

C L A C K M A N N A N S H I R E

# Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy

CONSULTATION DRAFT SEPTEMBER 2008



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# ***Clackmannanshire Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2008-11***

*Final Draft for Public Consultation*

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This version of the Strategy has been prepared for consultation following its approval by Clackmannanshire Council at its meeting on 5 June 2008.

## **Contact Details for the consultation**

We welcome your views on this consultation draft of the Clackmannanshire Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

Consultation Period: 1 September until 24  
October 2008

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**Foreword by Cllr Eddie Carrick, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Garry Dallas, Director of Development and Environmental Services**

*Ten years ago the only worrying thing about the size of our footprints was whether we needed new shoes.... now we are all becoming more aware of the impact that we have on the environment and the need to do something to reduce it.*

*Sustainability and climate change are becoming increasingly prominent issues that affect all of our lives. Climate change brings social and economic problems - we just have to look at our own recent flooding, and landslides throughout the country. This Strategy has been prepared so that Clackmannanshire Council can take the lead in tackling the problems locally and securing a prosperous and healthy future for generations to come.*

*We are already off to a good start: Clackmannanshire has the highest recycling rate in Scotland and, with the re-opening of the railway, is now better connected than ever before. We have a varied landscape, a rich built heritage and a strong history of working in partnership to enhance our environment.*

*In 2007 the Council signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, committing us to work to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Since then, we have taken part in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme, identifying where we can make changes to reduce our emissions, and setting out a plan of how to do it.*

*This Strategy will help us continue and improve on the work that we have already done, and we hope that it will also be an inspiration for other organisations to do their bit for a sustainable Clackmannanshire. If we all work together and all play our part, then we believe that we can leave Clackmannanshire a happier, healthier and greener place for the next generation.*



*E Carrick*

*G Dallas*

## Introduction: Securing Clackmannanshire's Future

During the latter part of the Twentieth Century, Clackmannanshire witnessed dramatic economic and social change, involving the loss of the majority of the traditional industry that provided the foundation for the area's growth. With the decline and closure of the area's coal mines, woollen mills, breweries and other industrial infrastructure, unemployment rose, population declined and Clackmannanshire's economic and social future looked bleak. Against this background, Clackmannanshire is now experiencing a remarkable revival. Unemployment has declined in recent years, population is again rising, development is at a level unseen for many years and the economy is growing. The Council has worked hard in association with its partners to support Clackmannanshire's regeneration through major projects such as the re-opening of the passenger rail service between Stirling and Alloa in May 2008, the re-invigoration of Alloa's town centre, and initiatives to conserve, restore and improve our heritage—such as the award-winning projects to restore Alloa Tower, and to create a major new area of wetland along the River Black Devon. The changes that Clackmannanshire has experienced over the last century have shaped many of the sustainability issues we now face, including increased levels of commuting and persistent pockets of deprivation. However, it has also opened up new opportunities to attract new forms of employment and to redefine our future. There are also legacies of industrialisation, such as Gartmorn Dam, that increasingly contribute to our sustainability by supporting biodiversity and recreational opportunity.

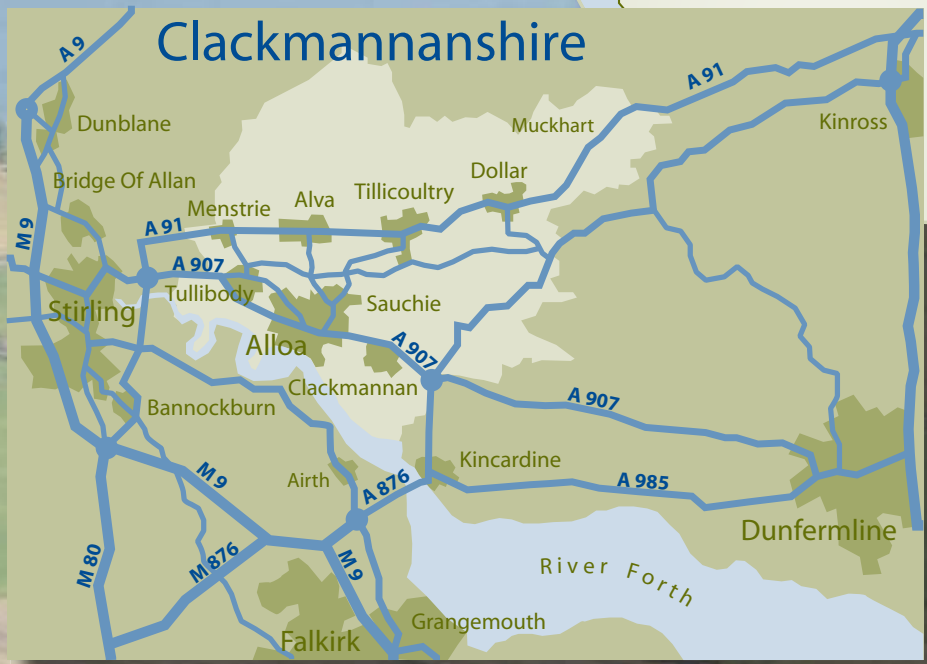
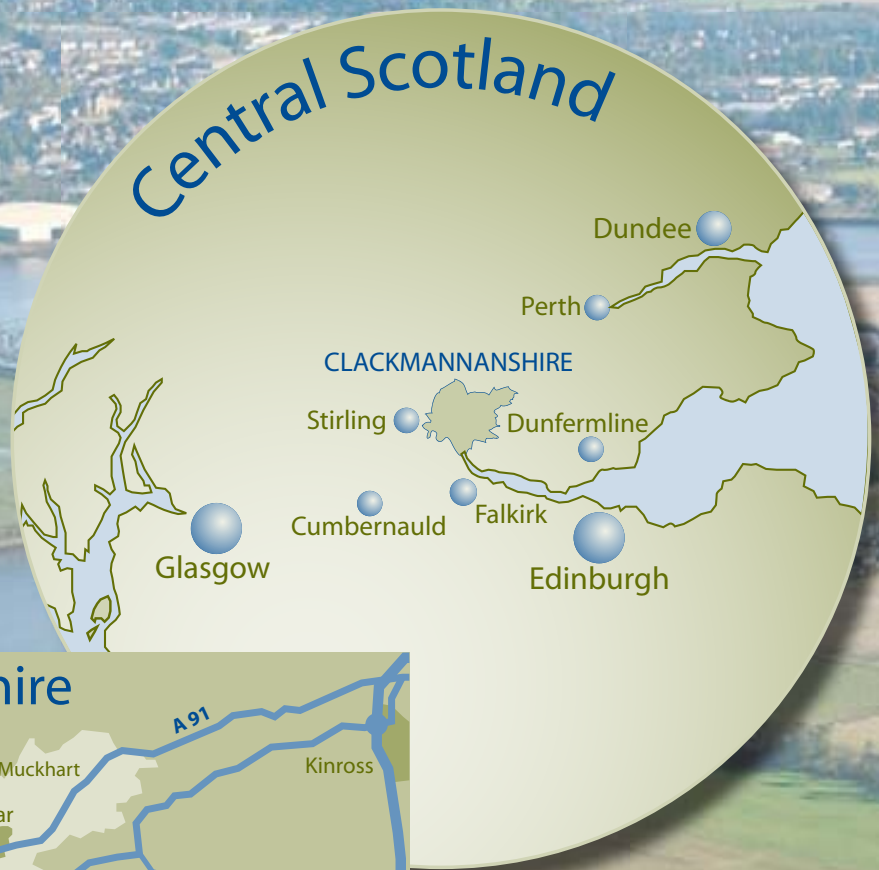
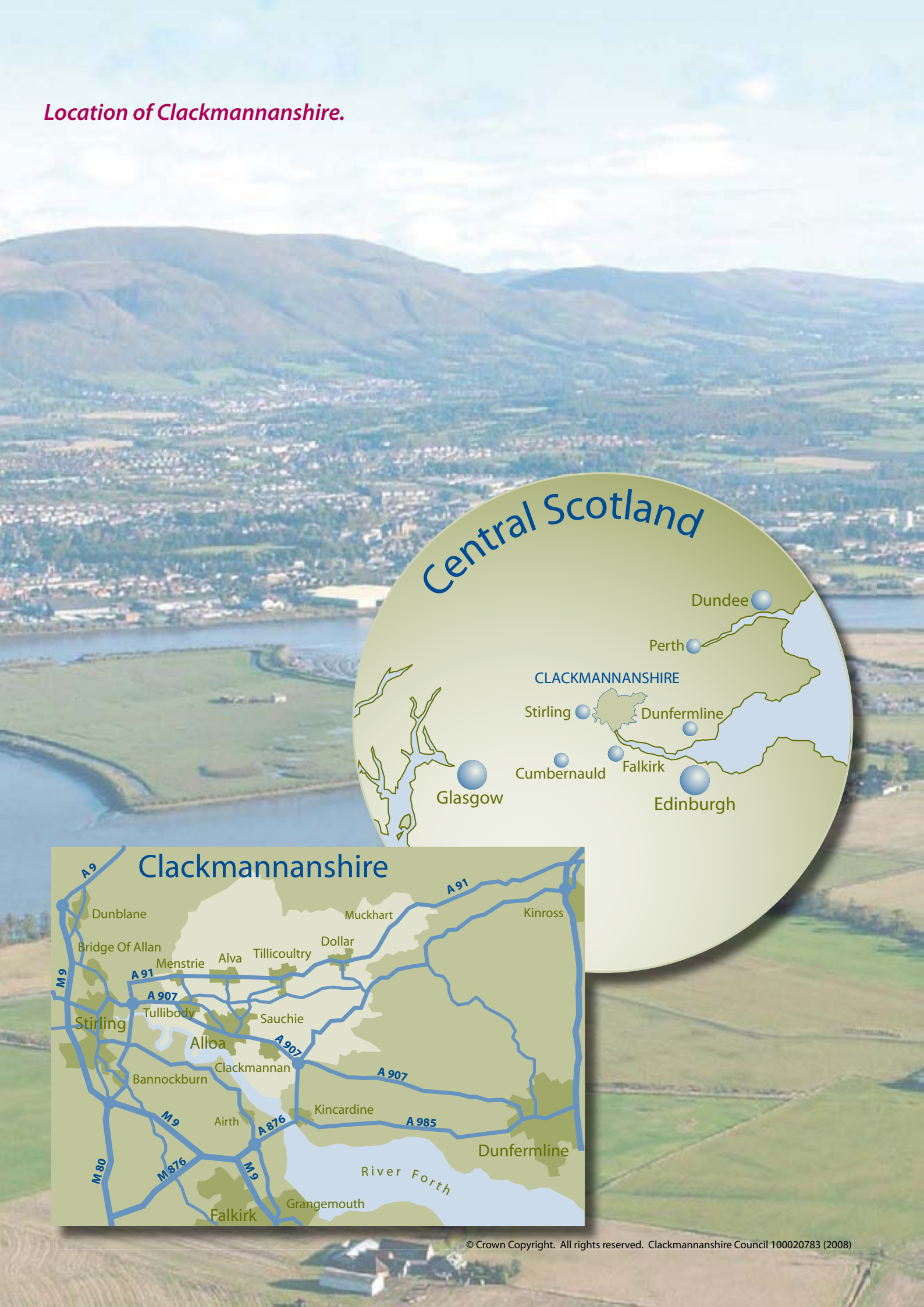
However, our future is also increasingly affected by global influences which have an impact on our economy, on the environment that sustains us, and on our quality of life. Unsustainable consumption patterns are placing ever greater pressure on finite supplies of energy and natural resources. Consumer demand is increasingly outstripping supply, driving up prices and creating the imperative to live more sustainably - by reducing our consumption, and particularly our dependency on fossil fuels, and improving our energy efficiency.

Climate change is a further challenge to our ability to maintain our future standard of living and quality of life. Recent achievements in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland are under threat due to continuing growth in road traffic and aviation, and continuous growth in demand for energy. While technology has a major role to play in reducing our emissions, we all as organisations, groups and individuals need to redouble our efforts to reduce our contribution to climate change and live more sustainable lives. The impact of climate change is already being felt in Clackmannanshire through increased food events and, in adapting to the inevitable effects of climate change, we must consider how best to prepare for the considerable threat of future flooding from the low-lying Rivers Devon and Black Devon and the hill streams which flow through the hillfoot villages. The Council has played an important role already by collaborating with WWF Scotland on the "Slowing the Flow" project, which played an important part in developing national guidance on good practice for achieving sustainable food management and reducing food risk. This Strategy incorporates a Climate Change Action Plan for Clackmannanshire, providing a framework for developing our response to reducing our contribution to Climate Change as well as adapting to its predicted effects.

The environmental impacts of this strategy have been assessed and are documented in the accompanying strategic environmental assessment (SEA) Environmental Report. SEA is a structured way of predicting and assessing the impacts of plans, programmes and strategies on the environment. The assessment was carried out during the preparation of this Strategy, and has meant that the Strategy has been improved and amended during its drafting in order to maximise beneficial impacts on the environment, and avoid or mitigate any negative impacts. The Environmental Report is available to the public and should be read in conjunction with this Strategy.



**Location of Clackmannanshire.**



# Sustainability: Finding the Balance between our Economic, Environmental and Social Needs

Sustainability depends on achieving a balance between a population and the carrying capacity of its environment, such that the population develops to express its full potential without adversely and irreversibly affecting the capacity of the environment to support it now or in the future. The achievement of sustainability thus demands a level of self-restraint in the use of resources and requires that waste is minimised, such that the quality of our environment and the availability of resources is protected not only for the current but also for future generations.

However, sustainability is about much more than just the environment. The World Commission on Environment and Development ("The Brundtland Commission") in 1987 famously described sustainable development as being

*"development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs"*

In other words, we need to appreciate that our social, economic and environmental wellbeing are interdependent. If we experience economic growth without considering its social or environmental impact then we are not acting sustainably. Equally, we require a strong local economy to provide the wealth we need to support social infrastructure as well as providing us with the resources we need to protect and enhance our environment effectively.



## Sustainability is about:

- ▶ ensuring that the carrying capacity of our ecosystems is not exceeded;
- ▶ recognising that economic, social and environmental wellbeing are interconnected and seeking win-win-win solutions wherever possible;
- ▶ ensuring that new development contributes to social and environmental wellbeing;
- ▶ protecting and enhancing the environment for its intrinsic value and because a degraded or damaged environment will harm economic development and people's quality of life;
- ▶ ensuring that resources are used efficiently and that economic growth does not result in unacceptable environmental damage;
- ▶ ensuring that we satisfy people's essential financial, social and environmental needs effectively, such as through the provision of energy-efficient homes, clean air and a good living environment;
- ▶ enabling people to achieve their full potential through good health, education and rewarding employment;
- ▶ tackling significant inequalities in health and opportunity by making sure that quality of life improvements reach all;
- ▶ considering the long-term consequences of the decisions we make now;
- ▶ ensuring action is taken at all levels of society to improve social and environmental conditions and that community-based involvement to resolve problems and improve conditions is encouraged.

# The Key Principles of Sustainability

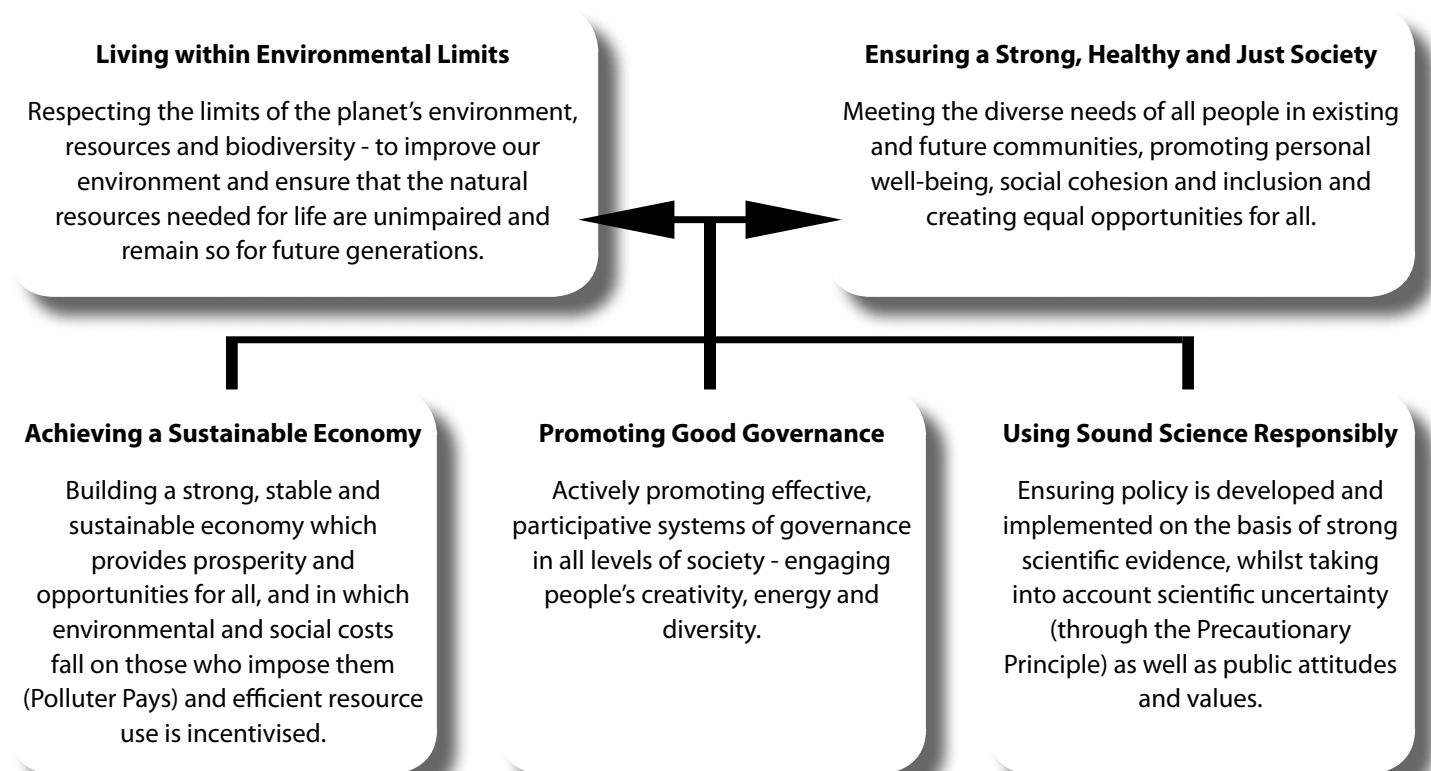
This Strategy is founded on the five key sustainability principles contained in the UK Government Strategy for Sustainable Development (“Securing the Future”, 2005) and Scotland’s Sustainable Development Strategy (“Choosing our Future”, 2005). The relationship between national principles and the vision and aims of this Strategy enables the Strategy to not only focus on what is right for Clackmannanshire, but also ensures that we are making a meaningful contribution to national sustainability objectives.

The principles underpin the central theme in this Strategy: that a good quality of life for all can only be achieved if we recognise the interconnectedness of and give equal priority to all three strands of sustainable development – the social, economic and environmental. However, the successful delivery of sustainability also depends on good governance and using sound science responsibly.

**The national policy principles are shown in the diagram below:**

## *Living within Environmental Limits*

Our future quality of life and economic prosperity are dependent on recognising and respecting the limits of the planet’s environment, resources and biodiversity. As a Council, we have embarked on a range of initiatives to improve our own environmental performance and resource efficiency, as well as working with our partners to conserve and enhance Clackmannanshire’s environment, and we are committed to reducing our carbon and ecological footprints (See Priority C, and Chapter 2). All of us in Clackmannanshire, whether in the public sector, community organisations, business or as an individual, have an important role to play in ensuring that our own actions contribute to improving the environment and that we accept responsibility for the costs we impose on the environment. This Strategy has two Strategic Priorities that focus on protecting our natural resources and enhancing our environment (See Priority D), and how we can take action to reduce our contribution to climate change and prepare to adapt to its predicted effects (See Priority A).





## ***Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society***

A strong economy and a healthy environment are instrumental to achieving a good quality of life. However, we continue to face many challenges to improving quality of life in Clackmannanshire as a result of pockets of persistent deprivation, crime, and significant inequalities in terms of health and opportunity. The Council is taking action to address these problems by working in partnership through the Community Planning Partnership – the Clackmannanshire Alliance – and through specific initiatives to deal with issues such as improving housing standards, reducing fuel poverty and long-term unemployment. The Strategy's Strategic Priority for creating sustainable communities (See Priority B) explains this in greater detail.

## ***Achieving a Sustainable Economy***

A sustainable economy is one which must contribute to measurable improvements in quality of life for all, operate within recognised resource constraints, and make the transition to greater operational efficiencies. As the cost of fossil fuel-based energy increases, the public sector, business, the community and individuals must co-operate to find ways to improve their ecological efficiency (i.e. gain the greatest benefit with the least resource, and waste as little as possible). Furthermore, a sustainable economy will be one in which the social and environmental costs created by an organisation will be paid by that organisation, providing a strong incentive for their minimisation. In Clackmannanshire, there is already a strong movement towards a more sustainable economy, and this is encouraged by our Strategic Priority to live within our environmental limits by achieving more sustainable consumption and production patterns (See Priority C).



## ***Promoting Good Governance***

The Council has already developed and achieved a great deal through its commitment to partnership working. The Clackmannanshire Alliance is comprised of a wide range of community, voluntary, public and private sector interests and much has been achieved by its four “theme teams”, responsible for community safety, environment, health improvement and economic development. The Alliance is fundamental to delivering sustainability in Clackmannanshire and is currently revising its Plan in order to ensure that its proactive approach to addressing community issues is further reinforced. Through support for initiatives such as Clacks 1000, a Citizens’ Panel which provides the Alliance and the Council with valuable information on public perceptions on key issues in Clackmannanshire, and partnership bodies such as the Access Forum and Biodiversity Partnership, the Council continues to demonstrate its commitment to working with others to achieve results which it could not deliver on its own.

## ***Using Sound Science Responsibly***

The Council has invested considerable resources in developing a strong research and information capability and through this, and initiatives such as the development of a State of the Environment Report to support our environmental assessment work, we place strong emphasis on understanding economic, environmental and social trends and processes and prioritising projects to address key issues. We will continue to take scientific uncertainty into account in our policy-making as well as public attitudes and values.

Clackmannanshire Council has already gained an enviable reputation for promoting sustainability both within the organisation and in the community. This Strategy aims to provide a strong foundation for taking more ambitious steps towards changing the way we live and work in Clackmannanshire.

Awareness of the need for substantial change in the way we conduct our lives is growing rapidly. There is increasing evidence that we are now using natural resources at a rate at which they cannot be renewed, that human activity is the main cause of climate change and that our own quality of life is dependent on a complex set of social, economic and environmental factors rather than economic growth alone. As our understanding of these fundamental influences on our future welfare grows, so too does the need for action to avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change that are now predicted if we do not take urgent steps to address them.

The Strategy commits the Council to lead by example in addressing four strategic priorities:

- A. Climate Change Action Plan**
- B. Creating Sustainable Communities**
- C. Living within Environmental Limits: Sustainable Consumption and Production**
- D. Protecting our Natural Resources and Enhancing our Environment**

The Council will strive to deliver marked improvements in its own environmental efficiency and performance and significantly reduce its own resource waste. However, a sustainable future for Clackmannanshire can only be successfully achieved through partnership. The Strategy therefore places a strong emphasis on the Council working closely with those who share the vision of a prosperous, healthy, happy and secure Clackmannanshire for this and future generations. Quality of life, whether now or in the future, not only means being able to access appropriate education and fulfilling employment, but also feeling safe, secure and healthy where we live and enjoying a good quality environment. It means living within our means – financially and environmentally – and considering what we can contribute to society as well as what we can gain from it.

### *Strategy Vision*

The Strategy vision is:

- ▶ **A county which benefits from an improving quality of life, based on sustainable economic growth, a high quality environment which has been protected and enhanced for future generations, and the reduction of significant social and economic inequalities.**
- ▶ **A Council which takes the lead in improving sustainability in Clackmannanshire by mainstreaming sustainability objectives into all it does, and fully integrates them into all strategic management, operational and service delivery activities.**

### *Strategy Aims*

This vision will be delivered by focusing on the following strategic aims:

- 1. We will support and encourage the promotion of sustainability in the community by:**

Ensuring that the Council successfully promotes sustainability in partnership with the community and other public and private sector organisations;

Empowering and supporting communities to take action to improve sustainability locally, wherever possible.

- 2. We will improve the Council's own sustainability performance by:**

Ensuring that the Council's commitment to sustainability is fully embodied into all of the Council's strategies, plans and programmes, including the systematic assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of strategies, plans and programmes through strategic environmental assessment;

Integrating sustainability into the Council's corporate and business planning activities;

Identifying, monitoring and reviewing a range of objectives, indicators and targets that will provide a framework for measurable continuous improvement in the Council's sustainability performance;

Raising awareness and communicating the Council's commitment to sustainability to our employees, customers and partners.

## Delivering Best Value and Sustainable Development in Clackmannanshire

Clackmannanshire Council has a responsibility, under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, to “discharge its duties ... in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development”.

The Best Value Guidance makes it clear that there should be commitment at both elected member and senior officer level to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development; and that this contribution is reflected in the authority’s objectives and highlighted in all strategies and plans at corporate and services level. This Strategy is intended to provide the basis for this commitment.

The Guidance also requires that the Council’s plans, priorities and actions should be informed by the views of its communities and key local partners. In Clackmannanshire this is carried out through the work of the Clackmannanshire Alliance. The Alliance comprises a wide range of agencies from the public, voluntary and business centres. Each agency has an important contribution to make to the achievement of the partnership’s overall aims, delivered through the work of the four “theme teams” (see page 19).

Best Value places emphasis on measuring improvements in quality of life and reporting this to the public. The indicators and targets included in this Strategy, which are closely linked to those in the Council’s emerging Corporate Plan, are designed to ensure that achievements, and areas in which we need to do better, are transparent. The other Best Value requirements relating to sustainability, which include assessment of the impact of policy proposals on sustainable development, ensuring that sustainable development requirements are taken into account in the procurement strategy, and a systematic approach to the management of resources which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development, are themes which run through this Strategy.

## Paths to Improvement

Much has been done in recent years to improve sustainability in Clackmannanshire but many current trends remain unsustainable. Rising levels of road traffic and energy demand contribute to climate change and place ever-increasing pressure on finite fuel supplies; the effects of pollution and congestion adversely affect our quality of life; increasing consumption of goods results in increasing generation of waste; and loss of biodiversity is of increasing concern. This Strategy contains a set of indicators and targets to enable transparent measurement of the Council and Clackmannanshire’s progress towards sustainability. The Council will place emphasis on addressing the four strategic sustainability priorities for Clackmannanshire (see page 12), and further objectives are set out in each of the seven chapters beginning on page 27. Each chapter describes the steps we have taken already to make Clackmannanshire more sustainable, and clearly explains what we propose to do over the term of this Strategy to ensure that we become more sustainable – our paths to improvement. The Strategy is supported by a series of time-bound and deliverable targets, set out in each chapter and summarised in the appendix at the end of the Strategy. Following consultation on this Draft Strategy, we will develop an Action Plan that shows in greater detail how our objectives will be met and who will be responsible for reporting on their achievement.





Improving our sustainability is not an easy option but should be a priority challenge for all of us if we believe in securing the future for ourselves, our children and future generations. Failing to engage with the sustainability agenda is a failure to accept our own responsibility to leave the world a better place than we found it. Clackmannanshire Council has already demonstrated its commitment to action through initiatives such as Scotland's Climate Change Declaration and the major Council-led project to restore rail services to Clackmannanshire. However, the greatest progress can be made through many small actions rather than single big projects. For example, a single small action such as choosing to cycle rather than to drive to work can deliver an array of personal, social, financial and environmental benefits, including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, the opportunity to take physically and mentally beneficial exercise, a way of saving money on increasingly expensive fuel, and a means to contribute to improving air quality which is partly responsible for health problems such as increasing childhood asthma rates.

This Strategy encompasses a programme of action which, once implemented, will transform the way the Council operates as an organisation by mainstreaming sustainability into all aspects of its operations. In this respect, it expands on the emerging Corporate Plan which sets out the Council's main priorities. However, the Strategy is also important in ensuring that the Council plays a leading role in promoting and enabling sustainability within the community. This will be largely achieved through the Community Planning structure and ongoing work with existing partnership fora such as the Biodiversity Partnership, Access Forum and Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust.

We will report annually on progress towards meeting the objectives described in this Strategy. Successful delivery of these objectives will be strongly dependent on clearly communicating the need for change and how the Council, business, communities and individuals can contribute to the change needed to deliver improved sustainability, reduce our climate change impact and adapt to the inevitable effects of climate change. A Communication Strategy will be prepared within the first year of adoption of the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy to assist in raising awareness. This will focus particularly on key actions which can help to promote energy efficiency, reducing the environmental impacts of travel, and raising waste awareness.



### ***Corporate Plan, the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement***

Sustainability underpins the aims and priority outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan (2008-11) and, like this Strategy, it is guided by the priorities of the Scottish Government. The emerging Plan places strong emphasis on achieving efficient use of resources and working in partnership with local agencies: both of these themes are mirrored in this Strategy. This Strategy also shares a commitment to the three key long term aims which have been agreed by the Council and the Community Planning Partnership:

- ▶ Build confidence and raise aspirations
- ▶ Strengthen communities
- ▶ Improve wellbeing

Both the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and the Corporate Plan also reflect the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) that the Council has reached with the Scottish Government. Where appropriate, the objectives, indicators and targets set out in this Strategy reflect those agreed in the SOA.

Part of the role of this Strategy is to contribute to the Council's vision, as contained in the Corporate Plan: to be a caring, highly supportive, service delivering, cost-effective Council. Successfully delivering sustainability in the Council and beyond will enable the Council to realise its vision and to effectively implement the aims of the Corporate Plan.

## Implementing the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy

The Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy sets out key aims, objectives and indicators which will provide a framework to achieve a more sustainable future for Clackmannanshire. It provides the sustainability context for many of the Council's other plans and strategies such as the Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan, Travel Plan, Procurement Strategy, Local Development Plan and Local Transport Strategy, through which many of the proposed actions will be delivered.

Our progress and performance in achieving the objectives, indicators and targets in the Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis and a public report produced each autumn. The Strategy will be fully reviewed in 2011.



## Clackmannanshire Council Environmental Policy

Clackmannanshire Council is committed to continuously improving its environmental performance and taking the lead in encouraging others in Clackmannanshire to do the same. We have therefore developed an environmental policy which will assist us to reduce the environmental impact of our operations by setting clear objectives for improvement through more effective and sustainable management practices, while also contributing to the improvement of the local and global environment.

All members and officers of the Council are committed to successfully implementing the aims and objectives of this Policy, and to considering how their own actions can contribute to safeguarding and enhancing Clackmannanshire's environment for the present and future generations.

The principles of the Policy will be reflected in all of the plans, programmes and strategies prepared by the Council. It will also form the foundation for the development of an environmental management framework which will set clear targets for the successful achievement of significant improvements in our environmental performance consistent with Best Value principles.

Our Environmental Policy is consistent with the shared priorities of the UK's Framework for Sustainable Development and with the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. These are:

1. Climate change and sustainable energy use
2. Sustainable consumption and production
3. Working towards environmentally sustainable communities
4. Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement

## **Our Environmental Policy Aims are:**

### **► Environmental Procedures**

To ensure full compliance with all current environmental legislation and regulations and to work towards conforming to best environmental practice in all our operations. We will investigate the potential for an Environmental Management System for the Council as a means of delivering this aim and report our proposals by January 2009. Environmental protection shall be a corporate priority and progress on its achievement will be reported through the Corporate Plan review procedure.

### **► Raise and Maintain Staff Awareness**

Staff awareness of the need for continuous improvement in environmental performance will be improved and maintained through a cross-Council publicity and awareness initiative to support this Policy and the aims and objectives of the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

### **► Using Resources Wisely and Addressing Climate Change**

We will work to minimise resource consumption in all Council operations and investigate ways to build on the Council's existing use of renewable energy.

### **► Waste Management and Recycling**

The generation of waste will be minimised across all Council operations and, where waste production is inevitable, we will seek to prioritise re-use of materials and, where this is not possible, recycle the majority of remaining waste.

### **► Sustainable Travel**

We will work to reduce the unnecessary use of resources, production of climate change gases and other environmental impacts of unnecessary travel by investigating ways of reducing the need for employees to travel; we will encourage the use of sustainable alternatives to the car for journeys to work and while at work.

### **► Biodiversity**

We will continue to implement the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Action Plan and will investigate opportunities to support biodiversity through protecting and enhancing habitat on Council land and buildings and by working in partnership with others to support initiatives on land outwith the control of the Council.



### **► Sustainable Design and Construction**

We will work to ensure that new buildings are constructed in accordance with sustainable design and construction principles.

### **► Sustainable Procurement**

The Council's Procurement Strategy will encourage sustainable practices by focusing on the opportunity for energy efficiency, the purchase of ethically produced goods, recycled and recyclable products and materials and locally sourced materials to reduce transport impacts and support local employment wherever possible; we will also expect a high standard of environmental performance to be achieved by existing and potential Council contractors and suppliers.

### **► Work with the Community and our Partners to Achieve our Aims**

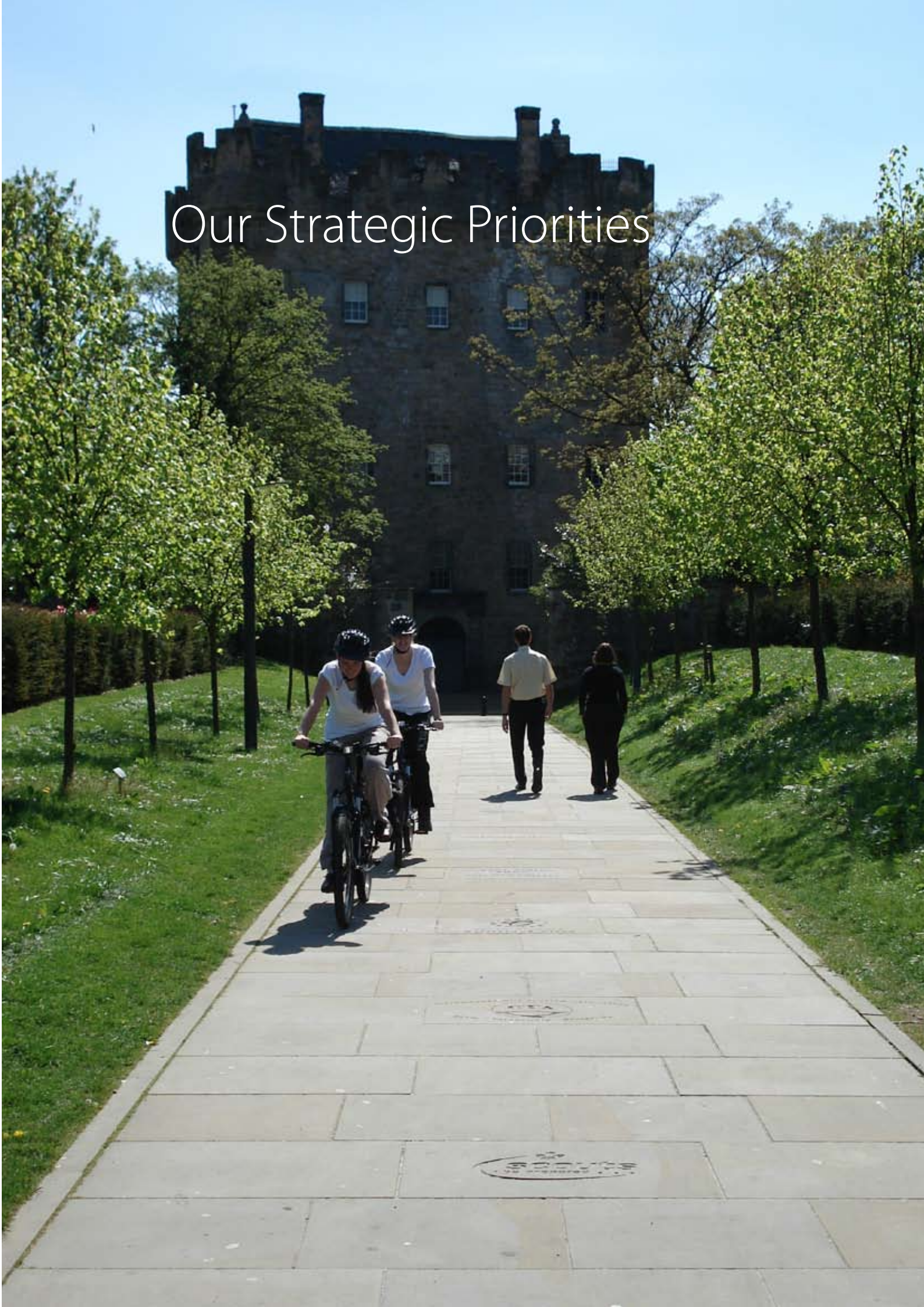
We will work with the Clackmannanshire Alliance, local communities, and our partners to promote community involvement in decisions affecting their local environment, and – through the Community Plan Environment and Sustainability Theme Team – ensure that the Council contributes fully to the development and implementation of a community-focused agenda for environmental protection and enhancement.

### **► Monitoring and Reporting**

We will strive to communicate the Council's environmental policies, and the outcome of environmental assessments of our plans and strategies, openly. This Policy and the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy will be reviewed annually and a public report produced to explain progress achieved.



# Our Strategic Priorities





The following key challenges, or strategic priorities, form the backbone of this Strategy. Each relates closely to the Strategy's Aims and is fundamental to the successful delivery of sustainability in Clackmannanshire.

**The strategic priorities are as follows:**

- A. Climate Change Action Plan**
- B. Creating Sustainable Communities**
- C. Living within Environmental Limits:  
Sustainable Consumption and Production**
- D. Protecting our Natural Resources and  
Enhancing our Environment**

Each of the priorities has at least one strategic indicator which will enable us to analyse our progress towards meeting our strategic objectives. Associated targets identify what we believe we can realistically achieve, and by when.

The Priorities are followed by seven chapters which explain the action we will take to achieve these strategic priorities in each of the following areas. More detailed indicators, targets and actions covering each of the Strategy's subject areas are set out in these chapters:

1. Regenerating Clackmannanshire
2. Carbon Management and Sustainable Energy Use
3. Waste
4. Travel
5. Natural Environment
6. Sustainable Procurement
7. Learning for Sustainability



## Introduction

Climate change is becoming an increasingly prominent issue, and we are already seeing its effects all over the world, including Clackmannanshire. The earth's climate is changing as a result of human activity, most notably industry, transport and agriculture. As the world becomes more industrialised, increasing amounts of greenhouse gases will be released into the atmosphere, exacerbating the problem. Although a warmer climate for Scotland might sound like a good thing, it would also mean more severe weather events, more flooding, water shortages in summer, and more heat-related deaths. We need to act now to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases we emit, and to prepare for the new challenges that changes to Scotland's climate will bring.

Clackmannanshire Council has prepared this Climate Change Action Plan to ensure that tackling climate change is embedded in all its activities, so that it can play its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and so that it can prepare for, and adapt to, the effects on Clackmannanshire of a changing climate.

### What causes climate change?

Climate change is the result of human interference with the greenhouse effect, the cloud of gases in the atmosphere that trap the sun's heat and keep the Earth's temperature high enough to sustain life. Since the industrial revolution greenhouse gases have been emitted from burning fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal) at an increasing rate, building up in the atmosphere and trapping more of the sun's heat than would happen naturally. This causes the Earth's temperature to rise – global warming – which in turn brings about changes to the Earth's climate.

Climate change is a big problem, but it is not insurmountable. It needs willingness and a global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to

repair and pre-empt the damage that a changing climate can cause. It is a prime example of the need to "think global, act local": global changes can only come about if everybody plays their part. In Clackmannanshire this means that the Council needs to do what is within its powers, but it also needs to work with other agencies and public bodies in Clackmannanshire to ensure that they are able to reduce their impacts and prepare for new challenges. But tackling climate change is not just the responsibility of big organisations: everyone can contribute, and all those small actions can add up to a big difference.

### The effects of climate change: global and local

The effects of climate change will be felt all over the world. Developed countries are, and have been, responsible for most human-generated greenhouse gas emissions, yet it is the poorest countries that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. According to Christian Aid, 90% of the victims of weather-related natural disasters in the 1990s lived in poor countries; and it is poorer countries that will be the first to suffer from diminished water supplies and food crop yields, and the spread of diseases such as malaria. It is beyond Clackmannanshire Council's powers to directly address the impacts of climate change on developing countries, but we can make an indirect contribution by working to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Clackmannanshire may be a small area in a small country, but by acting now we can help Scotland take the lead in tackling climate change, and set an example for the rest of the international community.

As well as working to reduce our contribution to climate change, we also need to be prepared for the effects that it will have on Clackmannanshire. The most striking impacts of climate change in Scotland are the increasing risk of severe storms and landslides, but rising temperatures will also affect growing seasons for crops and increase the likelihood of heat-related illnesses and deaths.



## Scotland's Climate Change Declaration

In January 2007, Clackmannanshire Council made a public commitment to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, by signing Scotland's Climate Change Declaration. This committed the Council to:

Work with the Scottish Government and the UK Government to contribute to the delivery of Scotland's and the UK's climate change programmes, including to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to future climate change scenarios.

Produce and publicly declare a plan, with targets and timescales, to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations.

Ensure that greenhouse gas reduction and climate change adaptation measures are clearly incorporated into our new and existing strategies, plans and programmes, in line with sustainable development principles.

Assess the risks and opportunities for our services and communities of predicted climate change scenarios and impacts, and take action to adapt accordingly and in line with sustainable development principles.

Encourage and work with others in our local community to take action to adapt to the impact of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and make public their commitment to action.

Publish an annual statement on the monitoring and progress of our climate change response, detailing targets set, actions taken, outcomes achieved and further actions required.

Collaborate with other organisations to promote good practice on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**This Climate Change Action Plan is intended to help the Council deliver the commitments that it made in signing the Declaration.**

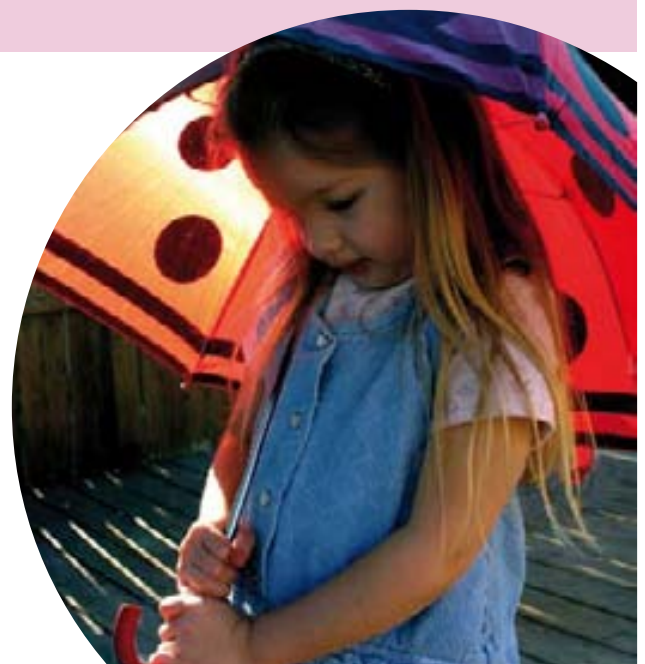
In Clackmannanshire one of the most visible impacts is the increase in the number and severity of flooding events, particularly in the Devon valley. There have also been changes in Clackmannanshire's biodiversity, with UK species such as the orange-tip butterfly moving further north as temperatures increase. The East of Scotland is likely to have longer and hotter summers, which could lead to a shortage of water supplies.

### *What can we do about it?*

Action needs to be taken to mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. However, some further rise in global temperatures is inevitable due to the concentration of gases already in the atmosphere, so it is also necessary to take action to adapt to the likely impacts.

### **The economics of climate change**

The countries that suffer the most from climate change tend to be those that cause the least damage, and those that do cause the damage have tended not to have to pay for it: for this reason climate change has been described as the "greatest and widest-ranging market failure ever seen." In his 2006 Review on the Economics of Climate Change, Lord Stern calculated that taking action to tackle climate change would cost 1% of world GDP by 2050, whereas not acting would reduce GDP by 20%, making everyone in the world one fifth poorer than they would otherwise be.



## Mitigation

Almost everything we do contributes to the emission of greenhouse gases: we use fossil fuels to generate electricity, heat our buildings and power our vehicles. According to the Energy Saving Trust, almost half of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions come from day-to-day activities. Fortunately these impacts can be reduced by making changes to the way we do things, for example by choosing to make some journeys on foot or by bicycle rather than taking the car; choosing to switch off electrical equipment when it is not being used; choosing to recycle and compost waste, rather than throwing it in the bin; choosing food that has been produced locally, rather than food that has been produced abroad then flown in to Scotland. Reducing everyday greenhouse gas emissions is not about reducing or restricting quality of life, it is about choosing to do things in a different way, and being more aware of the impact our actions have on others. These choices often have benefits beyond the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions: most obvious is the money that can be saved from using energy and fuel more wisely, but there are also benefits such as improved health and well-being from choosing an active mode of transport, and protecting the landscape by reducing the need for landfill sites.

The actions described above are things that individuals and households all over Clackmannanshire and Scotland can do, and are already doing, to mitigate the effects of climate change. However, the same principles apply to the Council and its community planning partners, and these organisations all need to play their part. Clackmannanshire Council is already taking action to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions: in 2007 it embarked on the Local Authority Carbon Management programme, which has identified ways for the Council to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions attributable to its operations. Measures are in place to reduce the energy used in Council buildings, and initiatives have been introduced such as bikes for Council staff to use for business journeys; TripshareClacks, a car-sharing website; and recycling facilities in the main Council offices. However, there remain many more opportunities for action, which are detailed throughout this strategy.

## Adaptation

No matter how successful our attempts to mitigate climate change, greenhouse gases that have been emitted in the past will continue to exist in the atmosphere for many years. We are therefore "locked in" to a certain amount of climate change and must prepare for inevitable changes in temperatures and weather patterns. Most of the action that needs to be taken to adapt to climate change will be the responsibility of the Council and its community planning partners. The approach that needs to be taken is based on two objectives: minimise the impact of climate-related disasters through better preparedness and early warning systems; and take long-term adaptation measures, integrating climate impacts into decision-making.

Although the Council will take strategic action to adapt to and reduce the likely risks of climate change, everyone needs to be aware of the risks and make sure they prepare themselves. Climate change is likely to bring more floods, more extreme weather and more heat-related deaths: we need to make sure that we all know what to do if we are affected by these events, and we need to look out for other people who might be vulnerable. The Council will need to make sure that people in Clackmannanshire know what the risks are, and what they can do to prepare; it will also make sure that these climate change impacts are included in its emergency management procedures.

The Council has begun to take long-term action to reduce the impact that climate change will have on the people of Clackmannanshire. It has worked with WWF Scotland on an innovative approach to flood management, which works with, rather than against, the river's natural processes, in order to reduce the devastating impact of flooding on people's lives. The River Devon Project demonstrates natural flood management techniques using a whole-catchment approach: this considers and manages how rainwater enters the river, slowing the flow of water at the beginning of its journey down the river, rather than trying to contain it at the end.

There is further work to be done on flooding: the Council is investigating a flood warning scheme for the River Devon, and forthcoming updates to the Development Plan will include flooding policies to guide new development. The Council will also need to work with its community planning partners to be prepared for the health problems that flooding, and other climate change impacts, can bring. Other local adaptation activity will be concerned with the effects of climate change on Clackmannanshire's built heritage and its natural environment. There is a need to make sure that climate change impacts are considered at every level of Council activity: through strategic environmental assessment of all plans, programmes and strategies; and through the Council's risk management procedures.

Things are happening nationally to address the impacts of climate change, and these are likely to lead to increased responsibilities for the Council. The forthcoming Scottish Climate Change Bill is expected to include duties on the Council to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and is expected to be accompanied by a national Adaptation Strategy. The Council will use this to develop an Adaptation Strategy for Clackmannanshire. The forthcoming Flooding Bill is likely to include a requirement for the Council to participate in flood risk management planning. A national study is being carried out into landslides, which is likely to identify local actions to be undertaken.



## *How climate change links with this Strategy's other priorities*

Climate change affects, and is affected by, all aspects of our daily life and all aspects of the Council's activities. For this reason, all the chapters of this strategy include actions which will contribute to climate change adaptation or mitigation. There are areas of overlap between climate change activity and the three other strategic priorities and these are explored below.

Clackmannanshire's **communities** will need to play their part in reducing their household greenhouse gas emissions, and will also need to prepare (with support from the Council and its community planning partners) for the impacts of a changing climate. Health issues are particularly prominent here: there may be benefits from making more active travel choices, but there are also likely to be a number of problems due to living in a changed climate. Certain areas are likely to feel the impact of more frequent flooding due to more stormy weather, which can have detrimental effects on mental health and wellbeing, as well as its more obvious physical dangers. Contrarily, warmer, drier summers may lead to water shortages. Warmer temperatures are likely to lead to an increase in heat-related health problems; there is also the possibility of the spread of diseases which had not previously been able to survive in Scotland's climate.

**Consumption and production** choices will affect, and be affected by, climate change. The fuel required to transport goods, particularly food, is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Buying goods that have been produced locally reduces this impact, and can also help to strengthen the local economy by supporting local suppliers. Local farmers will need to adapt to changing weather patterns: growing seasons are likely to be longer, with the range of crops that can be grown in Scotland increasing, but an increase in storms and wet weather at harvest time could also have an effect.



Clackmannanshire's **natural resources** will play their part in mitigating climate change: forestry is recognised as one of Scotland's major assets because of the ability of plants and trees to store carbon dioxide as they photosynthesize. There is also increasing interest in the use of wood (or biomass) as a renewable fuel for heating and power generation. Land use, particularly tree planting, plays an important part in natural food management measures, which attempt to slow the flow of water into the area's rivers;

these measures also attempt to retain the water in Clackmannanshire's peat land areas, which are an important carbon sink. However trees in urban areas, such as parks and gardens, can be at risk from subsidence if low rainfall causes soils to dry out. Clackmannanshire's biodiversity is likely to change as species migrate from their current locality in order to survive: work will need to be done to establish functional ecosystems and habitat networks to assist species adaptation.

### *Strategic Indicators for Climate Change*

Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Actions
Reduce Clackmannanshire's carbon footprint and improve energy conservation and efficiency throughout Clackmannanshire	Reduce carbon footprint of Clackmannanshire through a range of actions, including those set out in the Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan	Reduce CO2 emissions by 10% by 2011 and 80% by 2050	
Improve Clackmannanshire's resilience to climate change	Number of properties at risk of flooding	10% reduction by 2013.	



### **Introduction**

Strong, healthy communities are essential for a sustainable Clackmannanshire. A sense of community spirit and mutual responsibility is key to a good quality of life, and it means that people are willing and able to work together to improve their environment. Developing sustainable communities involves reducing significant inequalities in people's life chances and prospects.

The main issues for sustainable communities in Clackmannanshire are health improvement, community safety and access to economic opportunities. The key public sector agencies are working towards improving these through the community planning process and their work can complement, and be complemented by, the actions in this Strategy

### **What are Sustainable Communities and Why are They Important?**

Sustainable communities are healthy communities: with strong social networks and inclusive access to jobs, learning and other opportunities; they are also communities which are on their way towards living within environmental limits. Sustainable communities form the basis for all other sustainability activity in Clackmannanshire, and can greatly contribute to its success.

Good physical and mental health is a key enabler of social inclusion, whilst poor health can be a barrier. The quality of the physical environment affects people's physical health: air, water and food quality can both cause health problems and exacerbate existing health conditions; outdoor access, access to parks and green space and safe places to take physical exercise can all contribute to improved physical health. These factors, along with others such as social networks and community involvement, also contribute to good mental health and wellbeing, which benefits communities as well as individuals.

Living conditions can have a great effect on mental and physical health. Clackmannanshire's homelessness rate is above the Scottish average and this needs to be addressed in order to build stable, sustainable communities. Furthermore, it is estimated that around 17% of households in Clackmannanshire were at risk of fuel poverty in 2007 which means that these households would have to spend 10% or more of their income in order to adequately heat their homes. Living in cold, damp housing can increase the likelihood of a number of illnesses, and fuel poverty can have long-term effects on people's life chances: children from homes suffering fuel poverty tend to perform worse at school and families suffering fuel poverty are at greater risk of social exclusion. Rapidly rising domestic energy costs threaten to reverse the progress made in reducing fuel poverty so far. The Council will therefore consider what action can be taken to support the further improvement of housing quality standards, improve energy efficiency, and thus reduce the need for unnecessary energy use in the housing stock.

As well as improving health in general, it is necessary to address the health inequalities that affect communities in Clackmannanshire. Across Scotland, people living in the most deprived communities tend to experience poorer health outcomes and die earlier than those living in the most affluent communities. Furthermore, this burden of ill health borne by the poorest communities tends to be mirrored by an unfair burden of environmental degradation which also affects the poorest communities much more than the most affluent.

In 2008, 91% of people surveyed in Clackmannanshire said that they thought their local neighbourhood was a good place to live; however, only 58% agreed that their local area is a clean and tidy place to live. Research suggests that people in Clackmannanshire are most concerned about noise, unkempt gardens, dumping rubbish, dog fouling, threatening behaviour by large groups, abandoned vehicles and vandalism. Addressing these problems, and other antisocial behaviour, will have a great effect on people's quality of life. Work on community safety in Clackmannanshire aims to reduce the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour both inside and outside the home; reduce crime; and make the public environment safer and more attractive.

Sustainable communities also depend on people being able to participate in, and benefit from, economic activity. This means that everyone needs to have the necessary skills and confidence to make the most of opportunities: there needs to be a range of both jobs and training; a strong business community; job creation which benefits local communities; and attractive, accessible town centres. Building the local economy in a way that benefits communities and doesn't damage the environment is a key to fostering sustainable communities for Clackmannanshire.

### ***What Can We Do About It?***

Work is already being carried out by Clackmannanshire's Community Planning Partnership, the Clackmannanshire Alliance, to make Clackmannanshire's communities more sustainable. Through the Clackmannanshire Community Plan, it is committed to taking action to enhance the quality of life for everyone in the county. The Community Plan has four interlinked themes: health improvement; community safety; economic development; and environment.

The Clackmannanshire Community Health Partnership's Joint Health Improvement Plan aims to improve the health of people in Clackmannanshire and to reduce health inequalities of those living in the most deprived areas. A new community hospital is being built in Alloa, which will provide a range of inpatient, community health and social care services. Social Services will be co-located in the community hospital and this will streamline services and promote joint working.

The Clackmannanshire Antisocial Behaviour Strategy, *Combating Antisocial Behaviour Together*, was updated in 2006 and contains a number of actions to reduce antisocial behaviour and its effects: increasing the proportion of residents who feel that they live in a clean, attractive and pleasant neighbourhood; decreasing the proportion of residents who perceive antisocial behaviour to be a problem in their neighbourhood and increasing the proportion of residents who feel that Clackmannanshire is a safe place to live and bring up children; taking prompt and effective action against antisocial behaviour; increasing the proportion of victims satisfied with the service provided and who believe that an appropriate outcome was achieved; and taking a proactive approach to tackling factors which could contribute to the incidence of antisocial behaviour. Antisocial behaviour is one part of the work of the Clackmannanshire Community Safety Partnership, which focuses on safety in the home, in communities and on roads, in order to: reduce crime; reduce fear of crime and antisocial behaviour; and make the public environment safer and more attractive.

The Economic Development Strategy, *Building Clackmannanshire*, has four priorities for action: building enterprise, building skills, building connections and building confidence. The aims of the Economic Development Strategy are to: increase the number of jobs in Clackmannanshire and to widen the range and enhance the quality of those jobs; equip Clackmannanshire's people to create and compete for jobs – locally and further afield; and create an environment and culture within which enterprise can flourish. The challenge is to achieve this without adversely affecting Clackmannanshire's environment while improving quality of life for all. There has already been progress in balancing these priorities: Clackmannanshire has some strong, successful social enterprises and a growing green jobs sector, which are key not just for providing jobs and training, but also for providing services to the public.

Clackmannanshire Council Housing Services have carried out sustainability studies for communities in Sauchie, Alloa Bowmar, Tullibody Newmills and Alva (See Chapter 1). Considerable work is being undertaken to improve the Council housing stock, reduce fuel poverty and tackle homelessness. However, rapidly rising fuel prices threaten to increase the number of families living in fuel poverty in Clackmannanshire (see Chapter 2).



Clackmannanshire Alliance’s Environment Theme Team has produced a draft Framework containing a number of initiatives which aim to support the delivery and development of sustainable communities. These include specific action areas for town centre regeneration, encouraging sustainable transport, protecting and enhancing greenspace, environmental education and eco-building.

There are a number of projects that the Council supports that contribute to making communities more sustainable, including the Clackmannanshire Green Map Initiative, which maps the environmental and other features that are important to communities; and Community Maintenance and Environmental Enterprise (C-MEE), a not-for-profit organisation which carries out gardening, decorating and small repairs for people who are unable to carry out the work themselves. These projects, and many others like them, not only contribute to strengthening links within communities, but also strengthening links between communities and the natural environment.

One way of measuring the success of these actions is through the New Economics Foundation’s “Happy Planet Index” (HPI), which measures the ecological efficiency with which people achieve satisfying lives: that is, how long and happy people’s lives are, and what the environmental impact of those lives is. It takes into account life expectancy, life satisfaction and ecological footprint (See Chapter 7): that is, what goes in (natural resources) and what comes out (human lives of differing length and happiness). The New Economics Foundation has calculated the UK’s HPI score as being 108th in the world, suggesting that the way we deliver well-being is grossly inefficient. The HPI report also confirms that, beyond a certain level of development, well-being is not linked to GDP. It is likely that Clackmannanshire’s HPI would be below the average for the UK because of its pockets of deprivation and health inequalities, although its ecological footprint is currently below the Scottish average. Recognising that well-being and good quality of life are the reason for working towards sustainable communities, the Council will investigate the possibility of working with the New Economics Foundation to develop an HPI-style indicator for Clackmannanshire which will help measure our success in improving our performance.

### *Strategic Indicators for Sustainable Communities*

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Improve quality of life in Clackmannanshire	HPI	Exceed UK average	Work with NEF to develop an HPI-style indicator for Clackmannanshire by June 2009
	Satisfaction with Clackmannanshire	Percentage of all residents satisfied with Clackmannanshire as a place to live target not yet set]	Work with the Clackmannanshire Alliance to improve quality of life

## Priority C: Living within Environmental Limits: Sustainable Consumption and Production

### *Introduction*

A primary challenge for Clackmannanshire is to rebuild its economy and secure its future prosperity. Given the considerable impact of structural economic decline over the past few decades, and accompanying extensive job losses, Clackmannanshire has made remarkable strides towards economic revival. Signs of regeneration are evident through the area, from the arrival of new employment in business areas such as Alloa West and Dumyat to the renewal and revitalisation of Alloa Town Centre and the remarkable increase in migration into Clackmannanshire. However, incomes remain below and unemployment remains above the Scottish average. Economic and physical regeneration will thus remain a priority for the Council and, as the economy continues to improve, it will be vital to ensure that growth enables us to meet social needs and does not come at an unacceptable cost to the local or global environment.

### *The Real Cost of Consumption and Production*

In common with the rest of the developed world, Clackmannanshire is enjoying increasing prosperity which is allowing many people to enjoy the benefits of goods and services that would previously have been beyond their reach. The Scottish Sustainability Strategy – “Choosing our Future” – recognises that a decent level of income, a good job, and the opportunity to progress are all important contributors to a better quality of life. However, it also points out that once countries have reached a certain level of development there is only a weak link between further increases in income and happiness (See Priority B). Rapidly increasing affluence can create its own problems – such as depletion of natural resources, environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity – all of which have a negative impact on quality of life. The key to addressing this problem is to establish the “carrying capacity” or limits of our environment to accept new development and ensure that these limits are not breached. Living beyond our environmental means will not only place our economic prosperity in jeopardy and undermine our quality of life but could destroy the ecological systems on which we depend for life.



In recent years, increasing affluence, competitive production and transport costs and rapidly developing technology have driven a trend of increasing consumption and production. While production processes have become more efficient, increased demand and transport of goods has generally outstripped reduced energy used in production. We are gradually learning that our current patterns of increasing demand and energy use are unsustainable. Fuel costs are now rising rapidly as demand escalates in developing countries such as India and China, increasing competition for vital natural resources. Reports such as that by the Stern Committee (see page 14) have highlighted that environmental impacts, particularly the threat of the damaging impacts of climate change, will have major implications for the economy if not urgently and effectively addressed.

Concern over the environmental consequences of global trade is increasing. The largest single contributor to the average consumer's carbon footprint is derived from the food that they eat, which may have circumnavigated the globe before finally arriving on their dinner table. Manufactured goods are increasingly imported from overseas countries with lower labour costs but at significant environmental cost due to air, shipping and road haulage over vast distances. These trends present a challenge in attempting to achieve the central aim of sustainable consumption and production – achieving more with less. "Less" in this context means the whole life cost of a product – while a product may appear financially cheap this may mask the fact that it comes at a very high social and/or environmental cost. The Council has begun to recognise this by beginning to move towards sourcing fairly traded products which take account of the social conditions of producers, and pursuing responsible purchasing which considers the social and environmental dimensions of purchasing decisions and favours more locally sourced goods wherever possible.

## *Living Within Our Means*

Current patterns of consumption and production in the developed world could not be replicated worldwide without overwhelming the carrying capacity of the environment, impacting on natural resource availability and biodiversity, and resulting in loss of quality of life. The sustainability of these patterns can be measured through "ecological footprinting". An ecological footprint is a measure of the area of biologically productive land and sea needed to regenerate the resources consumed by humans and absorb wastes produced, expressed in "global hectares". WWF have calculated that if everyone on the planet consumed resources at the Scottish rate then three planets would be needed to satisfy our requirements. The largest and fastest growing pressures on our environment come from areas such as energy and water consumption, food consumption, transport and tourism. Clackmannanshire's ecological footprint is close to the Scottish average at 5.08 global hectares per person (2001), and the challenge is to maintain the economic resurgence of the area while stabilising this footprint and then moving towards its reduction. Achieving this will enable us to demonstrate that we are effectively contributing to the international, European, UK and Scottish goal of ensuring that economic growth can be achieved without undermining the environmental resources on which it is dependent. Ecological footprinting is an important means of enabling us to check whether economic prosperity is being delivered sustainably, within our environmental limits. The HPI measure enables us to also assess whether greater economic prosperity is successfully delivering improved quality of life.

The Scottish Government has recognised the importance of local authorities in leading the way towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production. The Council has already taken a lead in working towards more sustainable patterns of consumption through the development of a Carbon Management Programme, in association with the Carbon Trust (See Chapter 2), and is developing a Travel Plan (See Chapter 4) and Procurement Strategy (See Chapter 6) which will, together with this Strategy, set a framework for achieving improved performance in addressing social and environmental objectives in our decisions. Further work will also be undertaken to consider how waste reduction objectives can be successfully achieved.



The Scottish Government's National Performance Framework emphasises the need for ambitious reductions in our carbon emissions, along with reducing the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production. This will be achieved through a national indicator which seeks to reduce our ecological footprint. The Council has reflected this objective in its own Single Outcome Agreement to be agreed with the Scottish Government and will take action to fully contribute to this important national outcome.

To build on the Council's new Carbon Management Programme initiative, the Council will **develop an ecological and carbon footprint for both the local authority itself and for Clackmannanshire as a whole**. This project, which will be assisted by WWF and the Sustainable Scotland Network, will commence in October 2008. It will develop detailed baseline information to enable us to see in detail how we can behave more sustainably and how policy and behavioural changes can most effectively enable us to contribute to national and local outcomes to address unsustainable patterns of consumption and deliver greater social and environmental benefits.

However, we will only succeed in reducing our footprint if the social and cultural values underlying people's aspirations and choices are revised to accommodate the realities of environmental limitations and social constraints. Efforts will therefore be made to raise awareness, for example through publicity campaigns which focus on the multiple environmental, social and financial benefits of fully considering the full range of likely impacts of our decisions and actions. The Council must lead in achieving this culture change, both by championing change within the organisation and by influencing and encouraging others, but we all have a role to play in making sure we live within our environmental limits, whether as a business, agency, community or individual.

### *Strategic Indicator for Sustainable Consumption and Production*

Reduce material consumption	Stabilise, then reduce ecological footprint in the Council and in Clackmannanshire as a whole	Detailed baselines and targets will be set out in Clackmannanshire Ecological Footprint Report (May 2009)	Detailed Clackmannanshire Ecological Footprint Report by May 2009

# Priority D: Protecting our Natural Resources and Enhancing our Environment

## Introduction

There is increasing concern that our natural heritage is under threat and that many species are gradually disappearing from our towns and countryside. While this is a global phenomenon, it is also a concern here in Clackmannanshire. Unless we are proactive in conserving and enhancing habitats then it is likely that this decline will continue.

The Council has an important role through its statutory duty as planning authority to protect the natural heritage and enhance the environment. It also has a statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity. The Council places strong emphasis on this responsibility, jointly funding a Biodiversity Co-ordinator with Scottish Natural Heritage who is involved in a range of proactive projects to protect and enhance biodiversity in Clackmannanshire. The Council recognises that this not only benefits the environment of Clackmannanshire, but is also of substantial value in educational, social and economic terms.

The Council's Services also have a responsibility to maintain their own property interests in a sustainable way. For example, we are currently undertaking a project, jointly funded with Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage, to improve management of, and access to, a number of Council-owned woodlands. Improving the environmental management of our own land and buildings through an environmental management framework offers the potential for a systematic assessment of our natural heritage resource and what improvements can be made.

## Why This Matters

Natural resources provide ecological services which can be described as falling into four distinct categories:

The quality of **environmental media** such as the soil, air and water are of critical importance to our wellbeing. To lead healthy and fulfilling lives we are reliant on good air quality, supplies of clean water, and uncontaminated food with high nutrient content. These are biological resources on which we all depend.

**Raw materials** such as minerals and biomass resources are important sources of energy to drive our economy and provide the goods on which we all depend. Sand, gravel, stone and fossil fuels are non-renewable fuels which, once used, cannot be replenished on a human timescale. Biomass is renewable within a human timeframe, whether "quickly renewable" like agricultural crops, or "slowly renewable" like trees. The carbon dioxide emitted by burning organic fuels can be recaptured by growing replacement crops and trees. However, biomass energy is a net source of greenhouse gases as materials need to be hauled from field or forest to a power generating station, heating boiler, etc. Increasing reliance on biomass can also displace food crops, leading to increasing food costs and over-reliance on imported food which adds to greenhouse gas emissions.



**Flow resources** such as wind, tidal and solar energy cannot be depleted and are therefore more purely renewable, but they do require other resources in order to be exploited. Energy (often from fossil fuel sources), materials and space (often in areas of high landscape value in the case of wind energy), are needed to build turbines and panels to capture solar energy.

**Biological resources** include the ecosystems, species and genetic information on which our economy and society depends. We need a rich biological diversity or “biodiversity” of plant, animal and other species to maintain the life-sustaining systems of the earth. The health of these systems is vital to provide us with the good quality air, food and water we need as well as many of the medicines on which we depend. It also provides greenspace which is essential to our physical and mental wellbeing and an outdoor classroom which provides the invaluable opportunity for children and adults to experience nature and become involved in outdoor projects. A diverse natural landscape can support a rich biodiversity, improving the quality of life for those who live in and near it and playing an important part in attracting new businesses and employment to the area.

Good management of our natural environment is also of considerable importance in reducing our contribution to climate change and successfully adapting to its inevitable impacts. For example, woodland plays an important role in absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and trees also have a major influence on reducing the potential for landslips and flooding.

The built heritage of our settlements and countryside contributes to the distinctive character of Clackmannanshire and helps define our history and sense of identity. This physical historical legacy is protected through legislation and the Council, and Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust with whom it works in partnership, are committed to conserving and enhancing this legacy for the future.

## *Land Use Planning*

Protection of the natural heritage and environmental enhancement are core objectives of the Council’s Development Plan. The Clackmannanshire and Stirling Structure Plan 2002 has the stated objective of protecting and enhancing the diversity and distinctiveness of the natural and built environment of Clackmannanshire, creating quality environments now and for the benefit of future generations, and adopting a precautionary approach where there is uncertainty about the ability of the environment to accommodate change. Development can also be an important agent in enabling environmental conservation and enhancement which could not otherwise have taken place, for example through sustainable drainage schemes, improvement of wildlife habitat and community woodland initiatives. The Development Plan also provides a framework to protect landscape quality and green belt areas, and manage development with particular impacts on the environment and natural heritage – such as opencast coal working and aggregate quarrying, waste management and wind energy developments. The Council’s Sustainable Construction and Design Guidelines will also provide for a considerable improvement in capturing the potential of new development to contribute to protecting the natural heritage and promote environmental enhancement. The Council is currently working with developers in two major potential development areas to translate the Guidance principles into practice.





## ***Practical Steps to Conserve and Enhance our Environment***

The Council has a statutory duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2005 to further the conservation of biodiversity. The Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Action Plan was completed in 2004 and provides the basis for ensuring that Clackmannanshire's biodiversity is conserved and enhanced. We will review and revise the Plan during the latter part of 2008. The decision to revise the Action Plan and renew our commitment to biodiversity reflects the Council's appreciation that maintaining a healthy local biodiversity is not only ecologically, aesthetically and culturally important, but also an economic imperative. Forestry, fishing, farming and tourism all rely on healthy ecosystems and biodiversity for their success, and it plays a vital part in increasingly important climate change adaptation measures such as sustainable food management.

The built heritage has become an increasingly important focus for the Council in recent years. The regeneration of Alloa Town Centre, including the restoration of Alloa Tower, has illustrated what can be achieved through successful partnership working. We will continue to work with the Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust to build on past achievements while also giving priority to a programme to conserve and enhance our conservation areas.

One of Clackmannanshire's most striking assets is its diverse landscape. The two Areas of Great Landscape Value (Ochil Hills and Forest) benefit from a special level of protection through land-use planning policy.

The Council, with partners, submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Landscape Partnership for the Ochils area in April 2008 (with a decision expected in October 2008). The partnership seeks to promote social, economic and environmental sustainability through conserving the built and natural features that create the historic character of the landscape; conserve and celebrate the cultural associations and activities of the landscape areas; encourage more

people to access, learn about, become involved in and make decisions on their landscape heritage; and improve understanding of local craft and other skills by providing training opportunities.

There are many other ways in which the Council works to conserve and enhance Clackmannanshire's environment. For example, the Council is at an advanced stage in preparing its Greenspace Strategy providing a strategic vision and framework for the provision, regeneration, development and maintenance of open space in Clackmannanshire. The appointment of a partnership-funded Woodlands and Greenspace Officer in 2007 has also enabled the Council to start work to bring the 80% of Clackmannanshire's woodland which is not in favourable condition back into active management, as well as increasing the area of urban woodland, improving woodland recreation opportunities near cities and towns and providing opportunities for communities to become more involved in the management of their local woods.

## ***Working in Partnership***

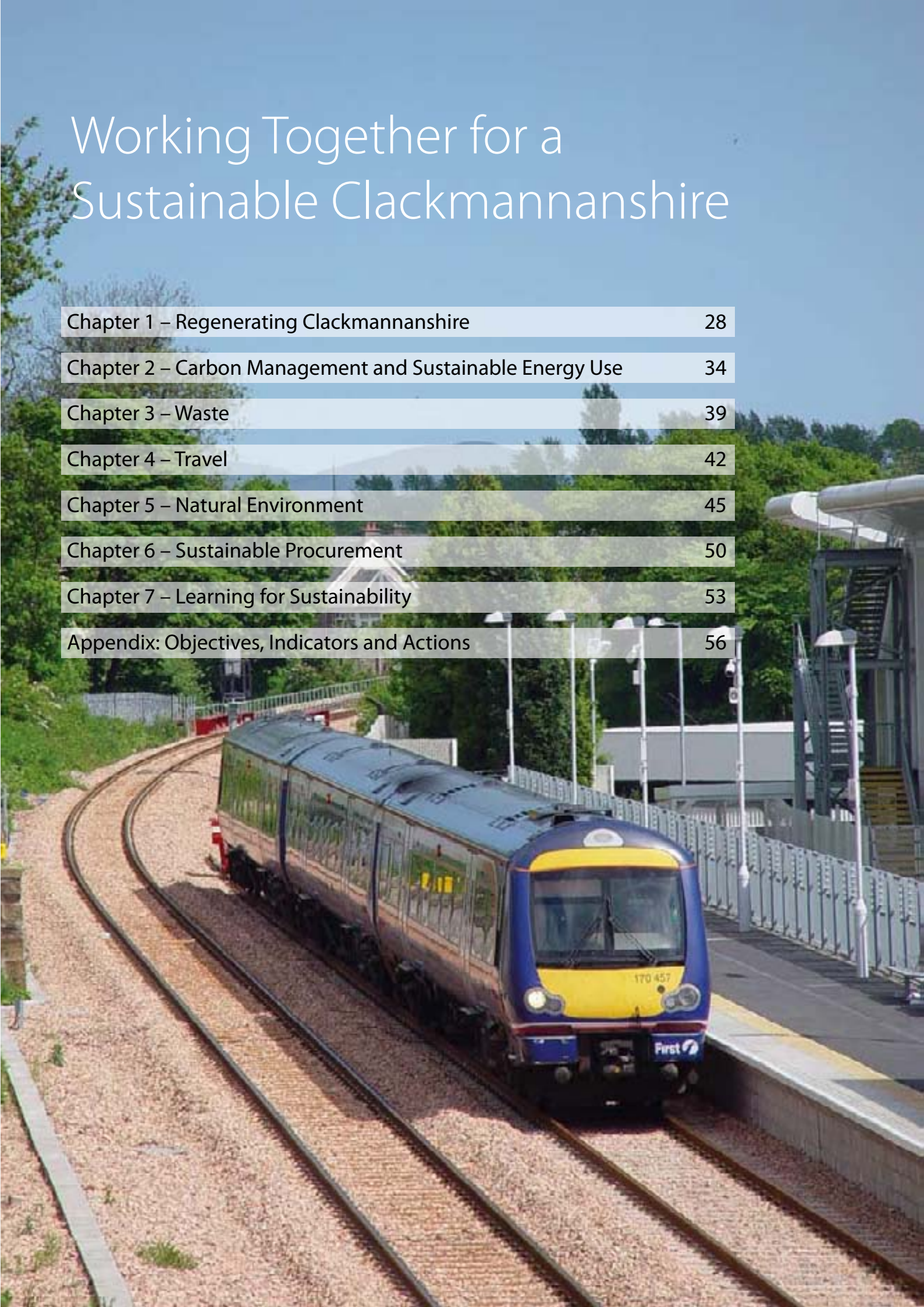
The Council recognises that the transition to a more environmentally sustainable way of life demands that it works in partnership with other parts of the public sector, the private sector, community, individuals and those with a special understanding and knowledge of their own areas of interest. This will be primarily achieved through the Clackmannanshire Alliance. The Council therefore places emphasis on working with its partners, primarily through the Clackmannanshire Alliance (see page 19). The Alliance's Environment Theme Team's first strategic framework will provide the foundation for improving the co-ordination and integration of work on environmental conservation and enhancement in the future. This will build on the many successes which have been achieved so far by partnership working through the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership and the Access Forum (See Chapter 5), and the Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust (See Chapter 1). The Council is currently considering how this partnership approach can be developed and strengthened.

## ***Strategic Indicator for Natural Resources and Environment***

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Protect and improve water resources	Water quality	Good Water Status (Water Framework Directive)

# Working Together for a Sustainable Clackmannanshire

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### *Introduction*

There are strong signals that the revival of Clackmannanshire is well under way – the area now has the fastest rate of housing growth in Scotland and the second highest rate of population growth. Between 2001 and 2006, Clackmannanshire had the third fastest economic growth rate in Scotland, exceeded only by Aberdeenshire and West Lothian. Growth in retail floorspace has also been rapid in recent years and there is a healthy demand from business for new premises. Although unemployment remains comparatively high in Scottish terms, it is falling steadily as new employers have moved into the area and employment opportunities have increased. The re-opening of the Stirling-Alloa-Kinross rail line to passenger and freight services and the opening of the new Upper Forth Crossing during 2008 will greatly improve accessibility to Clackmannanshire, bringing it within an hour of Glasgow by direct rail service and within 45 minutes' drive of Edinburgh, further helping to boost the economy and opening up new employment opportunities for the area's residents.

Clackmannanshire Council, together with our community planning partners, is determined to build on the benefits of this new infrastructure and the growing interest in the area as a location for both homes and business. Clackmannanshire's growing economy will contribute to the Scottish Government's Purpose Target of raising the GDP growth rate to the UK level by 2011 and matching the growth rate of small independent EU countries by 2017.

However, the Council recognises that economic growth can only be considered successful if it genuinely improves quality of life, and if the benefits of economic growth are felt across all sections of society, reducing inequality and improving opportunity for all.

The Strategy is therefore focused on contributing to the Government's Strategic Objectives for creating sustainable communities: living longer, healthier lives; tackling the significant inequalities in Scottish society; improving life chances for children, young people and families at risk; living our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger; and building stronger, more resilient and supportive communities. Regeneration needs to be undertaken as sustainably as possible, to ensure that it meets the Government goal to reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production, and is sensitive to the need to adapt to climate change, ensuring that the improvement in economic conditions and quality of life is sustained rather than temporary. Equally, regeneration should contribute to the protection of our natural resources and contribute to the enhancement of our environment.

Many of the actions in this chapter will be implemented through the Clackmannanshire Community Plan, which is under review as at July 2008. The revised Plan will reflect the need for the Clackmannanshire Alliance to contribute to the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework through its own Single Outcome Agreement with Government. The chapter will be updated in the Final version of this Strategy to reflect the emerging consensus on the new Community Planning priorities relating to community regeneration in Clackmannanshire.

### *Why This Matters*

The Council's own Corporate Plan and Single Outcome Agreement with Government reflect the Government's commitment to "increasing sustainable economic growth" so that we can match the economic performance of the UK as a whole. A healthy economy has the potential to provide the foundation for a healthier and happier society, enabling us to generate higher levels of income to support improved services, which can, for example, allow us to deliver improved educational opportunities, and to protect and enhance our environment.



The main purpose of economic development is to deliver a better quality of life for all of Clackmannanshire's citizens. It is important to ensure that economic benefit is shared equitably and that significant inequalities in opportunity are challenged. The Council is therefore working with its community planning partners to address unemployment and pockets of persistent deprivation. Regeneration efforts are therefore particularly focused on closing the opportunities gap and the three year Regeneration Outcome Agreement agreed between Clackmannanshire Council and the former Communities Scotland, which concluded in March 2008, achieved success in improving community safety, opening up new employment and training opportunities and improving health in some of Clackmannanshire's most deprived areas.

The Clackmannanshire Development Plan, Local Housing Strategy, and Town Centre Regeneration Strategies, as well as the revised Community Plan, will maintain the momentum towards economic development, reducing inequalities and promoting regeneration.

However, it is also recognised that economic growth can conflict with important social and environmental benefits. It is important that human well-being is delivered as ecologically efficiently as possible. This means ensuring that our carbon emissions are minimised while economic development is sustained – this is what we mean by “sustainable economic growth”. In an environment of rapidly increasing energy and resource costs and increasing risk of catastrophic climate change anything less would be unsustainable (See Chapter 6). The Happy Planet Index (HPI) and ecological footprinting (See Introduction, Priority B, and Priority C) are important measures of our success in delivering improvements in quality of life for the people of Clackmannanshire at least environmental cost.

Regeneration also depends on the right environmental conditions. The Council has made major strides in removing the dereliction and associated problems such as land contamination that emerged from the decline and closure of manufacturing industry. Although considerable achievements have been made in regenerating Clackmannanshire's town centres and former industrial sites, much remains to be done to ensure that degraded former industrial sites are reclaimed and revitalised.

The Council is also taking action to ensure that new development meets higher standards in terms of energy efficiency and to encourage the use of renewable energy, particularly at domestic and community scale. An emphasis on energy efficiency, decentralised energy and renewables can have both environmental and economic benefits and this therefore has an important role to play in regeneration (See Chapter 2).

## *The Growth of Green Jobs*

Clackmannanshire is well placed to build on the growth in the environmental and waste management business sector in the UK and the Council recognises the considerable potential of this sector to contribute to both sustainability and regeneration objectives. The potential of community business in this sector is demonstrated by the success of Alloa Community Enterprises, operating a highly successful waste management and recycling business which is expanding its operations across Scotland while boosting employment, increasing environmental awareness and returning profits to support the social needs of the communities in which it operates. O-I Manufacturing's glass works in Alloa, one of Clackmannanshire's major employers, has a growing glass recycling business with a capability to re-process 100,000 tonnes of used glass from across Scotland every year. Clackmannanshire is also home to Oran Group, a market leader in waste management technologies such as co-composting and materials recovery and recycling. From this base, Clackmannanshire Council will seek to increase the representation of the expanding environmental sector.





### ***Actions for Improvement: Economic Development***

The Clackmannanshire Alliance is revising the Economic Framework for Clackmannanshire (as at July 2008) which sets out its economic development priorities. Clackmannanshire's economic development strategy will reflect the Government's commitment to sustainable economic growth and support the national aim of raising GDP growth.

In April 2008, Clackmannanshire's businesses voted in favour of creating Scotland's first business park Business Improvement District (BID), a decision that has been welcomed by the Scottish Government. The Clackmannanshire BID is the first commercial BID in Scotland, the first county-wide BID and the first commercial BID in the UK to involve property owners in the BID strategy. The creation of the District has been co-ordinated by Clackmannanshire Business – a Council-supported project focused on creating successful partnerships between local business, the Council and other key stakeholders. The BID will enable local businesses to invest collectively in extra improvements – in the case of our first BID the main improvements will involve signage, joint procurement of services and energy management and waste support services. BIDs have been highly successful elsewhere in boosting economic development and meeting regeneration objectives. Alloa Town Centre will be Clackmannanshire's second proposed BID and form a key element in the drive to re-generate the town centre and continue its revitalisation.

### ***Actions for Improvement: Sustainable Communities***

Regeneration is about transforming underperforming places and communities: in order for Clackmannanshire to develop sustainably it needs to have thriving and healthy communities, giving people a sense of pride and connection to where they live. Putting people at the heart of regeneration helps to combat social exclusion, strengthen community spirit and encourage equitable economic development. The Council supports the Scottish Government's strategic objectives to boost education and training; support young people to be more successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens; give children the best start in life and ensure they are ready to succeed; tackle significant inequalities in society; and improve life chances for children, young people and families at risk. These objectives are reflected in the Council's own Single Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government. The Council, with its community planning partners, will work towards the national goal of achieving strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

Considerable progress has already been made in tackling social deprivation and significant health and economic inequality in the Council's most deprived areas in recent years. This has included housing renewal and improvement in areas such as Newmills, Tullibody and Bowmar, Alloa, with the Council's improvements capital programme rising from £1.2 million in 2003/04 to £9 million in 2008/09; over £27 million will be spent on housing improvements in the three years to March 2009. The Council's Local Housing Strategy 2004-09 is committed to improving the quality of both social and private housing in Clackmannanshire. The Council has agreed an objective of eradicating fuel poverty – defined as households spending more than 10% of their income to achieve an adequate standard of warmth. However, rapidly rising fuel prices are now not only frustrating the achievement of this objective, but threatening to increase the number of households facing fuel poverty. Increased emphasis will therefore be placed on tackling fuel poverty by improving the quality of the housing stock through, for example, improved thermal insulation and investing in more efficient modern heating systems.

A number of sustainability studies for communities in Alloa, Alva, Sauchie and Tullibody will provide the foundation for delivering more sustainable communities in these areas. The emerging masterplan for the Alloa Bowmar area, being prepared in close consultation with community planning partners, will provide a framework for the improvement of one of Clackmannanshire's most deprived communities.

### ***Actions for Improvement: Community Safety***

Safety is a vital part of community regeneration: people need to feel that they are safe and free from the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. The Clackmannanshire Community Safety Strategy 2005-08 takes a partnership approach, with the collective vision of the partners being that "public safety is of paramount concern, and everyone has the right to feel safe in their own home". The Strategy has three key themes: safety in the home; safety in our communities; and safety on our roads. Its priorities are strongly linked to community regeneration themes: diverting young people away from crime and antisocial behaviour, and reducing the fear of crime; supporting the victims of crime; and improving fire and home safety.

### ***Actions for Improvement: Built Heritage***

Clackmannanshire's rich built heritage is an important aspect of its environmental character and identity, and contributes to both quality of life and the potential for encouraging economic development. The health and vitality of our town centres is particularly important and the Council has therefore commissioned initial studies analysing the strengths, weaknesses and general amenity of Alloa, Alva, Dollar and Clackmannan town centres to help inform proposals for regeneration. Appraisals of Clackmannanshire's seven conservation areas are also under way, with Muckhart due for completion in Summer 2008 and Dollar and Clackmannan to be completed by the end of 2008. Appraisals of the other conservation areas, along with work to implement the recommendations of the Appraisals, will follow.

Positive reuse of buildings and structures is important for their improvement and future maintenance: an example of this is the recent renovation of the scheduled Tullibody Auld Brig as part of the National Cycle Network route linking Alloa and Stirling. The Council also supports the Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust, which following the successful renovation of Alloa Tower has restored the Johnstone Mausoleum in Alva and supported archaeological works at Sauchie Tower. The Trust is currently considering possible projects related to the Auld Kirk at Tullibody, the Ice House at Alva Woodland Park and the future of Sauchie Tower.

The Council bid for Landscape Partnership funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund includes proposals for a range of built heritage projects in the Hillfoots area.





**Objectives and Indicators – Regenerating Clackmannanshire:  
Achieve sustainable economic development**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
Business start-ups	To be developed	Support local business through the management of the Business Gateway and involvement in Clackmannanshire Business
Business survival rates		

**Objectives and Indicators – Regenerating Clackmannanshire:  
Target skills & training and reduce unemployment**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
Increase proportion of school leavers going into employment, education or training	To be developed	

**Objectives and Indicators – Regenerating Clackmannanshire:  
Reduce social exclusion and improve housing stock**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
Affordable homes as a proportion of total new housebuild	Target figure of 25% will be sought on new housing developments	Implement Development Plan policy on affordable homes
Increase the proportion of social housing (including Council housing) in Clackmannanshire attaining or exceeding the Scottish Housing Quality Standard	80% to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2011 (Council Housing)	Implement Standard Delivery Plan Invest in heating systems and thermal insulation
Increase the proportion of privately owned or rented housing attaining or exceeding the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2009	Improve the number meeting the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (currently 31% - target to be developed)	Implement Housing (Scotland) Act 2006
Number of people accessing energy efficiency information	To be developed	Implement Fuel Poverty Strategy

**Objectives and Indicators – Regenerating Clackmannanshire:  
Reduce health inequalities**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
Meet Joint Health Improvement Plan targets	See Joint Health Improvement Plan	Support the work of the Clackmannanshire Community Health Partnership
Health promoting schools	100% of schools to be health promoting schools	

**Objectives and Indicators – Regenerating Clackmannanshire:  
Regenerate Clackmannanshire’s town centres**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
Reduce the number of void retail units	[To be determined]	Promote and develop a Business Improvement District for Alloa town centre
		Develop a strategy for Town Centre Improvement by December 2008
		Implement the recommendations of the Small Town Studies for Clackmannanshire’s town centres

**Objectives and Indicators – Regenerating Clackmannanshire:  
Conserve Clackmannanshire’s built heritage**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
		Complete Conservation Area Appraisals for all of Clackmannanshire’s conservation areas by May 2009



### Introduction

The use of energy has major implications for environmental sustainability and its efficient use can play an important part in economic efficiency, helping to give business a competitive edge and reducing financial cost in the public sector. Clackmannanshire Council is striving to take the lead in improving its own carbon management as an important initial step towards improving its overall environmental performance. In April 2008, the Council completed its Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan which provides a five year roadmap for the implementation of a new and ambitious Carbon Management Programme.

The Council also has a pivotal role to play in ensuring that new development is as sustainable as possible. An appropriate pattern of new development, its location, quality and method of construction are all essential to the delivery of low carbon, more energy efficient lifestyles and more energy-competitive businesses. Working towards sustainable development is the core aim of the Clackmannanshire Development Plan and this has been applied through initiatives such as the successful redevelopment of vacant and derelict land – helping to maintain energy-efficient urban development densities – the reconnection of Alloa to the national passenger rail network in May 2008, and the drive to regenerate Alloa's town centre and bring new local employment to the area, reducing the need to commute out of the area for work. The Council is preparing Sustainable Design and Construction Guidelines which will provide the basis to work with developers to place Clackmannanshire at the forefront of low carbon, high quality development in the future – helping make Clackmannanshire a more desirable, energy efficient and competitive location to live and work.

### Why This Matters

Energy use has a significant impact on **climate change**. The greatest use of energy is in the construction of buildings and their use, and in transport. This Strategy is therefore focused on achieving more efficient energy use in these areas. The energy sector is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland (37% by proportion). If we are to tackle climate change effectively, and adjust to the rapidly rising cost of energy, addressing our energy use must be a priority.

However, actions to adapt to the effects of climate change can contribute further to its effects and we need to guard against this: for example as temperatures increase there will be increased demand for energy-hungry cooling systems. It will be a major challenge to cool our buildings in a way that does not increase energy use and greenhouse gas emissions; conversely, water reduction through rain- and grey-water harvesting can reduce a building's impact, whilst at the same time improving resilience to water shortages.

Reducing our energy use to a level which is consistent with sustainable consumption is also of critical importance at a time of rapidly increasing energy prices. Failure to improve energy efficiency and reduce waste will place an unacceptable cost burden on tax-payers and undermine business efficiency. The energy performance of new and existing buildings will become increasingly important as costs increase and the new EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings will increase the transparency of energy efficiency of domestic as well as business properties, having a direct impact on their value. Ensuring that we use natural resources wisely is an important aspect of Corporate Social Responsibility and of increasing importance to consumers. Providing information on the energy implications of travel, the energy consumption of new electronic equipment, and the "food miles" accrued (and thus energy expended) to transport food from the field to the shop are all of importance in ensuring that we can improve our own energy efficiency as individuals, reducing our contribution to climate change and contributing to more sustainable communities.





<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/>

The Scottish Government has set the ambitious but achievable target of ensuring that all non-domestic buildings are entirely carbon-neutral by 2019 and local authorities have a leading role in ensuring new development conforms to this aim through the planning and building standards systems. The Council is committed to pursuing a transition to a low carbon economy in both its own operations and through assisting business to reduce its energy use and carbon emissions. Success in adapting effectively to rapidly increasing energy and fuel costs will be essential if Clackmannanshire's businesses are to compete effectively. A systematic approach to reducing our carbon footprint is therefore not a choice, it is essential if Clackmannanshire's economic revival is to continue and the area is to prosper.

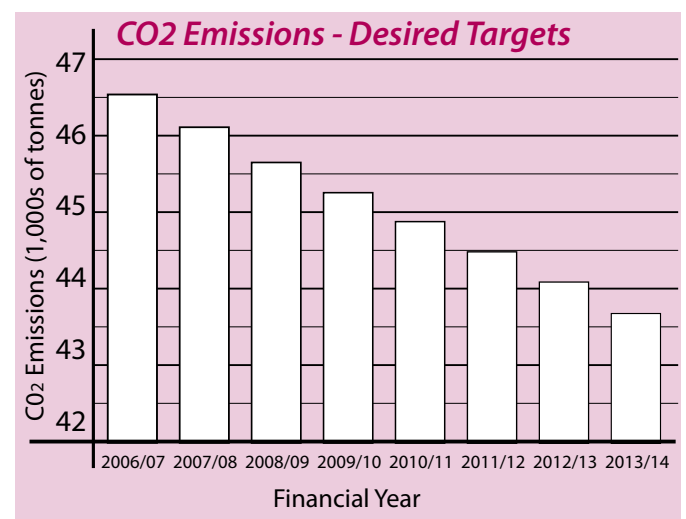
### **Actions for Improvement: The Council**

The Council is strongly placed to take the leading role in promoting and facilitating sustainable energy use in Clackmannanshire. It has assessed its own existing carbon emissions as an initial step towards improving its carbon management and has identified the key areas in which improvements need to be made. 62% of emissions from Council property originate from the housing stock, but public buildings (15%) and travel (11%) are also significant contributors to the Council's carbon footprint. The Council's Carbon Management Programme will build on the significant achievements made already, including double-glazing all of the Council's schools and installing energy-efficient heating systems in the Council's housing stock.

The Programme was established in April 2008 and the implementation of key actions to improve the Council's carbon management will be guided by a Strategy and Implementation Plan. The Plan will assist in implementing the objectives of this Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy. A range of initiatives to drive down energy use and reduce carbon emissions will be implemented across six key areas under Council control: the council's building stock, vehicle fleet, housing estate and street lighting equipment. Additionally, waste minimisation, reduction of waste sent to landfill, emissions capture and reducing the emissions contributed by employee travel all have an important role to play in reducing our carbon footprint. The forthcoming Travel Plan and (see Chapter 4) will also have an important role to play in contributing to the emissions reduction objectives of the Carbon Management Programme and this Strategy.

The Strategy and Implementation Plan has an overall target to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions within the Council by 15% of 2007/08 levels by 2012.

Given the significant progress already achieved in reducing energy waste in the Council, and the increasing marginal cost of achieving energy efficiency as most low cost-high benefit initiatives have been implemented, this represents an ambitious target. Progress will be supported through the introduction of an Environmental Procurement Policy (as an integral aspect of the Council's emerging Procurement Strategy), the Travel Plan, a Sustainability Communications Strategy to be co-ordinated by the Council's Sustainability Team and funding requirements which have been identified in the Strategy & Implementation Plan. Water treatment and pumping is also a heavy user of energy and action will be taken to reduce water consumption in the Council.



The Local Housing Strategy also has a key objective of improving energy management in the Council housing stock. Improving energy efficiency in the stock is important to both reduce fuel poverty and improve carbon management. However, it should be noted that the social objective of eradicating fuel poverty (a Local Housing Strategy objective – See Chapter 1) may lead to an overall rise in carbon emissions in the housing stock.

Procurement of goods and services is of key importance in contributing to improved energy management and this is covered in more detail in the Sustainable Procurement Chapter of this Strategy.

While reducing energy waste is a priority for the Council, it is also important that we strive to reduce our carbon emissions and energy costs through increased use of renewable energy. The Council is currently considering the scope for increasing its use of renewables and intends to prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy by the end of 2008.

Clackmannanshire Council will join the **Local Footprints Project**, co-ordinated by WWF, the Stockholm Environment Institute and the Sustainable Scotland Network, in October 2008 (See Priority C). This will look at the contribution of housing, transport, food and consumables to our carbon and ecological footprints, helping to identify the most effective interventions to reduce our consumption, limit our contribution to climate change and improve our energy efficiency. The resulting data will be auditable, help to guide appropriate policy change, and will provide a basis to contribute to the Scottish Government's National Outcome, and the Council's Local Outcome, of "reducing the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production". This, along with strategic environmental assessment, will also assist in meeting the requirements of the system of compliance announced by the Scottish Government to ensure that spending decisions across the range of key portfolios, including housing, climate change, energy and waste, use available techniques to assess the carbon impact of policy options during the appraisal process.

The Council will consider the potential for introducing a framework for improving its environmental performance by Spring 2009. Whether a formal Environmental Management System with accreditation to ISO 14001 or a more informal approach, it is intended that the framework would provide a "next step," enabling the integration of carbon management with other aspects of the Council's operations to achieve a basis for continuous improvement in environmental performance in the future.



### *Actions for Improvement across Clackmannanshire*

A number of initiatives aimed at improving carbon management and energy efficiency have already been introduced in Clackmannanshire. Paragon Housing Association has launched an "eco living" project at Lomond Court, Alloa, which has resulted in the transformation of a derelict house into an energy efficient "green house" by Marshall Construction, boosting regeneration and delivering green energy

The Council itself has undertaken extensive work to improve energy efficiency in its housing stock and schools and during 2007, in conjunction with the Energy Saving Trust, installed a wind turbine and photovoltaic solar panel array to provide energy to the nursery accommodation at Menstrie Primary School. The inclusion of a small weather station will enable all schools in the area, via an internet link, to see how much renewable energy is being produced and to learn more about the practical use of renewables. A similar project operates at Deer Park Primary School and there is potential for further joint energy efficiency-education projects in other schools in Clackmannanshire. There is considerable scope for developing linkages between real action to reduce emissions and improving awareness of renewable energy and energy conservation. For example, we will look at the potential for expanding and developing an operational pilot scheme involving "energy champion children" who have the role of checking that lights and equipment are off and windows closed in their classroom at the end of the school day.

The building standards and land-use planning systems have a crucial role to play in reducing carbon emissions in new development. The new Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 requires that planning authorities must exercise their development planning functions with the objective of contributing to sustainable development. The building standards were updated in 2007 to improve energy efficiency requirements for new development and recent Scottish Government guidance makes it clear that planning authorities are expected to introduce policies to introduce on-site zero- and low-carbon equipment in most new developments – Clackmannanshire Council is working to introduce such policies as soon as possible.

Although the current Clackmannanshire Development Plan is founded on a stated vision of “working towards sustainable development,” it is proposed to take early action to encourage sustainable design and construction in new development in Clackmannanshire. Sustainable Design and Construction Guidelines are being produced with the objectives of improving quality of life, reducing risk for current and future generations, contributing to meeting the challenge of climate change, and contributing to sustainable development. This will be finalised as supplementary planning guidance. In due course, enhanced standards for sustainable design and construction will be introduced through the Local Development Plan, which will commence preparation in 2009.

There are a wide range of other improvements which the Council can achieve through the development planning system and through sustainability-based projects. The layout and pattern of development, availability of safe and convenient active travel and public transport routes, ease of access to facilities on foot and cycle, and encouragement of new business into Clackmannanshire to reduce the need for commuting out of the area to work are all important aspects of achieving patterns of development that can contribute to sustainability objectives. The Council are also working with prospective developers in the Alloa area and Eastern Clackmannanshire to consider the scope for delivering low-carbon developments which will act as exemplars for future development in both Clackmannanshire and across Scotland.





**Objectives and Indicators – Carbon Management and Energy Use: Reduce Council’s carbon footprint and improve energy conservation and efficiency throughout the Council**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
Reduce the Council’s greenhouse gas emissions	Targets set out in the Carbon Management Strategy & Implementation Plan, including headline target of reducing Council carbon footprint by 15% by 2012	Implement the Carbon Management Strategy & Implementation Plan
		Undertake a Green Fleet Review to establish the action that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions from the Council’s own fleet.
		Prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy for the Council by December 2008
Reduce the total water consumption in Council	10% reduction in water use in the Council by 2015 (to be reviewed in Water Reduction Strategy)	Develop a Water Reduction Strategy for the Council

**Objectives and Indicators – Carbon Management and Energy Use: Facilitate and encourage the sustainable design, construction and location of new development**

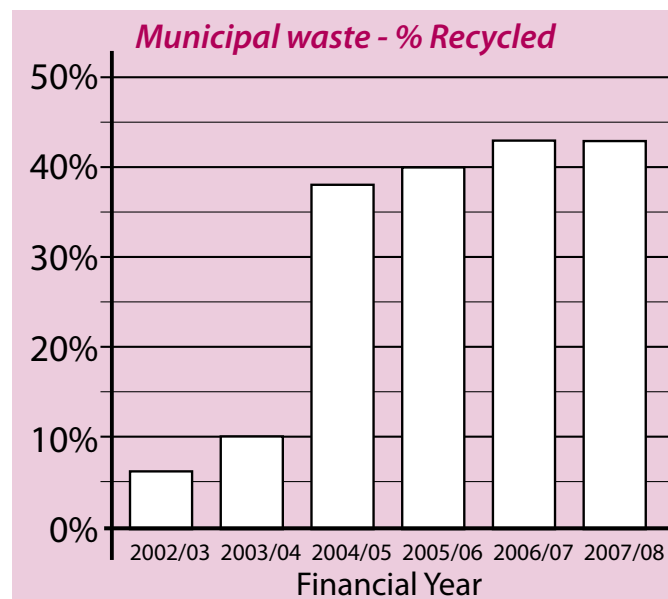
Indicators	Targets	Actions
% of new housing on brownfield land	[To be determined]	
To introduce sustainable design and construction requirements for new developments	Introduction of non-statutory guidelines by December 2008 and statutory Development Plan policies by 2010/11	Implementation of Supplementary Planning Guidance on Sustainable Design and Construction and require reduced carbon emissions in new developments in accordance with Scottish Government guidance. Introduction by December 2008.
		Introduction of new suite of statutory policies to improve energy efficiency and encourage the use of renewable energy in new development in Local Development Plan
		Implement sustainable design and construction principles in major new development at Sauchie and in new settlement in East Clackmannanshire.

### Introduction

The management of waste is important for a number of reasons: waste is the unnecessary use of natural resources; biodegradable waste sent to landfill contributes to climate change by generating methane as it breaks down; and if it is not disposed of safely, waste can adversely affect health, community well-being and water quality.

The EU Landfill Directive requires the diversion of significant amounts of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill: this requirement, among others, led to the development of Scotland's National Waste Plan which promotes the waste hierarchy of avoid, reduce, re-use, recycle and finally safe disposal. Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils, along with SEPA, form the Forth Valley Area Waste Group, which has produced the Forth Valley Area Waste Plan (AWP), the framework for implementing the National Waste Plan in the Forth Valley area. The AWP puts forward targets to be achieved in terms of the treatment and disposal of waste, leading to the Councils co-operating on waste treatment facilities and waste disposal contracts to maximise cost efficiency. The success of this approach is illustrated by the fact that the Group met the AWP target for recycling and composting 34% of waste by 2006 – up from an average of 6% in 2000/01. The AWP also focuses on delivering the physical infrastructure to support waste minimisation and management, as well as ongoing programmes to inform the public of the need to reduce, re-use and recycle their waste.

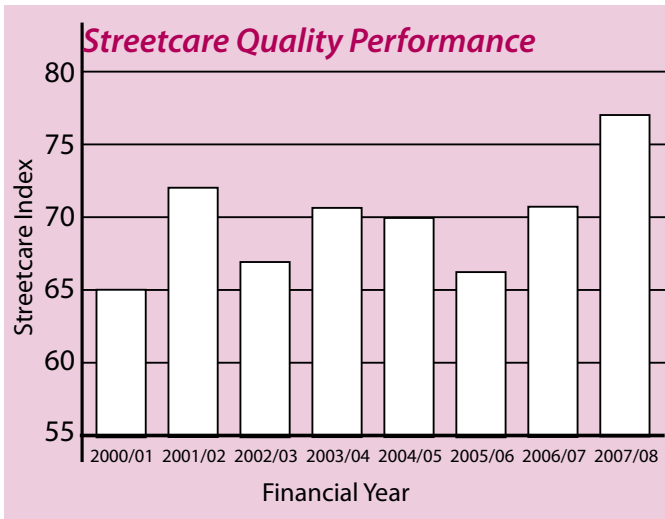
All Councils have had recycling targets set by the Scottish Government in order to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill. Clackmannanshire Council has made excellent progress in waste recycling, consistently exceeding its set target and achieving the highest recycling rate of any authority in Scotland over the last three years, with a domestic recycling rate of 43.6% in 2007/2008 (up from 9.3% in 2003/04).



Source Audit Scotland Performance Indicator - \*provisional data

This has been achieved through strong community support of the Council's kerbside recycling scheme and the provision of a range of recycling sites around Clackmannanshire in association with our local partner Alloa Community Enterprises (ACE) (See Chapter 1). The Recycling and Civic Amenity site at Forthbank, Alloa, has facilities for recycling an extensive range of materials including mattresses, electrical goods and equipment, woods and metals, plastics and batteries, as well as more commonly recycled items such as glass, paper, cardboard and garden waste. A green waste recycling facility is also operated at the Council's nurseries at Glenochil. The recent restructuring of the school meals service with a central kitchen has resulted in less waste being produced, as has the end of the use of disposable cutlery in schools.

Cleanliness of our streets and public spaces is an issue of considerable interest and concern to the community. The Council has agreed to independent assessment of its standards by Keep Scotland Beautiful and the success of our cleansing operation has been reflected in a high satisfaction rating on the part of the public. The Council's Streetcare division is working to continually improve cleanliness. Over the last few years Clackmannanshire Council has moved from second last place out of all 32 local authorities for streetcare to 13th place in 2006/2007, and it achieved its best quality performance so far in 2007/08 (see graph). The Council is committed to improving this performance further.



## Why This Matters

Waste is a significant issue for society in terms of sustainability and climate change. Past attitudes of dumping waste in landfill sites and forgetting about it are no longer acceptable: as awareness of the consequences of this approach has increased, pressure for change has grown.

Good waste management has a key role in mitigating climate change: biodegradable waste that is sent to landfill emits methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Reducing, reusing and recycling waste minimises the amount that is landfilled, and consequently the amount of methane that is emitted. Re-using goods means that there is less of a need to manufacture new items, which means that less energy needs to be used in production and transportation. Similarly, recycling waste to make new products often uses less energy than manufacturing using virgin materials.

Landfill sites can also reduce the amenity of local communities and, despite tight controls, can result in local pollution problems. There have been an increasing number of community campaigns in Scotland in recent years which highlight the conflict between landfill disposal of waste and the objective of creating sustainable communities. Locating new landfill sites in close proximity of homes, schools and communities can raise issues of environmental justice for those affected. Reducing the volume of waste and the need for landfill reduces the potential for these problems and the unnecessary use of land for this purpose, which can impact negatively on natural resources and the natural environment.

More sustainable consumption of resources should in itself reduce the generation of waste and the Council, along with its waste management partners, is now focusing more strongly on how waste can be minimised in the first place.

All of these factors have led society to look closely at waste and waste disposal with EU, UK and Scottish legislation seeking to drive down the volume of waste going to landfill and encouraging recovery of material and energy from waste streams by re-use, recycling, composting and energy production. These are significant strands which are fundamental to achieving the objectives of this Strategy. Litter has a considerable influence on the perception of place, community safety and well-being and the Council is also working to both raise awareness of the damage it can cause to amenity and wildlife, and to remove litter in accordance with its legal obligations.

## Actions for Improvement

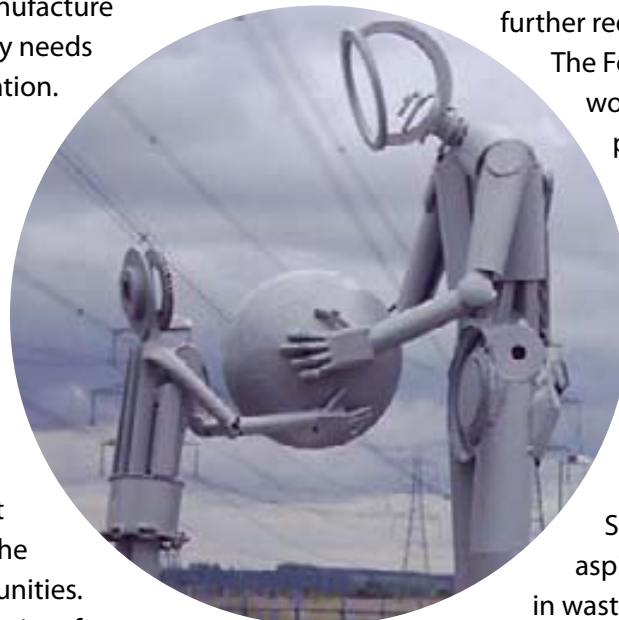
Having achieved Scotland's highest level of waste recycling by proportion, the Council is now examining how our waste management performance can be improved further. The scope for further progress within the constraints of existing collection and recycling systems is limited. The focus will therefore now move towards waste minimisation – reducing the amount of waste arising – as a means of further reducing landfill tonnages.

The Forth Valley Councils are working together to make provision for treatment of residual waste to further reduce landfill tonnages.

The current growth in Clackmannanshire's waste will need to be addressed urgently if we are to meet the Scottish Government's aspiration for no growth in waste by 2010. The

existing growth in waste is partly

attributable to Clackmannanshire having one of the fastest rates of population and household growth in Scotland. The rate of growth is placing pressure on the existing waste collection infrastructure and provides a particular challenge for the Council in achieving stabilisation and reduction of waste arisings, as well





as maintaining the existing high levels of recycling. To help minimise waste and maximise recycling, the Council plans to improve its Development Planning policy to align it more closely with these objectives, while consideration will be given to what steps are necessary to improve and strengthen waste collection infrastructure and encourage waste minimisation, recycling and composting. The Council will give consideration to preparing a framework to encourage waste reduction and to developing and implementing further policies to achieve these objectives.

The Area Waste Group recognises that the most significant waste stream currently contributing to landfill and not being treated for recovery is that of food waste. This type of waste also has a particularly significant impact on greenhouse gas production. The Group will therefore focus on the potential for deploying treatment systems and investigate the potential for producing compost and energy from this waste in the near future.

Increasing public awareness is an important aspect of successfully minimising waste and encouraging recycling and composting. This is an important part of national waste policy and the Council employs an Awareness Officer who is responsible for boosting

public awareness. A waste initiative was introduced into council offices during 2007 which includes recycling collection points throughout the offices – as a result there has been a significant reduction in landfill waste from council offices. The Council's Green Office Working Group is also focusing on waste prevention within the Council as well as the opportunities for re-use and recycling linked to the Council's procurement policies and activities. Council maintenance contracts are being formulated to ensure that contractors take due account of waste issues including waste prevention, use of recycled material, recycling their waste and encouraging minimal waste production. The scope for reducing unnecessary waste from Council activities will be further considered as part of our proposed environmental management framework and through our Environmental Policy (see page 9).

Construction contracts produce significant waste and guidance encourages the production of site waste management plans for large development projects. The Council's emerging Sustainable Design and Construction Guidance will include initiatives which encourage, and policy which promotes, waste minimisation and recycling (see page 34).

### **Objectives and Indicators – Waste: To minimise waste generation**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	No growth in MSW by 2010	Implement Area Waste Plan
		Develop planning policies for waste infrastructure – Local Development Plan to begin Spring 2009
		Promote waste prevention and awareness

### **Objectives and Indicators – Waste: To maximise recycling and composting**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
Municipal Solid Waste	Increase recycling and composting	Implement Area Waste Plan
		Develop Area Waste Plan policies on food waste
		Maintain and grow existing waste management facilities

### **Objectives and Indicators – Waste: To minimise litter**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
Cleanliness index	Increase to 78 in 2008-09; 79 in 2009-10; 80 in 2010-11	Streetcare function overview to maintain/improve annual index
% who think Clackmannanshire is a clean and tidy place to live	[To be determined]	

### Introduction

Clackmannanshire's population is growing and car ownership is increasing at well above the national average. The Council's response to this is to work with its partners and the community to ensure that this does not translate into increasing congestion and deteriorating air quality that could harm the area's environment and economy.

To help achieve this aim, the Council has adopted progressive policies which aim to reduce the need to travel and which favour sustainable modes of transport such as cycling, walking and public transport and enhance travel choices to reduce dependency on the private car. It is intended that this will assist in the reduction of carbon emissions and congestion in Clackmannanshire, to prevent damage to our quality of life, environment and economic vitality.

However, the ability of the Council to stabilise and reduce the growth in road traffic is limited, since many of the key influences are beyond its control. National taxation policy, funding for cycling and walking facilities, and general trends in car ownership are strongly influenced by national government policy, oil prices and public transport fares, technology and cultural factors. The rapid rate of population and household growth in recent years and Clackmannanshire's higher than average commuting patterns have also produced particular challenges in reducing the rate of traffic growth in the county. However, the Council is determined to do what it can to stabilise and reduce road traffic in Clackmannanshire, encourage public transport use and encourage greater adoption of active travel such as walking and cycling.

Clackmannanshire's own transport policies are guided by Scotland's National Transport Strategy, which places emphasis on improving journey times and connections, reducing emissions, and improving quality, accessibility and affordability. In Clackmannanshire, considerable recent progress has already been made towards contributing to these national objectives, including the reintroduction of passenger and freight rail services in May 2008, continued investment in quality cycling and walking routes, and continuous improvement in road safety.

### Why This Matters

An effective transport system is essential to the efficient movement of people and goods, improving our quality of life and supporting economic development. However, the more we travel and transport goods around, the greater the impact on the environment - particularly if we fail to consider the environmental cost of our travel choices.

Making more sustainable travel choices can help to mitigate climate change. In the UK, transport is the only sector in which carbon emissions were higher in 2005 than they were in 1990 – driven particularly by growth in aviation and increases in van and lorry traffic. It is estimated that some 29% of energy use in Scotland in 2002 was due to transport and that energy used by transport grew by approximately 10% between 1990 and 2003. Reducing emissions from transport is a central aim of the National Transport Strategy and this is reflected in the Council's own Local Transport Strategy. Changes in national transport policy are vital in supporting this goal, and this has been assisted by the introduction of initiatives such as graduated vehicle excise duty which penalises drivers of more polluting vehicles, and changes to company car tax arrangements to favour smaller, more fuel efficient vehicles. The Council produced a Road Traffic Reduction Report in 2006 which sets out a plan and targets to stabilise and reduce



traffic growth in Clackmannanshire in the period to 2010. Environmental issues related to transport in Clackmannanshire are considered in detail in the "Transport and the Environment" report produced by the Council in 2006. The Local Transport Strategy promotes public transport and active travel, which is vital if practical and convenient alternatives to the private car are to be provided, thus creating the conditions for reducing traffic growth and enhancing and protecting the environment. Adaptation to the effects of climate change will become an increasing challenge in the future, with roads liable to flooding, landslips and other effects resulting from extreme weather.

Changing our travel habits, by reducing unnecessary travel and favouring public transport and active travel such as walking and cycling particularly for shorter journeys, can help us to achieve more sustainable consumption and more efficient use of natural resources. Evidence that our present dependency on oil is unsustainable is mounting: demand for fuel is rapidly out-stripping supply as countries such as China, India and Russia industrialise and become more affluent, demanding an increasing share of finite resources. The continuing growth of aviation and road traffic in the developed world also contribute significantly to this increased demand. Achieving more sustainable and localised patterns of consumption, reducing unnecessary transport of people and haulage of goods, and finding the most fuel efficient means of transport, are no longer a choice ... they are an environmental and financial imperative.



Reducing travel and travelling more sustainably also offers a major dividend in terms of delivering more sustainable communities. As dependency on the private car has grown, so health has deteriorated - there is evidence that increasing levels of obesity and heart disease are partly linked to reduced exercise. This is of particular concern in children who are often driven to school instead of walking. Active travel is a means of not only getting from A to B in a fuel- and financially-efficient way, but also providing daily exercise and improving our health, which is fundamental to supporting an improved quality of life. Increasing traffic levels are also contributing to increased health problems through poorer air quality, such as increases in asthma; reducing traffic growth and congestion therefore has wider health benefits.

### *Actions for Improvement*

The Scottish Government has set a target to stabilise road traffic volumes at 2001 levels by 2021. In Clackmannanshire, the first step has been taken towards achieving this by setting the following targets in the Road Traffic Reduction Strategy:

- ▶ a 5% reduction in traffic accessing schools by 2009, compared to 2004/05 traffic levels
- ▶ reduce traffic levels in Alloa Town Centre by 10% between 2006 and 2010
- ▶ reduce and stabilise traffic growth to equal the growth in Gross Value Added by 2010

These targets will be supported by action to improve public transport and facilities for active travel to provide convenient and practical alternatives to the use of private vehicles. The Council will also take practical steps to encourage behavioural change, through the promotion of its Local Transport Strategy, travel planning activities and promotion of sustainable travel options. Major investment by the Council and its partners in projects such as the reintroduction of passenger rail services to Alloa are an important means of ensuring that our sustainable travel objectives can be met.

The Local Transport Strategy aims to increase the proportion of journeys taken by active travel modes such as cycling and walking, and by public transport, particularly for travel to school. Action will be taken to increase the length of off-road walking and cycling routes and we will work to continue the improvement in our road safety by reducing the number of accidents. The indicators and targets set out in the



Local Transport Strategy are included as an appendix to this Strategy.

The Council has an ongoing programme to provide safe routes to schools, improve the network of footpaths and cycle routes, and financially support the public transport network. Following the opening of the Alloa station to passenger rail services, the Council is now working with bus operators to examine the scope for improved public transport integration and services throughout Clackmannanshire.

The Council is also taking steps to improve its own environmental performance by reducing carbon emissions from its transport fleet and to encourage employees to take action to travel more sustainably.



Providing a staff bike pool at main Council offices has been an important step towards encouraging staff to become more active and reduce Council-derived carbon emissions, as well as saving tax-payers' money. The Council has also introduced

“TripshareClacks” – a staff car-share scheme which is also open to other businesses and individuals. A

Travel Plan will be produced for the Council by the end of 2008 which will include measures to increase the proportion of journeys undertaken by Council staff using public transport and active travel modes, increase pool bike use, reduce the amount of staff mileage expenses claimed, and reduce the amount of fuel used by Fleet Services. It is also proposed to carry out a Green Fleet Review to establish how the Council's vehicle fleet can be used more efficiently and how the fuel-efficiency of vehicles can be improved.

### **Objectives and Indicators – Travel: Reduce the environmental impact of travel**

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Meet Local Transport Strategy targets	See Local Transport Strategy	Implement the Local Transport Strategy
Increase modal share of sustainable modes in travel by Council staff by 2012	walk - 10%; cycle - 4%; public transport - 6%; car share - 10%; car driver - 65%; other - 5%	
Year-on-year continuous improvement in reducing car mileage costs, by Service	Reduce mileage claims by 10% by 2012	
Year-on-year continuous improvement in reducing fleet fuel costs	[Recording system to be set up and targets determined]	
Increase use of pool bikes across all Council offices	[Mileage now being recorded on monthly basis - target to be determined] Currently 500 miles in six months = 10 miles/month/bike	

### Introduction

Clackmannanshire's natural environment is important not only for its own sake but also because it provides the foundation for the social and economic wellbeing of the community. Clackmannanshire's landscape is varied, ranging from mudflats on the Forth to the high moorland of the Ochils, providing a rich range of habitats which support a wide variety of species. Clackmannanshire is home to some of the UK's rarest and most threatened plants and animals, including sticky catchfly plants in the hills, red squirrels in the eastern woodlands and water voles along the rivers.

### Why This Matters

The natural environment provides a range of goods and services – known as “ecosystem services” – that are fundamentally important in supporting our health, wellbeing and economic future. Most of our decisions have impacts on the environment and the Council takes a leading role in ensuring that negative impacts are minimised or mitigated through a range of functions and methods, including the land-use planning system, flood management (a function shared with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency) and environmental assessment. The Council is also proactive in educating children and adults on their environmental responsibilities (e.g. – through the Ranger Service and school curriculum) and in promoting biodiversity and responsible access to the countryside.

Climate change is likely to have very significant impacts on Clackmannanshire's natural environment. As temperatures increase, plant and animal species are likely to move further north: we are already seeing species, such as the orange-tip butterfly, that previously would not have been able to survive in Clackmannanshire; conversely, there is likely to be some loss of other habitats and species that are unable to adapt to the changing climate. Rivers will be more likely to flood, and it is important that we take steps to adapt to climate change impacts in a way which enhances the natural environment: for example, flood management on the River Devon uses tree planting to slow the flow of water; 'managed retreat' on the Black Devon has created an award-winning wetland habitat.

Water-dwelling species may suffer if there are droughts, as the concentration of pollution in water would increase as levels drop: measures will need to be taken to adapt to this and ensure that our river quality is maintained or improved. Clackmannanshire's natural heritage is also vital for mitigating climate change: trees and areas of peat land play an important role in storing carbon dioxide that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere; the promotion of Core Paths could encourage people to travel in a more active, and less environmentally harmful, way.



There is strong evidence to suggest that the health and wellbeing of our communities is closely related to the health of the natural environment and the ability of people to access it. The Council is therefore taking steps to prepare a Core Path Plan and Outdoor Access Strategy which will provide a framework to encourage people to access Clackmannanshire's countryside and benefit from close contact with nature. An important priority of this Strategy is safeguarding and protecting natural resources and the natural environment and ensuring that the unique landscape and considerable biodiversity of Clackmannanshire is there to be enjoyed by future generations.

The natural environment is a resource that not only provides the setting of our communities but also provides us with places to play and enjoy nature, safe routes to school, education opportunities and a healthy atmosphere. Human activity such as growing levels of traffic, the use of land for built development, mining and highly intensive agriculture can pose a threat to our landscape and biodiversity and reduce the value of the countryside for recreation. Achieving more sustainable consumption of resources and the means of cultivating and exploiting the resources we need is therefore very important if we are to safeguard our natural environment for the future.



## ► Biodiversity

Clackmannanshire has a number of sites which are designated for their natural heritage value and a number of UK priority species and habitats, set out in the Clackmannanshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan, which will be reviewed during 2008/09. Gartmorn Dam, which was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 1980, is a particularly important site for the viewing of wildlife and has formed an important location for boosting education and awareness of biodiversity in Clackmannanshire. This Site of Special Scientific Interest is a key asset which the Council and its partners have developed over the last three decades to ensure its protection and accessibility to the local community.

The Councils work in partnership with the community and partners to promote biodiversity to protect and enhance habitats and increase the biodiversity resource in Clackmannanshire, particularly in the context of the Council's statutory duty to further biodiversity, through the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership. The Partnership, which

includes representatives of community councils, government agencies and voluntary bodies, has successfully undertaken a programme of works and activities, which have for example included the construction of a sand martin bank at Gartmorn Dam.

In 2006 the Council completed the Black Devon Wetland and Landfill Project, restoring the former landfill site and creating 21 hectares of new wetland. This project built upon the award winning Black Devon wetland project by Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust and itself won awards for planning quality and environmental innovation. Sustainable food management also has an important role in protecting biodiversity. The Council has worked with WWF-Scotland on the River Devon project, which has demonstrated natural food management works such as willow walling to stop erosion and riparian woodland planting to create leaky barriers for food water: these have increased local biodiversity.

## ► Access

Clackmannanshire has developed a countywide access network of off-road routes in concert with various partners including Sustrans and in consultation with the Clackmannanshire Access Forum – an advisory body comprising representatives of groups with an interest in outdoor access. This network of formal and informal paths ensures a wide measure of accessibility to Clackmannanshire's countryside for the community, with a degree of focus on Gartmorn Dam Country Park. In 2008 the Council will be consulting on its Core Paths Plan which has been prepared under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

## ► Greenspaces and Woodlands

Urban parks, open spaces and woodlands throughout Clackmannanshire are important elements of the environment which the public can enjoy and also have biodiversity and education value. The Council is currently developing a Leisure Facilities and Pitches Strategy and an Open Space Strategy as well as undertaking works in their own woodlands under a WIAT (Woodlands in and around Towns) scheme. Additionally, the Woodland Trust is developing native woodland with public access in the Muckhart area.



## Actions for Improvement

The Council has a strong role to play in both protecting and enhancing the natural environment through legislation and direct action. The establishment of the Ranger Service and Gartmorn Dam Country Park by the former Clackmannan District Council and its partners has provided an invaluable foundation for improving our natural heritage and encouraging the people of Clackmannanshire to enjoy the outdoors. The preparation of the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Action Plan in 2004 also provided an important milestone with the agreement of a number of key actions to improve biodiversity in Clackmannanshire. From April 2009, part-funding of the Council's Ranger Service and Biodiversity function by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will end and all funding will be provided directly to the Council by the Scottish Government. This will provide an opportunity for the Council to fully review how these functions are delivered. However, it is intended that the focus on partnership working to deliver our objectives for the natural environment will be maintained, with continued collaborative working with groups such as Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust, Sustrans, WWF-Scotland, SEPA and SNH in the future. New challenges in countryside management are already developing as the need to deliver improvements in water quality, sustainable food management and climate change mitigation and adaptation rise up the agenda.



Promotion of Clackmannanshire's natural environment and protection of our natural resources is of pivotal importance to the Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy. Raising awareness of the value of our countryside is essential. We will work to ensure that the Council and our partners take cognisance of it in the development of their plans, policies and actions. Such work should seek to maximise the inter-relationships with other streams in the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy such as education and biodiversity – including educational projects, access initiatives, climate change actions and health policy.

The current Clackmannanshire Development Plan is founded on a stated vision of “working towards sustainable development” and recognises the important role of Clackmannanshire's rivers as a natural environmental resource. The Plan's policies and proposals are designed to ensure their protection and enhancement. These and related policies and proposals in relation to greenspace, biodiversity and access will be developed through the Local Development Plan, which will commence preparation during 2009.

The Council submitted two natural heritage project bids for European Union and Heritage Lottery funding in early 2008. The LIFE+ and Ochils Landscape Partnership bids (the latter prepared in consultation with the Partnership Board and local communities) are currently being assessed. If successful, funding bids will enable the Council, in partnership, to develop landscape, access and biodiversity projects in the Ochils and within the catchments of the rivers Devon and Black Devon.

### ► Biodiversity

The Clackmannanshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan expires this year and will be reviewed to put in place a new set of actions for the next 5 years which will provide the foundation for the ongoing protection and enhancement of biodiversity of Clackmannanshire. The review will involve consultation with the public and other stakeholders and there will be a particular focus to ensuring that the Plan reflects the need to contribute to UK and Scottish biodiversity priorities. The revised Action Plan will have a greater focus on the effects of climate change on biodiversity and play a key role in enabling the environment of Clackmannanshire to adapt by working to establish functional ecosystems and habitat networks that will support species adaptation.

Scottish Water, the current owner of Gartmorn Dam, is planning to sell the site and the council is considering possible options to secure this important community resource to safeguard its biodiversity and access benefits. The Black Devon extended wetlands area is now stabilised following the rehabilitation of the former landfill site and its future management requires to be investigated to ensure that the biodiversity and access potential of this locality can be realised.

The reviewed Biodiversity Action Plan will continue its successful programme of educational projects with Eco-Schools, building on past successes in improving the knowledge and understanding of schoolchildren about their natural environment through projects such as Fish Go to School.

### **Fish Go To School**

Is an award winning project linked to the National Curriculum and is run by the Clyde River Foundation, supported by the Council's Ranger Service and LBAP Coordinator. The project raises pupils' awareness of river ecosystems and environmental conservation and the implications of pollution, litter and habitat loss. Each class receives a classroom hatchery and 200 trout eggs with the pupils required to care for the eggs and monitor their development for two months as they develop into young fish. The fish are then released into a local burn.

### **Outdoor Access**

The Final Draft Clackmannanshire Core Paths Plan will be the focus of public consultation during Summer 2008. The Plan, which seeks to provide a new impetus to encourage people to take exercise in Clackmannanshire's countryside, identifies a network of strategic "core paths" throughout the county and develops proposals for their signposting and maintenance. It has been formulated following two previous consultation exercises and in consultation with the Clackmannanshire Access Forum. Following finalisation and adoption of the Core Paths Plan, the Council will prepare an Outdoor Access Strategy which will provide a policy framework for outdoor access for all users throughout the area. The Plan and Strategy will prioritise access to the countryside from urban areas, routes within and between communities, and access to schools, employment and leisure facilities.

### ***Green spaces and Woodlands***

The Council is currently working on plans to develop Clackmannanshire's green spaces and access to them through the preparation and adoption of the Strategy for Leisure Facilities and Pitches and the Open Space Strategy. Action is also being taken to secure funding for woodland management and improving woodland access, in conjunction with the Forestry Commission Scotland's Woodlands In and Around Towns Initiative and the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust.



**Objectives and Indicators – Natural Environment:  
Further the conservation of biodiversity**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
Condition of locally and nationally important wildlife sites	95% of special features within protected areas to be in a favourable condition, or recovering towards favourable condition, by 2010.	Review and revise Local Biodiversity Action Plan by September 2008
		Support the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership
		Support the Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust
		Develop Black Devon Wetlands Management Plan
		Encourage the protection and enhancement of the natural environment through planning policy

**Objectives and Indicators – Natural Environment: Encourage outdoor activity**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
Increase number of visits to the outdoors	10% increase on baseline (path counters on core paths)	Adopt the Clackmannanshire Core Paths Plan by December 2008
		Develop a Leisure Facilities and Pitches Strategy by December 2008
		Develop an Outdoor Access Strategy by Spring 2009

**Objectives and Indicators – Natural Environment:  
Protect and maintain greenspace and woodland**

Indicators	Targets	Actions
Percentage of residents happy with the quantity and quality of open space in their area 2008/09	[To be determined through Community Planning process]	Develop Open Space Strategy by December 2008
		Implement woodland management projects (dependent on WIAT and CSET funding) during
		Develop planning policy to protect and enhance green space – Local Development Plan preparation to begin Spring 2009



### Introduction

The public sector is a major purchaser of goods and services, and what and how a local authority such as Clackmannanshire Council buys makes a big difference, both to its ability to deliver sustainable development and to its credibility with those it seeks to influence. Sustainable procurement is closely related to corporate social responsibility, and can make a major contribution to the achievement of sustainable development: addressing local needs and reducing the global impact of the Council's activities.

Clackmannanshire Council takes the view that sustainable procurement need not cost more. Indeed, sustainable procurement should be part of an overall strategy of cutting waste, reducing unnecessary spend and improving resource efficiency. This approach highlights the fact that failing to mainstream sustainability into procurement short-changes the citizen, the taxpayer and future generations. Sustainable procurement can have beneficial social and environmental effects: it should be fundamental to new construction contracts, and can provide much-needed local employment opportunities.

Sustainable consumption and production is a central objective of this Strategy. Clackmannanshire Council has a responsibility to ensure that it optimises its sustainability both as a consumer of non-renewable resources and in ensuring that services are provided in a sustainable way.

### Why This Matters

The Council's procurement decisions affect how it carries out its business, and ultimately how much energy it uses and how much waste it produces. This means that procurement is fundamental to improving the Council's environmental performance by 'designing in' goods, equipment and services that allow it to function efficiently. However, the potential for procurement to contribute to sustainable development goes beyond the environmental impacts: procurement processes can contribute to social improvements, for example by specifying a requirement for training opportunities for local people. Buying local goods contributes to the local economy, whilst buying Fairtrade goods can help people in developing countries work their way out of poverty.

The National Sustainable Procurement Plan emphasises that the central objective of sustainable procurement should be to eliminate unnecessary waste. Since one of the most effective ways of doing this is avoiding unnecessary purchase, procurers are well placed to help others to deliver on sustainability commitments. The waste hierarchy (avoid, reduce, re-use and recycle) can also be regarded as a purchasing hierarchy, with the emphasis on avoiding unnecessary purchases, reducing those that have to be made, and re-using goods and materials wherever possible. An important aspect of sustainable procurement is whole lifecycle costing, which takes a long-term view of purchasing: accounting not just for the up-front costs of a product or service, but also for its costs in use and for disposal at the end of its life.

Undertaking sustainable procurement not only allows the Council to reduce its environmental impact, it enables it to lead the way for other organisations in Clackmannanshire to adopt sustainable procurement practices, and to influence its suppliers to reduce their environmental impacts. However, it is not just the Council that can use its purchasing power to make a difference: everyone can make the choice to buy products that have minimal packaging, that are produced locally, or that are fairly traded.



Procurement has a key role in mitigating climate change. Questioning whether goods and services are really needed, then choosing the most energy-efficient options means that climate change mitigation is designed in at an early stage: the users of goods and services are then able to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions with little effort. Procuring products with minimal packaging reduces the amount of waste sent to landfill; procuring goods made from recycled materials means that less energy has been used in their production than if they had been made from virgin materials; buying goods locally means that greenhouse gas emissions due to transportation are reduced, and it can also help to build a local economy that is resilient to the impacts of climate change. Reducing the polluting impacts of goods and services which are purchased is also beneficial for the natural environment. A long-term view of procurement, particularly of buildings and infrastructure, needs to be taken in order to ensure that climate change adaptation is fully incorporated: for example, specifying rain- or grey-water harvesting systems that reduce water consumption.

By buying goods that have been produced locally we can help to support the local economy: the New Economics Foundation's research suggests that every £1 spent with a local supplier is worth £1.76 to the local economy, compared to only 36p when it is spent out of the area. A strong local economy is important for building strong, sustainable communities. Buying food that has been produced locally can also have a lower environmental impact than buying food that has been produced far away, because less fuel is needed to transport it. Buying direct from a local producer means that there is likely to be less packaging, which means that there is less waste to dispose of; buying direct also cuts out the middleman, helping producers to get a fair share.



## *Actions for Improvement*

Clackmannanshire Council has already achieved a lot through its procurement processes, particularly in terms of energy-efficiency, supporting the local economy, and fair trade. The forthcoming Procurement Strategy, among other initiatives, will work to embed sustainability into all procurement undertaken by the Council.

Local labour market agreements are included in some Council contracts, to encourage the recruitment and training of local residents. These agreements are designed to strengthen the local economy by: promoting sustainable employment and industry-centred training opportunities for Clackmannanshire residents; facilitating access by the private sector to an appropriately qualified Clackmannanshire-based pool of labour; and promoting associated business opportunities to Clackmannanshire-based companies. Local labour market agreements have been successfully included in major projects such as the Stirling-Alloa-Kinross rail link.

The Council has considerably increased the proportion of its electricity that is generated from renewable sources, from 30% in 2006/7 to 70-75% in 2007/8. Building projects that the Council procures have energy efficiency designed in to them as a result of mandatory consultation with the Council's Energy Officer: Property Services will work to extend this procedure to include recycled content of building materials and designing to minimise waste.

Significant work has begun to use information and communications technology (ICT) to reduce the Council's environmental impact, including: introducing more energy-efficient IT equipment; reducing the need for staff travel, through remote and mobile working initiatives; and reducing paper use, through electronic document and records management and more efficient multi-functional printers. The Council's Procurement Manager is working to further reduce the environmental impact of the Council's printing by negotiating a contract which will improve the financial viability of buying recycled paper.

The Council's forthcoming Procurement Strategy will ensure that social, economic and environmental impacts will be considered and addressed in specifications and throughout the delivery of contracts. The Council will encourage a mixed range of local suppliers to compete for contracts, in order to develop a varied and competitive market place while supporting local employment. This will include working with local small and medium sized

enterprises and the voluntary and community sectors to enable them to compete for Council contracts. It will also involve working with suppliers to deliver community benefits in a way that is consistent with best value and compliant with procurement law. The forthcoming Information and Communications Technology Strategy will ensure that sustainability is embedded in its activities, including the procurement of ICT equipment.

Clackmannanshire Council has already started serving fairly traded tea, coffee and juices in its canteens, and such products are available in shops throughout the county. There is increasing community interest in fair trade, including an emerging Fairtrade Town Campaign. In order to attain Fairtrade Town status, a town needs to fulfil certain requirements, including a Council resolution supporting Fairtrade; a successful campaign needs the local community to be committed to working to meet the campaign's goals, but it will also need the support and commitment of the Council.

### **Objectives and Indicators – Sustainable Procurement: Fully consider the economic, social and environmental consequences of procurement decisions**

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Increase the proportion of recycled/recyclable content specified in contacts	[To be determined]	Formulate an Environmental Procurement Policy by summer 2009
		Develop, with external partners, collaborative procurement that fully recognises sustainable and ethical obligations. Ongoing from 2008
		Produce checklists for procurement activities that alert users to sustainability best practice, including community benefits in procurement, by Winter 2008
		Setting of environmental standards (as an integral part of environmental management)
Improve accessibility to the Council's procurement processes for local SMEs	[To be determined]	Work with local small and medium-sized enterprises and the voluntary and community sectors to enable them to compete for Council contracts
Improve accessibility to the Council's procurement processes for voluntary & community organisations	[To be determined]	
Increase community benefits in public procurement	[To be determined]	Further develop community benefit clauses in Council procurement
Achieve Fairtrade Town status	Achieve Fairtrade Town status by December 2009	Work towards achieving Fairtrade Town status for one town in Clackmannanshire



### Introduction

Education and awareness-raising are of key importance to making this Strategy a success. In order for people to commit to the actions set out in the Strategy, they need to be convinced that it is the right thing to do, and that it will make a real difference, both globally and locally. However, learning for sustainability is not just about making people more aware: it is about making sure that there are lifelong opportunities for everyone to learn and to contribute to their communities.

People can only be expected to behave sustainably if they can see a good reason for doing so. This is true both within the Council and in the wider Clackmannanshire community, so it is important to raise awareness of the issues, and of what people can do to make things better. Schoolchildren will learn about sustainable development as part of the forthcoming Curriculum for Excellence: this will help them to appreciate the importance of acting sustainably and to avoid making some of the mistakes of preceding generations.

For those who are beyond the formal education system, we will work to ensure that sustainability messages are conveyed in a way that raises awareness not just of the problems, but also of what can be done about them. We will work to promote and enhance opportunities for lifelong learning, volunteering and community action.

### Why This Matters

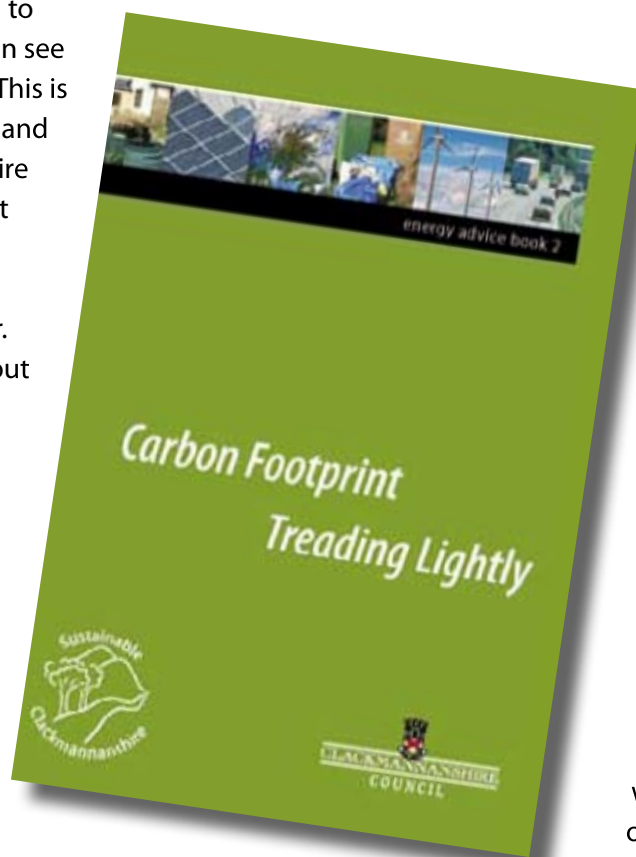
It is necessary to communicate sustainability at all levels if we are to make Clackmannanshire more sustainable. In order for everyone to be able to contribute, they need to understand what the issues are and value the benefits that living sustainably will bring.

Learning to make Scotland more sustainable is identified as an important part of Choosing Our Future: it aims to make sustainable development a core function of the education system;

provide lifelong opportunities to learn; and make sure the sustainable development message is clear and easily understood. This is supported by Scotland's Action Plan for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, Learning for Our Future, which emphasises the role not only of the formal education system, but of lifelong learning, the voluntary sector and community involvement.

Education and awareness-raising is key to mitigating and adapting to climate change: it will take a joint effort to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, so it is important that everyone knows what they can do to contribute. The Curriculum for

Excellence aims to help children become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors: all capacities which will be necessary for them to be valuable members of sustainable communities. Becoming more aware of the importance of sustainability will also help people connect to, and appreciate, their natural heritage.



## *Actions for Improvement*

Clackmannanshire has made significant progress in learning for sustainability in its schools, both as part of the formal curriculum, and through initiatives such as Eco-Schools. Work has begun to raise awareness more widely of sustainability issues, both within the Council and in the community, but there is much more to be done to ensure that everyone in Clackmannanshire is willing and able to make the necessary changes to live more sustainably.

Schools are at the forefront of learning for sustainability in Clackmannanshire and sustainable development is a cross-cutting theme. The inspection document provides schools with indicators of sustainable learning, including how the school works in partnership with its community. Almost all schools in Clackmannanshire have already begun some work on learning for sustainability as preparation for Curriculum for Excellence.

All of Clackmannanshire Council's schools are now registered on the Eco-Schools programme, and 14 of these have attained at least one green flag, the top level of award. The Eco-Schools programme involves the whole school, and the local community, in deciding how to manage the school in a way that respects and enhances the environment. It has made a great contribution to raising awareness and encouraging responsible behaviour amongst pupils, and there is still work that can be done to ensure that schools operate in a way that is energy- and water-efficient. Renewable energy technologies, such as wind turbines and solar panels, have been installed at some schools, reducing their reliance on energy derived from fossil fuels, and providing a valuable educational tool: information about this equipment, including meter readings, is available on the schools' intranet for the benefit of all of the authority's pupils. All Eco-Schools actions will contribute to developing pupils as responsible citizens.

The Council's Ranger Service and Biodiversity Co-ordinator work with Clackmannanshire's schools on a variety of practical projects, providing environmental education for pupils. Some of these projects are part of Eco-Schools work, such as the creation of wildlife areas in school grounds. Other activities improve children's understanding of the wider local environment, such as pond dipping and invertebrate surveys. The Ranger Service enables pupils to become involved in outdoor activities and to learn about water

safety and responsible access to the countryside. Such activities are not limited to schoolchildren: there are a range of opportunities for adults to take part in practical conservation work and mammal surveys. This means that there are lifelong opportunities to connect with the natural environment and learn more about it.

As well as taking part in practical projects, voluntary groups can play their part in helping to raise awareness, and create discussion about the environment and sustainability. Clackmannanshire has an active voluntary sector, and the Council for Voluntary Services, CVS Clackmannanshire is currently co-ordinating a project to create a pond in Cowpark Wood in Sauchie, restoring biodiversity and providing a valuable outdoor education resource for nearby Deerpark Primary School.

The opportunities for community involvement in Clackmannanshire are numerous and wide ranging, from hands-on participation in practical environmental projects, to opportunities to influence Clackmannanshire's strategic direction through community planning. The Clackmannanshire Alliance's Environment and Sustainability Theme Team is working to produce a framework document for environment and sustainability in Clackmannanshire, identifying projects that can best be developed through a multi-agency approach. Communication and awareness-raising were identified as one of its projects to be taken forward through the community planning process, and this is considered to be integral to the success of the other projects identified by the Theme Team.



Education will be needed to encourage Clackmannanshire to change its consumption and production patterns. Ecological footprinting (See Priority C) is an excellent tool for making people think about the global impact of their choices, as well as sparking off discussion, debate and enquiry. Schools in Clackmannanshire are already considering the impact of their consumption habits: for example, Clackmannan Primary School has a Fairtrade tuck shop as part of its Enterprise in Education activities, which means that pupils are learning enterprising skills in a socially-conscious way.

Within the Council there is a Green Office Working Group, which works to implement sustainability projects and raise awareness of environmental and sustainability issues. This group brings together officers involved in areas such as transportation, property and waste management, and enables them to work together towards the common purpose of making the Council's working practices more sustainable. The Council has produced booklets giving advice on home energy efficiency and fuel-efficient driving; further action will be taken to improve awareness both inside and outside the Council.

### ***Objectives and Indicators – Learning for Sustainability: Effectively communicate the meaning and importance of sustainability***

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Appreciation of environmental issues and action to address them	100% of schools to receive their first Eco-Schools green flag by end of 2012	Continue to support and encourage sustainability activity in schools, particularly through the Eco-Schools programme
		Increase awareness of sustainability issues within the Council

### ***Objectives and Indicators – Learning for Sustainability: Encourage community participation in decision-making***

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actions</b>
		Support and implement the Clackmannanshire Alliance's Environment and Sustainability Framework



## Appendix: Objectives, Indicators and Actions

Chapter	Objective	Indicator	Target	Actions	Baseline
<b>Priority A</b> Climate Change Action Plan	Reduce Clackmannanshire's carbon footprint and improve energy conservation and efficiency throughout Clackmannanshire	Reduce carbon footprint of Clackmannanshire through a range of actions, including those set out in the Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan	Reduce CO2 emissions by 10% by 2011 and 80% by 2050		11.15 Tonnes/capita
	Improve Clackmannanshire's resilience to climate change	Number of properties at risk of flooding	10% reduction by 2013	Develop a Sustainable Flood Management Strategy	1149 (21 coastal, 1128 fluvial) 2008
<b>Priority B</b> Creating Sustainable Communities	Improve quality of life in Clackmannanshire	HPI	Exceed UK average	Work with NEF to develop an HPI – style indicator for Clackmannanshire by April 2009	[To be determined]
		Satisfaction with Clackmannanshire	Percentage of all residents satisfied with Clackmannanshire as a place to live ( target not yet set)	Work with the Clackmannanshire Alliance to improve quality of life	76
<b>Priority C</b> Living within Environmental Limits: Sustainable Consumption & Production	Reduce material consumption (ecological footprint)	Stabilise, then reduce ecological footprint in the Council and in Clackmannanshire as a whole	Detailed baselines and targets will be set out in Clackmannanshire Ecological Footprint Report (May 2009)	Detailed Clackmannanshire Ecological Footprint by April 2009	
<b>Priority D</b> Protecting our Natural Resources and Enhancing our Environment	Protect and improve water resources	Water quality	Good Water Status (Water Framework Directive) *		

\* Good Water Status – measure of status of water bodies based on a combination of ecology, chemistry and morphology, undertaken by SEPA to comply with EU Water Framework Directive.

Chapter	Objective	Indicator	Target	Actions	Baseline	
Chapter 1 – Regenerating Clackmannanshire	Achieve sustainable economic development	Business start-ups	[To be determined]	Support local business through the management of the Business Gateway and involvement in Clackmannanshire Business	90	
		Business survival Rates	[To be determined]		70	
	Target skills & training and reduce unemployment	Increase proportion of school leavers going into employment, education or training	[To be determined]			89%
		Affordable homes as a proportion of total new housebuild	Target figure of 25% will be sought on new housing developments	Implement Development Plan policy on affordable homes		
	Reduce social exclusion	Increase the proportion of social housing (including Council housing) in Clackmannanshire attaining or exceeding the Scottish Housing Quality Standard	80% to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2011 (Council Housing)	Implement Standard Delivery Plan Invest in heating systems and thermal insulation	65%	
		Increase the proportion of privately owned or rented housing attaining or exceeding the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2009	Improve the number meeting the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (target to be developed)	Implement the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006	31%	
		Number of people accessing energy efficiency information	To be developed	Implement Fuel Poverty Strategy		

Chapter	Objective	Indicator	Target	Actions	Baseline
	Reduce health inequalities	Meet Joint Health Improvement Plan targets	See Joint Health Improvement Plan	Support the work of the Clackmannanshire Community Health Partnership	
		Health promoting schools	100% of schools to be health promoting schools		100%
	Regenerate Clackmannanshire's town centres	Reduce the number of void retail units	[To be determined]	Promote and develop a Business Improvement District for Alloa town centre Develop a strategy for Town Centre Improvement by December 2008 Implement the recommendations of the Small Town Studies for Clackmannanshire's town centres	
	Conserve Clackmannanshire's built heritage			Complete Conservation Area Appraisals for all of Clackmannanshire's conservation areas by May 2009	



Chapter	Objective	Indicator	Target	Actions	Baseline
<p><b>Chapter 2 – Carbon Management and Sustainable Energy Use</b></p>	<p>Reduce Council's carbon footprint and improve energy conservation and efficiency throughout the Council</p>	<p>Reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>Reduce the total water consumption in Council</p>	<p>Targets set out in the Carbon Management Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan, including headline target of reducing Council carbon footprint by 15% by 2012</p> <p>10% reduction in water use in the Council by 2015 (to be reviewed in Water Reduction Strategy)</p>	<p>Implement the Carbon Management Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</p> <p>Undertake a Green Fleet Review to establish the action that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's own fleet.</p> <p>Prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy for the Council by December 2008</p> <p>Develop a Water Reduction Strategy for the Council</p>	<p>52,753 tonnes (2006/7)</p> <p>75.18 million litres(2007/08)</p>
<p>Facilitate and encourage the sustainable design, construction and location of new development</p>	<p>% of new housing on brownfield land</p> <p>To introduce sustainable design and construction requirements for new developments</p>	<p>[To be determined]</p> <p>Introduction of non-statutory guidelines by December 2008 and Development Plan policies by 2010/11</p> <p>new development in Local Development Plan</p>	<p>Supplementary Planning Guidance on Sustainable Design and Construction and require reduced carbon emissions in new developments in accordance with Scottish Government guidance. Introduction by December 2008</p> <p>Introduction of new suite of statutory policies to improve energy efficiency and encourage the use of renewable energy in</p> <p>Implement sustainable design and construction principles in major new development at Sauchie and in new settlement in East Clackmannanshire</p>		

Chapter	Objective	Indicator	Target	Actions	Baseline
Chapter 3 – Waste	Minimise waste generation	Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	No growth in MSW by 2010	Implement Area Waste Plan Develop planning policies for waste infrastructure – Local Development Plan to begin Spring 2009 Promote waste prevention and awareness	35,696 tonnes (07/08)
	Maximise recycling and composting	Municipal Biodegradable Waste (MBW)	Increase recycling and composting	Implement Area Waste Plan Develop Area Waste Plan policies on food waste Maintain and grow existing waste management facilities	15,064 tonnes (07/08)
	Minimise litter	Cleanliness index % who think Clackmannanshire is a clean and tidy place to live	Increase to 78 in 2008/09, 79 in 2009/10, 80 in 2010/11 [To be determined]	Streetcare function overview to maintain/improve annual index	77 (07/08) 58%

Chapter	Objective	Indicator	Target	Actions	Baseline
<b>Chapter 4 – Travel</b>	Reduce the environmental impact of travel	Meet Local Transport Strategy targets	See Local Transport Strategy	Implement the Local Transport Strategy	
		Increase modal share of sustainable modes in travel by Council staff by 2012	Walk - 10%; cycle - 4%; public transport - 6%; car share - 10%; car driver - 65%; other - 5%		
		Year-on-year continuous improvement in reducing car mileage costs, by Service	Reduce mileage claims by 10% by 2012		
		Year-on-year continuous improvement in reducing fleet fuel costs	[Recording system to be set up and targets determined]		
		Increase use of pool bikes across all Council offices	[Mileage now being recorded on monthly basis - target to be determined] Currently 500 miles in six months = 10 miles/month/bike		



Chapter	Objective	Indicator	Target	Actions	Baseline
Chapter 5 – Natural Environment	Further the conservation of biodiversity	Condition of locally and nationally important wildlife sites	95% of special features within protected areas to be in a Plan by September 2008 favourable condition, or recovering towards, favourable condition, by 2010	Revise Local Biodiversity Action Support the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership Support the Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust Develop Black Devon Wetlands Management Plan Encourage the protection and enhancement of the natural environment through planning policy	74%
	Encourage outdoor activity	Increase number of visits to the outdoors	10% increase on baseline (path counters on Core Paths)	Adopt the Clackmannanshire Core Paths Plan by December 2008 Develop a Leisure Facilities and Pitches Strategy by December '08 Develop an Outdoor Access Strategy by Spring 2009 Ochils Landscape Partnership	
	Protect and maintain greenspace			Develop Greenspace Strategy – By December 2008 Implement woodland management projects (dependent on WIAT and CSET funding) during 2008/09 Develop planning policy to protect and enhance green space – Local Development Plan preparation to begin Spring 2009	

Chapter	Objective	Indicator	Target	Actions	Baseline
<p><b>Chapter 6 – Sustainable Procurement</b></p>	<p>Fully consider the economic, social and environmental consequences of procurement decisions</p>	<p>Increase the proportion of recycled/recyclable content specified in contracts</p>	<p>[To be determined]</p>	<p>Formulate an Environmental Procurement policy - By Summer 2008</p> <p>Develop, with external partners, collaborative procurement that fully recognises sustainable and ethical obligations – ongoing from 2008</p> <p>Provide checklists for procurement activities that alert users to accessibility and sustainability best practice, including community benefits in procurement – by Winter 2008</p> <p>Setting of environmental standards (as an integral part of environmental management)</p>	
	<p>Improve accessibility to the Council's procurement processes for local SMEs</p>	<p>[To be determined]</p>	<p>[To be determined]</p>	<p>Work with local small and medium -sized enterprises and the voluntary and community sectors to enable them to compete for Council contracts</p>	
	<p>Improve accessibility to the Council's procurement processes for voluntary and community organisations</p>	<p>[To be determined]</p>	<p>[To be determined]</p>		
	<p>Increase community benefits in public procurement</p>	<p>[To be determined]</p>	<p>[To be determined]</p>	<p>Further develop community benefit clauses in Council procurement</p>	
	<p>Achieve Fairtrade Town status</p>	<p>Achieve Fairtrade Town status by December 2009</p>	<p>Achieve Fairtrade Town status by December 2009</p>	<p>Work towards achieving Fairtrade Town status for one town in Clackmannanshire</p>	

Chapter	Objective	Indicator	Target	Actions	Baseline
<b>Chapter 7 – Learning for Sustainability</b>	Effectively communicate the meaning and importance of sustainability	Appreciation of environmental issues and action to address them	100% of schools to receive their first Eco-Schools green flag by end of 2012	Continue to support and encourage sustainability activity in schools, particularly through the Eco-Schools programme  Increase awareness of sustainability issues within the Council	
	Encourage community participation in decision making			Support and implement the Clackmannanshire Alliance's Environment and Sustainability Framework	

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