

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 27 AUGUST 2008

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with a progress report on the development of the East Ayrshire Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) and invite Cabinet to recommend that the SDS and accompanying Environmental Report proceed to public consultation as required by Section 16 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In September 2006, the Corporate Management Team identified the requirement for East Ayrshire Council to develop a SDS, which will promote an integrated approach to sustainability across all Council Departments.
- 2.2 Corporate Management Team identified that key themes to be incorporated within the SDS are Waste, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Procurement and Biodiversity.
- 2.3 A Sustainable Development Working Group was established and tasked with developing the SDS. All Council Departments were represented in the structure of the working group.
- 2.4 The Sustainable Development Working Group identified that as the SDS will directly impact environmental considerations, the requirement to complete a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as per the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.
- 2.5 The Screening Report for the East Ayrshire SDS was submitted to the SEA Gateway on 24 July 2007.
- 2.6 The three consulting authorities, namely Historic Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) all confirmed the requirement for SEA process to be completed.
- 2.7 A Scoping Report which identified the objectives of the SDS, and provided the Consulting Authorities with the opportunity to comment on the

proposed scope and level of detail to be incorporated within the Environmental Report was developed and submitted to the SEA Gateway in October 2007.

- 2.8 On 10 December 2007, the consulting authorities confirmed their acceptance of the scope and level of detail proposed for the strategy and concurred with the proposed 6 week period for public consultation.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Corporate Management Team approved the principles of the draft SDS at its meeting on 26 June 2008.
- 3.2 As a signatory to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration, East Ayrshire Council has a range of requirements to fulfill, such as the development of an Action Plan and the publication of an annual monitoring statement. All Climate Change obligations will be fulfilled through the delivery mechanisms of the SDS.
- 3.3 The implementation of the SDS and its accompanying action plan will be assigned to the Sustainable Development Working Group. This Group will reform during August/September 2008 and will report to CMT on a quarterly basis thereafter.
- 3.4 Subject to Cabinet approval of the draft SDS, a copy of which is attached (Appendix 1) it is proposed to proceed to public consultation in early September 2008. In order to aid the consultation process opinion, a Public Notice will be placed within the Kilmarnock Standard and Cumnock Chronicle as well as the Council website. Copies of the documents will be available to view at Council offices at London Road, Kilmarnock and at Council offices, Lugar. Simultaneously, the documents will be available to download from the Council website and hard copies will be available from Cleansing Services.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The SDS will ensure that a consistent approach to sustainability will occur throughout Council operations. The SDS will strongly influence and be influenced by the Community Planning process and will impact on the core themes of the Community Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement for East Ayrshire.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Subject to Cabinet approval the SDS and accompanying Environmental Report will be submitted to the SEA Gateway within 14 days of approval. Consulting authorities and public opinion will be sought for a period of 6 weeks from date of submission.

7.2 Any comments/observations received during the period of consultation will be taken into account before the East Ayrshire Sustainable Development Strategy is finalised and approved.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Cabinet is invited to approve the contents of the draft SDS and accompanying Environmental Report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

6 August 2008

WS/DG/LS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Implementation Officer: Chris.McAleavey@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Draft August 2008

Version 16

Date: 05 August 2008

Issued to: Head of Housing
Cleaving Services Manager

Issued by: Strategy & Policy Manager

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2008 – 2011

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FOREWORD

East Ayrshire Council has long recognised the importance of delivering sustainability across all Council services as part of the ongoing process of continuous improvement. The East Ayrshire Community Plan has provided the strategic context for the delivery of sustainable development across Council services with the principles of sustainability at the centre of its vision.

Now, more than ever, the Council recognises that in order to achieve strong and vibrant communities we need to ensure that the decisions we make meets the needs of today while protecting the environment for the future.

However, sustainability isn't just about environmental issues such as pollution control or biodiversity it is also about ensuring we live in safe communities and in appropriate homes with access to opportunities for learning, employment and improving our health. To achieve this, it is essential that we sustain a careful balance between achieving long-term economic stability and meeting the social and environmental demands of the services we provide.

This strategy takes forward the Council's work to achieve a sustainable community within East Ayrshire, developing the strategic guidelines established in the Community Plan to ensure sustainable, continuous improvement which doesn't falter.

Councillor Douglas Reid
Leader of the Council

Comments and Feedback

We would welcome any comments you may wish to make on East Ayrshire Council's Sustainable Development Strategy.

In addition, if you would like to be included in future consultations or informed of events associated with our implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy please contact us at the address below or visit the East Ayrshire Council web-site and complete the on-line feedback form. You can also telephone, e-mail or fax the Council using the details given below:

Neighbourhood Services (Housing)
Cleansing Services – Strategy & Policy Section
Western Road
Kilmarnock
KA3 1LL

Tel: 01563 554093

Fax: 01563 554077

E-mail: CleansingServicesPolicy&Strategy@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Web-site www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk

This document is also available on request, in Braille, large print or recorded onto tape and can be translated upon request.

INTRODUCTION

This document presents East Ayrshire Council's Sustainable Development Strategy. The preparation of this strategy took place following an audit of sustainability activity across Council services during 2007.

Sustainable development has been an important component of East Ayrshire Council's vision for our communities since the inception of the Council in 1996. Both the Community Plan and Environment Strategy, which was adopted in 2001, emphasised the importance of sustainability in the Council's role within the community. Indeed, the East Ayrshire Community Plan has the concept of sustainability at the very centre of its vision:-

"East Ayrshire will be a place with strong, vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs."

In making the decision to give sustainability a prominent platform within the Community Plan, it was essential that each of the six thematic action plans within the Plan made a firm commitment to sustainability in all its applications:-

"Sustainability is at the heart of this plan, we are committed to making sure that the outcomes of social, economic and environmental improvements are sustainable and will stand the test of time. A sustainable community is one which makes sure that today's decisions do not have a negative effect on the future and where actions will have a long-lasting effect. Sustainability is an important part of community life from health, housing, education, transport and economic development to conservation and waste management. We will make sure that the decisions we make meet the needs of today and protect the environment for the future."

This Sustainable Development Strategy provides a framework for action that seeks to deliver the objectives of the UK shared framework for sustainable development, *One Future – Different Paths*, an approach which has also been adopted by the Scottish Governments' strategy for sustainable development - *Choosing Our Future* both published in 2005. The action plan which is incorporated within this strategy provides a strategic direction detailing a number of actions which are required in order to improve effectiveness in meeting the Community Plan's strategic aim for sustainability.

In adopting this Sustainable Development Strategy, East Ayrshire Council is providing clear leadership for its Departments and Services as well as guidance to its partner organisations, key stakeholders and local communities; the efficient and effective use of resources is key to embedding the principles of sustainability into the plans, policies and strategies of the Council as it strives to maximise economic and social growth without compromising the environment.

The requirement to develop a Sustainable Development Strategy was instructed by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) in September 2006, as a direct response to an action highlighted within the East Ayrshire Council Audit of Best Value and Community Planning in September 2006. The publication states:

“Sustainability: better mainstream sustainable development across Council services to achieve required outcomes”¹

4 key themes to be addressed by the Strategy were identified by CMT as Sustainable Procurement, Energy Efficiency, Waste and Biodiversity.

In order to ameliorate these key themes with the East Ayrshire Community Plan, the templates of the Best Value & Sustainable Development Toolkit for Local Authorities, as endorsed by the Scottish Government and the Sustainable Scotland Network, were employed. The delivery of sustainable development is integral to the ongoing process of continuous improvement as required by the Best Value framework. This exercise concluded that the themes of the Community Plan and the SSN Toolkit primarily focussed on the social considerations of sustainability, whereas the 4 key themes for the Sustainable Development Strategy identified primarily with the environmental and economic priorities of sustainability. Whilst economic growth is essential for the long term stability of East Ayrshire, there is a requirement to ensure that such growth is balanced alongside social inclusion and environmental protection.

The Strategy considers how the principles of sustainability will be communicated, monitored, evaluated and reported to local communities on an annual basis. By adapting to change, improving efficiency, and responding to increasing awareness, East Ayrshire Council will achieve its aim of embedding sustainability into the actions of everything we do.

The purpose of this Sustainable Development Strategy is: to provide 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 4 key themes as presented in the Strategy.

¹ East Ayrshire Council : The Audit of Best Value and Community Planning, published in September 2006 by Audit Scotland

BACKGROUND

Following the election in May 2007, the Scottish Government announced that their key purpose was to focus Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.

To achieve this purpose, a series of 5 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES was announced:

WEALTHIER AND FAIRER

Enable businesses and people to increase their wealth and more people to share fairly in that wealth.

HEALTHIER

Help people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care.

SAFER AND STRONGER

Help local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer place to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life.

SMARTER

Expand opportunities for Scots to succeed from nurture through to life long learning ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements.

GREENER

Improve Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it.

In order to create a greener Scotland, five key themes have been identified: climate change; sustainable places; people and nature; consumption and production; and, people and landscape. The challenge is to move to a one-planet living and a one-planet economy. Natural resources are being consumed faster than they can be replenished. To maintain current consumption patterns the equivalent of three planets are required.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development is probably the most commonly used term for describing a wide range of actions which ensure that we live within our means at a global level and for the long term. It is a means of increasing awareness of the effects of our everyday actions while ensuring we enjoy high levels of rewarding employment associated with an effective and efficient economy in a society which encourages social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being. Sustainable Development is not a new concept for East

Ayrshire Council – it is one which has been at the heart of policy development and service delivery since the inception of the Council in 1996.

Most simply, sustainable development can be defined as:

“Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”
(World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987)

Best Value

The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 places a duty on local authorities to achieve Best Value in service provision including continuous improvement in performance, having regard to economic influences, efficiency, effectiveness, meeting the requirement for equal opportunities for all as well as making a commitment to achieving sustainable development.

This duty to achieve Best Value has informed the Community Planning process and encourages Community Planning partners to take full cognisance of sustainable development when developing services now and in the future.

A Best Value Task Force was established in May 1997 to develop and implement Best Value across all local authorities and has provided explicit guidance which highlights that a local authority which is achieving best value and sustainable development will be able to demonstrate seven distinct qualities. The commitment to achieving these in East Ayrshire is highlighted alongside each quality:

- **Leadership**

- *That there is commitment at both elected member and senior officer level to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and to promote an integrated approach to improve economic, social and environmental well-being.*

Objective: Provide leadership, guidance and commitment to employees, stakeholders, businesses and residents within East Ayrshire

- **Integration**

- *That contributing to the achievement of sustainable development is reflected in the authorities objectives and highlighted in all strategies and plans at corporate and service level.*

Objective: Ensure sustainable development considerations are integral to all Council plans, programmes and strategies

- **Consultation**
 - *That these plans, priorities and actions are informed by the views of its communities and key local partners.*

Objective: Consult widely with partners, stakeholders and individuals to ensure environmental impact is a key consideration in decisions, large and small

- **Performance Management**
 - *That quality of life indicators are identified to measure performance in contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and reported to the public.*

Objective: Identify and introduce annual performance targets in relation to the 4 key themes and to produce an annual public performance statement

- **Evaluation**
 - *That review activities take account of sustainability issues and assess the impact of policy proposals on sustainable development.*

Objective: Ensure the evaluation of this strategy is consistent with the Community Plan. To ensure that sustainability criteria are embedded within the Council's plans, programmes and strategies

- **Resource Management**
 - *That sustainable development requirements are taken into account in the procurement strategy.*

Objective: Maximise efficient use of resources to secure maximum effect and minimisation of waste. Ensure that those responsible for environmental misconduct are held accountable for their actions

- **Influence**
 - *That there is a systematic approach to the management of resources which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.*

Objective: Ensure that sustainability considerations are integral to the decision making process for plans, programmes and strategies

It is clear that East Ayrshire Council has made substantial progress in addressing each of the criteria identified by the Task Force above. Action 9 of the Securing Continuous Improvement, Best Value & Community Planning Audit Submission, January 2006, reported on Council progress to date and

highlighted areas for improvement which have further informed the development of the Sustainable Development Strategy.

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.

The International Context

Internationally, there has been a series of high profile events which have marked a steady progression in the understanding of sustainable development:

In 1987, a Report by the World Commission on Environment & Development, *Our Common Future*, was published. This report, more commonly referred to as The Brundtland Report, is attributed with establishing the definition for sustainable development of “*development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs*”;

In 1992, the UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro established the framework for the production of a Local Agenda 21 (LA21) by all local authorities in the UK by 2000. This document is a plan by which sustainable development is to be achieved;

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol established a legal framework for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG's) emissions by developed countries by 2008-2012, with an average of 5.2% reduction based on 1990 levels;

The 1999 EC Directive on the Landfill of Waste, EU1999/31/EC is intended to prevent or reduce the adverse effects of the landfill of waste. This Directive also introduced Landfill Taxation;

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, Government leaders reaffirmed their commitment to Agenda 21;

At the G8 Summit at Gleneagles in 2005, a Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development was agreed;

The 2007 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali culminated in the adoption of the Bali roadmap, which charts the course for a new negotiating process to be concluded by 2009 that will ultimately lead to a post-2012 international agreement on climate change.

The foregoing list of international agreements, Directives and strategies, whilst not exhaustive, provides the focus for the development of policies and actions

at both national and local level. International evidence and opinion, indicates that the Earth's natural resources are being used at a faster rate than can be replenished. As the emergence of a new era of developing nations has intensified the demand for global resources, the negative effects of economic growth and development are being demonstrated through growing evidence of climate change, biodiversity loss, and the widening of the poverty gap between nations.

The National Context

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy, *Securing the Future*, and a shared framework for sustainable development by the devolved administrations, *One Future – Different Paths*, were published in March 2005. Scotland's sustainable development strategy, *Choosing Our Future*, then followed in December 2005. These documents established a set of five guiding principles which aimed to be translated into sustainable development policies across the country. These are:

Living within Environmental Limits

Respecting the limits of the planets' environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.

Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society

Meeting the needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunities for all.

Achieving a Sustainable Economy

Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them and efficient resource use is incentivised.

Promoting Good Governance

Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people's creativity, energy and diversity.

Using Sound Science Responsibly

Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty as well as public attitudes and values.

These principles are ineffective unless translated into positive action at a local level and the main themes of East Ayrshire's Community Plan effectively deliver the national guiding principles.

The Local Context

The East Ayrshire Community Plan adopted a vision for how its communities should develop which pre-empted the guiding principles identified by the UK and Scottish Governments as early as 2003. This foresight has allowed sustainability in its broadest sense to be addressed through six thematic action plans:

Promoting Community Learning

Ensuring people have access to community based learning opportunities throughout their lives by advancing active citizenship.

Improving Opportunities

Ensuring opportunities for improving the local economy are maximised by supporting business and employment as well as promoting availability of good quality homes as well as leisure and cultural facilities. Further, ensuring transport options allow people to access all that East Ayrshire has to offer.

Improving Community Safety

Creating safe places to live, work and play by reducing crime, improving public safety and improving safety in neighbourhoods and homes.

Improving Health

Improving the health and well-being of people by tackling the worst health problems, ensuring that services are fully accessible, helping everyone to make healthy lifestyle choices as well as fully supporting vulnerable groups.

Eliminating Poverty

Working to improve employment opportunities for all including the disadvantaged in the economy including supporting self-help initiatives, carers and those requiring debt counselling and money advice.

Improving the Environment

Protecting the natural and built environment by making more efficient use of our resources including how our housing stock is managed. Ensuring that access to outdoor amenities is encouraged as well as improving our transport networks and improving how we deal with waste.

These six thematic plans address many of the issues identified by the national guiding principles for sustainable development.

However, in addition to the actions established in the thematic action plans, the East Ayrshire Community Plan also recognises the need to ensure effective delivery of the plan through three core values:

- ***Effective partnership working;***

- ***Listening to, communicating with and involving the community;***
- ***Agreeing joint priorities and action plans to deliver our aims.***

In brief, East Ayrshire Council has already established a clear strategic context by which sustainability is at the centre of our vision. Nevertheless, this Sustainable Development Strategy is an essential component in ensuring that the Council's approach to sustainability is better co-ordinated to ensure delivery of our objectives across all Council services in order that we can achieve improved outcomes throughout the community.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the systematic process of evaluating the environmental consequences, whether positive or negative, of any plan, programme or strategy (PPS). This is undertaken in order that these consequences are fully included and appropriately addressed at the earliest stage of decision making. SEA ensures the delivery of the principles of sustainable development by making environmental considerations as pertinent as economic and social issues when making strategic decisions.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was introduced into Scottish law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004, the purpose of which was to transpose and implement Directive 2001/42/EEC of the European Parliament and Council (entitled the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment). The Regulations were subsequently superseded and revoked by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 which came into force on 20 February 2006. The Act allows those plans, programmes and strategies that were started before 20 February 2006 to progress to adoption under the provisions of the 2004 Regulations.

The Act and the preceding Regulations are only concerned with the environmental effects of any PPS and do not take account of social and economic considerations.

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 can be broken down into five distinct parts: (1) pre-screening/screening; (2) scoping; (3) environmental report, (4) post-adoption and (5) monitoring.

The minimum timescale in which a strategy can proceed through the first three stages of the SEA process is 26 weeks and this can place additional burdens on decision-making processes. However, SEA also provides a template for building sustainability into corporate decision making where economic and social factors may otherwise take precedence.

While Strategic Environmental Assessment places a statutory obligation on local authorities to scrutinise the environmental sustainability of plans, programmes and strategies, there remains a poor understanding of the requirement and criteria for undertaking SEA as well as the full range of assessment responsibilities required by the regulations.

Several of the Council's plans, programmes and strategies are already progressing through the SEA process. These include the Local Plan, the Core Path Plan and the Cumnock Town Centre Regeneration Masterplan.

As the Sustainable Development Strategy will have a positive impact on the environment, the requirement to complete a SEA was identified at an early stage. This conclusion was endorsed by the views of the three Consulting Authorities, namely Historic Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency.

In December 2007, the Consulting Authorities endorsed the scope and level of detail proposed for the Sustainable Development Strategy and accompanying Environmental Report.

Prior to engaging in external consultation, as required by the SEA process, the Draft Sustainable Development Strategy should be reviewed by each Council Service to ensure maximum opportunity for consultation. Service responses were sought during March/April 2008.

The experience gained in undertaking the Strategic Environmental Assessment of these Plans has highlighted the difficulties of instilling a corporate-wide understanding of the obligations placed on the Council to deliver SEA as appropriate across all Council services.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is an issue which is causing increasing concern as a consequence of rising awareness of its effects. The impact of climate change is already being experienced at a global, national and local level with more significant impacts predicted for future decades. In recent years, as more extreme weather events occur at local level, the reality of climate change has become tangible.

The Scottish Government is working in partnership with the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland to establish a UK Climate Change Bill which will set a UK reduction target for carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. The UK Bill includes setting targets in statute and setting a limit on the total carbon which can be emitted by the UK over a 5 year period, namely carbon budgeting. In December 2007, the Scottish Parliament agreed to a Legislative Consent Motion which will mean that many of the provisions of the UK Bill, on enactment, will extend to Scotland.

The Scottish Government does, however, intend to establish a higher carbon reduction target of 80%, with the intention to include this requirement within a Scottish Climate Change Bill. The Scottish Government believe that Scotland's emissions, and the potential to reduce emissions in Scotland are different to the rest of the UK. In addition, Scotland has the scope from marine and wind energy to benefit from renewable energy potential.

Addressing climate change requires action that can be grouped under two main themes:

Adaptation

Most scientists have reached a consensus that climate change is already underway, with its effects likely to intensify over the coming decades. Communities will have to adapt to the effects, which may now be unavoidable, of changing weather patterns on Council services, infrastructure, human health, economic development as well as the environment.

Mitigation

Scientific evidence indicates that levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs) which cause climate change are continuing to rise and concerted action is required to both stabilise and reduce emissions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the main international body overseeing research on climate has recommended that global cuts in emission of 60-90% are required if climate is to be stabilised. There is a clear relationship between mitigation and adaptation with the more rapidly emissions of GHGs are reduced, the less adaptation will eventually be required.

It has been indicated that the response to climate change from local authorities is focussed on mitigation, for example through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promotion of renewable energy. However, irrespective of mitigation measures undertaken now, adaptation will also be

required as, given existing emissions, we are already committed to some level of future climate change.

The Climate Change Scenarios for the United Kingdom Briefing Report (2002) provides details of the extent of climate change as it is predicted for East Ayrshire. The scenario for East Ayrshire to 2080 anticipates that there will be an increase in temperature of between 0.5°C and 4.5°C and change in precipitation ranging from -30% to +30% of current levels. It is anticipated that there will be warmer, wetter winters with warmer, drier summers including more frequent extreme weather events throughout the year.

In March 2007, East Ayrshire Council made a commitment to adapt to and mitigate against the effects of climate change by signing the Scottish Climate Change Declaration. This Declaration has now been signed up to by all 32 local authorities in Scotland.

In signing this Declaration, the Council has indicated that it considers climate change will have a significant impact on services and that action is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, it is necessary for the Council to demonstrate that it is putting in place adaptation measures across all services.

In developing an appropriate response to climate change, it is necessary to assess the risks and opportunities for the Council's services and communities of predicted climate change scenarios and their impacts and take action to adapt accordingly and in line with principles of sustainable development.

The Council's commitment to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration requires an annual statement to be produced detailing the progress and performance of the Council's response to climate change. This statement should outline the targets set as well as the actions taken, outcomes achieved and further actions required.

The Council can demonstrate good practice in attempting to mitigate against climate change through the commitment to establish a base-line position in terms of carbon emissions. Additionally, the Council's partnership with the Carbon Trust, has permitted the development of a Carbon Management Strategy aiming to minimise carbon emissions from buildings, waste, street lighting and transport activities. Such activities are direct responses to climate change. However, there are many other examples of good practice which are less obvious such as the use of energy efficient vehicles across the Council fleet and using locally sourced foods in schools meals.

OFFICERS WORKING GROUP & SUSTAINABILITY AUDIT

In September 2006, the Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT), identified a requirement for East Ayrshire Council to develop a Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) which would allow the Council to better co-ordinate its response to the Best Value requirements for sustainability.

CMT identified that the 4 themes of sustainable procurement, energy efficiency, waste, and biodiversity should be incorporated within the Strategy as areas for priority action.

Tasked with developing the Sustainable Development Strategy, Housing Services invited representatives from each Council Department to form an Officers' Working Group. This Group's remit was to undertake an audit of sustainability activities undertaken throughout the Council and to develop the 4 themes into a strategy which would co-ordinate and progress the sustainability agenda of the Council while remaining consistent with the overall principles of the Council's Community Plan.

Initial discussions by the Working Group identified that there appeared to be an inconsistent approach to adopting sustainability criteria across Council activities. As such, each Department's representative was tasked with identifying the extent to which sustainability considerations were evidenced in current service delivery within their own Departments. In addition, examples of good practice were sought to provide a baseline from which all Council Services could identify with examples of existing good practice and provide a mechanism for sustainable practices to be incorporated within everyday activities.

The gathering of this information was initially undertaken on an informal basis by Working Group members. However, due to disparities in the collection process adopted by the Group, it was agreed that a more appropriate method of gathering the information would be a survey, addressed to all Heads of Service and this took the form of the Sustainability Audit.

In June 2007, the Sustainability Audit was circulated to all Heads of Service within the Council. The findings of the survey are detailed in Appendix 1.

Key Audit Findings

Sustainable Procurement:

- Services recognise the role of the Council's Procurement section and operate within the recognised framework. Where budgets allow, and where feasible, the long term financial considerations associated with purchases are a prioritised consideration.
- Services will actively seek the views and guidance of the Procurement section in their purchasing decisions and would welcome further guidance in order to maximise Best Value with a sustainable context.
- Examples of best practice include:

- The Vehicle Purchase Framework for the Council;
- The supply of fresh, locally produced food products;
- Trials of organic non-bitumous binder for surface dressing of roads.

Energy Efficiency

- Services recognise the role of the Council's Energy Advice Unit. Feedback to individual services regarding energy consumption would be welcomed;
- Services recognise that the Council has a lead role to play in promoting carbon reduction measures to its local communities;
- Examples of best practice include:
 - The development of a Procurement Guide for green energy;
 - Installation of low energy lightbulbs & high energy ballasts;
 - The installation of energy efficient dishwashers within schools.
 - The installation of wind turbines, solar panels and ground source heat pump as renewable energy sources.

Waste

- Services predominantly recognise the requirement to reduce the volume of paper waste generated from their operations. The promotion of recycling is viewed as a priority for services.
- Services recognise the publication of the Council's Waste Prevention Action Plan, which provided both Council wide and individual service targets regarding waste reduction, reuse and recycling opportunities.
- Examples of best practice include:
 - The widespread introduction of paper and cardboard recycling;
 - The introduction of materials recycling skips in depots e.g. rubble, timber & green waste;
 - The formation of a cross Departmental Officer Working Group to monitor performance against waste targets. This group reviews and develops waste minimisation opportunities for Council activities.
 - The installation of grey water system in new school development.

Biodiversity

- Services recognise the value of data on wildlife and habitats within East Ayrshire, and the requirement to consider the impact on local biodiversity in their decision making processes.
- Awareness of the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Plan is disappointing.
- Examples of biodiversity considerations being taken into account include:
 - Cognisance of local habitats in the construction of new flood prevention measures;
 - Consideration to nesting seasons when pruning/trimming;

- The Countryside Ranger Service education programme which annually involves approximately 6000 primary school pupils.

Overall the audit responses indicate that while there is a high level of sustainable development activities going on in practice, conversely, there is a poor understanding of sustainable development criteria. The audit has indicated that there is an important opportunity to raise awareness of sustainability across the Council in each of the key themes and further areas such as climate change.

The audit also highlighted that opportunities for services to share their expertise and seek information and advice is limited. The audit found that only the key theme of Waste had a means of disseminating and sharing information with each Council service in the form of an Officers' Working Group. Subsequent to the audit, a Procurement Strategy Working Group has been established.

KEY THEMATIC AIMS

In identifying key thematic aims for East Ayrshire Council's response to the requirements for best value and sustainable development, the Corporate Management Team selected four key areas where the Council has already made significant progress in achieving sustainability, but where the impacts of these four areas significantly cut across many of the Council's services.

These four areas are:

- Sustainable Procurement;
- Energy Efficiency;
- Waste;
- Biodiversity.

The Community Planning process has placed the achievement of sustainable development at the centre of its vision and this has been observed in the findings of the audit of sustainable practices undertaken by Council services. In addition, the analysis of the Community Planning priorities undertaken by the Sustainable Development Officer's Working Group found that although sustainability is indeed built into the Plan there is an emphasis on the social dimension of sustainability which is appropriate within the community planning context. For this reason, the Sustainable Development Strategy key themes identified above, while influencing the three core areas of sustainable development of social, economic and environmental consequences, place particular attention on the economic and environmental impacts of Council services.

Each of the four key themes identifies a thematic objective which is representative of the Council's expectation for how sustainability is to be addressed within each of these priority areas. The sections which follow also discuss how the four themes influence the local and wider environment and ultimately inform the many of the actions arising in the Sustainable Development Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 to this Strategy.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

THEMATIC AIM: In developing the Environmental and Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, the Council's Procurement team has the aim of ensuring value for money for the Council whilst complying with EU, UK and Scottish legislation and the necessity to be considerate of the environmental implications of our procurement decisions.

Sustainable procurement has been defined as

"Using procurement to support wider social, economic and environmental objectives, in ways that offer real long-term benefits".

*Sir Neville Simms,
Chair UK, Government Sustainable Procurement Task Force*

All local authorities are required to comply with EU procurement legislation as outlined in the EU guidance - *Green Public Procurement*. In addition, there is also the UK document - *Procuring the Future* and the *Scottish Procurement Action Plan* which specifies Scottish targets for minimum recycled content.

In line with the above guidance, sustainable procurement should take cognisance of 4 key factors:

- i. The need to achieve Best Value within the financial resources available;
- ii. The economic, social and environmental implications of goods and services purchased;
- iii. The relevant legal requirements relating to procurement procedure, and;
- iv. Links to other Council policies and strategies.

The purpose of achieving environmental sustainability specifically in the procurement of goods, services and works has been identified as:

- i. To conserve energy, water, wood, paper and other resources particularly those which are scarce or non-renewable, in an appropriate manner;
- ii. To reduce waste by purchasing refurbished and recycled products and materials where such materials alternatives are available, affordable, and fit for their purpose;
- iii. To promote internal recycling, to reduce the need for materials, and therefore cost;
- iv. To phase out ozone depleting substances and minimising releases of greenhouse gases, volatile organic compounds, vehicle emissions and other substances with the potential to do damage to health and the environment;

- v. To ensure that suppliers work to minimise the pollution resulting from the manufacture, use and eventual disposal of goods purchased, either by careful selection of suppliers through specification, or by partnership agreements;
- vi. To ensure that all suppliers' and contractors to the Council support the welfare and rights of both their own employees and those of subsidiary companies supplying components and raw materials;
- vii. To ensure that the socio-economic and environmental benefits of goods and services purchased are achieved by the use of locally sourced goods and services where practicable;
- viii. To ensure that any products derived from natural sources such as timbers, plants and animal products are from ecologically sustainable sources that comply with EU and other international trading rules, such as CITES (the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species);
- ix. To encourage manufacturers, suppliers and contractors through specifications to develop socially and environmentally preferable goods and services at competitive prices.

East Ayrshire Council is a major purchaser of goods, services and works locally, nationally and even internationally, and consequently, our purchasing decisions have significant economic, social and environmental implications at each of these levels. These range from potential pollution and biodiversity loss arising from the manufacture of goods and services which we have purchased to the potential employment and economic benefits of purchasing locally manufactured goods. An excellent example of economic and environmental benefits to be derived from procuring locally is demonstrated through the pilot Food for Life project at Hurlford Primary School. This project required that 50% of produce be locally produced, 30% of foodstuffs be organic and 75% be unprocessed. Subsequent to this successful pilot project, there is increased impetus in the sustainable procurement of local produce for school meals, which has provided direct economic benefit to a local farm producer who from 2008 will supply 30 schools, in contrast to one in 2005.

The Council's approach to securing Best Value through procurement requires cognisance to be taken of the whole life costs and benefits of goods, services and works from acquisition, operation and ultimately disposal. The Council's Procurement Team has undertaken a complete review of sustainability guidelines when developing a revised Procurement Strategy, completed in 2007, which is now designed to address the full range of concerns relating to the economic, social and environmental impacts of goods and services.

Clear guidance has been provided by the Procurement team which will allow sustainable development to be fully integrated into all procurement decision making.

It is essential that these guidelines are fully disseminated to all services and employees who have responsibility for purchasing and procurement at all levels of expenditure.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

THEMATIC AIM: Quantify and reduce Council carbon emissions arising from Council services and operations thereby contributing towards Scottish Government targets for carbon emission reduction.

The use of energy for power and transport is one of the most commonly identified environmental threats associated with the carbon emissions that lead to climate change.

In 2004, the estimated average total worldwide power consumption of the human race was 15 Tera Watts (which is 1,500,000,000,000,000 W) with 86.5% of this arising from the burning of fossil fuels. Since 1970, the total amount of energy used per household in the UK has approximately doubled with the level of car ownership also significantly increasing.

East Ayrshire Council's baseline position for carbon emissions has been based on the period 2004-5 and has been calculated at 19,119 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Without remedial carbon reduction measures, this could increase by an estimated 21.6% by 2009-10.

There are two categories under which the use of energy is considered - direct energy and embodied energy:

Direct Energy

The use of energy such as of fuel for Council vehicles or the use of energy to heat and light buildings is considered as direct energy. The costs of direct energy are easily observed such as in the rising cost of petrol and diesel for vehicles.

Embodied Energy

Embodied energy may be defined as the energy used to make a product or provide a service. For example, the energy required to produce paper includes the energy involved in growing and harvesting trees, processing the timber into paper and the eventual distribution of the final product. Using recycled paper removes part of the energy needed in the early part of this process. Embodied energy permeates all aspects of the Council's business and the products it uses.

Carbon Management Programme Strategy and Implementation Plan

In June 2006, the Council entered an agreement with the Carbon Trust to participate in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme. This has resulted in the development of a Carbon Management Programme Strategy and Implementation Plan which is the Council's guiding document in achieving the Council's carbon reduction targets.

The Plan highlights four key areas where action is necessary to reduce the carbon emissions arising from Council activities:

- i. Reducing the environmental impact of the Council's energy consumption;
- ii. Reducing the environmental impact of the Council's vehicle fleet;
- iii. Reducing the environmental impact of landfill by minimising waste arisings and recycling waste wherever practical; and
- iv. Reducing the environmental impact of street lighting.

Buildings

The Carbon Management Programme Strategy has identified that 71% of the Council's total carbon emissions come from buildings alone. These emissions can be tackled in a number of different ways:

- i. All new builds should have a high standard of energy efficiency which is indicated at tender specification for the new building; e.g. as per the new build primary school in Galston which will be occupied from August 2008,
- ii. Existing buildings should be upgraded where possible. This has already been partly achieved utilising the Central Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) and council capital investment in renovations.
- iii. Council housing stock has been improved under the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA), whereby there is a programme of on-going upgrading;
- iv. The type and source of the fuel purchased should be considered. The Council, in conjunction with other local authorities, participates in the ABC. The Council endeavours to procure green energy supplies as a preferred option, where it is feasible and non cost prohibitive to do so, thereby adhering to the principles of Best Value;
- v. There should be a clear list of suitable building products that conform to sustainable standards.

Transport

Transport accounts for 14% of the Council carbon footprint. The Council supports a large number of vehicles, but also sponsors a large number of car journeys through its daily business such as individuals travelling to and from work, and between Council offices.

Whilst a number of these journeys are necessary, and the Council is required to run its own fleet of vehicles, thought should be given to the type of vehicle, its fuel source, and use.

- i. Individuals should be encouraged to take a responsibility for reducing vehicle usage. This could be done by encouraging car share schemes, or by providing a financial incentive to reduce car usage. Use of alternative forms of meetings could be promoted such as video conferencing suites;
- ii. The appropriateness of the existing fleet of vehicles should be re-assessed to determine if it meets the needs of the Council in the most sustainable manner. The Council already promotes the use of bio-diesel and low sulphur products, but it may be appropriate to

- extend this to further vehicles and it could be made a requirement of suppliers to services to the Council such as for school buses.
- iii. A policy of positive promotion towards environmentally low energy practices for transport should also be encouraged.

Waste

The kerbside recycling service and the Waste Prevention Action Plan are already promoting the minimisation of waste and the re-use of materials, rather than these going into landfill. Waste minimisation can have a positive effect on limiting energy use, as the re-use of materials may lead to a decline in the amount of energy used in the production of those materials.

Street Lighting

Street lighting is a very real requirement for safety and security, as well as providing amenity. However, new types of lighting, and new technologies in casting light are continuously being developed. It would be unfeasible to renew all street lighting as each new improvement came out, but it is practical to take advantage of a rolling maintenance and renewal programme to achieve sustainability. The Council participation in the ABC buying consortium has allowed the Council to access energy efficient bulbs at a subsidised cost.

Materials and Product use

The Carbon Management Strategy calls for a substantial reduction in CO₂ production. It recommends the use of the energy labelling scheme as part of product selection. This scheme is being rolled out over a wider range of products, and should be considered as part of the drive for energy reduction. Where possible, 'A' rated products should be used, as these are the most energy efficient. More energy saving technology has been incorporated into the ABC catalogue, and as this represents a cost saving to the Council, these should be used as a benchmark for purchasing energy efficient goods.

The Action Plan which accompanies the Strategy and Implementation Plan has identified a range of initiatives from short term, low cost measures to large scale projects requiring significant investment. These actions will benefit the Council and the wider East Ayrshire community. Failure to implement the Plan could result in a rise of energy related costs from £2.73M in 2004/05 to £5.91M by 2010.

WASTE

THEMATIC AIM: Minimise the volume of waste produced within East Ayrshire and ensure that the reuse and recycling of waste is maximised thereby reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

The safe disposal of waste is as vital for health and well-being as it is for the environment. However, sustainable waste management extends far further than disposal and in order to avoid the unnecessary depletion of natural resources, the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste is required to be addressed. The energy associated with the production and existence of waste is a significant contributor to the Greenhouses Gases (GHGs) which are associated with climate change.

The EU Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC requires each member state to significantly reduce the quantity of biodegradable waste entering landfill sites for disposal. The Directive has given specific targets to each member state in relation to the quantities of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) entering landfill.

From a baseline of 1995 landfill levels, the amount of BMW permitted to landfill is as follows:

- 75% of 1995 levels by 2010
- 50% of 1995 levels by 2013
- 35% of 1995 levels by 2020

Following the transposition of the EU Landfill Directive into Scottish law, the then Scottish Executive introduced further targets for local authorities relating to recycling and composting resulting in a requirement to recycle at least 55% of all municipal solid waste (MSW) arisings by 2020.

In addition, the Scottish Executive established further targets for the diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill through the creation of Landfill Allowance Scheme (Scotland) which specifies the maximum tonnage of BMW which may be sent to landfill by each local authority. The Scheme permits local authorities to sell or borrow tonnages in order to meet their landfill diversion targets. Failure to meet the terms of the Scheme may result in offending authorities being fined up to £150 per tonne for each excess tonne of biodegradable waste entering landfill.

More recently, the Scottish Government introduced additional national recycling/composting targets, placing a limit on the quantity of residual waste permitted to be used for energy recovery and a revision to the quantity of waste permitted for disposal via landfill, culminating with the recycling/composting target of 70% MSW by 2025.

Kerbside Recycling Service

In order to comply with and achieve the Scottish Executive's targets Scottish local authorities were invited to apply for Strategic Waste Funding (SWF), to facilitate the required changes to domestic waste collection infrastructure.

East Ayrshire Council applied for and was awarded £14.89Million to implement a kerbside recycling service which would ensure that recycling targets set for 2006 (25%), 2008 (30%) and 2010 (40%) would be met.

The kerbside recycling service provides a 240 litre blue bin for paper and cardboard and a 240 litre brown bin for garden waste both of which are serviced 4 weekly as well as a 55 litre black box for glass and cans which is serviced fortnightly. In addition, the reduction in the quantity of residual waste arising from increased recycling permitted a fortnightly collection of residual waste to be introduced.

In addition to the introduction of the kerbside recycling service, the Council have continued to improve the facilities available at Recycling Centres and Points by increasing the number of sites, improving the appearance and accessibility to the sites and increasing the range of recyclables which may be deposited.

The introduction of the kerbside recycling service and improved recycling Centres and Points have resulted in the rise of East Ayrshire Council's recycling rate from 7% in 2004 to in excess of 36% by 2007. This increase in waste diversion from landfill has resulted in the authority exceeding all waste related targets to date and has placed East Ayrshire consistently within the top 5 recycling local authorities in Scotland.

An evaluation of the level of householder participation in kerbside recycling is currently being undertaken in a Participation Study. The study highlights where areas of low participation exist and identifies performance trends. The results of this study will inform a focused awareness campaign which includes intensive interaction within communities to promote the more effective use of the kerbside recycling service.

Sustainable Waste Management Initiatives

In order to further support the kerbside recycling service, the Council have implemented several waste minimisation and recycling initiatives targeting a reduction in domestic waste arisings:

- The Council have worked in partnership with the reprocessor of garden waste collected within East Ayrshire to achieve a certified compost product. The compost, accredited by the Composting Association to the PAS100 standard, is available at Recycling Centres free of charge through the "Compost to Go" initiative;

- In order to minimise the amount of food waste entering landfill, the Council has worked in partnership with the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to provide households with discounted home composting facilities. In addition to receiving a composting unit, householders can access a local WRAP Composting Advisor who is on hand to provide expert advice on home composting.
- To minimise food waste as well as conserve resources, the “Love Food, Hate Waste” campaign, run in partnership with Waste Aware Scotland has been introduced. The campaign advises householders on how to reduce excess food purchasing as well as highlighting recipe ideas for left over food provided by well known chefs.

Internal Waste Audit

In addition to diverting waste arising from domestic premises from landfill, the Council have also focused on its own housekeeping arrangement with regards to waste arising from our own premises and operations.

A comprehensive internal waste audit was conducted in 2006 which measured and recorded the types and quantities of waste arisings from all Council premises and operations.

Following the audit, a Waste Prevention Action Plan (WPAP), which highlighted the audit findings and included Council-wide and departmental specific waste minimisation and recycling targets was produced and adopted by Council. In order to ensure that targets highlighted within the Plan were met, a Waste Prevention Officers Group with representatives of each Council service was established to monitor progress against Action Plan targets and to share experience and best practice.

It would be appropriate to replicate the Participation Study of the kerbside recycling service and apply the method to a full internal waste Participation Study in order to determine the success of the arrangements undertaken through the WPAP. The findings of such a study would be relayed to the Waste Prevention Officer Group for consideration and action.

Commercial Waste

Although the Council has achieved a significant increase in the rate of municipal waste recycling, there remains a requirement to further increase the diversion of waste from landfill in line with future targets.

Commercial waste arisings are included within the definition of municipal waste and therefore, any increase in recycling from this sector can contribute to the achievement of diversion from landfill targets. However, there is currently no additional funding available from the Scottish Government to support additional commercial services.

Nevertheless, in order to achieve diversion targets and avoid the financial penalties of failing to do so, it is recommended that a review of the current level of service provided for commercial customers be undertaken to identify opportunities for service and diversion improvement within the limits of existing resources.

Long Term Waste Treatment

Targets for the diversion of waste from landfill to the year 2025 are such that they cannot be achieved by recycling and composting of garden waste alone. It will be necessary to adopt methods of further waste treatment in order to meet the targets.

The Scottish Government has asked that the Ayrshire group of authorities consider joint working arrangements for the long term treatment of waste arising within the area.

There may be both economic and environmental benefits and disadvantages to developing such joint working arrangements and these require to be fully identified prior to committing to any long term waste treatment option. Cognisance requires to be taken of The National Waste Strategy framework which ensures that four key principles are considered:

- i. the proximity principle and self sufficiency which requires that wastes be managed as close as possible to the place at which they arise, and that groups be able to deal with their own waste
- ii. the precautionary principle which requires that action should be taken now to avoid potential environmental damage in the future
- iii. the polluter pays principle which requires that polluters bear the full cost of their actions
- iv. the Best Practicable Environmental Option decision making tool be utilised to ensure that the protection and conservation of the environment be key to Ayrshire's decision making process.

Environmental assessment including carbon footprinting of the number of options available for waste treatment in the long-term is necessary in order to ensure the principles of sustainability are built into sustainable waste management processes.

BIODIVERSITY

THEMATIC AIM: Protect and enhance the flora and fauna of East Ayrshire with particular regard to those habitats and species which have recognised local and national significance.

Biodiversity has been described as:

“Biodiversity is all living things, from the tiny garden ant to the giant redwood tree. You will find biodiversity everywhere, in window boxes and wild woods, roadsides and rainforests, snow fields and sea shores.”

Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report, 1995

In 1992, the UK Government signed the convention on Biological Diversity at the Earth Summit in Rio. There was recognition of the need to protect the biodiversity of the planet from dangers such as pollution, climate change and exploitation of natural resources. Signatories of the Convention are obliged to:

“Develop national strategies, plans and programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.”

In 1996, The Scottish Biodiversity Group was established to co-ordinate action in Scotland. The Group prepared the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (2004) which adapted the UK Biodiversity Action Plan by considering species, habitats and cultural arrangements which differ in emphasis in Scotland compared to the rest of the UK. The strategy is referred to in the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004) where all public bodies are given a “*biodiversity duty*” to “*further the conservation of biodiversity*” as they carry out their work. This legislation builds in consideration of all aspects of biodiversity into all relevant decision making process.

The Scottish Biodiversity List (2005), documents the species and habitats considered to be of principal importance for the purpose of biodiversity conservation in Scotland and is also referred to in the Act. The list includes 1,806 terrestrial and freshwater species, with a further 109 marine species. These lists are intended to be used to guide decision-makers such as local authorities in implementing their duty to further the conservation of biodiversity in Scotland when carrying out their normal functions.

The Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) was completed in 2001 and included an action plan for 2001 - 2005. The Plan was prepared by the Ayrshire Biodiversity Group, of which East Ayrshire Council was a founding member. This original Ayrshire LBAP provided a major assessment of Ayrshire’s biodiversity and was a valuable tool for directing conservation efforts.

The LBAP included a comprehensive set of Habitat Action Plans for 26 habitat types which together cover all habitat types existing in Ayrshire. Eleven

Species Action Plans were also included with detailed actions describing species and potential actions in Ayrshire.

The national context has changed since the Ayrshire LBAP was first written. The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, its implementation plans and the Scottish Biodiversity List have all been published. In addition, the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a duty on all local authorities and statutory bodies to:

“further the conservation of biodiversity so far is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.”

The then Scottish Executive and Scottish Natural Heritage commissioned a study to assess the progress with LBAPs and in parallel, the Ayrshire Biodiversity group commissioned an assessment of the Ayrshire LBAP to clarify how effective the process had been to date. Both reviews identified a series of shortcomings of the original LBAPs in failing to identify achievable actions, being unable to maintain momentum and not succeeding in refocusing the participating organisations own priorities.

As a result of these reports, the Ayrshire LBAP Partnership decided that the Ayrshire Plan should undergo revision to take into account changes in the wider biodiversity context and to make the document more focussed on priorities and include SMARTer actions.

Specifically, the revised action plan was to be more flexible and have a reduced number of actions to ensure that it only covers priorities and local actions.

It is intended to promote the Plan as an electronic document allowing it to be easily modified as progress is made as well as providing comprehensive links to the progress reports and monitoring information.

The revised Plan was completed in 2007, almost 6 years after the original plan was written. It is a rolling document to be used as a working tool and to provide current information on priorities, ongoing work programmes and progress.

Outwith statutory sites, Ayrshire does not have a identified network of local biodiversity sites, although some work has been done by Scottish Wildlife Trust on identifying sites while taking into account local priorities. A network of Local Biodiversity Sites, should be identified throughout Ayrshire. These sites should be used to guide planning decisions, target biodiversity action (including actions within individual action plans) and target relevant advice and support for landowners. These sites should complement the network of linear features including hedgerows, rivers and streams, railway lines and roadside verges.

Conservation measures are not just related to the protection of habitats and species but include their sympathetic management in order to maintain or enhance their value. Currently there is a lack of targeted advice and support

to landowners and managers. Most agri-environment advice is only available at the request of owners and not targeted to owners of important areas.

Scotland's Rural Development Programme 2007-13, which was ratified by the European Commission's Rural Development Committee brings together a wide range of formerly separate support schemes including those covering the farming, forestry and primary processing sectors, rural enterprise and business development, diversification and rural tourism. The Programme includes measures to support and encourage rural communities. Scotland's Rural Development Plans provide an integrated approach to rural issues and provides the framework for biodiversity considerations to be fully incorporated into cross Council activities and decisions.

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IMPLEMENTATION

The responsibility for ensuring implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy lies with the Sustainable Development Working Group which reports directly to Corporate Management Team (CMT) via the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services. However, each Service must take responsibility for their individual commitment to achieving sustainability.

This group will

- *Provide cross-Council advice and guidance to ensure that sustainable development is embedded within all Council plans, programmes and strategies;*
- *Ensure that the Council's commitments to the Climate Change declaration are fulfilled;*
- *Develop sustainability performance indicators;*
- *Monitor Council performance and report to CMT on a quarterly basis;*
- *Communicate progress on sustainability to stakeholders and local communities on an annual basis;*
- *Review and update the strategy in line with Best Value and Community Planning requirements.*

In order to ensure the integration of social, economic and environmental goals into the development of future plans, programmes and strategies, the Action Plan which accompanies this strategy provides the mechanisms which Services should consider in order to improve the balance between social, economic and environmental requirements.

The strategy proposes the introduction of 4 thematic working groups based on its 4 key themes of procurement, energy, waste and biodiversity. These groups, reporting to the Sustainable Development Working Group, will facilitate the dissemination of cross-Council expertise, knowledge and best practice, and ensure that such guidance from the Sustainable Development Officer Group is pertinent and available to all Services. By adopting this approach to the key themes, it is anticipated that the development, implementation, audit and review of Council plans, programmes and strategies which significantly influence how Council and partner organisation resources are utilised, will be co-ordinated, informed and well structured.

COMMUNICATION

The principle of ‘do a little, achieve a lot’ is of particular significance to the challenge of introducing sustainable activity into everyday activity. The relevance of ongoing consultation and participation with employees, partners, stakeholders and the wider community cannot be underestimated as the Council strives to achieve the vision embedded within the Community Plan:

“East Ayrshire will be a place with strong, vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people’s needs.”

The challenge is not only to inform and increase understanding within the East Ayrshire community, but also to encourage, influence and provide the motivation necessary to change understanding, attitudes and behaviour towards sustainable development. How the Council educates, provides training and raises awareness of the sustainability agenda, contributes towards influencing and enabling Council Services, partner organisations, employees and the individuals within our communities to act.

The communication mechanisms adopted will fulfil the commitment to communicate progress on sustainability to all stakeholders by reporting progress on a range of sustainability performance indicators in addition to the annual reporting requirements for the Council in relation to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration. The Sustainable Development Working Group will co-ordinate and develop a communication policy which recognises the requirements of the wider East Ayrshire community and allows their participation in securing sustainable development for East Ayrshire.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Sustainability Indicators, sometimes referred to as Quality of Life Indicators, will be developed and utilised to measure and report the effectiveness of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy in minimising the environmental impact of the Council's activities whilst balancing social, economic as well the environmental considerations of sustainable development.

These indicators will be developed following consultation with Services and will be centralised within the sustainability reporting mechanism of the Sustainable Development Working Group reporting to the Corporate Management Team.

The UK Government's strategy for sustainable development incorporates the use of performance indicators. In "*Choosing our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy*", the Scottish Government set out a number of ways in which it will measure progress in meeting the commitments made in the strategy, and more generally, national progress on sustainable development. The 18 indicators used in measuring progress reflect social and economic goals as well as environmental goals.

The East Ayrshire Community Planning process employs a series of indicators which measure environmental, economic and social progress in accordance with the action plans for each of the six priority Community Plan themes. As detailed earlier in this Strategy, the Best Value and Sustainable Development Toolkit identified that the themes of the Community Plan were primarily influenced by social considerations, whilst the 4 key themes for this Strategy have placed more focus on economic and environmental considerations. The development of a series of sustainability indicators will provide additionality to the Community Planning indicators and balance the requirements of social, economic and environmental considerations. The Sustainable Development Indicators will be published in an annual Sustainable Development Report.

East Ayrshire Council and its Community Planning Partners have developed a Community Planning Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) for the period 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2011. The SOA which affords joint accountability for delivery as shared with the Scottish Government is based on the 15 key national outcomes as agreed in November 2007, but also provides for local outcomes and local priorities. As each of the six East Ayrshire Community Plan strategic themes have been linked to the Scottish Government's 5 Strategic Objectives, the sustainability indicators will provide a tangible link to the SOA process.

CONCLUSION

The Council's Community Plan 2007 – 2011 acknowledges the significance of sustainable development at its core, which is demonstrated in the statement:

“Sustainability is at the heart of this plan, we are committed to making sure that the outcomes of social, economic and environmental improvements are sustainable and will stand the test of time. A sustainable community is one which makes sure that today's decisions do not have a negative effect on the future and where actions will have a long-lasting effect.”

This Strategy provides the framework for cross-Council consultation, communication and co-ordination of activity to provide the momentum, motivation and will, to facilitate change and embed sustainability into the everyday actions and activities of the Council and each of our employees.

APPENDIX 1**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN**

The East Ayrshire Sustainable Development Strategy Action Plan aims to ensure that the guidance provided by the Best Value Task Force for achieving best value and sustainable development is delivered through all Council services and operations. The actions outlined below integrate the seven qualities (grouped as 5) required to be demonstrated by a local authority achieving best value and sustainable developments as identified in the Task Force Guidance:

- Leadership
- Integration and Resource Management
- Consultation and Awareness Raising
- Performance Management and Evaluation
- Influence

1. Theme		Leadership	
Action (What needs to be done?)	Projected Outputs (What do we propose to do?)	Timescale (When will the action be completed?)	Delivery Partners (Which departments/organisations are involved?)
1.1 Demonstrate a commitment at senior level to ensuring every Service has sustainability at the centre of its activities	1.1.1A Cabinet member will be appointed with a remit for sustainable development under the terms of Best Value	31 March 2009	Cabinet & Corporate Management Team (CMT)
	1.1.2 Provide a series of workshops for senior managers to: ensure sustainable development is fully understood; to identify areas of current good practice, and; to identify areas for improvement	31 December 2008	Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG); Sustainable Scotland Network(SSN) and relevant external bodies such as identified by SDWG
	1.1.3 Reaffirm the Council's commitment to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration	31 December 2008	Leader of the Council & Chief Executive

2.Theme		Integration & Resource Management	
Action (What needs to be done?)	Projected Outputs (What do we propose to do?)	Timescale (When will the action be completed?)	Delivery Partners (Which departments/organisations are involved?)
2.1. Develop guidance for staff on the requirement to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) when developing plans, programmes or strategies	2.1.1 Provide guidance notes /intranet on the criteria for the requirement to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment	31 December 2008	SDWG, Planning , SSN
	2.1.2 Provide comprehensive guidance for the undertaking of Strategic Environmental Assessment Procedure intranet based	31 December 2008	SDWG, Planning, SSN
	2.1.3 Provide appropriate training for relevant staff in the Strategic Environmental Assessment process	31March 2009	SDWG, Planning, SSN
2.2. By means of guidance and advice provide the platform from which services can ensure decisions on resource allocation recognise social, economic and environmental considerations.	2.2.1 Introduce cross council thematic officer groups where required to recognise expertise and facilitate best practice. Incorporate sustainability agenda/reporting requirement/responsibility to existing officer groups where appropriate	31March 2009	SDWG
2.3 Develop mechanisms to incorporate sustainability within Corporate decision making process	2.3.1 Revise Cabinet reporting structure to include sustainability implications	31 March 2009	CMT, SDWG

3. Theme			
Consultation & Awareness Raising			
Action (What needs to be done?)	Projected Outputs (What do we propose to do?)	Timescale (When will the action be completed?)	Delivery Partners (Which departments/organisations are involved?)
3.1 In line with our Community Planning objectives, continue to actively engage the community and key partners in participative consultation on sustainable development	3.1.1 Bi-annual sustainability audit across all services – seek “audit champions” from each Department	31 March 2009 (champions) 30 June 2009 - audit	SDWG & All Council Departments/Services
	3.1.2 Include questions on environmental sustainability within the East Ayrshire Council householder survey	31 March 2009	CMT & SDWG
	3.1.3 Develop or utilise existing community forum to share examples of good practice and consult on areas for improvement	31 March 2009	SDWG, Community Planning Partners
	3.1.4 Publish an annual statement detailing progress on sustainability as detailed by the sustainability indicators – ensuring that indicators also meet reporting requirements of Section 9 - Sustainable Development, Securing Continuous Improvement, best Value & Community Planning	31 March 2009	CMT & SDWG/
3.2 Fulfil Council requirements in terms of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration	3.2.1 Produce a plan, with targets and timescales, designed to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions arising from all service activities and operations	31 March 2009	CMT & SDWG
	3.2.2 Publish an annual statement on the monitoring and progress of our climate change response	31 March 2009	SDWG
	3.2.3 Identify the potential impacts of climate change on Council services and the residents of East Ayrshire	31 March 2009	SDWG & UKCIP (UK Climate Impact Programme)

4. Theme		Performance Management & Evaluation	
Action (What needs to be done?)	Projected Outputs (What do we propose to do?)	Timescale (When will the action be completed?)	Delivery Partners (Which departments/organisations are involved?)
4.1 Measure the sustainability performance of the Council across all services	4.1.1 Develop (or utilise existing indicators) a set of performance indicators measuring progress towards sustainable development.	31 December 2008	SDWG & Corporate Support
	4.1.2 Provide an annual report indicating progress against each performance indicator for sustainable development.	31 March 2009 and annually thereafter.	SDWG
	4.1.3 Provide a quarterly report to CMT detailing/co-ordinating progress made by SDWG and thematic groups	31 December 2008	SDWG

5. Theme		Influence	
Action (What needs to be done?)	Projected Outputs (What do we propose to do?)	Timescale (When will the action be completed?)	Delivery Partners (Which departments/organisations are involved?)
5.1 Encourage and facilitate community planning partners to adopt sustainability in their own working practices where they do not do so already	5.1.1 Identify areas of good practice in sustainability by our Community Planning partners and disseminate report findings - incorporate findings into reports as detailed at 3.1.4 and 3.2.2	31 December 2008	SDWG & Community Planning Partners
5.2 Encourage individual responsibility for incorporating sustainability into our everyday actions	5.2.1 Incorporate principles of sustainable development into corporate induction procedures	31 December 2008	SDWG & Community Planning Partners

**East Ayrshire
Sustainable Development Strategy
Consultation Draft**

**Strategic Environmental
Assessment**

Environmental Report

July 2008

1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.2 Introduction

- 1.2.1 The Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) is likely to have significant environmental impacts and is a strategic document which will set a sustainability framework for how future corporate responsibilities and service delivery are achieved.
- 1.2.2 The overall purpose of the environmental assessment of the SDS is to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects that the strategy may have on the environment.
- 1.2.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) can be broken down into a five stage assessment process as below:
1. Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;
 2. Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects;
 3. Preparing the Environmental Report
 4. Consulting on the draft plan or programme and the Environmental Report; and
 5. Monitoring implementation of the plan or programme

1.3 Context for the Sustainable Development Strategy

- 1.3.1 The preparation of a SDS is in response to a duty placed on local authorities to fully consider and integrate sustainable development across all Council decision-making as part of the Best Value agenda within the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003.
- 1.3.2 East Ayrshire Council has demonstrated its commitment to sustainable development through the actions already taken by Council to ensure that the principles of sustainability are placed within a clear strategic context and this has been strengthened through the East Ayrshire Community Plan.
- 1.3.3 The SDS is influenced by a wide range of International, European, national and local PPS 'which contain environmental objectives that the strategy must take into account.

1.4 Objectives of the Sustainable Development Strategy

- 1.4.1 Corporate Management Team identified that 4 priority areas were to be addressed within the SDS, and that these priorities be recognised when preparing the action plan for the SDS. The 4 key themes are: sustainable procurement; energy; waste and biodiversity.
- 1.4.2 The overarching objective is to inform and raise awareness of sustainable development good practice across all sectors of the East Ayrshire community by ensuring that the social, economic and environmental impacts of Council

activities and decisions in both the short and long term are fully considered to take cognisance of the principles of sustainable development.

1.5 Baseline Information

1.5.1 The collation of baseline data is an important part of the SEA assessment process as it provides a snapshot of the environment at a particular point in time, it highlights existing environmental problems and issues and can be used to predict the future impacts that the implementation of the SDS will have on the environment.

1.5.2 The SDS will impact upon the geography of the entire East Ayrshire area. Table 1 below provides a synopsis of the State of the Environment, which is in line with the issues which have been scoped into this environmental assessment.

Table 1: Synopsis of State of the Environment	
Environmental Attributes	Baseline Information
Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna)	<p>(i) East Ayrshire has a range of key sites and habitats as outlined in the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2001 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Local Nature Reserve • 21 Sites of Special Scientific Interest • 1 Special Protection Area • 2 Special Conservation Areas • 128 Listed Wildlife Sites • 51 Raised bogs • interest in the Ayrshire and Galloway Biosphere Reserve
Human Health	<p>(i) In 2001, 13,178 residents of East Ayrshire described themselves as having poor health, this being 6% higher than the Scottish average. Hospital admissions for cancer are 13% higher than the Scottish average with heart disease and stroke admissions being respectively 7% and 3% higher. Alcohol related hospital admissions are 10% above the Scottish average with drugs related deaths being 7% higher.</p> <p>(ii) The figures for those adults being unable to work due to illness / disability were 10% higher than the Scottish average with those on disability living allowance being 20% higher.</p>
Air	<p>(i) East Ayrshire Council produces an annual Air Quality Report using data from diffusion tubes located at various sites throughout East Ayrshire. The 2008 Air Quality Report reports that following previous studies, monitoring and reporting only Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter are now required to be monitored within the East Ayrshire area. The number of monitoring sites will increase from 10 to 12.</p>

Climatic Factors	<p>(i) In SEPA provides information on areas liable to flooding through the 1:200 year flood event maps.</p> <p>(ii) There are a number of areas within East Ayrshire that have been seriously affected by flooding on the past. A flood management programme has been implemented and is managed by East Ayrshire Council</p>
Material Assets	<p>(i) East Ayrshire Council in 2003/2004 collected 78,225 tonnes of MSW for disposal via landfill with only 3,579 tonnes being recycled or composted. By contrast, in 2007/2008 69,402 tonnes of MSW was collected, with 15,498 tonnes being recycled and 6,078 tonnes composted.</p> <p>(ii) East Ayrshire currently has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22.2km of dedicated on road cycle routes • 600km of rights of way • 358km of managed path network 125 areas of open space safeguarded through the approved East Ayrshire Local Plan, which extends to 403 hectares.
Cultural Heritage	<p>(i) In total there are 741 listed buildings in East Ayrshire, of which are 46 are listed as Category A.</p> <p>(ii) East Ayrshire contains 26 conservation areas, 8 of which are classified by Historic Scotland as Outstanding.</p> <p>(iii) East Ayrshire contains 31 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.</p> <p>(iv) East Ayrshire contains 1055 sites of archaeological significance and two archaeological locations at Dunaskin and Muirkirk.</p> <p>(v) The Scottish Civic Trust's Buildings at Risk Register highlights 26 listed buildings in East Ayrshire that are in urgent need of being repaired and brought back into use.</p> <p>(vii) East Ayrshire contains nine designated Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes comprising Dumfries Estate, Loudoun Castle, Rowallan Estate, Barskimming, Caprington Castle, Lanfine, Skeldon House, Craigengillian and Carnell (part of)..</p>
Landscape	<p>(i) East Ayrshire has extensive statutory conservation sites for habitats and species of international and national importance. However, while these form the core areas of specialised biodiversity in the authority, the large number of non-statutory wildlife sites identified by the Scottish Wildlife Trust as Provisional Wildlife Sites, comprise a valuable repository of diverse habitats, protection of which is considered vital to maintain and augment local biodiversity.</p> <p>(ii) East Ayrshire Council has produced a set of comprehensive design guidance relating to Householder Development; New Residential Development; New Residential Development in the Countryside; Listed Buildings and Buildings within Conservation Areas; Shop Front Development; and the Display of Advertisements.</p>

1.6 Environmental Issues and Problems

- 1.6.1 The SDS will identify and assess the environmental issues and problems that affect the strategy area, utilising the information that has been identified through the analysis of baseline data. From this assessment, the Council will be able to predict whether the current environmental issues and problems will be exacerbated, stabilised or neutralised by implementing the SDS.

1.7 Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the Sustainable Development Strategy

- 1.7.1 An important part of the SEA process is to assess the likely impact on the environment if the proposed SDS was not implemented. Without the SDS all decisions would be taken in accordance with the overarching objectives of the Community Plan. It is considered that in the absence of the strategy, the following could occur:

- While individual services may continue to demonstrate sustainable development across their operations, this could not be ensured.
- It would be increasingly difficult to ensure guidance on best value and sustainability is appropriately disseminated to all services.
- At a corporate level, the extent to which sustainability is practiced would vary greatly between services.
- There would be little or no opportunity to share examples of good practice in sustainability.
- The concept of sustainable development may be mis-interpreted and not take cognisance of the social, economic and environmental components of sustainability

1.8 Scoping

- 1.8.1 A Scoping report was prepared and forwarded to the Consultation Authorities on the 30th October 2007 which informed the Consultation Authorities on the level of detail to be contained within this Environmental Report.
- 1.8.2 The Consulting Authorities responded with their views on the scope and level of detail on 13th September 2007 and the Council has taken their views into account in the preparation of the Consultative draft SDS and Environmental Report. The full views of the Consultation Authorities and the Council's responses can be found in Appendix A of the Environmental Report.
- 1.8.3 The issues which have been scoped into the SEA are as follows: Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Human Health, Air, Climatic Factors and Material Assets. Whilst issues such as Soil, Water, Cultural Heritage and Landscape have been scoped out as the SDS will have no direct impact or significant on these issues, Council recognises that they will impact on wider sustainability considerations ,

and as such will be considered alongside those issues scoped in as appropriate.

1.9 Alternatives

1.9.1 The SEA process requires that the Environmental Report identifies, describes and evaluates the significant effects of the implementation of the SDS and of the reasonable alternatives to the SDS. Reasonable alternatives to the SDS are to rely on the Community Plan to further Sustainability Considerations and to develop Department specific strategies to further sustainability considerations.

1.10 Assessment Methodology

1.10.1 The Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental report to assess and evaluate the likely significant impacts that the SDS will have on the environment. It is central to the SEA that the assessment process and reporting of the findings are unbiased, robust, objective, transparent and ultimately easy to understand.

1.10.2 The SDS is a high level strategy aimed at increasing sustainability within East Ayrshire. As such the methodology for the assessment of the SDS has to be commensurate with the level of the plan and the environmental impacts have to be easy to understand but yet yield robust assessment results. Previous assessments have relied upon a series of SEA objectives and criteria which have then been used to assess the PPS within a matrix table utilising symbols such as +, -, ?, o. However, due to the high level and spatial focus of the SDS, this method of assessment has the potential to be difficult to understand, wordy, and potentially completely inconclusive. It is considered easier and more appropriate to assess the influence that a high level PPS, with a high level framework and actions, has on the environment ranked against the level of importance that exists for each attribute within that environmental issue. Therefore to conclude, it is considered that an influence vs importance approach is the most suitable and appropriate method for assessing the SDS.

1.10.3 This method of assessment has been developed specifically for high level assessments in East Ayrshire by adapting previous academic studies and Scottish Government Guidance, specifically Zúñiga-Gutiérrez & Ortega-Rubio (2004)¹, Mustow et al (2005)² and the Scottish Transport Assessment Guidance (STAG). The assessment of the SDS will look at its influence on the environment against the importance of the environmental attribute that has been scoped into the assessment, which will then give an overall level of significance in terms of the impact. This approach will still utilise SEA objectives and criteria, which will aid the assessment process in terms of the scale of influence, as well as assisting with monitoring the potential impacts of the SDS.

¹ Mustow S. E., Burgess P.F. and Walker N. (2005) Practical Methodology for Determining the Significance of Impacts on the Water Environment Journal of the Institution of Water and Environmental Management, 2, 100-108.

² Zúñiga-Gutiérrez, Guillermo and Ortega-Rubio, Alfredo (2004) Quantitative Assessment for Selecting the Route for a Gas Pipeline in Yucatan, Mexico Human and Ecological Risk Assessment, 10:2, 451 - 460

1.11 Assessment Results

- 1.11.1 The overall purpose of the Environmental Report is to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects (either positive or negative) on the environment of implementing the SDS.

1.12 Mitigation

- 1.12.1 Mitigation is an integral and important aspect of the SEA process. Impact mitigation measures aim to minimise negative impacts, maximise the effects of positive impacts, and ensure that any mitigation measures introduced do not generate negative impacts.
- 1.12.2 The SDS will provide the framework to fulfilling the Council's Scottish Climate Change Declaration commitments. There are clear interrelationships between climate change and sustainable development, such as utilising and deploying energy efficient products and services in Council activities; procuring green energy and recycled products; and maximising waste diversion. A key challenge for East Ayrshire Council will be how best to manage the desire for economic growth with the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By mainstreaming environmental considerations into future plan, programmes and strategy discussion and development for the Council, any resultant mitigation measures will be highlighted, assessed and addressed pre implementation.

1.13 Monitoring

- 1.13.1 Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Responsible Authority to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS to allow any unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage and remedial action to be undertaken.
- 1.13.2 Monitoring will be carried out by a cross Council officer led group, the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG). This group will comprise officers who have designated authority and influence to manage the mainstreaming of sustainable development considerations into Council activities. Reporting to the Corporate Management Team, the SDWG will co-ordinate the development and application of sustainability indicators in order to effectively monitor and evaluate Council performance and progress in relation to the 4 key themes of the SDS and wider sustainability considerations.

1.14 Next Steps

- 1.14.1 The draft SDS and accompanying Environmental Report will be subject to a period of public consultation as agreed by the Consulting Authorities during the Scoping Report submission. In addition, the views of the Consulting Authorities will be sought. Public consultation will run for a period of 6 weeks and all comments/representation will be taken into account when finalising the SDS and Environmental Report.

1.14.2 Post public consultation, all comments and representation received will be considered and the final SDS and Environmental Report will be completed. Cabinet will then be asked to approve the SDS and Environmental Report and to approve the Post Adoption/SEA Statement. The Post-Adoption/SEA Statement will then be publicly advertised and the SEA process will, at this stage, be completed and the Monitoring Arrangements contained in the Post-Adoption /SEA Statement will be enacted. The table below explains the next steps and anticipated dates when these are likely to occur.

CONSULTATION	DATE
Publication of Interim Draft SDS and Environmental Report	September 2008
Formal Consultation of the Draft SDS and Environmental Report. As per the agreement of the Consulting Authorities at Scoping stage a consultation period of 6 weeks will occur	September 2008 to October 2008
Preparation of final SDS and post adoption statement	Dependant on the outcome of consultation
Adoption of the SDS	Dependant on the outcome of consultation

- 1 **NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY**
- 2 **INTRODUCTION**
- 3 **PURPOSE OF STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**
 - **Methodology for the Environmental Report**
- 4 **CONTEXT FOR THE EAST AYRSHIRE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (SDS)**
 - **Background**
 - **Objectives of the East Ayrshire SDS**
 - **Hierarchy of Plan's Programmes and Strategies**
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- 6 **SCOPING**
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- 8 **ALTERNATIVES**
 - **Reasonable Alternatives on the Need for the Plan**
 - **Reasonable Alternatives for the Implementation of the SDS**
 - **Assessment of the Reasonable Alternatives**
- 9 **ASSESSMENT RESULTS**
- 10 **MITIGATION MEASURES**
- 11 **MONITORING**
- 12 **CONSULTATION**

APPENDIX A: Consultation Authority Responses to the SDS Scoping Report.

APPENDIX B: Plans Programmes and Strategies.

APPENDIX C: Settlement Map for East Ayrshire & Baseline Environmental Information.

Key Facts relating to the Sustainable Development Strategy

Key Fact	Detail
Responsible Authority	East Ayrshire Council
Title of Strategy	East Ayrshire Council Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS)
Period Covered by the Strategy	2008 - 2011
Strategy Subject	Sustainable Development
Strategy Purpose	To fulfil Best Value requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. SDS has been produced as a direct response to an action highlighted within the East Ayrshire Council Audit of Best Value and Community Planning in September 2006
Strategy Objectives	To mainstream sustainable development within Council activities. 4 key themes of Sustainable Procurement, Energy, Waste & Biodiversity have been identified
Point of Contact	<p>Cleansing Services Western Road Kilmarnock KA3 1LL</p> <p>Tel: 01563 554093</p>
Date	July 2008

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The consultative draft Environmental Report documents the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the East Ayrshire Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS). The SEA is an important, but separate, part of a Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft SDS which allows any environmental impacts of the plan to be assessed alongside any social and economic impacts.

2.2 CONTEXT OF THE EAST AYRSHIRE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2.2 The East Ayrshire Draft SDS has been developed in response to a duty placed on local authorities to consider sustainable development as part of best value within the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. The SDS provides a framework for action that seeks to deliver the objectives of the UK shared framework for sustainable development, *One Future-Different Paths*, an approach which has also been adopted by the Scottish Government's *Choosing Our Future*, both published in 2005. The SDS will ensure that sustainable development considerations influence the day to day operations of the Council, including the development and review of other plans, policies and strategies. East Ayrshire has a clear commitment to sustainability through its Community Plan "Sustainability is at the heart of this plan. We are committed to making sure that the outcomes of social, economic and environmental improvements are sustainable and will stand the test of time."³

2.3 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)

2.3 It is a requirement of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that a Strategic Environmental Assessment should be undertaken if a plan or programme

- is likely to have a significant effect on the environment;
- is required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions and;
- is prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, tourism, telecommunications, town and country planning and which sets a framework for future development consent of projects.

Strategic Environmental Assessment is a process for identifying and assessing the environmental impacts of a qualifying plan or programme so that the effects may be assessed and taken into account before the plan or programme is adopted. It provides a systematic method of assessment which will result in a thorough assessment of the plan or programmes aims, strategies, policies and development sites. The Environmental Report provides a written commentary on the SEA process that the East Ayrshire Draft SDS has been assessed against. This report seeks to aid the consultative process by being transparent about the environmental outcomes of the actions contained within the strategy.

³ East Ayrshire The Community Plan " Planning Together, Working Together, Achieving Together" 2003

2.4 PRE-ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

2.4.1 (i) Collation of Baseline Data

The collation of pertinent baseline data is essential to enable a thorough assessment of the impacts of a plan or programme on the environment. A comprehensive set of baseline data has been collected by East Ayrshire Council from various sources and provides an up-to-date environmental audit of East Ayrshire.

(ii) Current State of the Environment

The collation of the baseline environmental data has enabled the Council to establish a snapshot of the current state of the environment in East Ayrshire and has provided a base against which any significant changes brought about as a result of implementing the provisions of the Draft SDS can be identified and assessed. The description of the current state of the environment illustrates East Ayrshire's key environmental assets and has enabled the Council to formulate a number of objectives to protect and enhance those assets. This, in turn, has provided a base against which the impact of the Draft East Ayrshire SDS on biodiversity, human health, air, climatic factors and material assets, and the interrelationship between the above factors can be assessed.

(iii) Scoping the Environmental Report

As an early part of the SEA preparation process, the Council prepared a report, detailing the scope and level of detail to be provided in the final Environmental Report to be produced. The Scoping Report also detailed the environmental effects and alternatives that need to be considered in the SEA process, the assessment methods to be used and ultimately, the structure and content of the Environmental Report itself.

(iv) SEA Objectives and Criteria

In order to facilitate the comprehensive appraisal of the East Ayrshire Draft SDS, a range of environmental objectives and criteria were developed against which the provisions of the plan could be assessed. The objectives and criteria are based upon the environmental information collected as part of the SEA preparation process. The objectives reflect international, national and local environmental requirements and the criteria are couched in the form of questions which are used in the assessment process to ascertain whether or not any of the individual aims, strategies policies or proposals contained within the Draft SDS Plan will have any significant negative impact on the environment.

2.5 ASSESSMENT OF THE STRATEGY

2.5.1 The proposals contained within the East Ayrshire Draft SDS will also be assessed against the SEA Objectives and Criteria and the results of this assessment will be presented in a table format.

The assessment process requires each individual objective, alternative, and proposal to be scored against the SEA Objectives and Criteria. As the SDS is a higher level document which provides direction and a framework to follow for lower level plans, programmes or strategies, the assessment looks at the

importance of the impact and the influence of the of the SDS in relation to each environmental consideration. It is to be expected that due to the strategic nature of the SDS, the influence of the SDS aims and objectives will be easier to experienced and any mitigation measures that are required.

2.6 MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY

2.6.1 Preliminary arrangements for monitoring of the SDS have been established in the Environmental Report and the Council recognises that the plan must be closely monitored in order to measure and clearly understand any potentially adverse effects of the plan on the East Ayrshire environment.

2.6.2 The Environmental Report proposes that the baseline data which has been collected during the SEA preparation process is used to monitor any environmental changes that have taken place in East Ayrshire as a result of the implementation of the SDS Plan.

2.7 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

2.7.1 The SEA process has, to date, helped the Council to ensure that the aims, strategies, and policies contained within the Draft SDS will be acceptable in environmental terms and that the provisions of the strategy will not have any significant negative impact. This Environmental Report accompanies and supports the Consultative Draft SDS and representations on both documents will be invited during the consultation period. As agreed with the Scottish Ministers and the Consultation Authorities, the consultation period for both documents will last for six weeks.

2.7.2 All comments on the draft Environmental Report will be considered by the Council when finalising the Environmental Report for deposit with the Finalised East Ayrshire SDS, at a future date.

2.7.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) requires the environmental assessment of plans and programmes (including strategies) if they are likely to have significant impacts on the environment.

2.2 The East Ayrshire SDS is likely to have significant environmental impacts and is a strategic document that will set a sustainability framework for how future corporate responsibilities and service delivery are achieved. The SDS is not a Qualifying Plan or Programme as identified in Section 5(3) of the 2005 Act, therefore the Strategy was required to undertake screening as defined in Section 5(4) of the 2005 Act. The Screening Report was submitted to the Consultation Authorities on 24 July 2007 and their responses were received on 21 August 2007. East Ayrshire Council made the determination that the SDS required an environmental assessment on 8th October 2007 and complied with the advertisement requirements in Section 10 of the Act.

2.3 The next stage in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process was scoping. A scoping report was prepared and forwarded to the Consultation Authorities on the 30th October 2007 which informed the Consultation Authorities

on the scope and level of detail to be contained in this environmental report. For the purposes of clarity, the Consultation Authorities are as follows:

- The Scottish Ministers who have delegated their responsibilities to Historic Scotland;
- Scottish Natural Heritage; and
- The Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

2.4 The Consultation Authorities responded with their views on the scope and level of detail on 10 December 2007 and as required by Section 15(3) (a) have been taken into account in the preparation of the Consultative Draft SDS and Environmental Report. All three consultation authorities were generally satisfied with the proposed scope of the environmental assessment and our overall approach.

2.5 The statutory framework that sets out how an Environmental Report should be prepared is contained within Section 14 of the Act and this Environmental Report fully complies with the provisions of the Act.

3. PURPOSE OF STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment, as it is commonly known, was introduced into Scottish Law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004, the purpose of which was to transpose and implement Directive 2001/42/EEC of the European Parliament and Council (entitled the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment). These Regulations were subsequently superseded and revoked by the Act which came into force on 20 February 2006.

3.2 The overall purpose of the environmental assessment of the draft SDS is to aid the consultative process during the strategy's development by providing transparency to the environmental impacts of the outcomes described within the strategy.

3.3 The Act requires the environmental assessment process to be fully integrated with the development of the East Ayrshire SDS with both processes running in parallel and being clearly defined. It is recognised that the environmental assessment will influence the detailed provisions of the East Ayrshire SDS and vice versa. However, it should be noted that the Environmental Report is a tool used to aid the decision-making process and will be used as such to determine the final contents of the East Ayrshire SDS

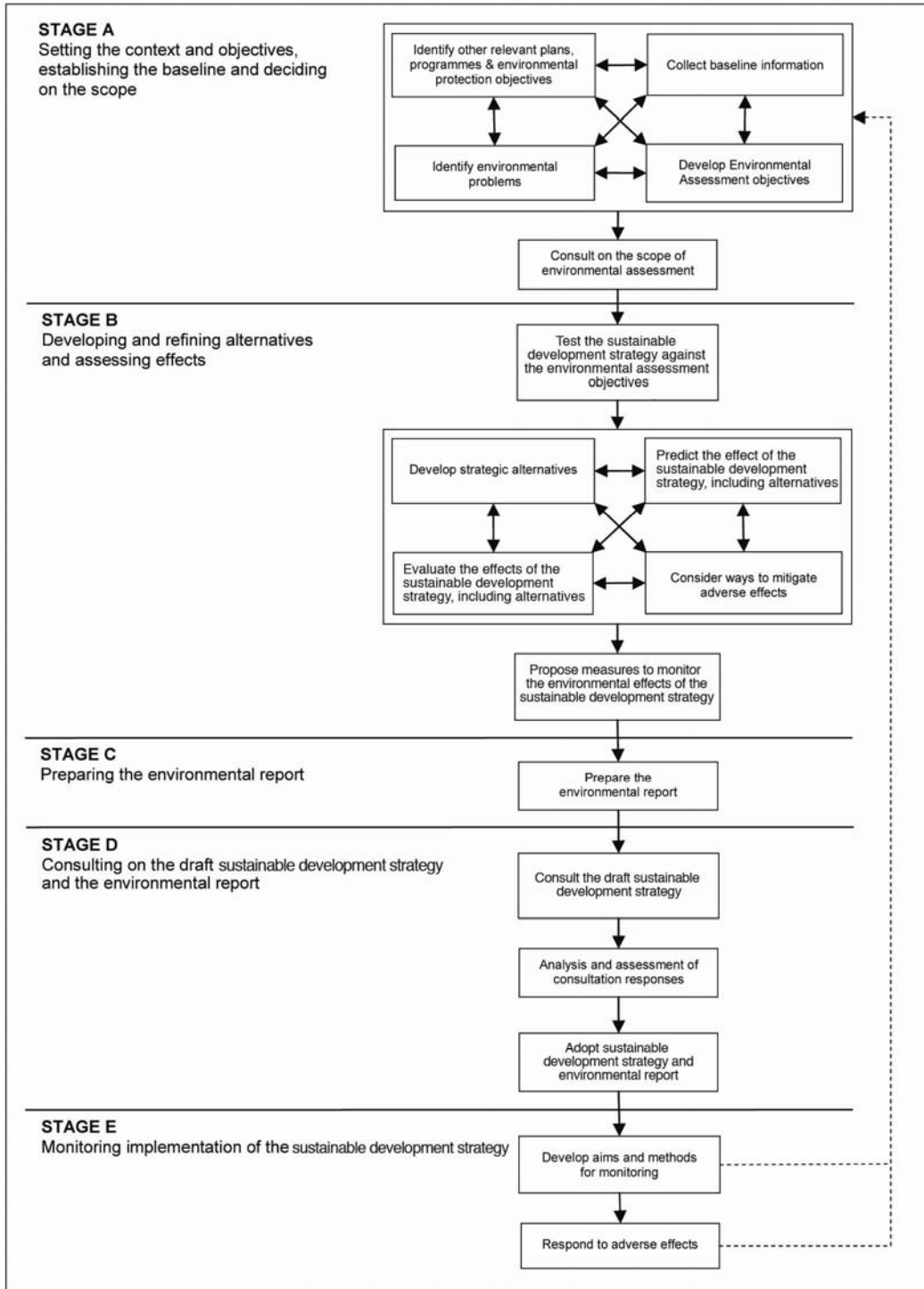
3.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment (hereafter referred to as SEA) can be broken down into a five stage assessment process as described in the ODPM's: Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and the five stage process is detailed below:

- A. Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;
- B. Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects;
- C. Preparing the Environmental Report;

- D. Consulting on the draft plan or programme and the Environmental Report;
and
- E. Monitoring implementation of the plan or programme.

3.5 Figure 1 below illustrates the East Ayrshire SDS in relation to these five stages of environmental assessment.

Figure 1: Relationship between the East Ayrshire Sustainable Development Strategy and the Environmental Report



3.6 Methodology for the Environmental Report

3.6.1 The purpose of an Environmental Report is to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of implementing the SDS

and the reasonable alternatives to the SDS, taking account of the objectives and geographical scope of the strategy.

3.6.2 Section 14 (3) of the Act requires the Environmental Report to include the information specified in Schedule 3 of the Act and to take account of the following:

(a) current knowledge and methods of assessment of environmental matters;

(b) the contents of, and level of detail in, the SDS;

(c) the stage of the SDS in the decision-making process; and

(d) the extent to which any matters to which the strategy relates would be more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.

3.6.3 The structure of the Environmental Report has been informed by the guidance contained in the Scottish Government's SEA Toolkit and the requirements for the Environmental Report as set out in Schedule 3 of the Act. It has been written in an easy to read and transparent way to enable the public to understand the assessment, to foster early and effective public participation in the SDS and environmental assessment process and to allow the public to comment on the Environmental Report and its findings.

4. CONTEXT FOR THE EAST AYRSHIRE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

4.1 Background

4.1.1 The draft SDS has been developed in response to the requirement for local authorities to fully consider and integrate sustainable development across all Council decision-making as part of the best value agenda within the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003.

4.1.2 East Ayrshire Council has demonstrated its commitment to sustainable development through the actions already taken by the Council to ensure the principles of sustainability are placed within a clear strategic context and this has been strengthened through the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

4.1.3 The East Ayrshire Community Plan has sustainability at the centre of its vision: *"East Ayrshire will be a place with strong, vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs."* Within the Plan there is a clear commitment to sustainability: *"Sustainability is at the heart of this plan. We are committed to making sure that the outcomes of social, economic and environmental improvements are sustainable and will stand the test of time."*

4.2 Objectives of the East Ayrshire Sustainable Development Strategy

4.2.1 East Ayrshire Council, Corporate Management Team, identified that four key areas were to be addressed within the SDS, and that these priorities be fully recognised when preparing the SDS action plan aimed at ensuring sustainable development is fully embedded within all council services and activities. These four key themes are: sustainable purchasing; energy; waste, and; biodiversity. The SDS sets out a clear aim for each theme.

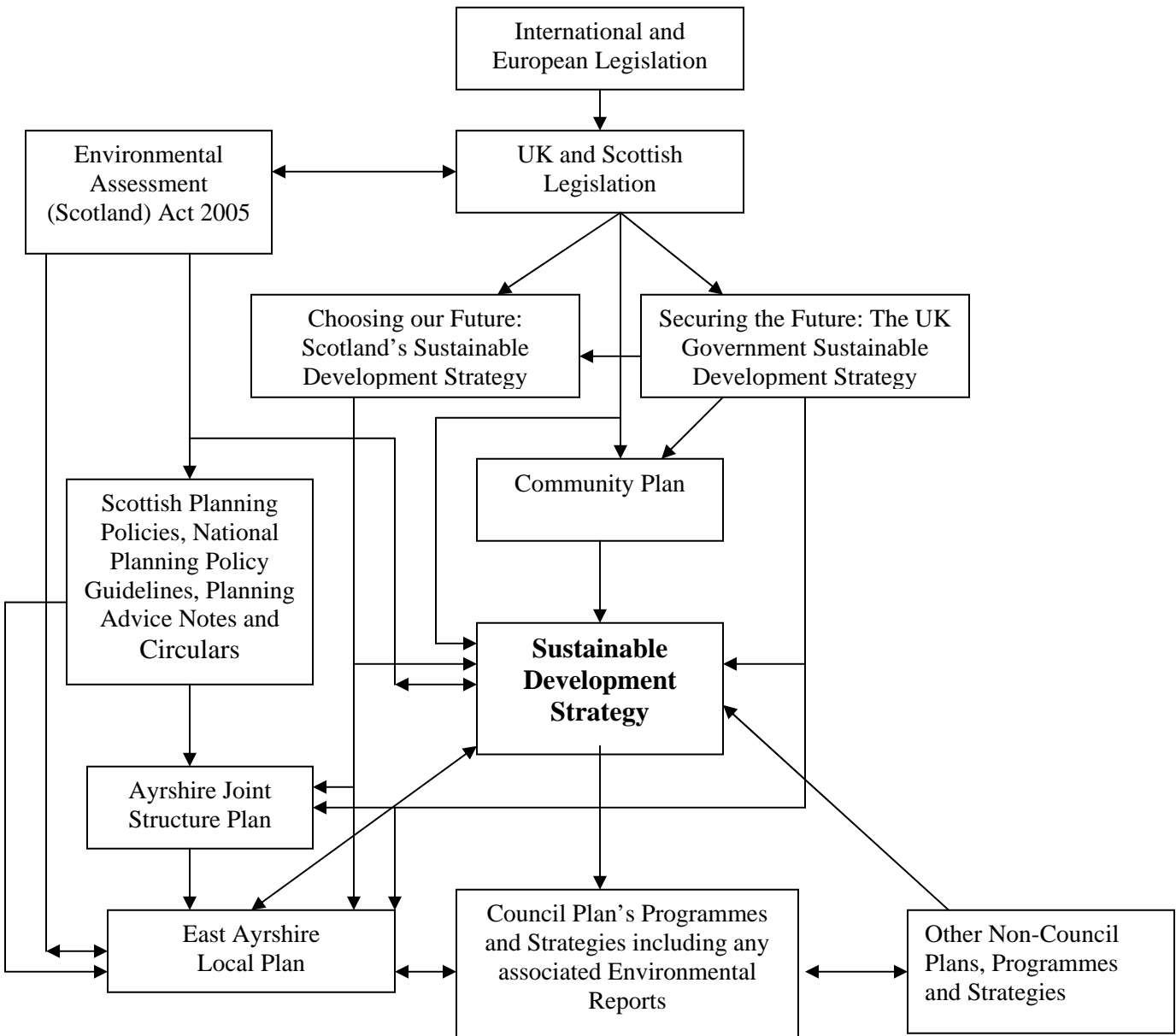
- Theme 1: Sustainable Procurement
In developing the Environmental and Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, the Council's procurement team has the aim of ensuring value for money for the Council whilst complying with EU, UK and Scottish legislation and the necessity to be considerate of the environmental implications of our procurement decisions
- Theme 2: Energy Efficiency
To quantify and reduce carbon emissions arising from Council services and operations thereby contributing towards Scottish Government targets for carbon emission reductions
- Theme 3: Waste
To minimise the volume of waste produced within east Ayrshire and ensure that the reuse and recycling of waste is maximised thereby reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill.
- Theme 4: Biodiversity
To protect and enhance the flora and fauna of east Ayrshire with particular regard to those habitats and species which have recognised and national significance

The overarching objective arising from the SDS is to inform and raise awareness of sustainable development good practice across all sectors of the East Ayrshire community by ensuring that the social, economic and environmental impacts of Council activities and decisions in both the short and long-term are fully considered to take cognisance of the principles of sustainable development. The SDS seeks to provide both leadership and direction to the wider East Ayrshire community thereby ensuring that the deployment of resources is effected in an efficient and sustainable manner whilst adhering to the principles of Best Value.

4.3 Hierarchy of Plans, Programmes and Strategies

4.3.1 The East Ayrshire Sustainable Development Strategy sits within a hierarchy of Plans, Programmes and Strategies (hereafter referred to as PPS's). Figure 2 below shows, in diagrammatical form, where the strategy is located within the hierarchy.

Figure 2: Relationship with the Sustainable Development Strategy and Other Plans, Programmes and Strategies



4.3.2 The SDS is influenced by wide range of International, European, national and local PPS's which contain environmental objectives that the strategy must take into account. Therefore, a policy review of the relevant PPS's has been

undertaken and a full list of the PPS's used in the preparation of the strategy, are contained in *Appendix B* for ease of reference.

4.4 Environmental Protection Objectives

4.4.1 The environmental objectives that are contained within UK and Scottish legislation, which have been transposed from International and European legislation as well as national advice and guidance, and are considered to be of the greatest relevance to the East Ayrshire SDS have been taken into account during the preparation of the document. The environmental objectives have also directly influenced the SEA objectives and criteria.

4.4.2 A list of the environmental objectives from the various International, European, UK, Scottish legislation, guidance and advice, as well as other relevant strategic sources informing the development of the East Ayrshire SDS are listed against the relevant PPS's in Appendix B.

5. BASELINE INFORMATION

5.1.1 The collation of baseline data is an important part of the SEA assessment process as it provides a snapshot of the environment at a particular point in time, it highlights existing environmental problems and issues and can be used to predict the future impacts that the implementation of the PPS will have on the environment. Therefore, a comprehensive and relevant set of baseline data has been collected in line with those issues that have been scoped into the assessment process, as detailed in Section 6 of this report. Although cultural heritage and landscape considerations have been scoped out of the assessment, baseline information is included as any environmental impacts will be considered alongside biodiversity and climatic factors.

5.1.2 Appendix C provides the baseline information that has been used in the assessment of the Consultative Draft SDS.

5.2 State of the Environment

5.2.1 As the SDS will impact upon the geography of the entire East Ayrshire area, the information provided in this sub-section provides a snapshot of the state of the environment. A brief synopsis of the State of the Environment is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Synopsis of State of the Environment

Environmental Attributes	Baseline Information
Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna)	<p>(i) East Ayrshire has a range of key sites and habitats as outlined in the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2001 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Local Nature Reserve • 21 Sites of Special Scientific Interest • 1 Special Protection Area • 2 Special Conservation Areas • 128 Listed Wildlife Sites • 51 Raised bogs • interest in the Ayrshire and Galloway Biosphere Reserve
Human Health	<p>(i) In 2001, 13,178 residents of East Ayrshire described themselves as having poor health, this being 6% higher than the Scottish average. Hospital admissions for cancer are 13% higher than the Scottish average with heart disease and stroke admissions being respectively 7% and 3% higher. Alcohol related hospital admissions are 10% above the Scottish average with drugs related deaths being 7% higher.</p> <p>(ii) The figures for those adults being unable to work due to illness / disability were 10% higher than the Scottish average with those on disability living allowance being 20% higher.</p>
Air	<p>(i) East Ayrshire Council produces an annual Air Quality Report using data from diffusion tubes located at various sites throughout East Ayrshire. The 2008 Air Quality Report reports that following previous studies, monitoring and reporting only Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter are now required to be monitored within the East Ayrshire area. The number of monitoring sites will increase from 10 to 12.</p>
Climatic Factors	<p>(i) In SEPA provides information on areas liable to flooding through the 1:200 year flood event maps.</p> <p>(ii) There are a number of areas within East Ayrshire that have been seriously affected by flooding on the past. A flood management programme has been implemented and is managed by East Ayrshire Council</p>
Material Assets	<p>(i) East Ayrshire Council in 2003/2004 collected 78,225 tonnes of MSW for disposal via landfill with only 3,579 tonnes being recycled or composted. By contrast, in 2007/2008 69,402 tonnes of MSW was collected, with 15,498 tonnes being recycled and 6,078 tonnes composted.</p> <p>(ii) East Ayrshire currently has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22.2km of dedicated on road cycle routes • 600km of rights of way • 358km of managed path network 125 areas of open space safeguarded through the approved East Ayrshire Local Plan,

	which extends to 403 hectares.
Cultural Heritage	<p>(i) In total there are 741 listed buildings in East Ayrshire, of which are 46 are listed as Category A.</p> <p>(ii) East Ayrshire contains 26 conservation areas, 8 of which are classified by Historic Scotland as Outstanding.</p> <p>(iii) East Ayrshire contains 31 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.</p> <p>(iv) East Ayrshire contains 1055 sites of archaeological significance and two archaeological locations at Dunaskin and Muirkirk.</p> <p>(v) The Scottish Civic Trust's Buildings at Risk Register highlights 26 listed buildings in East Ayrshire that are in urgent need of being repaired and brought back into use.</p> <p>(vii) East Ayrshire contains nine designated Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes comprising Dumfries Estate, Loudoun Castle, Rowallan Estate, Barskimming, Caprington Castle, Lanfine, Skeldon House, Craigengillian and Carnell (part of)..</p>
Landscape	<p>(i) East Ayrshire has extensive statutory conservation sites for habitats and species of international and national importance. However, while these form the core areas of specialised biodiversity in the authority, the large number of non-statutory wildlife sites identified by the Scottish Wildlife Trust as Provisional Wildlife Sites, comprise a valuable repository of diverse habitats, protection of which is considered vital to maintain and augment local biodiversity.</p> <p>(ii) East Ayrshire Council has produced a set of comprehensive design guidance relating to Householder Development; New Residential Development; New Residential Development in the Countryside; Listed Buildings and Buildings within Conservation Areas; Shop Front Development; and the Display of Advertisements.</p>

5.3 Existing Environmental Issues and Problems

5.3.1 The East Ayrshire SDS assessment will identify and assess the environmental issues and problems that affect the strategy area, utilising the information that has been identified through an analysis of the baseline data. From this assessment, the Council will be able to predict whether the current environmental issues and problems will be exacerbated, stabilised or neutralised by implementing the SDS.

5.3.2 The following information provides a summary of the existing environmental issues and problems that exist within the East Ayrshire:

- There continues to be some threat to particular species and habitats since the production of the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). The

Ayrshire LBAP has been reviewed and has highlighted raised bogs as a key habitat for East Ayrshire in need of particular protection.

- Rural areas of East Ayrshire are poorly serviced by public transport which exacerbates the reliance on the private car for work and social purposes. Increased air pollution, largely through vehicle emissions, is of particular interest to settlements where no by-passes are available.
- The creation of the M77 and the upgrade of the A77 have resulted in increased accessibility to East Ayrshire and has enhanced the area as a commuter area. This has led to greater demand for housing. Increased housing can lead to greater pressure on Greenfield sites and agricultural land. New developments and change of land use can also impact upon local species/biodiversity. Peripheral developments can also impact upon air quality and energy usage through increased transportation usage.
- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the main greenhouse gas, accounting for about 85% of the UK total, and the vast majority of CO₂ emissions come from the burning of fossil fuels.
- Scottish transport related CO₂ emissions rose by 4% between 1990 and 2003 and in 2003 represented almost 20% of the total for Scotland. Road transport is a major contributor to air quality pollutants.
- There is an increased risk of flooding in East Ayrshire as a result of climate change and other factors. Soil quality is being affected by climate change and poor land management.
- In former industrial areas, such as the Coalfield area of East Ayrshire, some town centres appear in neglected and measures are required to improve the quality of the built environment. Unused and derelict properties detract from the character and appearance of the townscape. These areas can often become isolated.
- In developments and extensions to existing developments are inappropriate to or are unsympathetic to the existing surroundings. Townscape quality is being eroded.
- Many listed buildings and unlisted buildings in conservation areas are in poor state of repair, lying vacant or are unused.

5.4 Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the East Ayrshire SDS

- 5.4.1 An important part of the SEA process is to assess the likely impact on the environment if the proposed PPS was not implemented. If the East Ayrshire SDS was not implemented, all decisions would be taken in accordance with the overarching objectives of the Community Plan. It is considered that in the absence of the strategy, the following could occur:

- While individual services may continue to demonstrate sustainable development across their operations, this could not be ensured.
- It would be increasingly difficult to ensure guidance on best value and sustainability is appropriately disseminated to all services.
- At a corporate level, the extent to which sustainability is practiced would vary greatly between services.
- There would be little or no opportunity to share examples of good practice in sustainability.
- The concept of sustainable development may be mis-interpreted and not take cognisance of the social, economic and environmental components of sustainability.

SCOPING

- 6.1 SEA is about assessing the likely significant impacts, positive or negative that a PPS will have on the environment. Schedule 2 of the Act provides guidance on how to assess whether the effects will be significant or not. Despite this, there is no statutory definition of what 'significance' is or comprises of, which makes it difficult to determine what constitutes a significant impact.
- 6.2 East Ayrshire Council has carefully considered the methodology for determining significance, which is contained in Schedule 2 of the Act. The Council have adapted the criteria utilising academic work, best practice and experience from other Council SEA's to develop a thorough method that will determine whether the potential environmental impact is significant, either positively or negatively. The method for determining significance employs six criteria which are as follows:
- Scale of the impact: geographic area and likely effects on the surrounding population
 - Duration of the impact: short, medium or long term
 - Reversibility of the impact
 - Environmental Sensitivities and Constraints of the area
 - Environmental value of the area
 - Potential for significant cumulative impacts
- 6.3 Schedule 3 of the Act requires the East Ayrshire SDS to be assessed against the following environmental issues if they are likely to be significant:
- Biodiversity;
 - Population;
 - Human health;
 - Fauna;
 - Flora;
 - Soil;

- Water;
- Air;
- Climatic factors;
- Material assets;
- Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage
- Landscape

6.4 In order to ensure that the environmental assessment is focussed only on those environmental issues that are considered to be significant, it is necessary to scope in/out those issues which are not considered to be significant or appropriate to the assessment process. The criteria contained in paragraph 6.2 above have been used to define significance and to assist in scoping issues in and out of the assessment process. The environmental issues that have been scoped in/out can be found in Table 2 below along with the reasons for scoping them in or out.

Table 2: Issues Scoped in or out of the Environmental Assessment		
Environmental Issues as set out in Section 3(6(a)) of the 2005 Act	Scoped In/Out	Reasons for Scoping In/Out
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy places special emphasis on ensuring that the biodiversity of habitats and species within East Ayrshire are conserved and enhanced in line with the recommendations as detailed within the Ayrshire LBAP, to be published in August 2008. The strategy seeks to ensure in conjunction with the Ayrshire LBAP that there are no irreversible losses of designated sites or protected species within East Ayrshire.
Population	Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst implementation of the SDS will result in improvements to the quality of both rural and urban environments, which will contribute towards overall quality of life for the East Ayrshire population, the SDS is not considered to have a direct or significant impact, and has therefore been scoped out.
Human Health	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the East Ayrshire SDS will have impacts on air quality, and on climate change which can have a direct impact on human health. Human health will therefore be considered alongside climatic factors when assessing environmental impacts.
Soil	Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst it is recognised that wider sustainability considerations will affect soil quality, particularly in relation to contaminated land, It is not anticipated that the SDS will directly impact on soil quality, and therefore soil has been scoped out. Any "higher level" impacts will be assessed alongside biodiversity flora, and fauna and climatic factors.
Water	Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst it is recognised that wider sustainability considerations will affect water quality, it is not anticipated that the SDS will directly impact on water quality, and therefore water has been scoped out. Any "higher level" impacts, such as the potentiality of increased risk from flooding will be assessed alongside climatic factors..
Air	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's obligations as a signatory of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration will be implemented through the delivery of the SDS. There will therefore be significant impacts on air quality, and this will be assessed alongside climatic factors.
Climatic Factors	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy will seek to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions arising from Council activities and to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Further the Council will seek to demonstrate leadership in reducing greenhouse gases across the area as a whole.
Material Assets	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy directly impacts on cross departmental activities and will have significant impacts on future plan, policy and strategy development.
Cultural Heritage	Out	<p>Although sustainable considerations, such as choice of materials utilised in a 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 conservation of the environmental and cultural heritage of East Ayrshire. Therefore any impacts associated to cultural heritage will be assessed alongside biodiversity, flora and fauna and climatic factors.</p>
Landscape	Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not envisaged that the strategy will have direct or significant effects on the quality or diversity of landscapes throughout East Ayrshire. Any "higher level" impacts will therefore be considered alongside biodiversity, flora and fauna and climatic factors.

- 6.5 The SDS Scoping Report was prepared and forwarded to the Consultation Authorities on the 30th October 2007 which informed the Consultation Authorities on the scope and level of detail to be contained in this Environmental Report.
- 6.6 The Consultation Authorities responded with their views on the scope and level of detail on 10th December 2007 and as required by Section 15(3)(a) their views have been taken into account in the preparation of the Consultative Draft SDS and Environmental Report. *Appendix A* details the comments received from the Consultation Authorities in relation to the Scoping Report.

7 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The Act requires the Environmental Report to assess and evaluate the likely significant impacts that the East Ayrshire SDS will have on the environment. It is central to SEA that the assessment process and reporting of the findings are unbiased, robust, objective, transparent and ultimately easy to understand.
- 7.2 The SDS is a high level strategy aimed at increasing sustainability within East Ayrshire. As such the methodology for the assessment of the SDS has to be commensurate with the level of the plan and the environmental impacts have to be easy to understand but yet yield robust assessment results. Previous assessments have relied upon a series of SEA objectives and criteria which have then been used to assess the PPS within a matrix table utilising symbols such as +, -,?, o. However, due to the high level and spatial focus of the SDS, this method of assessment has the potential to be difficult to understand, wordy, and potentially completely inconclusive. It is considered easier and more appropriate to assess the influence that a high level PPS, with a high level framework and actions, has on the environment ranked against the level of importance that exists for each attribute within that environmental issue. Therefore to conclude, it is considered that an influence vs importance approach is the most suitable and appropriate method for assessing the SDS.
- 7.3 This method of assessment has been developed specifically for high level assessments in East Ayrshire by adapting previous academic studies and Scottish Government Guidance, specifically Zúñiga-Gutiérrez & Ortega-Rubio (2004)⁴, Mustow et al (2005)⁵ and the Scottish Transport Assessment Guidance (STAG). The assessment of the SDS will look at its influence on the environment against the importance of the environmental attribute that has been scoped into the assessment, which will then give an overall level of significance in terms of the impact. This approach will still utilise SEA objectives and criteria, which will aid the assessment process in terms of the scale of influence, as well as assisting with monitoring the potential impacts of the SDS.

7.4 SEA Objectives and Criteria

⁴ Mustow S. E., Burgess P.F. and Walker N. (2005) Practical Methodology for Determining the Significance of Impacts on the Water Environment Journal of the Institution of Water and Environmental Management, 2, 100-108.

⁵ Zúñiga-Gutiérrez, Guillermo and Ortega-Rubio, Alfredo (2004) Quantitative Assessment for Selecting the Route for a Gas Pipeline in Yucatan, Mexico Human and Ecological Risk Assessment, 10:2, 451 - 460

- 7.4.1 The SEA objectives and criteria cover a wide range of environmental issues and have been developed in order to assess whether the East Ayrshire SDS will have a positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact on the current baseline condition of the area and whether the East Ayrshire SDS will exacerbate, neutralise or improve the environmental issues and problems associated with East Ayrshire.
- 7.4.1 The SEA objectives and criteria have been devised to assess the East Ayrshire SDS against those issues which have been scoped into the assessment (as detailed in Table 2 above) and are fully compliant with the requirements of the Act. The SEA objectives and criteria that have been adopted for the assessment process are shown in Table 3 below:

Table 3: SEA Objectives and Criteria		
Environmental Attribute	SEA Objective	SEA Criteria for Assessing the SDS
Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna)	<p>To protect and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna</p> <p>To prevent damage to designated sites and protected species</p>	<p>Impact on the conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of species and habitats</p> <p>Impact on designated sites or protected species and habitats within East Ayrshire</p>
Human Health	To improve the quality of life for present and future generations	Environmental Impacts on Human Health
Air Quality	To improve air quality	Impacts on air quality within East Ayrshire
Climatic Factors	To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions	<p>Impacts on meeting targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>Impacts on sustainable energy use</p> <p>Impacts on the vulnerability of potential flood sites within East Ayrshire</p>
Material Assets	<p>To protect and maximise the sustainable use of all material assets</p> <p>To increase the percentage of waste being recycled or used for sustainable energy production</p> <p>To influence the sustainable development content of future PPS</p>	<p>Impact of using and procuring sustainable materials and sustainable work practices within East Ayrshire</p> <p>Impact of ensuring that waste diversion is maximised</p> <p>Ensure that sustainability is a key consideration in Council decision making processes</p>

7.5 Assessment of the East Ayrshire SDS

7.5.1 This section presents the assessment methodology that has been created to assess the SDS. As summarised in the Environmental Report, the influence of the SDS on the importance of the environmental attribute will be assessed to determine the overall significance of the environmental impact. Table 4 below illustrates the sliding scale which is used to assess the level of significance depending on the type of influence the SDS individual actions will have against the rank of importance given to an environmental attribute.

Table 4: Assessment of the Influence of the PPS and likely Significance of Environmental Impacts

Influence of the PPS on the Environmental Attribute	Importance of the Environmental Attribute			
	Very High	High	Medium	Low
Major	Very Significant	Highly Significant	Significant	Low Significance
Moderate	Highly Significant	Significant	Low Significance	Insignificant
Minor	Significant	Low Significance	Insignificant	Insignificant
Negligible	Low Significance	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant

7.5.2 The level of importance that is given to an environmental attribute is based upon the environmental protection objectives and targets contained within European and National legislation. E.g. where there is a clear remit to protect an environmental attribute or target at an International/European level then the level of importance for that environmental attribute or target will be 'very high'.

Table 5 below outlines the importance of each attribute within the relevant environmental issue.

Table 5: Importance of the Environmental Attribute

SEA Environmental Issue	Indicator	Scale of Importance	Examples	Level of Importance
Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna)	Natural Heritage Designations	International/European	Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, European Protected Species	Very High
		National/Regional	SSSI, Historic and Designed Landscapes, Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland, National and LBAP protected Species and Habitats, Annex 1 Habitat Sites, Lowland Raised Bogs, Blanket Bogs,	High
		Local	Country Parks, Local Nature Reserves, Protected Wildlife sites, Tree Preservation Orders, Protected Open Space	Medium
		Non Specified	All other attributes such as small streams and hedge rows	Low
Human Health	Deprivation and Health Statistics	International/European	None	Very High
		National/Regional	Multiple Areas of Deprivation (SIMD Rankings),	High
		Local	Hospital admission rates for life threatening diseases, respiratory diseases such as asthma etc	Medium
		Non Specified	None	Low
Air Quality and Climatic Factors	Air Quality and Climate Change Targets	International/European	To achieve by 2012 a reduction in carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by at least 5% below the 1990 levels for carbon dioxide emissions.	Very High
		National/Regional	National Air Quality Targets for individual pollutants, Renewable Energy generation figures	High
		Local	Local Air Quality Targets, Areas susceptible to flooding, flooding prevention measures	Medium
		Non Specified	None	Low
Material Assets	Waste and Recycling Targets; Roads, Cycle Way figures, Core Paths, Open Space	International/European	To achieve a reduction of levels of waste sent to landfill - 75% of the 1995 level by 2010, 50% by 2013 and 35% of 1995 levels by 2020.	Very High
		National/Regional	National targets and Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Area Waste Plan targets, National Cycle Path network, Core Paths, Parks, Trunk Roads and A Roads	High
		Local	Protected Open Space, Local Roads	Medium
		Non Specified	All other material assets	Low

As mentioned before, the SDS is a high level strategy containing high level actions and outputs that are mostly non-site specific and do not contain detailed actions and outcomes that have to be achieved. It is more appropriate that for high level assessments that the influence of the plan on the environmental attribute is ascertained, as a certain action of the SDS may affect a European designated site but the actual influence the Strategy may have might be minor. This is an easier assessment process to understand and undertake and will effectively communicate the impacts of the SDS on the environment. This table has been adapted from academic studies and the Scottish Transport Assessment Guidance. Table 6 below details the different levels of influence to be applied to the assessment.

Table 6: Influence of the PPS on the Environmental Attribute

Influence	Criteria	Factors
Major	The SDS will have an influence on the protection or loss of an entire environmental attribute.	<p>The SDS will have direct influence on the environmental attribute i.e. it will affect 100% of the attribute; or</p> <p>The SDS will lead to a 50 -100% contribution to meeting European/national targets or will have a direct influence on lower level plans that will provide a 50 – 100% contribution to meeting the targets; or</p> <p>The SDS will have a high influence on the protection or enhancement of that attribute and lead to that protection being integrated into the objectives of lower tier plans</p>
Moderate	The SDS will have an influence on the protection or loss on the integrity of an attribute and/or the loss of part of the attribute	<p>The SDS will have direct influence on the environmental attribute i.e. it will affect 25 - 50 % of the attribute; or</p> <p>The SDS will lead to a 25-50 % contribution to meeting European/national targets or will have a direct influence on lower level plans that will provide a 25- 50% contribution to meeting the targets; or</p> <p>The SDS will have a medium influence on the protection or enhancement of that attribute or influence to a lesser degree the protection or enhancement of that attribute within a lower tier plan.</p>
Minor	The SDS will influence a minor impact on the attribute	<p>The SDS will have direct influence on the environmental attribute i.e. it will affect 10 - 25% of the attribute; or</p> <p>The SDS will lead to a 10-25 % contribution to meeting European/national targets or will have a direct influence on lower level plans that will provide a 10-25% contribution to meeting the targets; or</p> <p>The SDS will have a little influence on the protection or enhancement of that attribute and little influence on the protection or enhancement of that attribute within a lower tier plan.</p>
Negligible	The SDS will influence an insignificant or small scale impact on the attribute	The SDS will have direct influence on the environmental attribute i.e. it will affect >10% of the attribute and can be mitigated.

		<p>The SDS will lead to a >10 % contribution to meeting European/national targets or will have a direct influence on lower level plans that will provide a >10 % contribution to meeting the targets; or</p> <p>The SDS will have no influence on the protection or enhancement of that attribute and will not influence the protection or enhancement of that attribute within a lower tier plan.</p>
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7.5.3. The tables and process outlined above provide the framework to be followed for the environmental assessment for the SDS. The results can be found in Table 8. Table 8 outlines the environmental attribute, the action and proposed outputs of the SDS, the environmental attributes/targets that it affects, the level of importance attached to the designations/targets, an explanation of the level of importance and potential impacts on the environmental attribute/target, the rank of influence that has been attributed to the individual action/output, comments on the influence of the action/output, a summary of the actual influence of the action/output on the importance of the environmental attribute and target and the overall level of significance afforded to the action/output. It is considered that the table and the overall methodology will allow the impact of the SDS actions/outputs on the environment to be understood and clearly presented against all the environmental issues that have been scoped into the assessment.

7.5.4 The level of influence which the SDS will have on the environment has been based on professional judgements and assumptions based on the anticipated impact that the objectives and actions of the East Ayrshire SDS will have on the baseline information and the existing environmental issues in the area.

7.5.5 The overall assessment will also describe any permanent or temporary impacts and assess whether there are any secondary, direct/indirect or synergistic impacts associated within the implementation of the East Ayrshire SDS. Any permanent, temporary, secondary or direct/indirect impacts that are identified through the assessment process will be described in the comments section of the table and a summary of the results will be presented in the text of this environmental report.

8. ALTERNATIVES

8.1 and The SEA process requires that the Environmental Report identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects of the implementation of the East Ayrshire SDS and of the reasonable alternatives to the East Ayrshire SDS. Reasonable alternatives can be in relation to the need for the strategy. As the SDS is a strategic document which will provide an operational framework for other plans, programmes and strategies to follow, the environmental impacts of the SDS are anticipated to result in a generally positive effect on the environment, with any mitigation measures anticipated to relate to the delivery of SDS objectives through other plans, programmes and strategies.

8.2 Reasonable Alternatives on the Requirement for the Strategy

8.2.1 At scoping stage the only reasonable alternative identified for consideration and for assessment is to do nothing and maintain the status quo which would result in East Ayrshire relying on the Community Plan to guide future progress in terms of sustainable development considerations within the Council. However, the possibility of developing a second alternative has evolved through the assessment process – the development of Department specific sustainable development strategies tailored to reflect the specific roles and activities carried out by each Department.

8.3 Assessment of Reasonable Alternatives to the Implementation of the SDS

8.3.1 Section 14(2)(b) of the Act states that the Environmental Report will identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant impacts on the environment of implementing reasonable alternatives to the SDS. The reasonable alternatives identified has been discussed in terms of the need for the SDS and how it will be implemented.

8.3.2 The SDS seeks to ensure that the actions and decisions made by the Council will have positive impact on the environment and will influence and mainstream sustainable development considerations into the everyday actions of its key partners, residents and individuals within East Ayrshire. The ethos of the SDS in conjunction with the overarching aims of the Community Plan is to protect, conserve and enhance the environment within East Ayrshire, in order to provide an environmentally sustainable future.

8.4 Assessment Findings on the Implementation of the SDS v Reasonable Alternatives

8.4.1 As identified in paragraph 8.3.1 the only reasonable alternatives identified would be to do nothing and rely on the Community Plan to forward the Council's sustainable development interest; to develop Department specific strategies or to implement the SDS. A summary of the results are presented in the following paragraphs below:

8.4.2 Option 1: Implement the SDS and its associated Action Plan

- The SDS meets the requirements of East Ayrshire Council's Corporate Management Team with regards to the development of a cross departmental strategy, designed to unify how Council Services implement existing plans, policies and strategies; will influence the future development of Council plan, policies and strategies; and, will provide the necessary focus to ensure that the key themes, as identified by East Ayrshire Council's Corporate Management Team namely Corporate Procurement, Energy, Waste and Biodiversity, are given prominence as key considerations within resource allocation decisions.
- During the development of the draft strategy, an analysis of Community Planning priorities indicated that although sustainability is a key consideration, and is indeed at the heart of the Community Planning agenda, the overall priority lies with the social dimensions of sustainability. The development of the SDS

provides an opportunity to realign the economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability alongside the social dimensions as highlighted in the Community planning process.

- The implementation of the Action Plan through the development of existing Council wide officer groups or evolution of nominated officer groups will enable the Council to particularly focus its activities in its 4 key theme areas. The co-ordinating efforts of these groups will ensure that resultant actions enable these groups sure in the first instance to provide significant influence in a cross departmental manner, and this will significantly impact on how progress in these 4 key areas will be monitored and assessed.

8.4.3 Option 2: Rely on Community Plan to further Sustainability Considerations

In the absence of the SDS all sustainability considerations would be taken in accordance with the overarching objectives of the Community Plan.

- Without the SDS, the sustainability aims of the Community Plan would be delivered through a series of Council plans and strategies, such as the Local Transport Strategy, the Core Path Plan, the Energy Strategy, local Air Quality management System, Procurement Strategy, to name a few. Implementing the SDS provides the framework whereby the actions and objectives of these plans will be co-ordinated and influenced in order to consolidate actions which will conserve, enhance and protect our environment.
- Without the SDS, whilst sustainable activity and considerations will be evidenced within Council plans, policies and strategies in existence and in development, potential will remain for gaps in knowledge, understanding and application, which will be addressed and fulfilled by the implementation of the SDS. The demonstration of sustainable intent and actions across activities would be apparent, this could not be ensured, and would potentially vary both in practical application and understanding across services.
- The dissemination of guidance on best value and sustainability would be difficult to co-ordinate.
- The opportunity to share examples of good practice and to promote the economic, social and environmental benefits of sustainability would be restricted.

8.4.4 Option 3: Develop Department Specific Strategies to further Sustainability Considerations

- Departmental specific strategies would enable a detailed analysis of service activities to be considered within the context of sustainability. However, as with option 2, without the SDS there is no framework to unify and co-ordinate Council activity across all departments and services.
- The SDS through the Sustainable Development Working Group, provides the framework for cross Council best practice discussion, dissemination of

information and expert knowledge to be managed in a controlled and consistent manner.

- Monitoring & Evaluation of the SDS is required to fulfil the reporting requirements of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration and the Council's obligations through Best Value and the agreed Single Outcome Agreement. Individual Department reporting afford the opportunity for different weightings considerations to be presented, whereas the SDS centralises reporting considerations.

As is evidenced in the summary position below, the environmental impacts of option 1 and option 3 are similar. The key differential between the two options is the ability of option 1 to provide the cohesive, structured and managed framework within which Council believes the sustainable development agenda will thrive within East Ayrshire. If option 2 is followed then the actions as detailed within the draft SDS would be incorporated within a wide range of PPS adopted by the Council. Due to the nature of the objectives being sought through the SDS it is anticipated that whilst environmental impacts would still be positive, such as the actions associated with the council commitments to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration, the ability to communicate outcomes in a co-ordinated manner would be restricted. As such the overall assessment model reflects this limitation.

East Ayrshire Council concludes therefore that in order to fulfil its obligations under the requirements of Best Value, the implementation of the SDS is the preferred option. A detailed assessment of Option 1 follows in Section 9 of this report.

	Biodiversity		Human Health		Air Quality & Climatic Factors		Material Assets	
Option 1 : Implement the SDS and its associated Action Plan	Objective 1	Very Significant	Objective 1	Insignificant	Objective 1	Very Significant	Objective 1	Very Significant
	Objective 2	Very Significant	Objective 2	Insignificant	Objective 2	Very Significant	Objective 2	Very Significant
	Objective 3	Very Significant	Objective 3	Very Significant	Objective 3	Insignificant	Objective 3	Very Significant
	Objective 4	Low Significance	Objective 4	Low Significance	Objective 4	Low Significance	Objective 4	Low Significance
	Objective 5	Insignificant	Objective 5	Insignificant	Objective 5	Insignificant	Objective 5	Insignificant
Option 2: Rely on Community Plan to further Sustainability Considerations	Highly Significant		Significant		Very Significant		Highly Significant	
Option 3: Develop Department Specific Strategies to further Sustainability Considerations	Objective 1	Very Significant	Objective 1	Insignificant	Objective 1	Very Significant	Objective 1	Very Significant
	Objective 2	Very Significant	Objective 2	Insignificant	Objective 2	Very Significant	Objective 2	Very Significant
	Objective 3	Very Significant	Objective 3	Very Significant	Objective 3	Insignificant	Objective 3	Very Significant
	Objective 4	Low Significance	Objective 4	Low Significance	Objective 4	Low Significance	Objective 4	Low Significance
	Objective 5	Insignificant	Objective 5	Insignificant	Objective 5	Insignificant	Objective 5	Insignificant

9. ASSESSMENT OF THE SDS OBJECTIVES

- 9.1 The overall purpose of the Environmental Report is to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects (either positive or negative) on the environment of implementing the SDS. The SDS and reasonable alternatives have been assessed using the methodology contained within section 7. This part of the report summarises the findings of the assessments of the SDS Objectives (Table 8 below). Due to the strategic nature of the document, and to the delivery of outcomes/actions being dependent on interrelationships, aims and objectives of other Council plans, programmes and strategies, professional judgements have been made regarding whether the impacts on the environmental baseline will be the baseline and whether any effects will be permanent or temporary.
- 9.2 It is important to recognise the role of the Sustainable Development Working Group in implementing the SDS. The composition of this group will be critical in taking forward the aims and objectives of the SDS as it is this group who will co-ordinate, manage and provide leadership to Council Departments.
- 9.3 Each of the SDS objectives have been considered in terms of their impact on the entire geography of East Ayrshire.

Table 8: Assessment of SDS Objectives

Objective 1: Leadership

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Biodiversity	Demonstrate a commitment at senior level to ensuring every Service has sustainability at the centre of its activities	1.1.The remit of a Cabinet member will be expanded to include responsibility for sustainable development under the terms of Best Value	None	Low	Procedural step which will have no direct impact on biodiversity	Major	This action will ensure that all Council PPS produced will adhere to the principles of sustainability. PPS produced should consider their impact on biodiversity in conjunction with relevant environmental attributes.	The SDS will have a major influence on the establishment of sustainability issues and will have a direct influence on the protection of all important natural heritage	Low Significance (positive)
		1.2. Provide a series of workshops for senior managers to: ensure sustainable development is fully understood; to identify areas of current good practice, and; to identify areas for improvement	None	Low	Procedural step which will have no direct impact on the environmental attribute. This is an example of best practice which will facilitate information sharing, and provide education/awareness raising opportunities within Council Departments.	Minor	This action will ensure that sustainability is considered and discussed with Departments/Services and will facilitate awareness raising and highlight opportunity for information sharing and service delivery improvements	This action will have a minor influence on Departments and lower tier plans.	Insignificant
		1.3. Reaffirm the Council's commitment to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration	All natural heritage designations.	Very High	It is anticipated that this action will have secondary and direct positive impacts on all biodiversity designations.	Major	The Council are committed to fulfilling its commitments to the SCCD. This will directly impact lower tier PPS	This action will have a major influence on the protection of natural heritage designations, primarily through a secondary but direct nature. This objective	Very Significant (positive)

		(SCCD)						is relevant to all lower tier PPS.	
SEA Environmental Issues	Action	Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Human Health Assessment	Overall Significance
Human Health	Demonstrate a commitment at senior level to ensuring every Service has sustainability at the centre of its activities	1.1 The remit of a Cabinet member will be expanded to include responsibility for sustainable development under the terms of Best Value	None	Low	Procedural step which will have no direct impact on Human Health	Minor	This action will not directly influence human health, but may provide secondary and indirect influences.	This action will have a minor influence on Departments and lower tier plans.	Insignificant
		1.2 Provide a series of workshops for senior managers to: ensure sustainable development is fully understood; to identify areas of current good practice, and; to identify areas for improvement	None	Low	Procedural step which will have no direct impact on Human Health	Negligible	This action will have a negligible effect on human health	This action will have a minor influence on Departments and lower tier plans.	Insignificant
		1.3 Reaffirm the Council's commitment to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration (SCCD)	None	Medium	It is anticipated that this action will have secondary and indirect impacts on Human Health	Moderate	The Council are committed to fulfilling its commitments to the SCCD. This will directly impact lower tier PPS	This action will have a direct influence on those lower tier PPS through a secondary but direct nature. This objective is relevant to all lower tier PPS.	Low significance (positive)

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Air Quality and Climatic Factors Assessments	Overall Significance
Air Quality and Climatic Factors	Demonstrate a commitment at senior level to ensuring every Service has sustainability at the centre of its activities	1.1 The remit of a Cabinet member will be expanded to include responsibility for sustainable development under the terms of Best Value	Will impact on all air quality and climate change targets	Very High	This appointment will ensure that climatic factors are afforded key consideration status by Cabinet members.	Major	Embedding climatic factors as a key consideration within Cabinet decisions will ensure that sustainable development is embedded within the philosophy and actions of the Council.	This action will have direct and secondary impacts and will require that all Council PPS be assessed against this attribute.	Very Significant (positive)
		1.2 Provide a series of workshops for senior managers to: ensure sustainable development is fully understood; to identify areas of current good practice, and; to identify areas for improvement	None	Low	Procedural step which will have no direct impact on the environmental attribute. This is an example of best practice which will facilitate information sharing, and provide education/awareness raising opportunities within Council Departments.	Minor	This action will ensure that sustainability is considered and discussed with Departments/Services and will facilitate awareness raising and highlight opportunity for information sharing and service delivery improvements	This action will have a minor influence on Departments and lower tier plans.	Insignificant
		1.3 Reaffirm the Council's commitment to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration	Will impact on International to local air quality and climate change targets and considerations	Very High	It is anticipated that this action will have secondary and direct positive impacts on air quality and climate change targets.	Major	The Council are committed to fulfilling its commitments to the SCCD. This will directly impact lower tier PPS	This action will have a major influence on the protection of natural heritage designations, primarily through a secondary but direct nature. This objective is relevant to all lower tier PPS.	Very Significant (positive)

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Material Asset Assessments	Overall Significance
Material Assets	Demonstrate a commitment at senior level to ensuring every Service has sustainability at the centre of its activities	1.1 The remit of a Cabinet member will be expanded to include responsibility for sustainable development under the terms of Best Value	Wide ranging impacts and targets to be considered ranging from international to local in scope: Key PPS: Waste Strategies, Transport Strategies, Core Paths and Outdoor Access Strategies,, Local Housing Strategies, Energy Strategy	Very High	Waste reduction, reuse and. Efficient; energy procurement and use, resource with respect to the built and physical environments are all key priorities for Council. The SDS will have direct secondary impacts on lower tier PPS.	Major	This action will ensure that all Council PPS produced will adhere to the principles of sustainability..	The SDS will have a major influence on the establishment of sustainability issues and will have a direct influence on resource use and deployment, and will have direct and secondary impacts on lower tier PPS	Very Significant (positive)
		1.2 Provide a series of workshops for senior managers to: ensure sustainable development is fully understood; to identify areas of current good practice, and; to identify areas for improvement	None	Low	Procedural step which will have no direct impact, but will raise awareness of sustainability issues	Moderate	This action will ensure that sustainable development considerations are highlighted, experiences are shared and good practice becomes common practice.	This action will have a minor influence on Departments and lower tier plans.	Insignificant
		1.3 Reaffirm the Council's commitment to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration	Wide ranging impacts and targets to be considered ranging from international to local in scope: Key PPS: Waste Strategies, Transport Strategies, Core Paths and Outdoor Access Strategies,, Local Housing Strategies, Energy Strategy	Very High	It is anticipated that this action will have secondary and direct positive impacts on all Council resource decisions/allocations	Major	This action directly influences the procurement and deployment of Council	This action will have direct and secondary impacts which will impact across al Council departments and PPS.	Very Significant (positive)

9.1.1 Objective 1: Provide leadership, guidance and commitment to employees, stakeholders, businesses and residents within East Ayrshire.

- **Biodiversity:** By incorporating sustainable considerations into the remit of a Cabinet member, this demonstrates to all stakeholders the intent of EAC to embed sustainability as a major and direct influencer on all PPS produced by the Council. Biodiversity will be required to be considered, where appropriate, alongside other environmental attributes for PPS thereby ensuring maximum environmental protection is offered to natural heritage sites. The staging of Departmental workshops will ensure that the wider concepts of sustainable development are understood, incorporated and integrated into each Council Service' activities. By reaffirming its commitment to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration (SCCD), the Council are providing clear direction to all stakeholders regarding adaptation and mitigation measures required to limit any negative impacts on the climate. This action directly impacts on all lower tier PPS who will be required to recognise the requirements of the Council's SCCD commitment.
- **Human Health:** The SDS will have a moderate influence with actions and commitments being supported, implemented and introduced by lower tier PPS which may have a greater direct impact on human health considerations. The impacts of lower level PPS should be assessed against human health considerations as appropriate. This action directly impacts on all lower tier PPS who will be required to recognise the requirements of the Council's SCCD commitment.
- **Air Quality and Climatic Factors:** The SDS will ensure that sustainability is a key consideration in all Council decisions and will directly impact on the allocation of resources which will influence both directly and indirectly how air quality can be improved and greenhouse gas emissions can be managed/be reduced. All PPS will be required to consider, as appropriate the environmental impact of air quality and climatic factors in their development. This action directly impacts on all lower tier PPS who will be required to recognise the requirements of the Council's SCCD commitment.
- **Material Assets:** a dedicated Cabinet member will ensure that resource allocation decisions have sustainability as a key consideration in the decision making processes. Further, Departments will be required to consider environmental impacts alongside the social and economic considerations for the existing and proposed infrastructure when developing and implementing PPS. This objective will have direct and secondary impacts on lower tier PPS who will be required to recognise the requirements of the Council's SCCD commitment.

Objective 2: Integration & Resource Management

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Biodiversity	Develop guidance on the requirement to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) when developing plans, programmes or strategies	2.1 Develop an intranet based system which will deliver a comprehensive training module and guidance to EAC staff	All natural heritage designations.	Very High	This action will ensure that Council Services can access pertinent and relevant data when developing PPS. This will directly impact upon natural heritage designations	Major	The SDS will significantly influence the protection of natural heritage designations and will lead to their protection being integrated into lower tier PPS.	The SDS will have a major influence on the protection of natural heritage designations and will impact directly on lower tier PPS	Very Significant (positive)
	Develop a platform to ensure that services' resource allocations recognise social, economic and environmental considerations.	2.2 Introduce cross council thematic officer groups as required to recognise expertise and facilitate best practice. Groups will assume responsibility for monitoring ; evaluation and progress reporting	None	High	Focussed officer led groups will ensure that awareness raising, guidance and advice will be available to all Departments developing, reviewing and implementing lower tier plans. This will have secondary but direct impacts on lower tier PPS	Major	This action will significantly influence biodiversity through the protection or enhancement of actions arising from the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan(LBAP)	This action will provide focus and clarity of guidance in the development of lower tier plans, and will have direct impacts on lower tier PPS	Highly Significant (positive)
	Incorporate sustainability considerations within Corporate decision making processes.	2.3 Revise Cabinet reporting structure to include sustainability implications	None	Low	This is a procedural step which will have no environmental impact.	Moderate	The SDS may influence through the secondary or direct/indirect outcomes arising from lower tier PPS	A largely procedural step which will provide visibility to sustainability considerations within the Cabinet reporting structure.	Insignificant

SEA Environmental Issues	Action	Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Human Health Assessment	Overall Significance
Human Health	Develop guidance on the requirement to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) when developing plans, programmes or strategies	2.1 Develop an intranet based system which will deliver a comprehensive training module and guidance to EAC staff	All Deprivation and Health Statistics	Medium	The SDS may lead to secondary or indirect impacts on human health	Moderate	The SDS will have a moderate influence on Human Health through secondary or indirect impacts.	The SDS and lower tier plans may lead to secondary and indirect impacts on human health	Low Significance (positive)
	Develop a platform to ensure that services' resource allocations recognise social, economic and environmental considerations.	2.2 Introduce cross council thematic officer groups as required to recognise expertise and facilitate best practice. Groups will assume responsibility for monitoring ; evaluation and progress reporting	None	Medium	Focussed officer led groups will ensure that awareness raising, guidance and advice will be available to all Departments developing, reviewing and implementing lower tier plans. This will have secondary and mainly indirect impacts on lower tier PPS	Moderate	The SDS may have an influence on Human health through the actions associated with lower tier PPS, such as increased active travel through the provision of cycle paths, increased use of core path network etc.	The SDS and lower tier plans may lead to secondary and indirect impacts on human health	Low Significance (positive)
	Incorporate sustainability considerations within Corporate decision making processes.	2.3 Revise Cabinet reporting structure to include sustainability implications	None	Low	This is a procedural step which will have no environmental impact.	Moderate	The SDS will have a minor influence through the secondary or indirect outcomes from lower tier PPS	A largely procedural step which will provide visibility to sustainability considerations within the Cabinet reporting structure.	Insignificant

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Air Quality and Climatic Factors Assessments	Overall Significance
Air Quality and Climatic Factors	Develop guidance on the requirement to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) when developing plans, programmes or strategies	2.1 Develop an intranet based system which will deliver a comprehensive training module and guidance to EAC staff	All Air Quality & Climate Change Targets	Very High	This action will ensure that Council Services can access pertinent and relevant data when developing PPS. This will directly impact upon air quality and climate change targets	Major	The SDS will significantly influence the mainstreaming of air quality and climate change factors into resource allocation and will have secondary and direct impacts on lower tier PPS.	The SDS will have a major influence on the integration of air quality and climatic factor considerations and will have direct impacts on lower tier PPS	Very Significant (positive)
	Develop a platform to ensure that services' resource allocations recognise social, economic and environmental considerations.	2.2 Introduce cross council thematic officer groups as required to recognise expertise and facilitate best practice. Groups will assume responsibility for monitoring ; evaluation and progress reporting	None	High	Focussed officer led groups will ensure that awareness raising, guidance and advice will be available to all Departments developing, reviewing and implementing lower tier plans. This will have secondary and direct impacts on lower tier PPS	Major	This action will significantly influence the development of lower tier plans and will directly impact upon protection being integrated into the objectives lower tier PPS	This action will provide focus and clarity of guidance in the development of lower tier plans, and will have direct impacts on lower tier PPS	Highly Significant (positive)
	Incorporate sustainability considerations within Corporate decision making processes.	2.3 Revise Cabinet reporting structure to include sustainability implications	None	Low	This is a procedural step which will have no environmental impact.	Moderate	The SDS will have a minor influence through the secondary or direct/indirect outcomes from other PPS	A largely procedural step which will provide visibility to sustainability considerations within the Cabinet reporting structure.	Insignificant

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Material Asset Assessments	Overall Significance
Material Assets	Develop guidance on the requirement to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) when developing plans, programmes or strategies	2.1 Develop an intranet based system which will deliver a comprehensive training module and guidance to EAC staff	Will significantly impact material asset factors, such as waste and recycling targets, road infrastructure, fabric of built environment from International to local considerations	Very High	This action will ensure that Council Services can access pertinent and relevant data when developing PPS, and will directly impact upon wide ranging targets relating to material assets	Major	The SDS will significantly influence sustainable resource management across Council Departments and will directly impact lower tier PPS.	This action will have direct and secondary impacts for all lower tier PPS.	Very Significant (positive)
	Develop a platform to ensure that services' resource allocations recognise social, economic and environmental considerations. Incorporate sustainability considerations within Corporate decision making processes.	2.2 Introduce cross council thematic officer groups as required to recognise expertise and facilitate best practice. Groups will ,assume responsibility for monitoring ; evaluation and progress reporting	None	High	Focussed officer led groups will ensure that awareness raising, guidance and advice will be available to all Departments developing, reviewing and implementing lower tier plans. This will have secondary and direct impacts on lower tier PPS	Major	This action will significantly influence the development of lower tier plans and will directly impact upon protection being integrated into the objectives lower tier PPS	This action will provide focus and clarity of guidance in the development of lower tire plans, and will have direct impacts on lower tier PPS	Highly Significant (positive)
		2.3 Revise Cabinet reporting structure to include sustainability implications	None	Low	This is a procedural step which will have no environmental impact.	Moderate	The SDS will have a minor influence through the secondary or direct/indirect outcomes from other PPS	A largely procedural step which will provide visibility to sustainability considerations within the Cabinet reporting structure.	Insignificant

9.1.2 Objective 2: To ensure sustainable development considerations are integral to all Council plans, programmes and strategies and to maximise the efficient deployment of resources to ensure maximum effect and minimisation of waste. Ensure that those responsible for environmental misconduct are held accountable for their actions.

- Biodiversity: the provision of an intranet based training and support package designed to educate and support officers as they undertake/consider the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment as per the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, will provide significant benefit to all Departments within EAC. Of key relevance and benefit to officers will be the provision of a “one stop” database where all environmental baseline information/considerations will be stored and updated, which will ensure a consistent and co-ordinated approach to SEA across Council Departments. The provision of thematic officer groups will ensure that “expert” opinion can be called upon as required to ensure that biodiversity implications are considered in a full and appropriate manner., thereby ensuring that natural heritage impacts are fully incorporated, assessed and accounted for in PPS development and Council decisions. Similar use of the intranet based system and utilisation of “expert” opinion will also directly benefit the remaining environmental attributes scoped into this SEA.
- Human Health: The strategy should result in an overall improvement to human health. Secondary and indirect improvements are anticipated to arise from a wide range of influencing PPS, for example, the increased availability and choices surrounding active travel arising from the Local Transport Strategy, increased leisure opportunity through Core Path and Outdoor Access strategies, and reductions in fuel poverty through improvements to housing stock.
- Air Quality & Climatic Factors: The SDS will ensure that sustainability is a key consideration in all Council decisions and will directly impact on how Council resources are allocated and managed: how air quality can be improved and maintained; greenhouse gases can be reduced by the introduction of mitigation measures as necessary; flood risk minimised, and to ensure the protection of cultural heritage and landscape of East Ayrshire.
- Material Assets: the SDS will have a direct impact on the waste strategies employed by the Council to maximise waste diversion and to reduce the volume of waste sent to landfill. Waste minimisation will be a key feature with the objectives of the Council’s Waste Prevention Action Plan a priority for action. Sustainable procurement practices will be extended throughout the Council, to promote the use of for example, green energy and the use of recycled materials in goods and services. All procurement decisions will be made within the parameters of Best Value regime.

Objective 3: Consultation & Awareness Raising

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Biodiversity	Engage with community and key partners in participative consultation on sustainable development	3.1 Bi-annual sustainability audit across all services, and appoint “audit champions”	None	Low	This will have no direct impact on biodiversity but will provide secondary impacts	Moderate	The outcomes from the sustainability audits will influence the subsequent development of lower tier PPS	This action will have direct and secondary impacts for lower tier PPS	Insignificant
		3.2 Include environmental sustainability sections within EAC householders surveys	None	Low	This action will have no direct impact on biodiversity but will provide secondary impacts	Moderate	This action will raise awareness amongst individuals of how their actions influences sustainable development. Secondary and indirect impacts will result from lower tier PPS	This action will gather resident opinion/awareness of biodiversity within EAC context, and will influence the development of secondary impacts through lower tier PPS	Insignificant
		3.3 Develop/Utilise existing community forum to share examples of good practice	None	Low	This action will have no direct impact on biodiversity but will provide secondary impacts	Moderate	This action will raise awareness amongst individuals of how their actions influences sustainable development. Secondary and indirect impacts will result from lower tier PPS	This action will facilitate the sharing of good practice and work practices amongst community planning partners which may lead to the protection and enhancement of natural heritage issues	Insignificant
		3.4 Publish annual progress statement by means of sustainability indicator	None	Low	This action will have no direct impact on biodiversity but will provide secondary impacts	Major	The SDS will have a direct influence and will lead to protection being integrated into the objectives of lower tier PPS	The SDS will influence the development of sustainability indicators which will have direct influence on the protection of natural heritage sites	Low Significance (positive)
	Fulfil Council requirements in terms of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration	3.5 Produce a plan, with targets and timescales designed to achieve greenhouse gas emission	All Natural Heritage Designations	Very High	The SDS will have direct and indirect impacts on the protection and conservation of natural heritage designations.	Major	As a signatory to the SCCD, the Council are taking positive action to limit the negative effects of climate change. This will directly impact on all lower tier plans.	The SDS will directly impact on the protection of natural heritage designations	Very significant (positive)

		reductions. Publish an annual statement on monitoring and progress & identify impacts of change for Council services and its residents								
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SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Human Health	Engage with community and key partners in participative consultation on sustainable development	3.1 Bi-annual sustainability audit across all services, and appoint “audit champions”	None	Low	This will have no direct impact on Human health but will provide secondary impacts	Minor	The outcomes from the sustainability audits may influence the subsequent development of lower tier PPS and may provide secondary impacts for Human Health	This action will have no direct or secondary impacts for lower tier PPS, but will serve to raise awareness of wider sustainability issues	Insignificant
		3.2 Include environmental sustainability sections within EAC householders surveys	None	Low	This action will have no direct impact on Human Health but will provide secondary impacts	Moderate	This action will raise awareness amongst individuals of how their actions can influence sustainable development. Secondary and indirect impacts may result from lower tier PPS	This action will gather resident opinion/awareness of biodiversity within EAC context, and may influence the development of secondary impacts through lower tier PPS and community partner actions and objectives	Insignificant
		3.3 Develop/Utilise existing community forum to share examples of good practice	None	Low	This action will have no direct impact on Human Health but will provide secondary impacts	Moderate	This action will raise awareness amongst individuals of how their actions can influence sustainable development. Secondary and indirect impacts may result from lower tier PPS	This action will gather resident opinion/awareness of biodiversity within EAC context, and may influence the development of secondary impacts through lower tier PPS and community partner actions and objectives	Insignificant

	Fulfil Council requirements in terms of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration	3.4 Publish annual progress statement by means of sustainability indicator	None	Low	This action will have no direct impact on Human Health but will provide secondary impacts	Major	The SDS will have a direct influence and will lead to protection being integrated into the objectives of lower tier PPS	The SDS will influence the development of sustainability indicators which will have direct influence on the protection of natural heritage sites	Low Significance (positive)
		3.5 Produce a plan, with targets and timescales designed to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions. Publish an annual statement on monitoring and progress & identify impacts of change for Council services and its residents	All Deprivation & Health statistics	Very High	The SDS will have direct and indirect impacts on the protection and conservation of natural heritage designations.	Major	As a signatory to the SCCD, the Council are taking positive action to limit the negative effects of climate change. This will directly impact on all lower tier plans.	The SDS will directly impact on the protection of natural heritage designations	Very significant (positive)

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Air Quality & Climatic Factors	Engage with community and key partners in participative consultation on sustainable development	3.1 Bi-annual sustainability audit across all services, and appoint "audit champions"	None	Low	This will have no direct impact on air quality and climatic factors but will provide secondary impacts	Moderate	The outcomes from the sustainability audits will influence the development of lower tier PPS and will provide direct and secondary impacts for air quality & climatic factors	This action will have direct and secondary impacts for lower tier PPS	Insignificant
		3.2 Include environmental sustainability sections within EAC householders surveys	None	Low	This action will have no direct impact on air quality and climatic factors but will provide secondary	Moderate	This action will raise awareness amongst individuals of how their actions can influence sustainable development. Secondary and indirect	This action will gather resident opinion/awareness within an EAC context, and outcomes will influence the development of direct and secondary impacts through lower tier	Insignificant

Fulfil Council requirements in terms of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration				impacts		impacts may result from lower tier PPS	PPS and facilitate engagement with community partners	
	3.3 Develop/Utilise existing community forum to share examples of good practice	None	Low	This action will have no direct impact on air quality and climatic factors but will provide secondary impacts	Minor	This action will raise awareness amongst individuals of how their actions influences sustainable development. Secondary and indirect impacts may result from lower tier PPS	This action will facilitate the sharing of good practice and work practices amongst community planning partners which may provide secondary and direct impacts through lower tier PPS	Insignificant
	3.4 Publish annual progress statement by means of sustainability indicator	None	Low	This action will have no direct impact on air quality and climatic factors but will provide secondary impacts	Major	The SDS will have a direct influence and will lead to protection of air quality and mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as required, thereby impacting directly on lower tier PPS	The SDS will influence the development of sustainability indicators which will have major and direct influence on the protection of air quality and climatic factors within East Ayrshire.	Low Significance (positive)
	3.5 Produce a plan, with targets and timescales designed to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions. Publish an annual statement on monitoring and progress & identify impacts of change for Council services and its residents	Air quality and climate change targets	Very High	The SDS will have direct and impacts on the air quality and will define mitigation and adaptation measures to minimise the negative effects of climate change.	Major	As a signatory to the SCCD, the Council are taking positive action to limit the negative effects of climate change. This will provide major and direct influence and will directly impact on all lower tier plans.	The SDS will provide major and direct influence and will directly impact upon lower tier PPS	Very significant (positive)

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Material Assets	Engage with community and key partners in participative consultation on sustainable development	3.1 Bi-annual sustainability audit across all services, and appoint "audit champions"	None	Low	This will have no direct impact on material assets but will provide secondary impacts	Moderate	The outcomes from the sustainability audits will influence the development of lower tier PPS. Direct and secondary impacts will be generated through lower tier PPS	This action will have direct and secondary impacts for lower tier PPS	Insignificant
		3.2 Include environmental sustainability sections within EAC householders surveys	None	Low	This action will have no direct impact on material assets but will provide secondary impacts	Moderate	This action will raise awareness amongst individuals of how their actions can influence sustainable development. Secondary and indirect impacts may result from lower tier PPS	This action will gather resident opinion/awareness within an EAC context, and outcomes will influence the development of direct and secondary impacts through lower tier PPS and facilitate engagement with community partners	Insignificant
		3.3 Develop/Utilise existing community forum to share examples of good practice	None	Low	This action will have no direct impact on material assets but will provide secondary impacts	Minor	This action will raise awareness amongst individuals of how their actions influence sustainable development. Secondary and indirect impacts may result from lower tier PPS	This action will facilitate the sharing of good practice and work practices amongst community planning partners which may provide secondary and direct impacts through lower tier PPS	Insignificant
		3.4 Publish annual progress statement by means of sustainability indicator	None	Low	This action will have no direct impact on material assets but will influence the development of lower tier PPS and provide direct and secondary impacts	Major	The SDS will have a direct influence and will lead to protection of air quality and mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as required, thereby impacting directly on lower tier PPS	The SDS will influence the development of sustainability indicators which will have major and direct influence on the protection of air quality and climatic factors within East Ayrshire.	Low Significance (positive)
	Fulfil Council requirements in	3.5 Produce a plan, with targets and timescales	Will significantly impact	Very High	It is anticipated that this action will have secondary and	Major	As a signatory to the SCCD, the Council are taking positive action to limit the negative	The SDS will provide major and direct influence and will directly impact upon lower tier PPS	Very significant (positive)

	terms of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration	designed to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions. Publish an annual statement on monitoring and progress & identify impacts of change for Council services and its residents	material asset factors, such as waste and recycling targets, road infrastructure, fabric of built environment from International to local considerations		direct positive impacts on all Council resource decisions/allocations The SDS will provide direct and significant impacts on lower tier PPS		effects of climate change. This will provide major and direct influence and will directly impact on all lower tier plans.		
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9.1.3 Objective 3: To consult widely with partners, stakeholders and individuals to ensure environmental impact is a key consideration in decisions, large and small.

- Biodiversity: The SDS is designed to complement the principles of sustainability as detailed within East Ayrshire's Community Plan. As such, the Council recognises that in order to achieve strong and vibrant communities for our residents today and in the future, it is necessary to ensure that the decisions it makes both protect and enhances its environment. Raising awareness of sustainable activity to internal and external stakeholders by means of audits, surveys and publication of reports and targets highlights the extent of Council actions and intent. Information gathered will be used to directly inform and develop future policy direction, with the aim of conserving, enhancing and protecting the natural habitats within East Ayrshire, as detailed within the Ayrshire LBAP.
- Human Health: the promotion of personal well-being is a core aim of sustainable development and is also a key aim of East Ayrshire's Community Plan. In East Ayrshire, we are striving towards:
 - Improving the health and overall well-being of the population
 - Seek to narrow the gap between the most and least disadvantaged population groups in East Ayrshire⁸

There are direct correlations between the health and well being of residents to the economic and social opportunities which are available within local environments. Quality of housing, leisure provision and educational and employment opportunity can significantly impact upon lifestyle choices made by residents. Maximising consultation opportunity affords East Ayrshire Council with information and knowledge to influence decisions which may influence and improve the personal well-being of residents

- Air Quality & Climatic Factors: the SDS whilst not directly impacting on its environmental considerations provides opportunity through the sustainability audits, the householders surveys, and community forums to gather opinion, educate and raise awareness of sustainability issues both affected and effected by the SDS. It is anticipated that the outcomes of lower tier plans will be directly informed and actions will be influenced. The objectives of the SDS will seek to ensure that greenhouse gases on a local level are minimised thereby contributing to the national and international targets surrounding climate change. Reductions in emissions will provide positive impacts on the protection and enhancement of the local biodiversity, improved air quality, offer enhanced protection against flooding risk, and provide greater protection to the landscape and historic environment of East Ayrshire.
- Material Assets: The SDS is designed to complement the principles of sustainability as detailed within East Ayrshire's Community Plan. As such, the Council recognises that in order to achieve strong and vibrant communities for our residents today and in the future, it is necessary to ensure that the decisions it makes both protect and enhances its environment. Raising awareness of sustainable activity to internal and external stakeholders by means of audits, surveys and publication of reports and targets highlights the extent of Council actions and intent, and will provide clarity to the Council's response to climate

⁸ East Ayrshire Community Plan: Improving Health Action Plan 2007 - 2011

change. Communicating to the wider population Changes to the built and physical environment of East Ayrshire, procurement of goods and services, enhancements to the provision of public transportation, greater opportunity for active travel, maximising waste minimisation, promoting sustainable buildings

Objective 4: Performance Management & Evaluation

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Biodiversity	Measure the sustainability performance across all services	4.1 Develop (or utilise existing indicators) a set of performance indicators measuring progress towards sustainable development	None	Low	The SDS will have no direct or secondary impacts on natural heritage designations	Major	The SDS will have major and direct influence and will lead to protection and enhancement being integrated into the objectives of lower tier PPS.	The SDS through the use of sustainability indicators and formalised reporting structures will directly influence biodiversity considerations and will directly impact lower tier PPS	Low Significance (positive)
		4.2 Provide an annual report indicating progress against performance	None	Low	The SDS will have no direct impacts on natural heritage designations	Major	The SDS will have direct influence and will lead to protection and enhancement being integrated into the objectives of lower tier PPS	The SDS will have a major influence on the establishment of sustainability issues and will ensure that biodiversity protection considerations are contained within lower tier PPS	Low significance (positive)
		4.3 Formal reporting to Corporate Management team	None	Low	The SDS will have no direct impacts on natural heritage designations	Major	The SDS will have direct influence and will lead to protection and enhancement being integrated into the objectives of lower tier PPS	The SDS through its formal reporting mechanisms will enable CMT to direct and influence the integration of environmental consideration into lower tier PPS	Low significance (positive)

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Human Health Assessments	Overall Significance
Human Health	Measure the sustainability performance across all services	4.1 Develop (or utilise existing indicators) a set of performance indicators measuring progress towards sustainable development	None	Low	The SDS will have no direct or secondary impacts on Human Health	Major	The SDS will have influence and will lead to personal and well-being protection and enhancement being integrated into the objectives of lower tier PPS.	The SDS through the use of sustainability indicators and formalised reporting structures will provide secondary but direct influence over human health and well-being considerations within lower tier PPS	Low Significance (positive)
		4.2 Provide an annual report indicating progress against performance	None	Low	The SDS will have no direct impacts on Human Health	Major	The SDS will have influence and will lead to personal and well-being protection and enhancement being integrated into the objectives of lower tier PPS.	The SDS through the measurement of performance will provide secondary but direct influence over human health and well-being considerations within lower tier PPS	Low Significance (positive)
		4.3 Formal reporting to Corporate Management team	None	Low	The SDS will have no direct impacts on Human Health	Major	The SDS will have influence and will lead to personal and well-being protection and enhancement being integrated into the objectives of lower tier PPS.	The SDS through its formal reporting mechanisms will enable CMT to direct and influence the integration of environmental consideration into lower tier PPS	Low Significance (positive)

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Air Quality & Climatic Factors	Measure the sustainability performance across all services	4.1 Develop (or utilise existing indicators) a set of performance indicators measuring progress towards sustainable development	None	Low	The SDS will have no direct or secondary impacts on Air Quality & Climatic Factors	Major	The SDS will significantly influence how air quality and climatic factors are considered and are integrated into other PPS e.g poor air quality can lead to an increase in respiratory diseases which impacts upon personal health and well-being. The use of Indicators will therefore influence lower tier PPS.	The SDS through the use of sustainability indicators and formalised reporting structures will provide secondary but direct influence how air quality and climatic factors are considered within lower tier PPS	Low Significance (positive)
		4.2 Provide an annual report indicating progress against performance	None	Low	The SDS will have no direct impacts on Air Quality & Climatic Factors	Major	The SDS will have influence and will lead to personal and well-being protection and enhancement being integrated into the objectives of lower tier PPS.	The SDS through the use of sustainability indicators and formalised reporting structures will provide secondary but direct influence how air quality and climatic factors are considered within lower tier PPS	Low Significance (positive)
		4.3 Formal reporting to Corporate Management team	None	Low	The SDS will have no direct impacts on Air Quality & Climatic Factors	Major	The SDS will have influence and will lead to personal and well-being protection and enhancement being integrated into the objectives of lower tier PPS.	The SDS through its formal reporting mechanisms will enable CMT to direct and influence the integration of environmental consideration into lower tier	Low Significance (positive)

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Material Assets	Measure the sustainability performance across all services	4.1 Develop (or utilise existing indicators) a set of performance indicators measuring progress towards sustainable development	None	Low	The SDS will have no direct or secondary impacts on material assets	Major	The SDS will significantly direct and influence lower tier PPS	The SDS through the use of sustainability indicators and formalised reporting structures will provide secondary but direct influence over human health and well-being considerations within lower tier PPS	Low Significance (positive)
		4.2 Provide an annual report indicating progress against performance	None	Low	The SDS will have no direct impacts on material assets	Major	The SDS will significantly direct and influence lower tier PPS	The SDS through the measurement of performance will provide secondary but direct influence allocation human health and well-being considerations within lower tier PPS	Low Significance (positive)
		4.3 Formal reporting to Corporate Management team	None	Low	The SDS will have no direct impacts on material assets	Major	The SDS will significantly direct and influence lower tier PPS	The SDS through its formal reporting mechanisms will enable CMT to direct and influence the integration of environmental consideration into lower tier PPS	Low Significance (positive)

9.1.4 Objective 4: To identify and introduce annual performance targets in relation to the 4 key themes of the SDS and to produce an annual performance statement. To ensure that the aims of the SDS is consistent with the Community Plan.

The SDS is designed to complement the principles of sustainability as detailed within East Ayrshire's Community Plan. As such, the Council recognises that in order to achieve strong and vibrant communities for our residents today and in the future, it is necessary to ensure that the decisions it makes both protect and enhances its environment. Due to the very nature of this overarching document which seeks to influence and integrate sustainable development into the wide ranging activities and relationships of the Council, it is critical that reporting mechanisms introduced reflect the relationship between the SDS and the Community Plan and also with the Single Outcome Agreement for East Ayrshire. The use of indicators will also highlight relationships; identify opportunity and cumulative and synergistic impacts with lower tier plans, operated by EAC and its community planning partners. Indicators will enable the Council to measure in a quantifiable manner the progress across each of the key themes on an annual basis e.g. % of goods and services purchased by the Council which have a recycled content of greater than 50%, % of green energy purchased, % of waste diversion from landfill etc.

Indicators developed will not directly impact upon the environmental of biodiversity, human health and climatic factors but through the interpretation and analysis of indicator results, their application has potential to significantly influence how the Council's material assets are utilised and deployed. Indicators will provide Corporate Management Team with a tool to evaluate and monitor how the SDS contributes towards fulfilling the requirements of Best Value. Further indicators will significantly record what progress Council is achieving in relation to the commitments of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration, and will directly enable and influence the development/review of PPS to include mitigation and adaptation measures as appropriate.

Objective 5: Influence

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Biodiversity	Encourage and facilitate community planning partners to adopt sustainability in their own working practices where they do not do so already.	5.1 Identify areas of good practice in sustainability by Community Planning partners and include within formalised reporting structures	None	Low	This is an example of best practice and will highlight partnership approaches to sustainable development within EAC.	Major	The SDS will provide opportunity to maximise the positive impacts of a co-ordinated and partnership approach to protecting the biodiversity of East Ayrshire. This may impact upon lower tier plans	The SDS will significantly influence sustainability and will impact upon the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage in East Ayrshire.	Low Significance (positive)
	Encourage individual responsibility for incorporating sustainability into everyday actions	5.2 Incorporate principles of sustainable development into corporate induction procedures	None	Low	This is a procedural step which is designed to signify the importance placed by the Council on the sustainable development agenda.	Negligible	This action will have a negligible impact on biodiversity	Although a procedural step, this action sends a clear message to all employees of East Ayrshire Council of the importance of sustainable development for Council actions and decisions.	Insignificant

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Human Health	Encourage and facilitate community planning partners to adopt sustainability in their own working practices where they do not do so already.	5.1 Identify areas of good practice in sustainability by Community Planning partners and disseminate report findings	None	Low	This is an example of best practice and will highlight partnership approaches to sustainable development within EAC.	Major	The SDS will provide opportunity to maximise the positive impacts of a co-ordinated and partnership approach to protecting the biodiversity of East Ayrshire. This may impact upon lower tier plans	The SDS will significantly influence sustainability and will impact upon the protection and enhancement of the health and wellbeing of East Ayrshire residents.	Low Significance (positive)
	Encourage individual responsibility for incorporating sustainability into everyday actions	5.2 Incorporate principles of sustainable development into corporate induction procedures	None	Low	This is a procedural step which is designed to signify the importance placed by the Council on the sustainable development agenda.	Negligible	This action will have a negligible impact on biodiversity	Although a procedural step, this action sends a clear message to all employees of East Ayrshire Council of the importance of sustainable development for Council actions and decisions.	Insignificant

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Air Quality & Climatic Factors	Encourage and facilitate community planning partners to adopt sustainability in their own working practices where they do not do so already.	5.1 Identify areas of good practice in sustainability by Community Planning partners and disseminate report findings	None	Low	This is an example of best practice and will highlight partnership approaches to sustainable development within EAC.	Major	The SDS will provide opportunity to maximise the positive impacts of a co-ordinated and partnership approach to air quality and climatic factors affecting East Ayrshire. This may impact upon lower tier plans	The SDS will significantly influence sustainability and will impact upon the requirement for lower tier plans to consider air quality and climatic factors .	Low Significance (positive)
	Encourage individual responsibility for incorporating sustainability into everyday actions	5.2 Incorporate principles of sustainable development into corporate induction procedures	None	Low	This is a procedural step which is designed to signify the importance placed by the Council on the sustainable development agenda.	Negligible	This action will have a negligible impact air quality and climatic factors.	Although a procedural step, this action sends a clear message to all employees of East Ayrshire Council of the importance of sustainable development for Council actions and decisions.	Insignificant

SEA Environmental Issues	SDS Action	SDS Projected Outputs	Baseline Factors	Importance Ranking	Importance Comment	Influence Ranking	Influence Comment	Summary of Biodiversity Assessments	Overall Significance
Material Assets	Encourage and facilitate community planning partners to adopt sustainability in their own working practices where they do not do so already.	5.1 Identify areas of good practice in sustainability by Community Planning partners and disseminate report findings	None	Low	This is an example of best practice and will highlight partnership approaches to sustainable development within EAC.	Major	The SDS will provide opportunity to maximise the positive impacts of a co-ordinated and partnership approach to resource allocation. This may impact upon lower tier plans	The SDS will significantly influence sustainability and will directly impact lower tier plans.	Low Significance (positive)
	Encourage individual responsibility for incorporating sustainability into everyday actions	5.2 Incorporate principles of sustainable development into corporate induction procedures	None	Low	This is a procedural step which is designed to signify the importance placed by the Council on the sustainable development agenda.	Negligible	This action will have a negligible impact air quality and climatic factors.	Although a procedural step, this action sends a clear message to all employees of East Ayrshire Council of the importance of sustainable development for Council actions and decisions.	Insignificant

9.1.5 Objective 5: To ensure that sustainability considerations are integral to the decision making process for plans, programmes and strategies.

In conjunction with Objective 3, the SDS seeks to provide a focus to the wide ranging partnerships/joint working opportunities in which the Council engages on a day to day basis. Although this objective will not directly impact upon the environmental considerations of biodiversity, human health, climatic factors and material assets, the importance of wider community engagement and the maximising of awareness raising opportunities for sustainable development activity within East Ayrshire cannot be overlooked. The communication strategy adopted to further the aims of the SDS will be key to fostering, supporting, motivating and developing further sustainable actions and activities amongst staff, individuals and partner organisations. East Ayrshire Council will seek to ensure sustainable accountability in its relationships with partner organisations.

This objective builds upon the philosophy of small steps do make a difference, and will help to engender localised thriving and healthy communities for East Ayrshire, where individuals and organisations are proud of their local heritage and are involved in decisions which impact upon their built and physical environment. These actions will seek to improve overall quality of life within local environments in a sustained manner by considering social, economic and environmental factors, pertinent to the needs and desires of local communities.

9.2 Overall Assessment of Cumulative and Synergistic Effects of the SDS

- 9.2.1 Each objective contained within the SDS and the associated actions as contained within the SDS Action plan have been assessed against the environmental attributes scoped into this SEA. The summary of influence for each objective has been grouped together in Table 9 below to provide an at-a-glance indication of how the SDS objectives will impact upon the environmental attributes scoped into this SEA.
- 9.2.2 Environmental outcomes arising from the implementation of the SDS range from insignificant, through to very significant. In no cases are outcomes anticipated to generate a negative impact. The insignificant and low significant rated outcome, relate in general to those actions which independently are deemed to be procedural or designed to generate an awareness and fostering of attitudes within the wider community.
- 9.2.3 Outcomes which are anticipated to be highly significant and very significant for the environmental attributes scoped in, relate to those elements of Council activity influencing resource allocations, PPS review/development, reporting, monitoring or evaluation which independently, cumulatively or in a synergistic manner will produce impacts.
- 9.2.4 Cumulative impacts will occur where actions combine to produce a greater significance than the individual action itself will produce e.g. the expansion of the remit of a Cabinet member to include responsibility for sustainability combined with information gathered from householder and partner organisation surveys, combined with a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions has potential to significantly impact upon resource allocation decisions made by Council.
- 9.2.5 Synergistic impacts will occur when the combination of individual impacts combine to produce a different impact to the sum of the individual impacts concerned. Synergistic impacts are anticipated through the interrelationship of different plans, programmes and strategies as promoted by Council services. E.g. a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions will positively impact on biodiversity conservation and protection and can also impact on air quality, by reducing pollution levels, which can lead to a reduction in asthma. In addition, outcomes of low or negligible influence when combined have potential to provide greater impact e.g. the results from householders surveys in conjunction with sustainable audit findings across Council services, can result in an amendment/review of a lower tier plan to minimise or maximise an environmental impact.
- 9.2.6 As the overall strategy seeks to enhance, conserve and protect the environment within East Ayrshire, it is regarded as unlikely that there will be any negative synergistic impacts resulting from the implementation of the strategy.

Table 9: Cumulative Impacts of SDS objectives									
	Biodiversity		Human Health		Air Quality & Climatic Factors		Material Assets		Cumulative Impact
Objective 1	1.1	Low Significance	1.1	Insignificant	1.1	Very Significant	1.1	Very Significant	Very Significant (positive)
	1.2	Insignificant	1.2	Insignificant	1.2	Insignificant	1.2	Insignificant	Insignificant
	1.3	Very Significant	1.3	Low Significance	1.3	Very Significant	1.3	Very significant	Very Significant (positive)
Objective 2	2.1	Very Significant	2.1	Low Significance	2.1	Very Significant	2.1	Very Significant	Very Significant (positive)
	2.2	Highly Significant	2.2	Low Significance	2.2	Highly Significant	2.2	Highly Significant	Highly Significant (positive)
	2.3	Insignificant	2.3	Insignificant	2.3	Insignificant	2.3	Insignificant	Insignificant
Objective 3	3.1	Insignificant	3.1	Insignificant	3.1	Insignificant	3.1	Insignificant	Insignificant
	3.2	Insignificant	3.2	Insignificant	3.2	Insignificant	3.2	Insignificant	Insignificant
	3.3	Insignificant	3.3	Insignificant	3.3	Insignificant	3.3	Insignificant	Insignificant
	3.4	Highly Significant	3.4	Low Significance	3.4	Low Significance	3.4	Low Significance	Low Significance (positive)
	3.5	Very Significant	3.5	Very Significant	3.5	Very Significant	3.5	Very Significant	Very Significant (positive)
Objective 4	4.1	Low Significance	4.1	Low Significance	4.1	Low Significance	4.1	Low Significance	Low Significance (positive)
	4.2	Low Significance	4.2	Low Significance	4.2	Low Significance	4.2	Low Significance	Low Significance (positive)
	4.3	Low Significance	4.3	Low Significance	4.3	Low Significance	4.3	Low Significance	Low Significance (positive)
Objective 5	5.1	Low Significance	5.1	Low Significance	5.1	Low Significance	5.1	Low Significance	Low Significance (positive)
	5.2	Insignificant	5.2	Insignificant	5.2	Insignificant	5.2	Insignificant	Insignificant

10. MITIGATION MEASURES

- 10.1 Mitigation is an integral and important aspect of the SEA process. Impact mitigation measures aim to minimise negative impacts, maximise the effects of positive impacts, and ensure that any mitigation measures introduced do not generate negative impacts.
- 10.2 The SDS will provide the framework to fulfilling the Council's Scottish Climate Change Declaration commitments. There are clear interrelationships between climate change and sustainable development, such as utilising and deploying energy efficient products and services in Council activities; procuring green energy and recycled products; and maximising waste diversion. A key challenge for East Ayrshire Council will be how best to manage the desire for economic growth with the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By mainstreaming environmental considerations into future plan, programmes and strategy discussion and development for the Council, any resultant mitigation measures will be highlighted, assessed and addressed pre implementation.

11. MONITORING

- 11.1 Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Responsible Authority to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS to allow any unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage and remedial action to be undertaken.
- 11.2 Monitoring will be carried out by a cross Council officer led group, the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG). This group will comprise officers who have designated authority and influence to manage the mainstreaming of sustainable development considerations into Council activities. Reporting to the Corporate Management Team, the SDWG will co-ordinate the development and application of sustainability indicators in order to effectively monitor and evaluate Council performance and progress in relation to the 4 key themes of the SDS and wider sustainability considerations.

12. CONSULTATION

CONSULTATION	DATE
Publication of Interim Draft SDS and Environmental Report	September 2008
Formal Consultation of the Draft SDS and Environmental Report. As per the agreement of the Consulting Authorities at Scoping stage a consultation period of 6 weeks will occur	September 2008 to October 2008
Preparation of final SDS and post adoption statement	Dependant on the outcome of consultation
Adoption of the SDS	Dependant on the outcome of consultation

APPENDIX A CONSULTATION AUTHORITY RESPONSES TO THE SDS SCOPING REPORT

Consultation responses received in response to consultation on the Scoping Report and the Council's observations and recommended course of action.

Name and Address of Respondent	Representation
Scottish Environment Protection Agency, per Lorna MacLean, Senior Planning Officer, East Kilbride Office, redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride, G74 5PP	SEA 001
Historic Scotland, per Amanda Chisholm, Strategic Environment Assessment Team Leader, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH	SEA 002
Scottish Natural Heritage, per Dorothy Simpson, Operations Manager, Strathclyde & Ayrshire, 19 Wellington Square, AYR, KA7 1EZ	SEA 003

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Representation	Synopsis of Issue Raised	Council Observations and Recommended Course of Action
SEA 001	Scottish Environment Protection Agency, per Lorna MacLean, Senior Planning Officer, East Kilbride Office, redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride, G74 5PP	
SEA 001 (a)	I refer to your Scoping consultation submitted under the above Act in respect of the East Ayrshire Sustainable Development Strategy.	Noted.
SEA 001 (b)	This was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 30 October 2007. As required under Section 15(2) of the Act, SEPA has considered the document submitted and comments as follows in respect of the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report (ER).	The comments of the respondent are welcomed and appreciated
SEA 001 (c)	The Scoping Report is comprehensive and well presented, clearly setting out the proposed assessment approach.	Noted.
SEA 001 (d)	Section 4 provides a useful summary of environmental problems in the area. However, in line with SPP7 1:200 year flood event maps should be used rather than 1:100 year flood maps to provide information on areas liable to flooding.	Noted and adopted
SEA 001 (e)	It is noted that all of the SEA issues have been scoped in at this stage; SEPA would agree that this is an appropriate approach to assessment and further issues may be scoped in/out as the assessment process progresses	Noted. As detailed within Environmental Report, population, soil, water, cultural heritage and landscape have been scoped out.
SEA 001 (f)	The only alternative which the report identifies is “do nothing and rely on	Noted. A third option has been subsequently

	the Community Plan for East Ayrshire". However, the report does not identify any alternatives to proposals/objectives. If alternative proposals/objectives have been considered in the SEA process the potential environmental effect of these should be assessed. If no alternative proposals/objectives were considered this should be made clear.	developed: to produce department specific strategies
SEA 001 (g)	SEPA is satisfied with the proposed consultation period of 6 weeks for the Environmental Report	Noted
SEA 001 (h)	The Scottish SEA Toolkit (available for download at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/0) provides guidance to Responsible Authorities about the type of information that is expected to be provided at each SEA stage. SEPA has used the toolkit to inform this scoping response which is attached as Annex 1.	Noted.
SEA 001 (i)	On completion, the Environmental Report and the strategy to which it relates should be submitted to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway (sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) which will forward it to the Consultation Authorities. If you wish to discuss any of the content of this response, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01355 574 302 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk .	Noted
SEA 002	Historic Scotland, per Amanda Chisholm, Strategic Environment Assessment Team Leader, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH	
SEA 002 (a)	Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the Scoping Report prepared for the environmental assessment of East Ayrshire Council's Sustainable Development Strategy, received by the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 30 October 2007.	Noted.

SEA 002 (b)	<p>I have reviewed the Scoping Report on behalf of Historic Scotland in its role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act (Section 15). This letter contains the views of Historic Scotland on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report (part 1), and the duration of the proposed consultation period (part 2). I have also provided detailed comments on the Scoping Report in the annex to this letter.</p> <p>Scope of assessment and level of detail</p>	Noted
SEA 002 (c)	<p>I found the Scoping report to be helpful and, subject to the specific comments set out below and in the annex, I am content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the environmental assessment.</p>	Noted
SEA 002 (d)	<p>My understanding from the Scoping Report is that the environmental assessment will include assessment of the objectives and proposals included within the Sustainable Development Strategy</p>	Noted
SEA 002 (e)	<p>When undertaking the environment assessment, you may find that some of the impacts are uncertain at the strategic level, for example, due to dependence on locational factors. Where this is the case it is important to identify those issues and to be clear how they will be taken into account at the lower level, for example at project level, and who will be responsible for following them through.</p>	Noted.
SEA 002 (f)	<p>Consultation period for the Environmental Report</p> <p>I am content with the six-week period proposed for consultation on the Environmental report. Please note that, for administrative purposes, Historic Scotland consider that the consultation period commences on receipt of the relevant documents by the SEA Secretariat.</p>	Noted.

SEA 002 (g)	<p>At the Environmental report stage, I would prefer to receive paper copies of the report and the draft Sustainable Development Strategy, both of which should be set via the Scottish Government Gateway in line with the procedures set out in the SEA Tool Kit (available at www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45).</p> <p>Annex: Detailed comments on the Scoping Report</p>	Noted
SEA 002 (h)	<p>For ease of reference the comments in this annex follow the same order as the Scoping Report.</p>	Noted.
SEA 002 (i)	<p>I found the information contained in this section helpful. I note that four key areas (sustainable purchasing, energy, waste and biodiversity) are to be considered by the strategy. I also note that an action plan will accompany the strategy.</p>	Noted
SEA 002(j)	<p>Appendix C sets out the plans, programmes and strategies(PPS) reviewed for their relationship with the strategy. As part of this review you may wish to consider the following documents that contain environmental protection objectives for the historic environment: (available at http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep1-3.pdf Scottish historic Environment Policy 1. Scotland's Historic Environment</p>	Noted
SEA 002 (k)	<p>Scottish Historic Environment Policy 2: Scheduling: protecting Scotland's nationally important monuments (available at http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep2.pdf)</p>	Noted
SEA 002 (l)	<p>Please note that NPPG 6 has been replaced by SPP6</p> <p>Baseline Information</p>	Noted and adopted
SEA 002 (m)	<p>The list of baseline information provided in Table 1 adequately covers the</p>	Noted

	<p>features of the historic environment that we would wish to see provided (scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, gardens and designed landscapes, Conservation areas and locally important archaeological sites). Please note that our records indicate that there are 8 gardens and designed landscapes in East Ayrshire (Craigengillan, Caprington Castle, Lanfine, Skeldon House, Dumfries House, Rowallan, Loudoun Castle and Carnell which is partly in South Ayrshire).</p> <p>Scoping of issues to be considered in the assessment</p>	
SEA 002 (n)	<p>I note that the historic environment is scoped in to the assessment and am content.</p> <p>Alternatives</p>	Noted
SEA 002 (o)	<p>I note that the only reasonable alternative that will be considered in the Environmental Assessment is in relation to the need for the strategy. If alternative ways of meeting the objectives of the strategy are considered during the assessment process, these should be considered in the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Assessment Methodology</p>	Noted. A third option has been subsequently developed: to produce department specific strategies
SEA 002 (p)	<p>I am content that the SEA objectives and criteria will be used to assess the environmental effects of each objective and proposal included within the strategy.</p>	Noted
SEA 002 (q)	<p>Table 3 sets out the SEA objectives that will be used to assess the strategy. I am largely content with the SEA objectives and criteria used for the historic environment, however, I would suggest that “site” be added to the criteria for scheduled ancient monuments so that it reads</p>	Noted

<p>SEA 002 (r)</p> <p>SEA 002 (s)</p> <p>SEA 002 (t)</p> <p>SEA 003</p>	<p>“affect the site and/or setting...” It would also be useful to clarify if potential impacts on gardens and designed landscapes will be considered within the landscape topic.</p> <p>I agree that it is appropriate to use professional judgement to predict the environmental effects of the strategy. I note that the assessment will be reported using a matrix approach, and welcome the inclusion of a commentary box in the proposed assessment matrix in section 7.7. This will assist in making the assessment transparent and the results accessible to the general reader.</p> <p>As you will be aware, the Environmental Report should describe the measures proposed to mitigate the significant environmental effects of the strategy. Mitigation may involve making changes to the strategy and/or developing more detailed mitigation proposals to be implemented as the strategy is delivered. It would be helpful in the Environmental Report to clearly describe any changes made to the strategy as a result of the environmental assessment, and to clearly set out any recommendations/expectations for lower level plans, projects or activities that are identified as mitigation measures. It would also be helpful to identify in the report who will be responsible for ensuring that the mitigation measures are taken forward as the strategy is implemented.</p> <p>Monitoring</p> <p>I noted that the Environmental Report will include information on the measures proposed to monitor the significant effects of the strategy. I would be happy to discuss this further if you would find it helpful.</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage, per Dorothy Simpson, Operations Manager, Strathclyde & Ayrshire, 19 Wellington Square, AYR, KA7 1EZ</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
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SEA 003 (a)	<p>I refer to your scoping report, sent to the Scottish Executive SEA Gateway on 30 October 2007. 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 scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report and on the duration of the proposed consultation period are set out below. Detailed comments are provided in the annex to this letter.</p> <p>Scope of assessment and level of detail</p>	Noted
SEA 003 (b)	<p>Subject to the specific comments set out below and in the annex to this letter, SNH is content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the Environmental Report.</p> <p>Consultation period for the Environmental Report</p>	Noted
SEA 003 (c)	<p>SNH notes that a period of 6 weeks is proposed for consultation on the Environmental Report and is content with this proposed period.</p>	Noted
SEA 003 (d)	<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 2005 and our role as a Consultation Authority. We understand that we will be separately consulted on our views regarding the Environmental Report and on the Strategy in due course.</p>	Noted
SEA 003 (e)	<p>Should you wish to discuss this scoping comments, please do not hesitate to contact Dianne Holman on 01292 261392 or via SNH's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk.</p>	Noted

Annex to letter East Ayrshire Council Sustainable Development Strategy Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report		
SEA 003 (f)	Subject to the comments below, SNH generally consider that the information provided in the Scoping Report is adequate	Noted
Context of the Strategy		
<u>International</u>		
SEA 003 (g)	Directive 2003/30/EC “Biofuels Directive” – has a target for biofuels to form at least 5% of transport fuels by 2010 – this Directive is relevant and should be included in the assessment.	Noted
<u>National</u>		
SEA 003 (h)	Scottish Natural Heritage’s ‘Natural Heritage Futures’ initiative promotes integrated management of the natural heritage providing assessments from National to a local level. These documents will provide a context for the important natural heritage aspects at a national and local level and are available on our website.	Noted
SEA 003 (i)	Protected Species, especially European Protected Species should be identified. The European Guidance (available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/030923_sea_guidance.pdf) notes that any effects on protected sites and on selected species in accordance with the Habitats Directive should be part of 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.	Noted
SEA 003 (j)	As you are aware, the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a statutory duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of	Noted

	<p>biodiversity. We welcome that the report identifies that there should be opportunities to enhance the biodiversity interests.</p>	
SEA 003 (k)	<p>Baseline information</p> <p>The report states there are two LNR's and another site is being proposed. It is our understanding that East Ayrshire only has one confirmed LNR and the potential LNR site is no longer being progressed. Clarification should be given regarding the current status of the LNR's.</p>	Noted and amended accordingly
SEA 003 (l)	<p>With regard to soils, reference should be made to the occurrence of significant amounts of peatland (lowland raised bogs and blanket bogs) within East Ayrshire.</p>	Noted. As detailed within Environmental Report, soil, has subsequently been scoped out.
SEA 003 (m)	<p>It is essential that sufficient baseline information on the landscape is included within the report to form an assessment. The synopsis for the landscape aspects provided in the scoping report uses local wildlife sites as a measure for landscape importance. The criteria for Local Wildlife site selection is based on assessing the value of the site for flora and fauna, not landscape. SNH would recommend that reference should be made to the SNH Ayrshire Landscape Character Assessment 1998. This is a very useful document which can provide assistance in assessing the sensitivity of a landscape to change and evaluating the impact to changes. Reference should also be made to the Sensitive Landscape Area identified in the East Ayrshire Local Plan.</p>	Noted. As detailed within Environmental Report, landscape has subsequently been scoped out.

APPENDIX B: MAIN PLANS, PROGRAMMES, STRATEGIES AND GUIDANCE USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE STRATEGY

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Summary of the Document	Environmental Protection Objectives/Targets
International		
The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development	The 1992 declaration set the founding principles on sustainable development that were adopted by the international community	To strengthen the commitment to sustainable development from Governments at all levels.
The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development	The 2002 declaration built upon the principles established through the Rio Declaration and further developed principles of sustainable development and sought international commitment to these Sustainable Development Principles	To further strengthen the commitment to sustainable development from Government at all levels
The Kyoto Protocol	The Protocol sought International commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The UK Government subsequently committed to the reduction targets outlined within the Kyoto Protocol, and in turn, the Scottish Government is committed to contributing to this target.	To achieve by 2012 a reduction in carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emissions by at least 5% below the 1990 levels for carbon dioxide emissions.
European		

<p>EU Habitats Directive</p>	<p>The Directive aims to contribute towards protecting biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats, wild plants and animals. The Directive provides mechanisms for protecting these sites through European designations: Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservations; and nationally through Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The Scottish Executive has extended this legislation to include Ramsar sites.</p>	<p>To maintain or restore in a favourable condition the designated natural habitat types as detailed in the summary of the document and habitats of designated species listed in Annex I and II of the Directive.</p>
<p>EU Water Framework Directive</p>	<p>The Water Framework Directive provides guidelines for the management of water bodies. Its main aims are to improve water quality while reducing any danger a water body poses, such as flooding. The Directive also aims to stop the deterioration of wetlands and improve aquatic habitats for wildlife.</p>	<p>The Directive will set environmental objectives for each particular type of water body, with due consideration to social and economic costs.</p> <p>The River Basin Management Planning is central to the framework as it advocates an integrated approach to the management of these water bodies and consideration of the cumulative impacts of all activities within a river basin and district. It will also consider the risk posed to the environment.</p>
<p>EU Birds Directive</p>	<p>The Directive relates to all naturally occurring birds in the wild within the European Union and addresses the protection, management and control of these species and identifies rules for their exploitation. The provisions apply to birds, their eggs, nests and habitats.</p>	<p>To sustain populations of naturally occurring wild birds by sustaining areas of habitats in order to maintain populations at ecologically and scientifically sound levels.</p>

EU Landfill Directive	The Directive sets targets for the reduction of biodegradable waste sent to landfill	To achieve a reduction of 75% of the 1995 level and 35% of the 1995 levels of waste sent to landfill by 2013 and 2020 respectively.
EU Environmental Noise Directive	The Directive provides a common basis for tackling noise problems across the European Union and requires measures to be put in place to inform the public about noise exposure and its effects	The Directive requires Member States to produce Strategic Noise Maps on the basis of harmonised indicators and to draw up action plans to address noise issues.
2003/30/EC "Biofuels Directive"	The 2003 European Directive seeks to reduce the dependency on oil within the transport sector by encouraging the use of alternative fuels such as biofuels	To achieve by 2010 that biofuels form at least 5% of transport fuels
National Legislation, Plans Policies and Strategies		
National Planning Framework for Scotland	The National Planning Framework is a framework to guide the spatial development of Scotland to 2025. It sets out a vision for Scotland in which other plans and programmes can share and to which they can contribute.	<p>The NPF provides the framework for Scotland's long-term territorial development and highlights the importance of place and identifying priorities for investment in strategic infrastructure to build a Scotland which is competitive, fair and sustainable, enabling different areas of Scotland to develop to their full potential.</p> <p>In particular for East Ayrshire, the NPF requires the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve environmental quality in former mining areas; • To further develop cultural, business

		<p>and activity based tourism opportunities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance landscape quality and create multi-purpose woodlands which benefit local communities.
<p>Securing the Future: The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy</p>	<p>The UK Sustainability Strategy provides National focus from which Local and Regional actions can follow.</p>	<p>The Strategy sets the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within environmental limits: Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations; • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society: Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all; • Achieving a sustainable economy: Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use incentives; • Using sound science responsibly: Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong

		<p>scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting good governance: Actively promoting effective, participating systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people’s creativity, energy, and diversity. <p>The strategy also sets out priorities to be shared throughout the UK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable consumption and production; • Climate change and energy; • Natural resources protection and environmental enhancement; and • Sustainable communities.
Choosing our Future: Scotland’s Sustainable Development Strategy	The Sustainable Development Strategy sets out the Executives vision for a Sustainable Scotland.	<p>The Strategy provides the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within environmental limits; • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; • Achieving a sustainable economy; • Promoting good governance; and • Using sound science responsibly.
National Waste Plan	The Plan outlines how Scotland can achieve	The National Waste Plan places the

	<p>increased levels of recycling and an overall reduction in waste that is produced by 2020.</p>	<p>following objectives on all Local Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% recycling/composting of municipal waste by 2006; • 55% recycling/composting of municipal waste (35% recycling and 20% composting) by 2020; • Stop growth in the amount of municipal waste by 2010; • Reduce landfilling of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) to 1.5 million tonnes by 2006; • Provide segregated kerbside waste collections to over 90% of Scottish households by 2020.
<p>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</p>	<p>The Act sets out a series of measures which are designed to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland. In doing so, the Act provides the principal legislative components of a new, integrated system of nature conservation in Scotland.</p>	<p>The Nature Conservation Act imposes a wide-ranging duty on Scotland's public sector to conserve biodiversity and protect Scotland's natural heritage.</p> <p>The key features of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new biodiversity duty which obliges all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity. • A comprehensive revision of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) system - to deliver better protection for sites of nature conservation.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New offences for damaging SSSI's will catch both owners/occupiers and members of the public who deliberately or recklessly damage or destroy protected sites.
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	The Act seeks to make provision for the protection of the water environment including ground water, surface water and wetlands, for or in connection with implementing the Water Framework Directive including the requirement to establish River Basin Management (RBD).	<p>The environmental objectives of the Act are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the deterioration and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems, including groundwater; • Promote sustainable water use; • Reduce pollution; and • Contribute to the mitigation of floods and droughts.
Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 1: The Planning System	SPP 1 provides an overview of the planning system in Scotland under current arrangements. It sets out the guiding principals and the Scottish Executives priorities for the system to guide policy formulation and decision making towards the goal of sustainable development.	<p>The environmental objectives of SPP 1 are stated below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to promote regeneration and the full appropriate use of land, buildings and infrastructure; (ii) to promote the use of previously developed land and minimise greenfield development; (iii) to conserve important historic and

		<p>cultural assets;</p> <p>(iv) to protect and enhance areas of recreation and natural heritage;</p> <p>(v) to support better access by foot, cycle and public transport, as well as by car;</p> <p>(vi) to encourage energy efficiency through the layout and design of development; and</p> <p>(vii) to encourage prudent use of natural resources.</p>
<p>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2: Economic Development</p>	<p>SPP 2 advocates that economic development should raise the quality of life of the Scottish people through increasing economic opportunities for all, on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis. The planning system should provide strong support for economic development, both new and expanding businesses, where it is consistent with other national and local policies, in particular the promotion of social justice and sustainable development.</p>	<p>The environmental objectives of SPP 2 are stated below:</p> <p>(i) identify supporting environmental action that can assist the delivery of economic development</p>
<p>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 3: Planning for Housing</p>	<p>SPP 3 encourages the creation of attractive, sustainable residential environments. New residential development must make efficient use of resources, reusing previously developed land wherever possible, supporting the aim of reducing energy consumption, and being accessible by forms of transport other than the private car.</p>	<p>The environmental objectives of SPP 3 are stated below:</p> <p>(i) encourage good quality, well designed new housing development, making clear where local distinctiveness is to be maintained and where there are opportunities for more innovative</p>

		<p>architectural approaches;</p> <p>(ii) encourage energy efficiency as an important element of good design in new housing developments;</p> <p>(iii) encourage the efficient use of resources in construction and encourage developers to avoid waste, recycling material generated during demolition or on other construction sites;</p> <p>(iv) increase the attractiveness of walking and cycling promoting improved pedestrian and cycle links between new developments and surrounding urban areas, providing safer routes to schools and other facilities and improving security and surveillance;</p> <p>(v) provide for access by public transport in the case of larger developments;</p> <p>(vi) safeguard networks of open space and recreation and sports facilities from development;</p> <p>(vii) provide for the long term management of open space, landscaping, drainage systems and other common facilities proposed as part of residential developments;</p>
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		<p>(viii) provide guidance on densities of housing development appropriate to particular locations and sites identified for development;</p> <p>(ix) support opportunities for mixed use housing proposals, both in terms of tenure and land use, on appropriate sites;</p> <p>(x) address the issue of Gypsies / Travellers sites in cases where there is a demonstrated need for such a facility and set out criteria for dealing with applications for small private sites;</p> <p>(xi) promote the reuse of previously developed land in preference to greenfield land, the conversion of commercial, industrial or institutional premises to residential use and the residential development of appropriate infill sites;</p> <p>(xii) seek to reduce the demand for travel and reliance on the private car, and help reduce general energy consumption;</p> <p>(xiii) seek to minimise adverse effects of residential development on natural heritage, including landscape character and biodiversity, and safeguard national and international natural heritage designations;</p>
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		<p>(xiv) avoid impact of residential development on archaeological sites and landscapes of historic importance and on scheduled monuments which are safeguarded in the national interest;</p> <p>(xv) maintain the effectiveness of existing green belts, safeguard the character and amenity of the countryside and protect the setting of towns and cities;</p> <p>(xvi) mitigate against new residential development on sites likely to be at significant risk of flooding, within safety zones around hazardous installations, sites adjacent to noisy or polluting activities, mineral working sites etc;</p> <p>(xvii) ensure that the scale of residential development, particularly in smaller settlements, is appropriate to the size of the settlement concerned;</p> <p>(xviii) specify how the character and setting of a settlement is to be protected, guide new development to suitable sites and, as appropriate, provide for the phased release of land;</p> <p>(xix) set out specified sustainable development criteria against which sustainable residential developments using</p>
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		<p>innovative, energy efficient technologies with particularly low impact on the environment, can be assessed;</p> <p>(xx) set out criteria against which any new housing proposals, not specifically provided for in the local plan, will be judged;</p> <p>(xxi) look sympathetically at the sensitive reuse, conversion or rehabilitation to residential use of buildings which can be accessed safely and readily serviced.</p> <p>(xxii) to provide sufficient land to meet the housing land requirement for at least five years from the date of adoption, to identify further sites to meet the requirements in the medium terms and to maintain sufficient effective land for at least the following 5 years at all time.</p>
<p>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 4: Planning for Minerals</p>	<p>The SPP aims to ensure that the benefits of mineral developments are not obtained at the expense of unacceptable impacts on either communities or the environment.</p>	<p>The environmental objectives of SPP 4 are stated below:</p> <p>(i) Safeguard minerals as far as possible for future uses;</p> <p>(ii) Encourages sensitive working practices during mineral extraction that minimise the environmental and transport impacts and once extraction has ceased, ensure sites are reclaimed to a high standard and enhance the value of the wider environment;</p>

		<p>(iii) Promotes the use and recycling of secondary materials in development plan policies in addition to those for the release of sites for the extraction of primary materials;</p> <p>(iv) protects international, national and locally designed areas of acknowledged natural or built heritage importance from adverse impacts; and</p> <p>(v) minimises the potential adverse impact of minerals extraction on the communities.</p>
<p>National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG) 5: Archaeology and Planning</p>	<p>This NPPG sets out the Government's planning policy on how archaeological remains and discoveries should be handled under the development plan and development control systems, including the weight to be given to them in planning decisions and the use of planning conditions.</p>	<p>The environmental objectives of NPPG 5 are stated below:</p> <p>(i) require the protection, preservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of all nationally important sites of archaeological interest and their settings and also for other unscheduled remains and their settings identified as particularly worthy of preservation;</p> <p>(ii) require the protection of and, where appropriate, the enhancement of landscapes of historic importance including Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and their settings; and</p> <p>(iii) require the excavation and recording of</p>

		sites where the primary aim of preservation can not be achieved.
Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 6: Renewable Energy (Revised 2000)	The SPP promotes the planning system as a key mechanism for the delivery of renewable energy targets: as well as facilitating the development of a viable renewables industry in Scotland.	The SPP provides guidance in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) criteria to be used for site selection for renewable energy developments (ii) locational considerations for wind farms (iii) biomass and other technologies (iv) accommodating renewable energy in Development Plans (v) the determination of planning applications for Renewable Energy developments
Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 7: Planning and Flooding	The SPP aims to prevent further development which would have a significant probability of being affected by flooding, or which would increase the probability of flooding.	The environmental objectives of SPP 7 are stated below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) indicate areas where a degree of flood risk exists and does not increase the probability of flooding elsewhere; (ii) define or identify areas where development is unlikely to be acceptable and areas where flood risk can be managed.
Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 8: Town Centres and Retailing	The SPP envisages successful town centres providing a diverse range of	The environmental objectives of SPP 8 are stated below:

	<p>community and commercial activities, including places of employment, open spaces and meeting places. They are a mix on interdependent land uses which, when taken together with their physical structure, should create a unique sense of place, character and identity.</p>	<p>(i) Improve the physical quality and sustainability of our town centre environments.</p> <p>(ii) Support development in existing accessible locations or in location where accessibility can be improved.</p>
<p>National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG) 10: Planning and Waste Management</p>	<p>This NPPG sets out the Government's planning policies for development involving the management of waste; defines the content of structure and local plans in respect of waste; and explains how the planning system should operate in relation to other pollution controls.</p>	<p>The environmental objectives of NPPG 10 are stated below:</p> <p>(i) encourage development which assists in the reduction, re-use and recovery of waste, for example through the re-use of buildings wherever practicable;</p> <p>(ii) provide facilities as close as is reasonable to the source of waste production, taking into account the safeguarding of the natural and built environment.</p> <p>(iii) require provision of recycling facilities at new superstores and provide for other civic amenity sites;</p> <p>(iv) provide guidance on appropriate locations for differing waste management facilities including special and clinical wastes and wastewater treatment plants;</p>

		<p>(v) provide standards for all landfill site restoration, aftercare and afteruse and the proper landscaping of all waste sites;</p> <p>(vi) identify closed landfills, whether they require further treatment and specify appropriate afteruse: and</p> <p>(vii) protect groundwater.</p>
<p>National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG) 11: Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space.</p>	<p>The NPPG describes the role of the planning system in making provision for sports and physical recreation and protecting and enhancing open space. It also defines the factors which the Secretary of State will take into account in his consideration of development plans, planning appeals and other cases, and sets out the action required of councils. In addition to the general guidance, there is specific planning guidance given in respect of particular sports.</p>	<p>The environmental objectives of NPPG 11 are stated below:</p> <p>(i) protect and enhance parks and open spaces and other land of recreational, amenity or wildlife value;</p> <p>(ii) identify public access routes and indicate where the network requires to be augmented;</p> <p>(iii) safeguard and improve public access to open space and the countryside, especially green belts, and promote new or replacement routes;</p> <p>(iv) promote planting of new woodlands for recreation, landscape and nature conservation benefits;</p> <p>(v) safeguard nature conservation and cultural heritage designations and the</p>

		<p>character of the landscape for effects of sporting or recreational developments, including the effects of increased traffic in rural areas.</p> <p>(vi) safeguard facilities and resources for sport and recreation in both urban areas and the countryside which contribute positively to meeting existing and predicted future needs;</p> <p>(vii) provide local facilities, including children's play, to meet standards within or close to residential areas;</p> <p>(viii) ensure that new sports, leisure and recreational facilities are readily accessible by public transport, cycling and on foot;</p> <p>(ix) ensure that new public open space provision is located and designed to minimise opportunities for crime.</p>
<p>National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG) 14: Natural Heritage</p>	<p>The NPPG gives guidance on how the Government's policies for the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's natural heritage should be reflected in land use planning. In this context, Scotland's natural heritage includes its plants and animals, its landforms and geology, and its natural beauty and amenity.</p>	<p>The environmental objectives of NPPG 14 are stated below:</p> <p>(i) protect and, where appropriate, enhance all internationally, nationally and locally designated areas and sites (including potential SPA's and SAC's);</p> <p>(ii) indicate the criteria against which a</p>

		<p>development affecting a natural heritage designation will be assessed;</p> <p>(iii) encourage the management and safeguarding of features of the landscape of major importance for nature conservation or amenity, including field boundaries, woodlands, trees, lochs, ponds, watercourses and other wetlands;</p> <p>(iv) include policies for the conservation and / or enhancement of landscape character including, where appropriate, wild landscape character;</p> <p>(v) make appropriate provision for Local Nature Reserves and the protection and enhancement of open space of natural heritage value;</p> <p>(vi) identify opportunities to extend native woodland cover and to maintain and enhance wetlands;</p> <p>(vii) provide for the conservation of biodiversity and the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage outwith designated areas;</p> <p>(viii) invoke and apply the precautionary principle; and</p>
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		(ix) identify appropriate opportunities to improve public access for the purposes of enjoying and learning about natural heritage.
Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 15: Planning for Rural Development	The SPP sets out the approach, key messages and objectives that should underpin planning policies and decisions affecting rural areas. It also describes the increasingly important links between development planning and community planning. This SPP's objectives and main principles should always apply to protected landscapes but in ways that are appropriate and sympathetic to their special context.	<p>The environmental objectives of SPP 15 are stated below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) allow for sensitive new development, appropriate in scale, kind and location, within more accessible and densely populated rural areas; (ii) encourage diversification, distinctiveness and individuality of developments in less populated rural areas, by promoting new ways of working from home, using renewable energy technologies, delivering tourism and recreation projects and developing activities such as aquaculture and equestrianism; (iii) protect prime quality agricultural land except where the land is required to meet strategic development objectives; (iv) support a wide range of economic activity in rural areas and seek environmental enhancement through development; (v) ensure that any adverse environmental impact of new development in rural areas is

		<p>mitigated through appropriate tree planting or landscaping;</p> <p>(vi) support the development of the tourism and leisure industry, particularly addressing the issues of siting and design for such developments;</p> <p>(vii) encourage diversification of the rural economy, particularly where this brings additional economic benefit to the area through increased employment and community benefit through the reuse of previously used land or buildings;</p> <p>(viii) identify areas or situations where new housing and business opportunities can be advanced together;</p> <p>(ix) address the issue of affordable housing in rural areas and which, where there is a demonstrable requirement for such housing, require developers to make a contribution to its provision;</p> <p>(x) set out criteria and standards which promote the highest quality of layout and design of developments in rural locations and take a positive approach to innovative, modern designs that are sensitive to their immediate setting and define the characteristics of the wider local area;</p>
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		<p>(xi) set out criteria as to where new windfall housing development on land outwith the main settlements is likely to be considered acceptable;</p> <p>(xii) adopt a supportive and flexible approach to the modernisation, conversion or replacement of run down housing and steadings with designs using new materials;</p> <p>(xiii) support the development of unique, individually designed houses in rural locations where such developments are justifiable for economic reasons; and</p> <p>(xiv) support the development of holiday, weekend and second homes and set down criteria against which these will be assessed.</p>
Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 16: Opencast Coal	The SPP sets out the national planning policy framework for the working of opencast coal. The policies are equally applicable to those minerals, such as clays for brick making, where extraction occurs in association with coal removal.	The SPP is not considered applicable to the East Ayrshire Local Plan Alteration. Opencast coal activity is addressed in the East Ayrshire Opencast Coal Subject Plan.
Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 17: Planning for Transport	The SPP promotes the integration of land use planning and transport at the national, regional and local level.	<p>The environmental objectives of SPP 17 are stated below:</p> <p>(i) to support economic growth and regeneration;</p>

		<p>(ii) taking account of identified population and land use changes in improving accessibility to public services, including health services jointly planned with Health Boards;</p> <p>(iii) to reduce the need to travel;</p> <p>(iv) to promote road safety and safety on public transport;</p> <p>(v) to facilitate movement by public transport including provision of interchange facilities by walking and cycling;</p> <p>(vi) to encourage and facilitated freight servicing by rail or water;</p> <p>(vii) to enable people to access local facilities by walking and cycling;</p> <p>(viii) to provide high quality public transport access, in order to encourage modal shift away from car use to more sustainable forms of transport, and to fully support those without access to a car;</p> <p>(ix) to provide effective management of motorised travel, within a context of sustainable transport objectives.</p>
National Planning Policy Guideline	The NPPG sets out the Government's	The environmental objectives of NPPG 18

<p>(NPPG) 18: Planning and the Historic Environment</p>	<p>planning policies in relation to the historic environment with a view to its protection, conservation and enhancement.</p>	<p>are stated below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) define the historic environment and, where appropriate, its landscape or townscape setting, in proposals maps; (ii) include policies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and its setting, including listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, historic gardens and designed landscapes; (iii) include reference to existing and proposed Article 4 Directions that relate to conservation areas; (iv) outline criteria that will be applied to development proposals within conservation areas, within the cartilage of listed buildings and development affecting the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas and historic gardens and designed landscapes; (v) specify criteria that will be applied to proposals for alteration, extension, demolition or reuse of listed building or for unlisted buildings within conservation areas; and (vi) identify priorities for enhancement
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		programmes, and opportunities for regeneration or revitalisation; and (vii) indicate sites and areas for which development briefs, design guides, character appraisals and other relevant guidance have been prepared.
National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG) 19: Telecommunications	The NPPG is to enable the telecommunications industry to expand and diversify, while at the same time minimising the environmental impact of new or replacement equipment.	The environmental objectives of NPPG 19 are stated below: (i) specify development control criteria for radio telecommunications development including siting and design matters.
Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 20: Role of Architecture and Design Scotland	The purpose of the SPP is two fold. First, it draws together and reinforces the Executives published design policy commitments. Second, it sets out the role of Architecture and Design Scotland, which has been set up to deliver the Scottish Ministers design and architecture policies.	The environmental objectives of SPP 20 are stated below: (i) to promote the qualities and benefits of good design in new developments, making high standards of layout and design the rule, rather than the exception.
Planning Advice Notes (PAN's)	PAN's provide advice on good practice and other relevant information.	The environmental objectives of all current and relevant PAN's have been taken into account the in the preparation of the SDS
Circulars	Circulars, which also provide statements of Scottish Executive policy, contain guidance on policy implementation through legislative or procedural change.	The SDS preparation has taken account of all current and relevant Circulars and the environmental objectives that they may contain.
Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas	The Memorandum provided detailed information on how buildings are listed and	The environmental objectives and advice in relation to the built environment, contained

	<p>how to obtain consents necessary for alterations; how conservation areas are declared; it provides details of what powers are available to Local Authorities and Scottish Ministers; and it also includes information on Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.</p>	<p>within the memorandum, have been taken into account the in the preparation of the SDS.</p>
<p>Passed to the Future</p>	<p>The Document outlines Historic Scotland's commitment to ensuring that the historic environment is managed in a sustainable way. The aim is to ensure that the characteristics of the historic environment are understood and taken into account so that its overall quality is enhanced rather than diminished.</p>	<p>The sustainable development advice contained within the document in relation to the built environment has been taken into account the in the preparation of the SDS.</p>
<p>UK Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>The Plan deals with biodiversity conservation in a response to the Rio convention. The overall goal of the action plan is to conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global diversity through all appropriate measures.</p>	<p>The underlying principles of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where biological resources are used, such use should be sustainable; 2. Wise use should be ensured for non-renewable resources; 3. The conservation of biodiversity requires the care and involvement of individuals and communities as well as Governmental Processes; 4. Conservation of Biodiversity should be an integral part of Government programmes, policy and action;

		<p>5. Conservation practice and policy should be based on a sound knowledge base.</p> <p>6. The precautionary principle should guide decisions.</p> <p>The environmental objectives for conserving biodiversity within the action plan are as follows:</p> <p>1. To conserve and where practicable to enhance:</p> <p>(a) the overall populations and natural ranges of native species and the quality and range of wildlife habitats and ecosystems;</p> <p>(b) internationally important and threatened species, habitats and ecosystems;</p> <p>(c) species, habitats and natural and managed ecosystems that are characteristic of local areas;</p> <p>(d) the biodiversity of natural or semi-natural habitats where this has been diminished over recent past decades.</p> <p>2. To increase public awareness of, and involvement in, conserving</p>
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		<p>biodiversity;</p> <p>3. To contribute to the conservation of biodiversity on a European and global scale.</p>
<p>Scottish Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands – A Strategy for the Conservation and Enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland</p>	<p>A 25 year strategy to conserve and enhance biodiversity throughout Scotland.</p>	<p>The overall aim of the strategy is “to conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future”</p> <p>The environmental objectives of the strategy are grouped under 5 headings, which are as follows:</p> <p>Species and Habitats: To halt the loss of biodiversity and continue to reverse previous losses through targeted action for species and habitats.</p> <p>People: To increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of biodiversity, and engage many more people in conservation and enhancement.</p> <p>Landscapes & Ecosystems: To restore and enhance biodiversity in all our urban, rural and marine environments through better planning, design and practice.</p> <p>Integration & Co-ordination: To develop an effective management framework that</p>

		<p>ensures biodiversity is taken into account in all decision making.</p> <p>Knowledge: To ensure that the best new and existing knowledge on biodiversity is available to all policy makers and practitioners.</p>
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	The Act establishes statutory rights of responsible access to land including inland water. These rights will be brought into effect through the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.	Relevant advice contained within the document has been taken into account in the preparation of the SDS.
The Scottish Outdoor Access Code	The Access Code provides guidance on responsible behaviour for recreational users, and on responsible land management in relation to the new rights.	<p>The code contains three key principles which apply equally to Local Authorities and Land Managers and these are stated below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect the interests of other people; • Care for the Environment; and • Take responsibility for your own actions.
Regional (Ayrshire Wide) Plans		
Approved Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan	The approved AJSP provides the strategic planning context for the adopted East Ayrshire Local Plan.	All the environmental objectives of the Structure Plan policies have been incorporated into the SDS.

Replacement Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan	An updated version of the approved AJSP, currently in finalised form, designed to achieve appropriate, long term strategic planning and development throughout Ayrshire.	All the environmental objectives of the Finalised Replacement Structure Plan policies have been incorporated into the SDS.
Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Area Waste Plan	The area waste plan seeks to implement the provisions and targets of the National Waste Strategy and to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by focusing on recycling, composting and other recovery methods.	<p>The aspiration environmental targets that are set out in the area waste plan are as follows:</p> <p>Diversion (%of Biodegradable Municipal Solid Waste): 25% by 2010; 50% by 2013 and 65 % by 2020;</p> <p>Diversion (%of Municipal Solid Waste): 15% by 2010; 30% by 2013 and 40% by 2020;</p> <p>Recycling (dry recyclate): 20% by 2010, 25% by 2013 and 40% by 2020;</p> <p>Composting and home composting: 15% by 2010; 15% by 2013 and 15% by 2020;</p> <p>Total recycling: 25% by 2006; 35% by 2010; 40% by 2013, and 55% by 2020;</p> <p>Municipal Solid Waste Treatment: 65% by 2010; 60% by 2013 and 50% by 2020;</p> <p>Segregated collection (as % of households) 80% by 2010, 90% by 2013 and 95% by</p>

		<p>2020; and</p> <p>Landfill (% of waste being disposed by landfill): 65% 2010, 50% by 2013 and 25% by 2020.</p>
Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Provides proposals and actions which translate the UK and Scottish biodiversity action plans into effective action at a local level.	<p>The environmental aims of the Ayrshire LBAP are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard against reduction of priority species populations; • Safeguard against net loss of area or quality of key habitats in Ayrshire; • Identify and record location and extent of key species and habitats in Ayrshire; and • Set and pursue targets for the extension and enhanced management of priority species and habitats in Ayrshire.
Ayrshire and Arran Woodland Strategy	The strategy seeks to guide the development and management of woodland to support the local economy, contribute to community well-being and promote environmental excellence.	<p>The environmental objectives of the strategy is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safeguard and enhance areas of native and semi-natural woodland and promote development of wildlife corridors; • safeguard and enhance policy woodlands; • Landscape renewal and enhancement;

Ayrshire Landscape Assessment	The assessment provides information about landscape character for use by planning authorities in the preparation and review of their development plans and in the scoping and production of environmental assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of community woodlands <p>The SDS has taken account of the Ayrshire Landscape Assessment and the environmental objectives that it contains.</p>
East Ayrshire Council Plans and Strategies		
East Ayrshire Council Community Plan	The Community Plan sets out a structured way to plan, provide for and promote services in the community and to improve all aspects of life in East Ayrshire through a partnership approach involving EAC Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, the NHS, SPT, Strathclyde Fire Brigade, Strathclyde Policy and East Ayrshire Communities.	<p>The environmental objectives of the Community Plan are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting, improving and using our natural and built environment in an environmentally friendly way, extending woodland planting and nature conservation; • making sure we better manage water resources, including using sustainable drainage systems; • increasing the amount of waste that is recycled and re-used; • making our homes, factories and buildings more energy efficient; • promoting a lasting pattern of development;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working to make sure that we meet the housing needs of everyone who lives in our communities; • reducing the environmental effect of transport by developing a transport system that meets national, regional and local needs; • dealing with empty and run down properties; • developing visitor attractions and encouraging associated business and employment opportunities; and • investing in leisure and cultural activities and developing and maintaining open spaces, footpath networks and children's play facilities.
East Ayrshire Opencast Coal Subject Plan	The Plan sets out the Council's policies for opencast coal in East Ayrshire.	Relevant advice has been taken into account the in the preparation of the SDS.
East Ayrshire Council Local Housing Strategy	The Housing Strategy sets out the operational framework for local housing in East Ayrshire and seeks to identify priorities for action.	Relevant advice has been taken into account the in the preparation of the SDS.
East Ayrshire Council Local Transport Strategy	Promotes initiatives which increase the relative attractiveness of public transport,	The environmental aim of the Local Transport Strategy is:

	walking and cycling and reduce car dependency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect the environment and enhance communities. <p>The strategy itself will aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it easier for people to cross the road; • Improve accessibility to community facilities; • Improve the amenity of the area and enhancing the local environment; and • Reduce adverse effects on air quality, traffic noise and visual impact.
East Ayrshire Outdoor Access Strategy	A proactive framework to enable access to land and inland water for outdoor recreation to be developed in a co-ordinated manner, development and implementation of paths for walker, riders and cyclists; and implementation and monitoring of a Core Path Network.	<p>The environmental objectives of the Strategy are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect and meet the social needs of sustainable and healthy communities; • Help promote economic and environmental regeneration; and • Be part of an integrated sustainable transport network.
East Ayrshire Council Design Guidance Documents	A series of guidelines designed to ensure that all development proposed is of the highest quality of design, in keeping with and sympathetic to the character and	Policy ENV 8 of the Local Plan Alteration requires all developers to comply with the Council's adopted design guidance.

	appearance of the area in which it is proposed.	
Kilmarnock Town Centre Strategy	The document aims to strengthen, improve and promote retail and town centre facilities within Kilmarnock Town Centre and to create a lively, vibrant and healthy centre that provides for the needs of the local community.	The environmental objective of the strategy is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve and enhance the environmental character, appearance and amenity of the town centre and surrounding areas
Conservation Area Appraisals	Conservation Area Appraisals bring forward policies and actions to preserve and enhance the quality of Conservation Areas.	The appraisal seeks to protect and enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area in which it relates to.
East Ayrshire Long Term Development Strategy: Landscape Assessment of Potential Development Areas.	The Landscape Assessment of Potential Development Areas assesses the local landscape capacity within these areas to accommodate housing development without unacceptable adverse landscape and visual effects on landscape character, landscape designations, and the appearance and landscape setting of settlements within the study area.	The SDS has taken account of the Ayrshire Landscape Assessment and the environmental objectives that it contains.

Source: East Ayrshire Council

APPENDIX C: EAST AYRSHIRE SETTLEMENT MAP

