

Venue: Girvan Committee Room, County Buildings
Date & Time: 10am Monday 19th January 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Forum members

Cllr Peter Convery (Chair)	South Ayrshire Council Sustainability & Environment Portfolio
Ken Gibb	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Liz Marquis	Energy Agency
Valerie Stewart	South Ayrshire Council (Chief Executive's)
David Holtom	Barrhill Development Association
Gordon Lauder	South Ayrshire Council (Environmental Health)
Fiona Ross	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Annabel Beattie	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)

Non Forum members

Chris Doyle	South Ayrshire Council (Chief Executive's Strategic Office)
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Apologies:

Cllr Mike Peddie	South Ayrshire Council
Cllr John McDowall	Chair, Sustainability & Environment Scrutiny Panel
Stuart Lindsay	Horizons
Clare Strain	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Joanne Balmer	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Norma Duncan	Ayr Fairtrade
Andrew Marnie	South Ayrshire Council (Sustainable Development)
Michael Hitchon	Kyle & Carrick Civic Society

Item	Minute	Action
1	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies as recorded above.	
2	<u>Minutes of previous meeting</u> Minutes of previous meeting approved and adopted.	
3	<u>Matters arising</u> Item 4 (b): AB advised that work is continuing on the finer detail of use of SEPA's video conferencing facilities in Miller Road, Ayr Item 6: FR advised that the Fair Trade shop sold over £7,500 of fair trade goods for the 3 weeks it was open over Christmas. £1,500 overall profit was made, which was donated to TraidCraft. Approximately £300 was kept for the shop for Christmas 2009. Positive feedback has been received about the window dressing of the shop premises. Cllr Convery asked whether SAC was in a position to use Fair Trade. FR: a lot more could be done in terms of using Fair Trade goods within the Council, and also promotion. Cllr Convery asked whether there might be an opportunity to present a paper at the next CMT? KG confirmed that this has already been identified and work is underway to prepare a paper. Item 6: DH highlighted problems with the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF), to do with linkage with Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) funding. The Barrhill Development Association is awaiting clarification from the Scottish Government, hopefully by 23 rd January.	KG

Review of South Ayrshire Single Outcome Agreement

VS circulated an updated draft of the Clean, Attractive and Sustainable section, indicating that a pdf of the whole draft document is to be circulated to a much wider audience by this Friday the 23rd January. CD reminded the Forum that whilst indicators can still be changed, baseline data must be available, and it is hoped that indicator numbers do not increase. It is necessary for the Forum to discuss whether the targets should be quantitative, or directional.

Discussions ensued about: the feasibility of including a reference to sports and leisure facilities in the 1st para of the local context & trends; the targets to increase availability of affordable homes in South Ayrshire as detailed in Strategic Objective SO13a. CD: affordable housing building depends on the developers. A housing partnership meeting is scheduled for January the 26th where some possible solutions will be discussed. KG suggested that *there should be some reference to fuel poverty in the document* and asked LM how fuel poverty stats for South Ayrshire compared against overall stats for Scotland as a means of flagging up what is being done in South Ayrshire. LM noted that fuel poverty very recently came under the EST's remit.

VS noted that the Local Context & Trends section would probable reflect relevant local data, and the current text would likely fit better under the Profile heading.

A discussion ensued regarding SEPA's flood risk maps, and the blue lines demarcating flood risk areas.

Li13a(1)

VS suggested *wording be changed to capture households who use community recycling facilities **in addition** to domestic recycling facilities*. AB confirmed that this query has been incorporated in the forthcoming South Ayrshire 1000 questionnaire. Cllr Convery noted that current pilot arrangements in Troon, Dundonald and Loans ie a fortnightly blue bin collection until the end of March 09. FR asked if business waste was being measured. VS thought this would be captured under Li15c (1) and (2). CD suggested that if this were not to be captured as a figure, then the *target should be to **increase business waste recycling***.

Li13a(2)

VS asked if the number of eco schools could be measured. FR/CD confirmed information is available from the eco schools website. LM noted that the Energy Agency supplied schools with separate energy lessons and that the eco schools award did not take carbon reduction into account. CD reminded the Forum that the eco schools indicator should carry on through time.

SO13b

Cllr Convery referred to the earlier conversation about affordable housing.

KG: an earlier version of the SOA referred to the % of population purchasing local sourced products, although it didn't appear to be in the current version before the Forum. Asked if "increase local procurement" could be a strategic objective in LO13. CD queried whether baseline data would be available. A discussion about information sources for this ensued. *VS suggested that the sustainable procurement indicator be brought in at action plan level.*

FR queried whether the action plan would be used to drive the next year's SOA.

VS confirmed that the CPP would be asked if they were happy for this indicator to be included. CD suggested that it be left out, for this year. Cllr Convery agreed that it should be held till next year. VS will note to include it as action plan level for next year, as a secondary level indicator.

KG asked whether a column of linkages was going to be included in terms of national outcomes, eg suggested that LO13 be cross referenced to NOs 1 and 11. *VS agreed and suggested these linked outcomes should be noted below the principal Local Outcome.*

So13c

KG would like this objective to be kept in, although CD expressed concerns regarding SEPA's blue lines for flood risk, and the impact on data gathering. KG suggested that *this should be a process indicator.*

VS suggested that *the word **links** be replaced with **infrastructure**.*

FR asked how coastal defence measures, and SUDS were captured (SUDS being very important in the reduction of flooding liability). CD referred to the rating 1 – 5, which was

an assessment of preparedness. Cllr Convery suggested *amending amenities to utilities, making more sense of a priority*.
CD asked KG for a decision on what value to put down as baseline (by 31st January 09).
KG highlighted the need to discuss with SEPA, and possibly Environmental Health.
GL queried how often SEPA upgraded their flood maps, and was concerned that any indicator or target would be compromised by future flood map changes.
KG: an updated UK CIP is expected very soon which will give a more refined level of data. CD agreed that Li13c(1) be removed.

SO14b

KG queried whether this strategic objective was in the right location. VS suggested that it *could be moved to Local Outcome 1 – all agreed*.

AB queried whether it was possible to include an indicator on local footpaths usage, and cycling paths usage. Data was available from cycle path traffic counters. CD reiterated that the information should be available now. VS suggested that this could be measured at the action planning level. KG noted that there were a number of designated walking paths (Smuggler's, River Ayr Walk, Coastal Path). VS queried whether cumulative totals were available and how parks access could be measured. FR suggested that visitor numbers for the McLaurin galleries at Rozelle should be available which would give an indication of visitation to the park there. There should also be numbers for golf courses usage.

SO14c

VS suggested that bathing water be included. The Forum discussed severe rainfall events compromising bathing water quality. CD queried whether the Forum wished to keep indicator Li14c(1) in?

SO14d

CD could not find a Council-published biodiversity indicator. FR suggested that Li14d(1) falls short as an indicator and does not reflect proactivity. It failed to include Special Protection Areas, Nature Reserves, etc, and the indicator should prove that biodiversity has improved. Even linking with the LBAP will not provide published data, although it would be possible to obtain data on bird life. CD agreed that bird data would be acceptable. DH queried whether there was an issue with the wording "appreciated by visitors" conflicting with the need to preserve SSSIs. FR pointed out that raising awareness could capture this. KG suggested that this indicator be reviewed and asked the Forum to agree that he seek further examples of other approaches. All agreed.

LO15

LM: the Energy Agency has data on businesses' energy consumption, from the Chamber of Commerce.

CD asked whether Li15a (6) should be moved to secondary level indicators? FR suggested that it should remain primary level.

LM commented that when fuel costs rise, the number of households in fuel poverty also rises and suggested that a *better indicator of fuel poverty would be from communities not connected to the gas network*. VS suggested that *this indicator be moved to Healthy & Caring, under significant inequalities outcome (National Outcome 7)*. CD queried what the target would be and expressed concern over the interpretation of this as an indicator. VS *will put a question mark against it at present and the reset will be moved to secondary level indicators*. KG: the downward trend in Li15a(7) is surprising. CD confirmed that the data was obtained from Defra.

SO15c

KG noted that this referred to domestic waste, and does not include commercial waste (*KG later clarified that material collected from commercial premises does indeed get counted into the recycling figures, although we only collect from about half the outlets and the rate is much poorer (less than half) that the domestic recycling rate. However the overall commercial waste tonnages the Council collects are significantly less than the domestic wastes(about 15% of total). Nonetheless there is still a need to develop and promote the Council's commercial recycling service, because the potential recycling of commercial waste is much greater than domestic waste*).

VS: *an action at the next level should include business waste*.

SO15d

FR: there is no hard baseline data for this, and that it is easier to obtain data on Council refurbishments rather than private ones, as this information is not logged by Planning.

KG

	<p>Cllr Convery queried whether this should be a strategic objective at all? KG indicated that the success of the PPP could give some data and <i>could be a direction of travel indicator</i>. LM suggested that the Energy Agency could provide some data, from grant applications. CD suggested that this objective be considered further, as there was no obvious data available. Cllr Convery suggested that forthcoming e-planning practices might offer up more data. VS agreed. KG had had a discussion with planning the week previous and agreed that the facility is there to capture data on e-planning. GL queried whether the information on energy certificates required to be displayed for buildings, under the Energy in Public Buildings Directive could be used? VS suggested that this objective be moved to the action planning level. LM queried the timescale for this. VS: once agreed at high level SOA, theme groups can work on the objective, however it won't form part of this current SOA on submission. CD clarified that Audit Scotland indicates that they will view the action plans to see a clear line of sight between plans, and actions. VS: they will be useful to show that indicators and outcomes are realistic.</p> <p>SO15e VS suggested <i>remove "public" from "transport" in the strategic objective and in Li15e(2) remove the word "trips" to ensure that the wording reflects the number of journeys to and from school.</i></p> <p>CD questioned the figures for Li15e(2) and will ask SPT to check their value. KG suggested that some data may be available from the Council's Road Safety team, under their Safe Routes to School programme. The Forum discussed taxi usage in school journeys – this is a costly practice and is currently under investigation.</p> <p>Li15e(3) Cllr Convery noted that the forthcoming additional rail rolling stock and timetable additions should impact positively on usage of rail transport.</p> <p>VS drew the Forum's attention to the Links to other plans. AB queried whether there <i>should be a link to the Council's Scottish Climate Change Declaration</i>. CD warned that if it contained actions that apply to South Ayrshire Council, Audit Scotland would be looking for proof that they had been carried out. CD discussed "Asks", ie <i>what we will ask the Scottish Government to give to support the Strategic Outcomes</i> (so long as it is not for funding) and it could be in the form of policy decisions that will augment the SOA. VS illustrated with one of the asks which the Young People's group had raised: increasing tax on alcohol, to reduce binge drinking.</p>	
5	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>AB informed the Forum that Ian Williams, Business Environment Advisor with the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce will no longer be part of the Sustainability Forum. LM noted that as of last week, the Energy Agency will be assuming the role of Business Environment Advisor.</p>	
6	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The following dates are confirmed for 2009 Sustainability Forum: Wed 25th Feb, 2pm in the Girvan Committee Room Wed 29th April, 2pm in the Girvan Committee Room Wed 24th June, 2pm in the Girvan Committee Room Wed 26th August, 2pm in the Girvan Committee Room Wed 28th October, 2pm in the Girvan Committee Room Wed 16th December, 2pm in the Girvan Committee Room</p>	