

SOA review Appendix 1

Repetitive issues surrounding the existing SOA actions and indicators for Clean, Attractive & Sustainable South Ayrshire

Collate/conglomerate

Common aims

- Partner Public Bodies (NHS Ayrshire & Arran, South Ayrshire Council, SEPA, SNH) are required to report their organisational progress towards key common aims of carbon reduction and biodiversity, and undertake Strategic Environment Assessment when developing any policy plan or strategy. A sensible approach would be to collate actions and indicators which these key partners are required to report within their own corporate structures, eg for the climate change duty, biodiversity duty, and report it within the SOA in a manner such as one unit of measurement for carbon reduction, broken down into partner quantities. This would demonstrate partner achievement across South Ayrshire and also general improvement in carbon reduction on a South Ayrshire basis. The SOA will become simplified, reducing multiple partner's similar actions and indicators which appear throughout the SOA. A similar approach could be taken with Biodiversity actions (see Units of Measurement issue outlined below).

Double counting

- Incorporate actions which seem to achieve the same ends eg Energy agency community support and Barrhill CIC; Energy Agency and Green Business Partnership deliverance of business audits

Delete

Superseding

- Delete actions which have been completed or superseded by events/ have a finite timescale/don't reflect the local and national priorities eg completion of local housing strategy, development of Girvan harbour

Obsolete projects

- Delete projects/actions that did not progress ie MBT segregation, tax free bus travel scheme

Modify

Units of measurement

- There is inconsistency with similar units of measurement, eg indicators for carbon reduction vary between: % carbon reduction; tonnes of carbon reduction; number of awareness events/lessons given (which could be converted to carbon reduction); convert waste tonnages to carbon dioxide
- Effective measurement eg, number of people receiving energy advice – this does not give a measurement of behavioural change and ultimately carbon savings

- Work is in progress to develop biodiversity indicators to enable robust reporting on positive changes in local biodiversity. Current indicators (priority actions in LBAP, biodiversity in Council processes) are not able to give an indication of positive changes
- Some data is reported in a Pan Ayrshire mode only eg LBAP, some NHS data.

Timeframe

- Timeframes for indicator targets vary for example, a financial year; calendar year, scholastic year. Also, the nature of some indicators means annual reporting does not conform to an annual timescale.

Data vulnerability

- Consider whether specific indicators which have been difficult to determine data for in the past should be modified. Eg vulnerabilities with resource issues (sick leave, restructuring, economic downturn). A specific example is the indicator for community gardens which has been ongoing for more than two years. The indicator for householder composting became vulnerable when the organisation responsible for encouraging it was dissolved. Other specific indicators: identifying land for affordable housing – this has become vulnerable due to the economic climate. Sustainable travel data – modal shift and subsequent carbon reduction is difficult to prove. Some data is collated via non Sustainability Partnership partners, ie Keep Scotland Beautiful, Eco schools Scotland, Eco congregations.

New priorities

- Consider incorporating new priorities which have surfaced in the past 12 months: climate change duty, strategic environment assessment, openspace

Partner diversification

Current partnership

- There is scope for incorporating other key players in South Ayrshire, for example Forestry Commission, Strathclyde Fire & Police, to incorporate their progress towards the main outcomes and reflecting the partnership influence