

**REPORT TO SOUTH AYRSHIRE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM
OF 1 OCTOBER 2008**

SUBJECT: Review of the South Ayrshire Single Outcome Agreement

1. Purpose.

To inform the Sustainability Forum of the background to the current South Ayrshire Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) with the Scottish Government, and the forthcoming process extend it to include the full community plan partnership, and to examine the opportunities for engaging with those elements of the National Performance Framework that relate to the environment and sustainable development.

2. Background.

In November 2007 the Scottish Government reached agreement with COSLA in the form of a concordat which set out the relationship between the Government, local authorities and their community planning partners around an outcome based approach aimed at addressing the full range of economic, social and environmental objectives of the Government. There are fifteen National Outcomes and 45 indicators summarised in Annex A. Two Outcomes specifically address sustainability and environmental objectives, and there are nine relevant indicators.

3. Considerations

The 2008-09 South Ayrshire Single Outcome Agreement was developed solely in respect of the Council, with a view to extending this to the wider Community Planning Partnership on the basis of the experience of the initial exercise, and recognising the restructuring of the Community Planning partnership that was then under review.

The initial model adopted by the Council was to align the local priorities in the Council's Vision document "*Securing the Future for South Ayrshire*", and the objectives set out in the Community Planning Partnership "*A Better Future Together*" to the National Outcomes.

The National Outcomes most closely aligned to the work of the Sustainability Forum are NO 12 – *We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations,* and

NO14 – *We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.*

These aims are jointly captured within the Clean, Attractive, and Sustainable theme of the Council's Vision Document by our local priorities *Conserve and enhance our natural and built environment,* and *Adapt to the impact of climate change and become more sustainable.*

In the SOA submission the Council summarised the local context and trends in relation to these outcomes in the following terms, with supporting information on baseline indicators and targets.

For South Ayrshire, maintaining the quality of its beaches and the landscape inland is important as regards developing tourism. At the same time, it is vital to ensure the quality of the built environment, by ensuring re-development of our town centres and by keeping derelict land to a minimum.

Through the Local Biodiversity Action Plan it is also striving to enhance the biodiversity of the area.

The Council has formally committed itself to promoting awareness of climate change. It is therefore actively involved in promoting greener transport and in helping households reduce their energy consumption, as well as the amounts of waste going to landfill. In terms of waste, in the last 4 or 5 years the Council has sharply increased the proportion of domestic and industrial waste that is recycled, so that it has the second highest recycling rate in Scotland. The amounts of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill has also been cut, so that in 2006/07 it was 25% below the EU agreed ceiling. However, to make further improvements against a background of increasing volumes of waste will require major investment. Accordingly, only a slight improvement in the recycling rate is anticipated in 2008-09, while the amounts of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill is expected to increase in the coming year, though it will still remain below the ceiling allowance.

Efforts to encourage reduced use of private cars and greater domestic energy conservation will take longer to achieve and currently the dearth of trend information makes it difficult to set quantitative targets for these in the short term.

The full text of the South Ayrshire Single Outcome Agreement can be viewed at

<http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/council/publications>

and all the current SOAs are available on-line at

<http://www.improvementservice.org.uk>

4. Next Steps

The current SOA, being confined to the Council's operations, has been restricted in the scope to engage with a number of key areas eg around transport, biodiversity and water quality, for example, that are largely outwith the direct remit of the Council, and it is to be hoped these will be more effectively addressed through the full partnership in the review. It will ultimately be a task of the Forum to develop these areas with partners, both directly and through other theme groups, and other consultation mechanisms, and extend existing arrangements around significant elements such as carbon reduction and waste minimisation and recycling with partners wherever possible.

Consideration of other Community Plan SOAs across Scotland – and approximately half the SOAs are Community Partnership based, gives an insight into areas worthy of consideration in our own context, with areas such as Renewable energy installation, Greenspace, Ecoschools, Fairtrade, Flood prevention and River quality being typical examples.

The process for developing the next phase of the SOA will commence with a series

of workshops with key partners commencing next week and concluding in December.. It is suggested that the Forum should seek the opportunity to address a number of aspects:

- review the assessment of local context and trends,
- ensuring that all current supporting actions by partners are captured
- identifying possible new areas of engagement, not only within the outcomes as identified above, but also across other National Outcomes as well.
- assessing actions and commitment required by local partners as well as the Scottish Government

It is intended that a report be brought to the Forum meeting in December 3rd to allow the opportunity to comment on progress, and provide input to the final workshop session planned for December 16th

5. Recommendations.

Partners are invited to consider the issues set out and approve the suggested approach to representing the Sustainability Forums involvement with the SOA review process.

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Date. September 2008

Annex A

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Scottish Government's Purpose: to focus the Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth

National Outcomes

1. We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.
3. We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.
4. Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
5. Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
6. We live longer, healthier lives.
7. We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
8. We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
9. We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
11. We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
13. We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.
14. We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.
15. Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

National Indicators and Targets

Indicator 1: At least halve the gap in total research and development spending compared with EU average by 2011

Indicator 2: Increase the business start-up rate

Indicator 3: Grow exports at a faster average rate than GDP

Indicator 4: Reduce the proportion of driver journeys delayed due to traffic congestion

Indicator 5: Increase the percentage of Scottish domiciled graduates from Scottish Higher Education Institutions in positive destinations

Indicator 6: Improve knowledge transfer from research activity in universities

Indicator 7: Increase the proportion of school leavers (from Scottish publicly funded schools) in positive and sustained destinations (FE, HE, employment or training)

Indicator 8: Increase the proportion of schools receiving positive inspection reports

Indicator 9: Increase the overall proportion of area child protection committees receiving positive inspection reports

Indicator 10: Decrease the proportion of individuals living in poverty

Indicator 11: 60% of school children in primary 1 will have no signs of dental disease by 2010

Indicator 12: Increase the proportion of pre-school centres receiving positive inspection reports

Indicator 13: Increase the social economy turnover

Indicator 14: Reduce the rate of increase in the proportion of children with their Body Mass Index outwith a healthy range by 2018

Indicator 15: Increase the average score of adults on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale by 2011

Indicator 16: Increase healthy life expectancy at birth in the most deprived areas

Indicator 17: Reduce the percentage of the adult population who smoke to 22% of by 2010

Indicator 18: Reduce alcohol related hospital admissions by 2011

Indicator 19: Achieve annual milestones for reducing inpatient or day case waiting times culminating in the delivery of an 18 week referral to treatment time from December 2011

Indicator 20: Reduce proportion of people aged 65 and over admitted as emergency inpatients 2 or more times in a single year

Indicator 21: Reduce mortality from coronary heart disease among the under 75s in deprived areas

Indicator 22: All unintentionally homeless households will be entitled to settled accommodation by 2012

Indicator 23: Reduce overall reconviction rates by 2 percentage points by 2011

Indicator 24: Reduce overall crime victimisation rates by 2 percentage points by 2011

Indicator 25: Increase the percentage of criminal cases dealt with within 26 weeks by 3 percentage points by 2011

Indicator 26: Increase the percentage of people aged 65 and over with high levels of care needs who are cared for at home

Indicator 27: Increase the rate of new house building

Indicator 28: Increase the percentage of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live

Indicator 29: Decrease the estimated number of problem drug users in Scotland by 2011

Indicator 30: Reduce number of working age people with severe literacy and numeracy problems

Indicator 31: Increase positive public perception of the general crime rate in local area

Indicator 32: Reduce overall ecological footprint

Indicator 33: Increase to 95% the proportion of protected nature sites in favourable condition

Indicator 34: Improve the state of Scotland's Historic Buildings, monuments and environment

Indicator 35: Biodiversity: increase the index of abundance of terrestrial breeding birds

Indicator 36: Increase the proportion of journeys to work made by public or active transport

Indicator 37: Increase the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week

Indicator 38: 50% of electricity generated in Scotland to come from renewable sources by 2020 (interim target of 31% by 2011)

Indicator 39: Reduce to 1.32 million tonnes waste sent to landfill by 2010

Indicator 40: Increase to 70% key commercial fish stocks at full reproductive capacity and harvested sustainably by 2015

Indicator 41: Improve people's perceptions, attitudes and awareness of Scotland's reputation

Indicator 42: Improve public sector efficiency through the generation of 2% cash releasing efficiency savings per annum

Indicator 43: Improve people's perceptions of the quality of public services delivered

Indicator 44: Improve the quality of healthcare experience

Indicator 45 Reduce the number of Scottish public bodies by 25% by 2011