

National Outcome

NO-12 Value and enjoy our built and natural environment

Local Context

West Dunbartonshire contains some of the finest lowland countryside in Scotland and part of the Council area is now contained within Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Although not a particularly agricultural area, over 40% of the area is classified as open countryside. The area also boasts the second highest proportion of mixed leafed woodland in Scotland, and replanting runs at several times the rate of any trees felled.

There are also important natural heritage features. There are 56 Tree Preservation Orders within West Dunbartonshire; this number has increased in recent years as the importance trees make to the visual amenity of communities has been increasingly recognised. There are also 24 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, reflecting the importance of the flora and fauna these areas possess. Certain Sites of Special Scientific Interest such as the Inner Clyde Estuary and the River Endrick Mouth and Islands are of international importance and are recognised as such.

The Council is in the process of completing a Nature Conservation Strategy, in which a full SINC and wildlife corridor survey is taking place. From this review, Phase 1 surveys will be carried out, and the status of SINC's (both existing and proposed) will be assessed to determine current condition. Wildlife corridors will be mapped and ranked in order of importance in terms of quality and potential habitat connectivity. This information will be used to prioritise and access funding in order to undertake positive habitat management throughout the area

The Council is producing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) - co-funded by Scottish Natural Heritage. This plan will adopt an ecosystem approach to the management and enhancement of Dunbartonshire's natural heritage. At present, four main land-use types have been formalized in the LBAP: Urban, Rural, Woodland and Wetland (including Coastal), and the individual habitat and associated species action plans will be used to attract external funding for implementation. To maximize positive management of the landscape, the Council will develop an Integrated Habitat Network project that will aim to increase the quality and quantity of wildlife corridors in Dunbartonshire and address the level and effects of habitat fragmentation. Designation of two areas as Local Nature Reserves (The Saltings and Brucehill Cliffs) will allow additional external funding to be sought in order to bring back such areas into positive management, which will be of obvious benefit to local wildlife. The Council will work with SNH and local landowners to help SNH reach their target of ensuring 80% of SSSI's are in a favourable condition by 2009.

We want to improve the quality and sustainability of our built environment. Quality of design is an increasingly important factor in determining planning applications, particularly in our town centres. Master plans and supplementary design guidance help to encourage and justify better design and the creation of high quality places. Our new school buildings will incorporate sustainable design principles.

Cleanliness of the area ranks above average, however the state and appearance of streetscapes, play and recreation areas, green/open spaces and town centres need further improvements.

We will continue to monitor air quality especially around the A814 in Dumbarton East and its junction with the A82 at Dumbuck. We are conscious that alleviating the short-term affects of flash flooding and the long-term consequences of global sea-level rise requires considerable ongoing investment and we are putting in a major alleviation project for the Gruggies Burn.

<u>Local outcomes</u>	Relevant Indicators	Frequency	Data Source	Baseline (2006/07)	Local Targets & Timescales
Increase the proportion of protected nature sites in favourable condition <i>(This is National Indicator 33 which relates to Corporate Objective to Protect and enhance green and open spaces and the natural environment)</i>	Proportion of protected nature sites in favourable condition	Annual	SNH	TBD (SNH)	National target to ensure 80% of SSSI's are in a favourable condition by 2009
	The cleanliness index achieved following inspection (SPI, CPI)	Annual	Audit Scotland SPI - (Keep Scotland Beautiful/LEAMS)	71	Increase to 76 by 2011/12 Corporate Plan
	Percentage of Citizens Panel respondents who are satisfied or very satisfied with the physical appearance of their local area (CPI)	Annual	WD Citizens Panel	60%	Increase to 80% by 2011/12 Corporate Plan
	Air Quality-NO2 Concentration	Bi-Annual?	Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics	13.8 (2002-04)	
		Annual	Average of Local Monitoring station data	40 ug/m3	Maintain
	Air Quality-PM10 Concentration	Bi-Annual	Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics	12.2 (2002-04)	
		Annual	Average of Local Monitoring station data	40 ug/m3	Maintain

	Improve the state of West Dunbartonshire's environment <i>(This relates to environmental part of National Indicator 34 and it also relates to relates to Corporate Objectives to 'Protect and enhance green and open spaces and the natural environment' and also to 'Manage local pollution to minimise harm to human health and the environment')</i>	Possible Indicator to be derived from Environmental noise mapping	?Annual	Scottish Government Noise Mapping site	TBD	
		Area of Contaminated remediated	Annual		107.75ha total remediated from total base of 977 ha. 41.35ha in 06/07	
		Flooding on non-agricultural land (no of incidents)		SEPA	To be developed	
	Increase Biodiversity <i>This relates to National Indicator 35</i>	% of priority species or habitats which have increased	Annual	Biological Records (WDC and Glasgow Museums)	Baseline year will be 08/09	??
	Required Actions/Commitment by local partners for these outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and implement Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Habitat Network project • Implement Green/Open Space Audit • Develop Nature Conservation Strategy 				
	Scottish Government required action/commitment to support delivery of local outcome	SNH support for biodiversity implementation projects.				