

ANNEX A – extract from South Ayrshire SOA 2008/09 report – National Outcomes 12 and 14

Council Area: South Ayrshire Reporting Period: April 2008-March 2009

National Outcome 12: “We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations”

National Outcome 14: “We reduce the local and global environment impact of our consumption and production”

Narrative on progress in improving the delivery of the national outcome

South Ayrshire Council, with the support of its partners, has invested heavily in trying to improve its urban environment, tackle climate change, improve water quality and sustain the natural physical environment. It has consistently been in the top 3 Council areas as far as the percentage of waste that is recycled for the last 3 years. The strong commitment to the environment continues to be reflected in the 2009-12 SOA.

Progress at March 2009 on local outcomes

Local Outcome	Indicator/s (<i>noting frequency / type / source</i>)	Baseline at 2006-07	Progress at March 2009 (<i>indicators where available</i>)	‘Progress’ target/s to 2010-11 (where available)	‘End’ target/s & timescale/s or direction of travel
LO13 “Conserve and enhance our natural and built environment”	L13a Percentage of the land area that is derelict (<i>SG Vacant & Derelict Land</i>)	1% (2006)	1% (2008-09)	N/A	N/A
	L13c Percentage of protected nature sites (eg SSSIs and other designated sites) in a favourable condition	No baseline data available in 2006-07	No update available	N/A	N/A

L13d Coastal waters recorded as achieving 'good' bathing water quality (SEPA)

Carrick – good Girvan –poor Ayr – poor Prestwick – poor Troon – excellent (2007)

Carrick –good Girvan – good Ayr – good Prestwick – good Troon – good (2008)

N/A

N/A

Narrative on progress on Local Outcome

Actions undertaken in Support of these Objectives In an effort to preserve and enhance the built and natural environment, planning decisions have been streamlined and public participation in planning decisions enhanced. To conserve South Ayrshire's built heritage, work is on-going to appraise all the conservation areas in South Ayrshire. Two areas are complete and the designation of four other localities as Conservation Areas is proceeding. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan has been comprehensively reviewed. Efforts have been made to ensure that the Council undertakes Environmental Impact Assessments of all plans and strategies. Access to the countryside has been promoted through initiatives, such as the preparation of a draft core footpath plan, the establishment of volunteer path wardens, the review of the existing path network in terms of disabled access and the creation of a South Ayrshire Access Forum. The Council has continued to work with partners to promote the Beach Award Scheme, as a way of promoting the cleanliness of the beaches; Ayr beach received the Seaside Award in both 2007 and 2008.

Evidence of Achievement Following a steady decline over the last three years, the 2008-09 Street Cleanliness Index has seen a sharp increase in 2008-09. Similarly, in 2008 SEPA reported that all the beaches in South Ayrshire were either rated 'good' or 'excellent' in terms of bathing water quality – a significant improvement on 2007. There is evidence that the improvement has been sustained in 2009 bathing season. Together these results indicate that the Community Planning Partnership is making real progress in improving the quality of the environment.

The Way Ahead Within the 2009-12 SOA, there is a very strong commitment to sustaining the natural physical resources, flora and fauna of South Ayrshire and to improving the quality of river and bathing waters. Added to this is a commitment to improve the quality of the urban environment, partly by tackling issues like dog fouling, litter and graffiti and partly through redevelopment of urban areas, especially the town centres.

Local Outcome

LO14 “Adapt to the impacts of climate change and become more sustainable”

LI14a Annual carbon emissions from energy use in Council premises, t CO ₂ (<i>Council's own data</i>)	21,704 (2006-07) (Revised baseline figure)	21757 (2007-08)	N/A	N/A
LI14c Percentage of waste recycled or composted (<i>Council's own data</i>)	39.2% (2006-07)	41% (2008-09)	N/A	N/A
LI14d Percentage of resident adults who walk or cycle to work (<i>Scottish Household Survey</i>)	15% (2005-06)	No update available	N/A	N/A
LI14e Percentage of resident adults who travel by train to work by train or bus (<i>Scottish Household Survey</i>)	15% (2005-06)	No update available	N/A	N/A
LI14f Annual electricity consumption for both domestic and industrial users, Gwh (<i>BERR</i>)	1435 (2006)	1445 (2007)	N/A	N/A
LI14g Annual gas consumption for both domestic and industrial users, Gwh (<i>BERR</i>)	583 (2006)	584 (2007)	N/A	N/A

LI14h Carbon footprint for South Ayrshire, tonnes per head of population (<i>REAP</i>)	11.85 (2007)	No update available	N/A	N/A
LI14i Amount of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill, tonnes	27,998 (2006-07)	26328 (2008-09)	N/A	N/A

Narrative on progress on Local Outcome

Actions undertaken in Support of these Objectives A climate change action plan has been developed, providing a framework for initiatives to curb carbon emissions both within and without the Council. Actions included are the preparation of a draft energy policy for the Council, the promotion of energy conservations measures within the Council, the encouragement of greener transport by Council staff and efforts to embed 'sustainability' in the service planning process. As part of a carbon management plan, the Council has committed itself to reducing its own carbon emissions by 20% by 2012-13 compared 2006-06. In the wider community, efforts are being made to raise awareness and change public attitudes to waste management with the appointment of 2 new Waste Awareness Officers. Recycling initiatives for commercial premises and schools has been implemented and now a number of schools and commercial businesses participate in the 'blue bin' recycling collection. Currently a review of the kerbside recycling programme is being undertaken, to see if it possible to increase the proportion of waste that is recycled. Some external funding for waste initiatives has been secured, including funding under the EU INTERREG programme. Continued attempts have been made to promote renewable energy resources and funding has been secured for improving thermal insulation in homes. The Council is also committed to tackling fuel poverty and to promoting community energy projects. The ecoschool programme has been successful, with 22 schools having so far gained bronze awards, 16 silver and 11 Green Flags by January 2009.

Evidence of Achievement Between 2006-06 and 2007-08, the Council did not manage to reduce its energy use for heating and lighting buildings. However, it has managed to reduce its fuel usage for its vehicle fleet. Carbon emissions by fleet vehicles fell from 3936 tonnes CO₂ in 2006-07 to 3602 in 2008-09 (*Council's own data*). However, outside the Council, use of gas and electricity by local residents and businesses remained largely unchanged.

The Council has continued to increase the proportion of waste recycled, although the 2008-09 figure of 41% was slightly down on the 2007-08 one of 43%. The Council was also successful in achieving its targets for reducing the amounts of biodegradable municipal waste going to land fill, with the 2008-09 figure being 9% below the 2008-09 target.

The Way Ahead The 2009-12 SOA maintains the strong commitment to tackling the factors which influence climate change, with targets for i) the amounts of waste being recycled and going to landfill, ii) a reduction in private car usage and iii) more efficient energy usage by homes and local businesses.