

Policy
outcomes

change

■ theme

Environment

Assessment

Change

responsibilities



South Lanarkshire Council
Sustainable Development Strategy
2012–2017

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Chapter 1 - Introduction

About the Sustainable Development Strategy

Welcome to South Lanarkshire Council's second Sustainable Development Strategy which covers the period from 2012 to 2017.

Our first Sustainable Development Strategy adopted in 2007 mainly focussed on improving the Council's environmental performance and a great deal was achieved that we can build on over the next five years.

The policy background underlying sustainable development in the public sector in Scotland has changed since 2007 and this presents new challenges for us. As well as acting sustainably in the way we deliver services, there are higher expectations on us to contribute to national objectives including contributing to Scotland's transition to a low carbon economy.

The economic situation facing the entire UK public sector over the next decade also presents significant new challenges. All local authorities have had to cope with several years of budget constraint and this will continue over the lifetime of the new strategy. It is important then that our approach promotes efficient use of resources, provides benefits to local communities and helps us to deliver best value for South Lanarkshire.

What do we mean by sustainable development?

Sustainable development involves finding a balance between economic, social and environmental objectives to safeguard the wellbeing of future generations both locally and globally. It is often described as:

"Development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs."

The benefits of economic and social development are usually obvious: the creation of well-paid jobs, profitable businesses, the provision of affordable housing, and ensuring safe, strong and just communities. The benefits of environmental protection are often less evident or immediate but nonetheless are vital for our health and wellbeing.

A healthy environment provides us with natural resources such as clean air, clean water, fertile soils, food, energy, and building materials. Our long-term economic and social wellbeing ultimately depends on environmental resources but they are not infinite. Sustainable development is about achieving economic and social development in a way that also enables us to protect and enhance our environment both now and for the future.

Making sustainable choices doesn't always have to cost more or impede social progress. Using natural resources more efficiently can save money and benefit the economy. Enhancing the environment can improve our health and quality of life. How we protect the planet today will also continue to have an impact on the wellbeing of future generations.

Roles and Responsibilities

South Lanarkshire Council has broad ranging responsibilities spanning economic, social and environmental issues. In keeping with our previous approach, this strategy will focus on the environmental aspects of sustainable development to complement our other strategies for social and economic development.

We recognise that achieving sustainable development touches all aspects of our lives. It goes beyond the boundaries of what the Council can itself deliver and extends to all sectors of society. This strategy is relevant to everyone who lives and works in South Lanarkshire and we will work with partners, local businesses and communities to enable the people of South Lanarkshire to live more sustainably and enjoy the benefits of a high quality environment.





Climate Change

Climate change is now recognised globally as one of the most significant threats to humanity. It has become the key issue for sustainable development and there continues to be a great deal of international debate about how best to tackle it. So what is climate change?

The Earth's climate has always gone through natural cycles. Widely accepted scientific evidence, however, shows that the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas has caused a build up of 'greenhouse gases' in the atmosphere which is gradually warming the planet causing changes in the earth's climate. Carbon dioxide (CO₂), emitted through the burning of fossil fuels, is the primary greenhouse gas but others such as methane are also important. The concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is 40% higher than at the start of the industrial revolution and is still increasing.

The climate has already changed here in Scotland. Over the last century it has got warmer, rainfall patterns have changed and we have seen an increased frequency of heavy rain events. The experience of recent years has shown us that severe weather events have impacts on many aspects of society, including health, housing, transportation, agriculture, water resources and energy demands.

Even if international agreements are successful in curbing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions, scientist still expect average global temperatures to rise by between 2° and 4° C, with wide ranging impacts on food security, water availability, infrastructure, human health and patterns of migration. The rise in average temperatures is predicted to be most critical in equatorial areas where a large proportion of the world's population live. Scotland may experience less severe climatic change than elsewhere but will still be affected by its global impacts.

Tackling climate change is not something that can be done in isolation and needs action globally to address it. Scotland is only responsible for a small share of global emissions but per head of population, Scotland's

emissions are still twice the global average and there is a strong moral case to take action.

Being better prepared for climate change can deliver potential benefits and opportunities for local people in terms of improved health, reduced costs, business opportunities and jobs.

All public sector bodies in Scotland now have a legislative duty to contribute to national targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (climate change mitigation) and help prepare for expected future changes in the climate (climate change adaptation). Our Sustainable Development Strategy outlines the action we will take to reduce our emissions and adapt to any changes in climate. It is therefore also our Climate Change Strategy.

How the strategy has been developed?

This strategy has been developed through consultation feedback. As sustainable development is relevant to all sectors of society we welcomed views from all perspectives. We engaged with stakeholders in various ways, including:

- Consultation meetings with community groups, residents, businesses, organisations and elected members
- Discussions with our young people, including schools, Eco-school representatives, the Youth Council and Scottish Youth Parliament
- Discussions with key staff across the Council and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture which provides services on its behalf
- A Citizens' Panel survey to help us understand local residents' needs and priorities
- Internal consultation process for all employees to gain their views and ideas
- Meetings with community planning partners through our Sustainability Partnership
- Discussions with other councils through the Sustainable Scotland Network

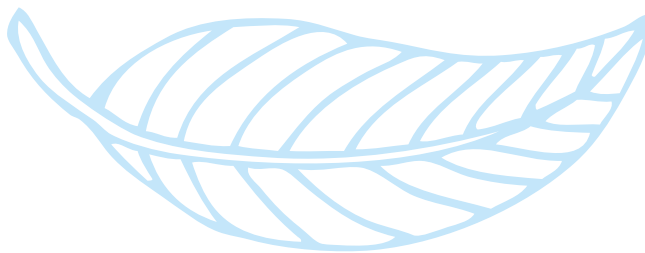
We received considerable feedback during the consultation process and we would like to thank everyone who participated. Your comments have contributed to this final strategy.





How the strategy is structured

The strategy has been set out in six chapters. Chapter two explains the policy background in which the strategy has been developed, and in particular the Council’s role in relation to climate change. Chapters three, four and five introduce our core themes which provide a structure for our actions:



Sustainable Council	Considers the Council’s own impact on the environment and what we will do with our staff and partners to minimise it.
Sustainable Environment	Considers the quality of the local environment and what we are doing to protect and enhance it.
Sustainable Communities	Considers how the Council will help local communities to be more sustainable and be better prepared for Scotland’s future low carbon economy.

For each theme we have set out the national and local policies that influence our approach and issues which emerged during consultation. We outline our achievements during the period of the first strategy, the outcomes we hope to achieve during the lifetime of this strategy and the actions we will take to attain them.

In chapter six we explain how we will monitor the implementation of the strategy. We also

set out the arrangements we have put in place for reporting progress to elected members, our partners and the general public.

In appendix 1, we have published an Environmental Statement in which we set out our overarching environmental commitments. The Action Plan which accompanies the Strategy is detailed in appendix 2. Appendix 3 provides definitions and links for terms used within the strategy.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

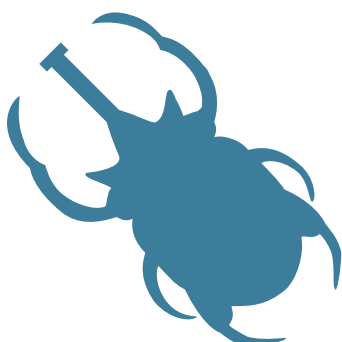
The Sustainable Development Strategy has been influenced by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process which was carried out in accordance with the requirements of Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The purpose of SEA is to minimise potential negative effects of plans and strategies on the environment and to enhance positive effects.

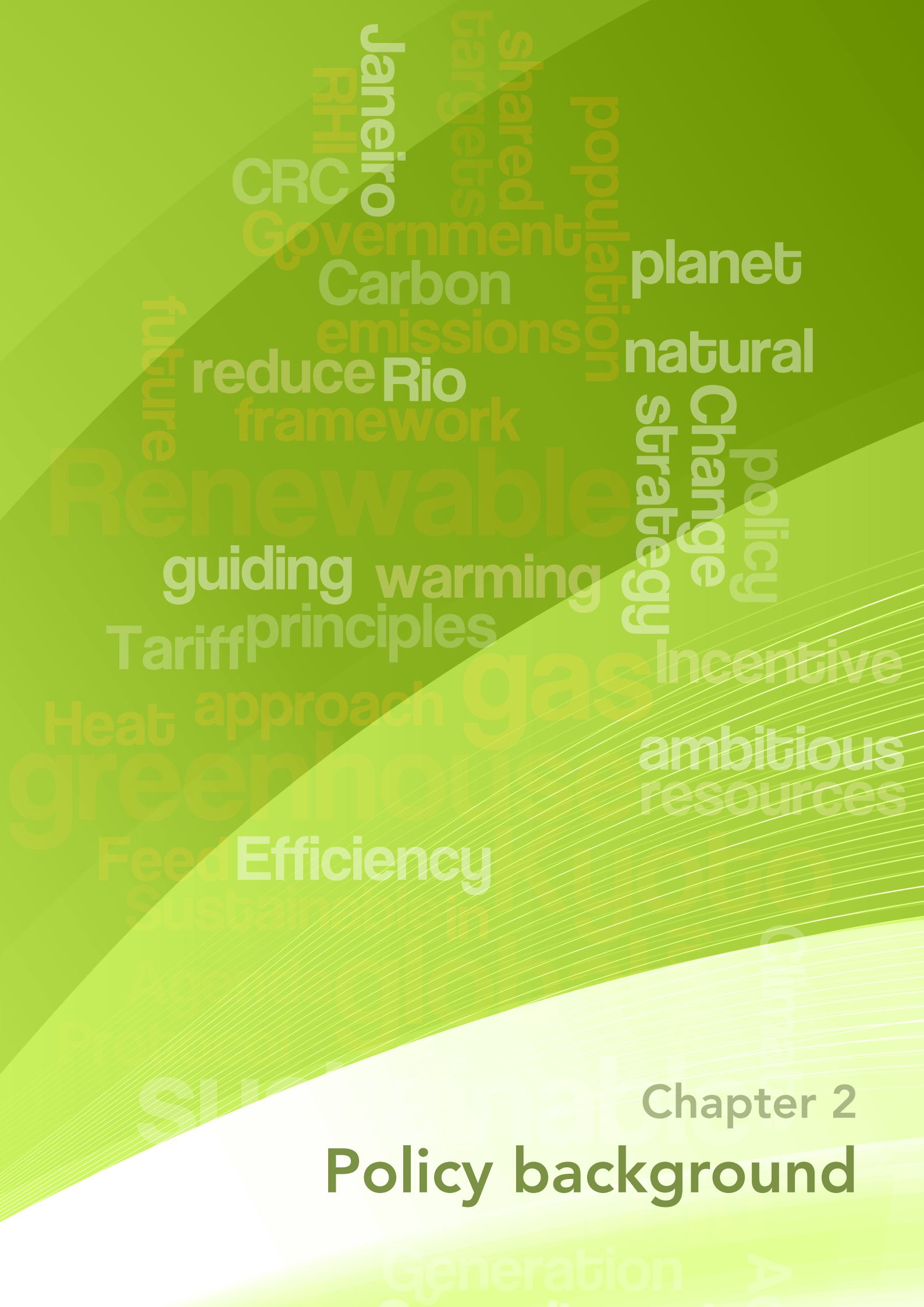
The SEA process involved formal consultation with Historic Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage. All documents associated with the SEA process for the Sustainable Development Strategy are available on the Council website.

Equalities

The principle of equality of opportunity cuts across all three themes in the strategy. Our corporate commitment to equality is contained in the Council’s Single Equality Scheme, which sets out our approach to meeting the duties referred to in the Equality Act, 2010, in relation to age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity (and marriage and civil partnership).

An equalities and human rights impact assessment was carried out to assess the impact of the strategy on these groups and on the delivery of the Council’s equality duties. The conclusions of the assessment can be viewed on the Council website.





shared targets
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Efficiency
Sustainable
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Chapter 2

Policy background

Chapter 2 – Policy background



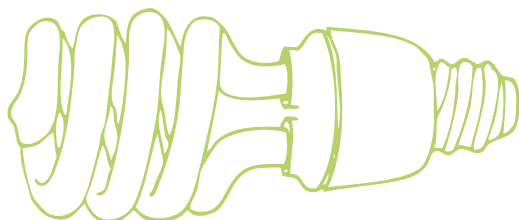
International context

Sustainable development became a key objective for governments following the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. A key agreement signed by world leaders became known as Local Agenda 21: a commitment by each country to take action at a local level to safeguard the earth's natural resources and ensure a sustainable future for the planet.

At the time of the summit the world population stood at 5.4 billion. In the 20 years to the present day it has grown by almost one third to seven billion and is expected to exceed nine billion by 2050. During that time there has also been rapid economic growth in heavily populated countries such as China, India and Brazil, leading to significant increases in consumption and huge new demands on the earth's natural resources. This unprecedented economic growth has accelerated the rise in global greenhouse gas emissions.

Rio de Janeiro hosted a follow up to the 1992 Earth Summit in June 2012 which recognised the progress made in global sustainable development and the challenges remaining. World leaders renewed their commitment to achieving global sustainable development and agreed to develop a new set of proposals to meet this commitment.

An International treaty process designed to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions began in the Japanese city of Kyoto in 1997. This agreement, known as the 'Kyoto Protocol', was designed to limit the expected average increase in global warming to no more than 2°C by the end of this century. To date, 191 nations have signed the protocol but a binding global approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions has yet to materialise. Despite this failure, many countries, including the UK and Scottish governments, have set their own targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and in so doing, reduce their nation's dependence on, fossil fuels.



National context

United Kingdom

In 2005, the UK Government and its devolved administrations for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland agreed a shared framework for sustainable development called 'One Future – Different Paths'. It sets guiding principles for any strategy or policy developed by each administration:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Using sound science responsibly
- Promoting good governance

In response to the Kyoto Protocol, the UK Government set ambitious carbon reduction targets through the Climate Change Act, 2008. The Act introduced a number of new policy measures, including the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC), which requires large energy users, including the Council, to pay a tax for every tonne of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted. Other measures introduced include the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) and the Renewable Electricity Generation Feed in Tariff Scheme (FIT) which provide subsidies for the use of low carbon technologies. It is anticipated that further taxes and incentives will be developed in future years to help the UK achieve its greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Scotland

The principles outlined in the UK's shared framework formed the basis of Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy, 'Choosing Our Future', published in December 2005. It sets out several key roles for the Scottish public sector including its responsibility to reduce the global environmental impacts of public sector buildings and operations and to use purchasing power to support sustainable development objectives. The main priorities of the strategy include:

- Sustainable consumption and production
- Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
- Sustainable communities
- Climate change and energy

Sustainable development is central to the Scottish Government's main purpose:

'To focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.'

It has five strategic objectives that support this goal:

- A wealthier and fairer Scotland
- A healthier Scotland
- A safer and stronger Scotland
- A smarter Scotland
- A greener Scotland

A greener Scotland is about improving the country's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it. Achieving a greener Scotland is seen as the foundation for achieving the other four strategic objectives. The Scottish Government has recently recognised the importance of sustainable development by adding 'transition to a Low Carbon Scotland' as a key priority of its Economic Strategy.

The Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (Cosla) have developed a strategic approach to achieving shared outcomes between national and local governments through a 'Single Outcome Agreement' (SOA). South Lanarkshire Council and its Community Planning partners are committed to delivering sixteen national outcomes which provide a focus for coordinated action across the public sector. All are relevant to sustainable development but those with particular relevance to this strategy are:

- Outcome 10:** We live in sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services that we need
- Outcome 12:** We value and enjoy our natural and built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
- Outcome 14:** We reduce the global and local impact of our consumption and production

A new South Lanarkshire SOA is currently being developed and will be in place by June 2013. It will include a range of environmental actions and performance measures. The Sustainable Development Strategy will closely align to the refreshed SOA to help the Council fulfil its commitments under the agreement.

Climate Change

Scotland's climate change policy is considered to be among the most far reaching anywhere in the world and in many respects exceeds the ambition of the UK Climate Change Act 2008 and the requirements of the Kyoto protocol.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 commits government to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. It also places a requirement for Scotland to develop long-term measures to adapt to changes in the climate which, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), can be expected to occur even if global efforts to curb emissions are successful.

Scottish greenhouse gas emissions are now 21.2% lower than in 1990. A significant portion of the reduction, however, has been due to the steady loss of heavy industry and manufacturing in Scotland which has also led to a loss of jobs in these sectors of the economy. Goods manufactured by the world's new economic powers and consumed by more advanced nations have contributed to the continued rise in global greenhouse gas emissions.

A broader measure of resource consumption developed by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), known as the 'ecological footprint', suggests that advanced economies consume three times the level of resources that the earth sustainably can provide.

Part four of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 places duties on all public bodies in Scotland, including councils to act in a way:

- Best calculated to deliver the national greenhouse gas reduction targets
- Best calculated to deliver any statutory climate change adaptation programme
- They consider most sustainable



The Scottish Government has published guidance to help public bodies understand the scope of the duties and implement relevant plans. It states:

'Climate change action should address mitigation (reduction of greenhouse gas emissions), adaptation (adapting to a changed climate) and acting sustainably.'

The climate change duties and guidance are central to this strategy and are considered under each of the strategy's three themes.

'Low Carbon Scotland' was published by the Scottish Government to fulfil one of its responsibilities under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. It sets out the current and future policies and proposals required to achieve national greenhouse gas reduction targets for the years 2010 to 2022. A further report on how the reduction targets from 2023 to 2050 can be met is to be published in 2013.

Meeting the targets will require extensive and far reaching action through all sectors of the Scottish economy with implications for central and local government, the wider public sector, businesses, individuals and communities alike. Some of these actions will be strategic, such as new energy infrastructure, agriculture or planning policy while others will be targeted, such as increasing the number of homes with good levels of insulation. The potential impacts of national 'low carbon transition' policies are considered under each of the strategy themes.

Planning policy, land use and biodiversity

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) published in February 2010 makes clear that the planning system has a key role in supporting the transition to a low carbon economy and should promote sustainable development.

The national Land Use Strategy, also developed to fulfill a requirement of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, recognises that land provides us with natural resources but needs to be managed sustainably. Its aim is to optimise ways in which we use land to maintain a good quality environment so that it can continue to provide both the essential ecosystem services on which we rely and other desirable benefits we want. Councils have a statutory duty to

conserve and enhance biodiversity by virtue of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act, 2004. The role of the public sector in achieving nature conservation outcomes is set out in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

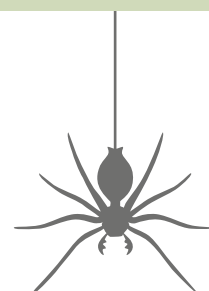
Sustainable Development and Cultural Heritage

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy outlines linkages between Scotland's historic environment and sustainable development. It highlights that historic buildings help promote green tourism, and that well cared for sites help support local biodiversity and encourage active lifestyles. The policy also aims to ensure that historic assets are managed and maintained in a sustainable way. The Council owns a number of historic buildings and has a role in the management of the historic environment through its planning services.

Best value and sustainable development

Best value is the term used to describe the statutory duty placed on local authorities by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 to demonstrate their on-going commitment to providing better services to local people. Sustainable development has been an aspect of best value since that time but guidance to the public sector duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 has increased its significance. Every aspect of continuous improvement activity within a local authority is expected to be informed and influenced by sustainable development, from planning to delivery as well as the review of services and partnership working.

Audit Scotland has recently developed a toolkit to help its auditors assess councils' sustainable development performance. We have used the toolkit to assess our current sustainability practice and where appropriate to identify areas for improvement.



Local context

Community planning in South Lanarkshire

Community planning is the term used to describe the mechanisms in place to ensure public sector organisations and the voluntary sector work together for the benefit of the local community. South Lanarkshire was one of the first areas of Scotland to establish a Community Planning Partnership. It launched its community plan called 'Stronger Together' in 2005 and this was refreshed in 2011. It is now structured around five aims:

- Improving health and tackling inequalities
- Reducing crime and improving community safety
- Promoting sustainable and inclusive communities and opportunities for all throughout life
- Ensuring sustainable economic recovery and development
- Tackling Poverty

There are seven theme based partnerships under the South Lanarkshire community planning umbrella, including the Sustainability Partnership which was formed in 2007. The aims and priorities of the community plan are reflected in the partnership's Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

Guidance to the public sector climate change duties and the Audit Scotland toolkit make clear that community planning partnerships have a valuable role to play in promoting sustainable development and should also help coordinate local action on climate change. In 2010, South Lanarkshire community planning partners all signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration which commits signatories to take action to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions, work with others to reduce emissions within the areas they represent, and report to the public their actions.

South Lanarkshire Council Vision

The corporate plan 'Connect', adopted in October 2012, is the Council's highest level plan and, like this strategy, covers the period between 2012 and 2017. Its vision, objectives and priorities inform and influence all of the Council's other plans.

The Council's overall vision is to:

'Work together to improve the quality of life for everyone in South Lanarkshire'

Although all of Connect's objectives are relevant to sustainable development, several are of particular importance to this strategy as shown in the table over the page. The objectives in **bold** type are agreed priorities for the Council.



Connect objective	Key outcomes for sustainable development
Improve the quality of the physical environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Lanarkshire is a clean, attractive, well designed and sustainable place
Improve road network and influence improvements in public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Lanarkshire's road and public transport network enables the flow of people, goods, and services thereby supporting the local economy
Develop a sustainable Council and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environmental impact of Council service provision is reduced • Communities are better prepared for a low carbon future
Improve the quality, access and availability of housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council housing meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015 • South Lanarkshire's homes are energy efficient and the impact of fuel poverty is reduced
Improve and maintain health and increase physical activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals enjoy the benefits of healthier lifestyles in a good quality sustainable environment • Community health is protected through effective environmental regulation and enforcement
Increase involvement in lifelong learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifelong learning opportunities are available to everyone in South Lanarkshire
Achieve efficient and effective use of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance, people and technology are used effectively to improve front line services

The Sustainable Development Strategy contributes to the achievement of the Council's overall vision. It sets out a plan of action we consider appropriate for the Council in the light of the national and local policy context.

The purpose of this strategy is to provide consistency in term of the Council's approach, and to give a basis from which elected members and officers can demonstrate strong and effective leadership in sustainable development. The strategy sets out how we will coordinate and monitor sustainable development activities across the Council and increase the consideration given to sustainable development principles. Staff will be encouraged to balance the social, economic and environmental implications of their actions, while ensuring that they do not compromise future generations' life chances.

The vision for our overall approach to sustainable development is:

'The people of South Lanarkshire live and work sustainably while respecting and enjoying the benefits of a high quality environment'.

We aim to achieve this vision through the commitment of our staff and the services they deliver, through our work with community planning partners, and in the wider community.

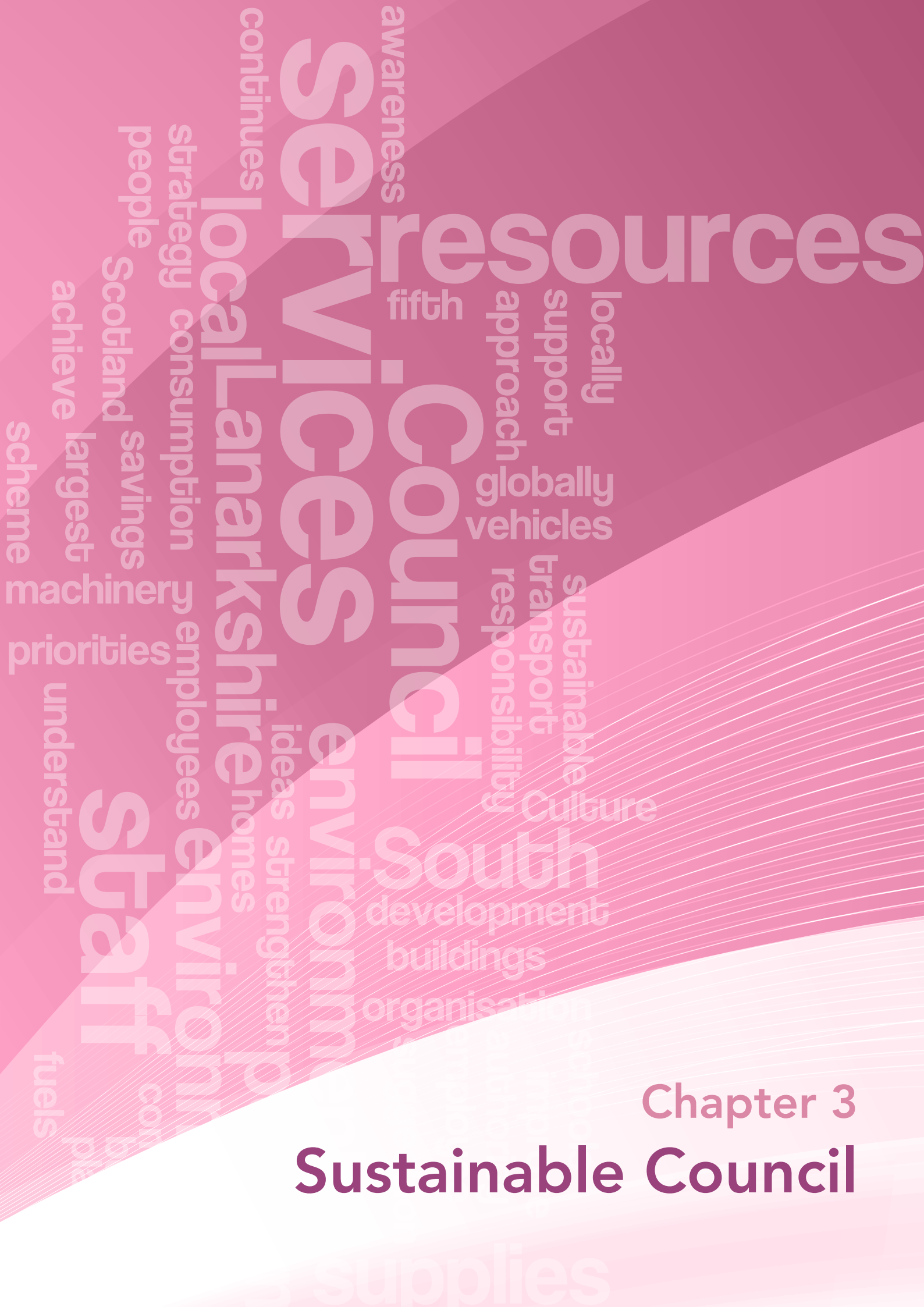
Building on the strong foundation provided by the original Sustainable Development Strategy and in recognition of the national and local policy context, this strategy is presented in three themes:

- **Sustainable Council**
- **Sustainable Environment**
- **Sustainable Communities**

The following chapters consider these themes in detail.

There are a many of other Council strategies and plans which have a strong connection to the Sustainable Development Strategy. These are mentioned under each appropriate theme.





Chapter 3 Sustainable Council

Chapter 3 - Sustainable Council

This theme is about the Council's own environmental performance and what we plan to do to improve it.

South Lanarkshire is the fifth largest local authority in Scotland providing services to 310,000 people. The Council spends over £700m on its services each year. Together with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, we operate over 600 buildings (including schools, offices and care homes), and over 1,900 vehicles and items of plant or machinery. We have more than 14,000 employees providing a range of services within our communities.

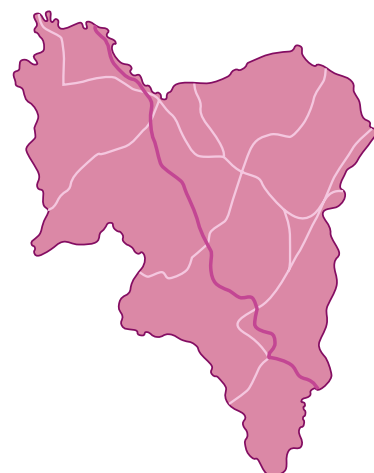
We recognise that an organisation our size has a major impact on the environment and has a responsibility to use resources wisely. The way we source supplies and services outside

the Council can help achieve savings, promote local business and protect the environment locally and globally. Carefully managing our consumption of resources, such as energy, transport fuels, and supplies, also makes sound business sense. By working with our partners we can strengthen our approach.

Our last strategy helped us improve our environmental performance. This could not have been achieved without the support of our staff so it is essential to maintain their awareness of the Council's sustainable development priorities. Employee surveys consistently show that staff understand the need to use resources wisely and our employee suggestion scheme continues to receive many ideas from staff on ways to improve environmental performance.

What are the issues that have influenced our approach to this theme?

In chapter two we detailed the policy background and the significant changes since our first strategy that present new challenges for us. The table below shows the key national and local issues that have influenced our approach to this theme.



Policy	'Sustainable Council' – Key issues
Connect 2012 - 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the environmental impact of Council service provision • Finance, people and technology are used effectively to improve front line services
Audit Scotland Best Value Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a culture that focuses on sustainability by embedding sustainable development into our vision and strategic direction and reflect in strategies and plans • Embed sustainable development into governance arrangements and decision making • Carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) where appropriate • Use resources efficiently • Sustainable development should feature in performance management frameworks • The development of a Climate Change Strategy is seen as good practice

Public sector climate change duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate leadership in addressing climate change • Develop a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan • Develop Carbon Management Plans to reduce the Council's own greenhouse gas emission and consider 'carbon impact' when making major decisions • Set annual greenhouse emissions reduction targets for at least five years consistent with national targets • Climate change action should take into account emissions arising from the procurement of goods and services • Prepare services for expected changes in the Scottish climate and contribute to national climate change adaptation plans • Develop an Employee Travel Plan and engage with employees on climate change action • Report to the public on action taken to meet the duties
Low Carbon Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public sector is expected to deliver a 12% reduction in their energy consumption in buildings by 2020 • Help promote the uptake of low carbon vehicles • Promote recycling in the workplace
Scottish Planning Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils are expected to contribute to sustainable development through their Local Development Plans
Employee consultation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve communication and give more scope for staff to become actively involved • Improve energy efficiency and opportunities to recycle in the workplace

What has been achieved so far?

Decision making and governance

- The Council recognised sustainable development as a priority within its top level plan, Connect 2007 - 2012. We know all Council services have a role in delivering sustainable development so we provided guidance to Resources and all have included relevant actions in their annual plans.
- We have consistently reported on the progress of sustainable development actions in twice yearly reports to the Council's Executive Committee. Out of the 83 measures in the last strategy only three were not achieved and these will be addressed in this strategy. Our best value duty requires that this approach is maintained.
- A Sustainable Development Member Officer Working Group was established, consisting of three elected members and three executive directors. The group has the responsibility for implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy and reporting to the Executive Committee.

- South Lanarkshire was one of the first local authorities to sign Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in January 2007. We have reported to the public on the actions the Council has taken in relation to climate change every year since becoming a signatory.
- The Council has used strategic environmental assessments (SEA) to consider environmental implications of its new strategies and policies and improve environmental outcomes. By the end of the first sustainable development strategy over 30 assessments have been carried out including the new Council Plan, the refresh of the Community Plan, and the Local Plan.
- Another measure to help mainstream sustainable development in our decision-making process is the requirement to include sustainable development and risk issues in all our committee reports. However, there is scope to improve the way we do this.



Carbon Management

- The Council's approach to carbon management achieved Carbon Trust Standard in 2010. The standard recognised our achievement in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We have reduced our emission by 13.2% since 2005/06. The new public sector climate change duties now require us to set annual greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for at least the next five years.
- Through increased investment in energy efficiency, improved monitoring of consumption and staff engagement we have reduced emissions from energy use in our buildings. We achieved a top quartile rating in the first national league table of large energy users for the CRC energy efficiency scheme. We recognise the need to maintain our commitment to energy efficiency as we can expect energy costs to continue to rise above the level of inflation due to global demand for fossil fuels and increasing taxation on carbon.
- We have improved energy performance certificate ratings for new buildings through energy efficient design, increasing our use of renewable technologies including biomass, ground source heat pumps, air source heat pumps and photovoltaic systems.
- Many new buildings have been assessed as 'very good' through the Building Research Establishment's (BRE) environmental assessment process.
- We have reduced greenhouse gas emissions from our vehicle fleet through a wide range of measures, including buying the most efficient vehicles, better route planning, establishing a pool car scheme for employee business travel, piloting electric vehicles and by introducing vehicle telematics.

Engagement with staff

- Over 600 employees have been trained in sustainable development, including over a hundred who participated in energy efficiency team training. We want to extend this training to more employees. We have an opportunity while updating the sustainable development training package to reflect recent changes in legislation and to use new online training tools for employees that have become available since our last strategy.

- The Council's 2011 employee survey results shows that 97% of employees are aware of the Council's sustainable development objectives. Following our recent employee consultation process for the draft strategy, however, staff commented that communication needs to be improved in relation to sustainable development issues and projects undertaken. Many staff told us they want to be more actively involved.
- We developed an Employee Travel Plan which promotes sustainable travel choices available to all Council employees when travelling to, from and during work.
- We developed the Council's first Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan and improved communication and training on the biodiversity duty and ecosystems approach, including an on-line training module for employees.

Procurement and recycling

- We have reviewed our recycling contracts for offices, schools and other Council buildings in order to provide more recycling facilities in the workplace. Our recent employee consultation process, for the draft strategy, highlighted there are still opportunities to increase awareness of, and provide more facilities for, recycling in Council workplaces.
- Environmental impact assessments are currently being undertaken on all major new build projects in South Lanarkshire
- The Scottish Government's minimum target of 10% of recycled materials to be used in construction is exceeded in all our major build projects.
- The Council recognises that information and communication technology (ICT), its equipment and services, can contribute to sustainability. The Council's IT Strategy includes 'green' objectives to help minimise our environmental impacts by encouraging equipment that is sustainably produced, lasts longer, wastes less energy, is used in an efficient way, is disposed of responsibly and can be used to lessen other aspects of our environmental impact.
- The Council has developed a Sustainable Procurement Policy and Development Plan. Our procurement services have helped to promote environmental outcomes within contracts for a diverse range of products and services. However, more work needs to be done to raise awareness of this and to develop a consistent approach.



Strategic outcomes, priorities and actions

In this section, we have set out our proposed strategic outcomes and our priorities and actions to help us achieve these. There are three strategic outcomes for this theme:

- 1.1 The Council's greenhouse gas emissions are reduced**
- 1.2 The Council's use of material resources is environmentally sustainable**
- 1.3 The environmental impact of Council service provision is considered and action is taken with community partners to reduce it where appropriate**

1.1: The Council's greenhouse gas emissions are reduced

Priorities and actions

1. Continue to develop and implement our Carbon Management Plan to reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Ensure the Council's effective participation in the UK Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme and minimise costs to the Council from carbon taxation.
3. Implement an Energy Framework to reduce energy consumption in Council buildings through effective energy management and investment.
4. Achieve high energy efficiency standards in our new buildings and increase renewable energy generation.
5. Implement fuel efficiency measures within the Council's vehicle fleet and further develop the use of low carbon vehicles.
6. Promote sustainable travel by employees through the efficient use of fleet vehicles, greater use of the public transport, car sharing, walking and cycling.

1.2: The Council's use of material resources is environmentally sustainable

Priorities and actions

1. Implement the Scottish Government Public Sector Sustainable Procurement Flexible Framework.
2. Continue to develop the use of our procurement processes to identify opportunities to enhance environmental outcomes in each contract, including (where appropriate) the energy efficiency of goods, lifecycle costs, avoiding the use of non-sustainable materials and end of life disposal.
3. Implement new national public sector contracts for electricity and biomass.
4. Provide services and engage Council staff to recycle more waste materials in the workplace.
5. Introduce food waste collections in Council properties.
6. Develop and adopt a Council 'sustainability standard' for the construction of new buildings.
7. Work with Net-Waste Scotland to set and adopt key performance indicators to increase the recycling of the Council's construction site waste
8. Continue to identify areas where energy and carbon reduction initiatives can be achieved by ensuring the ICT Carbon Reduction Plan is continually updated and reviewed.

1.3: The benefits of sustainable development are promoted within the Council and joint approaches are developed with community planning partners and other stakeholders

Priorities and actions

1. Enhance the use SEA within the Council to consider sustainable development and climate change implications of our plans, policies, and strategies.
2. Review and update committee report guidance for the consideration of sustainable development and SEA implications of Council decisions.



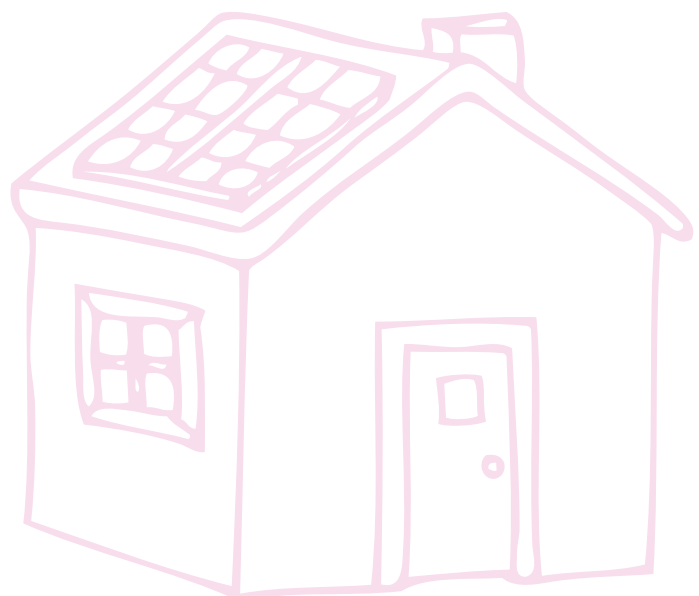
3. Engage employees to support the Council's sustainable development objectives through improved communication and training including the use of learn on line modules and Management Development Programme
4. Report to the public each year on the action we have taken in relation to climate change
5. Undertake biannual review of the impact of anticipated future climate change on key Council services
6. Continue to lead and broaden partnership working through the South Lanarkshire Sustainability Partnership and develop joint approaches to sustainable development through the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)



Sustainable Council key strategies and plans

There are a number of key strategies and plans through which these outcomes, actions and priorities will be delivered. These include:

- **Asset Management Plan**
- **Carbon Management Plan**
- **Employee Travel Plan**
- **Energy Management Framework**
- **Fleet Plan**
- **ICT Carbon Reduction Plan**
- **Sustainable Procurement Policy and Delivery Plan**



Chapter 4 - Sustainable environment

The focus of this theme is South Lanarkshire's natural and physical environment which affects everyone who lives, works or visits the area.

In general, the quality of the environment across South Lanarkshire is good and in many respects is improving despite problems inherited as a result of Lanarkshire's industrial heritage. Continued improvement is dependent on many factors and requires a careful approach to land use planning, monitoring, regulation and intervention. The Council has a key role in safeguarding and enhancing the environment in all of these areas.

A rich and diverse environment provides the area with its unique character. It also has a significant influence on human health and quality of life. The provision of high quality, safe and easily accessible greenspace, for example, is now recognised as being an effective way to promote physical and mental health and community wellbeing. The Council continues to work with its community planning partners including Forestry Commission and Scottish Natural Heritage to develop and enhance greenspace provision and encourage more outdoor recreation. There are also well

established links between economic growth and the quality of the environment. This is self-evident in relation to industries which clearly rely on a clean and healthy environment, for example, food production and tourism, but can also be a factor in determining business investment choices.

Healthy biodiversity supports sustainable development and benefits not only by providing us with clean air, water, food, energy, medicine, and building materials but also provides jobs and places for recreation and enjoyment. The resources biodiversity provides are known as 'ecosystem services'. Biodiversity conservation is not just about protecting those species that are rare or we find especially attractive; it is about securing the fundamental building blocks on which we all rely.

Changes in the local climate that have been predicted as a result of global warming present some risks to our natural and physical environment. While these are hard to quantify at present, the Council has a duty to consider potential impacts and contribute to national plans being developed to help Scotland's natural systems and infrastructure to adapt.



What are the issues that have influenced our approach to this theme?

In chapter two we detailed the policy background and the significant changes since our first strategy that present new challenges for us. The table below shows the key national and local issues that have influenced our approach to this theme.



Policy	'Sustainable Council' – Key issues
Connect 2012/17 outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Lanarkshire is a clean, attractive, well designed and sustainable place • Individuals enjoy the benefits of healthier lifestyles in a good quality sustainable environment • Community health is protected through effective environmental regulation and enforcement
Audit Scotland Best Value Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEA is applied appropriately and consistently in policy development
Public sector climate change duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider what can be done locally to help natural systems adapt to changes in the climate • Adopt an 'ecosystems approach' recognising important connections between the natural systems of the land, water and air and the needs of people and business • Tackling derelict land, improving physical infrastructure and upgrading environmental quality can help to promote environmental justice and provide employment opportunities.
Low Carbon Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An integrated approach to land use planning to safeguard the local environment • Increased tree planting rates to remove CO₂, and protection of peatlands as carbon stores
Other Scottish Government Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local development plans should aim to protect and enhance the natural environment/ biodiversity, maintain, enhance and promote access to open space and recreational opportunities • Scottish Biodiversity Strategy highlights the key role of councils of enhancing and protecting local biodiversity
Employee consultation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More consideration should be given to greenspace and the protection of biodiversity in new developments and planning applications • Improve the quality and access to greenspace and the outdoors both in urban and rural areas



What has been achieved so far?

Greenspace and biodiversity

- A capacity building network has been established to support and develop community participation in the regeneration and management of urban greenspaces.
- Partnership for the enhancement of local greenspace has been developed through Central Scotland Green Network, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, and the Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership.
- A comprehensive spatial assessment of greenspace across South Lanarkshire communities has been completed in line with national guidance and standards.
- A new South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy and action plan was launched in 2010. In line with national and international policy, the strategy adopts the ecosystems approach and this has led to a strategic focus on protecting the quality and function of key habitats such as peatlands, woodlands, and freshwater systems.
- This approach continues to be supported by targeted project work in partnership with statutory agencies, community groups and other organisations. However, a greater understanding of the impacts of Council service delivery on habitats and species is needed to enable it to meet its statutory duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Policies have been developed through the South Lanarkshire Minerals Local Development Plan to avoid further commercial peat extraction in South Lanarkshire.

Health and the environment

- The Council, in partnership with South Lanarkshire Outdoor Access Forum, developed South Lanarkshire's Core Path Plan. It records a network of 'core paths' to help facilitate and encourage responsible access throughout the area and has seen the development and completion of walking routes such as the Clyde Walkway.

- We are developing an Air Quality Strategy to achieve national targets to reduce pollutants and are developing action plans for areas where traffic emissions result in poor air quality.
- We have invested £5.7m from the Government's Vacant and Derelict Land Fund to tackle underused and derelict sites.

Environmental monitoring

- South Lanarkshire's comprehensive State of the Environment Report was reviewed and updated in 2011. This is used to identify environmental challenges facing South Lanarkshire and the action required to address them. The report will be updated in 2013.

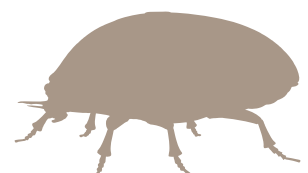
Environmental education

- The State of the Environment Report has been developed into a local teaching package and added to the 'Glow' online resource sharing website for use by schoolchildren to assist with work on environmental subjects.
- The Council has worked with the Scottish Government and other partners to support and promote environmental awareness and learning through the Curriculum for Excellence, including training to enable teachers and youth workers to participate in forest schools.

Strategic outcomes, priorities and actions

In this section, we have set out our proposed strategic outcomes and our priorities and actions to help us achieve these. There are two strategic outcomes for this theme:

- 2.1 The quality of local environments contributes to the wellbeing of local communities**
- 2.2 The natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected to provide long-term benefits for local communities**



2.1: The quality of local environments contributes to the wellbeing of local communities

Priorities and actions

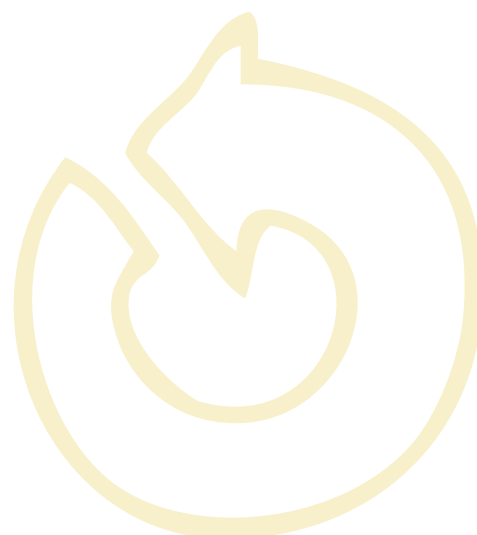
1. Continue to monitor local environmental conditions through regular review of the South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report.
2. Review and assess air quality throughout South Lanarkshire as required by the Environment Act 1995 and in line with national guidance.
3. Complete a comprehensive review of the Council's Contaminated Land Strategy and work with partners to identify and manage contaminated land within the statutory regulatory framework.
4. Progress the development of policies and proposals to protect and improve the environment through the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan.
5. Manage flooding priorities and deliver prioritised flood protection schemes as required under legislation.
6. Promote opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding using South Lanarkshire's network of core paths, and developing a new Outdoor Access Strategy.
7. Promote enjoyment of the environment through the implementation of the Tourism Action Plan.
8. Complete a qualitative assessment of South Lanarkshire's urban greenspace in line with emerging national guidance (South Lanarkshire Greenspace Strategy).
9. Develop and promote learning opportunities which increase young people's knowledge and understanding of sustainable development.
10. Continue to educate our young people about the local environment in which they live and encourage them to reduce the impacts they have upon it.
11. Increase the participation of establishments and services in the overall uptake of outdoor programmes and skills development.

12. Further develop partnership with communities and businesses to improve local greenspaces, path networks and biodiversity, providing opportunities for environmental volunteering across South Lanarkshire.
13. Develop a refreshed Leisure and Cultural Strategy for South Lanarkshire which helps to promote recreational opportunities of the natural and physical environment

2.2: The natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected to provide long-term benefits for local communities

Priorities and actions

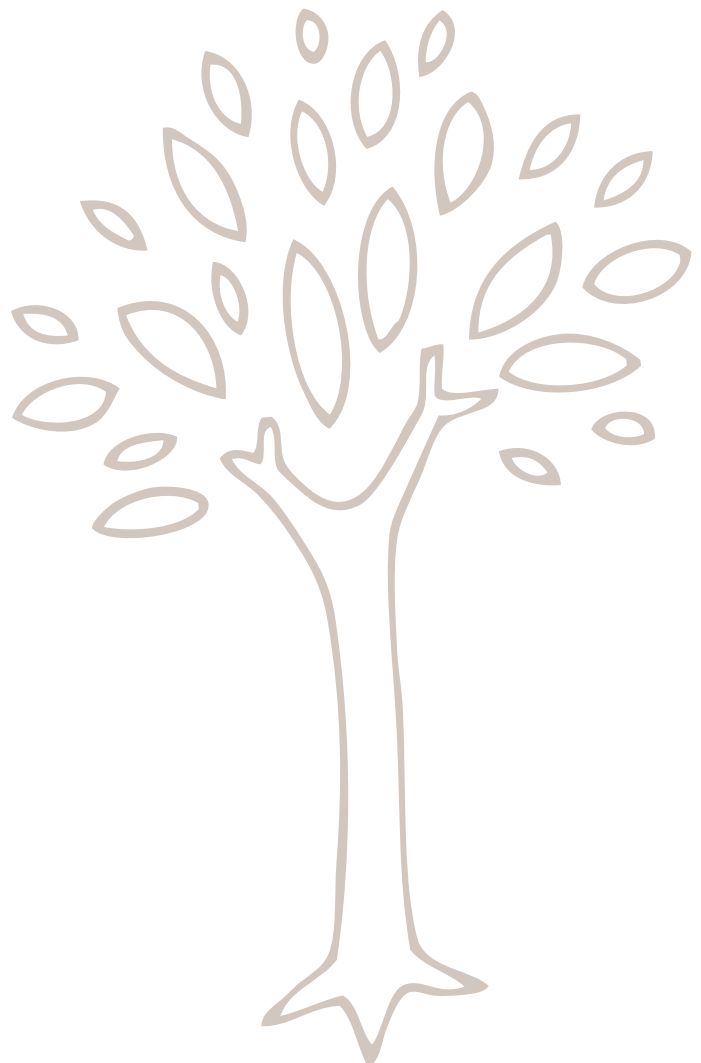
1. Local Development Plan policies are developed and implemented to protect and safeguard the local environment.
2. Prepare Local Development Plan policies which encourage redevelopment of brownfield sites.
3. Local Development Plan policies are developed and implemented to deliver the strategic and local green network.
4. Action is taken to safeguard and enhance the quality and function of priority biodiversity assets including peatland, freshwater systems, and ancient woodland.
5. Continue to work with statutory bodies and other organisations to conserve and enhance biodiversity in South Lanarkshire.



Sustainable Environment key strategies and plans

There are a number of key strategies and plans through which these outcomes, priorities and actions will be delivered. These include:

- **Air Quality Strategy**
- **Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan**
- **Contaminated Land Strategy**
- **Core Path Plan**
- **Greenspace Strategy**
- **Lanarkshire Tourism Action Plan**
- **Leisure and Cultural Strategy**
- **Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan**
- **Local Transport Strategy**
- **Outdoor Access Strategy**
- **South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan**
- **South Lanarkshire Minerals Local Development Plan**



Chapter 5 - Sustainable communities

The focus for this theme is the action the Council can take to help communities in South Lanarkshire live more sustainably.

New statutory duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act, 2009 require local authorities to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions not just from their own services, but across the wider community as well. The Council can contribute to action on climate change through its policies, powers and partnership activities.

There are many areas where our policies and actions can make it easier for people to live more sustainably. The waste management services we provide enable householders to recycle more of what they throw away and so help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfill sites. Recycling helps reduce demand for new raw materials, the energy needed to process them and the environmental impact on natural environments where they are sourced. Better awareness of the impact of waste can hopefully encourage people to be less wasteful in their everyday lives.

The Council is already investing in energy efficiency of homes to help reduce fuel poverty and minimise the costs to householders using a range of available funding mechanisms. Improving the energy efficiency of homes will help achieve further reductions in South Lanarkshire's greenhouse gas emissions.

How we plan for new development has a significant impact on the transport needs of local communities to access jobs, services and recreation opportunities. It can promote a shift towards walking, cycling or use of public transport systems and away from a reliance on private cars.

The Council also has a role to play in supporting communities and local businesses to be ready for and benefit from Scotland's transition to a low carbon economy.



What are the issues that have influenced our approach to this theme?

In chapter two we detailed the policy background and the significant changes since our first strategy that present new challenges for us. The table below shows the key national and local issues that have influenced our approach to this theme.



Policy	'Sustainable Communities' – Key issues
Connect 2012 - 2017 outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Lanarkshire's road and public transport network enables the flow of people, goods, and services thereby supporting the local economy • Communities are better prepared for a low carbon future • Council housing meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015 • South Lanarkshire's homes are energy efficient and the impact of fuel poverty is reduced
Audit Scotland Best Value Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils should promote sustainability among communities and stakeholders • Improve sustainability through sharing assets with partners
Public sector climate change duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate leadership by signing the Scottish Climate Change Declaration • Influence greenhouse gas emissions and promote more sustainable communities and lifestyles through powers related to functions including, planning, transport, housing, land management and community engagement • Councils should adopt a leadership role in relation to local action on climate change and should work in cooperation with partners and the community. • Strengthen the ability of communities to respond to challenges, such as the local implications of climate change • Report annually to the public on actions taken in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation
Low Carbon Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost complete decarbonisation of road transport by 2050 and significant progress by 2030 • Largely decarbonised energy generation sector by 2030. • Further enhancement of energy efficiency standards for new homes • All suitable homes to have loft insulation and efficient boilers by 2020 • Good energy efficiency advice to be available to business • Planning system to minimise the need for transport and promote a low carbon lifestyle • Implement targets included in the Scottish Government Zero Waste Plan including gradually banning recyclable materials from landfill
Scottish Planning Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Development Plans should contribute national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and support the achievement of zero waste objectives • Local Development Plans should promote healthier living by improving the quality of the built environment, by increasing access to amenities, services and active travel opportunities, and by addressing environmental problems affecting communities
Employee consultation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local businesses to be 'greener' • Provide practical support and advice to households about energy efficiency and tackling fuel poverty



What has been achieved so far?

South Lanarkshire's greenhouse gas emissions

- The most recent data available from UK's Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) shows that greenhouse gas emissions for the South Lanarkshire area have reduced by 10.64% in 2010 compared to our area's baseline in 2005.
- In 2010, the average carbon footprint per person in South Lanarkshire was 6.3 tonnes which is less than Scotland's average of 7.5 tonnes. This is a measure of how much CO₂ we produce from our everyday activities, including energy consumption, waste and transport.

Partnership working

- In June 2010, seven community planning partners joined South Lanarkshire Council in signing up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration and committed to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate. There is, however, scope for more collaborative working within the local area to address climate change issues.
- We established a Sustainability Partnership to promote joint working on sustainability through local community planning structures.
- The Council is part of a wider partnership project on climate change adaptation in the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley area, called 'Climate Ready Clyde' which is led by Adaptation Scotland. Being part of this project will help the Council consider the implications of anticipated future changes in climate.
- The Council supports local businesses in meeting their carbon reduction targets and help make more efficient use of their resources by offering grants to pay for consultants to advise how they can operate in a more sustainable way.
- The Council also manages the Renewable Energy Fund which provides grant funding to local businesses to improve and develop renewable energy, recycling as well as support environmentally sustainable industries, businesses and activities.
- The Council was actively involved in the Scottish Government's Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) consultation.
- North and South Lanarkshire Councils co-host the annual Lanarkshire Business Excellence Awards. One of the categories is green business which recognises organisations that have sustainable development at the heart of their business strategy and have successfully combined business aims with environmental goals.

- The Council works in partnership with several towns in Lanarkshire to gain or work towards Fair-Trade status including Cambuslang and Rutherglen, East Kilbride, Hamilton, Strathaven and Uddingston.

Community involvement

- Ninety eight percent (98%) of South Lanarkshire's schools are now engaged with Eco Schools or similar programmes. There is scope to further develop participation by progressing through the different levels of award.
- We have developed and promoted a range of activities designed to increase young people's knowledge of sustainable development, including environmental volunteering, 'Grow, Cook and Eat It' programmes and the development of a sensory garden.
- Several local community groups have benefited from Climate Challenge Fund grants to undertake local energy efficiency, community allotments, food growing projects and sustainable transport projects. Significant new funding is now available from this national fund for local community projects and we hope to support other groups to benefit from the scheme.
- The South Lanarkshire branch of Unison were one of the groups successful in securing funding from the climate challenge fund for a 'Green Workers' project, at work and at home. The project enlisted enthusiastic union members to reduce their carbon footprint at work and at home contributing to Scotland's climate change goals.

Transport

- The Council is installing cycle routes throughout South Lanarkshire including national cycle network 74 (NCN 74), NCN 75, NCN 756 and between Hamilton, East Kilbride and Rutherglen.
- The Council is improving public transport infrastructure including redeveloping Hamilton Bus Station and providing new park and ride facilities at the majority of South Lanarkshire railway Stations, such as the new car parks at Carluke and Hamilton West.
- The Council supports the 'Walk to School' campaign to encourage parents to leave their car at home and walk with their children to school. The aim is to improve their health and road sense and raise awareness of the benefits to the environment. We also encourage cycling from an early age by providing cycle training to primary school children.
- South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership secured funding from the Scottish Government to

trial electric vehicles. South Lanarkshire Council and our partners Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and NHS Lanarkshire agreed to be part of the project at this stage.

- The Council has been an active participant in the UK Plugged in Places programme which in 2012 is contributing funds towards the installation of a local network in electric vehicle charging points.

Waste management and recycling

- The Council met the national recycling target of 40% by March 2010, resulting in a significant reduction in the Council's emissions. At the end of March 2011, this had fallen to 38.2% due to the impacts of severe weather but greenhouse gas emissions had decreased due to a reduction in the amount of waste generated by households.
- The Council introduced a glass recycling scheme for households in 2009 and since then has diverted 6,915 tonnes from landfill waste and saved 4,827 tonnes of carbon.

Land use and housing

- The adopted South Lanarkshire Local Plan sets out the development and land use strategy for our area. The plan supports the move towards a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable society. The Local Development Plan is currently being prepared to replace the Local Plan.
- We are working towards ensuring all Council housing in South Lanarkshire meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) for energy efficiency by 2015. Over 60% of our total housing stock now meets this standard.
- Since 2007/08 the Council has invested £5.9m in home energy efficiency improvements in both rented and owner occupied housing. Funding has been secured from the Universal Home Insulation Scheme to carry out further energy efficiency improvements.
- The Council have developed a policy statement in its Minerals Local Development Plan to support the recycling of minerals, demolition and construction material and to re-use such materials for land improvement.

Strategic outcomes, priorities and actions

- In this section, we have set out our proposed strategic outcomes and our priorities and actions to help us achieve these. There are three strategic outcomes for this theme:
- **3.1 Services are provided to local communities which enable households and businesses to recycle more waste materials.**
- **3.2 Homes are energy efficient, fuel poverty is minimised and homes are environmentally sustainable.**
- **3.3 Council policies and plans support local transition to a low carbon economy.**

3.1: Services are provided to local communities which enable households and businesses to recycle more waste materials

Priorities and actions

1. Initiate a plan to deliver new waste management processes to reduce the climate change impact of waste management and meet the requirements of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.
2. Promote recycling and waste minimisation by providing information to make most effective use of the Council's waste management services.
3. Introduce a collection system for household food waste so it can be diverted from landfill and composted or used to generate energy.
4. Introduce a collection system for food waste produced by small businesses.
5. Increase recycling of waste collected at the Council's civic amenity sites.
6. Review the provision of local recycling centres to optimise their contribution to recycling.
7. Develop and implement planning policies through the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan that support sustainable waste management.

3.2: Homes are energy efficient, fuel poverty is minimised and homes are environmentally sustainable

Priorities and actions

1. Develop a framework which brings together a holistic approach to improving energy efficiency and tackling fuel poverty.



2. Develop improved monitoring systems for assessing the extent, nature and improvements made in relation to energy efficiency of homes.
3. Develop improved monitoring systems for assessing the extent, nature and improvements made in relation to fuel poverty.
4. Develop improved monitoring systems for assessing the extent, nature and improvements made in relation to climate change.
5. Continue to seek ways to lever additional funding into the support for energy efficiency measures to maximise the impact on the Scottish Housing Quality Standard, fuel poverty and climate change targets.
6. Promote and support the use of renewable technologies across all tenures in helping to tackle climate change and fuel poverty.
7. Through the Council's Scheme of Assistance, deliver a range of information, advice and practical assistance about home energy efficiency to people in the private housing sector.

7. Support uptake of low carbon vehicles through the provision of public charging infrastructure.
8. Work in partnership with fair-trade towns to gain fair-trade zone status for South Lanarkshire.
9. Lead by example and promote climate change action and transition to a low carbon economy more widely with our communities, local businesses and community planning partners.
10. Continue to engage young people, pupils and the wider school community in environmental education through 'Eco Schools' and similar programmes.
11. Seek funding opportunities from renewable energy and other developments for community benefit.
12. Seek opportunities to promote environmental, social and economic benefits for our communities through our procurement practices.

3.3: Council policies and plans support local transition to a low carbon economy

Priorities and actions

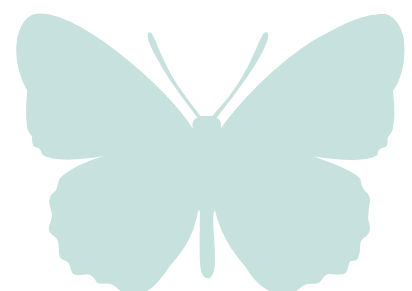
1. Use the planning system to direct new developments to sustainable locations such as community growth areas, development framework and master plan sites.
2. Ensure that new developments are appropriately located in terms of sustainability and are of a high quality and design, aimed at reducing carbon emissions.
3. Use the planning system to direct renewable energy developments to appropriate locations.
4. Revise the performance framework in Building Standards to better assess the delivery of the obligations set by new and existing legislation and aim to make all new and refurbished properties meet the highest standard of energy efficiency possible.
5. Work with public and private sector partners to deliver new or enhanced public transport infrastructure.
6. Through partnership working, deliver improvements to local infrastructure which encourage, walking and cycling.



Sustainable Communities key strategies and plans

There are a number of key strategies and plans through which these outcomes, priorities and actions will be delivered. These include:

- **Local Housing Strategy**
- **Local Transport Strategy**
- **Minerals Local Development Plan**
- **Outdoor access strategy**
- **Sustainable Procurement Policy and Delivery Plan**
- **South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan**
- **South Lanarkshire Local Plan**
- **South Lanarkshire Minerals Local Development Plan**
- **South Lanarkshire Single Outcome Agreement**



Chapter 6 – Delivering, monitoring and reporting

How we will deliver our strategy


To help guide our approach to sustainable development we have developed an Environmental Statement which summarises the commitments we have made. This is included in appendix 1.

The action plan in appendix 2 will help us deliver the strategy. This will be reviewed annually and will include and update of progress made.

Sustainable development is part of our approach to best value and should inform how we deliver all our services. Therefore, we aim to integrate actions from the Sustainable Development Strategy into the Resource and Service Plans prepared by all Council services every year.

How we will monitor and report on our strategy

As has been noted throughout the strategy, many of our strategic outcomes, priorities and actions are delivered through, or shared by, other plans and strategies. We will, however, report in relation to sustainable development objectives 'as a whole' to provide an overview of our progress.



Actions will be monitored quarterly using the Council's performance management software system 'IMPROVe' and progress will be reported at least twice a year through the Council's committee structures. Progress reports will also be made available to the public on the Council's website. We aim to improve the way the Council's approach to sustainable development is reported to make it more visible and transparent.

As well as reporting on actions, there are a number of specific measures which will be used to help assess the overall success of our approach in relation to each strategy theme. These will be collated through our Outcome Monitoring Plan and reported in the annual review of the strategy. Key measures for each theme are noted below:

Theme 1 - Sustainable Council

- Council greenhouse gas emissions relative to 2005/06 baseline
- Energy consumption in Council buildings
- Carbon management organisational maturity score
- Greenhouse gas emissions related to Council transport
- Building energy performance ratings achieved for new buildings
- Percentage of recycled materials used in construction of new buildings
- Number of employees who have received training in sustainable development issues
- Employee awareness of, and attitude to, sustainable development policies (Council employee audit)
- Percentage public satisfaction with the Council's response to climate change (Council wide satisfaction survey)
- Mileage travelled by electric fleet vehicles.

Theme 2 - Sustainable environment

- Percentage of adult residents normally taking visits to the outdoors at least once per week (Scottish Recreation Survey)
- Number of environmental volunteer days
- Number of formally constituted community groups working with the Council to manage local greenspace and/or path networks
- Number of teaching staff trained in leading outdoor learning.

Theme 3 - Sustainable communities

- South Lanarkshire area wide greenhouse gas emissions
- South Lanarkshire wide household energy consumption
- Installed capacity of domestic renewable generation
- Percentage of Council houses which meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard
- South Lanarkshire recycling rate for domestic waste

- Tonnage of domestic waste produced per household
- Amount of funding invested in domestic energy efficiency measures
- Percentage of adults travelling to work or education by active or public transport (Scottish Household Survey)
- Percentage mode share of children travelling to school by active or public transport using data (annual national 'Hands Up' survey)
- The number of electric vehicle charging bays available to the public in South Lanarkshire
- Involvement in the Eco Schools and related programmes
- Total funding awarded within South Lanarkshire from the Scottish climate challenge fund.

South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report

In addition, we will continue to maintain the South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report. This report provides analysis across a range of environmental issues, giving an overall picture of the condition of South Lanarkshire's environment. It is used to identify environmental challenges facing South Lanarkshire and to track changes in environmental conditions.

Scotland's Climate Change Declaration

Reporting to the public on action taken in relation to climate change is now part of the Council's duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. It has been agreed by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities that Scottish councils will fulfil this aspect of their duties through the annual reports they prepare as signatories to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration.

Feedback from our consultation process suggests that our progress report should be made more relevant to local people and we should use a variety of methods to explain what we are doing for example through the Council's website, the South Lanarkshire Reporter newspaper and social media.



Appendix 1

South Lanarkshire Council Environmental Statement

South Lanarkshire Council is committed to maintaining and improving the quality of life within the South Lanarkshire area for our present and future communities and to contribute to the protection of the planet.

Our Environmental Statement is relevant to all staff as everyone has a part to play in protecting the environment both locally and globally.

Communication

- We will communicate openly the Council's environmental policies, plans and performance and involve local communities in decisions impacting on their local environment.
- We will ensure that our employees and elected members are familiar with this Environmental Statement and will enlist their support in improving our environmental performance.

Education

- We will promote the importance of our environment to our young people through the Curriculum for Excellence and help them learn the skills they will need in a low carbon economy.
- We will continue to educate our young people about the local environment in which they live and encourage them to reduce the impacts they have on it.



Energy

- We will reduce our consumption of fossil fuels by conserving energy and promote the use of renewable energy sources.

Waste

- We will reduce the amount of waste we produce and encourage the re-use and recycling of materials.

Procurement

- We will aim to buy our goods and services in a sustainable manner and encourage our suppliers to adopt similar environmental principles.

Travel

- We will promote sustainable travel through the efficient use of our own fleet and promote greater use of the public transport network, car sharing and cycling and walking as alternative means of travel. We will support the introduction of low carbon vehicles.

Protect the physical environment, biodiversity and greenspace

- We will protect the public from environmental hazards, take action to improve the quality of local environments and promote the potential of the environment to improve health and wellbeing.
- We will work to protect biodiversity and safeguard ecosystem services in accordance with national and international legislation, policies and guidelines.
- We will work with communities to provide access to well managed, good quality greenspace and opportunities for access to the countryside.
- We will support and develop opportunities for environmental volunteering.

Climate Change

- We will work in partnership in response to national targets to reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions and those for the South Lanarkshire area and prepare for a future where the climate is changing.

Delivering our statutory requirements

- We will comply with relevant legislation and contribute to national targets in relation to the environment.

Appendix 2

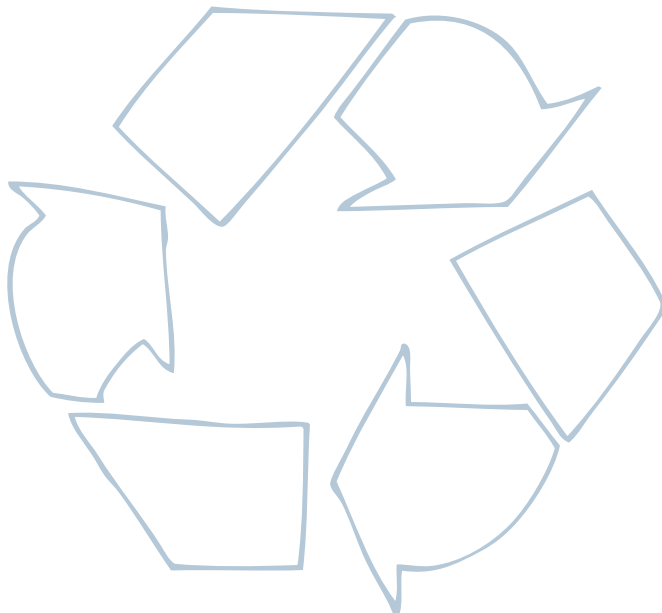
South Lanarkshire's Sustainable Development Strategy 2012 – 2017

Action plan

Theme 1: Sustainable Council

Strategic outcome 1.1: The Council's greenhouse gas emissions are reduced

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Resource
1	Continue to develop and implement our Carbon Management Plan to reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions.	Annual	CER
2	Ensure the Council's effective participation in the UK Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme and minimise costs to the Council from carbon taxation.	Annual	HTR
3	Implement an Energy Framework to reduce energy consumption in Council buildings through effective energy management and investment.	Annual	HTR
4	Achieve high energy efficiency standards in our new buildings and increase renewable energy generation.	Annual	HTR
5	Implement fuel efficiency measures within the Council's vehicle fleet and further develop the use of low carbon vehicles.	Annual	CER
6	Promote sustainable travel by employees through the efficient use of fleet vehicles, greater use of the public transport, car sharing, walking and cycling.	Annual	FCR



Strategic outcome 1.2:

The Council's use of material resources is environmentally sustainable

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Resource
1	Implement the Scottish Government public sector Sustainable Procurement Flexible Framework.	2012/13	FCR
2	Continue to develop the use of our procurement processes to identify opportunities to enhance environmental outcomes in each contract including (where appropriate) the energy efficiency of goods, lifecycle costs, avoiding the use of non-sustainable materials and end of life disposal.	Annual	FCR
3	Implement new national public sector contracts for electricity and biomass.	2013/14	FCR
4	Provide services and engage Council staff to recycle more waste materials in the workplace.	Annual	CER
5	Introduce food waste collections in Council properties.	2014/15	CER
6	Develop and adopt a Council 'sustainability standard' for the construction of new buildings.	2012/13	HTR
7	Work with Net-Waste Scotland to set and adopt key performance indicators to increase the recycling of the Council's construction site waste.	2012/13	HTR
8	Continue to identify areas where energy and carbon reduction initiatives can be achieved by ensuring the ICT Carbon Reduction Plan is continually updated and reviewed.	Annual	FCR

Strategic outcome 1.3:

The benefits of sustainable development are promoted within the Council and joint approaches are developed with community planning partners and other stakeholders

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Resource
1	Enhance the use SEA within the Council to consider sustainable development and climate change implications of our plans, policies, and strategies.	Annual	CER
2	Review and update committee report guidance for the consideration of sustainable development and SEA implications of Council decisions.	Annual	CER
3	Engage employees to support the Council's sustainable development objectives through improved communication and training including the use of learn on line modules and management development programme.	2013/14	CER
4	Report to the public each year on the action we have taken in relation to climate change.	Annual	CER
5	Undertake biannual review of the impact of anticipated future climate change on key Council services.	2013/14 2015/16	CER
6	Continue to lead and broaden partnership working through the South Lanarkshire Sustainability Partnership and develop joint approaches to sustainable development through the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).	Annual	CER

Theme 2: Sustainable environment

Strategic outcome 2.1:

The quality of local environments contributes to the wellbeing of local communities

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Resource
1	Continue to monitor local environmental conditions through regular review of the South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report.	Annual	CER
2	Review and assess air quality throughout South Lanarkshire as required by the Environment Act 1995 and in line with national guidance.	Annual	CER
3	Complete a comprehensive review of the Council's Contaminated Land Strategy and work with partners to identify and manage contaminated land within the statutory regulatory framework.	Annual	CER
4	Progress the development of policies and proposals to protect and improve the environment through South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan.		CER
5	Manage flooding priorities and deliver prioritised flood protection schemes as required under legislation.	Annual	CER
6	Promote opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding using South Lanarkshire's network of core paths and develop a new Outdoor Access Strategy.	Annual	CER
7	Promote enjoyment of the environment through the implementation of the Tourism Action Plan.	Annual	CER
8	Complete a qualitative assessment of South Lanarkshire's urban greenspace in line with emerging national guidance (South Lanarkshire Greenspace Strategy).	2013/14	CER
9	Develop and promote learning opportunities which increase young people's knowledge and understanding of sustainable development.	Annual	ER
10	Continue to educate our young people about the local environment in which they live and encourage them to reduce the impacts they have upon it.	Annual	ER
11	Increase the participation of establishments and services in the overall uptake of outdoor programmes and skills development.	Annual	ER
12	Further develop partnership with communities and businesses to improve local greenspaces, path networks and biodiversity providing opportunities for environmental volunteering across South Lanarkshire.	Annual	CER
13	Develop a refreshed Leisure and Cultural Strategy for South Lanarkshire which helps to promote recreational opportunities of the natural and physical environment	2013/14	CER



Strategic outcome 2.2:

The natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected to provide long-term benefits for local communities

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Resource
1	Local Development Plan policies are developed and implemented to protect and safeguard the local environment.	Annual	CER
2	Prepare Local Development Plan policies which encourage redevelopment of brownfield sites.	Annual	CER
3	Local Development Plan policies are developed and implemented to deliver the strategic and local green network.	Annual	CER
4	Action is taken to safeguard and enhance the quality and function of priority biodiversity assets including peatland, freshwater systems and ancient woodland.	Annual	CER
5	Continue to work with statutory bodies and other organisations to conserve and enhance biodiversity in South Lanarkshire.	Annual	CER

Theme 3: Sustainable communities

Strategic outcome 3.1:

Services are provided to local communities which enable households and businesses to recycle more waste materials

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Resource
1	Initiate a plan to deliver new waste management processes to reduce the climate change impact of waste management and meet the requirements of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.	2013/14	CER
2	Promote recycling and waste minimisation by providing information to make most effective use of the Council's waste management services.	Annual	CER
3	Introduce a collection system for household food waste so that it can be diverted from landfill and composted or used to generate energy.	2013/14	CER
4	Introduce a collection system for food waste produced by small businesses.	2015/16	CER
5	Increase recycling of waste collected at the Council's civic amenity sites.	2013/14	CER
6	Review the provision of local recycling centres to optimise their contribution to recycling.	2012/13	CER
7	Develop and implement planning policies through the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan that support sustainable waste management.	2012-1017	CER



Strategic outcome 3.2:

Homes are energy efficient, fuel poverty is minimised and homes are environmentally sustainable

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Resource
1	Develop a framework which brings together a holistic approach to improving energy efficiency, tackling fuel poverty.	2012/13	HTR
2	Develop improved monitoring systems for assessing the extent, nature and improvements made in relation to energy efficiency of homes.	Annual	HTR
3	Develop improved monitoring systems for assessing the extent, nature and improvements made in relation to fuel poverty.	Annual	HTR
4	Develop improved monitoring systems for assessing the extent, nature and improvements made in relation to climate change.	Annual	HTR
5	Continue to seek ways to lever additional funding into the support for energy efficiency measures to maximise the impact on the Scottish Housing Quality Standard, fuel poverty and climate change targets.	Annual	HTR
6	Promote and support the use of renewable technologies across all tenures in helping to tackle climate change and fuel poverty.	Annual	HTR
7	Through the Council's Scheme of Assistance, deliver a range of information, advice and practical assistance about home energy efficiency to people in the private housing sector.		HTR



Strategic outcome 3.3:

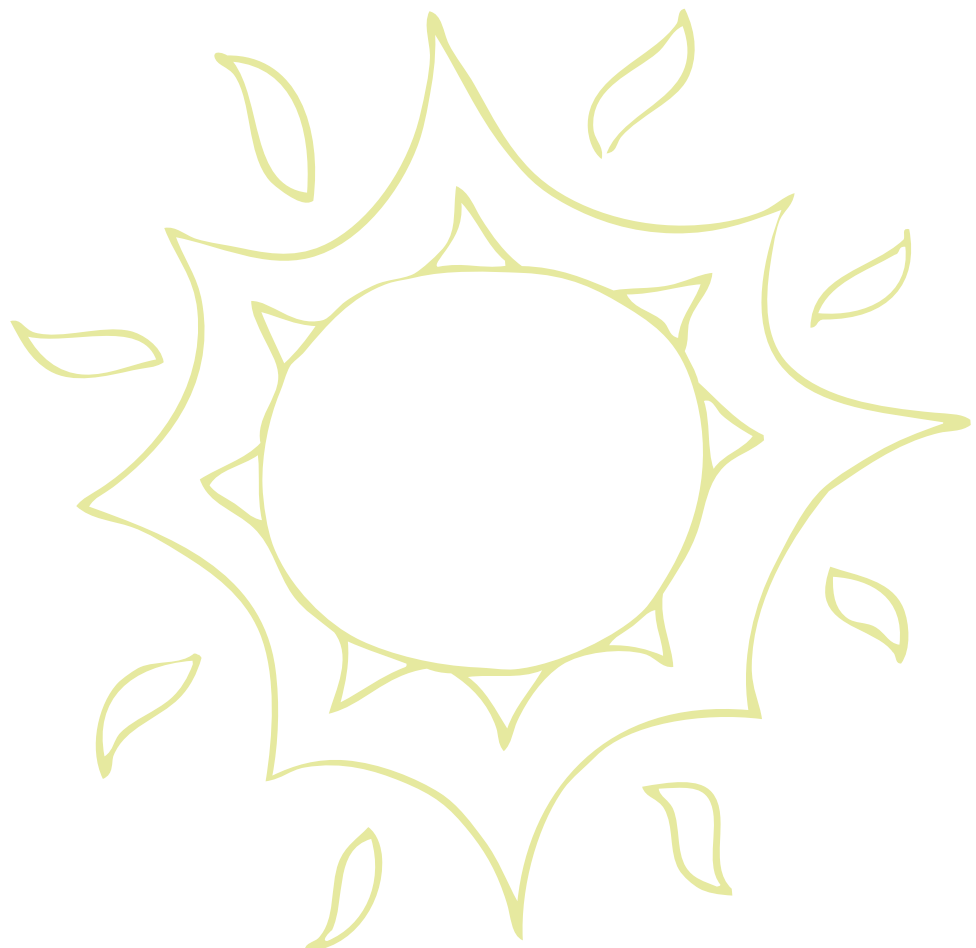
Council policies and plans support local transition to a low carbon economy

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Resource
1	Use the planning system to direct new developments to sustainable locations such as community growth areas, development framework and master plan sites.	Annual	CER
2	Ensure that new developments are appropriately located in terms of sustainability and are of a high quality and design, aimed at reducing carbon emissions.	Annual	CER
3	Use the planning system to direct renewable energy developments to appropriate locations.	Annual	CER
4	Revise the performance framework in Building Standards to better assess the delivery of the obligations set by new and existing legislation and aim to make all new and refurbished properties meet the highest standard of energy efficiency possible.	2012/13	CER
5	Work with public and private sector partners to deliver new or enhanced public transport infrastructure.	Annual	CER
6	Through partnership working, deliver improvements to local infrastructure which encourage walking and cycling.	Annual	CER
7	Support uptake of low carbon vehicles through the provision of public charging infrastructure.	2012/13	CER
8	Work in partnership with fair-trade towns to gain fair-trade zone status for South Lanarkshire.	2012/13	CER

9	Lead by example and promote climate change action and transition to a low carbon economy more widely with our communities, local businesses and community planning partners.	Annual	CER
10	Continue to engage young people, pupils and the wider school community in environmental education through Eco Schools and similar programmes.	Annual	ER
11	Seek funding opportunities from renewable energy and other developments for community benefit.	Annual	CER
12	Seek opportunities to promote environmental, social and economic benefits for our communities through our procurement practices.	Annual	FCR

Key to Resources

CER	Community and Enterprise Resources
ER	Education Resources
FCR	Finance and Corporate Resources
HTR	Housing and Technical Resources



Appendix 3

Definitions and Links

Adaptation Scotland – Formerly known as the Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership. This is a partnership that brings together stakeholders across Scotland to address and prepare for impacts to climate change. Further information can be found at their website www.adaptationscotland.org.uk

Air Quality Strategy – A Council strategy to measure, improve and maintain air quality levels in line with national and European standards.

Air source heat pump – A device placed outside of a building that absorbs heat from the air which can then be used to heat the interior (ie radiators, under floor heating, hot water, etc).

Audit Scotland - A public body that assists in making sure organisations that spend public money in Scotland use it properly, efficiently and effectively. Further information can be found at their website www.audit-scotland.gov.uk

Best Value – A framework of principles and duties to help local authorities deliver better, more responsive public services through continuous improvement taking into account cost and quality.

Biodiversity – Biodiversity is the variety of life which inhabits the planet including all plants, animals, fungi and also the surroundings they live in.

Biodiversity Duty – A duty to further the conservation of biodiversity placed on all public sector bodies in Scotland through The Nature Conservation Act (Scotland) 2004. The duty is about connecting people with the environment and managing biodiversity in the wider environment all around us, not just in specific protected sites.

Biomass – A renewable energy source from organic materials that can be burned and used as a source of fuel. Wood is the main source of biomass either burned as logs or chips or processed into pellets.

Brownfield sites – Sites that are abandoned or underused industrial and commercial facilities available for re-use.

Building Research Establishment's (BRE) environmental assessment method (BREEAM) – The World's most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings. More information can be found at www.breeam.org

Built environment – A term that refers to manmade surroundings including everything from simple housing to neighbourhoods and cities, and even manmade outdoor environments.

Capacity building – A process that empowers people to plan for the future, address issues, and manage and solve problems.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) – A colourless, odourless gas. It is produced both naturally as people and animals exhale CO₂, and through human activities, such as burning gas, coal, oil, and wood, all contributing to CO₂ levels in the air. In the earth's atmosphere CO₂ acts as a greenhouse gas and plays a major role in global warming and climate change.

Carbon footprint - A measurement of the amount of carbon dioxide produced by the activities of a person, company, organisation, country or the whole world.

Carbon management – A process for estimating emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases from an organisation and for developing initiatives to reduce them through an agreed action plan.

Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme – often referred to simply as 'the CRC' is a UK wide mandatory scheme aimed at improving energy efficiency and cutting emissions in large public and private sector organisations. Further information of how this scheme is applied in Scotland can be found on the Scottish Government's website www.scotland.gov.uk



Carbon Trust – An organisation that helps businesses, governments and the public sector to accelerate the move to a low carbon economy through carbon reduction, energy-saving strategies and commercialising low carbon technologies. Further information can be found at their website www.carbontrust.co.uk

Carbon Trust Standard – It certifies that organisations have reduced their carbon emissions and committed to making further reductions.

Central Scotland Green Network Partnership – Is a national development that involves public bodies and stakeholders working together to align their policies, programmes and actions to achieve a common aim of restoring and transforming the landscape of an area. Further information can be found on their website www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org

Citizens' Panel – The South Lanarkshire Citizens' Panel is a consultative forum of residents comprising of some 2,000 members of the general public who live in the South Lanarkshire area. The purpose of the panel is to consult with members of the public on a range of topics from council services to health issues.

Climate Challenge Fund – A fund launched by the Scottish Government to help community groups carry out projects to tackle climate change. For further information see the 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' website www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org

Climate Change Act 2008 – A UK Government Act whose aim is to ensure reduction of targeted greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. Further information on the Act can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 – An Act passed by the Scottish Government to ensure the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and a transition to a low carbon economy. Further information can be found on the Scottish Government's website www.scotland.gov.uk

Climate change adaptation - Actions which respond to current or anticipated changes in climate.

Climate Change Adaptation Programme – A national programme that sets out what government, businesses and society need to do to become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Climate change mitigation – Limiting the extent of future climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions now and in the future. It can also mean removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, for example by planting more trees.

Climate Ready Clyde – A partnership of organisations formed to address the climate change adaptation challenges facing Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. For further information see Adaptation Scotland's website www.adaptationscotland.org.uk

Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership – Is a Heritage Lottery funded project which aims to conserve and enhance the landscape and cultural heritage of the Clyde and Avon Valleys. Further information can be found on their website www.clydeandavonvalley.com

Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership – is a partnership of public bodies and stakeholders whose aim is to connect quality spaces across the Clyde Valley area. Further information can be found on their website www.gcvgreennetwork.gov.uk

Community Growth Areas - Community Growth Areas are locations for large scale planned urban expansion, to accommodate the demand for new housing and associated facilities that cannot be met in the established built up areas.

COSLA – Is the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. It is the representative voice of Scottish local government and also acts as the employers' association on behalf of all 32 Scottish councils.

Curriculum for Excellence – Is the curriculum in Scotland for 3 to 18 year olds which aims to help every learner develop knowledge, skills and attributes for learning, life and work.



Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) -The UK government department responsible for policy and regulations on environmental, food and rural issues.

Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) – Works to make sure the UK has secure, clean, affordable energy supplies and promote international action to mitigate climate change.

Earth Summit – the United Nations (UN) conference held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The purpose of the Earth Summit was to address issues concerning environmental protection and social and economic development.

Ecological footprint - Is the measure of human demand on the Earth's natural resources compared to the planet's capacity to renew these resources. It is measured in global hectares per person or number of planets. See www.scotlands-footprint.com for further information.

Economic development – Economic development is a process by which a community or a nation creates, retains and reinvests wealth and improves the quality of life.

Economic growth – An increase in the capacity of an economy to produce goods and services, compared from one period of time to another.

Economic power – A country that has a lot of importance because it can produce, buy, and sell a lot of products or services.

Economic recovery – Is a period of increasing business activity signalling the end of a recession.

Economic Strategy – A long-term plan for Governments and public services for the economic growth of the country and local authority areas.

Eco-schools programme– An international programme that engages children and young people in key issues including the environment, sustainability, global citizenship and the value of a low carbon future.

Ecosystem - Short for 'ecological system', includes all the living organisms such as plants, animals, fungi existing together in a particular area and how they interact with each other and with the non-living elements of the area, such as climate, water, soil etc.

Ecosystem services – These are the benefits that are supplied by an ecosystem, these include clean air, water, food, energy, medicine, building materials, jobs and places to live.

Ecosystems approach – provides a framework for looking at whole ecosystems in decision making, and for valuing the ecosystem services they provide, to ensure that society can maintain a healthy and resilient natural environment now and for future generations.

Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is the Government's new domestic energy efficiency programme that works alongside the Green Deal to provide additional support for packages of energy efficiency measures for households.

Energy efficiency – is the goal to reduce the amount of energy required to provide products and services.

Energy Performance Certificate – An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rates how energy efficient a building is using grades from A to G (with 'A' the most efficient).

Environmental Act 1995 – A UK Act which created a number of new agencies (e.g. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency) and set new standards for environmental management.

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 - The Act aims to improve protection of the environment by introducing Strategic Environmental Assessment as part of the process of developing new strategies, plans and programmes in the public sector in Scotland.

Environmental Impact Assessment - Is an assessment of the possible positive or negative impact that a proposed project may have on the environment.



Environmental protection – Is the practice of protecting the environment on personal, organisational or governmental levels for the benefit of the natural environment and the general public.

Executive Committee – The Council's coordinating committee overseeing major issues and plans.

Equalities impact assessment – Is a process designed to ensure that a policy, project or scheme does not discriminate against any disadvantaged or vulnerable people.

Fair Trade - Trade in which fair prices are paid to producers in developing countries.

Fleet – Is the collective term for the vehicles and movable machinery under the control of an organisation.

Food security – Refers to maintaining availability and access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life

Fossil fuels – Non-renewable energy sources formed from fossilised plants and animals over millions of years such as coal, oil and gas.

Forestry Commission (FC) – Is the Government department responsible for the protection and expansion of woodlands. Further information can be found on their website www.forestry.gov.uk

Framework – A broad outline of the principles and supports required to achieve a particular goal.

Fuel poverty – Is when a household would have to spend more than 10% of their income on fuel to keep their home in a satisfactory condition and is determined by a number of factors, such as the cost of energy, the energy efficiency of the property and the household income.



Front line services – Is any service that deals directly with members of the public such as schools, libraries, home care, etc.

Global emissions – Greenhouse gasses emitted at a global scale.

Global warming – Is a gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere which causes changes in the climate. Increased greenhouse gas emissions have contributed to global warming.

GLOW – Online community for Scottish Schools.

Green Deal – A government scheme that lets people pay for energy-efficiency improvements through savings on their energy bills. For further information see the green deal website www.greendealinitiative.co.uk

Greenhouse gases – Gases that 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 gases (for example carbon dioxide) contributing to global warming.

Greenspace – An area of grass, trees, shrubs or other vegetation used for recreational or aesthetic purposes (e.g. a community garden).

Ground source heat pump – Uses pipes, which are buried, to extract heat from the ground. This heat can be used to heat radiators, under floor heating systems and hot water.

Grow, Cook and Eat it programme – A project based on Growing, Cooking and Eating fresh and seasonal fruit and vegetables.

Habitats - The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism

Historic Scotland – An executive agency of the Scottish Government charged with safeguarding the nation's historic environment and promoting its understanding and enjoyment. For further information see their website www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

IMPROVe – Is South Lanarkshire Council's system for managing and reporting performance.

ICT – Information and Communication Technologies.

Infrastructure - Are the physical structures and facilities needed to operate a functional society e.g. roads, utilities, water, sewage, etc.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – Is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change with the goal to provide a clear scientific view on the current state of knowledge in climate change and its potential impacts.

Kyoto Protocol – Is a United Nations protocol aimed at fighting global warming and commits industrialised countries to stabilise greenhouse gas emissions.

Lanarkshire Business Excellence Awards - Offers Lanarkshire businesses the opportunity to promote and celebrate their success and achievements. For further information follow the link www.lanarkshire.com/businessawards

Leisure and Cultural Strategy – A strategy that will guide the provision and opportunities for leisure and culture in the local area for the well-being and enjoyment of the general public.

Life cycle cost - The total cost of a product throughout its life including planning, design, acquisition and support costs and any other costs directly attributable to owning or using the product.

Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 – An Act of Scottish Parliament which introduced specific duties on Councils in relation to best value and community planning and created powers to promote community wellbeing.

Local Housing Strategy – A strategy, that each local authority must prepare, providing the strategic direction for the provision of housing and related services within its area.

Low carbon economy – An economy that produces goods and services of increasing value while reducing the associated greenhouse gases emitted as a result of their production, use and disposal.

Low carbon future / society / Scotland – Refers to economic growth while ensuring sustainable levels of greenhouse gas emissions. This may involve the deployment of low carbon technologies and changes to social behaviours and lifestyles.

Low carbon technologies – Are technologies which result in lower or no carbon emissions when in use.

National Land Use Strategy - Is a strategic framework bringing together proposals for getting the best from Scotland's land resources.

Natural resources – Something, such as a forest, a mineral deposit, or fresh water, that is found in nature and is necessary or useful to humans.

Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 – An Act of the Scottish Parliament placing a statutory duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity.

Net-Waste Scotland – A guidance tool created by WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) which calculates the potential waste arising from construction projects and helping to improve the recycled content. For further information see the WRAP website www.wrap.org.uk

Objectives – A goal / target

Outcome – Desired end result following action.

Outdoor Access Strategy – A strategy to help local authorities plan how to improve facilities for people's outdoor activities in the local area.

Partnership working – Partnerships can be formed between a number of individuals, agencies or organisations with a shared interest. There is usually an overarching purpose for partners to work together and a range of specific objectives. Partnerships are often formed to address specific issues and may be short or long term.

Performance management - Includes activities to ensure that goals are consistently being met in an effective and efficient manner.



Performance measure – Is a way of quantifying the achievement of objectives to help understand, manage, or improve the way they are being met.

Photovoltaic – Refers to the process of converting sunlight into electricity (i.e. solar power).

Plugged in Places Programme – Is a Government supported programme that offers funding to businesses and public sector partners to support the installation of electric vehicle recharging stations across the UK.

Pool car scheme – A fleet of fuel efficient cars available to staff to use for business journeys.

Public sector climate change duties – A legal obligation for the public sector under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Further information on the Act and its duties can be found on the Scottish Government's website www.scotland.gov.uk

Renewable Electricity Generation Feed in Tariff Scheme (FIT) – A government scheme that pays people for generating their own 'green electricity' from renewable sources.

Renewable energy generation - Refers to the process used to produce energy from natural and environmentally sustainable resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, and geothermal (thermal energy generated and stored in the Earth).

Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) – Is a UK Government scheme set up to encourage uptake of renewable heat technologies among householders, communities and businesses through the provision of financial incentives.

Scheme of Assistance – A repair and improvement grant for homeowners. For further information see the Council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy – Is a strategy published by the Scottish government that sets out how they will conserve biodiversity for health, enjoyment and wellbeing now and in the future.

Scotland's Climate Change Declaration – Is a declaration signed by public bodies within Scotland that acknowledges the reality and importance of climate change and demonstrates their commitment to take action.

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) – Scotland's environmental regulator established to protect and improve the environment. Further information on SEPA's work can be found on their website www.sepa.org.uk

Scottish Government Zero Waste Plan – Sets out the Scottish Government's vision for a zero waste society, where all waste is seen as a resource; waste is minimised; valuable resources are not disposed of in landfills, and most waste is sorted, leaving only limited amounts to be treated. For further information see the Scottish Government's website www.scotland.gov.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) – Is a body funded by the Scottish Government with the purpose of promoting care for and improvement of the natural heritage of Scotland, help people to enjoy it responsibly with greater understanding and awareness of it and promote its sustainable use.

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) - Is a statement of Scottish Government policy on nationally important land use matters. For further information see the Scottish Government's website www.scotland.gov.uk

Scottish Quality Housing Standard (SHQS) – Is the Scottish Government's principal measure of housing quality in Scotland, it is a set of five broad housing criteria which must all be met for a property to pass SHQS.





Scottish Youth Parliament – Is an elected group of youths ranging in age from 14 to 25 representing different areas and voluntary organisations who act on behalf of young people in Scotland, representing them at a national level in order to bring their issues to the government and formal decision makers.

Sensory garden – A garden that appeals to more than just the eyes with plantings of colour, fragrance, form and texture.

Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) – Is an agreement between the Scottish Government and community planning partnerships which set out how each will work towards improving outcomes for the population.

South Lanarkshire's Contaminated Land Strategy - Sets out the programme that the Council will follow to ensure land within its area is suitable for its current use. If necessary, remediation works will be undertaken to bring land up to this standard. For further information see the Council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

South Lanarkshire's Core Path Plan – Is the formulation, development and management of a network of public access routes in South Lanarkshire both urban and rural. A copy of the plan can be found on the Council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

South Lanarkshire's Greenspace Strategy – Is the plan for improving South Lanarkshire's Greenspace. For further information on the strategy see the Council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan – Is the plan for the future development of South Lanarkshire, drawn up by the Council's planning and building standard in consultation with the community. For further information on the plan and consultation see the Council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

South Lanarkshire Minerals Local Development Plan - Aims to limit potentially harmful environmental impacts and, where possible, protect communities from the adverse effects of mineral extraction. A copy of the plan can be found on the Council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

South Lanarkshire Outdoor Access Forum – A group of representatives from a wide range of outdoor interests that are involved in different access projects. For further information see the Council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Stakeholders – A person or group with a direct interest, for example our employees and customers.

State of the Environment Report – Provides information on different aspects of South Lanarkshire's environment and how these have changed over time. A copy of the report can be found on the Council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) – A requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, to consider environmental impacts both positive and negative in policies, plans, programmes and strategies developed by the public sector.

Sustainability Partnership – Part of South Lanarkshire's community planning structure this body aims to facilitate and coordinate joint action by partners to enable people to enjoy the benefits of a sustainable South Lanarkshire.

Sustainable Procurement Flexible Framework - A self assessment tool developed for the public sector in Scotland that allows organisations to measure and monitor their progress on sustainable procurement over time.

Sustainable Scotland Network – An organisation funded by the Scottish Government which provides support to Scottish local authorities on sustainable development issues. Further information can be found on their website www.sustainable-scotland.net

Tourism Action Plan - Provides a framework for the development and management of tourism in South Lanarkshire.

Unison – Is a trade union in the UK whose membership is mainly from the public sector.

Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHS) – A Government funded initiative that provides loft and cavity wall insulation to eligible households. For further information on UHS in South Lanarkshire see the Council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Vehicle telematics – Refers to equipment and software which records and analyses business journeys to help with promoting efficiency.

Voluntary sector – Is a collective term used for voluntary organisations which are separate from government and whose work is not carried out for profit.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – Is an international organisation working on issues regarding the conservation, research and restoration of the environment, formerly named the World Wildlife Fund. Further information can be found on their website www.wwf.org.uk

Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) - Organisation helping businesses and individuals reduce **waste**, develop sustainable products and use resources in an efficient way. Further information can be found on their website www.wrap.org.uk

Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 – New regulations for the recycling of waste for businesses and organisation.

Youth Council – A youth-led charity of volunteers aged 25 and under who seek to influence decision makers on behalf of young people within their community.



If you need more information on the strategy or you want this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

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