

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	31 August 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

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

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise on the development of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022-2027

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and the proposed vision, themes, and priorities be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Climate Change and Sustainability Committee approved the development of the next Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (SDCCS) 2022-2027 in September 2020.

3.2. It was agreed that the Strategy should 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. An internal workshop was held in early 2021 with officers of the Council in order to gather thoughts and identify future challenges and opportunities for the new Strategy. Attendance by the Council's sustainable development officers at all Resource Management Teams took place in summer 2021 to discuss the actions and interventions that will need to happen in order to meet key milestones and targets.

3.4. Nine online community engagement focus groups, attended by 62 participants, took place mid-2021 and an online survey in October 2021 received over 800 responses which helped shape the vision and themes of the Strategy. The Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) was finalised in January 2021 and along with the draft SDCCS went out for public consultation from 1 February to 15 March 2022.

- 3.5. The public consultation was made available on the Council website and advertised on all council social media channels. It was also sent to community councils, council partnership organisations, other public sector bodies and the Sustainable Scotland Network. Comments were also sought from the Consultation Authorities as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment consultation.
- 3.6. All of the comments from the public consultation have been reviewed and have been incorporated where appropriate into the final draft which can be found at Appendix 1. This includes feedback from Housing and Technical Resources, the Council's Food Strategy Officer, Carluke Development Trust, Nature Scot, Historic Environment Scotland, SEPA, Biggar and District Civic Society and two members of the public.
- 3.7. The Strategy was approved by South Lanarkshire Council at its meeting on 15 June 2022.

4. The Vision, Themes and Priorities of the Strategy

- 4.1. Based on the significant engagement and consultation, as well as legislative requirements and national/local policy, a proposed vision and mission statement, 4 proposed themes, and 13 proposed priority/focus areas for the SDCCS have been defined. The themes have been aligned with the themes of the new Council Plan.

4.1.1. Proposed Vision and mission statement

Our Future is Now: building a sustainable, climate resilient, and net-zero South Lanarkshire together, in a fair and inclusive way.

4.1.2. Proposed Themes

- ◆ People
- ◆ Place and Communities
- ◆ Planet – the Natural Environment
- ◆ Planet – a Green Economy

4.1.3. Proposed Priorities/focus areas

- ◆ Contribute to improving health and wellbeing through environmental protection and access to environmental benefits for all
- ◆ Progress climate justice and ensure the transition to net-zero by 2045 does not exacerbate poverty or inequalities
- ◆ Influence change through improving the understanding of Sustainable Development and the Climate Emergency across South Lanarkshire
- ◆ Improve affordable, sustainable and accessible transport options
- ◆ Progress a transition to net-zero, energy efficient and climate resilience homes, buildings and infrastructure, and minimise the unsustainable use of natural resources and regenerate where appropriate
- ◆ Improve the availability and access to quality local outdoor spaces and services
- ◆ Empower communities to take climate action and be more environmentally sustainable
- ◆ Take action to allow South Lanarkshire to become a zero waste society
- ◆ Enhance, protect, and respect the outdoors and the natural and historic environment
- ◆ Conserve, restore and improve biodiversity, and use nature-based solutions in tackling the climate crisis
- ◆ Enable a fair transition to a green economy leaving no one behind

- ◆ Lead the transition to a circular economy and improve resource efficiency through responsible consumption and production, and buying and selling of local goods and services
- ◆ Support South Lanarkshire's businesses in the transition to a net-zero economy and helping to ensure they are climate resilient

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. The new Strategy will be web-based and published on the Council website. Once approved the content will be used to develop the web pages and should be available for public use shortly after. The content of the web-based pages will be reviewed every 6 months, thereby ensuring that the content is always as up to date and relevant as possible.
- 5.2. Work will continue with services and Resources across the Council to develop the accompanying action plan. Focus will be on the long-term actions covering the five year period of the Strategy, but with a view to agreeing short and medium term steps that will be required in order to meet the long term ambitions. This action plan will be reviewed annually and reported to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee on a six-monthly basis.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. Development of the SDCCS is a key task for the Councils' sustainable development officers with support and direction from the Climate Change and Sustainability Steering Group. All Resources have a responsibility to commit to and contribute to the implementation of the annual action plans to ensure targets are met.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The commitments of the SDCCS and actions detailed in the annual action plans may be part-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 likely to require 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.

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.
- 8.2. A full Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out alongside preparation of the Strategy. This allowed greater synergy and clarity and resulted in better consistency in approach to addressing the climate crisis alongside the ecological emergency. It ensures that the importance of sustainable development is mainstreamed across the Council and promoted to communities and partners. Incorporating this sustainable approach across all Council led policies, plans, programmes and strategies should result in continued environmental benefits for South Lanarkshire and the people who live, work and visit here.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. Failure to build resilience and act to the impacts of a changing climate is included in one of the Council's top risks. The development of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and action plan is a mitigation measure of this risk.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. As noted in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.6 the draft Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment underwent full public consultation for six weeks during February and March 2022. The results from the consultation and the preceding community workshops shaped the vision, themes and priorities of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy. The Equality Impact Assessment is currently being drafted and is shaped by the outcomes from a series of community engagement sessions 'Let's Talk South Lanarkshire' which took place in June 2022.

David Booth

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

1 August 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

Values

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable

Priorities

- ◆ We will work to put people first and reduce inequality
- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places
- ◆ We will work to recover, progress and improve

Outcomes

- ◆ Our children and young people thrive
- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Thriving business, fair jobs and vibrant town centres
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities
- ◆ People live the healthiest lives possible
- ◆ Inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships

Previous References

- ◆ Report to Climate Change and Sustainability Committee - 17 September 2020
- ◆ Report to South Lanarkshire Council - 15 June 2022

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

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

Name: Julie Richmond

Designation: Carbon Management Officer

Ext: 4286 (Tel: 01698 454286)

E-mail: julie.richmond@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy

Introduction

Welcome to the Council's sustainable development and climate change strategy 2022 to 2027. At the end of this document, you will find a glossary of terms to help with your reading (Pages 16-18).

This strategy has been prepared following extensive public engagement which has helped shape our strategic approach to sustainable development and climate change. The strategy will assist with the development of the corresponding action plan which will be published in autumn 2022. Whilst the new strategy focusses on the period 2022 to 2027, it also sets the pathway through to the end of this decade.

This next strategy will not only build on the previous sustainable development and climate change strategy covering the period 2017 to 2022, but the extensive work that has taken place, in conjunction with partners and communities, since 2007, when the first strategy was published.

It is important to understand what has been achieved over the lifetime of the previous strategy (2017-2022):

- We reduced our carbon footprint by a further 50% between 2017 and 2021. This reduction is partly due to changes to service provision throughout 2020 and 2021 because of Covid, but also due to a sustained and successful effort to reduce energy and fuel consumption and implement more energy and fuel-efficient technologies. This has included an ambitious street lighting replacement programme between 2015 and 2019 which saw all lanterns replaced with LED. This reduction in our carbon footprint builds on earlier successes when we reduced our carbon emissions by 28% over the period 2005 to 2017.
- We established a [Climate Change and Sustainability Committee](#) in 2020 to oversee and make strategic decisions on how to accelerate the pace and scale of action needed in response to the climate emergency.
- We undertook a range of air quality improvement projects and an education programme involving communities, businesses and schools throughout the 5-year period. The development of a [story map](#) displayed on the Council website has helped spread knowledge and understanding of the need for good air quality and the actions taking place.
- We developed and launched the Council's first [Good Food Strategy](#) in 2019 which includes a key theme of 'Good food for the environment'.
- We expanded food growing allotments sites throughout South Lanarkshire and the development of a [Food Growing](#) story map to promote the benefits of homegrown.
- We implemented the South Lanarkshire [Biodiversity Strategy 2018-22](#) with input from all members of the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership, alongside the Council's own Biodiversity Duty [Implementation Plan 2018-22](#).
- [Green Flag](#) status was awarded to many of our parks throughout the period and we continued to develop safe and accessible walking and cycling routes throughout South Lanarkshire.
- We increased recycling facilities for many of our 320,000 residents, with most of the non-recyclable waste being sent to an energy from waste facility, and very little sent to landfill.

- More than 1,300 [affordable and green homes](#) were built throughout the term of the [Local Housing Strategy 2017-22](#).
- We increased the numbers of fuel efficient and electric vehicles within the Council fleet, including pool cars, [sweepers](#) and a mini bus, and expanded the [public electric vehicle charging network](#).
- We developed a Climate Youth Forum in 2021, which included the involvement of many South Lanarkshire pupils. Pupils attended the COP26 climate emergency newsroom and participated in a successful media campaign throughout the event.
- We launched a £200,000 Community Grants Scheme at the start of 2022 to help groups develop climate change and sustainability focused projects within the community.

The Council's annual climate change duties report provides information specifically related to actions taken to tackle climate change on a year-to-year basis; this report is submitted to the Scottish Government every November. The most recent report for 2020-21 can be found on the [Council's website](#), and historic reports can be found on the [Sustainable Scotland Network](#) website.

Why sustainable development and climate change?

Sustainable development is about maintaining a stable level of economic growth and employment, whilst reducing resource consumption, producing clean alternative energy, protecting the natural environment, and enabling a quality of life which is fair, inclusive, and does not disadvantage anyone. Sustainable development is not just about considering the present but also how our actions and use of natural resources impacts future generations.

Climate change presents the single biggest threat to sustainable development, and it's widespread and unprecedented impacts are disproportionately impacting the poorest and most vulnerable, globally, and here in Scotland and in South Lanarkshire. As a society, and as a Council, we need to consider the impacts that climate change may have on our development and growth and how we adapt to and reduce these impacts. If we reduce our contribution to global warming that is causing our climate to change, we are helping to minimise these impacts and in turn able to develop more sustainably.

Sustainable development typically includes three pillars – environmental, social, and economic. For the purposes of this strategy the focus will mainly be on the environmental pillar, but the document will complement other council plans and strategies that focus on the social and economic pillars, including the council plan, community plan, economic development strategy, local housing strategy, local transport strategy and local development plan.

This strategy aims to align all three pillars of sustainable development for all who live and work in South Lanarkshire.

Influences and drivers

Since the last strategy was developed, there have been a number of external factors and changes, both globally and nationally, that have influenced our strategic approach to sustainable development and climate change, including the Covid-19 pandemic, the national declaration of a climate emergency, new greenhouse gas emission targets for Scotland, and COP26 to name a few. The urgency and pace and scale of action required within the term of this strategy is significant.

- Scotland's First Minister declared a [Climate Emergency](#) in May 2019 following a [special report](#) issued by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) in 2018, which stated that by 2030 it will be too late to limit warming to 1.5 degrees; that the world must act now.
- Following independent, expert advice from the UK [Committee on Climate Change](#) (CCC) in May 2019, the Scottish Government responded immediately with amendments to Scotland's Climate Change Act to set a 2045 target for net zero emission of all greenhouse gases, and new interim targets of 75% reduction in emissions by 2030, and 90% reduction in emissions by 2040, relative to 1990 levels. As a public sector body, we have a legislative requirement to contribute to these targets and are required to set and report on our own carbon reduction targets.
- Scotland's Climate Change Plan 2018-2032 was [updated](#) in December 2020 and sets out the pathway to the new and ambitious targets set by the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019. The updated climate change plan is also a key strategic document in Scotland's green recovery from Covid-19. The climate change plan, and associated suite of documents, set national milestones that we must meet. These milestones have been a major factor in the development of this strategy.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed major weaknesses in our economy and deep-seated inequalities in our society that have resulted in the most vulnerable people being hit the hardest. As the world recovers, we have a chance to reset the clock and build back better than before. Central to this approach is a focus on well-being and inclusiveness, as well as alignment with long-term emission reduction goals, building resilience to climate impacts, slowing biodiversity loss, and a transition to a circular economy. There has been a renewed emphasis on the importance of the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) as a framework for action in building back better. We have used the SDGs to help shape our strategy.
- Scotland is already experiencing the effects of climate change, such as warmer summers and wetter winters. Climate projections indicate that these trends will not only continue but intensify. Adapting and building resilience to the impacts of climate change will be necessary, alongside actions to reduce emissions. Many of these impacts are now "locked in" as a result of historic and ongoing emissions. [Scotland's second Climate Change Adaptation Programme](#) (SCCAP2) was launched in September 2019 and outlines action to adapt for impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided. As part of the Council's legislative requirement, it must also contribute to Scotland's Adaptation Programme.
- More locally, [Climate Ready Clyde](#) – of which the Council are members – has developed Glasgow City Region's first [Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan](#), which was launched in June 2021. The Strategy aims to ensure Glasgow City Region's economy, society, and environment is not only prepared for, but continues to flourish in the face of the impacts arising from the climate crisis. The Adaptation Strategy has helped to shape our strategic approach to climate adaptation.
- The UK hosted the 26th [UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties](#) (COP26) in Glasgow between 31st October 2021 and 13th November 2021. The COP26 summit ended in almost 200 countries agreeing the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#) which will accelerate action on climate this decade. This strategy will form part of the Council's legacy from COP26.

- The Council has Public Sector Climate Change duties to which they must comply. These include: contributing to achieving Scotland's climate change targets; adapting to the impacts of climate change; and acting sustainably in their activities. In addition, all public sector bodies must report annually to the Scottish Government on their carbon emissions and action to tackle climate change. In November 2020, changes to the annual report came into force whereby the Council must review and deliver on its carbon emission reduction targets and align its spending plans and use of resources to these reducing emissions. [Guidance](#) has been prepared for the public sector on the changes to the annual report, and this guidance has helped to shape this strategy

Engagement and consultation

It is globally recognised that developing sustainably and tackling climate change will help to improve the quality of life for all of us, and for future generations. Achieving these aspirations will involve the whole community – local government and other public bodies, the business sector, voluntary sector, local community groups and residents.

With this in mind, we engaged with residents, community groups, businesses, and the voluntary sector in the early stages of developing the strategy to ensure their views and ideas helped to shape the strategy. A series of focus groups and workshops explored what residents and communities need to live well in South Lanarkshire; attitudes to climate change; barriers for organisations and individuals taking action on climate change; and what the Council should focus on in this next sustainable development and climate change strategy.

Whilst the focus groups included people from across South Lanarkshire, we recognised that these groups alone could not be taken as representative of the whole population, therefore the findings from the focus groups provided the basis for a wider South Lanarkshire public engagement online survey.

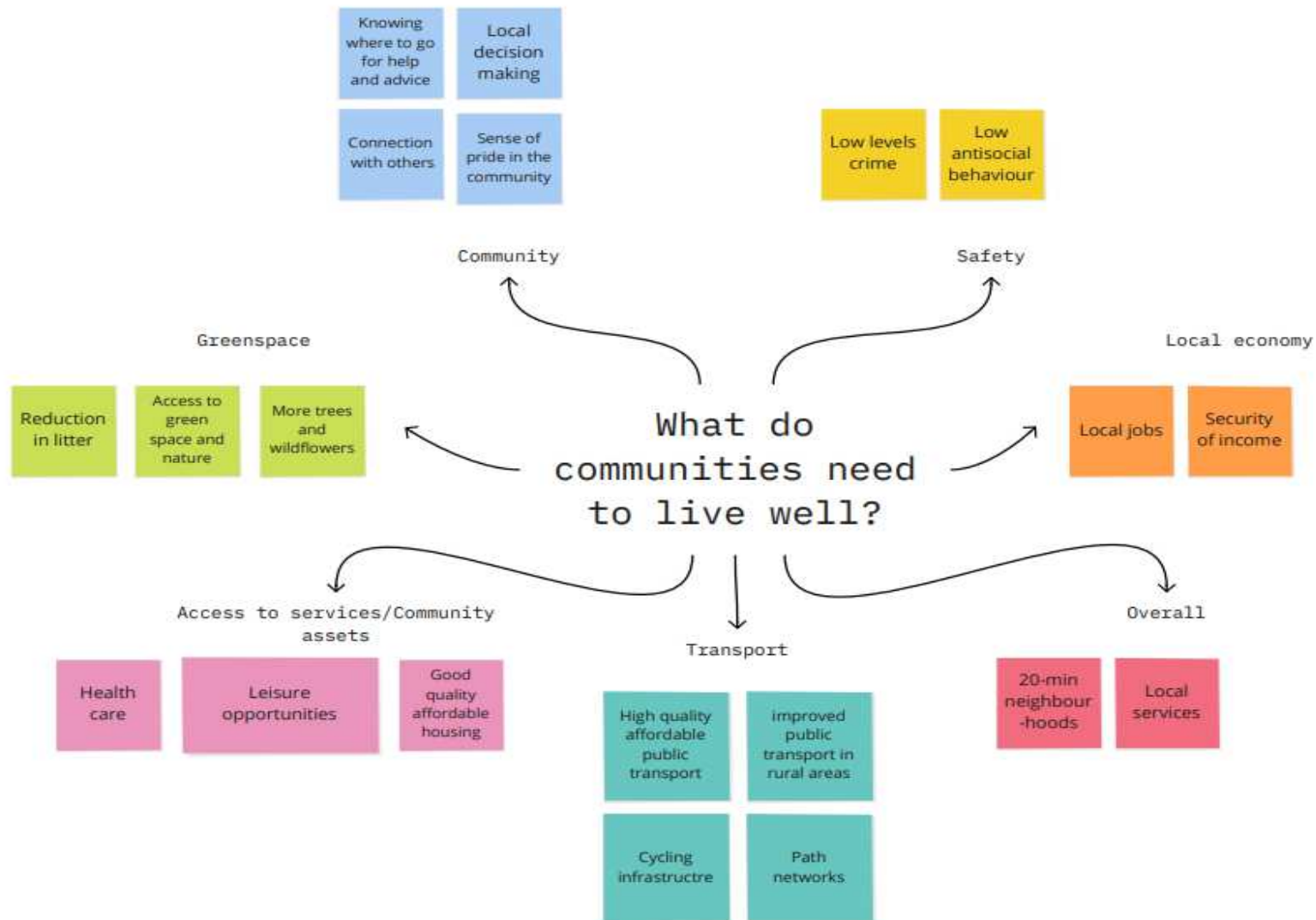
A public consultation of the draft strategy was made available on the council website and advertised on all council social media channels. It was also sent to community councils, council partnership organisations, other public sector bodies and the Sustainable Scotland Network. Comments were also sought from the Consultation Authorities as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment consultation.

There was a strong message throughout the focus groups, survey and from the consultative draft that the strategy needs to be holistic and look for synergies between community priorities and sustainable development and climate change priorities. Another key message was that the strategy should work for all sectors of society and any action resulting from the strategy must be undertaken in a fair and equitable way. The urgency of action from all sectors of South Lanarkshire was also a key message.

During the public engagement, it was suggested that the strategy's vision, themes, and key priorities provide a framework that supports and informs decisions and actions, not just for the Council, but for all sections of the community of South Lanarkshire, whether that be businesses, organisations, community groups, or individuals.

A copy of the public engagement report can be made available on request.

Figure 1: summary of findings from focus groups



Vision and Themes

Throughout this section we will outline the strategy's vision and themes. These are based on the public engagement feedback, alongside consideration of legislative requirements, and national, regional, and local policies.

The strategic vision and mission statement is:

Our Future is Now: building a sustainable, climate resilient and net-zero South Lanarkshire together, in a fair and inclusive way

'Our Future is Now' is taken from a 2019 UN Sustainable Development Goals report on collaborative action with respect to achieving sustainable development goals.

There was a lot of discussion during the focus groups around the vision for the strategy. It was felt that it should reflect what is important to people, include the climate emergency, and demonstrate the pace and scale needed, the requirement to work together, and that everybody be treated equally.

From the issues that were discussed during the public engagement (**see Figure 1**) there are four key themes that emerged. These themes align with the themes of the Council Plan: People Place Planet

- **People**
- **Place and Communities**
- **The Natural Environment (Planet)**
- **A Green Economy (Planet)**

People

- People are at the heart of a sustainable South Lanarkshire. Health and well-being are paramount; no one should be disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change; there should be a just transition to a net-zero future; climate inequalities and fuel poverty are reduced; and there is harmony between society and nature.

During the public engagement sessions, people felt that issues like tackling poverty and inequalities, and improving health and wellbeing were of more importance to people than climate change. The People theme looks to build on the work already happening across South Lanarkshire to make it a fairer place for everyone, by helping to improve health and wellbeing, assisting with the cost of living, and mitigating the inequalities exacerbated by climate change. Climate change will increase the risk of environmental hazards. It is recognised that the impacts of a changing climate are not felt equitably among people and often have disproportionate effects for those already experiencing poverty and inequalities. While we look for solutions to address the climate crisis, we will do so in a way that creates a fairer and more just society in the process.

Place and Communities

- Communities are empowered and supported to create sustainable, inclusive and thriving places that are net-zero, climate resilient, well connected, with access to energy efficient, comfortable and affordable homes, local services, and local quality outdoor space.

During the public engagement sessions, people felt access to local services was important to them and they wanted to be included in the decisions made about their local areas. They wanted to have access to affordable, safe and sustainable transport options, energy efficient, comfortable and affordable homes, and local quality greenspace - the benefits of which have been further realised as a result of the pandemic. There were discussions around rural and urban areas in South Lanarkshire and the challenges and opportunities these geographical differences raise. It was also felt that there should be fair involvement of all residents in environmental developmental decision-making processes. This theme will build on the work already happening across South Lanarkshire to improve communities and place, although it will do this through a sustainable development and climate lens which will take the diversity of rural and urban South Lanarkshire into account.

The Natural Environment

- South Lanarkshire's natural environment, greenspace, and biodiversity is restored, protected, enhanced, 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 the people of South Lanarkshire.

During the public engagement sessions, people felt strongly that our natural environment holds many benefits for people and for helping to tackle climate change. There was a lot of discussion around litter and fly-tipping and that there is a greater need to respect our local and natural environment. People agreed the need for quality greenspace for our health and wellbeing and understood that the natural environment provides us with basic needs like clean air, water and food, medicine, building materials and jobs, and felt that these should be enjoyed equally across South Lanarkshire. It was also felt that good quality, local greenspace can contribute to a sense of place. This theme will build on the work that is already happening to restore, protect, enhance, and respect the natural environment as well as help in the transition to net-zero and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

A Green Economy

- South Lanarkshire demonstrates leadership and innovation in the transition to a thriving, net-zero, climate resilient, and circular economy. In partnership with businesses and social enterprises, we should aim to protect and enhance our natural resources and the health and wellbeing of citizens through building community wealth, providing sustainable, quality, green job opportunities, re-skilling and training, and leaving no one behind.

Opportunities for local jobs and security of income were identified as key priorities during the public engagement. The pandemic has brought a lot of uncertainty to the economy and to job security. The transition to net-zero could mean changes to businesses and jobs. This theme will build on the work already taking place across South Lanarkshire towards a thriving and sustainable local economy by ensuring that we are taking actions that contribute to a just transition - that nobody is left behind - and that there are opportunities for quality green jobs as the green market grows across South Lanarkshire.

Figure 2



Priorities

The next section outlines the priorities that have been identified for the Council. The priorities have been established using public engagement feedback and taking cognisance of our legislative requirements and national commitments and targets.

Appendix 1 provides an outline of each of the priorities, the scope and types of actions that will sit under each priority, and the themes that each priority contributes to.

Please note, the priorities are numbered for reference. They are of equal importance.

1. Contribute to improving health and wellbeing through environmental protection and access to environmental benefits for all
2. Progress climate justice and ensure the transition to net-zero by 2045 does not exacerbate poverty or inequalities
3. Influence change through improving the understanding of Sustainable Development and the Climate Emergency across South Lanarkshire
4. Improve affordable, sustainable and accessible transport options
5. Progress a transition to net-zero, energy efficient and climate resilience homes, buildings and infrastructure, and minimise the unsustainable use of natural resources and regenerate where appropriate
6. Improve the availability and access to quality local outdoor spaces and services
7. Empower communities to take climate action and be more environmentally sustainable
8. Take action to allow South Lanarkshire to become a zero waste society
9. Enhance, protect, and respect the outdoors and the natural and historic environment
10. Conserve, restore and improve biodiversity, and use nature-based solutions in tackling the climate crisis
11. Enable a fair transition to a green economy leaving no one behind
12. Lead the transition to a circular economy and improve resource efficiency through responsible consumption and production, and buying and selling of local goods and services
13. Support South Lanarkshire's businesses in the transition to a net-zero economy and helping to ensure they are climate resilient

The above vision, themes and priorities will be used as a framework to develop our action plan and set targets.

Climate change and carbon emissions

In addition to the priorities listed, we will comply with our Public Sector Climate Change Duties. Part of those duties is to manage, reduce and report on our own carbon footprint, which we have been doing since 2005. We will also work collaboratively with partners, communities, the business sector, and voluntary sector to reduce South Lanarkshire's area-wide emissions.

Climate change presents the single biggest threat to sustainable development and one of the best ways to contribute to lessening future changes in climate is measuring and understanding our carbon footprint. Once we know where our main emissions come from, we can take measures to reduce it.

The Council's carbon footprint includes the carbon associated with the gas, electricity and oil used to heat and power our buildings, the fuel we use to travel and the electricity used for street lighting.

It also includes the emissions that are produced when processing and disposing of the household waste we collect.

The most recent carbon footprint, for 2020-21 shows that reductions of 65% have been achieved since the baseline year of 2005-06. There are several reasons for this consistent and significant reduction in emissions. Most are related to specific measures undertaken by the council to reduce fuel consumption. However, some changes are as a result of updates to the annual carbon conversion factors that are published by the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). This means that the fluctuating carbon factors over which the Council has no control can affect our reported carbon emissions.

Future targets for reducing the council's carbon footprint will be incorporated into the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan.

Interventions

In addition to the actions that will deliver on the priorities we will develop some high-level interventions that will assist in implementing the strategy which includes:

- Developing a public engagement and communications plan. This will set out our overarching framework for engaging the people of South Lanarkshire in relation to key issues/messages around sustainable development and climate change.
- Fully embed climate change and sustainability in all council decisions
- Prepare a route-map for the transition to net-zero for both the Council and the wider South Lanarkshire area.
- Work with partners, communities, businesses, groups and organisations to establish a more joined up and collaborate approach to tackling resource efficiency and climate change. We need to set a pathway of how we will reach net-zero and how much this will cost.
- Recognise the already changing climate and take climate adaptation action
- Develop a programme of training that will help people better understand the climate emergency and alleviate fears.
- Provide opportunities for local community groups to take forward sustainable development and climate change action. This includes the current small grant funds.
- Review our procurement processes, further embed sustainability and climate change in tendering, and investigate ways to further reduce emissions from our supply chain.
- Work with the Scottish Government, UK Government and external partners to seek funding to support the delivery of net zero projects.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

The action plan will be monitored and reported to the Council's climate change and sustainability committee twice a year, and we will continue to prepare an annual climate change duties report. Progress on the action plan and the annual climate change duties report will also be made available on the Council website.

We will agree performance indicators with Council Services that will be included in the action plan and will demonstrate progress. We will also undertake a range of activities that will demonstrate impact, including surveys and case studies.

The Council's climate change and sustainability committee will ensure the effective delivery of the strategy and action plan. The Council's senior management climate change and sustainability steering group will support the work of the committee.

This strategy is web-based on the Council's website, alongside the accompanying Equalities Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment. A summary version of the strategy can be made available on request for anyone who does not have access to the internet.

Appendix 1

We will		Overview	Strategic Themes			
			People	Communities and Place	Natural Environment	Green Economy
1	Contribute to improving health and wellbeing through environmental protection and access to environmental benefits for all	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	X	X	X	
2	Progress climate justice and ensure the transition to net-zero by 2045 does not exacerbate poverty or inequalities	This priority recognises that the impacts of a changing climate are not felt equitably among people and often have disproportionate effects for those already experiencing poverty and inequalities. Actions will include measures to understand the landscape of fuel poverty and reducing fuel poverty It will also include actions to tackle 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	X	X		
3	Influence change through improving the understanding of Sustainable Development and the Climate	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, positively influence behaviours, 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	X	X	X	X

We will		Overview	Strategic Themes			
			People	Communities and Place	Natural Environment	Green Economy
	Emergency across South Lanarkshire	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	Improve affordable, sustainable, and accessible transport options	This priority will include action on improving sustainable transport options for people including active travel option, public transport, integrated active and public transport options, electric vehicle charging infrastructure and incentives for people to make a switch to more sustainable and decarbonised 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	X	X		X
5	Progress a transition to net-zero, energy efficient and climate resilient homes, buildings, and infrastructure, and minimise the unsustainable use of natural resources and regenerate where appropriate	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 Energy Performance Certificate (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 sensitive	X	X	X	X

We will		Overview	Strategic Themes			
			People	Communities and Place	Natural Environment	Green Economy
		buildings of heritage and culture and the role of planning regulations. It will also support keeping buildings in use as much as possible.				
6	Improve the availability and access to quality local outdoor spaces and services	This priority will focus on spatial planning and the concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods with tailored plans for urban and rural towns and dwellings. It will help to reduce travel needs and in turn reduce transport emissions and possibly contribute to more active travel thus improving health. Access to biodiverse 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.	X	X	X	X
7	Empower communities to take climate action and be more environmentally sustainable	This priority will include action to provide environmental volunteering opportunities, food growing opportunities, support and training, community wealth building, community grant funding, and participatory budgeting. This priority needs to be inclusive, giving everyone opportunities to be involved in their local community. This priority will also include supporting communities to build resilience to the impacts of climate change	X	X	X	X
8	Take action to allow South Lanarkshire to become a zero waste society	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.	X	X	X	
9	Enhance, protect, and respect the outdoors and	This priority will include action to manage our natural environment (or also known as natural capital) in a sustainable manner. A biodiverse natural	X	X	X	X

We will		Overview	Strategic Themes			
			People	Communities and Place	Natural Environment	Green Economy
	the natural and historic environment	environment and healthy ecosystem contributes to benefits for: 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 encourage the regeneration of natural environments where appropriate. It will also look at the positive role that the historic environment can play in people accessing outdoors. This priority will make reference to the work carried out within our Air Quality and Biodiversity strategies and within our Nature restoration programme.				
10	Conserve, restore and improve biodiversity, and use nature-based solutions in tackling the climate crisis	This priority will focus on the role of the natural environment in tackling climate change. The creation, restoration, management and protection of natural carbon sinks and their capacity to sequester and store carbon, can be used to offset residual carbon emissions. Ecosystem services can also help us adapt to the impacts of climate change through for example: natural flood management; shading; cooling; and improving air quality as well as providing food, drinking water, timber, cultural experience, recreation. This priority will be addressed through an ecosystems approach which aims to protect species and habitats. It will help to build robust ecosystems that are adaptable to changes in climate and bring multiple benefits for wildlife and people. Tourism and the food sector rely on the provision of ecosystems from a high-quality environment, contributing to economic growth. This priority will make reference to the work carried out within our Local Flood Risk Management Plans and River Basin Planning Management and flood risk management duties. This priority also links with our Good Food Strategy which aims to work with partners and the private sector to explore and implement practices that will	X	X	X	X

We will		Overview	Strategic Themes			
			People	Communities and Place	Natural Environment	Green Economy
		help tackle the impact of food systems on the environment and climate change.				
11	Enable a fair transition to a green economy leaving no one behind	The priority will include action to encourage innovation and investment in 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. It will include working with partners to deliver the Scottish Government Heat In Buildings Strategy, encouraging renewable heat and heat networks. This priority will require working collaboratively with various partners including, businesses, education establishments, further education, and members of the Lanarkshire Economic Forum	X	X		X
12	Lead the transition to a circular economy and improve resource efficiency through responsible consumption and production, and buying and selling of local 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 and will also include action to encourage shopping locally and buying locally sourced food. 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	X		X	X
13	Support South Lanarkshire's businesses in the transition to a net-zero economy and building climate resilience	Industry and businesses, including agriculture, 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, encourage and develop renewable heat and heat networks and help to put businesses on the pathway to net-zero and climate resilience				X

Glossary of terms

Term	Explanation
Area-wide emissions	Emissions for South Lanarkshire area that incorporates the following sources: domestic, commercial and industry, transport, land-use, and the public sector
Biodiversity	The variety of life which inhabits the planet including plants, animals insects, and also the surroundings they live in
Carbon	Known as Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂) – is the primary greenhouse gas emitted. A naturally occurring greenhouse gas, however it can be produced by burning of fossil fuels and biomass, and other activities. It is CO ₂ generated by human activities that is the main contributor to climate change.
Carbon footprint	A measure of the amount of CO ₂ emitted from activities. South Lanarkshire Council's carbon footprint, it is made up from five sources: energy consumption from buildings, household waste, energy consumption from street lighting, fuel consumption from our fleet, and staff business travel
Carbon sequestration	The long-term storage of carbon in plants, soils, geologic formations, and the ocean, also known as carbon sinks
Circular economy	A model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible
Climate Adaptation	Actions or changes required in anticipation of, or in response to, the impacts of a changing climate
Climate Change	Any notable change in the measures of climate such as temperature, rainfall, wind patterns that occur over a period of time
Climate Change Act	This refers to the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act. The primary objective of the Act is to raise the ambition of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. This was amended by the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 which increased the ambition of Scotland's emissions reduction targets to net zero by 2045
Climate Change Plan	Scotland's current Climate Change Plan is the fourth report on proposals and policies covering the period 2018 to 2032. It sets out the Scottish Government's pathway to meeting climate change targets
Climate emergency	A situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it – also referred to as the Climate Crisis
Climate inequalities	The unequal impact of extreme weather on people

Climate justice	Finding solutions to the climate crisis that not only reduce emissions or protect the natural world, but that do so in a way which creates a fairer, more just and more equal world in the process
Climate resilience	Climate resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate
COP26	The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP26, was the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference, held in Glasgow from 31 October to 13 November 2021. COP stands for Conference of the Parties
Decarbonisation	The reduction, leading to eradication of, carbon emissions. Decarbonisation can be employed in a number of sectors such as heat, electricity, transport etc.
Economic Growth	<i>Economic growth</i> is an increase in the production of economic goods and services, compared from one period of time to another
Ecosystem	A system that includes all living organisms in an area as well as its physical environment. Ecosystem Services are the benefits provided by ecosystems that contribute to making human life both possible and worth living, such as food and water, regulation of floods, soil erosion and disease outbreaks, and non-material benefits such as recreational and spiritual benefits in natural areas
Embodied carbon	The carbon footprint of a building or infrastructure project before it becomes operational
Energy efficient	A device or building that is energy-efficient uses relatively little energy to provide the power it needs
Energy from Waste	The process of generating energy in the form of electricity and/or heat from the primary treatment of waste , or the processing of waste into a fuel source
Energy Performance Certificate	An <i>Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)</i> measures the energy efficiency of property on a scale of A-G
Fuel Poverty	The definition of fuel poverty in Scotland is if a household spends more than 10% of its income on fuel costs and if the remaining household income is insufficient to maintain an adequate standard of living
Global Warming	A gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere generally attributed to the greenhouse effect caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide, CFCs, and other pollutants
Green economy	A green economy is defined as low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. In a green economy, growth in employment and income are driven by public and private investment into such

economic activities, infrastructure and assets that allow reduced carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced energy and resource efficiency, and prevention of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Green job	Green jobs are decent jobs that contribute to preserve or restore the environment, be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction, or in new, emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency. The range of green jobs make up the green labour market.
Green Recovery	A widely adopted term for a package of environmental, regulatory, and fiscal reforms to recover prosperity after the COVID-19 pandemic
Greenhouse Gases	<p>Greenhouse gases (GHGs) stop heat escaping from the earth's atmosphere ensuring that the planet is warm enough to sustain life. Human activity has increased the emission of GHGs contributing to global warming. The primary GHG in the earth's atmosphere is Carbon Dioxide, other GHGs includes Methane, Nitrous oxide, Chlorofluorocarbons. As Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) is the primary GHG, the term carbon emissions or emissions are used instead of GHGs. Greenhouse gas emissions fall into two categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct greenhouse gas emissions are emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the reporting entity. e.g. gas consumption and fuel consumption from fleet• Indirect GHG emissions are emissions that are a consequence of the activities of the reporting entity but occur at sources owned or controlled by another entity. e.g. consumption of purchased electricity, heat or steam, waste disposal, business travel, purchased goods and services
Greenspace	Land that is partly or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation. Green space includes parks, community gardens, and cemeteries
Just transition	The term is used to refer to the notion that justice and equity must form an integral part of the transition towards a low-carbon world
LED	Stands for "Light-Emitting Diode." An LED is an electronic device that emits light when an electrical current is passed through it. LEDs are energy efficient and have a long lifespan
Nature-based Solutions	The sustainable management and use of natural features and processes to tackle socio-environmental challenges. These challenges include issues such as climate change, water security, water pollution, food security, human health, biodiversity loss and disaster risk management
Net zero	A term applied to both GHGs and carbon emissions which means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out through sequestration or carbon storage. The Scottish Government's national target of net-zero emissions by 2045 is for all greenhouse gas emissions

Public Sector Climate Change	The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 places legislative duties on public bodies relating to climate change, requiring them to contribute to
Duties	carbon emissions reduction targets; contribute to climate change adaptation; and to act sustainably
Resource efficiency	Using the Earth's limited resources in a sustainable manner while minimising impacts on the environment
Sustainable Development Goals	The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030
Zero direct emissions	Reducing direct emissions to zero (that there are no direct emissions produced)
Zero-waste	<i>Zero waste</i> is a set of principles focused on waste prevention that encourages the redesign of resource life cycles so that all products are reused