



South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

**REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF SUSTAINABILITY FORUM TO THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2011**

SUBJECT: THEME GROUP REPORT: SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Board on progress in relation to reducing carbon emissions and to seek support for steps to develop further joint working particularly in relation to the public sector duty on climate change.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members of the Community Planning Board are asked to:

- 1) Note the progress outlined below.
- 2) Endorse collectively, through the Sustainability Forum, joint working towards the implementation of the public sector duty to avoid duplication of effort and waste of resources.
- 3) Invite the Sustainability Forum to:
 - a. map out climate impacts as per annex D of the guidance
 - b. consider the scope to align reporting on carbon related indicators to reflect area wide progress in the SOA
- 4) Consider whether they wish to make a public leadership statement in this area by having a partnership signing of Scotland's Climate Change Declaration (in line with existing commitments via the new duty)
- 5) Further support the work of the Sustainability Forum by endorsing their request to be considered a 'Partnership' in line with the other community planning Theme Groups.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Sustainability Forum has a role to play across all SOA local outcome areas as sustainability and climate change in particular are cross cutting themes that are part and parcel of all areas of our work, life and play in South Ayrshire.

3.2 One of the key local outcomes which the Sustainability Forum has taken the lead on is:

LO16: South Ayrshire's carbon emissions are substantially reduced

3.3 Carbon emissions, and climate change in general, have recently been the subject of wide ranging new legislation and public sector duties. It is clear from recent Scottish Government publications that Community Planning Partnerships are expected to work together to deliver in relation to this area.

3.4 The South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership is asked to consider ways in which this can be done. Guidance to support public bodies in exercising their duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 was finalised and officially published on the Scottish Government website on 4 Feb 2011.

3.5 In November 2010 the Sustainability Forum presented a paper to the Board regarding ways of taking forward joint action on climate change. It was agreed that the topic would be discussed again, giving board members an opportunity to consider the role that their organisations will be required to play in relation to the duty and achieving a low carbon South Ayrshire.

3.6 South Ayrshire Council is currently the lead partner for the Sustainability Forum. The Council is striving to take a strong leadership position in relation to climate change. Chief Executive David Anderson has recently become a member of the influential 2020 Delivery Group which aims to ensure that all sectors of Scotland's economy and civic society contribute fully to achieving the Climate Change Delivery Plan which includes the target of a 42 per cent reduction in emissions over the next nine years.

4.0 PROGRESS

- A presentation was made to the Board in September 2009 outlining plans to create a Central Scotland Green Network, similar to that which had been established for the Clyde Valley. A £1.4m development fund is in place for local environmental projects and it is hoped that this will be available for the new financial year with the eligibility criteria for bidding still to be determined. Further work requires to be done to develop a pan-Ayrshire partnership to manage the new network
- The community energy project in the Hadyard Hill area has provided free insulation measures for householders. This model contributed to the development of the Universal Home Insulation Scheme operating across Scotland.
- Barrhill Community Association has been awarded a grant of £30,000 from Community Energy Scotland to install a biomass boiler heating system for the Barrhill Memorial Hall.
- The new Girvan Community Hospital, which opened in 2010, has been recognised for its green credentials and eco friendly features including a wind turbine and biomass boiler and won an award for a Best Sustainable Design in the 2010 Building Better Healthcare Awards.
- A trial replacing higher wattage streetlights with lower wattage new, more efficient light fittings and to dim them between the hours of 12 midnight and 6am has been

approved and will commence in Spring 2011. If this is rolled out to 3,400 of the Council's highest wattage lamps then the savings would reverse the increasing trend from +5% to a reduction in carbon emissions of 8% from street lighting.

- Fleet Management have reduced business mileage for works vehicles by half a million miles, and aim to reduce it by a further half million, by changing work practices involving works vehicles.
- South Ayrshire Council has again this year laid out plans to join in Earth Hour, which raises awareness of switching off electrical equipment and lights when not needed. An invitation has been extended to Sustainability Forum partners to join in.
- The South Ayrshire Council Transportation section has continued to install cycling infrastructure, and received recognition for this in receiving the Scottish Transport Awards for Cycling Improvements
- Following on from the narrative in the 09/10 SOA report, which highlighted that the Carbon Management Plan is not on course to meet overall targets – 11% rather than 20% by 2012/13 with a projected shortfall of 5,267 tonnes, a number of initiatives have been put in place to set the plan back on course.
- The Council, and the Sustainability Forum continues to support the aims of SAYLSA, a charity devoted to reducing the carbon emissions generated by road travel, through increased usage of the rail link between Glasgow and Stranraer

5.0 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The Sustainability Forum will develop linkages and promote collaborative working in areas of common interest and bring back to a future Board meeting progress on implementation of the duty across the partnership.

Councillor Peter Convery, Chair, Sustainability Forum
Lorna Jarvie – Sustainability Partnership Lead Officer
8th February 2011