

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee: 8 June 2011

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**Subject: Sustainable Development Strategy - Progress Report**

### **1. Purpose**

**1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide information on the progress of the Sustainable Development Action Plan from 2008/09 to 2010/11.

### **2. Background**

**2.1** The Council made a commitment to producing a Sustainable Development Strategy as part of the Best Value Improvement Plan. The Sustainable Development Strategy 2008-2012 was approved at Corporate & Efficient Governance Committee in May 2008.

**2.2** The duty of Best Value in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 requires that a local authority discharge its duties in 'a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development'. More recently, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 also requires that a public body, in exercising its functions, must act 'in a way it considers most sustainable'.

**2.3** The common goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations. It acknowledges that our economic, social and environmental needs and goals are interdependent.

### **3. Main Issues**

**3.1** There are nine themes in the Sustainable Development Strategy covering the key areas which contribute to achieving sustainable development and echoing those themes found in Choosing Our Future - the Scottish Government's Sustainable Development Strategy. The themes are: Transport and Travel; Built Environment; Natural Heritage and Resources; Waste; Well-Being; Food; Sustainable Communities; Our Global Contribution; and Learning about Sustainable Development.

**3.2** A number of objectives were identified in the Strategy and from these the Action Plan was produced. The Action Plan has identified actions and performance indicators (PIs) from Departmental Services Plans and Operational Plans which contribute towards achieving the objectives of the Strategy.

**3.3** This report reflects progress on the PIs identified as measuring progress in sustainable development from 2008/09 to 2010/11. The list of PIs are reviewed annually and updated as required, for example, a new indicator can be created which is relevant to measuring one of the objectives.

**3.4** In general, good progress has been made against the majority of PIs signifying that the council is moving towards achieving the goals of sustainable development - 17 out of 27 indicators are moving in a positive direction (a further 9 objectives need to have PIs developed to effectively measure them). Appendix A provides a full breakdown of progress by objective.

**3.5** Where progress remains poor or indicators require to be developed this would have previously been addressed via the Sustainable Development Working Group. Due to ongoing restructuring, this Group isn't meeting at present so any areas of concern will be addressed through discussions between the relevant service and the Sustainability Officer.

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** None.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** None.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** If the objectives of the Sustainable Development Strategy are not progressed West Dunbartonshire Council could be subject to negative appraisal in terms of its approach to Sustainable Development.

#### **7. Equalities, Health and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)**

**7.1** No significant issues were identified in a screening for the potential equalities, health and human rights impact of this report.

#### **8. Conclusions and Recommendations**

**8.1** It is recommended that the Committee review the progress of the Sustainable Development Strategy and provide comment on any areas where they feel further action is required.

**Elaine Melrose**  
**Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development**  
**Date: 9 May 2011**

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**Appendices:** Appendix A - Sustainable Development Strategy - Progress by Theme and Objective

**Background Papers:** Sustainable Development Action Plan Progress Report - Corporate & Efficient Governance Committee: 29 October 2008

Sustainable Development Strategy - Corporate & Efficient Governance Committee: 28 May 2008





**Wards Affected:** N/A

Appendix A



**Sustainable Development Strategy - Progress Report**  
**Progress by Theme and Objective**

The following tables show progress against each objective, grouped by theme. This information is taken from Covalent.



### Built Environment

Objective	Trend	Notes
Reduced fuel poverty		No change, figure remains at 19% of WD population classed as being 'fuel poor'. Data not available for 2010/11.
Improved quality of council and RSL housing		Increased from 14% to 30%.
Regenerate the schools estate		3 new Secondary Schools 3 new Primary Schools 2 new Early Education & Childcare Centres
Review sustainability of existing and proposed office locations		Full review of all major office buildings is currently being investigated.


### Food

Objective	Trend	Notes
Improve diet and nutrition		There has been a slight drop in the number of Citizens Panel members who report eating the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables daily.
Increase healthy life expectancy		Slight increase in life expectancy for males and females; however, figure for <i>healthy</i> life expectancy remains the same.

### Global Contribution



Objective	Trend	Notes
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council assets and operations		5.5% reduction from 2008/09 – 2009/10 (figures not yet available for 2010/11)
Reduce ecological footprint in West Dunbartonshire		Slight decrease in ecological footprint (measuring impact of lifestyles on planet's resources)

### Learning about Sustainable Development






Objective	Trend	Notes
Increase the number of		Increase from 17.6% to 30%

schools achieving Eco Schools bronze, silver and green flag awards		(2009/10).
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### Natural Heritage and Resources


Objective	Trend	Notes
Halt loss of and increase biodiversity		Variable progress – there has been an increase in grassland managed for biodiversity and an increase in woodland habitat but there has been a reduction in protected nature sites in a favourable condition (SNH measure this and work with landowners to improve).
Improved quality and access to greenspace		9% increase in core paths that are 'fit for purpose'.

### Sustainable Communities



Objective	Trend	Notes
Improve the effectiveness of community consultation and engagement activity		There has been a 1% drop in Citizens Panel respondents who think the Council communicates well with residents since the baseline year (2009 - 24%) but it has improved from 2009/10 (16%) to 2010/11 (23%).
Regeneration in a properly planned, co-ordinated and sustainable manner		Slight increase in planning applications which have been granted contrary to the Local Plan.
Improved residents' perception of their neighbourhood		Slight decrease (1%) in residents rating their neighbourhood a 'fairly good' or 'very good' place to live; however, the figure remains high at 89%
Increase community volunteering and involvement		There has been a 5% increase in the percentage of the population engaged in voluntary activities.
Reduce crime and violent crime in particular		Decrease from 41 to 36 (2009/10) (crime per 10,000 population).

### Sustainable Communities Con't



Reduced anti-social		Number of anti-social offences
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behaviour		detected has increased. This may be due to improved reporting rather than a reflection on number of offences.
Promote environmental justice		This is measured based on satisfaction with quality of life which has seen a positive increase from 61% to 74%.

### Transport & Travel

Objective	Trend	Notes
Promote sustainable travel choices		This is measured with statistics from the implementation of the Council's green travel Plan which shows there has been a 2% decrease of employees travelling as a lone car driver.
Increased proportion of journeys by public or active transport		There has been a significant increase (16%) in the number of children travelling to schools by public or active transport. There has been no change in the number of WD residents travelling to work by car.





### Waste

Objective	Trend	Notes
Further promote waste minimisation measures/initiatives		This is measured through the waste education programme which has been received by 100% of Primary 4 pupils for the past two years.
Waste managed in a more sustainable way		The percentage of waste recycled or composted has increased to 37%.

### Well-Being

Objective	Trend	Notes
Improve recreational		The number of attendances to pools



opportunities and facilities		has dipped slightly but there has been a significant increase in numbers attending indoor sports and leisure facilities.
Improve street and open space cleanliness		There has been a drop in the cleanliness index.
Reduce local pollution		There has been a drop in the number of air quality monitoring stations complying with national air quality objectives.
Reduced unemployment and benefit dependency		The employment rate has dropped from 72.8% to 67% - this will be due in part to the global economic decline.
Promote health improvement opportunities		Milestones to meet Healthy Working Lives Gold Award have been met and award due in May 2011.