



**Strategic Environmental Assessment**  
**Post Adoption Statement**

**Sustainable Development Strategy**  
**2012 - 2017**

**May 2014**

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## Cover Note

Part 1	
<b>To:</b>	SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or SEA Gateway Scottish Government Area 1H (Bridge) Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
Part 2	
A post-adoption SEA statement is attached for the Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS) entitled:	
<input type="text" value="Sustainable Development Strategy"/>	
The Responsible Authority is:	
<input type="text" value="South Lanarkshire Council"/>	
Part 3	
<b>Contact name</b>	<input type="text" value="Ian Murray"/>
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<b>Signature</b> (electronic signature is acceptable)	<input type="text"/>
<b>Date</b>	<input type="text" value="16 May 2014"/>

**Post-adoption SEA statement for:**

Sustainable Development Strategy

**Adopted on:**

14 March 2013

**The Responsible Authority is:**

South Lanarkshire Council

**Post-adoption SEA Statement  
Introduction**

This document (referred to here as the post-adoption SEA statement) has been prepared in accordance with Section 18 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

**Post-adoption SEA Statement  
Availability of Documents**

**Website**

The full Sustainable Development Strategy, as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and Post Adoption SEA Statement is available on South Lanarkshire Council's website at:

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

**Office Address**

The Sustainable Development Strategy, as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and Post Adoption SEA Statement may also be inspected free of charge (or a copy obtained for a reasonable charge) from:

**Contact name, address and telephone number**

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Montrose House  
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Hamilton  
ML3 6LB

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**Times at which the documents may be inspected or a copy obtained**

Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

## Key facts about the Sustainable Development Strategy

### Responsible Authority

South Lanarkshire Council

### Title of Policy, Plan or Strategy

Sustainable Development Strategy 2012 - 2017

### Purpose of the Sustainable Development Strategy

The Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) sets out a programme of action the Council will take to enable it to further improve its environmental performance, maintain or enhance the physical and natural environment of the area for the benefit of local communities and enable communities to live in a more environmentally sustainable way.

### What prompted the Sustainable Development Strategy

(for example, a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

This is a refresh of the original Strategy which became outdated. It helps the Council to meet its duties and obligations in terms of both the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 2003 and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act, 2009.

### Subject

(for example, transport, town planning)

Sustainable Development.

### Period covered

The Sustainable Development Strategy covers the period from April 2012 to March 2017.

### Frequency of updates

The action plan will be reviewed annually. The SDS will be refreshed in 2017.

### Area of the Sustainable Development Strategy

(for example, geographical area)

The SDS covers the South Lanarkshire area and the population within.

### Summary of nature/content of the Sustainable Development Strategy

The SDS provides the context and strategic framework under which South Lanarkshire Council will work to achieve delivery of its environmental objectives which will contribute to the Council's overall vision to 'Improve the quality of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire'.

**Date adopted**

14 March 2013.

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**Date**

16 May 2014

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Process

The Sustainable Development Strategy has been subject to a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This has included the following activities:

- Taking into account the views of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland) regarding the scope and level of detail appropriate for the Environmental Report.
- Preparing an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects on the environment of the draft Sustainable Development Strategy which included consideration of:
  - the baseline data relating to the current state of the environment;
  - links between the SDS and other relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
  - existing environmental problems affecting the SDS;
  - the Strategy's likely significant effects on the environment (positive and negative);
  - measures envisaged for the prevention, reduction and offsetting of any significant adverse effects;
  - an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives chosen;
  - monitoring measures to ensure that any unforeseen environmental effects will be identified allowing for appropriate remedial action to be taken.
- Consulting on the Environmental Report.
- Taking into account the Environmental Report and the results of consultation in making final decisions regarding the Sustainable Development Strategy.
- Committing to monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy. This will also identify any unforeseen adverse significant environmental effects and enable the Council to take appropriate remedial action.

## Considerations taken into account

Table 1 sets out the environmental problems identified in the Environmental Report and explains how these have been taken into account in the preparation of the adopted version of the SDS.

**Table 1: Problems Identified in the Environmental Report (Table 4)**

Environmental considerations and findings from the Environmental Report	Integrated into the SDS (yes/no)	How the issue has been integrated/taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
<b>Population and Human Health</b>		
<p>The population of South Lanarkshire 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 the area in mortality rates, with clear links between poor health, poverty and deprivation. Life expectancy is lower in deprived areas.</p>	Yes	<p>Strategic outcome 2.1 includes actions to improve air quality; manage contaminated land; enhance urban greenspace and promoting opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding using our network of core paths.</p> <p>The strategy also includes actions, at strategic outcome 3.2, that tackle energy efficiency in homes contributing to minimising fuel poverty.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>		
<p>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.</p>	Yes	<p>Strategic outcome 2.2 includes actions that incorporate local development planning policies and partnerships working to ensure the main environmental pressures affecting biodiversity in the area are reduced.</p>
<b>Landscape</b>		
<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.</p> <p>Development can pose a risk to aspects of the landscape including the green belt, recreational and greenspace networks.</p>	Yes	<p>The strategy recognises that South Lanarkshire has priority landscape assets including peatland, freshwater systems and ancient woodlands. Strategic Outcome 2.1 and 2.2 includes action to safeguard and enhance the quality and function of these assets and in turn promoting the enjoyment of our landscape assets through the Tourism Action Plan.</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 2.2 also incorporates development planning policies that aims to protect and enhance the Green Network.</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 CO2 emissions further</p>	Yes	<p>The strategy's sustainable communities theme focuses on supporting local transition to a low carbon economy including waste management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, sustainable transport and building standards.</p> <p>Climate change and adverse weather is one</p>

Environmental considerations and findings from the Environmental Report	Integrated into the SDS (yes/no)	How the issue has been integrated/taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
<p>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>of the Council's top risks, the strategy incorporates action (see strategic outcome 2.1) to adapt to a changing climate including managing flood priorities and delivering flood protection schemes.</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 Paths 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>	Yes	<p>Strategic Outcome 2.1 includes actions to provide recreational opportunities in the natural and physical environment and the development of a new Outdoor Access Strategy.</p> <p>The sustainable communities theme focuses on providing services to help local communities live more sustainably; Strategic Outcome 3.3 includes action to work with public and private sector partners to deliver new or enhanced public transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 3.1 promotes waste management and development planning policies to meet Zero Waste targets.</p>
<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>	Yes	<p>The strategy considers the environmental settings of historical assets through local development plan policies to protect and safeguard the local environment.</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</p>	Yes	<p>The sustainable environment theme focuses on the quality of local environments contributing to health and wellbeing benefits for local communities. Strategic Outcome 2.1 includes action to assess air quality</p>

Environmental considerations and findings from the Environmental Report	Integrated into the SDS (yes/no)	How the issue has been integrated/taken into account or reason for not being taken into account
<p>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>throughout South Lanarkshire and develop action plans for areas where traffic emissions result in poor air quality.</p> <p>Contaminated land is considered with action on developing a Contaminated Land Strategy.</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 2.2 includes action to safeguard and enhance the quality and function of freshwater systems.</p>

Table 2 sets out:

- the significant negative effects identified in the Environmental Report and whether/how these have been dealt with in the adopted version of the SDS;
- the measures for prevention, reduction and offsetting of significant effects identified in the Environmental Report plus any revised measures considered and integrated into the adopted version of the SDS.

**Table 2: Mitigation measures identified in the Environmental Report (Table 10)**

Mitigation Measure	Integrated into SDS	How the issue has been integrated/taken into account or reason for being taken into account
<p>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>	Yes	<p>Strategic Outcome 2.1 includes action to review and assess air quality throughout South Lanarkshire as required by the Environment Act 1995 and in line with national guidance.</p> <p>Developers may be asked to carry out an Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) where they propose to use a biomass facility as the main source of energy. The AQIA would identify the proposed development's impact on air quality and what can be done to reduce it.</p>
<p>The Council's procurement process should consider different processing options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions of future waste management facilities.</p>	Yes	<p>Strategic Outcome 3.1 includes action to initiate a plan to deliver new waste management processes to reduce the climate change impact of waste management and meet the requirements of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.</p>
<p>Improvement work on Council housing will create waste. The SDS should consider how recycling of these waste materials could be improved.</p>	Yes	<p>Strategic Outcome 1.2 includes action to work with Net-Waste Scotland to set and adopt key performance indicators to increase the recycling of the Council's construction site waste.</p>

Table 3 sets out the significant positive effects identified in the Environmental Report and whether/how these have been dealt with in the adopted version of the SDS.

**Table 3: Enhancement measures identified in the Environmental Report (Table 10.1)**

Enhancement Measure	Integrated into SDS	How the issues has been integrated/taken into account or reason for not taken into account
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.	Yes	Strategic Outcome 1.1 includes action to achieve high energy efficiency standards in our new buildings and increase renewable energy generation. This will be taken forward through the Council's 'sustainability standard' for the construction of new buildings (Strategic Outcome 1.2, Action 6)
Further enhancement is possible through improved communications with staff about minimising waste and making best use of available recycling services.	Yes	Strategic Outcome 1.2 includes the action 'Provide services and engage Council staff to recycle more waste materials in the workplace' which will be driven through the Council's Waste Improvement Team.
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.	Yes	The Strategic Outcome 1.3 includes action to review and update committee report guidance for the consideration of sustainable development and SEA implications of Council decisions which will be driven by the Council's SEA Officer.
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.	Yes	The community plan has undergone the Strategic Environmental Assessment process and this in turn informed the development of the SOA.
Promote the benefits of good air quality.	Yes	Strategic Outcome 2.1 includes action to review and assess air quality throughout South Lanarkshire. The review will include preparation of an Air Quality Strategy and in turn will undergo the Strategic Environmental Assessment process.
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.	Yes	Strategic Outcome 1.3 includes action to 'Continue to lead and broaden partnership working through the South Lanarkshire Sustainability Partnership and develop joint approaches to sustainable development through the Single Outcome Agreement.
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.	No	There is no specific action in terms of the SDS however SEPA continue to participate in South Lanarkshire's Sustainability Partnership.
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.	Yes	Strategic Outcome 2.1 includes action to develop a refreshed Leisure and Cultural Strategy for South Lanarkshire to help promote recreational opportunities of the natural and physical environment. The development of the strategy will involve a

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Enhancement Measure	Integrated into SDS	How the issues has been integrated/taken into account or reason for not taken into account
		health impact assessment and will undergo the SEA process.
Promote how other Council PPS can take cognisance of the benefits from the natural environment.	Yes	The SEA process will promote other Council PPS to take cognisance of the benefits from the natural environment. Strategic Outcome 1.3 includes action to 'Enhance the use of SEA within the Council to consider sustainable development and climate change implications of our plans, policies and strategies'.
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.	Yes	Strategic Outcome 3.1 focuses on providing services and increasing awareness to households and businesses to minimise and recycle waste. It includes actions to introduce food waste collections from households and small businesses. It also includes action to promote recycling and waste minimisation by providing information to make most effective use of the Council's waste management services.
In Council homes, wherever possible and where it is cost effective, consideration should be given to exceed current minimum standards in energy efficiency improvements.	Yes	Strategic Outcome 3.2 focuses on ensuring homes are energy efficient, fuel poverty is minimised and homes are environmentally sustainable. It includes action to seek ways to lever additional funding into support for energy efficiency measures to maximise the impact on the Scottish Housing Quality Standard, fuel poverty and climate change targets. This strategic outcome links with the Council's Local Housing Strategy (LHS) which is the key strategy for energy efficiency improvements across the Council estate. The LHS has also undergone the SEA process.
Ensure SEA is carried out for all Council PPPS.	Yes	SEA is a legislative requirement and the Council's SEA Officer ensures that SEA is carried out for all Council PPPS. Strategic Outcome 1.3 of the SDS includes action to enhance the use of SEA within the Council to consider sustainable development and climate change implications of our plans, policies and strategies.
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.	Yes	Strategic Outcome 1.3 includes action to continue and broaden partnership working through the South Lanarkshire Sustainability Partnership and develop joint approaches to sustainable development through the SOA. Subsequent adoption of the strategy has resulted in 'transition to a low carbon economy' included as a topic in the SOA.
Actions 9 and 12 within this outcome as currently shown are very similar and could be merged to make their intention clearer.	Yes	The SDS action plan was rationalised to take account of this comment.

## Considering opinions expressed during consultation

Table 4 sets out how the responses to the consultation of the Environmental Report have been taken into account through the preparation of the adopted version of the Sustainable Development Strategy.

**Table 4: Taking Account of Consultation Responses**

Consultation Authority / Respondent	Summary of comments	How the comment was taken into consideration
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	We are content that an adequate assessment of the strategy has been carried out. It is noted that our comments at the scoping stage report have been taken into account in the preparation of the strategy.	Noted.
	We agree that the strategy can have positive effects on the environment and this is to be welcomed.	Noted.
The Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland)	I found that the Environmental Report sets out clearly the scope and findings of this assessment. In summary, whilst I am broadly content with the assessment and its findings, I consider that it could have usefully focused more specifically on the links between sustainability and the historic environment.	We have included additional text within the final SDS to reflect the importance of sustainability and the historic environment.
	I welcome the inclusion of Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP). I note that in considering links between the SDS and SHEP, you have identified that the SDS could play a role in promoting the value of South Lanarkshire's historic environment. In view of the scope and purpose of the SDS, it would also have been useful to also focus specifically on the links which SHEP establishes between sustainability issues and the historic environment.	The issue may be addressed in more detail through other appropriate plans, programmes or strategies within the hierarchy of plans for example the Asset Management Plan in terms of the care, repair and maintenance of historic buildings.
	Table 1 is a useful tool to assist with the initial identification of delivery mechanism for the aims and actions of the SDS through other PPS. The inclusion of a summary of the SEA status of those PPS is also helpful.	Noted.
	Whilst I am broadly content with the content of Table 4 with regard to the historic environment, I feel that it would have been helpful to pick up on the findings of the SEA for the previous SDS, which identified potential tensions between the historic environment and energy efficient measures and development of micro renewables. This would also reflect the baseline information relating to pressures on historic assets from incremental change (which can be related to the sustainability and / or climate change agenda).	The Environmental Report of the previous SDS in 2007 included this as a potential conflict. However, no such developments have taken place and are no longer expected to as a result of any of the actions set out in the new SDS.  Any future potential tensions between the

Consultation Authority / Respondent	Summary of comments	How the comment was taken into consideration
		historic environment and energy efficiency/micro renewables can be addressed through Planning policies.
	I welcome the content and format of the state of the environment tables provided in Appendix 3, which provide a useful way of summarising the current situation and trends in relation to the historic environment.	Noted.
	In light of the policy set out in SHEP, it would have been productive to have included a criterion which focused on the potential role of the SDS in promoting mutually beneficial links between appropriate care and maintenance of the historic environment and sustainable development. Otherwise, I am content with the two criterion provided for cultural heritage.	Noted – see earlier comments
	Assessment of Alternatives - I am content with the findings of this element of the assessment.	Noted.
	Compatibility Assessment – I am broadly content with the findings of this section of the assessment. However, the historic environment is an integral and valuable element of our physical environment as a whole; consequently, I am uncertain why the SDS Vision is not considered to be supportive of the cultural heritage objective. I also note that the neutral score attributed to Theme 1 in relation to cultural heritage is not entirely consistent with the scoring of effects for Outcome 1.3 in Appendix 6.	A neutral score was chosen in this part of the assessment to reflect our view that, although the vision was not incompatible with our SEA objectives relating to the historic environment, there was unlikely to be scope, significantly to promote these objectives through this particular strategy. However, these comments are noted and may be relevant to other plans, programmes or policies undergoing SEA. We think the scoring reflects our assessment process.
	Evaluation of the Environmental Effects – I am broadly content with the findings of this section of the assessment. I note that in Section 8, where positive effects on the cultural heritage are identified, the commentary focuses on the SDS's ability to promote appreciation and understanding of the richness of countryside resources, urban greenspace and associated historic assets. However, it appears possible that there is	As above text

Consultation Authority / Respondent	Summary of comments	How the comment was taken into consideration
	<p>some potential for the SDS to have positive effects through specific promotion of the mutually beneficial links between appropriate care and maintenance of the historic environment and sustainable development, in addition to the potential for adverse effects through sustainability actions such as inappropriate (in a historic environment context) works to improve energy efficiency in the home, or renewable energy developments (including micro-renewables). Whilst I accept that these effects may not have been found to be significant, I would have found it helpful if there had been text commentary on the consideration of these issues, to assist in the understanding how the scoring results have been derived.</p>	
	<p>I am broadly content with the proposed mitigation, enhancement and recommendations proposed. However, in light of my comments under Question 6, it is possible that the assessment may not have fully captured mitigation and / or enhancement opportunities relating to the historic environment.</p>	<p>Noted – see above</p>
	<p>I note that you are currently developing a monitoring programme. Monitoring indicators chosen for the historic environment should reflect both the actions / targets set out in the SDS, and the predicted effects identified in the course of the SEA. Due to the relatively high-level nature of the SDS, you could consider whether it would be useful to monitor the successful incorporation of SDS outcomes and actions (including and mitigation / enhancement measures identified) within lower level PPS, in addition to baseline monitoring.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The State of the Environment report has a full chapter on Historic and Cultural Heritage. There is no additional information to incorporate into the SDS monitoring plan that would add value.</p>
	<p>It will also be helpful for your monitoring programme to establish how the monitoring information will be gathered and who will be responsible for the providing the required data.</p>	<p>Noted – this has also been included in the monitoring plan.</p>
<p>Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)</p>	<p>The Environmental Report has addressed most of the comments we raised in our response to the Scoping Response.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
	<p>We commented on the necessity of couching the SEA objectives in a format that is SMART and linked to indicators and targets to enable the performance of the Strategy against the stated objectives to be monitored. There is a clear link tot the baseline indicators in the Council's State of the Environment Report, but the objectives are still not SMART and targets have not been set. It is therefore impossible to measure the performance of the SDS itself against the stated objectives, as opposed to incidental changes arising from</p>	<p>It has not been our approach to set SMART SEA objectives.</p> <p>It is not always possible to determine the extent to which particular actions contribute to desired outcomes, even where it is known that the impact will be a</p>

<b>Consultation Authority / Respondent</b>	<b>Summary of comments</b>	<b>How the comment was taken into consideration</b>
	activities out with the scope of the strategy, e.g. loss of manufacturing and heavy industries.	positive one.  Our general approach is to set SMART measures for specific actions where it is possible to do so within the monitoring plans for our strategies and plans, and to review these on a regular basis. An extract of our monitoring plan for 2013/14 has been included as part of the SEA Adoption Statement.
	Page 33 Outcome 2.1 Enhancement should also consider including improvements to the management and connectivity of peatland and freshwater systems to address carbon capture and alleviate flooding issues.	We consider this aspect to be adequately covered under outcome 2.2 of the SDS and is reflected in Table 9 of the Environmental Report.

No further comments relating to the Environmental Report were received during consultation on the draft Sustainable Development Strategy.

## **Reasons for choosing the Sustainable Development Strategy as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives**

Although the Sustainable Development Strategy is not a legal requirement 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.

As set out in section 6 of the SEA Environmental Report, five alternatives were considered when the draft Sustainable Development Strategy was prepared for consultation. The assessment concluded that Alternative 5 which combined aspects of other alternatives offered the greatest potential for considering environmental issues whilst delivering the requirements of the Strategy. It was assessed as being the best approach in terms of the analysis of impacts on environmental objectives and this was taken forward through the remainder of the SEA process

Undertaking an SEA through the development of the refreshed Sustainable Development Strategy provided an opportunity to identify the key environmental issues affecting the area and ensuring these were taken account of at the policy development stage across the Council.

## **Monitoring significant environmental effects in implementing the Strategy**

Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Strategy will take place in order to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and to take appropriate remedial action. This is in line with Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Monitoring will take place following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Strategy and will use the SEA indicators. In the monitoring of the Strategy it may be appropriate to review the baseline data and the effectiveness of measures proposed for the prevention, reduction, and offsetting of significant environmental effects. This will be done as part of the monitoring framework set up for the Sustainable Development Strategy in conjunction with the Council's other monitoring commitments, including the biennial State of the Environment Report.

The monitoring of the SEA and the Sustainable Development Strategy will be undertaken in-house using information gathered from across the Council and from external sources, including the statutory Consultation Authorities. The baseline data against which the effectiveness of the guidance will be measured was outlined in the Environmental Report. The monitoring report for the Sustainable Development Strategy is provided in Appendix 1.

## **Concluding the SEA Post Adoption Statement**

The South Lanarkshire Sustainable Development Strategy has undergone a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to determine the impact it could have on the local community and environment.

The SEA 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 Sustainable Development Strategy should result in positive effects across a wide range of environmental issues, particularly in terms of human health and climate change considerations.

We consider that the Sustainable Development Strategy fulfils its purpose by providing a clear framework to direct our activities in an environmentally sustainable way, incorporating wider environmental issues as far as reasonably possible.

Throughout the SEA process, the Consultation Authorities have confirmed their agreement with the overall assessment approach adopted with no requirement highlighted for further modification of the Sustainable Development Strategy following assessment of the Environmental Report. No comments were received from the general public or other stakeholders on the Environmental Report during the public consultation period. All comments received on the Sustainable Development Strategy itself have been considered and, where appropriate have been taken account of in the final Strategy.

Following consultation and the SEA process, the Sustainable Development Strategy was modified and formally approved by the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council on 14 March 2013.

