



**Strategic Environmental Assessment**  
**Final Draft Environmental Report**

**Sustainable Development Strategy**  
**2012 to 2017**

**27 November 2012**

## SEA Environmental Report – Cover Note

PART 1	
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PART 2	
An SEA Environmental Report is attached for the Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS) entitled:	
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# Table of Contents

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<b>Non-Technical Summary</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Background .....	6
Purpose of the Environmental Report .....	6
Consultation process .....	7
<b>2. Background to the draft Sustainable Development Strategy</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Plan context and overview .....	8
Relationship with other key PPS and environmental objectives and assessment ...	8
High-level policy assessment .....	8
Local policy assessment .....	9
<b>3. SEA Methodology</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Overview of the SEA for the draft Sustainable Development Strategy .....	12
Scoping the SEA .....	12
<b>4. Environmental Baseline and Key Issues</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Introduction to the local environment .....	14
Introduction to South Lanarkshire .....	14
Collecting environmental data .....	14
Environmental Baseline .....	15
Key issues relating to the Sustainable Development Strategy .....	17
Likely evolution of the environment without the SDS .....	18
<b>5. Development of the Assessment Criteria</b> .....	<b>19</b>
Considering hierarchy of key environmental issues .....	19
Development of the SEA objectives .....	19
<b>6. Assessment of alternatives</b> .....	<b>21</b>
Assessing alternatives .....	21
Identified key issues within the alternatives .....	22
<b>7. Assessment of the draft Strategy</b> .....	<b>24</b>
Compatibility assessment criteria .....	24
Compatibility assessment of the Sustainable Development Strategy .....	24
<b>8. Evaluating the potential environmental effects</b> .....	<b>27</b>
Assessment of potential environmental effects .....	27
Assessment of cumulative and synergistic impacts .....	29
<b>9. Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>10. Recommendations from the assessment</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>11. Monitoring the Strategy</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>12. Next Steps</b> .....	<b>37</b>

# Non-Technical Summary

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## *Introduction*

This is a non-technical summary of the Environment Report (ER) which documents the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) of the draft Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS), published by South Lanarkshire Council. A SEA is required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 in order to determine the potential environmental effects of implementing the Strategy.

The Council is updating the original Sustainable Development Strategy which is due for review. The strategy helps the Council to meet its legal requirements in relation to sustainable development and climate change. Other legal responsibilities relating to the environment, green-space, biodiversity, planning and housing are also relevant to proposed actions within the strategy but are governed by other strategies and plans which have been or are currently subject to SEA in their own right.

## *SEA Methodology*

The SEA enables environmental considerations to be integrated into the preparation of the Sustainable Development Strategy, and, at the same time, allows the public and stakeholders the opportunity to comment on both the draft Strategy and the SEA. The SEA process follows an established and systematic method of testing the development of the Strategy, predicting the environmental effects, whilst considering mitigation and enhancement measures to create a well-balanced and sustainable SDS. The conclusions from each stage of the SEA are summarised in the sections below.

In undertaking the assessment, an understanding of the local environment is required along with the identification of key issues affecting the local area, including:

- **Population (population and human health)** – South Lanarkshire is environmentally and socially diverse, with heavily populated areas in the north and extensive rural areas in the south and west. Although parts of South Lanarkshire experience an excellent quality of life, there are pockets of deprivation where some people experience higher than average poor health.
- **Biodiversity, (fauna, flora and landscape)** – Many designated areas are in favourable condition, although most areas of ancient woodland and other semi-natural habitats are extensively fragmented. There are levels of poor species richness within urbanised area, along with limited pockets of rich habitats. The River Clyde and tributaries are essential to the character of the area, with the good water environment an important resource across South Lanarkshire. South Lanarkshire's landscape is diverse, from the prominent Lowther hills across the southern fringes through mixed rolling farmland and river valleys, to more urbanised landscapes in the north. The landscape is an important asset for the area, providing its distinctive character and promoting community wellbeing.
- **Climatic factors (climate change)** – South Lanarkshire's climate is changing with more extreme weather events impacting on the population and environment. In order to mitigate against climate change both the cause and consequence must be addressed. There has been a slight decrease in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but further progress is needed to assist the area's transition to a future low carbon economy. Although South Lanarkshire's ecological footprint is less than the Scottish and UK averages, it is still higher than what can be naturally sustained.
- **Material assets** – On a population basis there are areas with greater levels of vacant land and areas with less recreational provision. South Lanarkshire has a number of purpose built amenities including sports facilities and halls for community use which promote active lifestyles. There are two country parks in South Lanarkshire, Calderglen and Chatelherault and several areas of local community greenspace. In recent years waste generation has been reducing

across South Lanarkshire and recycling has increased. Street cleanliness remains consistently around the Scottish average.

- **Cultural heritage (including historic assets)** – South Lanarkshire is culturally rich in archaeological remains, industrial monuments and medieval burghs. Historic assets provide the area with a rich cultural identity, important for enhancing the quality of life, providing a sense of identity and are a vital contributor to the area's economy.
- **Air, soil and water** - Air quality in South Lanarkshire is generally good but there are a few traffic related pockets that exceed national air quality limits. Soil quality is generally good and the number of potentially contaminated sites has decreased. River quality continues to improve but there remain some issues within dense urban areas and areas associated with historic mining. Rainfall and water flow rates in rivers have increased as has the number of flooding incidents.

### ***Developing strategic alternatives***

The assessment concluded that the development of a new Sustainable Development Strategy offers the greatest potential for incorporating environmental issues identified through the Council's State of the Environment Report. Since the adoption of the last SDS the political and economic priorities of the Council have changed, and therefore the development of a new SDS provides the greatest scope for incorporating such changes. A new strategy will assist the Council in meeting its duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act, 2009 and the requirement to contribute to sustainable development as part of its duty to deliver Best Value as defined by guidance to the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 2003. The Strategy has the potential to improve the delivery of local services, benefiting the community and area as a whole. Integrating the SEA process within the development of the Sustainable Development Strategy provides the opportunity for greater focus on the delivery of environmental benefits.

### ***Testing draft SDS against environmental objectives***

The draft Sustainable Development Strategy was initially assessed against environmental objectives (SEA objectives) to determine its environmental impact. As a result of the initial assessment the proposed SEA objectives identified in the Scoping Report were rationalised and the associated text redrafted to enhance the environmental performance of the SDS.

### ***Predicting and evaluating the effects of the draft SDS***

The draft SDS was assessed to determine the impact it would have on the local community and environment. Overall, it is considered that the draft strategy will have significant benefits for the environment by providing a strategic context for the Council's activities in relation to sustainable development, climate change and both the natural and physical environment. The SEA process has added value to the SDS through its various stages by identifying key links to other strategies and plans, comments received from both stakeholders and the general public and the prediction of environmental impacts relative to SEA objectives. The process has led to a number of improvements, including changes to SDS actions and has helped to identify opportunities to enhance environmental outcomes through influencing other Council plans and strategies.

### ***Proposed measures to monitor the Sustainable Development Strategy***

A monitoring plan is being developed to assist in the early identification of environmental issues (either positive or negative) associated with the implementation of the SDS. This will be linked to and enhanced by the monitoring of the Council's State of the Environment Report. In addition, consideration will be given to appropriate suggestions on monitoring received through the consultation process when finalising the monitoring plan.

### ***Conclusions***

The SEA process has been used to assist in the drafting of the SDS, with the result showing that the adopted SDS should promote a positive environment and local community.

In accordance with the SEA legislation, the Environmental Report will be made available for public consultation alongside the draft Sustainable Development Strategy for a period of six weeks.

The following table provides timescales in the development of the SDS and its SEA:

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Expected date</b>
Environmental Report consultation period commences	28 November 2012
Consultation deadline	11 January 2013
Final Sustainable Development Strategy	January 2013
Post adoption SEA statement	April 2013

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# 1. Introduction

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## *Background*

1.1 The Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) helps South Lanarkshire Council to meet the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, to contribute to sustainable development, and to meet its new public sector duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Other legal responsibilities placed on the Council relating to the environment, greenspace, biodiversity, planning and housing are also relevant to proposed actions within the strategy but are governed by other strategies and plans which have been or are currently subject to SEA in their own right. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was carried out on South Lanarkshire Council's first SDS. The development of the new draft SDS has also been informed by an SEA.

1.2 This report constitutes an Environmental Report (ER) in accordance with the requirements of the European Community (EC) SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the SEA Act). The ER illustrates the SEA process and the identification of all potentially significant environmental effects (both positive and negative) associated with the implementation of the draft SDS, with the overall process aiming to:

- Identify relevant environmental issues associated with the SDS, providing a high level of environmental protection and the integration of environmental decision making into the preparation of the draft Strategy;
- Assess the potential for alternatives to the draft SDS through consideration of the other policy options and delivery methods whilst taking into account the legislative requirements of the Council;
- Evaluate the likely significant environmental effects associated with the policies of the SDS to ensure appropriate environment issues are identified, described, evaluated and taken into account before the Strategy is adopted; and
- Provide an early opportunity for public participation in environmental decision making through consultation on the Strategy and the associated ER.

## *Purpose of the Environmental Report*

1.3 The purpose of an ER is to support consultation of the draft SDS by:

- Providing a summary of the SEA process and a description of the consultation that has been undertaken as part of the SEA to-date; and
- Identifying, describing and providing an evaluation of the likely significant effects on the environment through the implementation of the SDS.

1.4 The ER is intended to assist decision-makers, the Consultation Authorities (CAs), the public and other stakeholders to understand the likely significant impacts associated with the draft SDS before it is finalised and to identify the measures taken to prevent, reduce and offset such effects. The draft SDS and the ER have been made available to the public and the CAs as part of a public consultation exercise as required by the SEA Act.

The CAs are defined within the SEA Act as:

- Historic Scotland (HS), acting on behalf of the Scottish Ministers;
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA); and
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

1.5 The SEA Act defines the key stages of SEA as:

<b>Screening</b>	Determination of whether the strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether an SEA is required
<b>Scoping</b>	Identification of the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report, and the consultation period for the report. This stage involves consultation with the Consultation Authorities
<b>Environmental Report</b>	Publication of an Environmental Report on the strategy which includes a summary of SEA and consultation processes, and provides an evaluation of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the strategy
<b>Post-Adoption</b>	Provides information on the adopted strategy, how consultation comments have been taken into account, and methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects of its implementation.
<b>Monitoring</b>	Proposed framework for monitoring the potential significant effects of implementing the strategy

1.6 The ER describes both the assessment and evolutionary drafting of the SDS, the proposed themes, strategic outcomes and actions, identifying recommended measures to prevent, reduce and mitigate any potentially significant negative environmental effects, whilst providing measures to improve or enhance the positive environmental effects of the implemented Strategy. The ER also begins to set out a proposed framework for monitoring the SDS for the early identification of any future effects.

### **Consultation process**

1.7 In accordance with the SEA legislation, the ER will be made available for public consultation along with the draft SDS for a period of six weeks. Early engagement with the CAs (see Appendix 1, Scoping Response) has already taken place and these representations have helped to inform the content of the draft Strategy and the SEA process.

1.8 To assist in the consultation process, the Council seeks responses to specific questions within the ER. General or specific comments on other aspects of the ER are also welcome. Comments should be sent to the contact details on page 1 (Cover Note) of the ER.



## 2. Background to the draft Sustainable Development Strategy

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### *Plan context and overview*

2.1 The Sustainable Development Strategy provides the means to articulate South Lanarkshire Council's response to the duties placed upon it by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, to contribute to sustainable development as an aspect of Best Value, and by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

2.2 The SDS, 2012 - 2017 is intended to update the original strategy which is now due for renewal. It will provide the context and strategic framework under which the Council will work to achieve delivery of its environmental objectives which will contribute to the Council's overall vision to 'Work together to improve the quality of life for everyone in South Lanarkshire'. The draft SDS has three proposed strategic themes underpinned by eight strategic outcomes:

#### **Theme 1: Sustainable Council**

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

#### **Theme 2: Sustainable Environment**

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

#### **Theme 3: Sustainable Communities**

- Strategic Outcome 3.1: Services are provided to local communities which enable households and businesses to recycle more waste materials
- Strategic Outcome 3.2: Homes are energy efficient, fuel poverty is minimised and homes are environmentally sustainable
- Strategic Outcome 3.3: Council policies and plans support local transition to a low carbon economy.

2.3 The new SDS will contain an environmental statement which has been developed in response to an internal consultation process which identified a need for a clear, high level statement of the Council's commitment to the environment. This will help engage staff and guide service planning.

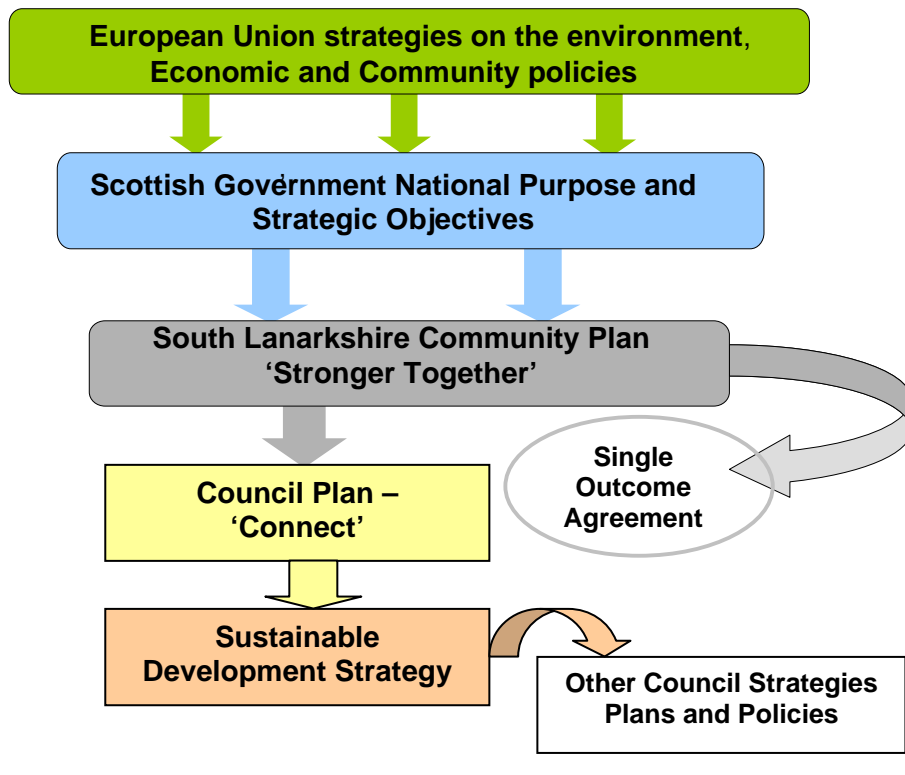
### *Relationship with other key PPS and environmental objectives and assessment*

2.4 The Sustainable Development Strategy will link into other existing plans, policies and strategies (PPS). It is influenced by other PPS, particularly the Council Plan, 'Connect' and at the same time, it is intended to have a strong influence on the future strategic planning within the Council in terms of delivering the Council's environmental commitments.

### *High-level policy assessment*

2.5 The SDS is directly and indirectly influenced by a number of international, national, regional and local PPS (see Figure 1). The relationships between the SDS and other PPS of significance have been assessed as part of the SEA process. Consideration has been given to how they may affect or be affected by the SDS and how they relate to relevant SEA issues (see Appendix 2 for the full policy assessment).

**Figure 1: Hierarchical relationship between the Sustainable Development Strategy and other International, National and Regional PPS**



**Local policy assessment**

2.6 A detailed assessment was undertaken on those PPS that directly fall below the hierarchy of the SDS. The assessment highlighted that although individual Council PPS take control of delivering specific environmental areas identified in the SDS there is a considerable level of cross-over (Table 1). This illustrates the fact the most environmental objectives within the SDS are not deliverable in silos either through individual PPS or by individual Council Resources (departments) and that their delivery requires considerable cross-partnership working. Therefore, the SDS is important in promoting both the delivery and the broad aim of enhancing the environment and community wellbeing within South Lanarkshire and in emphasising the importance the Council plays in delivering a sustainable and rich environment.

**Table 1: Assessment of lower hierarchy plans, programmes and strategies, illustrating cross-policy delivery of the Strategic Development Strategy’s themes**

Council PPS	Score	SDS Theme			Cross delivery across Council Resources					Comments on key delivery areas	
		Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Community and Enterprise	Education	Finance and Corporate	Housing and Technical	Social Work		SL Leisure and Culture
South Lanarkshire Local Plan (SLLP) – Adopted Plan	++	X	X	X	X			X		X	The SDS details the priorities for South Lanarkshire many of which are delivered through the Local Plan. The SLLP has undergone SEA.

Council PPS	Score	SDS Theme			Cross delivery across Council Resources						Comments on key delivery areas	
		Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Community and Enterprise	Education	Finance and Corporate	Housing and Technical	Social Work	SL Leisure and Culture		
South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan (SLLDP) and associated Supplementary Guidance (SG)	++		X	X	X	X		X			X	The SDS details the priorities for South Lanarkshire many of which will be delivered through the forthcoming SLLDP. The SDS will influence SG, particularly guidance relating directly to sustainable development and climate change, for example, Renewable Energy. The SLLDP is currently undergoing SEA.
South Lanarkshire Local Transport Strategy (LTS)	+	X	X	X	X	X						The SDS will include actions to be taken forward by the Council's Roads and Transportation Service to promote modal shift. The new LTS will continue this process and will also include commitments to establish a local infrastructure for low carbon vehicles in South Lanarkshire. The LTS is currently undergoing SEA.
South Lanarkshire Greenspace Strategy	+		X	X	X			X	X		X	The Greenspace Strategy is a subsidiary strategy of the SDS. The SDS includes actions which facilitate the implementation of the Greenspace Strategy which has undergone SEA.
SL Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)	++	X	X	X	X	X		X				The SDS supports the Council's role in the delivery of the LBAP, which has undergone SEA.
SLC Carbon Management Plan	++	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	The SDS sets an annual target to reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions to be delivered by the Carbon Management Plan which is a subsidiary strategy to the SDS. The target is relevant to the Council's duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
SLC Outdoor Access Strategy	+			X	X	X		X	X		X	Objectives and actions in the SDS will, where relevant, have regard to plans for outdoor access.

Council PPS	Score	SDS Theme			Cross delivery across Council Resources						Comments on key delivery areas
		Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Community and Enterprise	Education	Finance and Corporate	Housing and Technical	Social Work	SL Leisure and Culture	
South Lanarkshire Core Path Plan	+			X	X	X		X	X	X	The SDS will include actions to support implementation of the Core Path Plan and promote the development of countryside access for recreation, health and enjoyment. The Core Path Plan has undergone SEA.
South Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy and associated PPS	+		X	X	X			X	X		The SDS supports outcomes within the LHS regarding improving energy efficiency of homes and action on fuel poverty. The LHS has undergone SEA.

2.7 The main policy principles relevant to the SDS and the environmental issues within the SEA have been identified from common themes arising in the objectives of the PPS listed in Table 1. These are:

- Promote a functioning environment servicing the benefits to South Lanarkshire;
- Promote improvements in human health and reduce inequality across South Lanarkshire;
- Promote sustainable economic growth and sustainable communities;
- Reduce the impacts of climate change through Council service provision and encourage reductions in greenhouse gas emissions across the South Lanarkshire area.

### Question 1

#### Relationship with other key PPS and environmental objectives and assessment

Has the assessment fully listed existing PPS which may affect or be affected by the Sustainable Development Strategy in Figure 1 and Appendix 2?

Do you agree with the assessment results identified in Table 1?

### 3. SEA Methodology

#### Overview of the SEA for the draft Sustainable Development Strategy

3.1 The SEA process involves testing the strategic themes and outcomes of the draft Sustainable Development Strategy against environmentally-based SEA objectives, in order to predict the potential environmental effects and consider appropriate mitigation or enhancement measures. The assessment is then followed by the preparation and undertaking of a monitoring programme once the Strategy is adopted. The key areas of the SEA methodology are summarised in Table 2.

**Table 2: SEA Methodology**

SEA Stage	Assessment Requirements	ER Section
Developing strategic alternatives	To assist in the development and refinement of the alternatives for achieving the overall vision of the draft SDS.	6
Testing the themes and outcomes against SEA objectives.	To ensure that the overall themes and outcomes of the draft SDS accord with environmental principles and provide a framework for developing options.	7
Predicting and evaluating the effects of the draft SDS including alternatives	To predict and evaluate the effects of the draft SDS and its alternatives and assist in the refinement of the Strategy. Identify those within the hierarchy that deliver on the environmental issues.	8
Considering ways to enhance or mitigate against adverse effects of the draft SDS	To ensure all potential mitigation measures and indicators for maximising beneficial effects are considered and, as a result, residual effects identified.	9
Proposed measures to monitor the environmental effects of draft SDS once implemented	To propose a monitoring framework to assess the environmental performance of the draft SDS.	10

#### Scoping the SEA

3.2 A Scoping Report prepared in June 2012 provided information on the draft SDS and set out the level and method proposed for undertaking the SEA. Consultation on the Scoping Report allowed the CAs to provide comment on their views regarding the proposed assessment process, with the CAs generally in agreement with the level in which the SEA issues were presented (Appendix 1). However, Historic Scotland suggested that cultural heritage should be scoped into the Environmental Report. We agree with this suggestion and cultural heritage is now included within the scope of the report.

3.3 The environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act were scoped against their potential for significance of impact associated with the SDS (Table 3). Those environmental issues scoped in were considered the most appropriate for assessing the draft SDS and provided the basis for developing the SEA objectives used within the assessment process.

**Table 3: Scoping of environmental issues associated with the SEA of the draft SDS**

SEA Issue	Scoped		Rationale
	In	Out	
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts on specific species and habitats through regeneration programmes and interface with Council services.</li> <li>• Potential for positive and negative effects on the local biodiversity through influence on other plans and strategies.</li> <li>• Opportunity to promote the potential benefits of biodiversity and</li> </ul>

SEA Issue	Scoped		Rationale
	In	Out	
			greenspace to aid service provision.
<b>Population and human health</b>	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts on mental health and wellbeing through availability and access to greenspace, quality living environments, more active lifestyles and reduced fuel poverty.</li> <li>• Scope to promote health improvement through environmental volunteering and conservation therapy.</li> <li>• Indirect influence through other policies and plans on air quality which has scope to affect human health.</li> </ul>
<b>Soil</b>	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects associated with contaminated land, although this will be dealt with in more detail through the forthcoming Contaminated Land Strategy which will undergo SEA.</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to promote the need to review service provision in view of expected changes in the climate, in particular increased rainfall.</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential positive effects on air quality through influencing development of Air Quality Strategy which will undergo SEA.</li> <li>• Potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through activities associated with tackling energy efficiency of buildings and other potential impacts associated with tackling fuel poverty.</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic factors</b>	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to affect ecological footprint through influence on procurement policy.</li> <li>• Potential to reduce Council greenhouse gas emissions through the Carbon Management Programme.</li> <li>• Potential for enhancing the use of renewables by the Council and in the community through the Local Development Plan.</li> <li>• Potential to influence the net balance of carbon release/absorption through subsidiary biodiversity and greenspace strategies.</li> </ul>
<b>Material assets</b>	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to influence the use of sustainable materials within construction, maintenance and procurement.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural heritage</b>	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to effectively protect all aspects of the historic environment.</li> <li>• Potential to maintain a 'sense of place' and cultural identity within local communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to influence other plans to promote the benefits of enjoyment of landscape to enhance wellbeing.</li> </ul>

## 4. Environmental Baseline and Key Issues

### *Introduction to the local environment*

4.1 The SEA Act requires that the ER includes a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and its likely evolution without implementation of the SDS. It also requires consideration of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected. This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the SDS operates and the constraints and targets that this context imposes. The descriptive environmental baseline for South Lanarkshire can be found in the Council's State of the Environment Report, 2011. A copy of the 2011 report can be found by following the link below.

[http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/6223/state\\_of\\_the\\_environment\\_report\\_2011](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/6223/state_of_the_environment_report_2011)

4.2 The current state of the environment is presented in support of the predicted assessment of the potential effects associated with implementing the SDS. The environmental baseline provides information on both the current and potential issues directly associated with the Strategy, with the likely future state without implementing the SDS estimated using past trends.

### *Introduction to South Lanarkshire*

4.3 South Lanarkshire is the fifth most populated local authority in Scotland covering an area of 650 square miles (1,772 km<sup>2</sup>). The River Clyde and its major tributaries, including Douglas Water, Nethan, Avon and Rotten Calder are key features of the landscape. This ranges from moorland and upland areas in the south and east, through agricultural lowlands and onto the highly urbanised fringes of the Glasgow conurbation, with the major settlements of Hamilton, East Kilbride, Cambuslang and Rutherglen (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Map illustrates the boundary of South Lanarkshire and main settlements**



### *Collecting environmental data*

4.4 The environmental baseline was established for those environmental issues scoped into the assessment, taken from the environmental topics listed in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act. The relevant environmental information was primarily sourced from the Council's State of the

Environment Report (2011), with primary data updated from the original 2009 report and further information gathered from SEPA, HS, SNH and other sources. The collection of the baseline information and key indicators will support the strategy's monitoring programme. The current status, trend and key environmental issues are considered through the data collected across the environmental indicators relevant to the SDS. The following sections provide information on the environmental issues, which are:

- Population (including human health)
- Biodiversity (including fauna, flora and landscape)
- Climatic factors (including climate change)
- Material assets
- Cultural heritage (including historical assets)
- Air, soil and water.

4.5 The baseline assessment requires consideration of the issues listed below:

- The inter-relationship between the issues
- Short, medium and long term effects
- Permanent and temporary effects
- Positive and negative effects
- Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects.

### **Environmental Baseline**

4.6 The environmental baseline has been collected using key environmental indicators that are reported within the Council's State of the Environment Report. A summary of the key issues affecting South Lanarkshire are highlighted in Table 4 with an indication of the affected receptors and the potential opportunities within the SDS to address such issues. A representation of the environmental data is included in Appendix 3, with the current status of the key environmental indicators identified using past year trends.

**Table 4: Key environmental issues within South Lanarkshire associated with the draft SDS**

<b>Identified Issue and cause</b>	<b>Affected Receptor</b>	<b>Opportunities and Implications</b>
<b>Population</b>		
The population within South Lanarkshire (SL) is growing at a faster rate than the national average but people in the area experience poorer health, particularly in social, economic and environmentally deprived areas. There are differences across SL in mortality rates, with clear links between poor health, poverty and deprivation. Life expectancy is lower in deprived areas.	Cumulative effects on human health and community wellbeing	The SDS can help protect and enhance local environments to sustain an increasing population and help promote community health and well-being. The SDS will encourage more healthy, active and sustainable lifestyles, including sustainable travel. The SDS will promote activities to improve domestic energy efficiency and, as a result, help tackle fuel poverty. Through partnership working, the SDS can promote inclusive, environmentally rich communities that meet community needs, allowing access to the natural and historic environment and providing safer and more attractive communities.
<b>Biodiversity</b>		
South Lanarkshire has a wide range of habitats, most of which are affected by historical fragmentation and decline. The main environmental pressures affecting biodiversity include invasive non-native species and development which is insensitive to the natural environment.	Cumulative effects on sensitive habitats and individual species	The SDS will help drive implementation of Council and partnership Greenspace and Biodiversity strategies to help provide a more sustainable natural environment for local people. The SDS will promote the importance of improving the quality and richness of the local environment which also has positive impacts on human health and wellbeing. The SDS will promote habitat improvements to encourage enhanced carbon capture within the environment of SL.



Identified Issue and cause	Affected Receptor	Opportunities and Implications
<p>South Lanarkshire's landscape is diverse from the Lowther Hills, mixed rolling farmland and river valleys in the south to more densely populated towns and settlements in the north. The landscape is an important asset for the area, providing a distinctive character, promoting community wellbeing, supporting local biodiversity and contributing to the local economy. Development can pose a risk to aspects of the landscape including the green belt, recreational and greenspace networks.</p>	<p>Cumulative effects on visual landscape impacting on community wellbeing</p>	<p>The SDS will not directly affect the landscape characteristics of the area but it will aim to actively promote the enhancement of the local environment at a community level and will help ensure the preservation of the distinctiveness of the rural areas. The SDS will provide links across other Council policies and services which will encourage the efficient use of open/communal areas for the benefit and promotion of sustainable local communities. For example, public enjoyment of landscape is actively promoted through the Council's Countryside Access and Greenspace Strategies.</p>
<b>Climatic Factors</b>		
<p>SL's climate is linked at the national and global scale. Temperatures in Scotland have risen by about 1°C over the last century resulting in increased rainfall. These climatic shifts along with more extreme weather events will have a dramatic impact on SL's environment as well as the population. Although there has been a slight decrease in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions further progress is needed to assist the area's transition to a future low carbon economy. The renewable energy generation capacity in the area has significantly increased through the development of large scale wind farms. Ultimately, it is possible for SL to become an energy exporter but micro generation is still relatively low compared to other Council areas. Although SL's ecological footprint is less than the Scottish and UK averages, it is still higher than what can be naturally sustained at a global level.</p>	<p>Cumulative in nature on the cause and effect of climate change</p>	<p>The SDS will consider the potential impacts associated with climate change in SL and will promote appropriate improvement and adaptation measures across all areas. It will set out actions intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, for example, by promoting energy efficiency measures, reductions in waste generation, improvements in recycling and the promotion of active travel and public transport. The SDS will also set a reduction target for the Council's own direct greenhouse gas emissions. The SDS will promote the use of renewable technologies, where appropriate, to improve the efficiency of buildings. The SDS can help reduce SL carbon and ecological footprint through the promotion of more sustainable lifestyles. The SDS will promote the importance of sustainability across South Lanarkshire Council and Community Planning Partnerships to encourage the development of more sustainable communities.</p>
<b>Material Assets</b>		
<p>Parts of SL have high levels of vacant land. The proportion of urban greenspace provision varies from 13.4 ha/1,000 population in Uddingston to 7 ha/1,000 in Blantyre. SL offers a wide variety of recreational activities, with many areas well serviced by both recreational greenspace and built amenities, including purpose built sports facilities and community halls. Traffic growth is increasing in some areas and decreasing in others. Although rail use has increased, use of bus services and active transport has reduced. Public access to the wider environment is provided through the 'Core Path Network' and key cycle routes. Domestic waste tonnages per household have decreased in recent years and the level of recycling has increased. Scottish Government Zero Waste targets and selective landfill bans of specific materials will present significant new challenges.</p>	<p>Cumulative with secondary impacts on human health</p>	<p>The SDS will encourage the appropriate use of vacant and derelict land through the development planning process. It will promote the importance to communities of recreational and functional greenspace. Working in partnership, the SDS will encourage the use of Council facilities to promote active and healthy lifestyles to enhance community wellbeing. The SDS will promote energy efficiency measures across all Council owned facilities which will also contribute to direct reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Working alongside the Local Transport Strategy, the SDS will promote community connectivity through key network corridors, especially to facilitate a shift in peoples' attitudes and behaviour towards more sustainable transport options. The SDS will encourage partnership working focussed on the sustainable use of natural resources and the promotion of waste minimisation through reuse and recovery activities.</p>

Identified Issue and cause	Affected Receptor	Opportunities and Implications
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>		
<p>The historic and built heritage of SL is rich and varied, from medieval burghs through to the World Heritage Site of New Lanark. There are numerous castles, listed buildings, industrial monuments and archaeological remains. Pressures come mainly from development, altering the physical or environmental setting of historical assets. The cultural richness of the area provides a rich sense of identity which is important for enhancing quality of life for residents.</p>	<p>Cumulative effect through development and urban expansion</p>	<p>The SDS will promote the importance of cultural assets to encourage area identity, education and tourism. In partnership the SDS will support appropriate development within sensitive historic sites.</p>
<b>Air, Soil and Water</b>		
<p>Air quality across SL is generally good but in some areas traffic emissions exceed national limits set to protect human health. Atmospheric pollutants released in SL also contribute to long-range pollutants that affect habitats and individual species. The main greenhouse gas emitted is CO<sub>2</sub> from transport, industry and domestic sources. The soil quality across SL is generally good with the number of potentially contaminated sites decreasing through a continual investigation programme. River quality within SL continues to improve along with a reduction in single pollutant incidents. The poorest quality rivers are associated within the dense urban and historic mining areas. Precipitation and water flow rates in the rivers have continually increased along with the number of flooding incidents.</p>	<p>Cumulative synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health and sensitive habitats and species</p>	<p>The SDS will include actions relating to the implementation of the Council's Air Quality Strategy which is currently being developed and is subject to a separate SEA. The SDS will support the promotion of the sustainable use of land within the area (primarily through the Local Development Plan), prioritising the use of brownfield land for development and regeneration. At the same time, the SDS will promote the appropriate use of development to encourage sustainable communities and will promote the importance of soils to encourage carbon sequestration within carbon rich soils where the Council has scope to do so. The SDS will include actions relating to the implementation of the Contaminated Land Strategy which is currently being refreshed and is subject to a separate SEA. The SDS will promote the Council's efficient use of water as a resource. It will also promote and encourage the continuous review of adaptation measures in relation to climate change, particularly regarding the anticipated increase in rainfall.</p>

### **Key issues relating to the Sustainable Development Strategy**

4.7 Schedule 3 (4) of the SEA Act requires the ER to include a description of existing environmental problems, in particular those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance. The existing environmental problems (refer to above in the baseline data within Table 4) require to be considered in relation to the draft SDS and whether they will potentially aggravate, reduce or otherwise affect current problems.

4.8 The population's health is of concern within South Lanarkshire, along with the impact both the local community and environment have on influencing health benefits. Environmental concerns at present include the decline and fragmentation of key habitats that have historically occurred through urbanisation and agricultural practices. Other environmental problems in relation to the SDS include the level of deprivation, particularly the extent of environmental deprivation and impact this has on the landscape setting of local communities. The provision of greenspace and functional recreation areas are important aspects of community wellbeing and promoting active lifestyles along with the promotion of sustainable transport networks, including cycle paths and walkways. The approach to mainstreaming the ethos of sustainable development is pivotal within the SDS to ensure services and functions delivered by the Council, including improving energy efficiency of buildings, waste generation and the promotion of climate change adaptation are viewed as important within other Council PPS, particularly within the context of the Council's wider climate change commitments. It is considered that through the SEA process these existing

environmental concerns shall be taken into account and where necessary mitigation measures will ensure that the existing concerns highlighted will not be aggravated, and in some instances may be reduced.

### ***Likely evolution of the environment without the SDS***

4.9 The SEA process involves an assessment of the evolution of the environment without the strategy being implemented. The first SDS is considered outdated as there have been key legislative changes since it was produced in 2007. Without refreshing the SDS, there is a strong risk that the Council would not meet its legislative duties, particularly in relation to climate change. While some of the actions contained in the first strategy remain relevant, over time they are likely to become less relevant and incapable of delivering the Council's environmental objectives. The alignment between the Council's strategic approach to sustainable development and the new Council Plan, 'Connect' would also be lost reducing the Council's ability to mainstream consideration of sustainable development within its various cross-cutting departmental plans.

4.10 In relation to the current trends identified in the existing South Lanarkshire environment, with no SDS certain environmental indicators would either deteriorate or would not achieve their full environmental potential through appropriate service provisions. Although the current trend in human health would continue to improve, the level of progress achieved may well be less than it could be due to a lack of understanding of the role the environment plays in promoting health. There may be lack of commitment to service provision aimed at improving the local environment. Whilst biodiversity may continue to improve slowly, biodiversity across the urban environment may continue to deteriorate further due to the lack of emphasis placed on the need for a rich urban environment. The Council's obligations and commitment to tackling climate change and reducing the associated impacts would not be fully achieved with some issues continuing to decline and remain unaddressed, particularly across the community level where real commitment is required to achieve Government targets. At the same time in driving towards reductions in greenhouse gases the Council's obligation to improving air quality would not be met if service provision did not consider both impacts at the community level.

#### **Question 2**

#### **Environmental baseline and evolution with and without the Sustainable Development Strategy**

Have the correct environmental issues been identified and opportunities realised within the context of the Sustainable Development Strategy in Section 4 and Appendix 3?

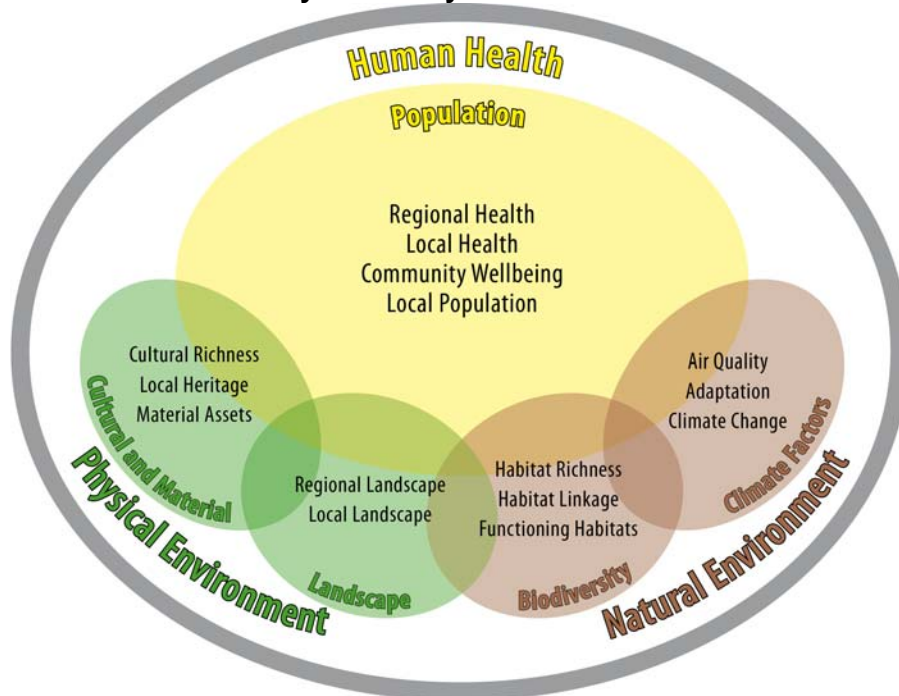
## 5. Development of the Assessment Criteria

### *Considering hierarchy of key environmental issues*

5.1 The purpose of the SEA is to inform the development of the draft SDS by assessing the potential impacts it may have upon the environment. A useful way to undertake the assessment (describing, analysing and comparing the environmental effects of the draft SDS) is through the use of environmentally-specific objectives (referred to as SEA objectives) and a series of indicator questions.

5.2 The SEA objectives are separate from the SDS themes and outcomes although they can influence each other and even overlap. To fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive, the SEA objectives cover the environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act, including the interrelationship between them. The theme of a connective and fluid environment that can influence the delivery of the SDS has been adapted through the appropriate grouping of environmental issues (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Illustrates the connectivity of the key local environmental issues.**



### *Development of the SEA objectives*

5.3 The SDS is a high level visionary based strategy, aimed at informing the implementation of other PPS, the delivery of Council services and prioritising areas of improvement. As such the SEA objectives have been set at an appropriate level for assessing the strategy, without creating an overburden for it where other PPS within the Council are the key drivers. The assessment, however, aims to identify such drivers to help ensure the environment is adequately protected and the results of the SEA are considered at the correct level to ensure the promotion of environment benefits for the area. The SEA objectives have been grouped to capture the recognised fluidity of the environment through specific themes that the SDS or related PPS deliver on. The grouping of environmental issues within the SEA objectives does not dilute the importance of individual issues. The requirements of the SEA Directive through representing the environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act are presented within the SEA objectives. The SEA objectives for the SDS were initially developed within the Scoping Report, with further refinement as a result of the consultation phase. The SEA objectives and assessment criteria are presented in Table 5. These revised SEA objectives and criteria will be used as measures by which the environmental impacts of the draft SDS are assessed.

**Table 5: Key environmental issues with SEA objectives and assessment criteria**

<b>Environmental Issue</b>	<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Indicator Question</b>
<b>Population</b> (including: population and human health)	To improve human health and community wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the SDS promote healthier lifestyles and promote the benefits associated with a rich environment?</li> <li>• Does the SDS help promote sustainable ecosystem services?</li> <li>• Does the SDS promote health enhancing environments, behaviours and activities for local communities?</li> <li>• Does the SDS help prevent risks to human health caused by poor quality environments?</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity</b> (including: fauna, flora, and landscape)	To promote biodiversity, improve the local landscape and encourage access to wildlife and the countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the SDS improve the condition of designated and non-designated sites, habitats, and protected species?</li> <li>• Does the SDS promote appreciation of the importance of biodiversity within the local environment?</li> <li>• Will the SDS promote access to the wider countryside?</li> <li>• Does the SDS impact on sensitive landscape or distinctive features of the urban townscapes?</li> <li>• Will the SDS promote the importance of functional recreational area and greenspace?</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors</b> (including: climate change)	To promote the efficient use of resources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the SDS promote the commitments of the Climate Change Declaration and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act, 2009?</li> <li>• Does the SDS promote the strategic approach to tackling the causes of climate change and adapting to its impact?</li> <li>• Does the SDS help promote more sustainable consumption by communities and more sustainable lifestyles?</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	To promote the efficient and sustainable use of Council and community assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the SDS promote the efficient and sustainable use of material assets?</li> <li>• Does the SDS promote the sustainable use of the transport infrastructure through shifts towards sustainable transport modes including active and public transport?</li> <li>• Does the SDS promote the sustainable use of natural resources?</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	To promote cultural richness and diversity across South Lanarkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the SDS have an impact on local archaeology, cultural or built heritage?</li> <li>• Will the SDS promote the accessibility of the local culturally rich assets of the area?</li> </ul>
<b>Air, Soil and Water</b>	To prevent deterioration in air quality and minimise noise and light pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the SDS contribute to an improvement in air quality at potential Air Quality Management Areas?</li> <li>• Does the SDS help reduce areas of land contamination through remediation?</li> </ul>
	To protect high quality and sensitive soils and prevent soil contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the SDS promote the sustainable use of the water environment?</li> </ul>
	To enhance and protect the water environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the SDS support the protection and enhancement of water bodies, encouraging flood prevention actions?</li> <li>• Does the SDS promote the avoidance of flood risk?</li> </ul>

**Question 3**

**Development of the Assessment Criteria – SEA objectives**

Do you agree with the revised SEA objectives and assessment criteria in Table 5?

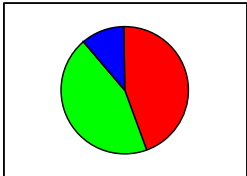
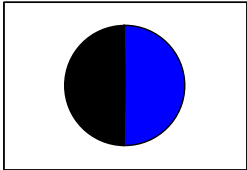
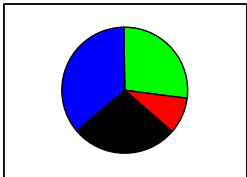
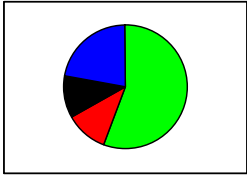
## 6. Assessment of alternatives

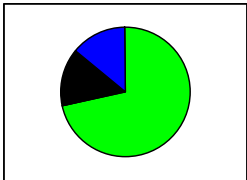




### Assessing alternatives

6.1 The SEA Act requires that an ER is prepared to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy, together with assessing reasonable alternatives to it.

6.2 The SDS is not a legal requirement. However, the alternative taken forward must help deliver the Council's statutory duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and meet its requirement to deliver Best Value under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. The following alternatives were assessed against the SEA environmental issues. Table 6 provides a summary of the assessment for five alternatives. The full assessment can be reviewed in Appendix 4.

**Table 6: Summary of the assessment of alternatives to implementing the SDS**

Alternative	Score	Comment
<b>1 Extending the life of the current SDS.</b>		This alternative does not adequately provide the opportunity to refocus objectives around the Council's new climate change duties and would be less effective than other options in responding to changing environmental challenges. It also misses the opportunity to mainstream actions to improve the environment by taking account of other developing Council strategies and plans. The current SDS also focussed mainly on internal environmental performance of the Council and this would impact on its ability to promote sustainable development within the wider community.
<b>2 Establish an environmental policy to encourage action at service level.</b>		This option involves establishing guiding principles which clearly state the Council's position on various aspects of the environment. These could be used to inform other PPS and thereby indirectly lead to action on sustainable development. Impact would be dependent on the PPS being developed at any one time and would require those developing them to be aware of where they could have an impact. The option may not achieve any better outcomes than those achieved anyway by PPS undergoing the SEA process.
<b>3 Set specific targets for action to be taken forward by different parts of the Council.</b>		Some carefully chosen key targets would provide a strong focus for environmental improvement which would be appropriate for areas such as carbon reduction but is harder to apply for other environmental issues such as biodiversity. The scope for positive impact on the full range of environmental objectives over the longer term is not certain.
<b>4 Develop a new strategy incorporating the Council's duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.</b>		This alternative responds directly to the Council's statutory duty. Statutory guidance is considered sufficiently broad ranging to create positive impacts in terms of environmental objectives other than those relating to climate change as the duty requires the Council not just to contribute to climate change action but also to act in a manner which it considers sustainable.

Alternative	Score	Comment
5 A combination of the alternatives 2, 3 and 4.		This alternative would involve combining elements of alternatives 2, 3 and 4 to maximise the opportunity to achieve environmental objectives. This would result in a completely new strategy which takes account of the changed strategic context; that meets the Council's climate change duties, establishes targets for key environmental objectives and sets out a simple environmental statement to guide future decisions. Overall this alternative is likely to lead to the most predictable positive benefits for the different environmental characteristics.
<b>Key</b>		
 Positive environmental outcome	 Negative environmental outcome	 Effect uncertain
		 No effect

6.3 The assessment concluded that alternative five which combines aspects of alternatives 2, 3 and 4 has been selected as the best approach in terms of the analysis of impacts on environmental objectives and this will be taken forward through the rest of the SEA process. Through the assessment further consideration will be given to improving the themes and outcomes associated with the strategy, along with the potential to further refine the SDS after adoption, through its continual monitoring.

6.4 The requirements of SEA are to be considered for all Council PPS to facilitate the identification and delivery of environmental improvements. However, no policy can be considered in isolation as there is significant potential to deliver identified improvements on a cross-Resource and/or partnership basis. This approach is promoted both within the Council Plan, 'Connect' and the SDS. Table 1 illustrates the identified local PPS where cross-partnership working can significantly improve the delivery of specific environmental issues and the potential for improvements across such issues through the use of the SEA process.

### *Identified key issues within the alternatives*

6.5 The process of assessing alternatives identified key issues and areas for development which have influenced the drafting of the SDS;

- **Population:** The Scottish Government introduced national policies aimed at improving human health and identified health benefits associated with exposure to a rich environment. There is also a greater drive for creating sustainable communities, both in terms of the energy usage and generation but also in promoting sustainable lifestyle changes. The SDS should promote the benefits associated with a rich environment, reducing the level of deprivation and promoting a more sustainable lifestyle.
- **Biodiversity:** The SDS should provide direction for conservation of biodiversity by taking an ecosystems approach linking outcomes to potential benefits for the community. Through improvements to service provision, for example, there is potential to link both biodiversity and population issues to improve local landscape. The strategy should also set high level outcomes within which the Council will deliver its statutory duty to promote biodiversity through its various functions. The Council's leadership role to work with community planning and other partners to promote biodiversity has already been established through the South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the SDS complements this approach.
- **Climatic factors:** The SDS will drive and deliver the Council's climate change obligations and, at the same time, will raise awareness of climate adaptation issues such as flooding. In reducing the Council's greenhouse gas emissions, attention should be paid to the links between such emissions and local air quality issues. Both should be considered together.

- **Material Assets:** The SDS should promote the use of built assets in order to benefit the local community, including the use of schools as community hubs, the promotion of fixed and active play areas and the sustainable use of the road and path network to promote active travel.
- **Cultural Heritage:** The SDS should continue to promote and protect the cultural richness of the area, including historical buildings: and
- **Air, soil and water:** The SDS should promote the importance to health and wellbeing of clean air and promote improvements to local air quality through a series of PPS, including the introduction of an Air Quality Strategy for South Lanarkshire. It should promote water conservation, the operation of natural water systems, help protect carbon rich soils and improve the condition of soils where it has scope to do so.

#### Question 4

##### **Assessment of alternatives to the Sustainable Development Strategy**

Do you agree with the alternatives to the draft Sustainable Development Strategy and findings in Appendix 4 and summary in Table 6?



## 7. Assessment of the draft Strategy

### Compatibility assessment criteria

7.1 The draft SDS was assessed for its environmental effects and likely significance upon the environmental baseline. The vision and themes were assessed against the range of environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act, using the SEA objectives which formed the assessment criteria. Full results of the compatibility assessment are set out in Appendix 5. The SEA objectives noted in Section 5 were developed to measure the environmental performance of the draft SDS. The assessment was informed by the following steps:

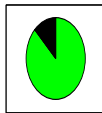
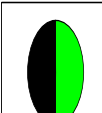
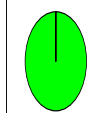





- Predicting potential environmental effects
- Determining the magnitude of the effects and the sensitivity of the receptors
- Evaluating the significance of the effects of implementation
- Predicting the cumulative effects of the SDS
- Developing mitigation measures to prevent, reduce or offset effects
- Revising assessment taking into account agreed mitigation measures.

7.2 The SDS and the Council Plan 'Connect' provide the strategic basis which individual Resources and Services prepare, develop and implement specific PPS that will address specific environmental issues.

### Compatibility assessment of the Sustainable Development Strategy

7.3 The assessment drew out specific issues that require further consideration within the drafting of the SDS either through appropriate changes to the themes and/or outcomes or the addition of descriptive text within the Strategy (see Table 7 for a summary assessment and Appendix 5 for the full assessment).

**Table 7: Summary of the compatibility assessment of the SDS against the SEA objectives**

Compatibility Assessment	Score	Comment
<b>Vision</b> – The people of South Lanarkshire live and work sustainably while respecting and enjoying the benefits of a high quality environment		The vision deliberately promotes the linkage between environmental conditions and benefits for people. The vision is broad enough to encompass all environmental considerations.
<b>Theme 1: Sustainable Council</b>		This theme provides a focus to direct Council activities towards more efficient use of environmental resources. Engaging with staff is seen as a way of raising awareness of environmental issues across the Council and how they can promote a good quality environment through the functions they perform.
<b>Theme 2: Sustainable Environment</b>		The Council and its partners, have a key role in safeguarding and enhancing the local environment. The central purpose of this theme is to promote environmental quality. It places importance on the benefits of a good quality environment to people and communities.
<b>Theme 3: Sustainable Communities</b>		The focus of this theme is the action the Council can take to help communities in South Lanarkshire to be more sustainable. It has a focus on supporting communities and local businesses to prepare for Scotland's transition to a low carbon economy.
<b>Key</b> – Aims range from supporting or conflicting with the SEA Objectives:		
 Supportive	 Conflicting	 Neither
		 Uncertain

7.4 The compatibility assessment identified that the draft SDS places strong emphasis on the benefits to people of a good quality environment. The strategy aims to enhance environmental quality particularly in areas recognised as contributing positively to human health. There is a focus on environmental improvement in areas likely to have greatest benefit in terms of health impacts.

The importance of a strong, functioning and diverse environment should be expressed across the SDS and through the delivery of the services provided by individual Resources within the Council and by its partners.

7.5 The strategy supports the subsidiary plan developed to fulfil the Council's statutory duties in relation to biodiversity and complements the South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan developed through the Community Planning Partnership. High level objectives relating to biodiversity have been built into the Sustainable Development Strategy, and these promote the ecosystem services approach.

7.6 The assessment highlighted that the SDS promotes resource efficiency both within the Council and in the wider community where it is within the scope of the Council to do so. This approach is evident within the vision and all three strategic themes.

7.7 The strategy will promote the efficient use of Council assets and will help enhance the benefit of natural assets such as landscape, greenspace and countryside access for the community. The strategy will help promote recycling and public transport resources.

7.8 Although the strategy does not specifically relate to cultural richness and diversity there are no obvious incompatibilities with this SEA objective. The emphasis within the strategy on greenspace and countryside access is compatible with the conservation of cultural heritage and historic landscapes.

7.9 The strategy will promote improvement in environmental conditions, particularly air quality. The SDS will promote remediation of contaminated land and the conservation of carbon rich soils. The promotion of recycling will help reduce reliance on landfill over the long term.

7.10 The SDS will promote action in relation to flooding. It recognises the importance of lochs, rivers and marshes as key habitats in terms of the promotion of biodiversity objectives.

7.11 The assessment highlighted the following issues, some of which were already expressed within the SDS, whilst others required further incorporation within the context of the Strategy:

- The aims of sustainability are cross-cutting and the SDS will be the key driver. Delivery of the Council's responsibility must be considered through other policy measures and the SDS should seek to influence these.
- Many aspects of the environment help to improve human health and wellbeing, with Council policies delivering across specific components of the environment. To achieve the full potential for improving local communities and reducing environmental deprivation, the development and delivery of these policy areas should be cross-cutting.
- Promoting the value of the SEA process can assist in identifying specific environmental issues and delivering a cross-policy approach to deal with these and embed sustainability in policy development. The SDS should consider how the SEA process itself can be developed within the Council to enhance environmental benefits.
- The SEA requires a monitoring programme to be developed for the implementation of the SDS. The SDS's monitoring programme should integrate these requirements with other monitoring commitments such as the State of the Environment report to reduce the overall monitoring and reporting burden.

7.12 The Policy Assessment (see Section 2) identified Council policies responsible for some of the key environmental issues detailed above. Cross-Resource partnership within service provision needs to be fully used to enhance overall delivery of these policies and the potential environmental benefits they may bring. This has the potential to reduce duplication of effort and also enhance the overall environmental and community gains across a wide range of issues.

7.13 As a result of the compatibility testing some changes were made to the draft SDS.

**Question 5**

**Compatibility Assessment of the draft Sustainable Development Strategy**

Are there any gaps in the results of the assessment in Section 7 and Appendix 5?

## 8. Evaluating the potential environmental effects

8.1 After re-drafting the SDS from the results of the compatibility assessment (see **Section 7**) the environmental consequences were assessed through a prediction and evaluation assessment. At this stage of the SEA, consideration was given to the overall level of impact across the SDS and the SEA objectives in relation to:

- Direction of impact (positive or negative),
- Intensity of impact (major or minor positive or negative),
- Duration of impact - short (1-2 years), medium (2-5 years) or long term (beyond the lifetime of the plan),
- Prediction of the cumulative effects and the development of mitigation and enhancement measures.

8.2 Through predicting and evaluating the potential environmental consequences of the SDS consideration was given to the individual policies that deliver on environmental issues. This approach was intended to include the assessment and evaluation of such policy areas to help reduce the need for duplication of SEA requirements through lower-tiered PPS.

### *Assessment of potential environmental effects*

8.3 The assessment first considered the outcomes independently and how these would potentially affect the local environment. The full assessment is shown in Appendix 6. A summary of the key environmental effects are shown in Table 8.

**Table 8: Summary of key environmental effects and receptors**

<b>Outcome 1.1: The Council's greenhouse gas emissions are reduced</b>
<b>Population</b> – Action to promote sustainable staff travel is recognised as having a positive influence on health.
<b>Biodiversity</b> – No significant effect on this factor.
<b>Climatic Factors</b> – This strategic outcome closely aligns with the SEA objective.
<b>Material Assets</b> – This strategic outcome closely aligns with the SEA objective.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b> – No significant effect on this factor.
<b>Air, Soil and Water</b> – The overall impact of this outcome is expected to be positive because of reduced energy consumption and increased use of renewables will replace the burning of fossil fuels. There is potential for increased use of biomass heating to exacerbate air quality problems in some areas which are already close to national limits.
<b>Outcome 1.2: The Council's use of material resources is environmentally sustainable</b>
<b>Population</b> – No significant effect on this factor.
<b>Biodiversity</b> – The outcome will discourage the procurement of non sustainable products which could contribute to habitat loss.
<b>Climatic Factors</b> – The outcome will encourage procurement of more energy efficient products and more efficient use of existing resources. Recycling encouraged by this outcome will also reduce the energy required to produce new goods.
<b>Material Assets</b> – This strategic outcome aligns with the SEA objective.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b> – No significant effect on this factor.
<b>Air, Soil and Water</b> – The proposed sustainability standard for new buildings will consider measures to mitigate water run off.

<p><b>Outcome 1.3: The environmental impact of Council service provision is considered and action taken with community partners to reduce it where appropriate</b></p>
<p><b>Population</b> – The SDS reinforces the Council’s commitment to use SEA which enables impacts on human health to be considered in the development of new strategies and plans.</p>
<p><b>Biodiversity</b> – The SDS reinforces the Council’s commitment to use SEA which enables impacts on biodiversity to be considered in the development of new PPS. This outcome also underpins partnership working through the Sustainability Partnership and subsidiary groups focussed on greenspace provision and biodiversity.</p>
<p><b>Climatic Factors</b> – The SDS reinforces the Council’s commitment to use SEA which enables impacts on climatic factors to be considered in the development of new strategies and plans. The outcome also includes a commitment to review the impact of climatic change on Council service provision.</p>
<p><b>Material Assets</b> – The impacts on material resources are uncertain.</p>
<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b> – Partnership activities promoted by this outcome will have an impact by promoting appreciation and understanding of the richness of countryside resources, urban greenspace and associated historic assets, for example, Chatelherault.</p>
<p><b>Air, Soil and Water</b> – Partnership activities promoted by this outcome will have an impact on the enhancement of water courses and habitats and carbon rich soils.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2.1: The quality of local environments contributes to the wellbeing of local communities</b></p>
<p><b>Population</b> – This strategic outcome closely aligns with the SEA objective. The ecosystem services approach taken within this outcome is based on ensuring benefit for people and seeks to promote wellbeing of communities. Activities which focus on improving urban greenspace and access networks are known to have positive health benefits.</p>
<p><b>Biodiversity</b> – This strategic outcome closely aligns with the SEA objective.</p>
<p><b>Climatic Factors</b> – The encouragement of active travel will contribute to greenhouse gas mitigation.</p>
<p><b>Material Assets</b> – This strategic outcome closely aligns with the SEA objective. Activities promoted will improve countryside assets held by the Council.</p>
<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b> – Activities promoted by this outcome will have an impact on promoting appreciation and understanding of the richness of countryside resources, urban greenspace and associated historic assets, for example, Chatelherault. The outcome will encourage appreciation of local cultural assets through the Tourism Strategy and environmental volunteering.</p>
<p><b>Air, Soil and Water</b> – This strategic outcome aligns with the SEA objective by providing the strategic context for the development of an Air Quality Strategy and review of the Council’s Contaminated Land Strategy.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2.2: The natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected to provide long term benefits for local communities</b></p>
<p><b>Population</b> – This strategic outcome closely aligns with the SEA objective by setting the development planning context to protect and enhance local environments which is known to have positive benefits for health and wellbeing. The ecosystem services approach taken in relation to this outcome is based on ensuring benefit for people and promoting the wellbeing of communities.</p>
<p><b>Biodiversity</b> – This strategic outcome closely aligns with the SEA objective. The outcome promotes actions to protect and enhance biodiversity.</p>
<p><b>Climatic Factors</b> – South Lanarkshire has a considerable peatland resource. Action promoted by this outcome will help protect peatlands which act as natural carbon stores. Peatlands are now recognised as having a critical role to play in climate change mitigation.</p>
<p><b>Material Assets</b> – This strategic outcome closely aligns with the SEA objective. Activities promoted within this objective will improve countryside assets held by the Council.</p>
<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b> – Activities promoted by this outcome will have an impact on promoting appreciation and understanding of the richness of the countryside resources, urban greenspace and associated historic assets, for example, Chatelherault. The outcome will also encourage appreciation of local cultural associated environmental volunteering.</p>
<p><b>Air, Soil and Water</b> – Action promoted by this outcome will help protect peatlands habitats and improve the quality and function of freshwater systems.</p>

<b>Outcome 3.1: Services are provided to local communities which enable households and businesses to recycle more waste materials</b>
<b>Population</b> – Actions promoted by this outcome will eventually reduce reliance on the use of landfill sites for waste disposal. Although such sites are already well controlled in terms of health impacts through environmental regulations, there are potentially more general wellbeing benefits for communities close to such sites.
<b>Biodiversity</b> – No significant effect.
<b>Climatic Factors</b> – Actions to be delivered under this outcome will reduce the climate change impact of domestic waste disposal through the diversion of food waste from landfill and increased recycling of other waste materials. Greater recycling of waste materials also reduces the amount of energy required to manufacture products from raw materials.
<b>Material Assets</b> – Actions promoted by this outcome will increase the range of materials disposed of through domestic waste collections which can be recycled.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b> – No significant effect.
<b>Air, Soil and Water</b> – This outcome requires the construction of new facilities for the processing of waste consistent with the Council’s responsibilities under national ‘Zero Waste’ regulations. The technologies to be used for waste reprocessing will be determined later through a procurement process. Potential impacts on air, soil and water quality will be assessed as part of any associated development proposal.
<b>Outcome 3.2: Homes are energy efficient, fuel poverty is minimised and homes are environmentally sustainable</b>
<b>Population</b> – Improving energy efficiency in South Lanarkshire homes will reduce fuel poverty and improve health, particularly those in poor housing or low Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) areas.
<b>Biodiversity</b> – The outcome is considered specific and the potential for significant effects on the environmental issues are considered not to be significant.
<b>Climatic Factors</b> – The outcome will result in the overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across South Lanarkshire from a sector that accounts for 30% of total emissions.
<b>Material Assets</b> – Improving energy efficiency of South Lanarkshire homes will reduce raw material usage for energy and heating and improve the sustainability of communities.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b> – No significant effect.
<b>Air, Soil and Water</b> – Improvement to the energy efficiency of South Lanarkshire homes will have a positive effect on wider air emissions associated with local air quality issues.
<b>Outcome 3.3: Council policies and plans support local transition to a low carbon economy</b>
<b>Population</b> – Activities within this outcome will help promote active travel which has the potential to enhance health. Local Development Plan policies related to this outcome will promote location and design of housing which will help reduce reliance on private cars.
<b>Biodiversity</b> – No significant effect.
<b>Climatic Factors</b> – This outcome promotes actions which will help to reduce South Lanarkshire’s greenhouse gas emissions where the Council has an ability to influence these directly or indirectly. This includes planning policies which facilitate more renewable generation of energy.
<b>Material Assets</b> – This outcome will influence the development of Local Development Plan policies which encourage more sustainable housing.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b> – No significant effect.
<b>Air, Soil and Water</b> – Over the long term, the promotion of electric vehicles combined with other measures has the potential to reduce traffic pollutants in areas which are known to contribute to respiratory problems. Wind energy developments may potentially impact on soil and landscape. Policies will be developed through the Local Development Plan in line with national guidance to protect these.

### **Assessment of cumulative and synergistic impacts**

8.4 As part of the overall assessment of the SDS the potential for cumulative effects across and between each of the environmental issues was also assessed. The results indicated that those

environmental issues associated with human health, biodiversity, climatic factors and material assets scored highly whilst those relating to more specific environmental issues provided more scope for improvement (Table 9).

**Table 9: Cumulative impacts across the SEA objectives associated with the SDS**

SEA Objective	Score	Summary of environmental effects
To improve human health and community wellbeing	++	The SDS has a strong focus on improving health and wellbeing of people living and working within South Lanarkshire. Therefore, by implementing it there will be cumulative effects on improving human health, encouraging more active lifestyles and promoting wider community wellbeing.
To promote biodiversity, improve the local landscape and encourage access to wildlife and the countryside	++	People and communities are likely to be exposed to a richer natural environment across South Lanarkshire through the implementation of the SDS, particularly the Sustainable Environment theme. These effects should be cumulative and positive in nature due to the number of specific policy areas that fall under the hierarchy of the SDS or should have specific regard to it. The SDS promotes improvements to both townscapes and urban landscapes. The promotion of wider landscape issues will be delivered through other key policy areas such as the LDP Plan.
To promote the efficient use of resources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate	++	The SDS is the main driver for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with several actions and activities contributing towards both Council and area wide reductions. Transport will remain the main contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Adapting to future climate change is primarily promoted through the Sustainable Environment theme.
To promote the efficient and sustainable use of Council and community assets	++	The Sustainable Council theme and outcomes in the SDS provides the emphasis for the promotion of efficient use of various assets within the Council's powers, including buildings and land such as recreational and greenspace areas. These improvements will contribute towards achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions across the Council area and improving community wellbeing.
To promote cultural richness and diversity across South Lanarkshire	+/?	Activities and actions within some elements of the SDS will promote appreciation and understanding of natural, cultural and historic assets. The extent of these effects is uncertain.
To prevent deterioration in air quality and minimise noise and light pollution	+/-	The SDS will help to improve air quality in South Lanarkshire, particularly through the promotion of the forthcoming Air Quality Strategy. However, activities and actions in the strategy may have minor negative impacts through the promotion of some renewables, such as biomass which may increase the level of pollutants into the atmosphere. These are not considered to be significant in nature but any activities which may have negative effects will be subject to individual consideration and separate Environmental Impact Assessment.
To protect high quality and sensitive soils and prevent soil contamination	+/?	Partnership and Council activities in the SDS will have a positive effect on promoting the importance of carbon rich soils. The SDS also promotes the refresh of the Council's Contaminated Land Strategy. By promoting a reduced reliance on landfill sites, the SDS will help to reduce the risk of soil pollution. However, the impacts of some activities promoted in the SDS are uncertain and would need to be established through more specific environmental assessment. For example, the impact of wind energy developments on soil.
To enhance and protect the water environment	+/?	Partnership and Council activities in the SDS will have a positive effect on promoting the importance of water courses and will help mitigate flood risks. The SDS will also have a positive effect by protecting peatlands and improving the quality and function of freshwater systems.
<b>Key</b>	++ Major Positive - Minor Negative	+ Minor Positive ? Uncertain 0 Neutral +/- Mixed Effects

**Question 6**

**Evaluation of the environmental effects of the draft SDS**

Do you agree with the key environmental effects and receptors?

Are there any gaps in the results of the assessment in Section 8 and Appendix 6?



## 9. Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures

9.1 Schedule 3 (7) of the SEA Act requires an explanation of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme. The assessment highlighted that both the physical and natural environment we are exposed to are important in promoting healthy lifestyles and creating sustainable communities. The SEA demonstrated that the proposed SDS should result in positive effects across a wide range of environmental issues, particularly in terms of human health and climate change considerations.

9.2 Where potential negative or positive effects have been identified, mitigation and enhancement measures have been developed. The assessment identified proposed measures to assist in the delivery of a sustainable Council and a sustainable South Lanarkshire. Table 10 provides a list of the mitigation and enhancement measures identified through the assessment of the SDS (see Appendix 7), with a summary of the actions taken. The actions taken ensure the promotion, prevention, reduction and offset of any significantly adverse effects or enhancement opportunities on the environment.

**Table 10: Cumulative impacts across the SEA Objectives associated with the SDS**

Mitigation and Enhancement Measures	Action Taken
<b>Outcome 1.1: The Council's greenhouse gas emissions are reduced</b>	
<p><b>Enhancement</b> Consider going beyond minimum carbon reduction standards for new Council buildings where this is cost effective given expected increases in energy prices over the medium to long term.</p>	<p>This can be assessed on a case by case basis through the Council's sustainable design 'green profile' and renewables toolkit.</p>
<p><b>Mitigation</b> The installation of biomass boilers is only part of the Council's programme to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and alternative renewable options are available to meet building standards requirements of new buildings. The air quality impact of biomass systems is subject to regulation and review on an individual basis through the planning process.</p>	<p>The SDS will promote consideration of all renewable alternatives within large developments, particularly within designated Air Quality Management Areas. The Council's Air Quality Strategy will consider the potential cumulative environmental impacts of biomass in more detail.</p>
<b>Outcome 1.2: The Council's use of material resources is environmentally sustainable</b>	
<p><b>Enhancement</b> Further enhancement is possible through improved communications with staff about minimising waste and making best use of available recycling services.</p>	<p>Actions in the final SDS will include raising awareness among staff of waste minimisation and recycling services through improved communication and training.</p>
<b>Outcome 1.3: The environmental impact of Council service provision is considered and action taken with community partners to reduce it where appropriate</b>	
<p><b>Enhancement</b> The importance of SEA in improving PPS and their environmental outcomes could be more effectively promoted to senior managers within the Council. Similarly, the impact of sustainability implications statements in committee reports should be reviewed to ensure the process is being used effectively to drive improvement in environmental outcomes.</p>	<p>The SDS will support the development of 'Learn on Line' training and awareness programmes on sustainable development and the importance of SEA. The SDS will promote the inclusion of SEA and sustainability within the Council's Management Development Programme.</p> <p>An action will be included in the SDS to strengthen and promote guidelines for completing committee reports to appropriate staff to take account of sustainability considerations, including SEA.</p>

Mitigation and Enhancement Measures	Action Taken
<p>Anticipated national changes in the structure and priorities of Single Outcome Agreements (SOA) present some challenges in taking forward environmental objectives. This outcome should recognise the SOA as a key driver for developing partnership approaches and how this may benefit the enhancement of environmental outcomes.</p>	<p>This outcome will be reworded in the final SDS to clarify its purpose and focus on the Council's community planning leadership role and its decision making processes.</p> <p>An action will be added to the SDS with regard to the new SOA process to emphasise the importance of partnership working to achieved sustainable development outcomes.</p>
<b>Outcome 2.1: The quality of local environments contributes to the wellbeing of local communities</b>	
<p><b>Enhancement</b> Promote the benefits of good air quality.</p> <p>Increase engagement with the new SOA process to promote effective partnership working towards common environmental goals, particularly in respect to biodiversity and greenspace, air quality and contaminated land.</p> <p>The role of national agencies is also important in this context and in particular it is recommended that SEPA be encouraged to play a stronger role in the community planning process.</p>	<p>This will be emphasised through the forthcoming Air Quality Strategy for South Lanarkshire.</p> <p>SEPA is to be invited to consider how they can engage more effectively with community planning in South Lanarkshire in order to reflect a broader approach to environmental issues.</p>
<p>Opportunities to further enhance outcomes for human health and cultural richness through the promotion of physical activity, active lifestyles and appreciation of the diversity of South Lanarkshire should be considered in more detail.</p>	<p>The SDS acknowledges the potential for such positive outcomes and promotes further and more detailed consideration of these, where appropriate, through relevant PPS, including the Leisure and Culture Strategy and the Local Transport Strategy.</p>
<b>Outcome 2.2: The natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected to provide long term benefits for local communities</b>	
<p><b>Enhancement</b> Promote how other Council PPS can take cognisance of the benefits from the natural environment.</p>	<p>SEA is undertaken for all new or refreshed Council PPS. An action will be added to the SDS to promote the recreational opportunities in the natural and physical environment through the new Leisure and Culture Strategy.</p>
<b>Outcome 3.1: Services are provided to local communities which enable households and businesses to recycle more waste materials</b>	
<p><b>Enhancement</b> In terms of existing and future household waste collections it may be appropriate to consider further waste awareness information for households linked with the roll out of new food waste collection services. This should include increasing awareness of benefits of 'waste aware behaviours' in terms of climate change mitigation.</p>	<p>An SDS action will be amended to include the use of public information on waste minimisation and recycling linked to planned changes in waste management services.</p>
<p><b>Mitigation</b> The Council's procurement process should consider different processing options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions of future waste management facilities.</p>	<p>The SDS actions to introduce new waste management facilities will involve the use of the Scottish Government's Zero Waste carbon metrics in order to compare the relative merits of different options in terms of greenhouse gas reduction.</p>
<b>Outcome 3.2: Homes are energy efficient, fuel poverty is minimised and homes are environmentally sustainable</b>	
<p><b>Enhancement</b> In Council homes, wherever possible and where it is cost effective, consideration should be given to exceed current minimum standards in energy efficiency improvements.</p>	<p>This enhancement measure was also identified in the SEA of the Local Housing Strategy and, as a result, included within the strategy itself.</p>

Mitigation and Enhancement Measures	Action Taken
<p><b>Mitigation</b> Improvement work on Council housing will create waste. The SDS should consider how recycling of these waste materials could be improved.</p>	<p>The SDS will include actions to encourage the recycling of waste materials in Council building and improvement works.</p>
<b>Outcome 3.3: Council policies and plans support local transition to a low carbon economy</b>	
<p><b>Enhancement</b> Ensure SEA is carried out for all Council PPPS.</p> <p>Collaborative, partnership working is vital to achieve transition to a low carbon economy with community planning having a key role in embedding a process for change. This has been included in the national economic development priorities and is expected to feature within new SOAs. This is not adequately reflected in this outcome.</p> <p>Actions 9 and 12 within this outcome as currently shown are very similar and could be merged to make their intention clearer.</p>	<p>The SDS supports the re-establishment of the corporate Working Group to oversee the SEA process within the Council</p> <p>The SDS will include an action which emphasises the importance of collaborative working to achieve transition to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>Actions 9 and 12 will be merged in the final SDS for clarification.</p>

**Question 7**

Do you agree with the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures and the actions taken to address these in Table 10?

If not, what areas are deficient within this assessment?

## 10. Recommendations from the assessment

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10.1 The assessment identified a series of recommendations that assisted in the further development of the SDS. Priorities and actions in the SDS will help ensure the promotion of sustainable development across South Lanarkshire and will facilitate the prevention, reduction and offsetting of some key environmental issues identified through the SEA process. Incorporating this sustainable approach across all Council PPS should result in continued environmental benefits for South Lanarkshire and the people who live, work and visit here.

### *Recommendations*

- The need to improve communication of SDS priorities and actions among staff and stakeholders has been a key consideration throughout the development of the SDS. The SEA process has highlighted several areas where actions could be strengthened to embed this approach, for example, in relation to improving staff awareness of waste and recycling, and improving consideration of sustainable development implications in committee reports and embedding a partnership approach to climate change through community planning and the Single Outcome Agreement.
- The assessment has highlighted opportunities to further enhance environmental outcomes through several other Council plans and strategies which are due to be developed or refreshed. This is appropriate as the SDS is a high level strategy which, to be fully effective, must have an influence on a wide range of Council activities. This approach is also consistent with Scottish Government guidance on the public sector climate change and sustainable development duties created by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Some changes to SDS actions have been made as a result of the SEA process to highlight further areas where there is greatest scope to deliver environmental benefits through other plans and strategies. Improved integration of the SEA process across the Council will also help to provide consistency in terms of environmental objectives and will reinforce the inter-dependency of different plans.
- The guidance to the public sector climate change and sustainability duties also refer to the leadership role of councils in community planning and, while this already featured in the SDS, the SEA has highlighted areas where actions could promote greater use of partnership to achieve SDS outcomes. This will also be acknowledged through specific reference to the next round of Single Outcome Agreements which presents an opportunity to further develop a partnership approach to environmental issues and in particular the national priority to drive transition to a low carbon economy.
- The SEA has highlighted potential environmental risks associated with some measures promoted by national policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, for example, increased use of biomass heating systems may exacerbate air quality problems in locations where background emissions are already high due to traffic pollution, and peatland water tables and biodiversity may potentially be affected by wind energy developments. These issues go beyond the scope of the SDS but the issues are acknowledged and will be considered in greater detail through the Air Quality Strategy and the Local Development Plan which are also both undergoing SEA.

### **Question 8**

Do you agree with the recommendations proposed from the SEA of the SDS?

## **11. Monitoring the Strategy**

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11.1 A monitoring programme is being developed to help prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects and enhance positive effects of the Sustainable Development Strategy. This includes an action plan and an outcome monitoring plan with a range of indicators which will measure progress against each strategic theme.

11.2 The updating and review of these plans alongside monitoring of the Council's State of the Environment Report will assist in the early identification of environmental issues (either positive or negative) associated with the implementation of the SDS and associated policies. Finalisation of these monitoring plans will consider appropriate comments received through the consultation process. Monitoring will be conducted and reported annually to the Council's Executive Committee, senior managers and the public. The State of the Environment report is reviewed biennially.

## 12. Next Steps

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12.1 Table 11 lists future milestones in the development of the draft SDS and its SEA and the dates when these are expected to be completed.

**Table 11: Future milestones in the development and adoption of the SDS**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Expected date</b>
Environmental Report consultation period commences	28 November 2012
Consultation deadline	11 January 2013
Finalise SDS	January 2013
Council approval and adoption	February/March 2013
Post adoption SEA statement	April 2013