



To: GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD

On: 01 APRIL 2016

Report by:

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR THE GREENER AGENDA

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board has responsibility for co-ordinating and driving multi-agency activity to ensure the achievement of the long term vision that: 'Renfrewshire will be a clean and attractive location, providing a healthy, inviting and pleasant environment in which to live, work and do business through the promotion of sustainable patterns of travel and development, the efficient management of energy and the treatment of waste as a valuable resource.'
- 1.2 The Greener Renfrewshire element of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan clearly sets out the agreed outcomes together with the one, three and ten year targets for each of the impact measures.
- 1.3 Good progress has been made by the Greener Transport and Greener Communities sub-group action plans with further detail included within sections 4 and 5 of this report.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
 - Agrees that the Housing sub-group and the Carbon Management and Waste Reduction sub group be merged to form one sub group under the priority of Carbon Management.
 - Notes the strategic priorities which have been agreed within the Greener Transport and Greener Communities action plans.

3. Background

- 3.1 Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership is committed to ensuring that its resources are deployed wisely to achieve best value. An open and rigorous performance culture has been embedded within the partnership and promotes collective responsibility for achieving outcomes. Clear accountability and reporting is an important aspect of the approach.
- 3.2 The Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board was established with responsibility for co-ordinating and driving multi-agency activity to ensure the achievement of the long term vision that: 'Renfrewshire will be a clean and attractive location, providing a healthy, inviting and pleasant environment in which to live, work and do business through the promotion of sustainable patterns of travel and development, the efficient management of energy and the treatment of waste as a valuable resource'.
- 3.3 The Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board established four sub-groups, each led by relevant partners and supported by key officers:- Greener Communities; Greener Housing; Greener Transport; and Carbon Management and Waste Reduction. Action plans were established for each of the sub groups with good progress being achieved.
- 3.4 A large number of cross-cutting issues were identified across the work of the Greener Housing and the Carbon Management and Waste Reduction sub-groups. It is proposed, therefore, that these groups be merged to form one sub-group under the remit of Carbon Management. The priorities of this group will address carbon management and energy efficiency issues across Renfrewshire as well as the issues relating to the management of waste and recycling.

4. Greener Communities

- 4.1 The Greener Communities sub-group is led by John Wilby of the Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities, assisted by Iain Cunningham of Engage Renfrewshire. The current draft action plan for the Greener Communities sub-group is attached at Appendix 1 of this report.

- 4.2 The community groups which are represented at the Greener Communities sub-group are: Renfrewshire Council; Forum for Empowering Communities; Engage Renfrewshire; Environmental Training Team; The Forestry Commission; Royal Horticultural Society; SUSTRANS; LEAP; Eadha Enterprises; and Kibble. Invitations are issued to other community representatives when appropriate to the agenda.
- 4.2 The Greener Communities sub-group provides a forum for a range of community and voluntary organisations to share knowledge and plans of current and future work. It also provides a key opportunity to strengthen working relationships between third sector organisations and statutory organisations.
- 4.3 Members of the sub group are working to increase the number of people actively engaged in making Renfrewshire a greener place to live in. This includes some specific work to encourage young people to be more aware and engaged in environmental activity. A Greener Renfrewshire pledge has been established and is being promoted through community organisations for individuals to register interest and support. The first in a series of quarterly Greener Renfrewshire newsletters was published in January 2016. This provides a source of information on environmental activities currently taking place and opportunities to become involved.
- 4.4 The Greener Communities sub group has agreed to create a database of the environmental activity taking place currently across Renfrewshire, which will encourage more partnership working and co-production in future and enable the sharing of resources.
- 4.5 Community groups have identified nine “stalled spaces” areas to be improved in Renfrewshire, with funding of just under £20,000 secured from Architecture and Design Scotland and Renfrewshire Council to enable planned improvements to take place.
- 4.6 The Greener Communities sub group enables national groups such as Keep Scotland Beautiful and the Royal Horticultural Society to develop strong local links so that there is good local uptake of national schemes locally in Renfrewshire.
- 4.7 Local Energy Action Project (LEAP) is a local Renfrewshire third sector organisation that has achieved significant benefits for local people in terms of thermal improvements and energy saving. LEAP has now amended its remit to enable it to work in urban areas in Renfrewshire as well as rural areas.
- 4.8 In addition to local community-led projects , SUSTRANS and the Forestry Commission are working on developments at sites across Renfrewshire to improve the quality, sustainability and biodiversity of key locations.

5 Greener Transport

- 5.1 The Greener Transport sub-group is led by Ross Nimmo, Head of Planning and Development at Glasgow Airport and assisted by Scott Allan, Head of Amenity Services at Renfrewshire Council (delegated to Mark Higginbotham, Development Manager, Renfrewshire Council). The current action plan for the Greener Transport sub-group is attached at Appendix 2 of this report.
- 5.2 The organisations across Renfrewshire which are represented at the Greener Transport sub-group are: Renfrewshire Council; Glasgow Airport; SPT; University of the West of Scotland; Sustrans; NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; West College Scotland; Scotrail; Intu Braehead; Renfrewshire Leisure Limited; and Hillington Park. Invitations are issued to other community representatives when appropriate to the agenda.
- 5.3 The Greener Transport sub-group has identified links between Community Planning Partners in respect of plans relating to active travel. This includes Renfrewshire Council's proposed Cycling Strategy and draft Outdoor Access Strategy; Glasgow Airport's surface access strategy; Scotrail's plans to encourage passengers to cycle to and from their stations; active travel plans within UWS and WCS; and Sustrans' plans to improve the national cycling routes within Renfrewshire. Actions have been developed by the Greener Transport sub-group to ensure there is a 'joined up' approach to these projects and that they align with strategic activities including the sustainable transport element of the City Deal project at the Glasgow Airport Investment Area and the Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside project.
- 5.4 A project relating to the provision of a community bus scheme is being co-ordinated by the Greener Transport sub-group. This scheme will be delivered by a third sector organisation and will be piloted with Glasgow Airport. It is aimed at providing a transport service for employees whose shift patterns do not allow them to use public transport. If successful, the scheme can be rolled out to other major employers across Renfrewshire as well as providing a transport service to community groups, where a need has been identified.
- 5.5 The group has been instrumental in assisting community planning partners in pursuing funding for electric vehicles and charging points for their organisations. Renfrewshire Council has already achieved its 10 year target of more than 5% of its vehicle fleet being electric and an increasing number of electric vehicle charging points have been installed across Renfrewshire.

6 Carbon Management

- 6.1 A number of cross-cutting issues have been identified between the Greener Housing sub-group and the Carbon Management and Waste Reduction sub-group. It is, therefore, proposed that these two groups be merged to form one group under the heading of Carbon Management.
- 6.2 This newly formed group, which will be led by a representative from the Community Planning Partnership, assisted by officers from Renfrewshire Council, will help bring together Community Planning Partners including NHS, University of the West of Scotland, Housing Associations and West College Scotland to look at the management of the public realm for a sustainable future within Renfrewshire and help identify and enable access to any funding streams which may be available.
- 6.3 The Carbon Management sub-group will prepare a new strategic action plan which will help to evolve the strategic agenda including: the City Deal projects; the Clyde Valley Waste project; the Poverty Commission action plan; and the Town Centre initiatives. This action plan will tie in closely with the priorities of the Greener Transport and Greener Communities sub-groups and will help to identify and maximise funding opportunities across the Community Planning Partnership for areas relating to the Greener Agenda and carbon management issues in particular.
- 6.4 Some of the performance measures which will be monitored by the Carbon Management sub-group will include: the reduction of CO2 emissions across Renfrewshire; achieving a reduction in the number of households in Renfrewshire experiencing fuel poverty; the percentage of waste which is recycled and landfilled; and the levels of Renfrewshire's social and private housing which are energy efficient.

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Appendix 1

Greener Communities Sub Group Action Plan			
Lead: John Wilby (Paisley West and Central Community Council) Iain Cunningham (Engage Renfrewshire)			
Proposed Actions	Lead organisation and group	Milestones	Progress to date
Outcome. Encourage and support community (public, business, charities) involvement in developing and measuring activities that help to make Renfrewshire “Greener” Increase in the number of people and organisations involved actively in making Renfrewshire Greener.	Greener Communities Sub Group	Produce and distribute four Greener Renfrewshire newsletters per annum to encourage and support community action.	Greener Renfrewshire pledge established and is being promoted to community groups. First Greener Renfrewshire newsletter published in January 2016.
		Recruit individuals and community organisations to sign the Greener Renfrewshire pledge and participate in community action – initial target of 500 signatories to the Greener Renfrewshire pledge 2016/17.	
		Create a comprehensive database of community groups, charities, voluntary groups and businesses in Renfrewshire undertaking Green environmental activity to encourage information sharing and partnership working.	

Greener Communities Sub Group Action Plan Lead: John Wilby (Paisley West and Central Community Council) Iain Cunningham (Engage Renfrewshire)			
Proposed Actions	Lead organisation and group	Milestones	Progress to date
Improved joint working between community groups and statutory organisations on environmental activity.	Greener Communities Sub Group	An effective channel established to communicate information about funding, current and planned local environmental activity and support available to community organisations from statutory partners. Evidence that local community groups have used this information 2016/17. Develop a database of workers in statutory partners whose skills can support the governance and activity of community organisations undertaking environmental activity	Renfrewshire 2023 being used to promote work of the Greener Renfrewshire Group, including Greener Communities.
Community organisations promote energy saving and carbon reduction within communities.	Local Energy Action Partnership (LEAP)	200 people per month to receive energy saving service delivered by LEAP/Renfrewshire Council	LEAP constitution now changed to enable working in urban areas. Energy saving service established by LEAP and Renfrewshire Council.

Greener Communities Sub Group Action Plan Lead: John Wilby (Paisley West and Central Community Council) Iain Cunningham (Engage Renfrewshire)			
Proposed Actions	Lead organisation and group	Milestones	Progress to date
Outcome: Renfrewshire is a well maintained, clean and attractive place to live, work and visit			
Community organisations deliver and/or support action to improve the appearance and maintenance of local amenity spaces in communities.	Greener Communities Sub Group members	Stalled spaces initiatives agreed during 2015/16 that continue to be maintained during 2016/17.	135 individuals to date have been engaged through the Environmental Training Team in maintenance projects.
		Progress stalled spaces initiatives in Brown Street and Underwood Road. Begin work on (number) of stalled spaces during 2016/17	Keep Scotland Beautiful "Litter Pick Plus" toolkit has been launched and will be promoted within Renfrewshire.
		Key community groups identified to participate in promoting the new responsible dog ownership strategy being developed in 2016/17. 4 gardening training courses to be undertaken by the Disability Resource Centre/Environmental Trust during 2016/17. Support provided to develop "Friends of ..." groups in local parks.	Around £20,000 of funding allocated to community groups applying for stalled spaces funding in 2015/16. 9 awards were made or are pending.

Greener Communities Sub Group Action Plan Lead: John Wilby (Paisley West and Central Community Council) Iain Cunningham (Engage Renfrewshire)			
Proposed Actions	Lead organisation and group	Milestones	Progress to date
Outcome: Young people in Renfrewshire are aware of Greener Initiatives and what they can do to support it.			
Ensure that opportunities are available for young people to be involved in environmental activity in Renfrewshire.	Greener Communities Sub group	Young people recruited to the Keep Scotland Beautiful Young Reporters scheme. Royal Horticultural Society recruiting volunteer gardeners during 2016 enable skills to be shared with pupils as part of the school garden campaign.	Linwood High School 5* Garden supported by Royal Horticultural Society.
Outcome: Our communities are sustainable and high quality places			
Community and voluntary sector organisations lead or contribute to work to improve the quality, sustainability and biodiversity of local amenity spaces.	SUSTRANS	SUSTRANS are recruiting volunteers in 2016 including: rangers – to carry out general maintenance and litter collecting work collecting	40 volunteers have been recruited to work on cycle routes 7 and 75. Video of cycle route N7 created to showing the diversity of natural wildlife along the route after dark.

Greener Communities Sub Group Action Plan Lead: John Wilby (Paisley West and Central Community Council) Iain Cunningham (Engage Renfrewshire)				
Proposed Actions	Lead organisation and group	Milestones	Progress to date	
		• signing champions – ensuring signage is up to date • wildlife champions – surveys on ecology, biology, botany and the creation of wildflower meadows • I-bike volunteers – to encourage children to use the tracks Feasibility study being undertaken by Sustrans 2016/17 on cycle routes 7 and 75 including development of partnerships with local groups.		
	Forestry Commission	6 sites in Renfrewshire under Forestry Commission management in 2016/17.		Renfrewshire Rural Watch launched in 2015. Amongst other criminal activities, Renfrewshire Rural Watch tackles fly tipping in rural areas.
	Keep Scotland Beautiful	Bee Diverse seed kits and leaflets are being issued to all Keep Scotland Beautiful members in 2016 to encourage planting which will attract bees.		
	Royal Horticultural Society	RHS promoting "It's Your Neighborhood", "Bloom" and "Adopt A Space" projects during 2015/16		

Greener Transport Sub-group Action Plan Lead: Ross Nimmo (Glasgow Airport) and Mark Higginbotham (Renfrewshire Council)		
Actions	Progress to date	Future steps
Greener Active Transport		
Develop infrastructure in Renfrewshire to provide safe, off road cycling and walking routes across Renfrewshire, which support journeys to school, work, shops, services and leisure	Renfrewshire Council has prepared a Cycling Strategy which will be submitted to Board in March for approval. A number of projects are being developed to enhance and create new cycle facilities throughout Renfrewshire, including:	Draft Renfrewshire Access Strategy submitted to Board in January for approval of an 8 week consultation prior to the document being finalised Ensure successful active travel routes are identified, which can enhance the City of Culture Bid.
	Awarded £10,000 Community Links Plus funding towards a feasibility study of a segregated cycle way running within the road-width corridor of the A8 Greenock Road from Bishopton to join routes around Airport Investment Area being promoted by City Deal.	
	30 Renfrewshire Council drivers have now received cycle awareness training which was funded through the Scottish Government and delivered by Cycling Scotland. Marketing video for the training to be published on the Renfrewshire 2023 website.	
	Cycling routes are being considered within the plans being addressed through the City Deal initiative	
Encourage school children to walk and cycle to school and reduce the number of car journeys to school	Bikeability cycle training scheme is in place with around 20 schools participating each year. It is hoped this scheme will encourage more children to cycle to school. The target is to ensure all 49 primary and 11 secondary schools across Renfrewshire participate in the scheme.	Set up a working group with officers from Education and Greener Transport sub group to help in the promotion of walking and cycling to school

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Actions	Progress to date	Future steps
Greener Active Transport		
Encourage employees to walk and cycle to work and reduce the number of car journeys to work		Seek 'Smarter Places, Smarter Choices' government funding to implement a programme of engagement with residents who travel to work to keep travel diaries in order to investigate travel behaviour and suggest active travel alternatives and fund trial journeys to initiate behaviour change.
Greener Public Transport		
Improve the satisfaction ratings for public transport across Renfrewshire (SHS data)	At the end of 2014/15 a total of 17 bus boarders were in place across Renfrewshire. Priority has been given to the major routes: Glasgow/Linwood and Glasgow/Renfrew. A further 4 bus boarders are planned for Erskine during 2015/16. These are funded through the SPT grant for public transport infrastructure. Further funding from SPT has enabled the delivery of improvements to Paisley Central Bus Hub including installation of bus boarders and replacements shelters, within Paisley town centre – this work is currently underway	Identify a method to measure bus usage across Renfrewshire to determine a benchmark and use this data to set appropriate targets to increase usage.
Work with the bus industry and partnership organisations to promote cleaner, greener buses		Set up a forum with organisations which have funding streams to promote greener public transport – such as:- Green Bus Fund; Bus Improvement Fund; Transport Scotland; SPT and promote with public transport providers across Renfrewshire

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Actions	Progress to date	Future steps
Greener Active Transport		
Greener Workplace Transport		
Increase the percentage of vehicles in the public fleet which use alternative fuels, such as electricity	The percentage of Renfrewshire Council's vehicle fleet which uses alternative fuels, such as electricity was below target over the first 2 years of the Community Plan. During 2014/15, a further 12 electric vehicles were purchased as part of the overall vehicle replacement programme, bringing the total number of electric vehicles to 15, exceeding the target of 2.25%. The purchase of further electric vehicles is planned throughout 2015/16 and this will result in electric vehicles making up more than 5% of the vehicle fleet, exceeding the 10 year target set. Due to this ongoing increase in the number electric vehicles in Renfrewshire Council's vehicle fleet, it has been agreed to change the 2023 target to 20%.	Identify funding opportunities to help promote the use of electric vehicles across Community Planning Partners. A new Transport Scotland electric vehicles initiative will continue during 2015/16. The project offers free, evidence based analysis of public sector fleets to identify new opportunities for the cost effective deployment of electric vehicles. We have approached Transport Scotland regarding the availability of any further funding streams for the purchase of further vehicles or installations of charging points and await their response. A decision on the number of electric vehicles to be purchased for Renfrewshire council vehicle fleet will be taken by the end of this financial year.
Install publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points	There are currently 18 electric vehicle charging points in place across Renfrewshire, which have been installed through the Community Planning Partnership. A further 8 charging points are planned during 2015/16, bringing the total to 26. A consultation which has been held with local business and employers has revealed that there	Transport Scotland have approved funding for 2 more charging outlets – one in Underwood Road which will provide 8 electric vehicle charging points (EVCs) and another at Bridgewater Shopping Centre in Erskine which will provide 1 charging point. An information sheet on how to obtain funding for EVCs to be published on Renfrewshire 2023.

Greener Transport Sub-group Action Plan Lead: Ross Nimmo (Glasgow Airport) and Mark Higginbotham (Renfrewshire Council)		
Actions	Progress to date	Future steps
Greener Active Transport		
	are 57 privately installed electric vehicle charging points for use by employees and visitors with 15 of these available for public use. The group has also reviewed online resources for electric car drivers to ensure that information about all facilities in Renfrewshire is up to date.	Ensure all publicly available electric vehicle charging points are registered on the ChargeYourCar website
Further develop community transport in Renfrewshire to provide alternative travel options and compliment "MyBus".	Linked to the WORKBUS initiative. A number of meetings and a workshop have taken place, the latest of which considered feedback from a number of surveys of community groups and workplaces that have been undertaken to ascertain the relative appetite for this type of service and how it might be organised/delivered. Successful meetings have taken place with SPT and Community Transport Glasgow regarding a Community Bus Scheme. SPT have offered two 16 seater buses for use in the local area. Talks have been held with a local 3rd sector organisation which has agreed to take on the project and is currently undergoing Section 19 authorisation prior to a formal launch. A feasibility study on funding is still to be put in place and will run separately from the initial launch of the project.	Roll out a pilot with Glasgow Airport staff, monitoring the number of users to ensure the success of the project Identify if Renfrewshire Council drivers have any capacity to drive the bus for community groups during 'down times' Opportunity to improve collaboration between Transport sub group, transport and planning depts., SPT and developers
Provide support to employers across Renfrewshire to develop travel plans within their organisations		Seek 'Smarter Choices, Smarter Places' government funding to provide consultant

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Actions	Progress to date	Future steps
Greener Active Transport		
		support to help organisations understand the benefits of travel plans and to write their own.
Work with local business and organisations to help deliver travel plans	A brief has been prepared by SPT to undertake a Feasibility Study to assess the options for the development of Community Transport throughout Renfrewshire. This study would include identifying key journey generating employment sites.	
Promote the use of pool cars across the Community Planning Partnership	An electric pool car is due to be piloted within the environmental Strategy Team in Renfrewshire Council	
Promote the use of the Journeyshare/Lifshare scheme across Community Planning Partners	Glasgow Airport actively promotes the Lifshare scheme to its staff.	Renfrewshire Council to revisit and refresh its Journeyshare Scheme to encourage more staff to participate and reduce the number of car journeys to Renfrewshire House.
Air Quality Management		
Improve Air Quality Across Renfrewshire	Renfrewshire Council has produced an Air Quality Action Plan, accepted by Scottish Government, to work towards improving air quality in the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). For example, one of the actions included in the plan is the Statutory Quality Bus Partnership led by Strathclyde Transport Partnership, set incremental targets for improving the bus fleet operating in Renfrewshire. The Plan will be reviewed periodically and can be adapted to include new measures as they emerge. Once a sustained period where Nitrogen Dioxide and PM10 levels can be shown to be below the limit	Several measures within the action plan have been delivered, such as improvements to Central Road and the Statutory Quality Bus Partnership achieving its fleet improvement programme within target dates and other measures are ongoing. The existing action to have no air quality management areas in Renfrewshire is also a target within the Community Plan and the Service Improvement Plan for Community Resources. This action measure is no longer considered appropriate as a significant

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Actions	Progress to date	Future steps
Greener Active Transport	values set by the Scottish Government, Renfrewshire Council will seek to revoke the Paisley Town Centre AQMA, in line with Scottish Government guidance. Work to identify hotspot areas and the largest contributors to pollutants within the AQMA is ongoing and due to be completed within the first quarter of 2016. This will assist with identifying new action plan measures which will deliver improvements to air quality in this area. The work also aims to estimate future dates when air quality limit values within the AQMA will be met. Renfrewshire Wardens carried out a 2 day vehicle emissions patrol in Paisley town centre in October in partnership with the Council's licensing section and Police Scotland. Tests were carried out on 273 vehicles, of which 7 failed and were issued with £60 fixed-penalty notices. A further 32 taxis and private-hire vehicles were inspected with 4 failing the emissions test resulting in an immediate suspension of their license.	contributing factor to pollutant levels is the significant increase in the proportion of diesel vehicles in the general fleet. Diesel vehicles are incentivised by Government policy, for example through road tax pricing based on CO2 emissions, to contribute to Government climate change targets. However, they emit a higher proportion of nitrogen dioxide directly from the exhaust. In addition, European Union Euro Standards for vehicle emissions have not delivered the expected emissions reductions that were predicted. This is partly due to the fact that the technology used by vehicle manufacturers to abate particulate emissions has the side effect of increasing nitrogen dioxide emissions. Another cause is that the test cycle used to determine if a model meets the Euro standard does not replicate real-world urban driving conditions. We are currently considering alternative, more appropriate action measures. Additionally, the number of air quality management areas within Renfrewshire is likely to increase to support the work being undertaken.