

SEA SCOPING REPORT – COVER NOTE

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
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PART 2

An SEA Scoping Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

Clackmannanshire Council Sustainability Strategy

The Responsible Authority is:

Clackmannanshire Council

PART 3

Please tick the appropriate box


- The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. ***or***
- The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. ***or***
- The PPS does not require an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, as this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 5 week timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

SEA SCOPING TEMPLATE – COVER NOTE

PART 4

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PART 5

Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	
Date	26 June 2007

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report is to set out sufficient information on the Clackmannanshire Council Sustainability Strategy to enable the Consultation Authorities to form a view on the consultation period and scope/level of detail that will be appropriate for the Environmental Report.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

2. KEY FACTS

The key facts relating to this Strategy are set out below:

- **Name of Responsible Authority:** Clackmannanshire Council
- **Title of plan, programme or strategy:** Sustainability Strategy
- **What prompted the strategy:** the Sustainability Strategy is a requirement of the Council's Service Plan, and is intended to demonstrate that the Council is discharging its duties in relation to Best Value and sustainable development, as required by the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.
- **Subject:** Sustainability
- **Period covered by strategy:** 3 years
- **Frequency of updates:** to be reviewed annually
- **Area covered by strategy:** the Clackmannanshire Council area
- **Purpose and/or objectives of strategy:** promoting sustainability within the Council organisation and the wider Clackmannanshire community.
- **Contact point:** Niall Urquhart, Team Leader Sustainability
- **Proposed consultation duration:** six weeks

3. DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY CONTENTS

The aim of the strategy is to mainstream sustainability considerations into all of the Council's activities and to influence those living and working in the local authority area to do so more sustainably.

The strategy seeks to improve the performance of the organisation in sustainability terms as well as promoting sustainability within the community and seeking to identify ways of influencing others to act more sustainably (e.g. developers, business). The sustainability strategy is intended to help the council discharge its duties in relation to best value: the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 states that "It is the duty of a local authority to make arrangements which secure best value [...] The local authority shall discharge its duties under this section in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development."

The Council currently defines *sustainability* as meeting "the environmental, social and economic needs of those who live and work in the area [...] without compromising the ability of those who live and work here in the future to meet their needs." The strategy will take an integrated approach to these issues by addressing four main themes, and their links to a number of subject areas:

Themes:

- A. Sustainable consumption and production
- B. Climate change and energy
- C. Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
- D. Sustainable communities

Subjects:

- A sustainable economy for Clackmannanshire
- Waste management and recycling
- Travel
- Public procurement and resource management
- Biodiversity and natural heritage
- Community regeneration
- Air quality
- Greenspace and access
- Health and well-being
- Food
- Learning for sustainability (tomorrow's communities)

A draft framework for the strategy can be found at Appendix 1.

The strategy will integrate with an environmental management system for the Council, an action plan for the Community Planning Partnership's Environment Theme Team and a Climate Change Action Plan for Clackmannanshire.

4. CONTEXT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

4.1 Relationship with other plans, programmes or strategies (PPS) and environmental objectives

The Sustainability Strategy is being produced in order to meet the requirement of the Local Government in Scotland Act that “a local authority which secures Best Value will be able to demonstrate a contribution to sustainable development.”

Appendix 2 contains a report to the council’s Executive Team advising of the intention to produce a sustainability strategy: it explains how the strategy will meet the requirements of the Scottish Ministers’ Best Value Guidance.

The Sustainability Strategy team intends to analyse a number of plans, programmes and strategies for their relationship with the strategy. These include international, European, national and local plans, programmes and strategies, a list of which can be found in Appendix 3

4.2 Scoping in/out of SEA issues

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Clackmannanshire Council has considered whether the environmental effects (positive and negative) of the Sustainability Strategy are likely to be significant. The Act requires that the effects on the following issues be considered:

Biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage) and landscape.

Since the Sustainability Strategy will explicitly address all of the above issues, with the intention of improving Clackmannanshire’s environmental and sustainability performance, all of the issues have been scoped in as likely to experience significant environmental impacts. Although these should mostly be positive impacts, it must be remembered that the definition of “sustainability” used in the strategy implies that trade-offs may need to be made between environmental, social and economic concerns, with the result that the most “sustainable” option may not be the most environmentally beneficial.

4.3 Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

This section describes the current state of the environment in Clackmannanshire and any existing problems. It also includes the SEA objectives we propose to use in the SEA, plus suggested indicators and data sources. As the SEA for the Sustainability Strategy progresses the following information will be reviewed, updated and expanded on as necessary.

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

- **Protected sites**

Clackmannanshire contains 10 SSSIs. Roughly 249 hectares of Clackmannanshire are within the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site. The area was designated primarily for the protection of migratory

bird species visiting the Forth Estuary. Gartmorn Dam is the site of the Country Park and Local Nature Reserve, which overlap.

- **Priority habitats and species**

There are eleven UK priority habitats within Clackmannanshire and 21 UK priority species have been recorded. Details can be found in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

- **Existing problems?**

Decline in biodiversity in region; lack of information on European protected species; impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

Objective	Proposed indicator
Ensure the sustainable management of, and avoid damage to, designated wildlife sites and protected species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported condition of locally and nationally important wildlife sites.
Maintain biodiversity, avoiding irreversible losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets
Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people actively engaged in biodiversity conservation and events

Population and human health

- **Population data & trends**

Clackmannanshire's population was 48,900 at 30 June 2006, an increase of 0.6% from 2005 (the 11th highest percentage increase in Scotland along with Argyll & Bute and Fife). The population of Scotland as a whole has increased 0.4% over the same period.

The GROS 2004 population projections indicate that Clackmannanshire's population will decrease from 48,240 in 2004 to 47,587 in 2024: a projected decrease in population of 1.35%, compared to Scotland's predicted population increase of 0.8%.

- **Age Data & Trends**

The GRO 2003-2005 statistics show that life expectancy at birth for Clackmannanshire is lower than the Scottish average. For women the average life expectancy is 78.7 years and for men it is 73.2 (compared with the Scottish average of 79.2 years and 74.2 years respectively).

Population estimates show that a large percentage of the population is between the ages of 25 and 64; projections show an ageing population indicating that the vast majority of the population will be over 30 by 2024 if population numbers and projections do not change.

- **Location of Population**

85% of Clackmannanshire's population lives in urban areas or accessible small towns, with the remainder in areas classified "accessible rural".

- **Existing problems?**

Predicted population decline, ageing population, Scotland-wide health issues.

Objective	Proposed indicator
Promote healthy living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years of healthy life expectancy / infant mortality rate • SIMD
Reduce and prevent crime; reduce fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorded crime • Fear of crime surveys
Improve quality of life for present and future generations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident perception surveys

Water and soil

- **Water sources**

The main water supply to Clackmannanshire is from Loch Turret, which is located outside the boundary of the authority.

- **Surface water and river quality**

Gartmorn Dam is the single largest area of open water. Clackmannanshire Council manages Gartmorn Dam as part of the Gartmorn Dam Country Park.

Surface water catchments include the River Devon, River Black Devon and Upper Forth Estuary. The rivers flowing through Clackmannanshire are classed Good (A2) to Fair (B) - R. Devon classed B (from Cambus to Menstrie) and A2 (from Menstrie to upstream); R. Black Devon classed A2 (but downgraded to B as it flows through Clackmannan). SEPA's work has been significantly aimed at eliminating the most seriously polluted class C and D waters, and the incidence of these is steadily declining.

From Alloa to just east of Stirling the Forth Estuary is classified as class C, due to the low levels of dissolved oxygen in this low salinity section of the estuary. However the Forth Estuary is not expected to achieve class A because of its inherently turbid nature and the large number of industrial and domestic discharges it receives.

- **Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems**

The Council will promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), in association with SEPA. Information on the number of developments incorporating SUDS is not yet available, but there are plans to monitor this from 2007 onwards.

- **Ground water**

Little information is currently held about groundwater quality at the local level, although it is held by SEPA at national level.

- **Vacant or derelict land**

In 2005 the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Register (SVDLS) contain records of 91 hectares (46 ha urban vacant and 45 ha derelict) in Clackmannanshire: an increase of 20 ha from the previous year's survey.

- **Contaminated land**

Under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act of 1990, each Council has a duty to identify contaminated land in their area. Clackmannanshire has identified 260 High Priority sites, 320 Medium Priority sites and 329 Low Priority sites, and

is developing a system to identify the total area of land in each of the categories. The priority of sites can change as a result of further investigation works.

- **Restoration**

Many of the significantly contaminated sites in Clackmannanshire have received remediation including Old Town gas works, the Tullis Factory in Tullibody and the Old Burgh in Dollar.

- **Existing problems?**

Potentially considerable amount of contaminated land. Areas of the Forth Estuary are classed as poor. Scotland wide issues of erosion, climate change affecting organic content.

Objective	Proposed indicator
Reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contaminated land • Amount/loss of greenfield / brownfield land and proportion available for re-use
Maintain and restore key ecological processes (e.g. hydrology, water quality, coastal processes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River quality • Groundwater quality • Otter status

Material assets

- **Coal**

Shallow coal reserves that may be suitable for opencast working are found across much of Clackmannanshire, extending from the Carseland along the Forth and Devon valleys to the eastern extremity of Clackmannanshire. Currently there is no active working, although there has been considerable recent exploitation of the reserves in East Clackmannanshire and it is expected that pressure for working will continue for the foreseeable future, especially as the operators of the local Longannet Power Station propose to upgrade the station to clean coal technology.

There is also interest in the potential of coal-bed methane gas production in Clackmannanshire, with several survey boreholes developed or planned.

- **Household waste**

Although household waste arisings have risen since 2002, Clackmannanshire has greatly exceeded the Scottish average recycling and composting rate.

Household waste produced per household (tonnes)

	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
Clackmannanshire	1.36	1.35	1.46
Scotland	1.14	1.14	1.17

Waste composted or recycled (%)

	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
Clackmannanshire	6.68	7.9	37.9
Scotland	7.97	12.1	17.5

Household waste recycled per household (kg)

	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
Clackmannanshire	No data	72	172
Scotland	No data	59	98

Source: SEPA Waste Data Digests. Available at www.sepa.org.uk

- **Landfills**

There are no landfill sites within the area licensed to accept non-inert waste (household, commercial and industrial waste). For inert waste a major new facility has planning permission at Muirpark, Tullibody and this would provide sufficient inert capacity to serve the area for a number of years.

- **Existing problems?**

Household waste generation increases every year, however recycling levels are higher than Scottish average figures. Scotland wide issues of poor building maintenance.

Objective	Proposed indicator
Minimize waste, then re-use or recover it through recycling, composting or energy recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household waste produced per household • Household waste recycled per household • Council waste arisings and percentage recycled/composted
Make best use of existing infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source of water supply and its local capacity • Proximity to community hall

Air

- **Air quality**

Clackmannanshire's air quality is generally of a high standard in terms of meeting national air quality targets. It has been determined that it is at no risk of exceeding any of the national air quality objectives for any listed pollutants: for this reason, there are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in the county.

- **Nitrogen dioxide limits**

NO₂ annual mean levels from 2001-2005 are found to be well below the EU air quality objective levels.

Since 2000 NO₂ levels in Clackmannanshire have remained fairly constant, although Clackmannan Road and Norwood Avenue have recorded increases of approximately 15% in the past five years. However, the annual mean NAQS objective for NO₂ was not exceeded in 2004 within Clackmannanshire. There was a general decrease in concentration of NO₂ in Clackmannanshire in 2004 and a minor decrease was predicted for 2005.

- **PM10 limits**

There is a decreasing trend in PM10 annual mean levels from 2001-2005 and Clackmannanshire PM10 levels are found to be well below the 2005 and 2010 national air quality objectives.

- **Sources of air pollution**

The main source of air pollution in Clackmannanshire is traffic. There is a little industrial activity within Alloa, with the majority of the county being rural in nature.

- **Existing problems?**

No problems: air quality in the region is generally of a high quality in terms of national air quality objectives.

Objective	Proposed indicator
Reduce the need to travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to key services
Reduce private car use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mode of Transport (public transport, cycling, walking, car) • Road traffic reduction

Climatic factors

- **Domestic energy consumption**

Clackmannanshire's average domestic energy consumption is slightly lower than the Scottish Council average. The Council's energy consumption across all its buildings in 2006 was a total of 8,250,465 kWh from electricity and 20,406,108 kWh from gas.

- **Carbon dioxide emissions**

Clackmannanshire's CO₂ emissions in 2003 were 10 tonnes per capita, equal to the Scottish average. Clackmannanshire's Council's CO₂ emissions from its buildings in 2006 was 3,547,700 kg CO₂ from electricity and 3,877,160 kg CO₂ from gas.

- **Transport infrastructure**

There are several A class roads which pass through Clackmannanshire, principally A991, the A977 and the A907. There are numerous other A and B roads that link Alloa and the surrounding towns. A new passenger rail link to Alloa and rail freight link to Kincardine is under construction.

- **Renewable energy**

Planning permission has been granted for a wind farm at Burnfoot Hill.

- **Areas of flood risk**

The two main areas of flood risk in Clackmannanshire are the low lying floodplains of the Rivers Devon and Black Devon. Areas adjacent to the Forth Estuary may be at risk from tidal flooding, caused by a combination of sea level rise, high tides and high rainfall. Flooding can also occur in the higher areas as burns overtop their banks, due to heavy rainfall.

- **Flood prevention infrastructure**

Clackmannanshire is currently reviewing its flood prevention infrastructure plans.

- **Existing problems?**

Flood risk in many areas. SEPA's State of Scotland's Environment 2006 identifies climate change as Scotland's most significant environmental problem.

Objective	Proposed indicator
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Objective	Proposed indicator
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net GHG emissions • Energy consumption • Percentage energy consumption from indigenous renewables
Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk • Number of road and rail closures due to weather events

Cultural heritage and landscape

- **Conservation Areas**
There are 7 conservation areas in Clackmannanshire.
- **Listed Buildings**
There are 301 listed buildings in Clackmannanshire.
- **Archaeological Sites**
There are approximately 580 archaeological sites in the Clackmannanshire area.
- **Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)**
There are 17 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Clackmannanshire area.
- **Gardens and Designed Landscapes**
There is 1 garden and designed landscape in Clackmannanshire.
- **Landscape Use and Character**
The landscape of Clackmannanshire has been divided into three landscape types. The Ochils fall within the type termed Hills. The River Valleys consist of three separate Character Areas, ranging in nature from the broad agricultural flatlands of the Carse of Forth to the narrow gorge-like Middle Devon. The third Landscape Type, Valley Fringes, includes the transitional landscapes of generally subdued relief, which link together the adjoining Forth and Devon valleys.
- **Green Belt Area**
The principal areas of Green Belt in Clackmannanshire are between Alloa and Clackmannan, Tullibody and along the Hillfoots
- **Open Space**
Clackmannanshire has a quality heritage of open spaces of all types that reflect the typology of current national planning guidance i.e. including amenity verges and space, public parks and gardens, recreational playing fields, civic spaces, green corridors, woodlands, country park and natural green spaces. The Council is to prepare an Open Space Strategy with an audit of existing facilities, their condition and characteristics.
- **Existing problems?**
Scotland wide issues of neglect of buildings. Landscape character disruption due to windfarms, major developments and infrastructure.

Objective	Proposed indicator
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Objective	Proposed indicator
Preserve historic buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of listed buildings and archaeological sites 'at risk'
Protect and enhance the landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions survey
Improve quality of publicly accessible open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions survey

5. SCOPE AND LEVEL OF DETAIL PROPOSED FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

5.1 Methodology for assessing environmental effects

The Council intends to assess the impacts of the sustainability strategy and its alternatives using a set of SEA objectives, which the Sustainability Strategy team have developed based on the existing environmental issues in Clackmannanshire. These objectives are grouped according to the twelve environmental receptors they relate to.

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

1. Ensure the sustainable management of, and avoid damage to, designated wildlife sites and protected species
2. Maintain biodiversity, avoiding irreversible losses
3. Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places

Population and human health

4. Promote healthy living
5. Reduce and prevent crime; reduce fear of crime
6. Improve quality of life for present and future generations

Water and soil

7. Reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity
8. Maintain and restore key ecological processes (e.g. hydrology, water quality, coastal processes)

Material assets

9. Minimize waste, then re-use or recover it through recycling, composting or energy recovery
10. Make best use of existing infrastructure

Air

11. Reduce the need to travel
12. Reduce private car use

Climatic factors

13. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
14. Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change

Cultural heritage and landscape

15. Preserve historic buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features
16. Protect and enhance the landscape
17. Improve quality of publicly accessible open space

Appendix 4 lists the objectives with their related indicators and data sources. The objectives have been tested for their compatibility with each other (Appendix 5).

Impact assessments will be carried out by the appropriate council officers, who will use their professional judgement to predict to what extent the impacts of the strategic action on each objective will be positive or negative, in the short-, medium- and long-term. The predicted impacts (including secondary, cumulative and synergistic impacts) will be discussed and approved at a workshop bringing together the officers involved in the strategy and the SEA.

The results of the impact assessments will be recorded in a matrix which will enable an overview of the impacts of each strategic action on the range of objectives. Appendix 6

contains the matrix template. This matrix allows the assessor to enter a symbol to illustrate each predicted impact:

++	very positive impact
+	positive impact
+-	positive and negative impacts
-	negative impact
--	very negative impact
/	neutral or no impact
?	unknown

Although these symbols allow a quick visual summary of the impacts of each strategic action, it is recognised that, on their own, they would over-simplify the assessments. For this reason the matrix contains a column allowing the assessor to enter their comments and justification for the predicted impact, as well as proposals for mitigation or enhancement of the impact, as appropriate.

The matrix divides the predicted impacts into short-, medium- and long-term effects. It is anticipated that these divisions will enable the difference between temporary and permanent impacts to be made explicit, since it is assumed that temporary impacts would tend to take place in the short term. However, if this assumption proves to be wrong then the “Comments...” column will enable the assessor to make this clear.

In order to assess cumulative effects, the matrix illustrated in Appendix 7 will be used. This matrix summarises the predicted short-, medium- and long-term impacts on each of the following: biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; water and soil; material assets; air; climatic factors; and cultural heritage and landscape.

This will make it clear if any of the above areas is likely to suffer disproportionately worse impacts than any other; it will also prompt consideration of likely secondary or synergistic impacts resulting from the combined effects of the strategic actions.

Appendix 1 - Draft framework for the Sustainability Strategy

Integrated Sustainability Strategy, Climate Change Strategy (SCCD) and Environmental Management System	Clackmannanshire Council
Framework	Section 1
Contents	
Niall Urquhart	16 May 2007 (v2)

Framework and what Sustainability means
Mainstreaming Sustainable Development – Introducing the Themes and how we will measure progress a) in the Council (Best Value/Corporate Priorities) – links to budgets and Service Planning b) in the Community (Community Planning and links to other plans and strategies)
The role of SEA, and explanation of SEA in relation to this Strategy
Environmental Management in Clackmannanshire Council (EMS – see below); Clackmannanshire Council's Environmental Policy
A Shared Approach: Working with our Partners and the Community (Theme Team), and the role of SSN. What Businesses Can Do. <i>Link to Theme Team Framework Document.</i>
Theme A: Sustainable Consumption and Production
Theme B: Climate Change and Energy
Theme C: Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement
Theme D: Sustainable Communities
Themes and Actions Matrix (cross-referencing the above themes with the below action areas)
A Sustainable Economy for Clackmannanshire
Waste Management and Recycling
Sustainable Travel
Sustainable Public Procurement and Resource Management
Biodiversity and the Natural Heritage
Community Regeneration
Air Quality
Greenspace and Access
Health and Well-being
Food
Learning for Sustainability (Tomorrow's Communities)
<i>Clackmannanshire Climate Change Action Plan</i>
Clackmannanshire's Contribution to Tackling Climate Change
Tackling Climate Change – Sustainable Construction and Design
Tackling Climate Change – Local Authority Carbon Management
Adapting to Climate Change
<i>Measurement and Review</i>
Sustainability Indicators (Incorporating QoL Indicators) and Associated Targets
Ecological Footprinting: A Plan of Action
The Role of Environmental Impact Assessment
The Role of Strategic Environmental Assessment
Developing an Environmental Management System
Annual Monitoring Reports

Integrated Sustainability Strategy, Climate Change Strategy (SCCD) and Environmental Management System	Clackmannanshire Council
Framework	Section 2
Section Template	
Niall Urquhart	12 April 2007

Action Section Heading: e.g. Sustainable Travel

Objectives: e.g. promote healthy travel, reduce carbon emissions, improve road safety, reduce dependency on private cars, increase use of sustainable modes etc.

Relevant Indicators e.g. – Road traffic levels, % journeys to work not using car, % of journeys of children to school not using car
And Targets: e.g. – road traffic reduction targets for 2012 and 2025 etc.

Background:
International and national policy
Explanation of the need for change
Reference to how the Action Section relates to the Strategy Themes and can contribute to their achievement
Inclusion of a matrix indicating which Actions contribute to which Themes

Vision:
What we aspire to achieve by 2025 – related to the indicators and targets above

Progress:
What we've achieved so far with evidence of benefits, illustrations, etc.

Policies and Programme:
What we propose to do. Links to other relevant plans and strategies (and commitments set out therein).
Policies contributing to meeting indicators, targets and broader objectives
Programme for implementation: drawing on targets above and also including timescales for production of plans (e.g. Travel Plan).

Appendix 2 – Report to Executive Team

CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

Report to Executive Team of 12 October 2006

Subject: Clackmannanshire Sustainability Strategy

Prepared by: Niall Urquhart Team Leader Sustainability

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report advises members of the intention to prepare a Sustainability Strategy for the Council and seeks support for commencement of the process. The Strategy is intended to encourage policy integration and assist co-ordination of the range of actions which are currently being undertaken and will be undertaken in the future to promote sustainability within the Council.
- 1.2. The Strategy will provide a framework for ensuring that the requirements of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 in relation to Best Value and Sustainable Development are met. It will focus on both in-house actions that can be undertaken to improve the sustainability performance of the Council and ways in which the Council can promote a more sustainable Clackmannanshire with a better quality of life.
- 1.3. Progress towards sustainability will be measured against a range of sustainable development indicators, which will incorporate specific quality of life measures.
- 1.4. The Strategy is subject to the statutory requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment and this process will be conducted in parallel with the preparation of the Strategy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council agrees the preparation of a Sustainability Strategy for Clackmannanshire and accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment, in accordance with the structure and timetable set out in section 6.0 below.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Development and Environmental Service Plan 2006-09 requires that a Sustainability Strategy for the Council is prepared in order to “develop a sustainable development focused organisation”. The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 requires that a “local authority shall discharge its duties (in relation to Best Value) in a way that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development”. This requirement, and the further need to secure continuous improvement in all aspects of local authority functions, has been recognised by Clackmannanshire Council through the establishment of a Sustainability Team and an elected Portfolio Holder for Sustainability (Councillor George Matchett).

- 3.2. The Sustainability Team are already engaged in a wide range of initiatives to ensure that the Council are meeting their statutory responsibilities in relation to Best Value and Sustainable Development (SD). Progress is reported and agreed monthly at meetings between the Director of Development and Environmental Services and the Portfolio Holder.
- 3.3. The Local Government in Scotland Act states that “a local authority which secures Best Value will be able to demonstrate a contribution to sustainable development”. A clear set of aims, objectives, targets and actions should be adopted and pursued by the authority to enable it to demonstrate progress towards SD. The role of the Sustainability Strategy will be to provide an integrated plan for achieving progress towards SD and a monitoring and reporting framework which demonstrates that the Council is continuing improvement in this sphere. While the Council is already doing a great deal to contribute to sustainable development, there is a need to better co-ordinate existing actions and prioritise greater progress in achieving SD in other areas. The Strategy will provide an agreed policy framework to mainstream SD across all Council Services.
- 3.4. Best Value Guidance has been issued by the Scottish Ministers and this develops what is meant by the “contribution to the achievement of sustainable development” that is expected of all local authorities (this is contained in Chapter 7 of the Guidance). The proposed Strategy will address each of the relevant requirements set out in the Guidance as indicated below:

1. That there is commitment at both elected member and senior officer level to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and promote an integrated approach to improving economic, social and environmental well-being.

The Draft Sustainability Strategy will be reported to Council in due course (see programme in paragraph 6.0 below) and seminars for elected members and senior management will be organised during the preparation process. Regular monitoring reports will be prepared and circulated to senior management and elected members. The Strategy will be prepared through regular consultation with the Council’s Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, an officer Sustainability Steering Group, and a network of Sustainability Champions representing all Council services.

2. That contributing to the achievement of sustainable development is reflected in the authority’s objectives and highlighted in all strategies and plans at corporate and services level

The Sustainability Strategy will be co-ordinated with the Council’s Corporate Priorities and Future Directions. It will also provide a clear policy basis to influence and inform future revisions of core corporate policy documents.

3. That these plans, priorities and actions are informed by the views of its communities and key local partners.

A consultation exercise will be undertaken to ensure that communities, local partners and council officers are consulted on the Draft Sustainability Strategy. Consultation will be conducted with SNH, SEPA and Historic Scotland on the Scoping Report for the accompanying SEA and wider consultation will be carried out on the SEA Environmental Report.

4. That “quality of life” indicators are identified to measure performance in contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and reported to the public

A full range of sustainable development indicators are being finalised by the Sustainability Team and these will incorporate measurable quality of life indicators. These indicators will provide the basis for measuring progress in continuous improvement of the Council’s sustainability performance and will form the basis of an annual monitoring report, which will be made publicly available.

5. That review activities take account of sustainability issues and assess the impact of policy proposals on sustainable development

The indicators and objectives contained in the Sustainability Strategy will provide a guideline for assessing the likely sustainability implications of other policy documents produced by the Council. The indicators and objectives will also provide a basis for achieving consistency in the Strategic Environmental Assessment process which must now be conducted for all Council strategies, plans and programmes.

6. That sustainable development requirements are taken into account in the procurement strategy

The Sustainability Strategy will have a co-ordinating role linking the Council’s Procurement Strategy with other strategies and plans.

7. That there is a systematic approach to the management of resources which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development

The Sustainability Strategy will provide a policy platform for the introduction of sustainability auditing to Service Planning, and for ensuring that procurement and resource management are conducted in a sustainable manner.

3.5. Many Council and Partnership strategies and plans have a particularly close link with sustainability and particularly close attention will be given to their inter-relationship and the need for co-ordination between them. These include:

- Clackmannanshire Community Plan
- Clackmannanshire Fuel Poverty Strategy
- Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Action Plan
- Clackmannanshire Development Plan
- Local Housing Strategy
- Local Transport Strategy/Road Traffic Reduction Plan
- Economic Development Framework
- Joint Health Improvement Plan
- Regeneration Outcome Agreement
- Area Waste Plan
- Procurement Strategy

3.6. Four key documents have been identified which will support the Sustainability Strategy and work has recently commenced on these. These are:

- Sustainable Design and Construction Guidelines for Developers in Clackmannanshire

- Energy Action Plan for Clackmannanshire Council
- Travel Plan for Clackmannanshire Council Employees
- Waste Audit and Waste Prevention Plan

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY CONTENT

4.1 The Sustainability Strategy will provide a framework for the preparation and review of strategies and plans, to incorporate indicators as discussed in paragraph 3.4 above, a climate change strategy (with particular emphasis on ensuring that Council strategies and plans cater for the potential impacts of future change resulting from climate change), and identification of a series of “paths to improvement” which Council Services should use to ensure that their strategies and plans contribute to the Council’s sustainability performance.

4.2 It is proposed to set objectives and key actions for a number of priority aspects of sustainable development for which the Council are responsible. The objectives and actions are related to both internal responsibilities and those areas where the Council can guide and influence sustainability externally (e.g. procurement and land-use planning). The following key aspects have been identified:

In-House Aspects

These are aspects that the Council should undertake to set its own house in order, reducing waste and boosting sustainability within the organisation:

- energy and water management
- waste management
- sustainable travel
- procurement

The scope for achievement of improved environmental performance within the Council is currently being evaluated through an Environmental Review, due for completion in late October 2006. A “Green Office Campaign” has already been initiated by the Sustainability Team, in conjunction with the Property, Waste Management and Transportation Teams, to reduce waste and improve sustainability in Council offices.

Community Aspects

These are aspects where the Council has a role in facilitating more sustainable behaviours through regulation, guidance and management:

- water resource and flood management
- sustainable design and construction
- air quality
- waste management
- social and economic regeneration
- fuel poverty
- education and eco-schools
- promotion of biodiversity
- access and recreation
- health and wellbeing
- sustainable land use

The objectives and actions for these areas will be co-ordinated with relevant objectives, actions, targets and policies set out in existing and emerging Council

and partnership plans, the Community Plan, and the proposed Environment and Sustainability Action Plan, which will embody the key shared environmental sustainability objectives of Clackmannanshire's Community Planning (Alliance) partners.

5.0 COMPANION PLANS

- 5.1 The Sustainability Strategy will be supported by three companion plans which will provide a greater level of detail on the actions proposed to improve sustainability in the areas of waste, energy and water, and travel. Preparation of these will be undertaken in tandem with the Sustainability Strategy.

Energy and Water Action Plan

- 5.2 The Energy and Water Action Plan will have two main aims. The first, to reduce the amount of energy and water that the Council consumes. Secondly, to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels by obtaining and using green energy where possible. There are a number of reasons for undertaking this Action Plan. There is related legislation and guidance and an important civic leadership role that the council should play. With increasing costs in energy bills it also makes financial sense to provide a focused Action Plan with targets and deadlines.

Travel Plan

- 5.3 The Travel Plan is a package of measures aimed at reducing reliance on the private car in favour of other 'greener' methods of travel. The Travel Plan will address all modes of transport for visitors, commuting and business journeys and is in no way intended to be anti-car. The overall aim of the travel plan is to demonstrate the impact each individual journey has on the environment, community and transport network to allow everyone to make an informed choice regarding transport in the Clackmannanshire area.

Waste Audit and Waste Prevention Plan

- 5.4.1 The Waste Prevention Plan seeks to emulate within council services the success of the household waste recycling programme that has seen Clackmannanshire become the top recycling Council in Scotland. The plan is being carried out on the basis of priority waste areas receiving most attention to ensure maximum benefit from waste prevention work is achieved. This will ensure the greatest number of tonnes of waste causing the greatest environmental impact is tackled first. Most of the council produced waste, about 90% of it, goes unseen by staff and is out of sight of the public. In fact, most of this waste from grounds maintenance, roads maintenance and in future much of the waste from utility work and from repairs to buildings is now reused or recycled.

Office Waste Prevention

It is now pertinent to raise the expectation and awareness of office waste recycling. Experience of recycling systems has shown that when easy to use facilities are provided their acceptance and use is enhanced when the awareness of them is managed in a coordinated manner.

Under the Sustainability Strategy, and as part of a wider waste prevention action, a waste prevention and awareness campaign will be introduced to office-based staff.

However, recycling alone is not sustainable without support for opportunities to prevent or minimise waste before the waste is created. Advice will extend to individuals and Services encouraging responsibility for and prevention of the waste we create at work. Advice will include the specification and procurement of materials or the placing of contracts, the purchase of goods that are over-packaged or the use of resources as simple as office supplies our day-to-day work.

6.0 TIMESCALE FOR PREPARATION

6.1 [The proposed timescale is now out-of-date, so has been removed]

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The Sustainability Strategy and companion plans will provide a framework to enable the Council to meet its statutory responsibility to ensure that it is contributing to sustainable development in discharging its duties under Best Value.

7.2 The Strategy will assist in guiding the process of continuous improvement in sustainability performance by enhancing co-ordination and integration in the delivery of sustainability across the Council's Services and functions, and through its various strategies, plans and programmes.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

8.1 Financial implications:

No direct implications

It is anticipated that the Strategic Environmental Assessment would be undertaken by external consultants (due to resource limitations and to enhance the objectivity of the process). Costs for this will be met from the existing professional fees budget.

8.2 Staff implications:

The Sustainability Strategy is a core Service Plan commitment and there are no direct staff implications relating to preparation of the Strategy.

8.3 Strategic aims:

Create strong, active, safe and caring communities



Achieve local economic prosperity and stability



Make the most of Clackmannanshire's unique built and natural environment

Develop a culture of personal achievement where everyone is valued

Improve the health of the people of Clackmannanshire

Represent and promote the interests of all of the people of Clackmannanshire

Ensure that the people of Clackmannanshire receive the highest quality services for the public pound

Director

Appendix 3 – Plans, programmes and strategies to be analysed for their relationship to the Sustainability Strategy

International

- Convention on Biodiversity (1992)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)
- Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change (1997)
- Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)
- Council Directive on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise 2002/49/EC

EU

- European Climate Change Programme (ECCP)
- Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management Framework Directive 1996/62/EC
- Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
- The Sixth Environmental Action Programme of the European Community (2002) and related programmes and plans
- European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development (2001)
- European Biodiversity Strategy (1998)
- Habitats Directive 1992/43/EEC
- Conservation of Wild Birds Directive 1979/409/EEC
- The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995)
- EU Waste Framework Directive (1975/442/EEC as updated by 91/156/EEC)
- Bern Convention on European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
- National Planning Framework for Scotland

National

- Framework for Economic Development in Scotland (FEDS)
- A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland
- The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- The UK Programme for Climate Change
- Scottish Climate Change Programme (SE/2000/208)
- National Waste Plan (Scotland), 2003
- National Waste Strategy Scotland 1999 (NWSS 99)
- Securing a Renewable Future: Scotland's Renewable Energy (2003)
- Scotland's Renewable Energy Potential: realising the 2020 target (2005)
- UK Sustainable Development Strategy, March 2005
- Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy, December 2005
- Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS)
- Water Environment (Controlled Activities) Regulations 2005 (CAR)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999
- Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (amended by Wildlife and Countryside Amendment Act 1991).
- Local Government in Scotland Act 2003
- Nature Conservation Act (Scotland) 2004
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan
- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

Local

- Area Waste Plan
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Community Plan
- Community Safety Strategy
- Community engagement framework
- Community Health Partnership Scheme of Establishment
- Contaminated land strategy
- Contract Standing Orders
- Corporate priorities
- Council Service Plans
- Economic Development Framework
- Energy Policy [Clackmannanshire Council]
- Environment and Sustainability Theme Team Action Plan (Proposed)
- Flood Prevention & Land Drainage Plan
- Fuel Poverty Strategy [Clackmannanshire]
- Future Directions
- Local Plan
- Local Transport Strategy
- Open Space Strategy
- Regeneration Outcome Agreement
- Road Safety Plan
- Road Traffic Reduction Plan
- Clackmannanshire and Stirling Structure Plan
- School Estates Plan
- Strategic Property Plan for Asset Management
- Terms and Conditions for Orders and Contracts
- Access Forum Partnership Agreement [Clackmannanshire]
- Combating Antisocial Behaviour Together
- Criminal Justice Service Strategic Plan
- Disability Equality Scheme
- Enterprise in Education Policy
- Food Safety Enforcement Policy
- Gender Equality Scheme
- Housing Strategy
- Integrated Children's Services Plan
- Joint Health Improvement Plan
- Race equality scheme
- Standing Orders
- Tenant Participation Strategy
- Tourism Strategy & Action Plan not sure if this exists
- Tullibody Healthy Living Initiative Business Plan

Appendix 4 – SEA objectives

NB the proposed indicators are still in development and will need to fit in with those proposed for the Sustainability Strategy itself.

Topic	Objective	Indicator	Data source
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	1. Ensure the sustainable management of, and avoid damage to, designated wildlife sites and protected species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported condition of locally and nationally important wildlife sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SNH
	2. Maintain biodiversity, avoiding irreversible losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement of Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clacks Council / to be developed
	3. Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people actively engaged in biodiversity conservation and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clacks Council / to be developed
Population and human health	4. Promote healthy living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years of healthy life expectancy / infant mortality rate SIMD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GROS Scottish Executive
	5. Reduce and prevent crime; reduce fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recorded crime Fear of crime surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Clacks 1000? / to be developed
	6. Improve quality of life for present and future generations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident perception surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clacks 1000? / to be developed
Water and soil	7. Reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contaminated land Amount/loss of greenfield / brownfield land and proportion available for re-use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Health Clacks Council
	8. Maintain and restore key ecological processes (e.g. hydrology, water quality, coastal processes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River quality Groundwater quality Otter status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEPA SEPA Clacks Ranger Service
Material assets	9. Minimize waste, then re-use or recover it through recycling, composting or energy recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household waste produced per household Household waste recycled per household Council waste arisings and percentage recycled/composted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEPA SEPA Clacks Council – Waste Services
	10. Make best use of existing infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source of water supply and its local capacity Proximity to community hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Water Clacks Council -Services to People
Air	11. Reduce the need to travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to key services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
	12. Reduce private car use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mode of Transport (public transport, cycling, walking, car) Road traffic reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clacks – transport

Topic	Objective	Indicator	Data source
Climatic factors	13. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net GHG emissions • Energy consumption • Percentage energy consumption from indigenous renewables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA • DTI • DTI?
	14. Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk • Number of road and rail closures due to weather events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA • Clacks Council – Road / emergency Planning; Network Rail
Cultural heritage and landscape	15. Preserve historic buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of listed buildings and archaeological sites 'at risk' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Scotland?
	16. Protect and enhance the landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clacks 1000? / to be developed
	17. Improve quality of publicly accessible open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clacks 1000? / to be developed

Appendix 5 – Compatibility of SEA indicators

The table below compares each SEA objective against each other in order to assess whether they are compatible with each other. Objectives are numbered as in Appendix 4.

SEA objective	1																	
	2	✓																
	3	✓	✓															
	4	✓	✓	✓														
	5	✓	✓	?	✓													
	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												
	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										
	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
	12	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
	13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	SEA objective																	

✓ Objectives are compatible

? Objectives may be incompatible

Possible incompatibilities:

3-5 Increased access to wild places may increase the opportunity for, or fear of, crime.

3-12 Reducing private car use might make it hard for people to come into contact with an appreciate wildlife: improved public/non-motorised transport infrastructure would be needed.

Appendix 6 – Proposed assessment matrix

This is the proposed table for assessing the impacts of each element of the strategy and each alternative. The appropriate symbol is entered into the short-, medium- and long-term column against each SEA objective to indicate the predicted impacts; the explanation for this assessment is entered into the final column, along with suggestions for mitigation or enhancement, as appropriate.

Description [brief description of what is being assessed]	ST	MT	LT	Comments and suggested mitigation / enhancement
Ensure the sustainable management of, and avoid damage to, designated wildlife sites and protected species				
Maintain biodiversity, avoiding irreversible losses				
Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places				
Promote healthy living				
reduce and prevent crime; reduce fear of crime				
Improve quality of life for present and future generations				
Reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity				
Maintain and restore key ecological processes (e.g. hydrology, water quality, coastal processes)				
Minimize waste, then re-use or recover it through recycling, composting or energy recovery				
Make best use of existing infrastructure				
Reduce the need to travel				
Reduce private car use				
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions				
Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change				

Description [brief description of what is being assessed]				
	ST	MT	LT	Comments and suggested mitigation / enhancement
Preserve historic buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features				
Protect and enhance the landscape				
Improve quality of publicly accessible open space				

Key:

- ST** short term (up to three years)
- MT** medium term (3-10 years)
- LT** long term (longer than 10 years)
- ++** very positive impact
- +** positive impact
- + -** positive and negative impacts
- negative impact
- very negative impact
- /** neutral or no impact
- ?** unknown

Appendix 7 – Proposed comparison matrix

This is the proposed table for comparing alternatives; it can also be used to illustrate the cumulative effects of all the elements of the. The appropriate symbol is entered into the short-, medium- and long-term column against each SEA topic to indicate a summary of the predicted impacts. The colour coding should although either broad-brush comparison between alternatives or an idea of the cumulative impacts of chosen strategic actions.

	Biodiversity, flora and fauna			Population and human health			Water and soil			Material assets			Air			Climatic factors			Cultural heritage and landscape			
	ST	MT	LT	ST	MT	LT	ST	MT	LT	ST	MT	LT	ST	MT	LT	ST	MT	LT	ST	MT	LT	
Option 1																						
Option 2																						
Option 3																						
Option 4																						

++	very positive impact
+	positive impact
+ -	positive and negative impacts
-	negative impact
--	very negative impact
/	neutral or no impact
?	unknown