individuals or small family groups, and training sessions and awareness raising continued in the form of online video.

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.

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. Failure to meet the Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change objectives, as per the strategy, is one of the Council's top risks.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. An equality impact assessment was carried out on the sustainable development and climate change strategy and has undergone public consultation and been through the Strategic Environmental Assessment process
- 9.2. Public and stakeholder consultation on the sustainable development and climate change strategy were undertaken.

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

- ◆ Executive Committee - 6 December 2017 - '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: -

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