

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 18 NOVEMBER 2009

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present to Cabinet a progress report as required by the Sustainable Development Strategy: Action Plan Theme 4: Performance Management & Evaluation and to advise the Group on the current position concerning allocation of the Zero Waste Fund.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In January 2009, Cabinet formally adopted the Council's first Sustainable Development Strategy. The development of the Strategy was subject to the reporting and public consultation requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The final requirement of the 2005 Act is the completion of the post -adoption procedures, namely the production of a Scottish Environmental Agency Statement which will incorporate the monitoring and evaluation aspects of the Sustainable Development Strategy and publication of the finalised documentation.
- 2.2 The key themes as incorporated within the Strategy are Waste, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Procurement and Biodiversity.
- 2.3 A Sustainable Development Working Group has been re-established which is chaired by the Head of Housing. Service Representation presently extends to Asset Management and Waste Management.
- 2.4 The Sustainable Development Strategy which sits below the Community Plan, is the mechanism through which the sustainability agenda and Council's response to the challenges presented by Climate Change will be addressed.
- 2.5 The remit of the Working Group is to ensure that sustainability is a key consideration in future decisions as made by all Council Departments and to oversee the delivery of the Strategy Action Plan.
- 2.6 In May 2008, the Council's Governance and Scrutiny Committee agreed a series of recommendations following a review of the Waste Recycling Policy / Technical Evaluation of the Kerbside Recycling Scheme. This report includes proposals to progress those recommendations to improve service performance.

3. PROGRESS

- 3.1 Following Cabinet approval in January 2009, opinion was sought from the Consulting Authorities with regards to the detail of the monitoring and evaluation procedures for the Sustainable Development Strategy. The Consulting Authorities opinion clarified that publication of the post-adoption statement should be delayed until the monitoring and evaluation criteria be established.
- 3.2 Subsequent to this opinion being received by Council, and in the interim between the Sustainable Development Strategy receiving Cabinet approval and the Sustainable Development Working Group being reformed, the monitoring & evaluation criteria for the Tourism Strategy was developed in conjunction with the Consulting Authorities. The criteria as applied to the Tourism Strategy have now been adapted to suit the requirements of the Sustainable Development Strategy and the amended Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement is attached at Appendix 1 for reference.
- 3.3 As a signatory to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration the Council is obliged to produce an annual statement on the monitoring and progress of climate change response, detailing targets set, actions taken, outcomes achieved and other actions required. East Ayrshire Council was exempt from producing the 2007 Statement as its response to Climate Change is embedded within the Sustainable Development Strategy.
- 3.4 In June 2009, the Scottish Sustainable Network presented a revised reporting template to the CoSLA Climate Task Group for approval and endorsement. The CoSLA Climate Task Group has subsequently invited all councils to utilise this updated reporting template for Year 2 Reports and the response for East Ayrshire Council is set out in Appendix 2.

4. ZERO WASTE FUND – PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The landfilling of residual wastes is acknowledged as one of the many contributing factors of climate change. As such, local authorities have been set challenging recycling obligations, culminating in a national target of 70% recycling by 2025.
- 4.2 In order to encourage waste minimization, recycling and to develop waste collection infrastructures and processing the Scottish Government launched their Zero Waste Fund of approximately £146M last year. A proportion of the fund has already been allocated for specific purposes including support grants for Waste Resources Action Programme, Remade Scotland and Waste Aware Scotland. The remaining funding – of approximately £80M – has been allocated to the 32 local authorities over the period 2008 – 2011.

4.3 Recycling within East Ayrshire has increased significantly since the first implementation of domestic kerbside recycling in 2004, a rise of 7% → 42.1% by March 2009. However, recent waste and recycling indicators suggest that the authority has or is near to achieving its maximum recycling rate through the present collection infrastructure. In response the Cleansing Service carried out a composition analysis of the local residual waste stream from a representative sample of 100 properties. Results from the study as detailed with Appendix 3 indicated that the most prevalent material types within the residual waste stream consisted of organic kitchen waste (25.8%) and mixed plastics (20.5%). From this, the Cleansing Service has been able to confirm identifiable opportunities for improved service provision. Proposed improvements to the waste collection service, through utilising the Zero Waste Fund provision, are highlighted in Table 1.

Table 1.

Project	Project Description	Associated Cost
Contribution to the Joint Ayrshire Waste Project	This sum would be used to part-fund the appointment of a Project Manager who will assist in the delivery of a residual waste treatment facility within Ayrshire. Consultancy, legal and other associated costings up to 31 March 2010 are included within the above figure.	<u>£60,000</u>
Collection of Organic Kitchen Waste & Mixed Plastics	<p>Results from the recent residual waste analysis, as detailed within Appendix 3, identified food waste and mixed plastics as the most predominant materials present. In order to divert additional biodegradable waste, than the current infrastructure permits, from landfill and to increase the authority's recycling rate the Cleansing Service propose a separate collection of food and plastics waste from kerbside.</p> <p>The service would comprise of an internal kitchen caddy with bio-degradable liners, for the collection of kitchen wastes. Once full liners would be placed into an external container and presented for uplift on a weekly basis. In addition, plastics would be collected via a kerbside box which would be placed alongside the food waste for collection.</p> <p>The servicing of the containers would be carried out by a single collection vehicle, modified to collect food waste and plastics in separate compartments with a crew of 2 (1 driver + 1 loader).</p> <p>Food waste would be processed in accordance with animal by-products regulations through a heat treated process such as in-vessel composting or anaerobic digestion the output of which can be used</p>	<u>£238,872</u>

	<p>for land restoration or as a soil improver. Plastics would be delivered to the Council's existing Material Recovery Facility where they would be processed and baled and dispatched for recycling.</p> <p>With the finances available, it is envisaged that the food waste and plastics collection scheme would cover approximately 8,000-10,000 households. Such an operation would assist East Ayrshire Council towards its 2013 target of 50% recycling/composting and bio-waste diversion from landfill obligations. The Cleansing Service are currently looking to identify a suitable area in which to operate the pilot.</p>	
Publicity & Promotions	This sum would be used to reinforce the Council's existing recycling collection services and promote forthcoming projects, such as the food waste and mixed plastics collection pilot, including a "door stepping" campaign.	<u>£25,500</u>
Polystyrene Compactor	This sum would enable the Council to introduce a recycling facility for polystyrene packaging. A pilot for the collection of polystyrene, at the Western Road Recycling Centre, earlier this year diverted 1 tonne of polystyrene from landfill over 5 days.	<u>£8,628</u>
Street Recycling Units	The introduction of street recycling units, to Kilmarnock and Cumnock initially, would allow the Council to divert waste currently being disposed of via litter bins from landfill. Implementation of street recycling units would enable members of the public to recycle their waste within town centres, helping contribute to the authority's recycling rate.	<u>£20,000</u>
Upgrade Existing Recycling Points	East Ayrshire Council's Cleansing Service operate a network of 31 bring sites throughout the authority. However, a number of these sites include containers of poor condition. This sum would enable the Council to recondition recycling banks to the appropriate standard.	<u>£15,000</u>

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Sustainable Development Strategy will ensure that a consistent approach to sustainability will be evidenced throughout Council operations. The Sustainable Development Strategy will strongly

influence and be influenced by the Community Planning process and will impact on the core themes of the Community Plan.

- 5.2 Improvements to the waste collection infrastructure through the Zero Waste Fund are commensurate with the Council's Single Outcome Agreement - National Outcome 14: *We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.* Key proposals are consistent with Aim 8 of the Delivering Community Regeneration 2008-2011 Action Plan and recommendations made within the Governance & Scrutiny Committee report "Review of the Waste Recycling Policy/Technical Evaluation of the Kerbside Recycling Scheme"

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 All 32 Scottish local authorities are obliged to attain landfill diversion and waste recycling targets as established and adopted by the European Parliament and national government. The proposals set out in section 4 of the report will be progressed in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders relating to contracts and in accordance with agreed procurement strategy.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Zero Waste Fund has principally been established to assist local authorities toward achieving their landfill diversion and recycling obligations. Although not ring fenced, the Scottish Government has indicated that at some point Audit Scotland will be looking for details as to where each local authority has spent its allocation of Zero Waste Funding. Failure to achieve EC and national waste obligations would likely result in local authorities being subject to substantial financial penalties. The Council's allocation of Zero Waste Fund monies amounts to £0.468M in 2009/10, and would be sufficient to meet the cost of the proposals set out in section 4 of this report.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The Sustainable Development Strategy Action Plan, details how the principles of sustainability will be delivered across Council operations. The responsibility for delivery of the Sustainable Development Strategy Action Plan lies with the Sustainable Development Working Group.
- 8.2 It is proposed that as part of the quarterly reports to Corporate Management Team, as required by Action Plan point 4.1.3, current activities surrounding one of the key themes within the plan will be highlighted on a cyclical basis. The proposed schedule is waste, followed by energy, procurement and biodiversity.
- 8.3 The Council has produce its first SCCD annual report in accordance with the timescale established by the CoSLA Climate Task Group.

8.4 Current waste trends suggest the current waste collection infrastructure is at or is near its' maximum recycling capacity. However, it is anticipated that improvements to service provision through the Zero Waste Fund will assist the Council towards attaining 50% recycling by 2013.

8.5 The proposals set out in this report have been considered and agreed by the Corporate Management Team.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Cabinet is invited to:

- i note the progress being made in terms of Sustainable Development Strategy.
- ii note the terms of the draft year 2 report on the Council's response to Climate Change as set out in Appendix 2.
- iii consider and agree proposals to extend recycling activities in East Ayrshire utilising the Zero Waste Fund as set out in section 4 of this report and request that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services report back with proposals for the introduction of the pilot scheme for the collection of organic kitchen waste and mixed plastics; and
- iv otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

11th November 2009

WS/CMCA/DG/LS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

**SDS Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement
Draft SCCD Template
Zero Waste Fund Opportunities
Kerbside Residual Waste Analysis**

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Appendix 1

East Ayrshire Sustainable Development Strategy

Strategic Environmental Assessment

SEA Statement

July 2009

CONTENTS

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. BACKGROUND**
 - **Sustainable Development Strategy**
 - **SEA Process**
- 3. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**
- 4. CONSULTATION**
- 5. SELECTION OF THE ADOPTED PLAN**
- 6. MONITORING**

Table 1: How the Environmental Considerations and Assessment Findings have been integrated in the Adopted Sustainable Development Strategy

Table 2: Consultation responses received on the Environmental Report and how these have been taken into account when finalising the Sustainable Development Strategy

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document is the Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement for the adopted East Ayrshire Council Sustainable Development Strategy. The Sustainable Development Strategy provides a focus to East Ayrshire Council's own economic, social and environmental performance; to provide leadership, commitment and direction to our partners, stakeholders, businesses and individuals regarding the integration of sustainable development through the principles of Best Value; and to ensure efficient and consistent deployment of resources through the actions associated with the four key themes as presented in the strategy.

1.2 Section 18(1)(a)(iii) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Council to publish a 'statement' (hereafter referred to as an SEA Statement) to accompany the adopted Sustainable Development Strategy, as soon as reasonably practical after adoption of the Sustainable Development Strategy. The contents of the SEA Statement are specified by Section 18(3) of the Act, which are as follows:

- (a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
- (b) how the environmental report has been taken into account;
- (c) how the opinions expressed in response to the invitations mentioned in section 16 have been taken into account;
- (d) how the results of any relevant consultation under regulation 14 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/1633) have been taken into account.
- (e) the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives considered; and
- (f) the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

1.3 The structure of this SEA Statement has been developed to reflect the requirements of the Act and the format for the statement is as follows:

- **Background:** A summary of the development of the East Ayrshire Sustainable Development Strategy and the SEA process
- **Environmental Considerations:** A description of how environmental protection objectives informed the Sustainable Development Strategy, how the environmental report was taken into account and how mitigation identified in the Environmental Report and during the finalisation of the Sustainable Development Strategy has been included to prevent, reduce or offset adverse impacts and to enhance positive impacts.
- **Consultation:** How consultations responses were taken into account during the SEA process and during the finalisation of the Sustainable Development Strategy.

- **Selecting the Plan:** How the Sustainable Development Strategy was adopted in light of reasonable alternatives.
- **Monitoring:** The measures that are to be undertaken to monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy and any unforeseen environmental effects that it may have.

1.4 There was no transboundary consultation required under regulation 14 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/1633).

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 East Ayrshire Sustainable Development Strategy

2.1.1 The East Ayrshire Sustainable Development Strategy has been prepared by East Ayrshire Council in direct response to an action highlighted within East Ayrshire Council's Audit of Best Value and Community Planning in September 2006. This publication stated "Sustainability: better mainstream sustainable development across Council services to achieve required outcomes."

2.1.2 The main objective of the Sustainable Development Strategy is to develop a document which will provide the cohesive framework to deliver actions relating to the four key themes of sustainable procurement, energy efficiency, waste and biodiversity. The key themes are as identified by Corporate Management Team. The Sustainable Development Strategy and Environmental Report were adopted by East Ayrshire Council on 21 January 2009 and are available for viewing on the Council's website: www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk.

2.1.3 Through its action plan, the Sustainable Development Strategy establishes a series of baselines which will provide a focus for environmental considerations; aims to ensure consistency of approach across departments; and, will encourage cross –service consultation and discussion. These processes in line with the requirements of Best Value will ensure that all Services operate in a cohesive manner and deliver a co-ordinated approach to the sustainability agenda to achieve improved outcomes.

2.2 SEA Process

2.2.1 East Ayrshire Council, as a responsible authority, determined that the Sustainable Development Strategy would be subject to an SEA as it was likely to have significant effects on the environment. SEA is fundamental component of Sustainable Development and is highly focussed on protecting and enhancing the environment. It allows decision makers to take on board the likely significant environmental impacts of the Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS) during the preparation of the PPS and before the adoption of the PPS. SEA also gives opportunities to the public to comment on the environmental impacts of the PPS thereby increasing transparency and openness in the decision-making process.

2.2.2 The SEA of the Sustainable Development Strategy fully complies with the provisions of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. It also takes on board the guidance contained within the Scottish Governments SEA Toolkit.

2.2.3 The main components of SEA are obtaining baseline information; identifying the potential environmental impacts arising from the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy, identification of reasonable alternatives and their potential environmental impacts, propose mitigation measures for any adverse impacts; incorporation of consultation responses on scoping and on the draft Sustainable Development Strategy and the establishment of monitoring measures. The Environmental Report and this SEA Statement provide a written, transparent and open account of the process.

2.2.4 To date, the SEA of the Sustainable Development Strategy has included:

- Giving due consideration to the comments that the Consultation Authorities (SNH, SEPA and Historic Scotland) regarding the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report;
- The preparation of an Environmental Report which provides a written commentary on the assessment process, which included:
 - Collation of baseline environmental data;
 - Establishment of the current state of the environment in East Ayrshire;
 - Links between the Sustainable Development Strategy and other relevant PPS, policies and taking into account the environmental protection objectives established at international, European and National levels;
 - Identification of existing environmental issues and problems;
 - Identification and assessment of reasonable alternatives;
 - Assessment of the Sustainable Development Strategy;
 - Identification of mitigation measures to prevent, reduce or offset any adverse environmental impacts;
 - Establishment of monitoring measures to ensure that any unforeseen environmental impacts are identified and mitigated if necessary.
- Consultation on the draft Sustainable Development Strategy and Environmental Report;
- Taking account of the findings of the Environmental Report and consultation responses when making the final decision on the content of the Sustainable Development Strategy
- Providing a commitment to monitor the significant environmental impacts of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy

3 Environmental Considerations

3.1 The core purpose of SEA is to take due cognisance of the environmental impacts of the PPS during the decision-making process. The SEA Statement is required by Sections 18(3) (a) and (b) of the Act to demonstrate how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Sustainable Development Strategy and how the Environmental Report has been taken into account. Therefore, this section of the SEA Statement details how the environmental information that has been gathered and used in the assessment process and how the results of the assessment, as presented in the Environmental Report, have been used to inform the adopted Sustainable Development Strategy.

3.2 Addressing the Environmental Considerations

3.2.1 The SEA process is an iterative process which allows the Council to highlight and address environmental considerations throughout the SEA process, but especially at scoping, Environmental Report and prior to adoption. After the preferred option for the PPS has been selected from the reasonable alternatives, the SEA process directly informs the development of the PPS by: setting the SEA environmental objectives and during the environmental assessment of the PPS.

3.2.2 Furthermore, SEA allows for the identification of international, European and national environmental protection objectives at an early stage in the development of the PPS. The difference between the environmental protection and objectives and the SEA objectives is that the SEA objectives are developed to provide a basis against which the environmental impacts of the PPS will be assessed against. Along with the establishment of baseline environmental data and a detailed understanding of the current state of the environment, the SEA objectives provide a benchmark or aspiration for the Sustainable Development Strategy to achieve. The SEA process allows for the PPS in question to be developed and where necessary revised, to enable it to achieve the SEA objectives.

3.2.3 Therefore, the environmental assessment undertaken on the draft Sustainable Development Strategy is an open, transparent and objective method to demonstrate how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan, and identifies and addresses the environmental impacts that have been identified for the draft Sustainable Development Strategy. The significance of these impacts is a professional judgement based on the SEA objectives, baseline environmental data and the current state of the environment. As previously mentioned, the environmental assessment of the Sustainable Development Strategy should, where necessary and appropriate, indicate where mitigation measures are needed to prevent, reduce or offset any adverse impacts that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy may have.

3.2.4 The results of the environmental assessment, which are detailed in the Environmental Report, are required to be taken into account when finalising the Sustainable Development Strategy. However, it should be noted that although the environmental assessment must be taken into account when making the decision on the final content of the Sustainable Development Strategy, the strategy does not necessarily need to take on board any of the recommendations that have been made in the Environmental Report or

through the consultation process. However, it is vital that the Council show how the Environmental Report and consultation responses have been taken into consideration even if they do not lead to any changes in the plan.

3.2.5 Table 1 below sets out how the environmental considerations and assessment results, populated under the environmental issues that were scoped into the assessment process, have been taken into account in the adopted Sustainable Development Strategy.

Table1: How the Environmental Considerations and Assessment Findings have been integrated in the Adopted Sustainable Development Strategy

Environmental Considerations and Findings From the Environmental Assessment	Integrated into plan	How integrated// taken into account or reason for not being taken into account.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna		
<p>The strategy places special emphasis on ensuring that the biodiversity of East Ayrshire are conserved and enhanced in line with the recommendations as detailed within the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). The Sustainable Development Strategy seeks to ensure that there are no irreversible losses of designated sites or species within East Ayrshire.</p> <p>The implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy will have a positive impact on biodiversity, natural heritage and landscape considerations within East Ayrshire</p>	Yes	<p>The development of a Biodiversity officer working group which will comprise suitable “expert” opinion across Council will ensure that biodiversity is a key consideration within Council activities. It is envisaged that this officer group will be led by the Council’s Countryside Development Manager.</p>
Population		
<p>The implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy is not considered to have direct or significant impact on the overall quality of life for East Ayrshire’s population.</p>	No	<p>The Sustainable Development Strategy will not directly benefit the population of East Ayrshire, However, sustainable considerations and actions contained within a wide ranging of Council plans, programmes and strategies will influence the overall quality of life achieved.</p>
Human Health		
<p>Changes to air quality and to climate within East Ayrshire will impact upon human health. The Sustainable Development Strategy will have a major influence on the integration of air quality and climatic considerations into Council plans, programmes and strategies</p>	Yes	<p>The expansion of a Cabinet portfolio to include responsibility for sustainable development, the intention to reaffirm Council commitment to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration, and the inclusion of sustainability as a key consideration within Committee reporting formats will ensure that impacts upon human health and other key environmental attributes are considered in Council activities.</p>

Soil & Water		
As it is not envisaged that there will be direct impacts on soil or water, potential impacts such as increased flooding risks or contaminated land are to be considered alongside climatic factors	No	Although the Sustainable Development Strategy will not directly impact upon soil and water, these environmental considerations will feature within climatic assessment thereby ensuring that, appropriate sustainable recognition is contained within a wide ranging of Council plans, programmes and strategies.
Air & Climatic Factors		
<p>The Council's obligations as a signatory to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration will be implemented through the delivery of the Sustainable Development Strategy.</p> <p>The strategy will seek to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions arising from Council activities and will endeavour to adapt and mitigate against greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	Yes	By extending the portfolio of a Cabinet member to include responsibility for sustainability; by ensuring that sustainability is a consideration in committee decisions; by increasing awareness, training and expertise in the implementation of Strategic Environment Assessment throughout Council operations, Council has clearly demonstrated its intention to place sustainability as a key consideration in its decision making.
Cultural Heritage & Landscape		
<p>Although sustainable considerations such as choice of materials to be used in conservation activity will be actioned or influenced by East Ayrshire Council both directly and indirectly, the strategy will not directly impact on the protection, enhancement or preservation of the cultural heritage of East Ayrshire.</p> <p>Impacts associated to cultural heritage and landscape will be assessed alongside biodiversity, flora and fauna and climatic factors.</p>	No	Although not included within the assessment model, it is to be expected that through lower tier plans, policies and strategies, any impacts either positive or negative on East Ayrshire's cultural heritage and landscape will be fully considered.
Material Assets		
The strategy will have direct impacts on cross Departmental activity and will have significant impact on future plan, policy and strategy development.	Yes	Performance indicators will be developed/utilise by the Sustainable Development Working Group to measure/monitor Council performance in this area.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Public consultation is an important and integral part of the SEA process and Article 6(2) of the Directive 2001/42/EEC of the European Parliament and Council states that the public “shall be given an early and effective opportunity” for consultation. SEA, therefore, ensures transparency by taking into account and responding to comments received from the public and the Consultation Authorities.
- 4.2 Section 18(3)(c) of the Act requires the SEA Statement to demonstrate “how the opinions expressed in response to the invitations mentioned in section 16 have been taken into account”. Section 16 of the Act identifies the Environmental Report and the qualifying plan to which it relates, in this case the draft Sustainable Development Strategy, as the relevant documents to consult the Consultation Authorities and the public on.
- 4.3 The draft Sustainable Development Strategy and Environmental Report were subject to public consultation for a period of 6 weeks between 22 September and 2nd November 2008. This consultation period forms the consultation period required by Section 16 of the Act. No responses from the public in relation to either the draft Sustainable Development Strategy or to the Environmental Report were received. The report to the Cabinet on 21 January 2009 provides the Council's responses to the issues raised by the Consultation Authorities on the Environmental Report.
- 4.4 The report to Cabinet also details the responses received in relation to the draft Sustainable Development Strategy itself and makes recommendations on how these comments should be incorporated into the final Sustainable Development Strategy. The comments received on the Environmental Report were also taken into account when deciding if modifications to the Sustainable Development Strategy were required.
- 4.5 Table 2 below sets out the comments made on the Environmental Report and the Council's response on how these matters would be taken forward or require changes to the Sustainable Development Strategy and Environmental Report.

Table 2: Consultation responses received on the Environmental Report and how these have been taken into account when finalising the Sustainable Development Strategy

Rep. No	Synopsis of Issue Raised	Council's Observations and Recommended Course of Action
<p>SEA 001</p> <p>SEA 001(a)</p> <p>SEA 001 (b)</p> <p>SEA 001 (c)</p>	<p>Scottish Environment Protection Agency, per Lorna McLean, Senior Planning Officer, SEPA Corporate Office, Erskine Court, Castle Business Park Stirling, FK9 4TR</p> <p>I refer to your Environmental Report consultation submitted under the above Act in respect of the East Ayrshire Council Sustainable Development Strategy. This was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 18 September 2008.</p> <p>SEPA is satisfied that the Environmental Report has in general taken into account the issues raised in SEPA's scoping response of 4 December 2007. It is understood that the assessment of the strategy has now changed and will use the method used to assess the East Ayrshire Open Space Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to achieve a sustainable community within East Ayrshire thus as shown in the assessment the strategy is expected to have an overall positive significant environmental impact. SEPA is satisfied with the revised approach to assessment and it is not expected that it will significantly alter the overall assessment results.</p> <p>Please note this response is in regard to the adequacy</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The comments of SEPA are welcomed and noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

SEA 001 (d)	<p>and accuracy of the Environmental Report</p> <p>As the Strategy is finalised, Easy Ayrshire Council as Responsible Authority will require to take account of the findings of the Environmental Report and of views expressed upon it during this consultation period. As soon as reasonably practical after the adoption of the plan, the responsible Authority should publish a statement setting out how this has occurred. SEPA normally expects this to be in the form of a "SEA Statement" similar to that advocated in the Scottish Government SEA templates and toolkit which is available at www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/13 . A copy of the SEA Statement should be sent to the Consultation Authorities via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on publication.</p> <p>If you wish to discuss anything in this response please do not hesitate to contact me on 01355 574302 via SEPA's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk .</p>	<p>The comments of SEPA are noted. Once the Sustainable Development Strategy has been adopted, the Council will produce a Post Adoption Statement/SEA Statement in line with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The statement will be sent to SEPA via the SEA Gateway.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
SEA 002 SEA 002 (a)	<p>Historic Scotland, per Alistair McKenzie, Senior Strategic Environmental Assessment Officer, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH</p> <p>Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the East Ayrshire Council's Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) which was received in the Scottish Government's</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

SEA 002 (b)	<p>SEA Gateway on 18 September 2008.</p> <p>I have reviewed the Environmental Report on behalf of Historic Scotland and should make clear that this response is in the context of the SEA Act and our role as a Consultation Authority. It therefore focusses on the environmental assessment, rather than the contents of the strategy.</p>	Noted.
SEA 002 (c)	<p>General Comments</p> <p>I am largely content that the comments we provided on the Scoping Report on 28 November 2007 have been taken into account during the preparation of the Environmental Report. My focus in reviewing the Environmental Report is on the potential for significant environmental impacts on the historic environment that may arise from the strategy.</p>	Noted.
SEA 002 (d)	<p>The Environmental Report is well presented and clearly considers the environmental implications of the strategy. It provides a clear account of the steps undertaken during the environmental assessment process and presents these in a logical structure. I note that the historic environment was assessed alongside biodiversity, flora fauna and climatic factors and that the approach taken in the assessment differs to that as outlined at scoping. I am content with this and have set out some detailed comments on each section of the Environmental Report in an annex to this letter.</p>	The comments of Historic Scotland are welcomed and noted.
SEA 002 (e)	<p>None of the comments in this letter should be taken as constituting legal interpretation of the requirements of</p>	Noted.

	<p>the SEA Act. They are intended rather as helpful advice, as part of Historic Scotland's commitment to capacity building in SEA.</p>	
SEA 002 (f)	<p>Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0131 668 8924 should you wish to discuss this response.</p>	Noted.
	<p>Annex: Detailed comments on the Environmental Report</p>	
SEA 002 (g)	<p>For ease of reference, the comments in this annex follow the same order as the Environmental Report.</p> <p>Introduction</p>	Noted.
SEA 002 (h)	<p>I welcome the information provided in this section which clearly sets out the context for the strategy and complements that detailed on page 15 of the strategy itself.</p>	The comments of Historic Scotland are welcomed and noted.
SEA 002 (i)	<p>I am content with the information provided in relation to the review of other plans and programmes and the context of the strategy. For information Historic Scotland has recently launched Scottish Planning Policy 23: planning and the historic Environment (SPP 23). This policy statement supersedes and consolidates National Planning Policy Guidelines NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment and NPPG 5: Archaeology and Planning. It sets out the national planning policy for the historic environment and indicates how the planning system will contribute towards the delivery of Scottish Ministers' policies as set out in the current Scottish Historic Environment policy (SHEP – available at</p>	The comments of the Historic Scotland are duly noted and reference to SPP23 will be included before the report is adopted and published on the Council's website.

<p>SEA 002 (j)</p>	<p>http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep.pdf</p> <p>Baseline</p> <p>I welcome the information provided for the historic environment in the environmental baseline. It should be noted in the past Historic Scotland have identified some Conservation Areas as Outstanding for funding purposes and that this no longer applies. All Conservation Areas should have the same status for environmental assessment purposes. Please note that our records indicate that there are 8 gardens and designed landscapes within East Ayrshire (Craignellan, Caprington Castle, Lanfine, Skeldon House, Dumfries House, Rowallan, Loudoun Castle and Carnell which is partly in South Ayrshire). Barskimming is not listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. .</p> <p>Scoping</p>	<p>The comments of the Historic Scotland are duly noted and amendments will be included before the report is adopted and published on the Council's website.</p>
<p>SEA 002 (k)</p>	<p>I note that the historic environment has been scoped out of the assessment and that this differs from the position at scoping stage, where it was scoped in. It would be useful if further reasoning was provided to explain why this decision has been made. Relevant issues for the historic environment arising from the strategy may include potential conflicts between the promotion of energy efficiency measures and microrenewables with protecting the character of historic buildings, or the enhancement of biodiversity. While I recognise that all aspects of the SDS may not affect the historic environment, the scope of the assessment could have</p>	<p>The comments of the Historic Scotland are duly noted. As is stated within the Environmental Report, although scoped out, due recognition to the historic environment will be maintained through the implementation and delivery of actions contained within the SDS. It is the intention of the SDS working group to establish thematic officer groups to take forward the key themes of procurement, energy, waste and biodiversity. Each group will be tasked with ensuring that Departments embed environmental considerations within Council activities and PPS.</p>

SEA 002 (l)	<p>been varied for each of the four broad themes.</p> <p>For information, the date detailed in section 1.8.2 should perhaps be December 2007. Our records indicate that Historic Scotland provided comments on the scope and level of detail on 28 November 2007.</p> <p>Alternatives</p>	<p>The comments of the Historic Scotland are duly noted and amendments will be included before the report is adopted and published on the Council's website.</p>
SEA 002 (m)	<p>I note that the approach to the assessment of alternatives and I am content with how this has been taken forward in the assessment.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
SEA 002 (n)	<p>Assessment Methodology</p> <p>I note that the assessment approach taken for the SDS has changes with that outlined at scoping and I am content with this. I welcome the approach taken in Section 7 and agree that the assessment method should be commensurate with the level of PPS. As the historic environment has been scoped out, table 5 does not detail indicators or scales of importance for the historic environment. For information, if this table were to specify information for this topic, it would be useful to differentiate between National and regional levels for the historic environment. In a historic environment context, the National level would include scheduled monuments, listed buildings, and gardens and designated landscapes. The Regional level could include features such as conservation areas and unscheduled (Sites and monuments record) archaeology.</p>	<p>The comments of Historic Scotland are welcomed and noted.</p>

SEA 002 (o)	<p>It would be helpful if the examples provided in Table 5 were supported with a list of definitions for the varying levels of significance (e.g. distinguishing between highly significant and very significant).</p>	<p>The draft Environmental Report as submitted to the Consulting Authorities in September 2008, was the Council's first assessment using this model. As such, and due to ongoing discussions with the Consulting Authorities the overall assessment model has been refined. The methodology which will be contained within the adopted Environmental Report is as per the draft East Ayrshire Council Leisure and Cultural Strategy as recently submitted to the Consulting Authorities.</p>
SEA 002 (p)	<p>Mitigation and Monitoring I note the information provided on mitigation and monitoring and am content with this approach</p>	Noted.
SEA 003	<p>Scottish Natural Heritage, per Dorothy Simpson, Operational Manager, Strathclyde and Ayrshire, 19 Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1EZ</p>	
SEA 003 (a)	<p>I refer to your draft Environmental Report sent to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 18 September 2008. In accordance with Section 15(2) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, I have reviewed the report on behalf of Scottish natural heritage in its role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act. Our comments on the Environment are set out below.</p>	Noted.
SEA 003 (b)	<p>Allowing for the issues which have been scoped out,</p>	The comments of SNH are duly noted. With reference to

	<p>only some of the SNH's comments on the scoping report for this Environmental report have been addressed. The details of the remaining ones are appended to this letter. I note that the Environmental Report concludes that the environmental outcomes arising from the implementation of the SDS range from insignificant, through to very significant and that in no case are outcomes anticipated to generate a negative impact. We believe that the assessment would have greater accuracy if the issue relating to Protected Species in particular, had been addressed.</p>	<p>environmental outcomes, as the Sustainable Development Strategy provides an overarching influence to Council plans, programmes and strategies (PPS), it is not envisaged that negative impacts will result. Negative impacts may well arise from specific/targeted PPS, and these will be accountable within the overall scope of the SDS and within the context of their individual development, which may or may not require assessment in line with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Protected Species are discussed in detail at SEA 003 (f) and SEA 003 (g)</p>
SEA 003 (c)	<p>I hope that our comments are of assistance to you. Please note that this response is in the context of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act and our role as a Consultation Authority. We understand that we will be separately consulted on our views regarding the Strategy.</p>	<p>The comments of SNH are duly noted. The cover letter issued to the SEA Gateway which accompanied the Environmental Report and Sustainable Strategy on the 18 September 2008 indicated that the consultation period related to both the Environmental Report and the SDS. There are further no plans to consult on the SDS.</p>
SEA 003 (d)	<p>Should you wish to discuss these comments further, please do not hesitate to contact Jimmy Hyslop on 0141 951 0816 or via the SBH's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
SEA 003 (e)	<p>Annex to letter East Ayrshire Council Sustainable Development Strategy Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – Environmental Report</p> <p>Comments made by SNH at the Scoping stage, but not covered in the Environmental Report.</p>	

Context of the Strategy	
SEA 003 (f)	<p>SEA 003 (h) Scottish Natural Heritage's "Natural Heritage Futures" initiative promotes integrated management of the natural heritage providing assessments from national to local level. These documents provide a context for the important natural heritage aspects at a national and local level and are available on our website.</p>
SEA 003 (g)	<p>SEA 003 (i) Protected Species, especially European Protected Species should be identified. The European guidance (available at http://europa.eu.int/comm/environemnt/eia/030923_sea_guidance.pdf) notes that any effects on protected sites and on selected specie4s in accordance with the Habitats Directive should be included within the Environmental Report. The guidance recommends that these effects might be described in a separate chapter as the findings on such effects are binding for the decision of the competent authorities on the plan or programme.</p>

The comments of SNH are duly noted. As an active participant in the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership, East Ayrshire Council recognises the Natural Heritage Futures initiative. Utilising information arising from the initiative aided the development of the revised Ayrshire LBAP, which was formally adopted in May 2008. East Ayrshire will be guided by the principles and actions contained within the Ayrshire LBAP.

The comments of SNH are duly noted. East Ayrshire Council is an active member of the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership and has been involved in the production of the revised Ayrshire LBAP which was formally adopted by all three Ayrshire Councils in May 2008. Within this framework, priority species have been identified within Ayrshire and action plans drawn up to offer maximum protection. In identifying these species, cognisance was taken of both the UK list of Priority Species and the species identified in the Scottish Biodiversity List. It is the intention of the SDS Working group to instigate the formation of a biodiversity working group within the Council. Membership of this group will comprise Council officers who have the necessary skills, knowledge and opportunity to ensure that the conservation and enhancement of habitat for protected species is given due consideration in all aspects of our Council's work.

5 SELECTION OF THE ADOPTED PLAN

5.1 SEA requires an assessment of the likely significant impacts of the draft Sustainable Development Strategy and its reasonable alternatives. Section 14(2) of the Act requires that likely significant environmental effects and the reasonable alternatives be identified, described and evaluated within the Environmental Report. Section 18(3)(e) requires the SEA Statement to provide the reasons for choosing the plan, programme or strategy as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives that were considered.

5.2 Alternatives to the Sustainable Development Strategy

5.2.1 The Environmental Report identified three alternative options for the implementation of the draft Sustainable Development Strategy. These were as follows:

- Option 1: Implement the SDS and its associated Action Plan
- Option 2: Rely on the Community Plan to further sustainability considerations; and,
- Option 3: Develop Department specific strategies to further sustainability considerations

5.2.2 The preferred option for the Council was to follow option 1 as the key differential was the ability to provide a cohesive, structured and managed framework within which Council believes the sustainable development agenda will thrive within east Ayrshire.

5.2.3 This conclusion was reached after the preferred option had been assessed against each of the environmental issues that had been scoped into the environmental assessment. Section 8.4 of the Environmental Report provides the full assessment and conclusions reached.

5.2.4 In summary, it was considered that option 1 which ensures the formation of a cross Council Officer Working Group, affords Council the best vehicle to deliver sustainability within the overall framework of Best Value. Whilst option 2 and option 3 would have generated positive environmental impacts the significant differentiating factor in the evaluation process was the fact that both option 2 and option 3 would have required that the various actions highlighted within the SDS to be incorporated within a wide range of PPS adopted by Council with no overarching framework provided.

6. MONITORING

6.1 Monitoring is an important part of the SEA process as it allows the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy to be monitored and any unforeseen impacts identified and mitigated if possible. Section 18(3)(f) of the Act requires the SEA Statement to detail the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of Sustainable Development Strategy. The overall aims for monitoring and the implementation of the Sustainable development Strategy are shown in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Overall Monitoring & Implementation Aims		
Environmental Issues to be Monitored	Objective of Monitoring	Implementation Targets
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	To monitor the impacts of the Sustainable Development Strategy on the natural environment within East Ayrshire	To contribute towards enhancing biodiversity across East Ayrshire. To ensure that there are no irreversible losses of designated sites or protected species within East Ayrshire.
Human Health	To monitor the impacts of the Sustainable Development Strategy on Human Health within East Ayrshire	To ensure that maximum opportunity to promote/improve human health levels for residents within East Ayrshire.
Air & Climatic Factors	To monitor the impacts of the Sustainable Development Strategy on air quality within East Ayrshire and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions arising from Council activities	To ensure that statutory air targets are not exceeded. To ensure that greenhouse gas emissions are reduced across Council activities and for the Council to be an exemplar to its stakeholders and partner organisations.
Material Assets	To monitor the impact of the Sustainable Development Strategy in the development/review of Council plans, policies and strategies thereafter.	To ensure that sustainable development considerations such as carbon consumption, waste generation and diversion, green/local procurement and enhancement/preservation of local habitats are key considerations in plan, programme and strategy development and/or review.

6.2 Monitoring will be carried out by the Sustainable Development Working Group and the detailed arrangements for monitoring, which relate to those aims/actions and outputs that are likely to have significant positive and/or negative impacts are shown in Table 4 below. These detailed monitoring measures will help the Council assess if the overall monitoring and implementation aims are being achieved.

Table 4: Detailed Monitoring Measures					
Theme/Action Ref	Output Ref	SEA Environmental Issues Monitoring Arrangements			
		Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Human Health	Air & Climatic Factors	Material Assets
Leadership:	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Action 1	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/a
	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Integration & Resource Management:	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Action 1	2	Monitor service usage by authorised users across all Council Departments	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment
		Ensure SEA process is carried out for all relevant plans, programmes and strategies across Council activities and to record and maintain annual records of	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment

		number of SEA undertaken			
	3	Maintain delivery of training records for appropriate Council staff	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment
Action 2	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Action 3	1	Monitor Cabinet reports to assess impacts on natural environment and/or settings	Monitor Cabinet reports to assess impacts on Human Health & Deprivation	Monitor Cabinet reports to assess impacts on carbon emissions, local and regional air quality targets	Monitor Cabinet reports to assess impacts of SDS in areas such as waste and recycling
Consultation & Awareness Raising:	1	Monitor EAC work practices and procedures to assess awareness/engagement	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment
Action 1	2	Monitor survey respondents	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment
	3	Monitor number of events/enquiries/consultation	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment
	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Action 2	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	3	Monitor impacts on natural	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor

		environment and/or settings	impacts on Human Health & Deprivation statistics	carbon emissions arising from Council activities.	waste & recycling rates;
Performance Management & Evaluation:	1	Monitor impacts on natural environment and/or settings	Monitor impacts on Human Health & Deprivation statistics	Monitor carbon emissions arising from Council activities.	Monitor waste & recycling rates;
Action 1	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Influence:	1	Survey community planning partners to ascertain levels of activity/engagement with sustainable development considerations.	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment
Action 1		Survey community planning partners to identify opportunities for joint working	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment
Action 2	2	Survey new Council employees to identify awareness/engagement with Council's sustainability agenda	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment	As adjacent comment

Appendix 2

Scotland's Climate Change Declaration Revised Reporting Template - May 2009

Each of Scotland's 32 local authorities signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in early 2007. The Declaration is a public statement wherein local authorities acknowledge the reality and implications of climate change and their responsibility to respond effectively. The Declaration also welcomes the actions of the UK and Scottish governments and the opportunities for local authorities to work in partnership with others in responding to climate change.

As signatories to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, each Scottish local authority is committed to taking action across a range of key areas. These can be summarised as:

1. Providing effective **leadership, governance and management** on climate change.
2. Reducing the local authority's **own direct greenhouse gas emissions** from their estate and services.
3. Taking action to reduce **emissions from the local authority area**
4. Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to **adapt to the impacts of climate change**.
5. Developing effective **partnership working and climate change communications**, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.

This Reporting Template focuses on these five key areas.

The principles of effective Declaration reporting include:

- Providing clear, consistent and comparable information.
- Linking climate change reporting and existing reporting requirements and the council's own performance improvement agenda.
- Showing clearly how climate change is being integrated into council and Community Planning agendas, especially through Single Outcome Agreements.
- Highlighting key achievements and initiatives
- Communicating with the community, making the report easy to understand and available to the public.

Local authorities are encouraged to provide information in a transparent and easy to understand format:

- In relation to direct and area-wide emissions, quantifiable data will be vital, and this is best communicated graphically.
- On adaptation, examples of adaptation action or process initiatives would help illustrate what is being done.
- On governance, leadership and management, and on partnership working, communications and capacity building, diagrams, process maps and examples of materials and events would be extremely useful.

In order to make reporting on the Declaration as effective and efficient as possible, local authorities are encouraged to use this reporting template to report top-level information and to use web-link references to more detailed information.

Local authorities are also encouraged to make reference to their previous Declaration reports, especially making reference to the year-ahead priorities listed in those reports. This will help in showing continuity and year-on-year progress.

In reporting on the Declaration, local authorities are encouraged to recognise the importance of the UK Climate Change Act, the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill (expected to become an Act in 2009), national targets for emissions reduction and the evolving Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Framework. Also of use is the internationally recognised 'Greenhouse Gas Protocol' for consistent reporting of 'organisational emissions' and the evolving suite of climate change National Indicators used by local authorities in England (NI185, NI186 and NI188).

Section 1

Governance, Leadership and Management

Please describe and illustrate the leadership, governance and management of climate change by your local authority.

As a community leader and service provider, East Ayrshire Council is committed to act, lead by example and support the increasing challenge of reducing greenhouse gases. Participation in the Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme has enabled the Council to quantify its carbon emissions and develop a clear plan of action.

The Council developed its own Carbon Management Programme Strategy and Implementation Plan in November 2007. In terms of governance and management, the following structures have been put in place:

- Creation of a Carbon Management Implementation Group to oversee the projects and the progress of carbon reduction, including an annual review of the Strategy and Implementation Plan targets;
- The Carbon Management Implementation Group officers seek to influence changes through their own Departments;
- Energy Task Force meetings set up to review departmental energy performance and act as a discussion forum for the detailed and general approach to energy conservation matters;
- Reports to the Corporate Management Team on an annual basis on energy and carbon management.

The carbon management programme is intended to form an integral part of the sustainability strategy. Actions from the programme will also be reflected in delivery plans for other key strategies – for example energy strategy and local transport strategy.

In terms of reporting and evaluation, active performance management will be achieved as follows:-

- Responsibility for monitoring performance on the implementation plan overall will lie with the Carbon Management Group. Progress will be reported to Corporate Management Team, the Cabinet and the Carbon Trust on an annual basis.
- Reporting the achievements of the plan to all appropriate stakeholders will be achieved through six monthly meeting with carbon managers and elected member.

Section 1 Priorities for the year ahead

Continued implementation of the Carbon Management Programme Strategy, monitoring and reporting as outlined above.

The Council will need to assess the actual and potential impacts on its work of the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill, as recently passed by the Scottish Parliament, which will impose new carbon mitigation and climate change adaptation duties when enacted.

Section 2

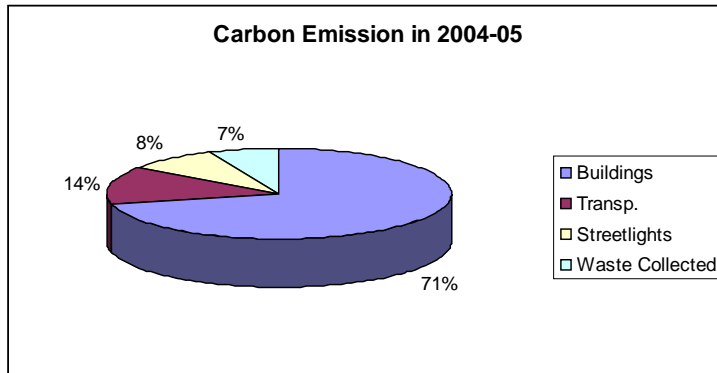
Reducing the local authority's own direct greenhouse gas emissions from their estate and services.

What is your local authority's baseline emissions, actual emissions and emission reduction targets for its direct 'corporate' greenhouse gas emissions. Please make it clear what emission sources are included.

The baseline position in 2004/05 has been used for the calculation of The Council's carbon emissions. Baseline carbon emissions were calculated from the council position in 2004-05, using values for energy consumption in council buildings, street lighting, waste management and transport.

The baseline position has been calculated as 19,119 tonnes of CO₂, including an allowance for 50% of the Council's electricity supply being from renewable resources. It is estimated that the Council's energy related carbon emissions could increase by 21.6% between 2004-05 and 2009-10. However the Council's target is to reduce its combined energy and waste carbon emission by 10% per annum by 2010.

East Ayrshire Council 2004/05 Baseline Carbon Emissions (19,119 tonnes of CO₂)



What is your local authority doing to achieve its reduction targets?

The Council's Carbon Management Programme Strategy includes an implementation plan, which contains a number of ambitious targets. These targets encompass strategic measures, such as continuing life cost analyses across departments and using newer, more efficient technology or green energy where applicable, to specific targets within the focal areas of energy management in buildings, waste, street lighting and transport.

East Ayrshire has now completed a two year programme of mass installation of basic energy efficiency measures within their public buildings and offices and are undertaking a further programme for site specific measures including the replacement of inefficient heating plant. This work complements the 100% green energy contract for Council buildings that has been negotiated along with improvements in street lighting technology and the upgrading of council

vehicles to Euro 5 standards. Recycling of household waste is well above Government targets and this momentum is being maintained and applied to all council non-domestic properties. Following the first year of the programme the Council saved 540 tonnes of carbon emissions and is well on its way to its target of saving of 1912 tonnes of carbon emissions per year by 2010.

Section 2 Priorities for the year ahead

The Council will:-

- prepare a follow up to the original carbon management plan and set it up to run in conjunction with the CRC scheme;
- introduce further targets to meet Scottish Government objectives and report on performance against those targets;
- assume a proactive role in mitigation and adaptation measures through the workings of the Sustainable Development Working Group.

Projects contained within the Council's Carbon Management Plan will continue to be developed and rolled out throughout the year ahead.

Schools will continue with their work in raising awareness of environmental issues, including greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste initiatives will include the introduction of a food waste and plastics collection trial scheme, the enhancement of recycling centres and points, and the further development of the commercial waste service which will include the acceptance of commercial recyclates at our recycling centres.

Section 3

Taking action to reduce the emissions from the local authority area

What are your local authority area-wide emissions?

As per baseline position in section 1 - this has been calculated as 19,119 tonnes of CO₂.

What is your local authority doing to measure and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from your local authority area/communities?

A full breakdown of actions contained in the Council's Carbon Management Programme Implementation Plan is attached with this document.

Section 3 Priorities for the year ahead

The Council aims to demonstrate to our communities that we are committed to delivering sustainable public assets that use energy efficiently. The inclusion of renewable energy alternatives will be considered at the options appraisal stage for major capital works such as new builds, refurbishments and renewal of components e.g. new roof.

Schools will continue with their work in raising awareness of environmental issues, including climate change. Joint continuous professional development (CPD) is planned with North Ayrshire Council on 'Sustaining our World' and in-service training for teachers is also being offered on measuring the school's 'global footprint'. A model policy on Sustainable Development is being issued to schools to maintain focus on this issue, and already a number of schools have included this in their annual improvement plan.

In terms of Waste Management, the Council intends to:

- Optimise and extend kerbside recycling and 'bring site' recycling to further increase waste diversion from landfill, including the removal of biodegradable wastes from the residual waste stream.
- Review and update the Council's own internal Waste Prevention Action Plan to reflect newly adopted national legislation and guidance.
- Continue the joint working arrangements between North and South Ayrshire Councils in order to identify and implement the best long term waste treatment solution for Ayrshire.

Section 4

Assessing the risks of climate change impacts and working with others to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

What is your local authority doing to adapt to climate change?

The Council in January 2009 adopted the first Sustainable Development Strategy, which incorporates responsibility for council activities relating to climate change. Within this strategy, 4 key themes have been identified namely; energy, procurement, biodiversity and waste. The delivery of the strategy has been tasked to a cross Council Sustainable Development Working Group.

Transport

The Council has invested in a permanent patching repair which augments the traditional 'dig and replace' method for carriageway and footpath surfaces. Patching repair provides a first time permanent repair which has the following advantages over conventional repair:-

- Provides a permanent reinstatement repair;
- Re-uses existing carriageway and footway materials;
- Delivers technological improvements for reporting of faults/repairs;
- Reduces capital costs by purchasing associated plant and equipment;
- Delivers environmental improvements; and

- Reduces operator exposure to vibration, manual handling, dust and noise.

What has your local authority done to assess its vulnerability to current and past climate impacts, and the impacts associated with future climate change predictions/scenarios?

The Council recognises the devastating impact that flooding can cause and has been working hard to lessen the effects of flooding to business and residential communities. Since 1996, a total of 3,325 metres of walls and 3,540 metres of embankments have been constructed.

The Galston Flood Prevention Scheme commenced in December 2006 and was completed in March 2008. The Flood Prevention Barrier now protects 144 residential and 19 non-residential properties in Galston.

What is your council doing to prepare for climate change impacts, to build adaptive capacity [define] and climate change resilience [define]?

The Council continues to be proactive in its response to flooding issues, and works with communities to mitigate the effects. Further flood risk assessments are being undertaken in Newmilns and New Cumnock.

Procedures have been drawn up to activate emergency responses to flooding incidents. Within roads, new equipment (including a jetter unit and gully cleaning wagons) have been purchased to assist in emergency response situations.

The Council is in the process of revising its winter gritting policy.

The Council's planning system (via Environmental Assessment regulations) provides a means of assessing potential climate change impacts of development proposals. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process also provides an in-built assessment of strategies, plans, policies and proposals prepared by the Council's Planning & Economic Development section.

The Council has produced an alteration to the East Ayrshire Local Plan with modifications including strategic aims, the General Development Strategy and strategic development policies that seek to address climate change issues through the planning process. The modified Plan includes the following areas of relevance:-

(i) Strategic Aim 9 -

To address the threat posed by climate change and to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.

(ii) Strategic Development Policies (SD)-

SD7- Encouraging re-use and redevelopment of brownfield land in preference to Greenfield sites.

SD8- Encouraging upgrading, re-use and conversion of existing properties in preference to construction of new build properties.

(iii) Development Strategies (DS)-

DS23 – Promotes strategic cycle routes and footpath links with the national cycle and footpath networks. (Similarly DS66 refers to promotion of local routes).

DS26- To prohibit the commercial exploitation of peat reserves.

DS52- To encourage the establishment of renewable energy developments in appropriate non-sensitive locations, assessing all such developments against stated criteria.

DS56- To direct any new waste recycling/ civic amenity sites to appropriate locations in each of the four investment corridors, targeting in the first instance, land currently or previously

used for industrial purposes.

DS65- To promote the transportation of freight by rail rather than by road.

(iv) Policies relating to Specific Planning Topics

Transport –

T2- Encouragement of freight by rail rather than by road and the provision of new railheads in connection with certain types of development.

T8- Promoting the development of cycling, walking and the use of public transport as an alternative to use of the private car.

Environment –

ENV25-Requirement for new development to have minimum adverse effect on the environment in terms of air, light and noise pollution.

Waste Management-

WM11-Requirement for applicants for waste management facilities to use recycled or renewable materials in their development proposals.

Community Facilities and Service Infrastructure Development Policies-

CS10- Supporting development of sympathetic renewable energy proposals in acceptable locations.

CS 12-Consideration of all renewable energy proposals, other than wind energy developments, on their own merits and requires energy production to be carried out in close proximity to the source of materials used in the generation process.

CS13-Supporting large and small scale wind farms in preferred wind farm areas.

Tourism-

TOUR2-Promotion of development of strategic and local footpath and cycle networks.

All East Ayrshire Schools are registered for the Eco-School Scotland programme which is a national award scheme promoting environmental awareness and involvement in sustainable development.

The Council's vehicles fleet conforms to the highest standards in terms of of emission control and fuel efficiency. Regular maintenance of these vehicles ensures that the vehicles are continuously operating at these high emission standards, helping the Council to meet carbon reduction targets.

In 2008/09, the Council, using 'Fairer Scotland' funding, trialled the installation of 'Cosmopolis', a new energy efficient, white light source. Street lighting was replaced in a number of streets across East Ayrshire. As well as saving around 20% in energy over comparable high pressure sodium lighting, its white light makes the night time environment brighter and ultimately, safer.

East Ayrshire Council is a member of the Ayrshire Joint Strategic Waste Management Project Group, whose remit is to identify a long term sustainable waste solution for Ayrshire. The Council is represented by 4 members, including both Cabinet members who have specific responsibility for the Environment & Regeneration. In addition, officer support is provided from relevant sections across Council.

East Ayrshire's Governance & Scrutiny Committee commissioned a review of the Waste Recycling Policy /Technical Evaluation of the Kerbside Recycling Scheme, published in May 2008. The report's key recommendations are being implemented.

In January 2008, the Scottish Government announced the creation of the Zero Waste Fund which is designed to aid local authorities meet the challenges in the years to 2025. To establish how best to utilise these funds, the Council carried out a compositional waste analysis of the local

residual waste stream, and from this, we have subsequently been able to confirm identifiable opportunities for improved service provision.

Section 4 Priorities for the year ahead

The Council will undertake surveys to compare our assets with projected changes to flood plains as a result of a wetter climate.

The Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit (AJPU) has produced guidance for wind farm developments in Ayrshire, reflecting government policy on renewables. This guidance, which is in the process of being finalised, will steer such developments to areas where they can maximise their impact on carbon reduction targets, whilst minimizing their detrimental effect on the landscape.

The Council is working in partnership with neighbouring authorities to secure the services of an Energy from Waste facility which will provide a clean and efficient source of energy for use within the national grid. In the next year a Project Manager will be appointed who will determine the most appropriate solution for Ayrshire in line with Best Value principles. The Project Manager will report to the Ayrshire Joint Strategic Waste Management Project Group.

The forthcoming year will also see the introduction of a food waste and plastics collection trial scheme, the enhancement of recycling centres and points, and the further development of the commercial waste service which will include the acceptance of commercial recyclates at our recycling centres.

Section 5

Developing effective partnership working and climate change communications, including producing an annual statement of plans, activities and achievements.

Please describe and illustrate your local authority's partnership working on climate change.

Single Outcome Agreement

The Council and its Community Planning partners have developed the 'East Ayrshire Single Outcome Agreement' (SOA). The Agreement, which covers the period 2008-11, includes a number of commitments to addressing issues related to climate change. The Council will seek to incorporate the SOAs underpinning principles into partnership projects in which it is involved and also, where possible under the Planning Acts, into planning agreements/ conditions relating to planning consents as appropriate.

Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative

This initiative was launched in June 2008 to encourage the creation of places, designed and built to last, where a high quality of life can be achieved. Local authorities, landowners, the development industry and others were invited to submit proposals. The scheme for Knockroon, Cumnock being proposed by the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment in partnership with East Ayrshire Council is one of eleven projects awarded recognition by the SSCI in May 2009 as working towards 'Creating a Scottish Sustainable Community'. The scheme incorporates proposals for low carbon generating housing in line with government guidance on means of addressing the potential effects of climate change.

Please describe what your local authority has done on climate change communications.

The Council recognises that effective communications with our key stakeholders will be fundamental to securing approval and endorsement of our plan and to ensure that carbon management becomes part of the day-to-day business of the Council.

A communications plan accompanies the Council's Carbon Management Programme Strategy. The communications plan encompasses the following areas:

- Annual reporting on performance to the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet.
- Regular meetings with department or section heads through the Energy Task Force Group along with the development of a Sustainability Working Group.
- Local Authority Carbon Management Implementation Group to progress and review the Carbon Management programme.
- Meetings and talks on energy conservation have been given to forums such as Head Teachers (Primary & Secondary), Janitorial and cleaning staff. Requests for talks and visits have been made a priority. A more systematic approach to spread the message to all staff should be developed.

All householders within East Ayrshire regularly receive communication regarding waste minimization and recycling opportunities through the use of local advertising, council publications and the Council website.

Please describe what your local authority has done to build capacity on climate change – internally, with partners and/or with the community.

Parents and local communities have been actively involved in the Eco-School programme. The East Ayrshire Ranger service and Outdoor Learning as well as national organisations, have supported schools and nurseries in developing projects.

Assisted by the Waste & Resources Action Programme (Scotland), the Council delivers a waste minimization, recycling & composting awareness programme to schools & community groups across East Ayrshire.

Section 5 Priorities for the year ahead

In the next year it is envisaged that a review of the Council's kerbside recycling literature will be undertaken to coincide with the launch of the food waste and plastics trials. A Commercial waste recycling information pack will also be launched to coincide with the collection of recyclates via the recycling centres and to highlight the availability of commercial waste services offered by the Council.

Climate Change Progress Highlights of the Past Year

Please use the following section to highlight the local authority's main climate change achievements in the past year. This can include processes, plans, projects, partnerships, events, investments, actions; anything that you consider to be a highlight climate change achievement by your local authority in the past year.

The Council was one of the first in Scotland to have Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) displayed for all of its public buildings over 1000 square metres. Furthermore, we are looking at the recommendations provided with the EPCs to identify where improvements can be made.

Eco-schools. Most schools in East Ayrshire are on the road to Eco school status. 66% of schools have achieved their Bronze Award, 46% have Silver and 15% have received their first Green Flag. Two schools have been awarded a second Green Flag.

Galston Primary. One of the Council's key objectives is to incorporate environmental improvements in all refurbishments and new builds and to improve the sustainability rating of our estate. As an example of this approach, the recently opened Galston Primary (2008) incorporates a number of innovative environmental features including:-

- A **6KW Micro Wind Turbine** on a 15m tower is located in the corner of the playground and is designed to generate 7020 kWh per annum at an average wind speed of 4.7m per second. The turbine incorporates a pulse meter to record actual power generated and is connected to the electrical installation via an inverter.
 - **Electrical production ca. 7,020 Kwh per annum**
 - **The wind speed in the area averages 4.7m/s**
 - **Potential saving 3 Tonnes CO₂ per annum.**
 - **Electricity 11.8pence / kWh**
 - **Anticipated payback 15 years.**

- **Photovoltaic cells** are mounted on the south facing nursery roof and these cells have a 4.16 kW capacity and are connected to the electrical installation via an inverter.
 - **Potential of 3,328 Kwh per annum**
 - **Potential Saving of 1.43 Tonnes CO₂**
 - **Electricity 11.8p/kWh**
 - **Anticipated Payback 31 years.**

- The **Ground Source Heating system**, which has a design load of 171 kW, is programmed to run for a fixer period followed by a recovery period every 24 hours. A pulse meter records heat generated by this system. Conventional gas fired boilers are installed to supplement the ground source heating and/or fully heat the building should the ground source heat pump fail.
 - **The GSHP will generate 42.53 Tonnes CO₂ per annum for the electrical requirement of the pumps.**
 - **Over a year the GSHP would save 13.9 Tonnes CO₂**
 - **Gas: 3.877p/Kw**
 - **Anticipated payback 14 years.**

- The **grey water recycling system** collects rainwater from roofs in a 54 cubic meter underground chamber and is pumped via a break tank to separate loft space storage tanks. There is mains water back-up at the break tank to ensure continuity of supply

whatever the weather. A pulse meter is also fitted within this system to record usage.

- **School to save ca. 620m³ of water a year**
- **Water: 80p/m³**
- **Waste water: 150p/m³**

All the new technologies and the conventional energy/water supplies are fitted with pulse meters and are connected to the Building Management System. The Council will analyse the system over a period of time to determine their effectiveness.

The school building has been rated as B+ using the SBEM energy calculation tool.

Earth Hour

The Dick Institute turned off its decorative floodlighting for one hour at 8.30pm on Saturday March 28 2009 as East Ayrshire Council joined tens of millions of people around the world in demonstrating concern about the future of the planet during Earth Hour.

In addition, primary school pupils throughout East Ayrshire designed posters to mark the 2009 Earth Hour and the winning entries were displayed at the Dick Institute from 27 March until 3 April.

Making sure the energy conservation message got across to as wide an audience as possible, the Council's Energy Advice Team placed leaflets at the Dick Institute to help people find simple ways of reducing their carbon footprint.

Energy Advice

The Council's Energy Advice Team provides expert guidance on energy matters to local residents and businesses via a network of surgeries and home visits. As well as raising awareness of energy conservation, the Team also aims to tackle fuel poverty. Activities throughout East Ayrshire have resulted in residents delivering an estimated 30% reduction in their CO₂ emissions over the ten year period from 1997-2007.

Waste Management

Over the last year, East Ayrshire has further increased its waste recycling rate to 41.2%, securing its position within the top 3 recycling authorities in Scotland and exceeding European and national landfill diversion and recycling obligations. The Council's continued progress with landfill diversion and recycling rates can be attributed to enhancements to the existing service, including upgrading of the Council's Recycling Centre in Kilmarnock and introduction and rebranding of additional localised 'bring' sites.

Appendix 3

Kerbside Residual Waste Analysis

In order to ascertain the composition of waste within the domestic residual waste stream and identify waste minimisation and recycling opportunities within existing and future programmes the Cleansing Service conducted an analysis of waste presented at kerbside destined for landfill.

The study was based on waste arising from 100 representative households within the authority. Contents of the residual waste containers were separated into material types and weighed accordingly. Results from the analysis are detailed below.

Material	Quantity Collected (by weight)	Could this be collected for recycling via an existing service?
Organic Kitchen Waste	25.76%	X
Mixed Plastics	20.46%	✓
Other Putrescibles	9.87%	X
Textiles	5.89%	✓
Organic Garden Waste	5.31%	✓
Glass	4.7%	✓
Non-Recyclable Paper	3.78%	X
Cardboard	3.46%	✓
Cans & Aerosols	3.43%	✓
Miscellaneous	3.17%	X
Food & Drink Cartons	2.77%	✓
Recyclable Paper	2.25%	✓
Combustibles	2.02%	X
Newspapers & Mags	2.02%	✓
Non-Combustibles	1.47%	X
Wood	1.33%	✓
WEEE	0.81%	✓
Potential Hazardous	0.49%	X
Fines	0.46%	X
Paint	0.46%	✓
Oils	0.09%	✓