



Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2017-2022



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Foreword

Welcome to the council's third 'Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy' which covers the period 2017 to 2022. This strategy ensures the connections between sustainable development and climate change are more explicit and sets out the council's approach to sustainable development and addresses the challenges and opportunities of climate change.

The strategy not only covers the next five years but is also the mechanism for longer term planning to contribute to global sustainable development goals and meet national climate change targets.

Sustainable development is about taking forward the development of our economy, society and environment together, in an integrated way. In keeping with our previous approach, this strategy will focus on the environmental aspects of sustainable development, to complement the council's already extensive work in the areas of social and economic development.

The vision for our overall approach to sustainable development remains:

'People live and work sustainably in South Lanarkshire while respecting and enjoying the benefits of a high quality environment'

We aim to achieve this vision through the commitment of our employees and the services they deliver, through our work with community planning partners, and the wider community. We will build on the strong foundation provided by the first two sustainable development strategies.

Many of our strategies and plans have a strong connection to the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy. Due to its cross-cutting nature, all our services have a role in delivering sustainable development and meeting our climate change targets. Decisions need to be taken which are robust and able to adapt to the uncertainties of the future climate. We will also promote resource efficiency which will help us deliver best value for South Lanarkshire.

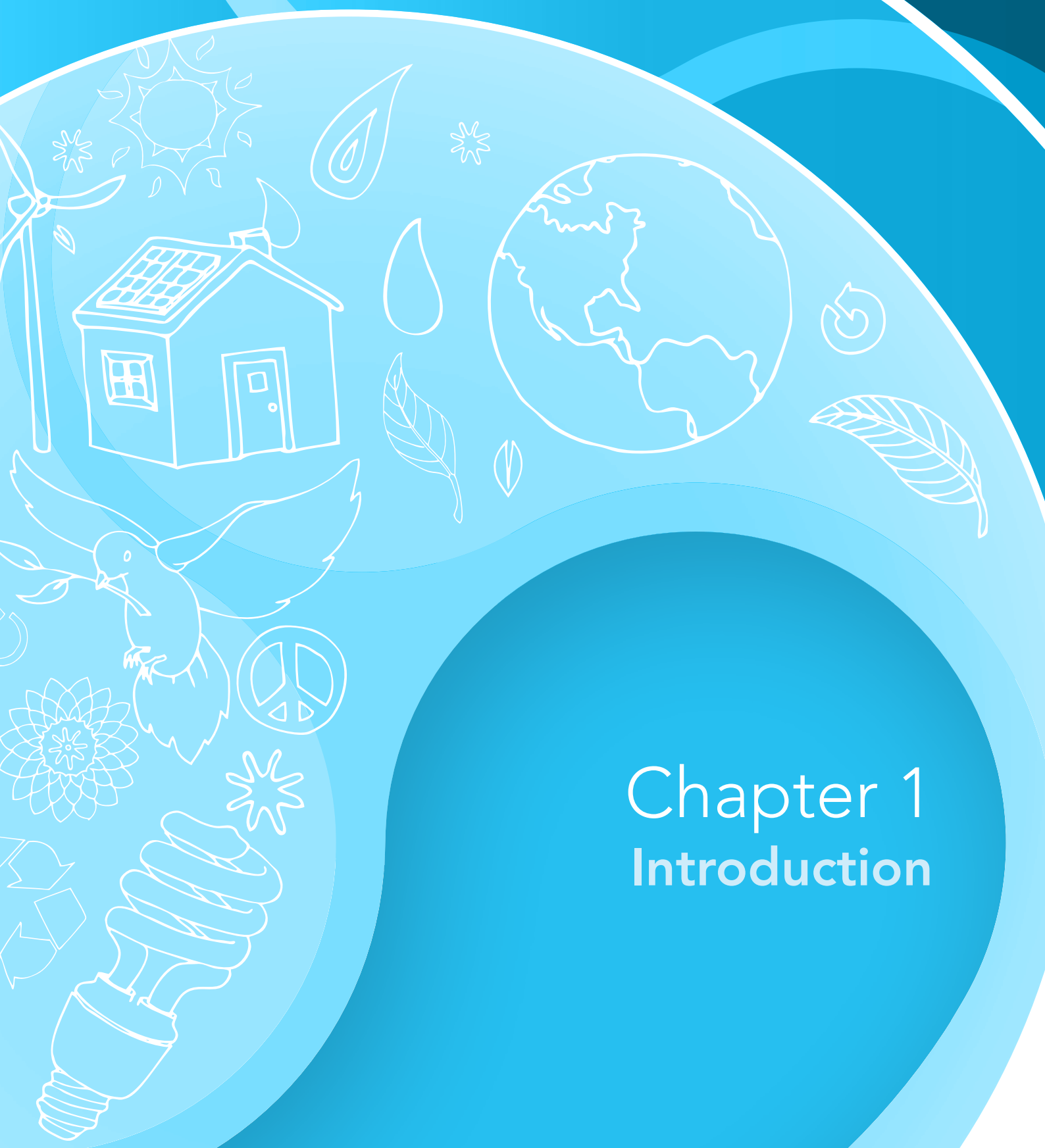
Using the principles of sustainable development, we can provide improved local services at the same time as ensuring the resilience of our environment, economy and local communities.

Councillor John Ross

Leader of South Lanarkshire Council



Clyde Walkway, Mauldslie, South Lanarkshire



Chapter 1

Introduction

Chapter 1 – Introduction

This Strategy sets out how we aim to achieve sustainable development and tackle climate change over the next five years. The Strategy will provide a broad strategic direction and sets our planned actions and projects to deliver our vision.

What do we mean by ‘achieve sustainable development’?

Sustainable development can be interpreted in many different ways, but the most frequently quoted definition is:

“Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

What does this really mean? Simply stated, the principle of sustainable development recognises the importance of ensuring that all people should be able to satisfy these basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, both now and in the future

It supports strong economic and social development, in particular for people with a low standard of living. At the same time it emphasises the importance of protecting natural resources and the environment.

Wellbeing and quality of life

Traditionally, the term ‘development’ was more commonly associated with ‘economic growth’ in which the focus was improving the economic ‘well-being’ and ‘quality of life’ for people by creating and/or retaining jobs, supporting and growing incomes, the expanding or retaining of local businesses, and promoting technological advances and innovation.

However focusing predominately on economic growth does not take into account other factors essential for ‘wellbeing’ and ‘quality of life’ for people, like a healthy environment and social progress.

It is recognised that in order to have a strong economy we require a strong society. Social progress is essential for a strong society and, includes necessities like access to education, health care, affordable housing, equal opportunities for all, inclusion, safety and a fair distribution of wealth.

Why is the ‘environment’ important to economic growth and social progress?

Fundamentally the environment provides natural resources essential to meet our basic needs, including fresh water, clean air, food, medicinal resources, raw materials and energy. The world’s stocks of natural resources are referred to as natural capital which underpins our economy and society.

Natural capital is central to economic activity and growth, providing raw materials we need to produce goods and services however the continuous supply of goods and services from the available natural capital is dependent upon a healthy, functioning environment. The structure and diversity of habitats and ecosystems are also important components of natural capital.

We are, however, consuming natural capital at a rate faster than the planet can replenish, contributing to the depletion of natural resources like water; fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas); and metals and minerals. The capacity of the natural environment to absorb and process unwanted by-products, in the form of pollution and waste, is also under stress due to the over-consumption of natural capital.

The removal of forests for agriculture, housing and commercial use is also on the increase.

This is resulting in a loss of biodiversity which can affect food and medicine sources, industry, and intensify climate change.

Therefore, while natural capital is used to generate economic growth, it needs to be used sustainably and efficiently in order to secure growth in the long run - whether by improving the efficiency of resource consumption or by adopting new production techniques and product designs.

Using fossil fuels for energy and transport causes substantially more harm to the environment than renewable energy sources, including air and water pollution, damage to public health, wildlife and habitat loss, water and land use and increased carbon emissions.

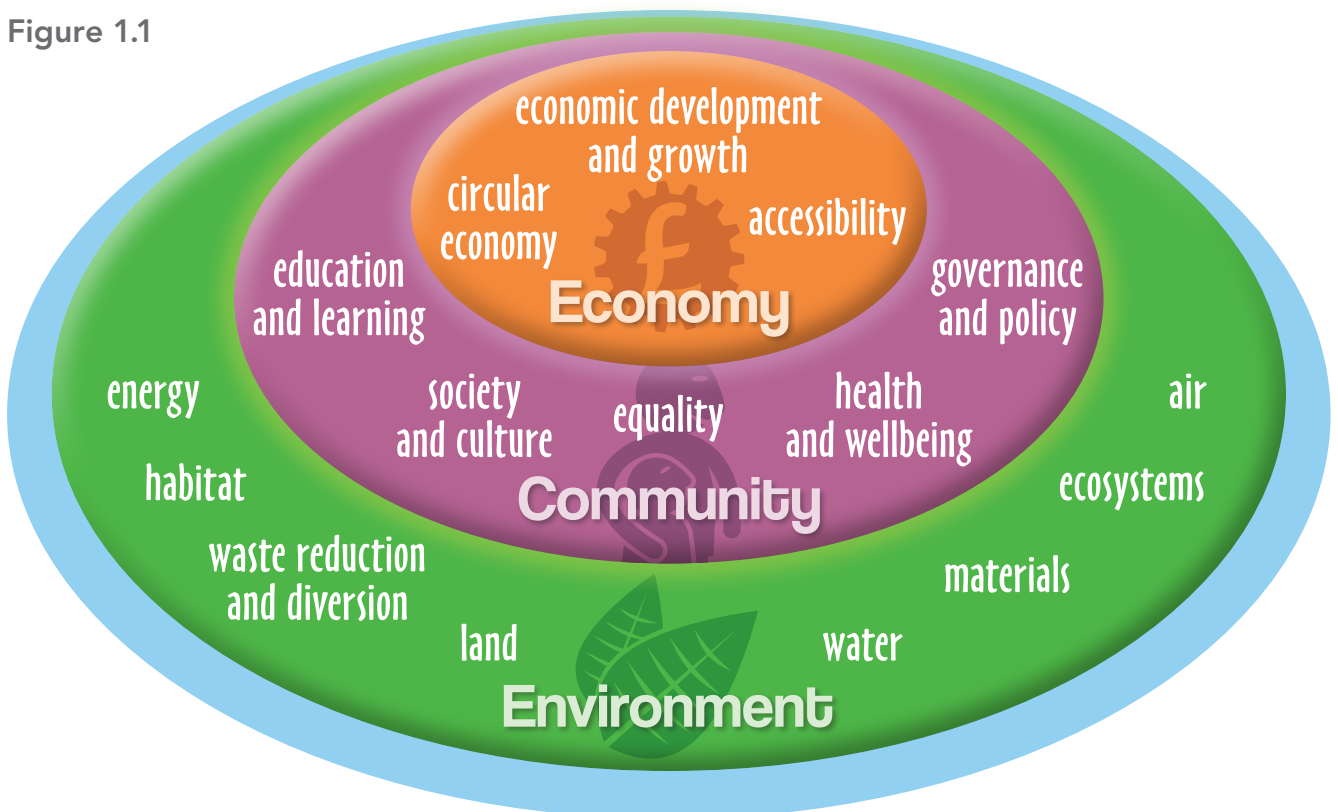
Reducing these environmental impacts has great potential to lead to economic growth by creating new markets in areas such as biofuels and renewable energy sources. This could lead to new employment opportunities, benefits in population and environmental health, whilst also improving energy security in the long run.

Ecosystems like grasslands, wetlands, woodlands and forests also contribute to managing risks to economic and social activity, helping to minimise flood risks, regulating the local climate (both air quality and temperature), and maintaining the supply of clean water and other resources.

Protecting and enhancing the natural environment is a key factor in sustaining economic and social development, not just today but for future generations.

A strong economy requires a strong society, and both depend on a healthy natural environment.

Figure 1.1



How do we achieve sustainable development?

Developing sustainably requires a new way of thinking. Essentially we need to integrate social progress, a healthy environment, and economic growth outcomes (otherwise referred to as People, Planet and Prosperity) in our decision making and actions. All three are essential factors for the wellbeing and quality of life for people and communities: we cannot aim to achieve one at the cost of another.

Achieving complete sustainable development is not easy due to overlapping national, political and economic interests or conflicting priorities. However we should strive to move closer to building an

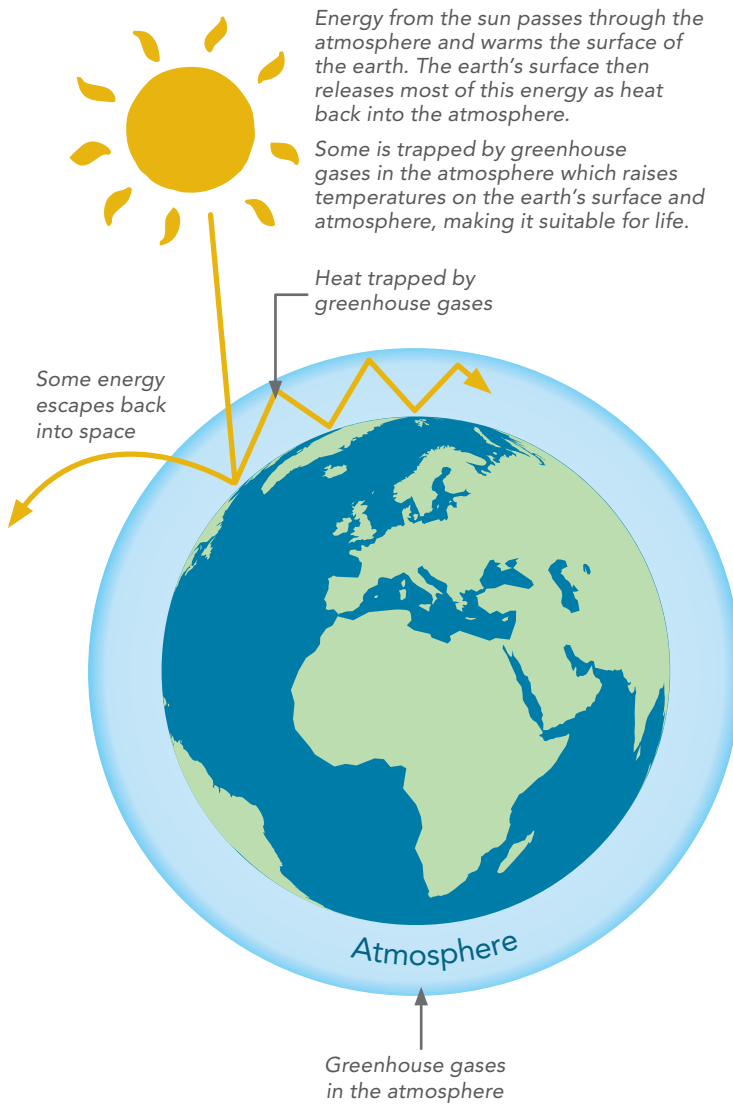
inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people, planet and prosperity.

Sustainable development is not a “thing we do” or a “program we carry out.” It is a set of fundamental values by which we make decisions and how we choose to live. These values are outlined in the 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as seen in figure 1.2.

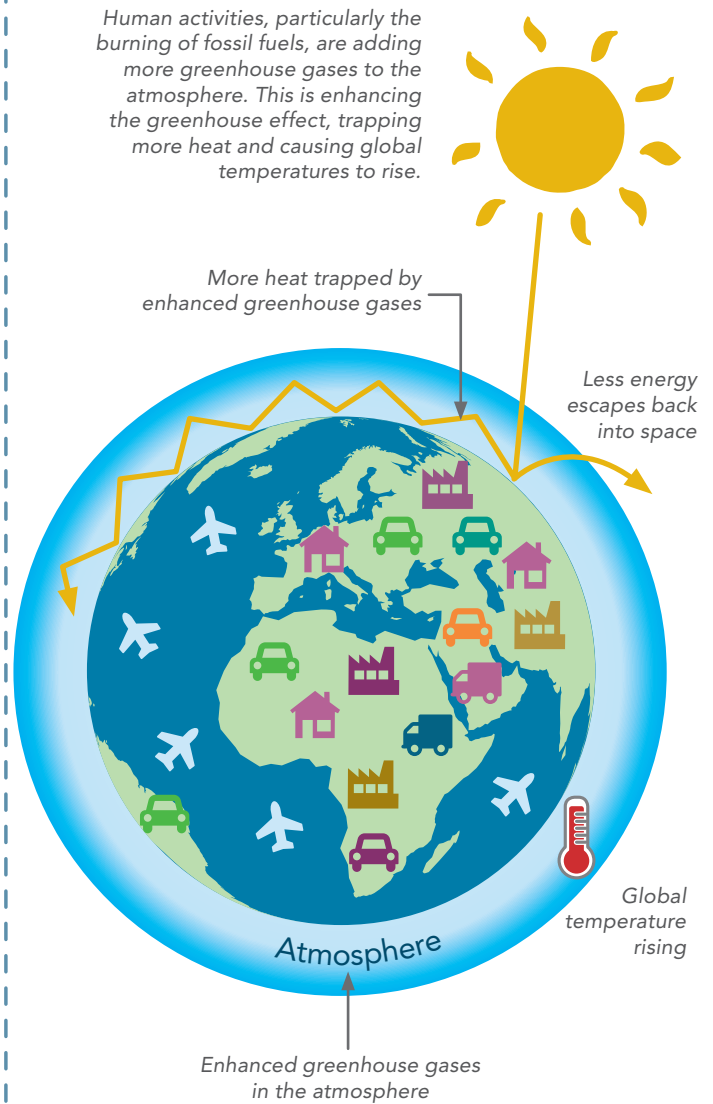
Figure 1.2



Natural greenhouse effect



Enhanced greenhouse effect



Climate Change

What is Climate Change?

Weather reflects short-term conditions of the atmosphere while climate is the average daily weather for an extended period of time at a certain location. Climate change is a change in global or regional climate patterns.

The earth's climate has always gone through natural cycles. However, widely accepted scientific evidence shows that there is a build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere produced by human activities which is increasingly warming the planet causing changes in the earth's climate.

One of the primary greenhouse gases is carbon dioxide (CO₂) which is emitted through the burning of fossil fuels – for example oil, gas and coal.

Other human activities, such as agriculture and deforestation, also contribute to the increase of greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

The concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is 40% higher than at the start of the industrial revolution and is still increasing.



Effects of Climate Change

The Earth's atmosphere is warming faster than it ever has, resulting in more frequent extreme weather events like heavy rain, stronger storms and severe heat waves. In some cases weather patterns, climates and natural environments are changing quicker than wildlife or people can adapt.

Some of the effects of climate change could have serious effects which will amplify health implications such as increased sun exposure, increased air pollution, a longer and more intense allergy season and the spread of insect-borne diseases. Damage to property and infrastructure which could be extremely costly with a greater impact on those on low incomes; and energy, food and water supplies could be affected.

Businesses and industries that are closely linked to weather and climate, such as tourism, sporting and outdoor activities, and agriculture, may also face considerable challenges from climate change.

Other effects are less serious like the disruption to transport systems. And some effects, like less cold-weather related illnesses and longer growing seasons for crops, are positive.

However, as the Earth keeps getting warmer, the negative effects are expected to outweigh the positive ones. This decade has seen the warmest years ever recorded globally, and even the current 1°C of warming is causing significant impacts to people such as serious health problems, livelihoods are being ruined and people are being forced to become climate migrants.

What are the impacts for Scotland?

The climate has already changed here in Scotland and South Lanarkshire; over the last century the average temperatures have increased with warmer summers and milder winters, however not all of the clear-sky, bright sunshine variety. We have experienced increased cloud cover and rainfall and less snow coverage during the winter. We have also experienced more frequent extreme weather from heavy storms, flash floods and heatwaves.¹ It is anticipated that the extreme weather events will increase as a result of climate change.

While climate change is no longer a new concept, it can sometimes seem less important to people on a personal level. However, no matter what we are passionate about, something we care about could be affected by climate change.

Scotland and South Lanarkshire are already experiencing the consequences of our changing climate and we are only likely to see more of these if the changes continue at their current rate.

- More extreme rainfall events are expected with an increased potential for river and surface water flooding, and subsequent impacts on people, property and the environment.



Flooding at M74 near Abington, South Lanarkshire after Storm Frank

- Warmer, drier summers are expected to lead to an increase in the number of days with high pollen counts, also causing problems for those who have respiratory diseases, or suffer from hay fever.



Enjoying the hot weather at Calderglen Country Park, South Lanarkshire

- Climate change in Scotland could see an increase in pests, diseases and invasive species, which could affect people's health, animals, plants and trees, adding pressure on the likes of our National Health Service, farming and forestry industries.
- Climate change could mean that some species of animals and plants may no longer be suited to the new climate conditions. For example cod, herring and haddock could migrate away from Scotland's west coast waters because of warming sea temperatures, according to Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).
- Wetter winters are expected to lead to increased fungus growth in poor quality or inadequately heated housing, causing problems for those suffering from asthma and other respiratory diseases.

Climate change will also bring opportunities to Scotland and South Lanarkshire including increased business opportunities for some sectors as a result of extended tourist season, warmer summers and extended growing seasons. As the climate continues to change, there will be an increased need for skills and expertise in the design of well-adapted buildings and managing construction processes in response to climate change. And a warming climate may provide more opportunity to be outdoors and enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle, while reducing mortality in winter

The effects of climate change in other countries will also impact Scotland and South Lanarkshire: for instance, a devastating drought in Eastern Europe can push up food prices here.

For further information on the impacts for Scotland see the 15 key consequences of climate change identified in the Scottish Government's Climate Change Adaptation Programme: Climate Ready Scotland. This programme sets out Scottish Ministers objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, their proposals and policies for meeting those objectives.



Storm damage to residential housing in Burnside, South Lanarkshire

¹ Although there is no official definition of a 'heatwave' in the UK, the term can be used to describe an extended period of hot weather, days or weeks, relative to the expected conditions of the area at that time of year – Met Office



What has climate change got to do with sustainable development?

Climate change is now recognised globally as one of the most significant threats to humanity and is a key challenge for sustainable development.

The effects of climate change can add significant stress to development and growth of the economy, society, and a healthy environment. However in turn, developing sustainably can help reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change and also help prepare for the effects of a changing climate.

Taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to a changing climate would be far less expensive than dealing with the consequences of not doing so. We have the knowledge and the technology to reduce our impact on the climate, and ease the pressures on people, planet and prosperity.

How the strategy has been developed?

In keeping with our previous approach, this strategy focuses on the environmental aspects of sustainable development to complement and align with other council strategies which focus on social and economic development.

The vision for our overall approach to sustainable development remains:

'People live and work sustainably in South Lanarkshire while respecting and enjoying the benefits of a high quality environment'

The strategy has three themes which are interconnected to help us achieve our vision.

1. Sustainable Council:

Considers the council's own impact on the environment and what we and our partners will do to minimise it.

2. Sustainable Environment:

Considers what the council is doing to protect, enhance and respect the quality of the natural environment contributing to the health and wellbeing of local communities.

3. Sustainable Communities:

Considers how the council's services will help provide places for people to live and work in an environmentally responsible way and be better prepared for a low carbon Scotland.

For each theme we have identified outcomes we hope to achieve and addressing climate change issues has been used as a guiding principle throughout the strategy as outlined in figure 1.4.

To help guide our approach to sustainable development and climate change we have the council's Environmental Statement which summarises the commitments we have made. The Environmental Statement can be found at Appendix 1.

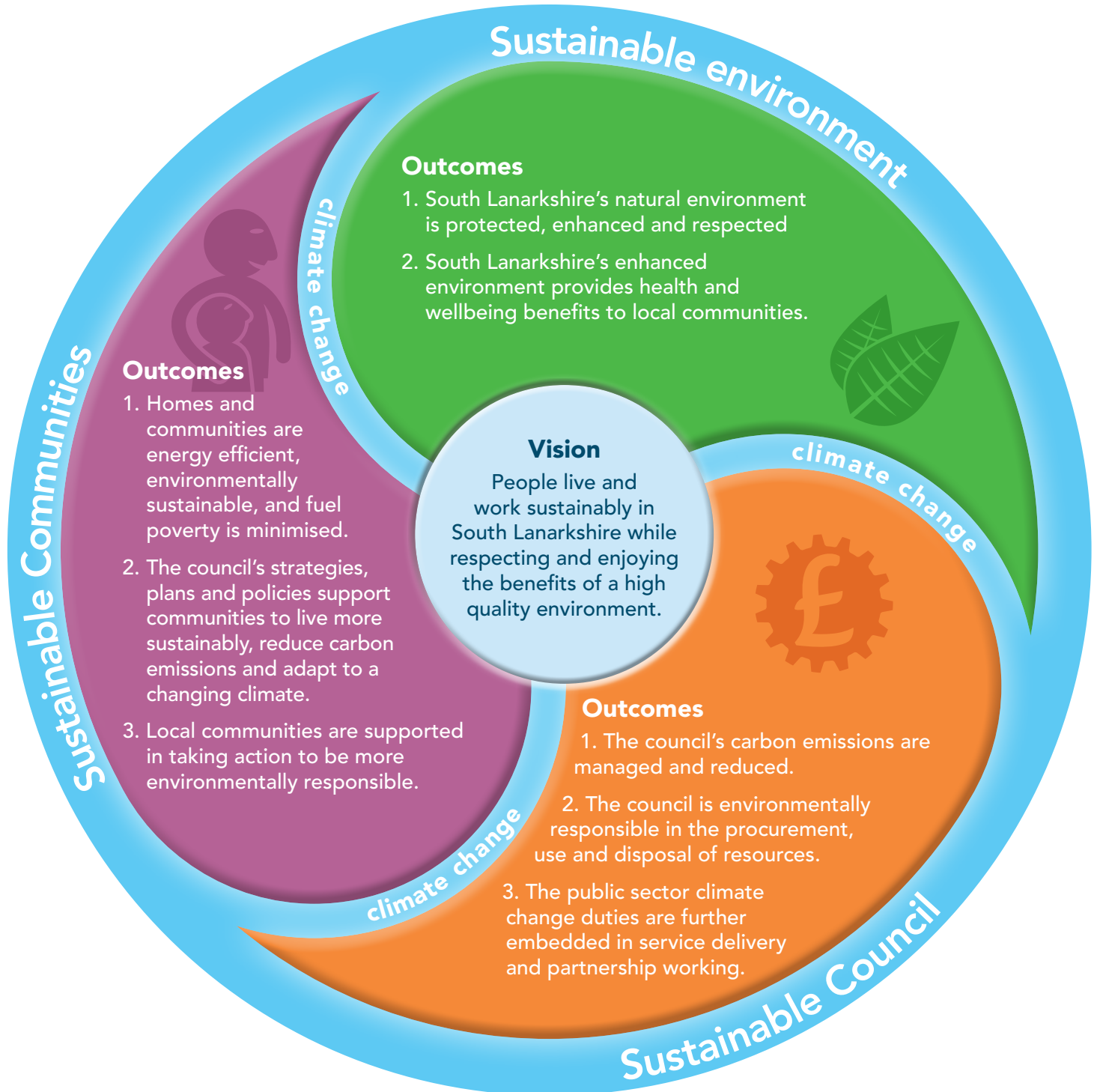
As part of the development of the strategy we carried out a number of engagement and consultation sessions, carried out an equalities impact assessment and followed the Strategic Environmental Assessment procedures as at Appendix 2.

Within each theme we have listed the strategic approach of how we intend to achieve the outcomes. The outcomes and intentions are designed to be broad enough to span the next five years and also provide flexibility in the event of any changes that may impact the strategy e.g. changes in legislation.

The outcomes and intentions as at Appendix 3 provides the framework to develop an annual action plan which will include specific Service actions and projects to meet the outcomes in each theme. The action plan will be made available on the council's website and details of monitoring and reporting on the action plan is detailed in Chapter 6 (page 46).

Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2017 - 2022

Figure 1.4





Chapter 2

Policy Background

Chapter 2 – Policy Background

The concept of sustainable development has been around for about 25 years and in that time has seen many changes in the international and national legislation that has shaped local policies.

The policy history of sustainable development and climate change is detailed in the previous strategy and is updated here with the changes since 2012.

International Context

Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a new, universal set of goals aimed to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. The SDGs follow and expand on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were agreed by governments in 2001 and expired in 2015.

Each goal has targets and indicators that United Nations member states are expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years. The Scottish Government adopted the goals in July 2015 making Scotland one of the first nations to commit to them.

The new goals recognise that tackling climate change is essential for achieving sustainable development and as such, many of the SDGs are addressing the core drivers of climate change. In particular SDG Number 13 promotes urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

The Paris Agreement

At the United Nations Climate Conference in Paris in December 2015, world leaders agreed to adopt a legally-binding agreement to limit global average temperature rise to well below 2°C and to build resilience and reduce vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.

The Scottish Government is committed to delivering on the Paris Agreement and has announced proposals for a new Climate Change Bill, including a new ambitious 2020 target of reducing Scottish emissions by more than 50% (based on 1990 levels).

The agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016 with the United Kingdom being one of the 169 parties, to date, who has ratified the agreement.

National Context

Climate Change Plan

The Scottish Government published the Climate Change Plan in January 2017. This is the third report which sets out how Scotland will meet the emission reduction targets in the period 2017-2032.

The plan sits alongside the Scottish Government's Energy Strategy and provides the strategic framework for the transition to a low carbon Scotland. Building on previous reports on policies and proposals, the Plan sets out the path to a low carbon economy while helping to deliver sustainable economic growth and secure the wider benefits to a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland in 2032.

The draft Plan includes policies and proposals to reduce emissions from electricity generation, housing, transport, services, industry, forestry, peatlands, waste, and agriculture.



Climate Ready Scotland: Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP)

The Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme sets out Scottish Ministers objectives, policies and proposals to tackle the climate change impacts identified for Scotland in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, as required by section 53 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Published in 2014, and due on 5 yearly cycles, the next SCCAP is due in 2019. However, Scottish Government has already begun early engagement on the development of the second SCCAP. South Lanarkshire is influencing this through Climate Ready Clyde (see page 29 for information on Climate Ready Clyde).

Climate change duties for Integration Joint Boards

New legislation, in the form of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 came into force on 1 April 2014. The act requires Health Boards and Local Authorities to work together effectively to agree a model of integration to deliver quality, sustainable health and social care services. In April 2016, the integration of health and social care went live in South Lanarkshire and is led by the South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP).

The Lanarkshire H&SCP agreed that an Integration Joint Board (IJB), otherwise known as the 'Body Corporate' model, would be established. The IJB has developed a strategic commissioning plan for integrated functions and budgets delegated to them.

The IJB is a public body and as such is subject to the climate change duties and the statutory reporting. South Lanarkshire's IJB will work alongside the council and Health Board to comply with their climate change duties and reporting requirement.

Climate change duties reporting

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 sets clear and ambitious targets for 80% emissions reductions by 2050 and other climate change provisions including adaptation. The public sector has a crucial leadership role in the delivery of Scotland's climate change ambitions. The Act, which came into force in January 2011, places duties on public bodies requiring them to:

- contribute to carbon emissions reduction targets
- contribute to climate change adaptation
- and to act sustainably

Further to the duties contained in the Act, the Scottish Government introduced annual statutory reporting in 2016, for public bodies, on their compliance with the climate change duties. The new reporting platform has improved the quality and consistency of climate change information reported across the public sector in Scotland. The reports and analysis are publicly available thereby increasing accountability and transparency. The standardised format makes it easier for the public and other parties to understand an organisation's climate performance.

This in turn is helping to improve leadership and engagement, while raising awareness of the impact of climate change with senior management with an aim to integrate climate change objectives are integrated in corporate business plans and action embedded across all departments. The council's annual climate change duties report can be found on our website.



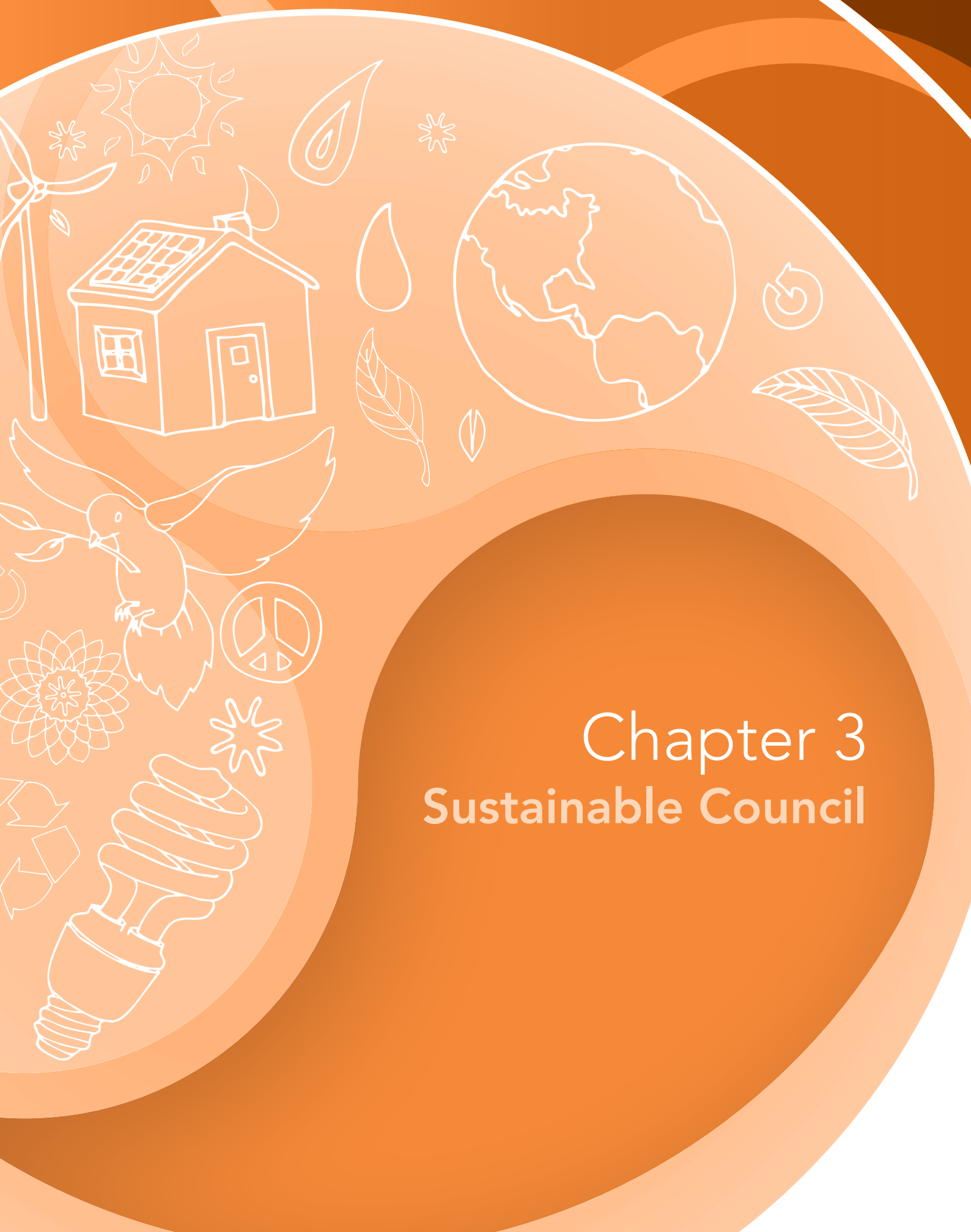
Local Context

Connect 2017 – 2022

The council's Vision to *'improve the quality of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire'* remains at the heart of the Council Plan (Connect) and, along with our values, ambitions and objectives, influences everything that we do. Although all of Connect's objectives are relevant to sustainable development, several are of particular importance to this Strategy.

Connect Objectives	Key Outcomes for Sustainable Development
Improve the availability, quality and access of housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council housing stock meets the energy efficiency standard by 2020 and the impact of fuel poverty and climate change on people is minimised
Improve the road network, influence improvements in public transport and encourage active travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Lanarkshire's road and public transport network enables the flow of people, goods, and services thereby supporting the local economy Increased active travel and recreational access to the outdoors will improve health and wellbeing and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels
Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities are better prepared for a low carbon future and can adapt to the effects of climate change Local environments are protected and enhanced and communities benefit from a high quality natural environment
Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job creation, potential growth and investment opportunities within a green economy in South Lanarkshire Develop skills, knowledge and competence to assist with the transition to a green economy in South Lanarkshire
Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation, and support aspiration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve energy efficiency in homes to help tackle fuel poverty Reduce the vulnerability of those most at risk from the impacts of climate change
Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All learners, but especially young people are enabled to contribute to the global Sustainable Development Goals
Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational establishments are environmentally sustainable
Encourage participation in physical and cultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals enjoy the benefits of healthier lifestyles in a high quality natural environment
Deliver better health and social care outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilising our natural environment for 'our natural health service'

This strategy contributes to the council's overall vision and sets out an appropriate plan of action based on the changes in policy background.



Chapter 3

Sustainable Council

Chapter 3 – Sustainable Council

The 'Sustainable Council' theme is about our own environmental performance and how we can continue to improve it.

South Lanarkshire is the eleventh largest authority area in Scotland and is home to more than 317,000 people making it the fifth largest population-based local authority. The council provides services for everyone in the South Lanarkshire area. We recognise that an organisation our size could significantly impact on the environment and that we have a responsibility to reduce our carbon footprint and use resources wisely.

We will continue to reduce our carbon footprint through the way we manage our estate. This includes energy use in our buildings, waste management, energy from our street lighting, and fuel used in staff and business travel. We will ensure the services we deliver are efficient and resilient in the face of a changing climate

As a public body we have a key role in leading by example and promoting climate change action more widely. The way we carry out our functions, the decisions we make and the engagement we have with local communities means we have a much wider sphere of influence on carbon emissions than just our own direct impact. By working with communities and our partners we can strengthen this approach.

The way we source goods and services can also be a key lever through which we can influence a more sustainable economy, reduce carbon emissions, and ensure resilience to a changing climate.

Our previous strategies have helped us improve our environmental performance. This could not have been achieved without strong leadership and the support of our employees. It is essential that we continue to create a culture that focuses on sustainability by embedding sustainable development into our strategies, plans and policies and decision making. We also

need to maintain awareness of the council's sustainable development and climate change priorities.

Employee surveys consistently show there is a good understanding of the need to use resources more wisely and the part employees can play in helping use resources like energy, water, transport and raw materials more efficiently, and reduce waste. Resource efficiency helps achieve financial savings as well as improve our environmental performance.



Employees' energy efficiency campaign



One of the council's electric cars

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

Policy	Key priorities
Sustainable Development Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use resources efficiently and reduce waste • Promote sustainable procurement practices • Invest in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures • Create a culture that focuses on sustainability
Paris Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the council's carbon footprint • Ensure service delivery is resilient to the effects of climate change
Climate Change Plan (RPP3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation programmes across council assets • Promote a circular economy model in construction and make greater use of green infrastructure in council facilities • Interventions to encourage sustainable and active travel • Strategic Environmental Assessment is applied appropriately and consistently in policy development
Climate Change Assessment Tool and Statutory Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource efficiency and climate change action incorporated in procurement practices • Climate change action embedded in staff competencies • Identify risks and opportunities of climate change for the council • Demonstrate leadership and good partnership working in addressing climate change • Climate change is incorporated into relevant policies, plans and strategies
Procurement Reform Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with the new sustainable procurement duty



What has been achieved so far?

Highlights from the previous strategy

Our Carbon Footprint

The council's carbon footprint comprises of energy use from our buildings, household waste to landfill, energy used for street lighting, fuel consumption used in our fleet and business travel.



Over the course of the previous strategy we have reduced our carbon emissions from 135,256 tonnes to 110,894 (2016-17 data), an 18% reduction. A range of initiatives can be attributed to this significant reduction.

- An ambitious street lighting LED replacement programme began in 2015 with savings achieved in the first year and second year. Expected savings of over 50% are anticipated at the end of the three year programme.
- Recycling services for our households have continued to expand with segregated waste collections extended to multi occupancy properties in 2014. New food and garden waste collections introduced in 2016 will also have contributed to the overall carbon reduction since 2012.
- Emissions from the energy used in our building has reduced each year; and in 2016/17 had reduced by 8,630 tonnes of carbon compared to 2012 (the period of the previous strategy 2012-2017). This is partly due to the milder weather experienced but also to a successful energy efficiency campaign and a host of new technologies and improvements made to the fabric of buildings.
- More than 40 LED lighting and solar photovoltaic projects have been carried out, 36 voltage optimisers and 13 boiler optimisers have been installed, 11 combined heat and power units, 49 biomass boilers and 8 ground source heat pumps have all contributed to the overall carbon reduction.
- To improve efficiency and reduce the ecological impact of our vehicles we have installed a 'telematics' tracking system in many of our large vehicles such as refuse collection, roads maintenance (including winter maintenance), road/footpath sweepers and buses and in our light vehicles, such as cars and small vans. The telematic system provides information on the utilisation of vehicles including incidents of engine idling and harsh braking. This information enables changes in the use of the vehicles that will help reduce carbon emissions, vehicle emission, fuel costs, and improve the services provided by a wide range of vehicles.
- In 2014, our low emission, low carbon, sustainable Fleet Service achieved a silver award in the Scottish Green Apple Awards for environmental best practice and a bronze award in the International Green Apple Awards.

Solar panels at Newton Farm Primary School, South Lanarkshire



Creating a culture that focuses on sustainability

Staff engagement

We have continued to raise awareness and engage staff on environmental sustainability and climate change through various methods including training, using learn-online courses, webinars and the Management Development Programme. Regular news articles in The Works online magazine, email, intranet and social media are also key methods of communication.

We have provided opportunities for staff to take part in national campaigns such as Earth Hour, Recycling Week, Home Energy Scotland and Paths for All Step Challenge. The council's environmental campaigning work led to an Earth Hour runner up award from the World Wide Fund for Nature in 2013.

The council managed to secure external funding to promote sustainable travel choices for employees. Initiatives included the 'Cycle to Work' scheme, 'Dr Bike' maintenance sessions, 'Essential Cycling Skills' training and equipment like cycle shelters, lockers and dryers. All initiatives have been well supported and received by staff.



Employee essential cycling skills

The council's personnel service introduced agile working for employees which contributes to reducing the council's carbon footprint. Wider adoption of this model could lead to reduced travel costs and reduced office accommodation required, with a resultant reduction in heating, lighting and general running costs.

Decision making and governance

Following a report from the World Economic Forum detailing that climate change is the top global risk for 2016, the council has updated its top risks to include sustainable development and climate change duties. Climate change is considered to be a concern both in the short and long term. The importance of long term thinking about risk is especially significant when attempting to limit the extent of climate change and to adapt to the change that is already inevitable. It is important that the council recognises that climate change is an increased risk to economic, social and environmental development.

Sustainability and climate change action is used as a guiding principle for all new and revised programmes, plans, policies and strategies (PPPS). Environmental impacts are also considered through the Strategic Environmental Assessment process for all new and revised PPPS. Furthermore all committee reports have a requirement to detail any sustainability or environmental implications.

The Sustainable Development Member Officer Working Group, consisting of three Elected Members and three Executive Directors, has the responsibility for implementing this Strategy and reporting progress to the Executive Committee. An Officers' Coordination Group supports the work of the Member Officer Group, making recommendations and developing work programmes.

Sustainable Procurement

The Sustainable Procurement Policy has helped to further embed sustainability and climate change considerations in the procurement process. Sustainability testing is now a requirement in the corporate sourcing strategy allowing for climate change and sustainability to be considered when compiling tender specifications.

Training has also been provided to employees, involved at all stages of the procurement process, to understand the implications on public procurement resulting from the new sustainable procurement duty which is derived from the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.

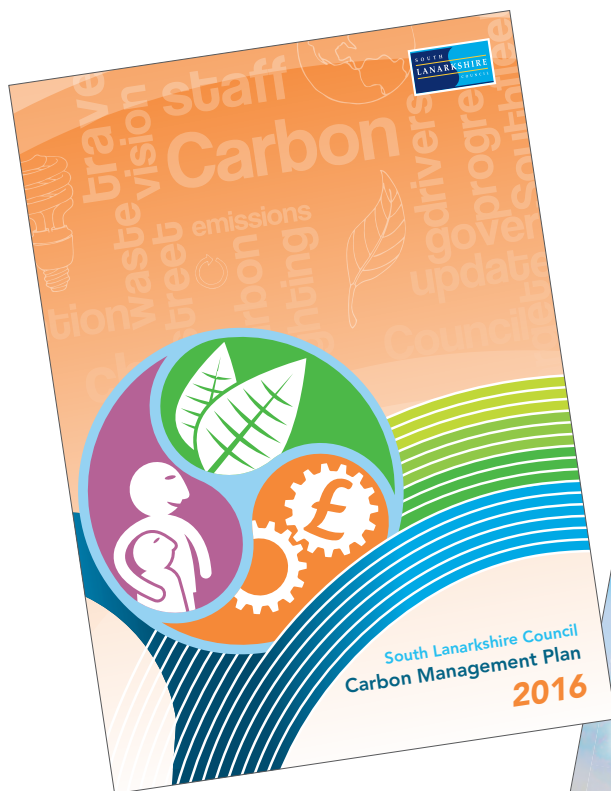
Sustainable South Lanarkshire

During the development of the previous Sustainable Development Strategy, internal consultation took place with employees to gain their views and ideas in relation to the council's approach to developing sustainably. The feedback revealed that employees were aware of individual areas of work such as energy reduction, active travel and recycling. However, many did not make the connection that these areas of work contributed towards the council's overall sustainable development objectives.

There was a suggestion to develop branding to be included on all sustainability related publicity material so that employees could easily recognise that the varying topics, projects and initiatives contribute to the council's sustainable development objectives.

'Sustainable South Lanarkshire' has been designed to provide a visual connection to sustainability for employees and the wider community. The use of the branding is still in its infancy; however through promotion and further use this will become a recognised brand for the council.

Email: sustainability@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



Documents and posters that include the Sustainable South Lanarkshire branding

Strategic outcomes

In this section, we have set out our strategic outcomes and how we intend to achieve them.

Outcome 1.1:

The council's carbon emissions are managed and reduced.

How can we achieve this?

- Implement our Carbon Management Plan to reduce the council's carbon footprint in line with the Scottish Government's targets
- Continue to implement energy efficiency measures across council facilities including investment in renewable and low carbon energy solutions
- Implement measures within the council's fleet to contribute to the Scottish Government's ambition of the decarbonisation of road transport
- Continue to improve the efficiency of our business travel and promote more sustainable travel options for employees

Outcome 1.2:

The council is environmentally responsible in the procurement, use and disposal of resources.

How can we achieve this?

- Continue to develop procurement processes to improve environmental outcomes and ensure compliance with the council's sustainable procurement duty
- Create a culture of resource efficiency in the workplace
- Maximise the use of environmentally responsible materials and reduce, reuse and recycle construction waste in new and refurbished council facilities

Outcome 1.3:

The public sector climate change duties are further embedded in service delivery and partnership working.

How can we achieve this?

- Demonstrate leadership and further develop partnership approaches in sustainable development and climate change action
- Ensure that sustainable development and climate change is used as a guiding principle in council plans, policies and strategies and that these also incorporate environmental considerations
- Take account of the public sector climate change duties (mitigation, adaptation and acting sustainably) when making decisions about the use of our assets and capital investment in our estate
- Continue to raise awareness of sustainable development and the business impacts of climate change with our employees and develop the skills required across the council to influence and adapt to change

Sustainable Council key strategies and plans

There are a number of key strategies and plans that will help us achieve the intended outcomes in this theme. These include:

- Asset Management Plans
- Carbon Management Plan
- The Council Plan Connect
- Employee Travel Plan
- Energy Management Framework
- Fuel Efficiency Strategy
- Sustainable Procurement Policy





Chapter 4

Sustainable Environment

Chapter 4 – Sustainable Environment

The focus of this theme is South Lanarkshire's natural environment and the benefits it can bring to people who live, work or visit the area. The quality of the environment across South Lanarkshire is in many aspects relatively good. A rich and diverse environment provides the area with its unique character.

It also has a significant influence on human health and quality of life. The provision of high quality, safe and easily accessible greenspace, for example, is recognised as being an effective way to promote physical and mental health and community wellbeing.

The council continues to work with its community planning partners to develop and enhance greenspace provision and encourage more outdoor recreation. There are well established links between economic growth and the quality of the environment. This is self-evident in relation to industries which clearly rely on a clean and healthy environment, for example, food production and tourism, but can also be a factor in determining business investment choices.

Clean air is important for our good health and wellbeing. That is why it is so important that we all play our part in protecting and improving the quality of the air that we breathe. Pollution from road traffic, and particularly diesel fumes, is a significant cause of poor air quality. The council's role is to monitor air quality and where concentrations exceed national levels,

measures should be put in place to reduce emissions. Typical measures to reduce emissions from local sources include traffic management, the encouragement of uptake of cleaner vehicles, and increased use of public transport along with more sustainable transport methods such as walking and cycling.

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

Predicted changes in the local climate as a result of global warming, present some risks to our natural and physical environment. While these are difficult to quantify at present, the council has a duty to consider potential impacts and contribute to national plans being developed to help Scotland's natural systems and infrastructure to adapt.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services can also be used to mitigate and adapt to climate change. For example the restoration of peatland can improve the carbon storage capacity and reduce incidents of flooding.



Enjoying the outdoors, Cunningar Loop, Rutherglen, South Lanarkshire

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

Policy	Key priorities
Sustainable Development Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products • Robust and reliable environmental data • Reduce air pollution • Provide safe, inclusive and accessible green public spaces and foster healthy lifestyles • Protect and safeguard South Lanarkshire’s cultural and natural heritage for future generations • Biodiversity conservation is an integral part of local development planning • Community-based participation in environmental management
Paris Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity • Conservation and protection of carbon sinks • Help natural systems adapt to changes in the climate • Use the natural environment to minimise the effects of climate change
Climate Change Plan (RPP3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater sequestration potential through increased canopy cover, woodland creation and restoration of degraded peatlands • Accessible open/greenspace canopy cover and woodlands contributing to improving people’s health and wellbeing
Climate Change Assessment Tool and Statutory Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the threats to biodiversity from a changing climate
Cleaner Air for Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local air quality action planning which includes measures that will provide co-benefits in terms of sustainability and carbon reduction • Biodiversity and ecosystem services can also be used to mitigate and adapt to climate change. For example the restoration of peatland can improve the carbon storage capacity and reduce incidents of flooding.



What has been done so far?

Highlights over the last five years

Greenspace and Biodiversity

Woodland Restoration at Chatelherault Country Park

Restoration of conifer plantation sites to ancient woodland is a national conservation priority and a key objective of South Lanarkshire Council's long term management plans for various sites. The woodlands at Chatelherault are an important component of the Clyde Valley Woodlands National Nature Reserve, and one of the most biodiverse natural habitats in Scotland. 18 hectares (6,500 tonnes of timber) of commercial plantation conifers have been removed from the west banks of the River Avon. Revenue generated from timber will be invested in vital improvements at the country park. The natural regeneration of native woodland will greatly improve biodiversity of the site.

A diversely structured native woodland with variable ground flora will slow the flow of water down steep gorges, helping to reduce flooding risk and protect soils. Over the long term, carbon will be captured and stored by trees and the associated woodland soils. This naturally functioning woodland will contribute to a valuable habitat network, aiding species resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

Returning Salmon to the River Avon

On the River Avon, two abandoned weirs: Ferniegair (Chatelherault Country Park) and Millheugh (close to Larkhall) were identified as high impact obstacles to the movement of species such as salmon. South Lanarkshire Council was one of a number of partners involved in constructing fish passes at these weirs, creating a navigable pathway for fish. The project was completed in October 2016, allowing fish to migrate upstream and access an additional 200km of waterways for spawning.

The improvement in water quality of this habitat network will result in multiple waterways supporting a more diverse and sustainable fish community that is more resilient to the effects of a changing climate.

Peatland Restoration

The council owns Langlands Moss Local Nature Reserve which is managed in partnership with the Friends of Langlands Moss (FOLM). The site is a small (20ha), largely intact area of lowland raised bog in south East Kilbride. The group has been carrying out conservation work on site for many years, and more recently in partnership with Butterfly Conservation's Bog Squad to install dams and remove trees. These works have helped to rewet parts of the moss helping to ensure that specialist bog species survive as well as improving the efficacy of the site as a carbon store and to help with reducing flood risk. The council has been awarded Peatland Action funding to carry out a feasibility study, to direct future management which will ensure the long term effectiveness of this important site.

Urban Greenspace

The council's Countryside and Greenspace Service work with various partners including community groups to regenerate and maintain the council's land assets, especially woodland and other natural open spaces. During the five years of the previous strategy the volunteer time invested in keeping these resources accessible and in good environmental condition has equated to £700,000. Over the same period, more than £800,000 of external funding has been invested in greenspace improvement.



Woodland restoration at Chatelherault Country Park, South Lanarkshire

Health and the environment

Outdoor Access – South Lanarkshire has over 775km of core paths (which are detailed in South Lanarkshire’s Core Path Plan), 1,180km of wider access network routes, and 114 km of core water based routes. Investment in maintaining, upgrading and extending the network of paths and tracks available for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders includes projects such as the completion of the South Lanarkshire section of the Glasgow to Carlisle National Cycle Network Route No.74 and the Clyde Walkway Community Links project where paths have been improved to link local communities with the Clyde Walkway.

Air Quality – In South Lanarkshire we generally have good and improving air quality. However, there are some localised air pollution hotspots in our towns. We have declared three air quality management areas in these hotspots (East Kilbride (Whirlies), Rutherglen and Lanark) which allows action planning to improve air quality to be developed and delivered.

- We have facilitated an air quality and active sustainable travel programme for schools. The programme has included classroom workshops, social marketing training and travel action days. The aim of the programme is to raise awareness of air quality issues and encourage active and sustainable travel among older school pupils and their family groups, particularly during the journey to school. To date approximately 3,400 pupils have participated in over 118 classroom sessions.
- We launched the ECO (Efficient and Cleaner Operations) Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme in 2015. The scheme is free and available to fleet operators within South Lanarkshire and is aimed at helping fleet operators improve efficiency, reduce fuel consumption and emissions as well as making cost savings. We have also joined the scheme as fleet operators and to date there are 101 scheme members including national and local operators. The scheme covers 5,481 vehicles which regularly operate in the South Lanarkshire area.
- Vehicle emission testing events as well as engine idling patrols which focus on school pickup times are undertaken on a regular basis. These events help support efficient vehicle emissions as well as encouraging behaviour change in terms of engine idling.

Vacant, derelict or contaminated land – Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 we have a responsibility to investigate our land area specifically to find and resolve contaminated land issues. Potential contaminated sites are investigated and remediated through the planning process which helps support sustainable development. To date 1,698 sites (29% of the total) have been, in whole or part, investigated and remediated.



Flooding – As part of the statutory duties within the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, the council has been involved in the production of Local Flood Risk Management Plans, part of a collaborative approach with other local authorities and other external stakeholders including the Scottish Government, SEPA and Scottish Water to manage flood risk in a sustainable manner. There are two Local Flood Risk Management Plans that cover the South Lanarkshire area: Clyde and Loch Lomond and Tweed.

Environmental Monitoring

South Lanarkshire's comprehensive State of the Environment report is produced every two years and was last updated in 2015. The Report provides an effective means of tracking changes in the local environment, ensuring that the council and partners have a clear understanding of its current condition and helps to promote awareness of local environmental pressures and priorities that need to be considered alongside local community issues and the economy.

Environmental Education

South Lanarkshire's 'State of the Environment' report has been made available as an interactive resource on 'GLOW', the online educational platform for schools. Pupils and staff can access data tables, charts and maps as well as other resources within the State of the Environment section on GLOW. In turn environmental data collated through their own research and experiments can be uploaded and will be used to influence future editions of the State of the Environment Report.

The Outdoor Learning Strategy was launched in 2015, which is aimed at taking the curriculum outdoors. Many of our schools now have outdoor learning provision within their grounds which include facilities such as outdoor classrooms, biodiversity areas, planters/plots for growing vegetables, orchards,

trim trails, nature trails and accessible wooded/wildflower areas. In addition, many teaching staff across South Lanarkshire have undergone accredited Forest School Training which allows them to lead teaching on woodland activity.

Partnership Working

The council works with many partners to deliver multiple benefits to communities from using the local environment. Here are a couple of examples of the many different partnerships we are involved in and what collaborative working can achieve.

The Lanarkshire Greenspace, Health and Wellbeing Partnership

The partnership was established in 2013 to build upon the growing evidence that physical exercise, especially in a natural environment, has a positive impact on physical and mental health. The Partnership supports a Walking Development Officer, who co-ordinates the Get Walking Lanarkshire initiative. Developing environmental volunteering remains a key partnership objective, with the council's Countryside and Greenspace continuing to run three successful, mental health focussed volunteering programmes with health and social care sector partners: Recover Through Nature (Phoenix Futures), Cadzow Crew (Lanarkshire Association for Mental Health) and Branching Out (Forestry Commission and NHS Lanarkshire).



Get Walking Lanarkshire

The Partnership connected with the national 'Our Natural Health Service Action Programme', during 2017, to become a 'Local Green Health Partnerships' which will co-ordinate action between the health, social care and the environmental sectors.

The action programme is led by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), working in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland, NHS Health Scotland and a range of other national and local organisations. The goal of Our Natural Health Service action programme is to instigate a step change in how the natural environment can be used to improve people's health

The Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership

The Clyde and Avon Valleys Landscape Partnership was established in 2011, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Over its six year lifespan, the Partnership has supported over 70 projects to conserve the built and natural heritage, increase community participation, improve access and develop learning and skills training. As lead partner, the council has benefitted greatly from capital investment in some of South Lanarkshire's key biodiversity, landscape and tourism assets, sharing of resources and expertise and greatly improved capacity for community participation and volunteer engagement.

Environmental Volunteering

Work has continued with environmental volunteers across South Lanarkshire to help improve parks, woodlands, walking routes and many other green places. Environmental volunteering can include 'Friends of' groups that look after their local woodlands; horticulture groups, health walk groups leading weekly walks, and practical conservation groups all of which have equated to over 12,100 volunteer days in the last four years.

Conservation Volunteering at South Haugh

South Haugh is an area of land, approximately 32 hectares, near the centre of Hamilton, bordered by the river Avon, the M74, Motherwell Road and the houses at Smithycroft. It is made up of a variety of habitats: ponds, riverbank, woodlands, meadows and public recreation land.

Over the last two years South Lanarkshire Council's Countryside and Greenspace team have worked with a number of local groups and individuals who have volunteered at South Haugh to restore and improve its natural heritage. The team supports volunteering in a number of ways such as running events and training courses; directly supporting groups to apply for funding for site improvements and running regular conservation work days.

From February 2014 to June 2016, the Countryside and Greenspace team have hosted 43 conservation action events which has resulted in a contribution of time by volunteers equal to 393 days. They have undertaken a wide variety of environmental volunteering activities including clearing paths, thinning trees and removing invasive plant species. The volunteers have also built and installed a number of benches, information boards and repaired a bird screen at one of the ponds.

Environmental volunteering not only improves the local environment but reconnects people with nature and provides health and wellbeing benefits and social and equality opportunities for people.



Volunteers working with the Countryside and Greenspace team to clear paths at South Haugh, Hamilton, South Lanarkshire

Strategic outcomes

In this section, we have set out our strategic outcomes and how we intend to achieve them.

Outcome 2.1:

South Lanarkshire's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected.

How can we achieve this?

- Continue to measure progress and report on the state of South Lanarkshire's environment
- Ensure our planning and land use policies protect and enhance the natural environment and ecosystem services
- Use our natural environment to help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Review and assess air quality throughout South Lanarkshire in line with our Air Quality Strategy
- Meet our statutory biodiversity duty by managing our own estate to enhance and protect biodiversity
- Contribute to South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership's action plan ensuring ecosystems are strengthened and used sustainably

Outcome 2.2:

South Lanarkshire's enhanced environment provides health and wellbeing benefits to local communities.

How can we achieve this?

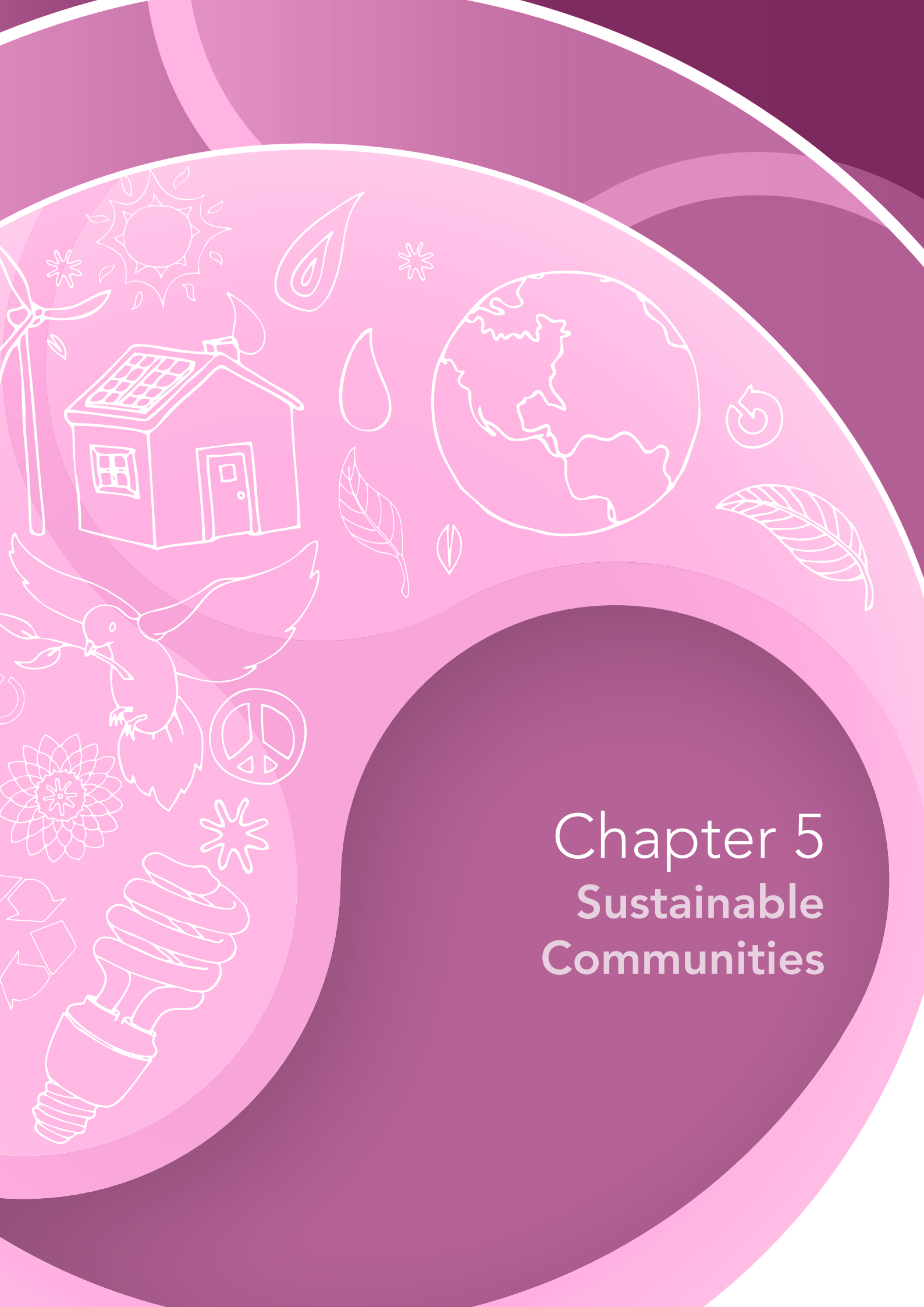
- Continue to develop the Greenspace Strategic Partnership to enable people to learn, play and be physically active outdoors in South Lanarkshire
- Work in partnership to develop and implement South Lanarkshire's Outdoor Access Strategy

- Continue to educate our young people about the local environment in which they live and encourage them to reduce the impacts they have upon it
- Provide environmental volunteering opportunities and support community groups to manage local environmental projects

Sustainable Environment key strategies and plans:

There are a number of key strategies and plans that will help us achieve the intended outcomes in this theme. These include:

- Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan
- Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan
- Contaminated Land Strategy
- Core Paths Plan
- The Council Plan Connect
- Flood Risk Management Plans
- Open Space Strategy
- Local Transport Strategy
- Local Development Plan and Statutory Supplementary Guidance
- Outdoor Access Strategy
- South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy
- South Lanarkshire Council Invasive Species Strategy



Chapter 5

Sustainable Communities

Chapter 5 – Sustainable Communities

Sustainable communities can be described as places in which people want to live, now and in the future; improving the quality of life for all whilst safeguarding the environment for future generations.

This theme is about the action the council takes, solely or in partnership, to enable people in South Lanarkshire to live within environmental limits whilst ensuring strong, healthy and just communities and help to achieve a sustainable local economy. There are many areas in which the council's policies and actions can make it easier for people to live more sustainably.

Statutory duties set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act, 2009 require us to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions not just from our own services, but across the wider community as well. The statutory duties also require us to support communities increase resilience to climate change impacts and to mitigate against the potential for climate change to increase health and social inequalities. We can contribute to action on climate change through our policies, powers and partnership activities.

- The waste management services we provide enable householders to recycle more of what they throw away and so help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfill sites. Recycling helps reduce demand for new raw materials, the energy needed to process them and the environmental impact on the natural environments where they are sourced. Increased awareness of the impact of waste can hopefully encourage people to be less wasteful in their everyday lives.
- The council is investing in the energy efficiency of homes to help reduce fuel poverty and minimise the costs to householders using a range of available funding mechanisms. Lowering wasted energy to heat homes will help achieve further reductions in South Lanarkshire's greenhouse gas emissions.

- Enhancing active travel within our communities is a key focus for the council. Work is ongoing to improve the cycling infrastructure and to date there are over 750km of paths for walking and cycling within the area, and over 250km of signed cycle routes. The cycle network has also been extended with the construction of new schemes, including the recent completion of National Cycling Network (NCN) Route 74 through South Lanarkshire linking Glasgow and Gretna via Uddingston, Hamilton, Larkhall, Stonehouse, Kirkmuirhill and Lesmahagow, and NCN Route 756, which connects East Kilbride to Glasgow.



Making use of South Lanarkshire's cycle routes

- How we plan for new developments has a significant impact on the transport needs of local communities. It can promote a shift towards walking, cycling or use of public transport systems and away from a reliance on private cars to access jobs, services and recreation opportunities.
- The council also has a role in supporting communities and local businesses to be ready for, and benefit from, Scotland's transition to a low carbon economy.
- We will continue to work with partners and local communities to increase resilience against the impacts of climate change and to benefit from any opportunities and minimise the impacts of climate change widening the gap in health and social inequalities

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

Policy	Key priorities
Sustainable Development Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into local development planning • Help build resilience of our communities to the effects of climate change • Ensure learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development • Invest in energy efficient buildings, renewable energy sources and help tackle fuel poverty • Promote active travel, the use of public transport and electric vehicles • Discourage engine idling and promote ongoing vehicle maintenance • Provide communities with facilities for waste management • Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all • Equip local communities with the knowledge and tools to reduce their environmental footprint • Engage with local communities on environmental sustainable development and climate change action
Paris Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council policies, plans and strategies will help reduce carbon emissions in the South Lanarkshire area • Work with communities to build resilience and decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change • Collaboration with partners on climate change adaptation
Climate Change Plan (RPP3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation programmes across council housing - Improving the energy efficiency of homes will also improve health outcomes • Adopt circular economy principles in construction and make greater use of green infrastructure in council housing • Enhance the capacity of the electric vehicle charging network, promote the uptake of ultra low emission vehicles and consider urban-wide low emission zones – lower emissions from transport will help reduce air pollution and improve health • Further infrastructure improvements in favour of walking and cycling
Climate Change Assessment Tool and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local infrastructure and local communities are resilient to adapt to the impacts of climate change
Fairer Scotland Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling fuel poverty by providing warm homes that are affordable to heat



What has been achieved so far?

Highlights from the previous strategy

Transport

South Lanarkshire's Local Transport Strategy was revised in 2013 and includes policies which address climate change issues including flood risk management and sustainable travel options. South Lanarkshire's first cycling strategy was also published providing details of projects to promote and encourage more cycling in the area.

Excellent progress has been achieved in delivering improvements to cycling infrastructure across South Lanarkshire. One of the projects completed during the previous sustainable development strategy was the final section of the National Cycling Network 74 route from Lesmahagow to Happendon. The completion of this final section now allows cyclists to travel on a direct route from Glasgow to Gretna. In 2014 the first South Lanarkshire Cycling Partnership was established to promote and progress cycling issues within the area.

There are now 58 electric vehicle charging posts covering 98 bays across South Lanarkshire which encourages the use of electric vehicles in line with the Scottish Government's commitment to complete decarbonisation of the road transport sector by 2050. In order to achieve this goal it will mean moving away from the current dependence on fossil-fuelled vehicles. Locations of electric charging points in South Lanarkshire can be found using 'Locate it'.



Electric charging points

We have used secured funding through Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Sustrans and Paths for All as well as air quality grants to support an ongoing initiative aimed at increasing active sustainable travel across South Lanarkshire. There are many health and environmental benefits to be gained from choosing more active and sustainable means of travel. The initiative has involved a promotional campaign with adverts, posters, leaflets, online articles and social media promotion of cycling and walking.

A review of the walking and cycling information available on South Lanarkshire Council's website was undertaken. Signposts to useful online walking and cycling resources were added. Between June 2016 and June 2017 these pages received 6,341 page views with an increasing trend observed from late January 2017 which coincides with increased promotion of the campaign.

Land use and housing

The council has invested significant resources in its 25,000 homes to bring them up to the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS), significantly improving the sustainability of council homes.

The average energy efficiency rating across council housing has increased and the improvements are estimated to save households around £40 per year on fuel bills. As a result of this investment the total lifetime reduction of carbon emissions is projected to be over 100,000 tonnes.

Through the Homes Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland (HEEPS) and other schemes, the council has attracted over £15million external funding for improving energy efficiency in private homes.

Local Development Plan

We adopted the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan (LDP) in June 2015 and it runs until 2020. The LDP sets out a land use planning framework for South Lanarkshire which seeks to ensure that future development takes place in a sustainable way. It is supported by a suite of ten Statutory Supplementary Guidance (SG) documents which contain detailed policies and guidance on a range of topics including Sustainable Development and Climate Change, Natural and Historic Environment, Green Networks and Greenspace and Renewable Energy Development. Work has commenced on LDP2 which will update the policies in LDP1. It is proposed that the adopted Minerals Local Development Plan be amalgamated into LDP2 with separate statutory SG on Minerals being produced.

Climate change adaptation

The local development plan and associated sustainable development climate change supplementary guidance includes policies and advice that helps address land use issues arising from the impact of climate change. The policies and advice from the LDP and SG will help ensure:

- New developments are adaptable to withstand more extreme weather, including prolonged wet or dry periods
- The development and promotion of local green infrastructure to support local biodiversity (such as green corridors)
- The use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to reduce flood risk and improve watercourse water quality
- Identifying opportunities for blue/green infrastructure to reduce flood risk and improve watercourse water quality
- The promotion of landscaping and natural shading to cool spaces during hotter periods

When assessing new developments we consider the probability of flooding from all sources and utilise the latest climate change projections² to ensure that development only takes place on current or future flood plains where it will not affect the ability of the flood plain to store and convey water, where the development will not be at risk of flooding and where the development will not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. We also use the latest climate change projections when undertaking Flood Studies, Surface Water Management Plans or Flood Protection Schemes, to assess if our assets are able to cope with the demands of future rainfall patterns.

(2) South Lanarkshire Council currently use the information from the UKCP09 climate projections to plan and adapt for future changes in climate. Once the UKCP18 data is released we will use this updated information.

Climate Ready Clyde

The council is a member of Climate Ready Clyde which is a cross-sector initiative bringing partners together to work strategically to minimise the risks and seize the opportunities climate change brings for the economy, society and environment in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. The aim of the initiative is that people and communities will benefit from actions to adapt to climate change, that adaptation helps secure existing investment and generates new opportunities, and protects the area's natural environment and uses it to help adapt to climate change.

Running from 2016-2019, it is leading development and co-ordination of a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. Alongside this, it provides capacity building and support, as well as new evidence and climate change leadership. It is funded by Scottish Government and 11 local partners, including healthcare providers, Universities, transport providers and Local Authorities.



Waste management and recycling

We have created greener waste collection services for households across South Lanarkshire, including food and garden waste collection and the extension of our recycling services to flats. As a result, 49.8% of household waste was recycled in 2015-16 compared to 37.7% in 2012-13. In 2015, we won the Scottish Green Apple Gold Award for environmental best practice in waste management.



Waste collection services



Community Involvement

All schools within South Lanarkshire are engaged with eco schools or similar programmes. The aim of the eco schools programme is to make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of the school for both pupils and for staff and to engage the wider community. Over 40% of our schools have achieved the internationally recognised symbol of excellence in Sustainable Development Education - the Green Flag – demonstrating their good work in protecting, respecting and enhancing the environment and reducing their school's carbon footprint.

Climate Challenge Fund

Community groups in South Lanarkshire have received grants through the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) to tackle climate change by running projects that reduce local carbon emissions. The CCF has supported projects involving energy efficiency improvements to community owned buildings, home energy efficiency advice, lower carbon travel options, community growing initiatives and schemes to tackle waste. Some of the projects funded in South Lanarkshire through the CCF have included:

- Bike Town, run by Healthy n Happy Community Development Trust
- Passback and Blantyre Bikes Better both run by Blantyre Soccer Academy
- The Healthy n Happy Community Hub Eco Project, run by Healthy n Happy Community Development Trust
- Revolve Recycling, run by Lightburn Elderly Association Project

Local community engagement

The council has facilitated a series of air quality and active travel workshops funded from Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) and Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) grant programmes. The bespoke workshops have involved pupils from Primary 4, 5 and 6 from various schools across South Lanarkshire and have focused on awareness of air quality issues, the benefits of active and sustainable travel and related issues such as car parking and engine idling near schools. The workshops were mainly classroom based however did include supporting activities such as homework exercises and take-home information.

Following the workshops, two separate projects were undertaken consisting of more focussed activities, allowing whole schools to participate, with parents and carers being encouraged to travel by active/sustainable modes on the day. Pupils delivered presentations on air quality, active travel and engine idling, and distributed air quality and active travel information leaflets (which they designed) to their families, friends and the wider community.

Going forward it is hoped that we can continue to secure funding for these workshops engaging pupils in tackling air pollution in South Lanarkshire, helping them understand how their families' travel choices could help reduce these problems, and ultimately encouraging a change in travel behaviour toward choices other than the private car.



Long Calderwood Primary School, East Kilbride taking part in the air quality and active travel workshops



Strategic outcomes

In this section, we have set out our strategic outcomes and how we intend to achieve them.

Outcome 3.1:

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

How can we achieve this?

- Explore options for innovative and affordable low carbon energy and heating solutions in local areas that will contribute towards national climate change ambitions
- Continue to invest in energy efficiency measures in council homes including improvements to the fabric of the building, installation of affordable low carbon heating and the use of renewable technologies
- Work in partnership to provide advice and support to local communities to help increase energy efficiency at home and minimise fuel poverty
- Increase focus on sustainability for new developments through innovative design and delivery, using natural resources and environmentally-responsible building materials, and incorporating low carbon energy solutions
- Incorporate inclusive and sustainable place-making principles into the design and delivery of area-based housing development projects and programmes

Outcome 3.2:

The council's strategies, plans and policies support communities to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate

How can we achieve this?

- Continue to divert waste from landfill by providing and encouraging the effective use of household waste management services across South Lanarkshire
- Work in partnership to help build resilience in local communities and mitigate against the potential increase of health and social inequalities from the impacts of climate change
- Work in partnership to ensure that local infrastructure is resilient to the impacts of climate change and seek opportunities for including blue-green infrastructure to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles across South Lanarkshire
- Help to reduce vehicle emissions and congestion and connect communities by improving infrastructure in favour of, and integration between, walking, cycling and using public transport
- Work in partnership to support and encourage sustainable travel choices for people within South Lanarkshire, with emphasis on walking and cycling promoting a healthier lifestyle
- Ensure that opportunities for environmental benefits are realised through our procurement practices and externally funded programmes such as the renewable energy fund and developers' contributions
- Support renewable energy generation across South Lanarkshire helping to reduce the area's carbon emissions and promote economic growth
- Encourage sustainable production and consumption in the business community and support the growth of a low carbon industry in South Lanarkshire

Outcome 3.3:

Local communities are supported in taking action to be more environmentally responsible

How can we achieve this?

- Support communities to access funding for environmentally sustainable projects or action on climate change
- Communicate and engage with communities on environmental and climate change issues empowering further local action
- Support local communities to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Embed sustainability and climate change in the school curriculum and continuing to engage young people in environmental education through eco schools and similar programmes
- Work in partnership to provide the appropriate skills required for employment opportunities in the low carbon and renewable energy industry
- Develop and implement policies which supports sustainable tourism, creating jobs and promoting local culture and products

Sustainable Environment key strategies and plans:

There are a number of key strategies and plans that will help us achieve the intended outcomes in this theme. These include:

- Air Quality Strategy
- Cycling Strategy
- The Council Plan Connect
- Energy Management Framework
- Lanarkshire Tourism Action Plan
- Local Housing Strategy
- Local Transport Strategy
- Local Development Plan and Statutory Supplementary Guidance
- Outdoor Access Strategy
- Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Local Flood Risk Management Plans (Clyde and Loch Lomond and Tweed)





Chapter 6

Measuring, monitoring and reporting

Chapter 6 – Implementation, monitoring and reporting

How will we deliver our strategy?

Sustainable development is part of our approach to best value and should inform how we deliver all our services. Therefore, we will integrate the actions from the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy into the council's annual Resource and Service Plans.

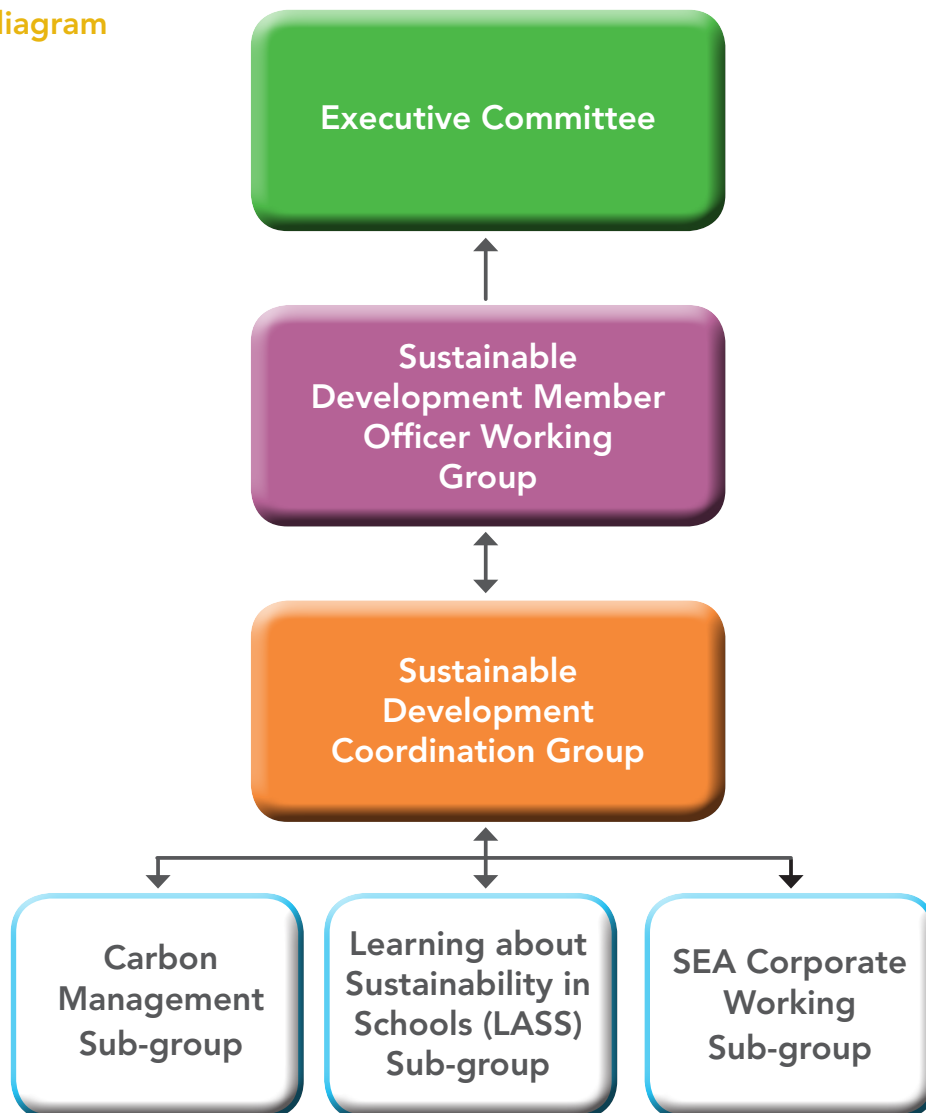
A table of how we intend to deliver our strategy is attached at Appendix 3. This is the framework we will use to agree and review the strategy's actions and measures with our Services on an annual basis. The annual action plan will be published on the council's website.

The responsibility for implementing the strategy rests with the sustainable

development member officer group reporting to the Executive Committee. The group is chaired by an elected member and includes two other elected members. The Chief Executive, the Executive Director of Community and Enterprise Resources and Executive Director of Housing and Technical Resources also sit on the group (as outlined in the diagram below).

An Officer's Coordination Group drawn from all Council Resources and led by the council's Sustainable Development Officer supports the work of the member officer group, making recommendations and developing work programmes.

Governance diagram



How we will monitor and report on our Strategy

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

Actions will be monitored quarterly using the council's performance management software system 'IMPROVe' and progress will be reported at least twice a year through the council's committee structures. Progress reports will also be made available to the public on the council's website.

We aim to improve the way the council's approach to sustainable development is reported to make it more accessible and transparent. The council also publishes annual public performance reports; a copy of the sustainable development public performance report can be found on our website: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200173/council_performance/1478/performance_at_a_glance/20

As well as reporting on actions, there are a number of specific measures which will be used to help assess the overall success of our approach in relation to each strategy theme. These will be collated through our Outcome Monitoring Plan and reported in the annual review of the strategy. Key measures for each theme are attached at appendix 4.

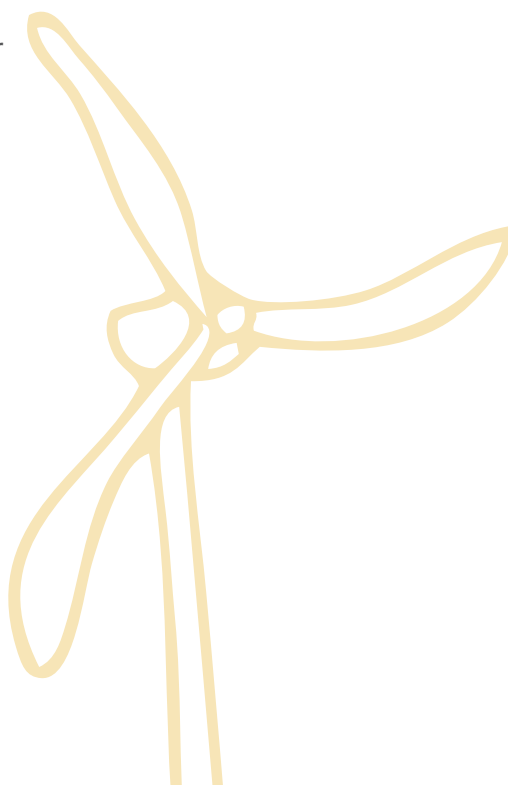
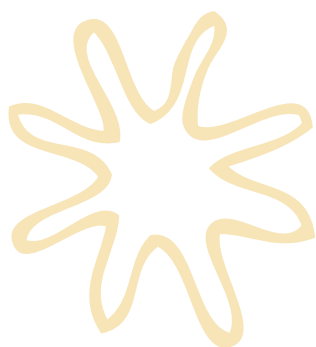
Climate Change Duties Statutory Reporting

We will continue to report progress on our sustainable development and climate change outcomes to the public through various methods of communication including our website, news articles, and social media.

We also have a statutory requirement, as part of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, to annually report our climate change duties compliance to the Scottish Government. Our annual climate change duties report is available on our website.

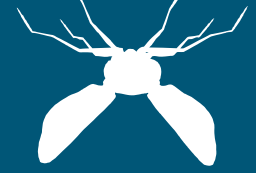
South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report

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





Appendices



Appendix 1 Environmental Statement

Sustainable Development

South Lanarkshire Council has broad ranging responsibilities spanning economic, social and environmental issues. It is important that we find a balance between all three issues to safeguard the wellbeing of future generations both locally and globally; this balancing is referred to as sustainable development.

Sustainable development, which is a priority for the council, is about

achieving economic and social development in a way that also enables us to protect and enhance our environment both now and for the future.

Our Sustainable Development Strategy focuses on the environmental aspects of sustainable development to complement our other strategies for social and economic development.

Our Environmental Commitment

This 'Environmental Statement' sets out the council's environmental commitments as detailed in this sustainable development and climate change strategy. The Environmental Statement is relevant to all staff as everyone has a part to play in being sustainable, and protecting and enhancing the environment both locally and globally.

Environmental Statement

Communication

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



- We will promote the importance of the local environment in which our young people live and encourage them to reduce the impacts they have upon it.



Resource efficiency

- We will improve resource efficiency, including our use of water, energy and raw materials.
- We will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and promote the use of renewable energy sources.



Education

- We will continue to educate our young people about the environment through the Curriculum for Excellence and help them learn the skills they will need in a low carbon economy.

Waste

- We will promote the reduction of waste produced and encourage the re-use and recycling of materials.



Procurement

- We will aim to procure goods and service in a sustainable manner and contribute to the transition of a circular economy. We will also encourage our suppliers to adopt similar environmental principles



Travel

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



Protect the physical environment, biodiversity and greenspace

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



Climate Change

- We will work in partnership in response to the national targets to reduce the council's carbon emissions and those for the South Lanarkshire area.
- We will minimise the effects of climate change on our service delivery and work in partnership to ensure that local infrastructure and local communities are resilient to adapt to the impacts of climate change and minimise the impacts of climate change widening the gap in health and social inequalities.



Delivering our statutory requirements

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



Appendix 2 – Consultation and statutory assessments

Consultation and engagement

In preparing the Strategy we held engagement and consultation sessions using a set of sustainability questions designed to help understand people's attitudes and perceptions to environmental issues in their local area.

- An internal consultation was carried out for all our employees to gain their views and ideas
- Discussion sessions were held with young people in local schools and colleges to hear their views on how decisions made by the council affects their lives now and in their future
- A stakeholder consultation was conducted to understand local needs and priorities

We received considerable feedback during the engagement and consultation sessions and we would like to thank everyone who contributed. The strategy has been strengthened as result of the feedback we have received.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

We have carried out an SEA screening of the draft Strategy. The statutory Consultation Authorities (Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage) agreed with our determination that a full SEA was not required for the Strategy.

It is considered that no new significant environmental effects would be identified through the preparation and implementation of this strategy beyond that already taken account of in the full SEA of the previous Sustainable Development Strategy. In preparing this Strategy, full cognisance of this SEA has been taken.

Equalities

Reducing inequalities and creating opportunities is a key goal of sustainable development and is reflected in the United Nation's new global Sustainable Development Goals. This strategy has been developed using the principle of equality for all as it cuts across all three themes and indeed the work of the council.

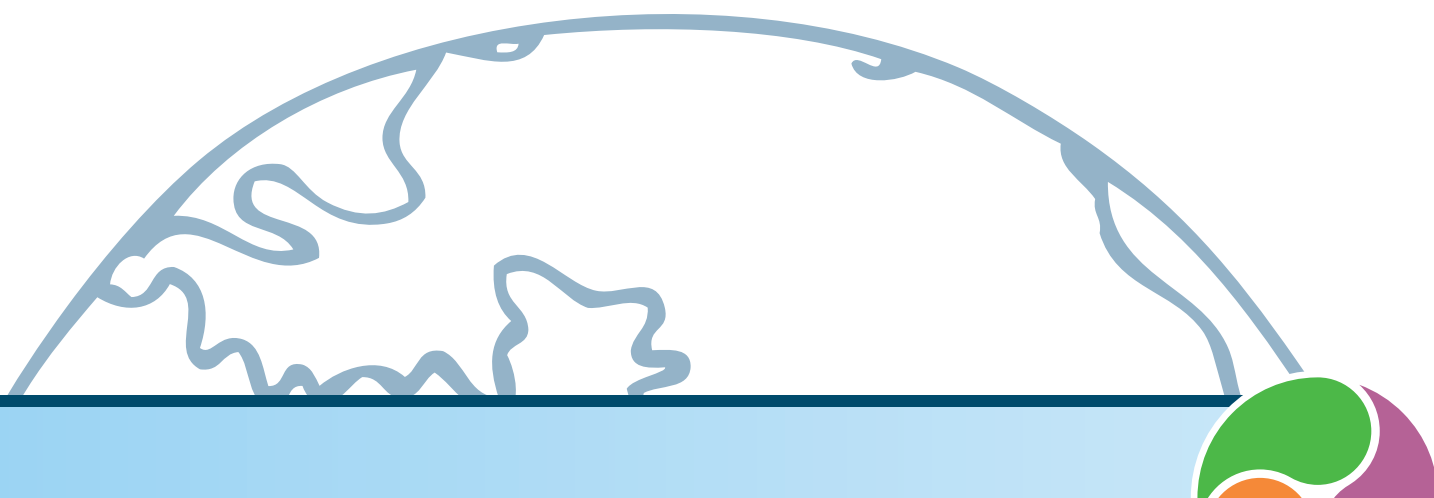
The impacts of climate change on communities and individuals has the potential to widen the gap on health and social inequalities therefore the strategy will include action to work in partnership to mitigate against this.

Our corporate commitment to equality is contained in the council's mainstreaming equalities report and the equalities outcomes it sets out. The report outlines our whole organisation's approach to meeting the general duties contained in the Equality Act (2010) to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations in relation to the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, gender and sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and marriage and civil partnership.

An equalities and human rights impact assessment is currently being undertaken to assess the impact of the strategy on people living, working and visiting South Lanarkshire. This will be available on the council's website.

Appendix 3 – Summary of strategic outcomes and how we intend to achieve them

Theme	Outcome	How we intend to achieve outcomes
Sustainable Council	The council's carbon emissions are managed and reduced	Implement our Carbon Management Plan to reduce the council's carbon footprint in line with the Scottish Government's targets
		Continue to implement energy efficiency measures across council facilities including investment in renewable and low carbon energy solutions
		Implement measures within the council's fleet to contribute to the Scottish Government's ambition of the decarbonisation of road transport
		Continue to improve the efficiency of our business travel and promote more sustainable travel options for employees
	The council is environmentally responsible in the procurement, use and disposal of resources	Continue to develop procurement processes to improve environmental outcomes and ensure compliance with the council's sustainable procurement duty
		Create a culture of resource efficiency in the workplace
		Maximise the use of environmentally responsible materials and reduce, reuse and recycle construction waste in new and refurbished council facilities
	The public sector climate change duties are further embedded in service delivery and partnership working	Demonstrate leadership and further develop partnership approaches in sustainable development and climate change action
		Ensure that sustainable development and climate change is used as a guiding principle in council plans, policies and strategies and these incorporate environmental considerations
		Take account of the public sector climate change duties (mitigation, adaptation and acting sustainably) when making decisions about the use of our assets and capital investment in our estate
		Continue to raise awareness of sustainable development and the business impacts of climate change with our employees and develop the skills required across the council to influence and adapt to change



Theme	Outcome	How we intend to achieve outcomes
Sustainable Environment	South Lanarkshire's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected	Review and assess air quality throughout South Lanarkshire in line with our Air Quality Strategy
		Ensure our planning and land use policies protect and enhance the natural environment and ecosystem services
		Continue to measure progress and report on the state of South Lanarkshire's environment
		Meet our statutory biodiversity duty by implementing our Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan which will enhance and protect biodiversity through managing our own estate
		Contribute to South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership's action plan ensuring ecosystems are used sustainably and strengthened
		Use our natural environment to help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change
	South Lanarkshire's enhanced environment provides health and wellbeing benefits to local communities	Continue to develop the Greenspace Strategic Partnership to enable people to learn, play and be physically active outdoors in South Lanarkshire
		Work in partnership to develop and implement South Lanarkshire's Outdoor Access Strategy
		Continue to educate our young people about the local environment in which they live and encourage them to reduce the negative impacts they have upon it
		Provide environmental volunteering opportunities and support community groups to manage local environmental projects
Sustainable Communities	Homes and communities are energy efficient, environmentally sustainable, and fuel poverty is minimised	Explore options for innovative and affordable low carbon energy and heating solutions in local areas that will contribute towards national climate change ambitions
		Continue to invest in energy efficiency measures in council homes including improvements to the fabric of the building, installation of affordable low carbon heating and the use of renewable technologies
		Work in partnership to provide advice and support to local communities to help increase energy efficiency at home and minimise fuel poverty
		Increase focus on sustainability for new developments through innovative design and delivery, using natural resources and environmentally-responsible building materials, and incorporating low carbon energy solutions
		Incorporate inclusive and sustainable place-making principles into the design and delivery of area-based housing development projects and programmes



Theme	Outcome	How we intend to achieve outcomes
Sustainable Communities	That council's strategies, plans and policies support communities to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate	Work in partnership to help build resilience in local communities and mitigate against the potential increase of health and social inequalities from the impacts of climate change
		Work in partnership to ensure that local infrastructure is resilient to the impacts of climate change and seek opportunities for including blue-green infrastructure to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change
		Work in partnership to ensure that local infrastructure and local communities are resilient to adapt to the impacts of climate change
		Encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles across South Lanarkshire
		Help to reduce vehicle emissions and congestion and connect our communities through infrastructure improvement projects in favour of, and integration between, walking, cycling and using public transport
		Work in partnership to support and encourage sustainable travel choices for people within South Lanarkshire, with emphasis on walking and cycling promoting a healthier lifestyle
		Ensure that opportunities for environmental benefits are realised through our procurement practices and externally funded programmes such as renewable energy fund and developers' contributions
		Supporting renewable energy generation across South Lanarkshire helping to reduce the area's carbon emissions and promote economic growth
		Encourage sustainable production and consumption in the business community and support the growth of a low carbon industry in South Lanarkshire
	Local communities are supported in taking action to be more environmentally responsible	Support communities to access funding for environmentally sustainable projects or action on climate change
		Communicate and engage with communities on environmental and climate change mitigation and adaptation issues empowering further local action
		Support local communities to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change
		Embed sustainability and climate change in the school curriculum and continue to engage young people in environmental education through eco schools and similar programmes
		Work in partnership to provide the appropriate skills required for employment opportunities in the low carbon and renewable energy industry
		Devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products



Appendix 4 – Monitoring Table

Theme	Measures
Sustainable Council	• Council greenhouse gas emissions relative to 2005/06 baseline
	• Energy consumption in council buildings
	• Carbon emissions related to council transport
	• Building energy performance ratings achieved for new buildings
	• Percentage of recycled materials used in construction of new buildings
	• Number of employees who have received training in sustainable development issues
	• Employee awareness of, and attitude to, sustainable development and climate change policies (council employee survey)
	• Percentage public satisfaction with the council's response to climate change (council wide satisfaction survey)
	• Mileage travelled by electric fleet vehicles
	• Self-evaluation results using the Climate Change Assessment Tool
	• 'Five steps to managing your climate risks' tool
	• Number of risk assessments for climate vulnerability
Sustainable Environment	• Percentage of adult residents normally taking visits to the outdoors at least once per week (Scottish Recreation Survey)
	• Figures from walking/cycling counters in South Lanarkshire
	• Number of environmental volunteer days
	• Number of formally constituted community groups working with the council to manage local greenspace and/or path networks
	• Number of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)
	• Area of South Lanarkshire Council land managed specifically for biodiversity e.g. wildflower areas/long grass management
	• Sites removed from the Vacant Derelict land register due to a biodiversity friendly end use e.g. woodland
	• Sites/area of land managed in partnership with communities where biodiversity is part of the project e.g. community woodland regeneration
	• Number of teaching staff trained in leading outdoor learning
	• Air Quality monitoring levels
	• Number of properties prone to flooding
	• South Lanarkshire 'State of the Environment' report



Theme	Measures
Sustainable Communities	• South Lanarkshire area wide greenhouse gas emissions
	• South Lanarkshire wide household energy consumption
	• Installed capacity of domestic renewable generation
	• Percentage of council houses which meet ESSHH
	• South Lanarkshire recycling rate for domestic waste
	• Tonnage of domestic waste produced per household
	• Amount of funding invested in domestic energy efficiency measures
	• Percentage of adults travelling to work or education by active or public transport (Scottish Household Survey)
	• Percentage mode share of children travelling to school by active or public transport using data (annual national 'Hands Up' survey)
	• The number of electric vehicle charging bays available to the public in South Lanarkshire
	• The public sector climate change duties annual statutory report
	• Involvement in the eco schools and related programmes
	• Total funding awarded within South Lanarkshire from the Scottish climate challenge fund



Appendix 5 – Definitions and links

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

Air pollution – occurs when harmful substances including particulates and biological molecules are introduced into Earth's atmosphere.

Air quality – the degree to which the air in a particular place is pollution-free.

Air Quality Management Area – where a local authority finds places where the national air quality objectives are not likely to be achieved, it must declare an Air Quality Management Area there. This area could be just one or two streets, or it could be much bigger.

Best value – a framework to help local authorities ensure the delivery of better, more responsive public services through continuous improvement and ensuring that they are of the highest quality at a cost which is acceptable to their local communities.

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

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

Biomass – a renewable energy source from organic materials that can be burned and used as a source of fuel. Wood being the main source of biomass such as saw-dust or any type of waste from wood is processed to make wood-pellets and used as fuel for wood pellet boilers and stoves.

Boiler optimisers – technology works with existing boiler controls by using self learning intelligence that can determine if and when a boiler should fire and for how long.

Built environment – surroundings that are built by humans, that is, distinguished from the natural environment.

Canopy cover – the total ground area covered by the vertical projection of tree crowns (small openings in the crown are included) i.e. trees and large shrub masses from a bird's eye view.

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

Carbon emissions – the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time.

Carbon footprint – a measurement of the amount of carbon dioxide produced by the activities of a person, company, organisation, country or the planet.

Carbon management – monitoring and measuring an organisation's carbon emissions and developing initiatives to reduce them through an agreed action plan.

Carbon sequestration – is a natural or artificial process by which carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere and held in solid or liquid form.

Carbon sinks – a forest, ocean, or other natural environment viewed in terms of its ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Circular economy – is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.

Climate challenge fund – a fund launched by the Scottish Government to help community groups tackle climate change by running projects to reduce their carbon footprint. For further information see the 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' website www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org

Climate change – a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.

Climate change adaptation – actions or changes required in anticipation of, or in response to, the impacts of a changing climate.

Climate change duties – The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 places duties on public bodies relating to climate change which requires them to: contribute to carbon emissions reduction targets; contribute to climate change adaptation; and to act sustainably.

Climate change mitigation – limiting the extent of future climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions now and in the future. It can also mean removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, for example by planting more trees or restoring peat bogs (carbon sinks).

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

Climate Ready Clyde – bringing together organisations across all sectors to address the climate change adaptation challenges facing Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. For further information see Adaptation Scotland's website www.adaptationscotland.org.uk

Community planning – the process through which public sector organisations work together and with local communities and the voluntary sector, to identify and solve local problems, improve services and share resources.

Cultural heritage – the legacy of physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.

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

Cycle to Work Scheme – this is a UK Government tax exemption initiative to promote healthier journeys to work and to reduce environmental pollution. It allows employers to loan cycles and cyclists' safety equipment to employees as a tax-free benefit.



Decarbonisation – the reduction or removal of carbon dioxide from energy sources.

Dr Bike – a service aimed at organisations that require a mechanic to come to their workplace/community and carry out basic bicycle servicing.

Earth Hour – an annual global event dedicated to heightening awareness of climate change. It is an hour in which people are invited to show their commitment to caring for the planet by switching off all non-essential lights and electrical appliances.

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

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

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

ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme – a free scheme that aims to help fleet operators improve efficiency, reduce fuel consumption and emissions and make cost savings.

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

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

Energy efficiency – a goal to reduce the amount of energy required to provide products and services. It is achieved primarily by means of a more efficient technology or use.

Environmental footprint – the impact of human activities measured in terms of the area of biologically productive land and water required to produce the goods consumed and to assimilate the wastes generated.

Environmental performance – the measurable outcome of an organisation’s ability to meet environmental objectives and targets set out in the organisation’s environmental plan or policy.

Environmentally responsible materials – those that make optimal use of resources, produce minimum waste and are safe for the environment and people.

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

Essential cycling skills – training provided through Cycling Scotland to help boost the confidence of those new to or returning to cycling and give them the necessary skills to negotiate on-road journeys.

Fleet – is a number of vehicles under the control of an organisation.

Flora – the plants of a particular region, habitat, or geological period.

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

Forest School – offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.

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

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

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

GLOW – online community for Scottish schools.

Global risk – an occurrence that causes significant negative impact for several countries and industries.

Green corridors – is a thin strip of land that provides sufficient habitat to support wildlife, often within an urban environment, thus allowing the movement of wildlife along it. Common green corridors include railway embankments, river banks and roadside grass verges.

Greenhouse gases – gases that stop heat escaping from the earth's atmosphere ensuring that the planet is warm enough to sustain life. Human activity has increased the emission of greenhouse gases contributing to global warming (e.g. Carbon Dioxide).

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

Habitats – the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.

Habitat network – a configuration of habitat that allows species to move and disperse through a landscape.

Homes Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland (HEEPS) – is the Scottish Government initiative to tackle fuel poverty and increase energy efficiency in homes.

IMPROVe – the council's system for managing and reporting performance.

Industrial revolution – the rapid development of industry that occurred in Britain in the late 18th and 19th centuries, brought about by the introduction of machinery.

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

LED lighting – stands for "Light-Emitting Diode." An LED is an electronic device that emits light when an electrical current is passed through it. LEDs are energy efficient and have a long lifespan. The energy efficient nature of LEDs allows them to produce brighter light than other types of bulbs while using less energy.

Local development planning – planning for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community.

Local Food Risk Management Plan – Scotland has been separated into 14 Local Plan Districts for flood risk management purposes. These districts are based on river catchments and coastal areas which cross administrative and institutional boundaries.

Low carbon – causing or resulting in only a relatively small net release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Low carbon economy – an economy that produces goods and services of increasing value while reducing the associated carbon dioxide in their production, use and disposal.



Low carbon energy / heating – energy or heating that comes from processes or technologies that produce power with substantially lower amounts of carbon dioxide emissions than is emitted from conventional fossil fuel power generation.

Low carbon industry – manufacturers of low carbon technologies.

Low carbon future / society / Scotland – a future, society or Country, that has economic growth while ensuring minimal carbon emissions. This may involve the deployment of low carbon technologies and changes to social behaviours and lifestyles.

Low emission zones – a defined area where access by some polluting vehicles is restricted or deterred with the aim of improving the air quality.

Lowland raised peat bog – a bog which rises in height over time as a result of peat formation.

National nature reserve – is a protected area of importance for wildlife, flora, fauna or features of geological or other special interest, which is reserved and managed for conservation and to provide special opportunities for study or research.

Natural capital – the world's stocks of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things. It is from this natural capital that humans derive a wide range of services, often called ecosystem services, which make human life possible.

Natural heritage – inherited habitats, species, ecosystems, geology and landforms, including those in and under water, to which people attach value.

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

Objectives – a goal / target.

Our Natural Health Service – the use of the natural environment (parks, woodlands and other green spaces) as part of an holistic approach to health and social care.

Outcome – desired end result following action.

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

Paths for All – a partnership of organisations committed to promoting walking for health and the development of multi-use path networks in Scotland.

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

Photovoltaic – the method used to convert sunlight into electricity (i.e. solar power).

Place-making – is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces.

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

Renewable energy generation – energy which comes from natural resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, and geothermal (thermal energy generated and stored in the Earth).

Resource efficiency – maximising of the supply of money, materials, staff, and other assets in order to function effectively, with minimum wasted (natural) resource expenses. It means using the Earth's limited resources in a sustainable manner while minimising environmental impact.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) – Scotland's environmental regulator and national flood forecasting, flood warning and strategic flood risk management authority. Its main role is to protect and improve Scotland's environment.

Scottish Green Apple Awards – an annual campaign to recognise, reward and promote environmental best practice.

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

Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) – grant scheme to support behaviour change initiatives to increase active and sustainable travel.

Social development – social development is about improving the wellbeing of citizens and communities and creating the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential.

Social progress – is the on-going process moving towards the goal of social development.

South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership – the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership is a group of organisations who wish to further biodiversity in the area and work together to deliver the South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

South Lanarkshire Sustainability Partnership – facilitate and coordinate joint action by partners allowing people to enjoy the benefits of a sustainable South Lanarkshire.

Staff competencies – knowledge, skills, abilities and personal attributes that contribute to enhance employee performance and ultimately result in organisational success.

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

State of the Environment Report – provides information on the different aspects of South Lanarkshire's environment. A copy of the report can be found on the council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) – the public transport executive responsible for planning and coordinating regional transport, especially the public transport system, in the Strathclyde area.

Sustainable procurement duty – The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on public procurement to maximise the social, environmental and economic benefits through effective and efficient procurement activity.



Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) – a partnership of the Scottish Government, Keep Scotland Beautiful and SSN members throughout the public sector to improve Scotland’s public sector performance on sustainability and climate change. Further information can be found on their website www.sustainable-scotland.net

Sustainable tourism – is an industry committed to making a low impact on the environment and local culture, while helping to generate future employment for local people.

Sustainable urban drainage – is a natural approach to managing drainage in and around properties and other developments.

Sustrans – a UK sustainable transport charity.

Telematics – records and analyses business journeys which helps with vehicle routing and reduces vehicle idling thus reducing carbon emissions.

Ultra low emission vehicles – a motor vehicle that emits extremely low levels of motor vehicle emissions compared to other vehicles.

United Nations – the United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organisation tasked to promote international co-operation and to create and maintain international order.

Voltage optimisers – technology optimises the incoming site voltage to a level such that electrical equipment runs more efficiently and consumes less energy.

World Economic Forum – an independent non-profit organisation dedicated to improving global economic and social conditions on a global scale.

World Wide Fund for Nature – an international non-governmental organization working in the field of the biodiversity conservation and the reduction of humanity’s footprint on the environment. It is also concerned with endangered species, sustainable production of commodities and climate change. Further information can be found on their website www.wwf.org.uk





Are you a friend of Sustainable South Lanarkshire?.....

If you would like to become a friend of Sustainable South Lanarkshire please sign-up by emailing sustainability@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Being a friend you will receive future updates and have the opportunity to share details of projects you are involved in that contribute to a Sustainable South Lanarkshire.



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