

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 2022-2027 - Update
----------	---

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ Inform the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee about the ongoing process for the development of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy in particular the public consultation on the proposed vision, themes, and priorities

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) the ongoing process for the development of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy in particular public consultation on the proposed vision, themes, and priorities is noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Climate Change and Sustainability Committee approved the development of the next Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022-2027 on 17 September 2020.
- 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.
- 3.4. An update on the development of the strategy was provided to the committee on 25 August 2021. This update stated that a consultation draft of the strategy's structure would be provided to the Climate Change and Sustainability committee on the 3 November 2021 for approval.

4. Community Engagement and public consultation

- 4.1. A series of community engagement focus groups were held to help shape the development of the strategy. The focus groups were led by external consultant Northern Star, and included the following:
- 9 focus groups
 - All online
 - Four geographic areas covered
 - Groups included separate ones for young people, older people and voluntary sector
 - 62 participants
- 4.2. The findings from the focus groups have now been analysed and a copy of the findings report is available on request. The views of the participants from the focus groups are not fully representative of all residents of South Lanarkshire, therefore the findings from the focus groups formed the basis of a survey to the wider South Lanarkshire residents. The survey was made available through social media, the SL View, Council website, and was made available to all employees and the citizen panel for comment.
- 4.3. In addition to the community engagement focus groups and survey, development workshops were also held that included council officers, community planning partners, and elected members. Feedback from these workshops has also been used to shape the strategy
- 4.4. Based on the aforementioned engagement, as well as legislative requirements and national/local policy, a proposed vision, themes, and priority/focus areas for the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy have been defined.

Proposed Vision

Our Future is Now: Together we are building an environmentally sustainable, climate resilient, and net-zero South Lanarkshire in a fair and equitable way

Proposed Themes

- ◆ People
- ◆ Community and Place
- ◆ Natural Environment
- ◆ Local Economy

Proposed Priorities/focus areas

- ◆ Environmental sustainability and climate action will contribute to improving health and wellbeing
- ◆ Mitigate the effects of climate change and action to tackle the climate emergency compounding poverty and inequality
- ◆ Improve the understanding of Sustainable Development and the Climate Emergency to influence change
- ◆ Improving sustainable transport options
- ◆ Homes, buildings, and infrastructure are climate resilient, net-zero, and minimise the use of natural resources
- ◆ Improve the availability and access to local outdoor spaces and services
- ◆ Empowering communities to take climate action and be more environmentally sustainable

- ◆ Waste Management
- ◆ Enhance, protect, and respect the outdoors and the natural environment
- ◆ Conserve, maintain and improve biodiversity
- ◆ Nature-based solutions in tackling the climate crisis
- ◆ A transition to a green economy which includes training and re-skilling for people
- ◆ Responsible consumption and production, and resource efficiency through the transition to a circular economy and sustainable procurement of goods and services
- ◆ Support the business sector in the transition to a net-zero economy and climate resilient

4.5. A more in-depth explanation of the themes and priorities/focus areas can be found at appendices 1 and 2 respectively. The priorities/focus areas can relate to more than one theme therefore Appendix 2 illustrates which themes each priority/focus area contributes to. The priorities/focus areas have been numbered in Appendix 2 for ease of reference however they do not reflect priority order.

4.6. It is proposed that a public consultation is held which focuses on the vision, themes and priorities/focus areas outlined in 4.4. This public consultation will be in the form of an online survey. The consultation of the strategy will be accompanied by the consultation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment; it is a legal requirement to consult on them both together. It is proposed that the consultation takes place end of November 2021 through to end of December 2021.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. Development of the next strategy is 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.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. Financing the strategy will be explored during the development of the action plan that will accompany the final 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.

6.2. 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.

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 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
- 8.2. 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 pose.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. 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)

13 October 2021

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

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

Previous References

- ◆ Report to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee on 25th August 2021

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Sustainable Development Strategy 2017-2022

Contact for Further Information

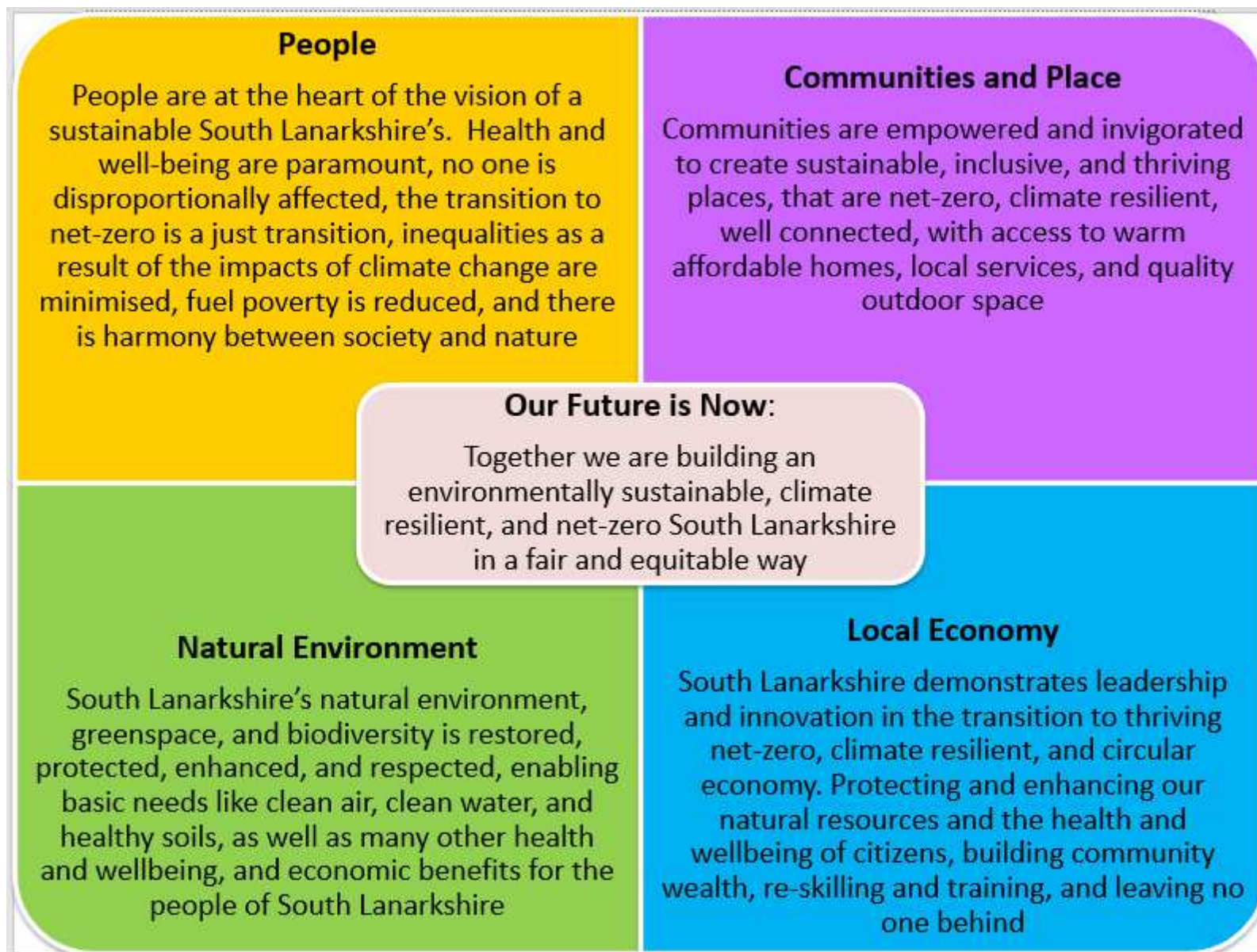
If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact: -

Lesley Hinshelwood, Sustainable Development Officer

Ext: 4610 (Tel: 01698 454610)













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












Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy























Strategy priorities and challenges

Appendix 2

Priority/focus area			Strategic Themes			
			People	Communities and Place	Natural Environment	Local Economy
1	Environmental sustainability and climate action will contribute to improving health and wellbeing	This priority will include action on improving air quality, providing local outdoor access, increased opportunities for cycling and walking, quality greenspace for people to enjoy, or use to improve physical or mental health and wellbeing. This priority will also include action to encourage sustainable and healthy food options				
2	Mitigate the effects of climate change and action to tackle the climate emergency compounding poverty and inequality	This priority will include action to reduce fuel poverty, improve climate justice so that no one is disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, or that any action taken in the transition to net-zero does not leave anyone behind or widen the poverty or inequality gap. It will also consider the impacts of climate on food security. As the community plan's key priority is reducing poverty and tackling inequalities, this priority needs to align with the community plan				
3	Improve the understanding of Sustainable Development and the Climate Emergency to influence change	This priority will include the development of a public engagement strategy for sustainable development and climate change. It will involve working in partnership to help to raise awareness and have climate conversations through various methods of communication and engagement including using the arts. This priority needs to consider those people who may be harder to engage with but may be more affected by climate change. This priority will also include embedding the understanding of the climate change and sustainable development in school life and the wider community				
4	Improving sustainable transport options	This priority will include action on improving sustainable transport options for people including public transport, integrated active and public transport options, electric vehicle charging infrastructure and incentives for people to make a switch to more sustainable and zero-carbon transport. This priority				

		needs to consider the rural and urban diversity of South Lanarkshire, the affordability of transport options, and that no one should be disproportionately affected in the transition to low or decarbonised transportation. Transport is the second biggest source of carbon emissions in South Lanarkshire				
5	Homes, buildings, and infrastructure are climate resilient, net-zero, and minimise the use of natural resources	This priority will include action to reduce carbon emissions from homes, buildings, and infrastructure. It will look to review building standards to set South Lanarkshire on the trajectory of net-zero by 2045, if not before. It will include sustainable design and construction – minimising both operational and embodied carbon – renewable heating and incorporating green infrastructure. It will include a retrofit programme for the Council's housing stock to meet EPC band B by 2032. It will involve working in partnership with housing associations, homeowners, businesses, public bodies, and communities across South Lanarkshire in the move to net-zero from the built environment. Heat and energy from homes, buildings and embodied carbon in construction/infrastructure is the biggest source of carbon emissions across South Lanarkshire. This priority will also address the climate resilience of our homes, buildings, and infrastructure including buildings of heritage and culture.				
6	Improve the availability and access to local outdoor spaces and services	This priority will bring in spatial planning and the concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods. It will help to reduce travel needs and in turn reduce transport emissions and possibly contribute to more active travel thus improving health. It will also include action to encourage shopping locally and buying locally sourced food, in turn reducing delivery/food miles travelled. Access to outdoor spaces will also be a key focus for this priority, the importance of access to local and quality outdoor space was more apparent during and following the pandemic.				
7	Empowering communities to take climate action and be more environmentally sustainable	This priority will include action to help empower communities to be more environmentally sustainable and take climate action. This will include environmental volunteering opportunities, food growing opportunities, support and training, community wealth building, community grant funding, and participatory budgeting. This priority needs to be inclusive, so everyone has opportunities to be involved in their local community. This priority will also include supporting communities to build resilience to the impacts of climate change				

8	Waste Management	This priority will include action to manage household and commercial waste produced in South Lanarkshire. This includes encouraging the reduction of general waste and food waste. This will also look to improve the quality of recyclable material collected and minimise contamination. This priority links closely with the priority of responsible consumption and production and circular economy as it is better for the environment to keep goods and materials in circulation longer thus reducing waste. It also links closely with improving the understanding of sustainable development and climate change to influence change.				
9	Enhance, protect, and respect the outdoors and the natural environment	This priority will include action to manage our natural environment (or also known as natural capital) in a sustainable manner. There are many benefits the natural environment contributes to: health, wellbeing, enjoyment, sense of place, and cultural identity. This priority will also include respecting the outdoors, the natural environment, and our communities with prevention of litter and fly tipping. It will also look to regenerate vacant and derelict land to open spaces that people can use.				
10	Conserve, maintain and improve biodiversity	This priority will be addressed through an eco-systems approach which aims to protect species and habitats. It will help to build robust eco-systems that are adaptable to changes in climate. Tourism and the food sector rely on the provision of ecosystems from a high-quality environment, contributing to economic growth.				
11	Nature-based solutions in tackling the climate crisis	This priority will focus on the natural environment helping to tackle climate change. Through the restoration of carbon sinks and maintaining and increasing sources of carbon sequestration we can offset residual carbon emissions. Nature can also help us adapt to the impacts of climate change through providing natural flood management, shading and cooling				
12	A transition to a green economy which includes training and re-skilling for people	The priority will include action to encourage green businesses and jobs opportunities to South Lanarkshire. It will include training and re-skill people for green jobs and to ensure that no-one is left behind. This priority will require working collaboratively with various partners including, businesses, education establishments, further education, and members of the Lanarkshire Economic Forum				

13	Responsible consumption and production, and resource efficiency through the transition to a circular economy and sustainable procurement of goods and services	This priority will include action to influence responsible consumption and production. It will encourage a transition to a circular economy where goods and materials are kept in use longer either through reuse, refurbish or reconditioned. It will help to promote a culture shift in our consumption of goods. Procurement practices across South Lanarkshire are a key in the transition to a circular economy. Procurement practices can also help to tackle the climate emergency				
14	Support the business sector in the transition to a net-zero economy and climate resilient	Industry and businesses are the third largest contributor to carbon emissions in the area. This priority will focus on supporting the business sector be more environmentally sustainable, more energy efficient, reduce reliance of fossil fuels, and help to put them on the pathway to net-zero and climate resilience				