

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2009/2011
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 29 APRIL 2009
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents to Members the second Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) between the Community Planning Partnership and the Scottish Government for approval.
- 1.2 Members will be aware that the draft SOA was submitted to the Scottish Government on behalf of our Community Planning Partnership in February 2009. It was then presented in draft form to Policy and Resources Committee in March 2009. Following submission of the draft, the Scottish Government reviewed the SOA and has very recently provided feedback to the Partnership. This report sets out the Agreement as Appendix One of the report and asks Members to approve this as the refreshed SOA between the Scottish Government and the Falkirk Council Area Community Planning Partnership.

2. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Single Outcome Agreement is an outcome based approach to define the relationship between the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and Community Planning Partnerships. The approach encompasses the following:
- A Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) which comprises of local and national outcomes and a series of performance measures; and
 - Revised funding arrangements to replace the complexity of existing challenge and ring-fenced funding.

3. DEVELOPING THE SOA FOR THE FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA

- 3.1 The new SOA has been developed from the first SOA, signed off by the Community Planning Partnership and the Scottish Government in July 2008. Members will recall that further guidance was received by the Partnership on the scope, content and governance of the SOA. The guidance required that each statutory public organisation which was required to participate in Community Planning, had to approve and sign off the agreement collectively and individually. For the Falkirk Council area the following partners have, or will sign off the SOA for 2009/2011:
- Falkirk Council;
 - Central Scotland Police;
 - NHS Forth Valley;

- Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service;
- Forth Valley College;
- CVS Falkirk and District;
- Scottish Enterprise;
- Skills Development Scotland; and
- SESTRAN.

- 3.2 It is heartening that three new partners have signed off the Agreement this year, ensuring our local outcomes are taken forward in their future planning. It is recognised that, over time, we may extend the focus of the agreement to cover other agencies and organisations. Members will recall that partners are now required to formally approve the Single Outcome Agreement. This process is currently taking place with most partner agencies seeking their Board's approval in May 2009. We also recognise within the SOA the need to review its content annually – not only to monitor progress, but also to ensure our outcomes and indicators reflect our ambitions.
- 3.3 In line with the arrangements adopted last year for the development of our first SOA, the Council in leading the SOA development process, adopted a pragmatic approach. Partners met collectively on a number of occasions to review the previous agreement, discuss progress and set appropriate targets and direction of travel for this year's agreement.
- 3.4 Members will recall last year that once the SOA was submitted in draft to the Scottish Government, there was a process of negotiation that resulted in minor changes to the SOA. Due to the engagement with the Government prior to drafting our refreshed SOA, feedback on this SOA has been very positive, resulting in even fewer suggested changes. However, final confirmation of the changes suggested by the Scottish Government has only just been received and are now being discussed with partners. Although I have not been able to incorporate all of the changes into the SOA being presented to Members today, I do not anticipate that there will be any difficulty in reaching agreement and would expect the final version of the SOA to be substantially the same as the version attached to this report.
- 3.5 Copies of the finalised SOA will be issued to Members and to partners as soon as possible.

4. CONTENT OF SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

- 4.1 The Single Outcome Agreement has a number of key elements:
- Short statement setting out the purpose and scope of the SOA;
 - A context statement for the area;
 - A completed template for each of the 15 national outcomes that sets out a local context for the outcomes, local priorities/outcomes, progress to date, performance measures, key actions and a link to other plans and strategies that sit below the water line; and
 - A statement of governance, ongoing development of the SOA, performance management and reporting.

- 4.2 The SOA is a high level strategic document and the local outcomes that are included in it should be those which are of fundamental importance to our local area. The Single Outcome Agreement need not, and indeed cannot include everything that the Council and our partners are delivering.
- 4.3 The Single Outcome Agreement reflects progress and outcomes against all 15 national outcomes. The local outcomes were derived from the Council and other Partners' Corporate Plans, as well as the Strategic Community Plan and supporting strategies. However, in including a range of local outcomes, we have hopefully reflected the capacity of the Council and our partners to address a range of issues that are of importance to our local communities.
- 4.4 It should be stressed that the SOA does not include all performance measures that Services will be reporting to Members. We will continue to report on service performance through the Best Value Forum and also Scrutiny Committees. However, the SOA will be the main vehicle for reporting on progress against the Corporate Plan. Members will recall that the Corporate Plan monitoring report presented to Council in December 2008, noted progress on the outcomes and those indicators contained within the SOA that the Council has responsibility for. In addition, the Partnership will provide an update on the SOA in September each year.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Single Outcome Agreement is a significant document in that it sets out the commitment of the Council, our local partners and the Scottish Government, to meeting the changing needs of the Falkirk Council area. Our partners' continued commitment to developing this SOA has again been critical in ensuring the SOA fully articulates our ambitions for our area. This joint commitment will ensure that we make progress on achieving the outcomes contained in the body of the document.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 6.1 **Note the contents of the report and the work that has been undertaken to date in developing the SOA for the Falkirk Council area; and**
- 6.2 **Approve the Single Outcome Agreement for the Falkirk Council Area Community Planning Partnership noting some minor changes will be required before the SOA is finally signed off by the Falkirk Council Area Community Planning Partnership and the Government.**

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Date: 15 April 2009
Contact: Fiona Campbell Ext 6004
Ref: ABK0409FC

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Single Outcome Agreements, Guidance, Format and Indicators for Scottish Local Government, February 2009.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA'S COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
And
THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

2009-2011

Falkirk Community Planning Partnership has developed a Single Outcome Agreement that will help measure the progress we are making locally to achieve our shared vision for the Falkirk Council area. The purpose of this Agreement is to set out the improvements that our partnership and the Scottish Government want to achieve in our area between 2009 and 2011.

Our collective commitment will ensure that in achieving our vision we will provide the best quality services at an affordable cost to our communities and citizens and that this is at the very heart of all that we do.

Our vision is to ensure that:

- ***The legacy of our past and the potential of our future are protected.***
- ***Our area is at the centre of Scotland.***
- ***Our future is as one of the most culturally diverse and distinct areas in Scotland.***
- ***Our future has investment in jobs, learning, homes and leisure for all.***
- ***Our area is 'the place to be' in the third Millennium.***

Implicit in our vision is the need for our citizens and communities to be safe and healthy.

This agreement is shared by the following partners in the first instance:

- Falkirk Council;
- NHS Forth Valley;
- Central Scotland Police;
- Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service;
- Forth Valley College;
- CVS Falkirk and District;
- Scottish Enterprise;
- Skills Development Scotland; and
- SESTRAN

We must acknowledge that we alone cannot achieve our vision for our area and are reliant on a range of partners, communities and individuals to work with us to do this. Their contribution must be valued and recognised if we are to achieve what our communities need over the coming years.

Our Single Outcome Agreement will develop over time. We will further refine how we measure our performance against our outcomes, as well as extending our partnership to fully engage other key agencies and organisations. We will also further refine our targets as we make progress.

Our Area in Context

Falkirk Council is situated right at the centre of Scotland. We have a growing population which topped 150,000 for the first time in 2007. Our area is one of the best connected areas in Scotland, equidistant between Glasgow and Edinburgh and at the heart of the motorway network.

The area has always been at the focus of Scotland's history. The recently designated World Heritage Site of the Antonine Wall dates from Roman times – the largest relic of the Roman occupation in Scotland, has its largest and most well preserved remains within our area. This is one of only five world heritage sites in Scotland.

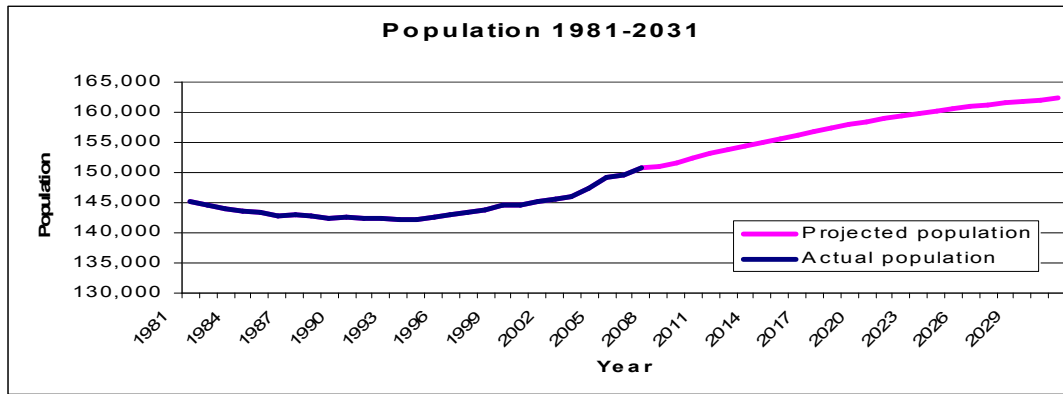
Our area was host to two major battles: the First Battle of Falkirk in 1298 where William Wallace led the Scots into battle against Edward's English army; and the Battle of Falkirk Muir in 1746 where Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites defeated the government forces. In the 18th and 19th centuries Falkirk was home to Europe's greatest cattle markets where upwards of 100,000 beasts changed hands.

Our area remains a dynamic area. The Falkirk Wheel, part of the Millennium project, was pivotal in reopening the Forth and Clyde and Union canals and now attracts increasing numbers of visitors each year. We have also just secured £25m of Living Landmarks Lottery Funding, in conjunction with British Waterways and Central Scotland Forest Trust to transform the environment between Falkirk and Grangemouth including building the Kelpies, giant public artworks that will mark the eastern gateway to the canal network. Key to this success was the active participation of our communities and demonstration of civic pride.

This profile seeks to provide a background to our area, looking at past trends and future challenges that will affect and have an impact on our area in the short, medium and longer term. The recent economic downturn means that there is considerable uncertainty around the state of the international, national and local economy. The economic uncertainty makes it difficult to forecast the future trends and anticipate what may happen to our communities in the timescale of this Outcome Agreement. However we remain committed to our long term vision. Our area has faced major challenges before. Our ability to adapt and react to changing circumstances sets us in good stead to ensure a thriving and prosperous future for our area and our communities.

Population

The population of our area is increasing. After many years when there was little change in the population, it began to rise in the mid 1990's and there have now been almost 15 years of continuous growth. The population currently stands at 150,720 (2007), having grown by over 5% in the last decade – compared to an overall increase in Scotland of 1.2%. The population is projected to increase further to 152,500 by 2011, 156,000 by 2016 and 162,300 by 2031. The growing population presents a major challenge in providing services to the partnership and individual agencies.



Source: General Register Office for Scotland mid year estimates of population 1981-2007
2006 based population projections 2007-2031 (Crown Copyright)

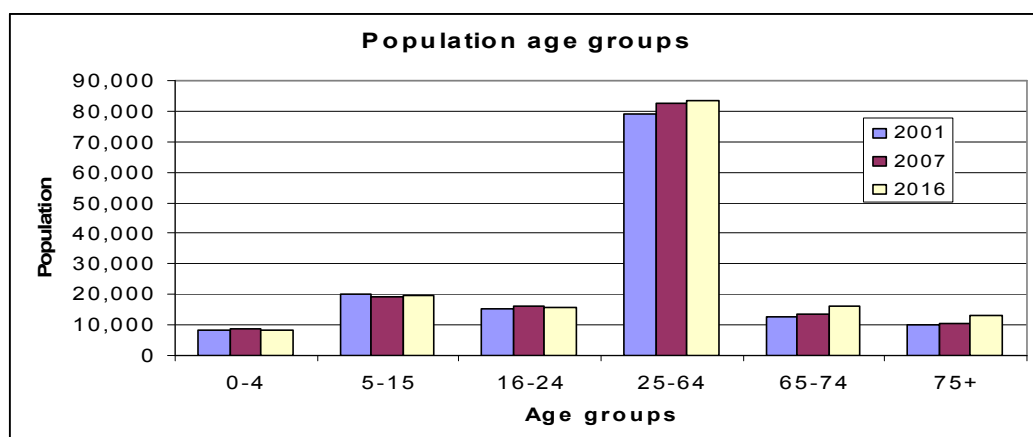
Much of the growth has been driven by net in-migration, with our area being attractive to in-migrants due to its competitive house prices, the variety of new build properties which have recently been constructed and good transport links. Average net in-migration since 2001 has been over 850 per year.

Births: In the last few years the number of births in our area has increased at a faster rate than the rest of Scotland. The number of births in 2007 returned to the level of the early 1990's at 1,892 compared to around 1,500 in the early 2000's and the quarterly figures for 2008 already published suggest that the numbers are continuing to rise. These are higher figures than included in the latest population projections, so in the next few years the number of pre-fives will be higher than originally predicted. It is impossible to say how long this new trend of increased births will continue and the figures will continue to be closely monitored.

This will put pressure on our early years' services and later on our Education Services, especially in the light of the Scottish Government's commitment to reducing class sizes.

Deaths: Along with the rest of Scotland, the death rate in our area is continuing to decrease slowly, with the annual number of deaths being around 1,600, although varying from year to year. The decrease in the death rate is expected to continue. From this we can see that the number of births in our area now is higher than the number of deaths. This is very different from most areas in Scotland and presents us with different challenges.

Compared to the rest of Scotland, the population of our area has a younger profile with a higher proportion of children and a smaller percentage of older people. However, along with the rest of Scotland, the population is aging and the Council is challenged to provide services for the additional number of elderly people.



Source: General Register Office for Scotland (Crown Copyright)

The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase by a quarter by 2016 with even larger increases in the over 85's.

Age group			Change 2007-2011		2016	Change 2011-2016	
	2007	2011	No	%		No	%
65-74	13,387	14,180	+ 793	+ 5.9%	16,272	+ 2,885	+ 21.6%
75-84	7,962	8,482	+ 520	+ 6.5%	9,652	+ 1,690	+ 21.2%
85+	2,492	2,849	+ 357	+ 14.3%	3,352	+ 860	+ 34.5%
Total 65+	23,841	25,511	+ 1,670	+ 7.0%	29,276	+ 5,435	+ 22.8%

The Economy

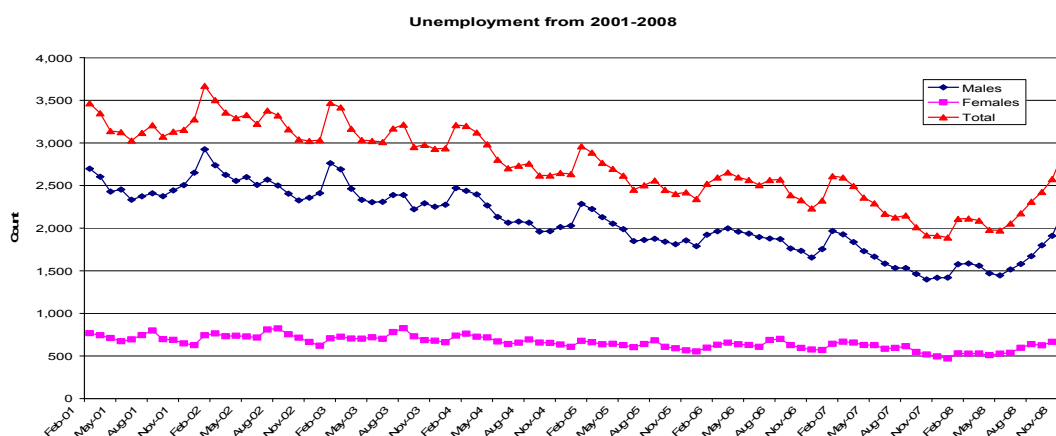
The recent international down turn in the economy will undoubtedly impact on our area. The impact of this recession is being felt already by our communities. However the long term significance and impact will not be able to be fully measured for some time.

Our area is important to the Scottish economy with over £2.2 billion of Gross Added Value being generated in the Council area in 2005. Grangemouth is Scotland's premier port and the petrochemical industry based at Grangemouth is a major employer and of strategic significance to Scotland.

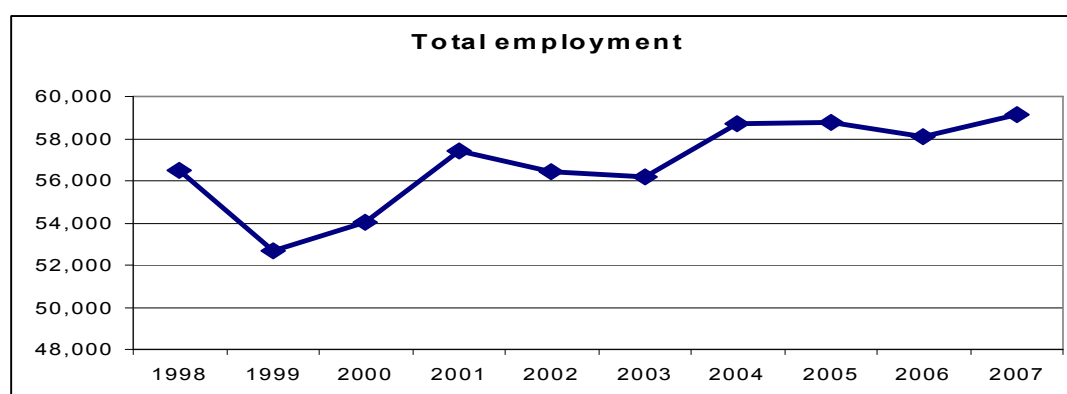
Unemployment: One data source which is timely is the claimant count unemployment data which is published monthly by the Office for National Statistics. The latest figures show that the claimant count has increased from under 2,000 in the spring of 2008 to almost 3,000 by November 2008 with an increase of over 30% since the summer of 2008. However, it has only reached the level which it stood at in 2003 and remains substantially below the figures of over 11,000 in the mid 1980's. Male unemployment is higher than female unemployment and has been increasing faster. It is likely that the numbers will continue to increase over the next year.

More worryingly is the fact that unemployment has been growing faster in our area than elsewhere in Scotland. From 2001 to 2005 unemployment in the Falkirk Council area was above the Scottish average. However, from 2005 until the autumn of 2008, we had a lower unemployment rate than Scotland as a whole. It is now above the Scotland rate again.

In line with this change, our unemployment is now the 11th highest among the 32 Scottish local authority areas, while at the start of 2008 it was only 16th highest.



Employment: The following graph shows that over the last ten years there has been a general growth in employment in the area, but these figures do not include the effect of the current recession. Based on past trends, the latest forecasts from SLIMS¹ show that the numbers in employment were expected to grow to over 63,500 by 2013, however, these forecasts were made before the current economic downturn and will require to be monitored in light of growing trends.



Source: NOMIS, Annual Business Inquiry, Crown Copyright

The ambitious “My Future’s in Falkirk” initiative, currently being reviewed, aims to create over 4,200 jobs by 2012.

Employment by sector: Our area and communities’ are less exposed to the crisis in the financial sector which in 2007 only employed 0.7% of the total in the Council area, compared to 5.5% in the East of Scotland as a whole. However, the 2001 Census showed that over 2,500 people commuted to jobs in the financial sector – mainly in Edinburgh and Stirling, and these people may be more vulnerable as a result of the downturn in that sector.

On the other hand, the construction industry which is also suffering severely in the recession is over-represented in the area with almost 6.8% employed in that sector in 2007 (5.7% in Scotland as a whole). The effects on the construction industry can be seen in the number of new housing sites where building has almost ceased and also in the increase in the number of the unemployed

¹ <http://www.slims.org.uk/aboutus.asp?h=profile>

who are seeking construction jobs – a number which has trebled in the last year indicating that unemployment has hit this sector hard.

Manufacturing has always been strongly represented in our area and 15.7% of employment is still in manufacturing compared to 9.2% in Scotland as a whole. However, in line with the rest of the country, manufacturing employment is declining. The main industries are related to the refinery and petro-chemical complex at Grangemouth together with vehicle manufacture, and timber processing.

As manufacturing has reduced over the last decade so the service industries have grown. The area's excellent transport links have encouraged the expansion of warehousing and distribution, with employment in this sector above the Scottish average. Asda have their Scottish distribution depot in Falkirk and Tesco now use Grangemouth as the destination for their daily rail freight deliveries to Scotland.

In 2011, the opening of the new Forth Valley Hospital at Larbert will increase the amount of employment in the health sector and in the longer term provide additional jobs for local people.

The public sector are the biggest employers in the area with the Council itself as the largest single employer in the area (in common with most local authorities in Scotland) with over 7,000 employees and the NHS the second largest employer. Other large public sector employers in the area are the Prison Service (Polmont Young Offenders Institution) and the Child Support Agency. 16.5% of total employment in the area is in the public sector compared to 23.2% in Scotland as a whole.

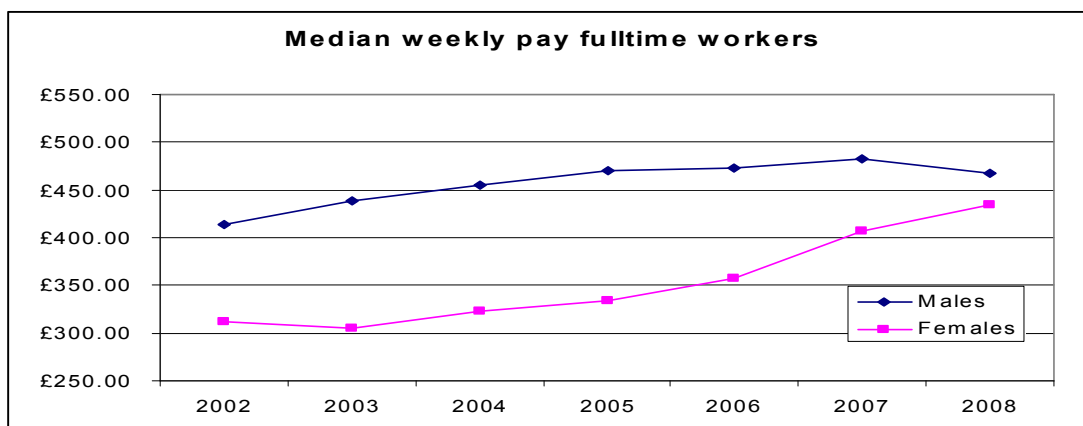
In the current economic climate, public sector jobs may be seen as more secure. However, budget pressures exist on all public sector employers. The UK Government recently announced the closure of HMRC offices in Grangemouth and Falkirk.

Economic activity: Economic activity rates in our area are above Scotland as a whole and have been for several years as the following table shows. Male rates exceed female rates but they are coming closer together with almost as high a proportion of the female population economically active as of the male population.

Year	Total		Males		Females	
	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland
2004/05	80.4	79.1	84.2	82.8	76.5	75.1
2005/06	81.9	79.3	86.1	82.9	77.5	75.5
2006/07	82.9	80.0	87.3	83.5	78.3	76.4
2007/08	81.6	79.9	83.7	83.5	79.3	76.2

Source: Annual Population Survey

Earnings: While pay for women remains below that of men, the following graph shows that the gap appears to have narrowed considerably in the Falkirk area in the last few years for full time employees. However in 2008, the male weekly pay rate for Falkirk residents fell below the Scottish average for the first time since 2002 while for women, the rate is now slightly higher than the Scottish average.



Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (Crown Copyright)

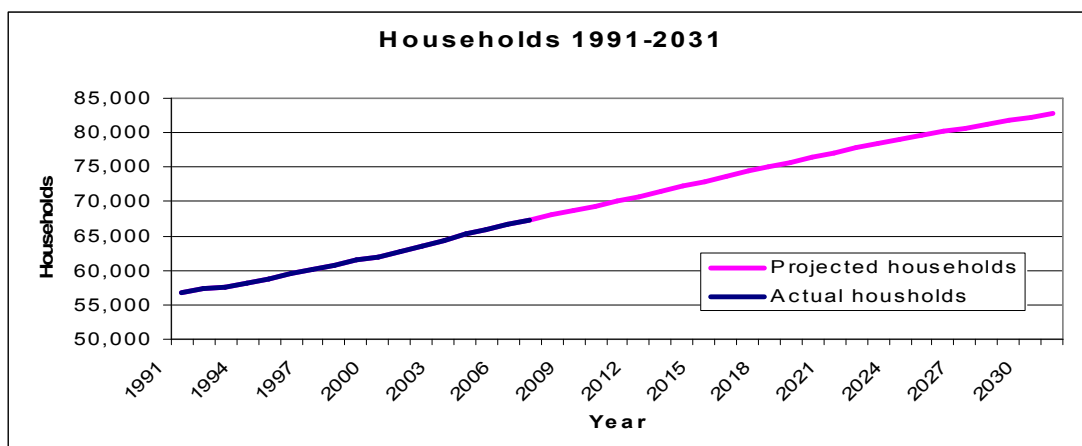
The current economic situation has highlighted the problems of debt and lack of financial resources. According to the Scottish Household Survey only 46% of Falkirk households have savings compared to over half of all Scottish households. On the other hand only 23% had taken out a loan in the previous year compared to 28% overall in Scotland. Thus levels of debt may be lower in our area than elsewhere. There is considerable interest in the levels of house repossessions, but what information there is at a local level suggests that numbers are small, although they may be expected to increase which has implications for the Council's Housing Service.

The current economic conditions make it very difficult to predict what might happen in the immediate future and it may be that circumstances will be significantly different from the recent past. The situation will need to be closely monitored.

Housing and Households

The growth in population has been mirrored by the growth in the housing stock and the number of households in the Council area. In fact, due to falling average household size, the number of households has been increasing at a much faster rate than the population. The number of households grew by 19% between 1991 and 2007 to 67,400 and is predicted to increase to 73,500 by 2011 and to nearly 83,000 by 2031. The increase in population coupled with a decrease in household size has increased pressure for housing in our area. The economic downturn and the crisis in the housing industry means we must be innovative in the way we meet these demands.

Household types: Much of the growth in the number of households has been and will continue to be, among single person households - from 22,500 single person households in 2006 to over 25,000 in 2011 and as many as 36,000 by 2031 or 44% of all households if present trends continue. Of these 40% are likely to be someone aged over 75. On the other hand, the number of households with children is predicted to decrease even though we anticipate a growth in the number of children in our area. This is mainly due to a continuing change in the type of households, with many more single people i.e. never married, separated or divorced, along with the increase of older people.



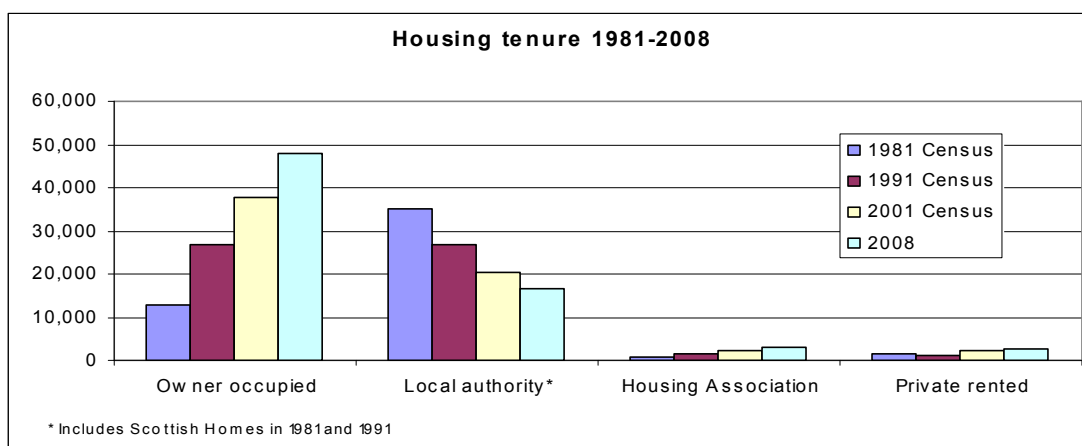
Source: General Register Office for Scotland (Crown Copyright)

House building: The increase in the number of households has largely mirrored the amount of new house building each year within the Council area. From an average of some 500 new houses per year in the 1980's, the level of house building increased to 600 per year in the 1990's but in 2002-2004 it reached 1,000 houses per year. The rate of new building has since fallen and it is expected to remain at a much lower level as long as the economic situation remains difficult. The current [Structure Plan](#) required almost 700 new houses to be completed each year over the period of the Plan (from 2001-2020) and sufficient land has been allocated to allow this growth to take place. Over the period 2009-12, the Council plans to build approximately 100 new homes for rent, whilst its Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners have capacity to build over 500 new properties for a combination of renting and low cost home ownership. As noted earlier, we must now look at more innovative ways of providing housing for all our communities.

Housing Quality: The Council has recently commissioned a sample house condition survey covering all housing tenures. Results are expected to be available in summer 2009 and will provide valuable information on housing conditions that will allow the Council and its partners to plan what services can be made available to owners and landlords of properties that are in need of repair or adaptation. Approximately 2,100 properties will be surveyed which will be representative of housing stock in the area. We are committed to continuously upgrading our stock and support private owners to do the same.

Housing tenure: The following graph of housing tenure shows the substantial change which has taken place since 1981 when the Right to Buy legislation was introduced. While the total number of houses in the area has increased from just under 54,000 in 1981 to over 70,000 in 2008, the number of houses rented by the Council has declined from over 35,000 to just over 16,500, almost entirely due to Right to Buy sales.

In the same period, the vast majority of new houses built have been for owner occupation, which together with Right to Buy sales has resulted in an increase in owner occupation from around 13,000 houses (25%) to over 47,000 (68%). There has also been a small increase in the number of properties owned by RSLs, although some of this increase is due to the transfer of the Scottish Homes houses to RSLs. Private renting has also increased slightly since 1991 following many years of decline.



Source: General Register Office for Scotland Censuses (Crown Copyright), Falkirk Council, R&I Unit

This shift in the tenure pattern marks a significant social change and mirrors a similar change throughout the country. While the number of sales of council houses has fallen (largely because there are fewer left to sell and those who remain Council tenants are less likely to be able to buy), it is predicted that the number of council owned properties will continue to fall, to 13,600 by 2016, while the numbers of owner occupied houses will increase as most new build continues to be for owner occupation and the numbers will be augmented by the remaining Right to Buy sales. Falkirk Council has taken the decision to retain its own housing stock and not to transfer it to a RSL. This does mean Falkirk Council is one of the countries biggest landlords.

It seems unlikely that the recent economic problems will cause much change in this pattern, although there is some evidence of an increase in the private rental market as some people are unable to sell their homes. Equally, some developers have indicated an interest in selling properties to social landlords, but the scale of this will be dependent on the amount of funding which is available. In November, the Scottish Government announced that the Falkirk Council area was to receive £1.1m of funding to RSLs to purchase land for new affordable housing developments and to buy properties off the shelf. Funding to build new homes on the land acquired is now being pursued through the Council's SHIP (Strategic Housing Investment Programme) allocation.

The housing market: The Falkirk Council area is largely a self contained housing market. As with all other areas, our housing market has been affected by the recent credit crunch. The number of house sales in the first half of 2008 fell by 13% compared with the same period in 2007, having risen almost continually over the previous 10 years. The average house price in our area is very close to the Scottish average, having reached that level around 2000. Previously, prices in our area were generally below the Scottish average. Average house prices have also fallen slightly, from a peak in the second half of 2007 of £138,760 to £136,850 in the first half of 2008: -1.3%. This is however, less than the fall in prices in Scotland² (-7.5%) and in the UK as a whole (-12.3%).

Homelessness: There has been a 61% increase in homeless presentations over the period 2002-2003 to 2007-08 and this is exacerbating pressures on the available supply of affordable housing. A new homelessness strategy has recently been approved with the vision that by 2012, no one in the Falkirk Council area need be homeless. A key element of the strategy will be helping local

² HBOS House price index http://www.hbosplc.com/economy/includes/04_12_08historicdata.xls

people explore a range of housing options that are available locally. It has been calculated that over the 10 year period 2007-2016, there will be an annual average shortfall of 145 units of affordable housing. In this context the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) and the new Local Housing Strategy, which is being developed, will seek to increase the amount of affordable housing available in the area, including low cost home ownership and shared ownership opportunities, as well as affordable rented housing.

Specialist housing: In addition to affordable housing, we are committed to ensuring that there is a sufficient supply of housing to meet special needs. This will include housing for the increasing number of elderly people and housing adapted to meet the needs of those with disabilities. This type of housing will need to be available in the private sector as well as provided by social landlords. There is already a stock of specialist housing for disabled people as well as Council and RSL properties which are allocated to older people. The Council also assists people with particular housing needs by funding adaptations to properties to allow them to continue to live in their present accommodation.

Transport and Infrastructure

Our area is fortunate to be well connected with excellent transport links to the rest of Scotland and worldwide. The area lies at the centre of the Scottish motorway and railway network. The recently opened Clackmannanshire Bridge provides a second crossing of the Forth linking the Council area with Fife, Clackmannanshire and beyond. This increases the area's connectivity with the rest of Scotland. Further upgrading of the road network including the replacement of the A80 with a motorway link and improvements to the Avon Gorge route, together with the proposed Grangemouth Freight Hub National Development (included in NPF2), will increase the area's connectivity further and make it an even more attractive place for living and for employers to locate in.

There are fast and frequent rail connections to both Glasgow and Edinburgh and there are plans to electrify the main Glasgow to Edinburgh line and make other improvements which will increase the frequency of the service. Rail services are also available to Stirling with connections further north and twice a day direct to London and Inverness. Rail freight traffic to Grangemouth remains important.

The area is only 20 minutes from Edinburgh airport which has recently overtaken Glasgow as the busiest in Scotland.

Grangemouth is Scotland's premier port and largest deep sea container port. Container traffic has continued to grow and the port handles over 9 million tonnes of cargo per year. While the port is well placed to continue to prosper, any downturn in the economy may affect trade flowing through the terminal.

Because of the good transport links, commuting rates in our area are high. The 2001 Census showed over 22,000 out-commuters and 14,000 in-commuters. The main commuting links are with the two cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow and also with the Council's five neighbouring local authority areas.

The Council's [transport strategy](#) seeks to achieve a balance in transport provision and *"to provide a transport network which allows people a reasonable choice of travel options as part of a safe, reliable, convenient,*

*accessible and sustainable transport system*³". Thus, we are looking to see an increase in sustainable travel, and the improved integration of modes of transport.

The Council was one of seven local authorities which were successful in the summer of 2008 in bidding for funding for its "Take the right route" project in the Larbert Stenhousemuir area which aims to achieve increased active travel and public transport use.

A transport strategy to support the opening of the new hospital in Larbert later in 2011 is being developed.

There have been restrictions on development opportunities over an extended period in the Banknock/Bonnybridge area due to sewage capacity constraints. Representations to Scottish Water through CoSLA and more regular liaison on Development Plan aspirations have assisted in addressing the issues.

Education

Educational deprivation: Looking at the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2006, while only 19 (9.6%) of the 197 datazones⁴ in the Council area were in the worst 15% in Scotland for overall deprivation, 39 (20%) were in the worst 15% in Scotland on the education domain. The education deprivation domain includes the proportion of the working age population with no qualifications, 17-19 year olds enrolling in higher education, 16-18 year olds not in full time education, pupil performance at SQA stage 4 and pupil absences.

Adult qualifications: Only 28% of our population had qualifications at NVQ level 4 (degree level) and above in 2007 while the figure for Scotland was 33%. On the other hand, the same Annual Population survey showed that the number of people with no qualifications was very similar to the national average.

Schools: In 2009, the Council will complete its programme to rebuild all of our eight secondary schools. Two new primary schools have recently been completed and a third, an additional Roman Catholic primary school for the Stenhousemuir area, is in the final stages of planning. These will go some way towards meeting the current pressures on accommodation which exist in some parts of the Council area. These pressures are due to new housing developments, the expected increase in the number of pupils due to the rising birth rate and to recent and anticipated requirements for reductions in class sizes. Further improvements to the schools portfolio are planned and more may be required.

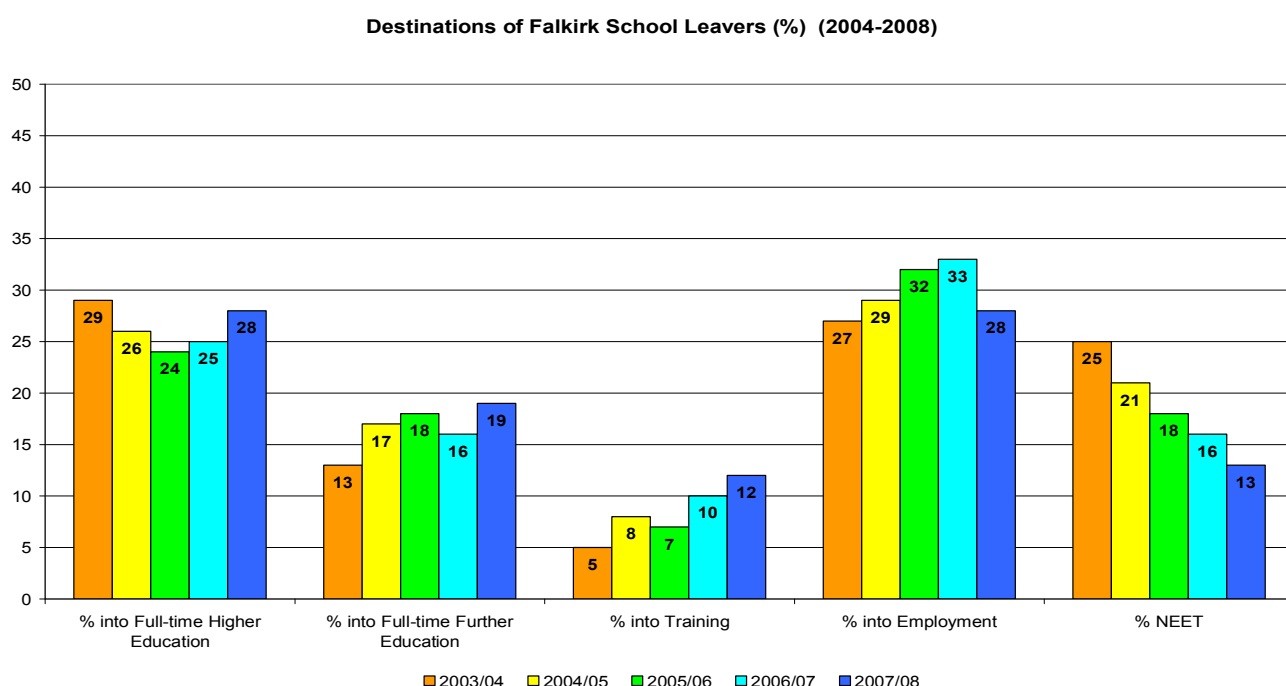
Educational attainment: Overall the attainment in our secondary schools is below the Scottish average for Standard Grades and Highers. This has been the case for several years and raising attainment and achievement remains a key priority for the partnership. The proportion of children attaining 5+ Standard Grades at level 4 or better by the end of S4 in 2007/08 was 71% compared to a Scottish figure of 76% and those achieving 3+ Highers by the end of S5 was 18% compared to an overall Scottish figure of 22%. In recent years schools have been providing new opportunities within the curriculum for young people to develop skills for life and skills for work and to gain a range of qualifications in addition to SQA examinations, such as ASDAN, Duke of Edinburgh awards, Skills for Work which are now becoming part of the SCQF framework.

³http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/transport_planning/local_transport_strategy.pdf

⁴ Datazones are a statistical geography with an average population of 750. There are 197 in the Falkirk Council area.

School Leaver Destinations: A priority for the Community Planning Partnership has been to increase the number of young people leaving school and moving into positive and sustainable destinations and reduce the numbers who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). NEET levels have been reducing steadily over recent years. Some years ago the Council had the third highest NEET levels in the country but this has fallen from 25% of school leavers in 2004 to just 13% in 2008, better than the Scottish average of 14%.

Fewer school leavers go on to Further and Higher Education in Falkirk than the Scottish average. In 2008, 47% went on to Further and Higher Education compared to 56% in Scotland as a whole. However, 28% of school leavers went straight into employment compared to 25% nationally. We do know that the economic downturn may mean that there are fewer jobs available for our young people. Over the last few months youth unemployment has increased. We must ensure that school leaver destinations are sustained over the long term.



Source: National Statistics Publication

Further & Higher Education: Figures from the Scottish Funding Council show that while enrolments in Further Education have generally been increasing with a 12% increase overall in Scotland between 1998 and 2007, the number of enrolments of Falkirk Council area residents fell by 13% to 10,500.

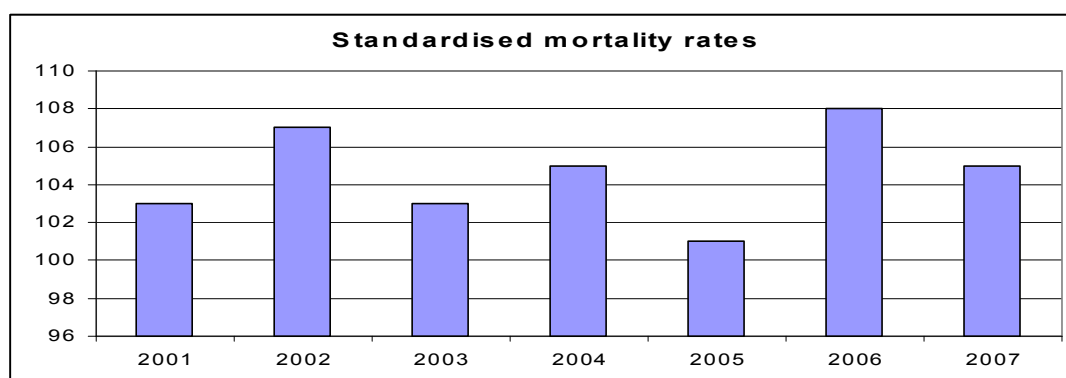
Forth Valley College provides places for over 10,000 students in Further Education and took over three quarters of all Falkirk Further Education enrolments

Health

Life expectancy: Life expectancy at birth in our area for 2005-2007 was very similar to the Scottish average at 74.9 years for men and 79.5 years for women. However, at age 65, life expectancy was below the Scottish figures at 15.9 years for men (compared to 16.1 years in Scotland as a whole) and 18.1 years for women (18.8 years is the Scottish average).

While life expectancy has increased over the last ten years, from 72.8 years for men in 1995-1997 and from 78.3 years for women, the Falkirk ranking has fallen compared to other local authority areas. In 1995-97, Falkirk ranked 18th for men and 20th for women out of the 32 councils in Scotland, but by 2005-07, this had fallen to 21st for men and 22nd for women. We understand that a growing older population will place increased pressure on our services – in particular health and social care services.

Standardised Mortality Rates: While the mortality rates from all the major causes of death have been decreasing for some time, and this trend is expected to continue, death rates in the Falkirk area remain above the Scottish average. There is no apparent trend to be identified, but Falkirk Standardised Mortality Rate (SMR) has been above 100 since 2001.



Source: Forth Valley Health Board, Director of Public Health Annual Reports

Standardised mortality for each of the main causes of death is also above the Scottish average. For the period 2003-2007, the SMR for cancer was 103 and for coronary heart disease it was 110. These figures were also above the average for Forth Valley and the other two Council areas in Forth Valley.

It is estimated 28.0% of adults smoke, compared to 27.3% in Scotland (16+). There have been 162 alcohol related deaths in the last five years, giving a death rate of 20.1 which is significantly better than (below) the Scotland average of 27.4. The proportion of the population hospitalised for drug related conditions is also better than average, with 125 patients discharged from hospital over the last three years.

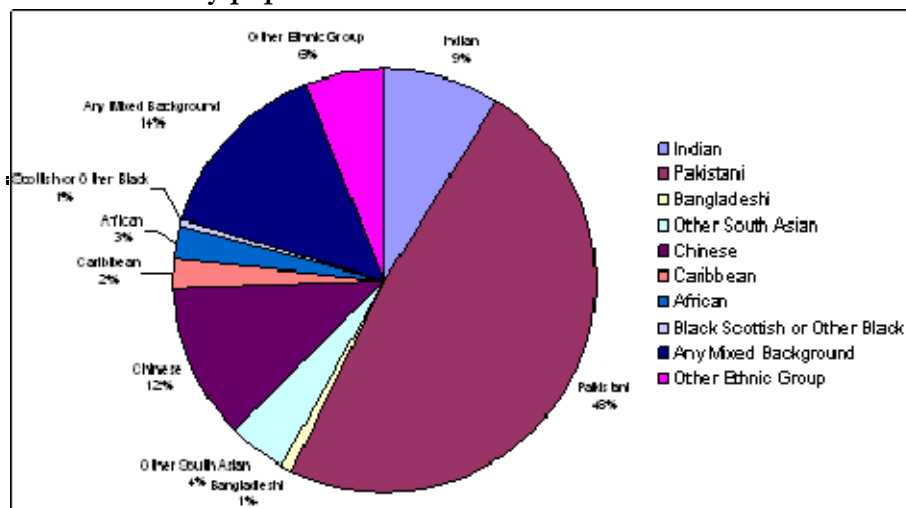
In addition to the issues noted above we have a lower than average number of women who breastfeeding. This is in addition to particular areas where the uptake in cervical smears is below average.

In 2009 the new Forth Valley hospital is due to open at Larbert. This will present a number of challenges in terms of access and employment. It will serve the whole of the Forth Valley area.

Diversity

Ethnicity: The 2001 Census showed that only 1% of the population of Falkirk was from an ethnic minority, just under 1500 people⁵. This however, represents a significant increase from less than 1,000 (0.6%) in 1991. The largest ethnic community in Falkirk is the Pakistani population which makes up 48% of the total. This followed by the mixed, Chinese and Indian populations (see graph below).

Ethnic minority population of Falkirk – 2001 Census



Migrant workers: In the last few years there has been a considerable amount of interest in the number of migrant workers coming into the country, particularly from the new EU accession countries. The Department of Work and Pensions has information on the number of National Insurance numbers issued to overseas nationals. This provides an estimate of the number of migrant workers that initially register in an area. There is no record of whether they stay in the area or even if they stay in the country.

This evidence shows that there has been a substantial increase in the number of migrant workers registering from 350,000 in Great Britain in 2002/03 to over 660,000 in 2005/06 – an increase of almost 90%. The figures also show that the number of migrant workers from the EU accession states coming to Scotland increased from 140 in 2002/03 to 20,970 in 2005/06 which accounts for a very large proportion of the overall increase.

The table below shows the number of migrant workers who have registered at a Job Centre Plus office in the Falkirk area in the last few years together with comparative information for other geographical areas. Over 900 migrant workers have registered in the Falkirk area in the last four years.

⁵http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/research_information/PDFs/census_information/No4.pdf

Resident migrant registrations

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Total
Falkirk	150	140	180	460	930
Forth Valley	400	420	530	1,310	2,660
Scotland	14,520	15,500	22,070	40,710	92,800
Great Britain	349,240	370,750	439,730	662,390	1,822,110

Source: Department of Work and Pensions

This table shows very clearly the increase in the number of migrant workers registering in 2004/05 and 2005/06 compared to the two previous years - for which the figures were very similar. In the Falkirk area, over three times as many migrant workers registered in 2005/06 as in 2002/03, with a similar increase across the whole Forth Valley area and in Scotland as a whole. The increase across Great Britain was substantially less in percentage terms.

The table below shows the proportion of the working age population in Falkirk who were migrant workers for the last four years.

Migrant workers in Falkirk as a percentage of the working age population

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Migrant workers in Falkirk as a % of the working age population	0.17%	0.15%	0.20%	0.49%

Source: Department of Work and Pensions

This shows that the proportion of the working age population who are migrant workers registered that year is a very small percentage of the total, but has increased, as might be expected, as the numbers have increased. The proportion in Falkirk remains well below the Scottish average of 1.3% in 2005/06 and is much lower than the 3.8% of Edinburgh's working age population who were migrant workers. Falkirk ranked 23rd out of 32 councils in 2005/06 in terms of the proportion of its working age population who were migrant workers registered that year.

Religion: For the first time the 2001 Census asked questions about religious affiliation both current religion and religion of upbringing.

This showed that almost half the population of our area said that they were Church of Scotland with 12% Roman Catholic. 5% belonged to other Christian groups, such as Methodists or Baptists and only 1% belonged to other religions. Half of these were Muslims. On the other hand, 29% of the population said they had no religious affiliations.

The question on religion of upbringing allows comparisons with current religion. The following table shows the differences between the religions which people currently say they belong to and that in which they were brought up. This shows a decrease in Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic and Other Christian affiliations but a large increase in the numbers of people with no religion. There is also an increase in other religious groups, albeit from a very low base.

Current religion and religion of upbringing

Religion	Current	Of upbringing	Difference	
			No	%
Church of Scotland	70,042	77,470	- 7,428	- 9.6%
Roman Catholic	17,549	18,741	- 1,192	- 6.4%
Other Christian	7,134	8,054	- 920	- 11.4%
Other	1,586	1,199	+ 387	+ 32.3%
None	41,751	28,422	+ 13,329	+ 46.9%

Disability: The demographics of the Falkirk Council area highlight that 6.4 % of our residents are disabled. This is the same as the Scottish average. Broken down by gender, 6.4% of Falkirk's and Scotland's male population claim Incapacity Benefit of Severe Disablement Allowance. For females, the figures are 6.5% for Falkirk and 6.3% for Scotland.

Gender: The 2007 mid year estimates of the population show that there is a gender split of 51.5% female and 48.5% male. The gender split of working aged residents is 51.2% female and 48.8% male. This is comparable to the areas workforce which currently sits at 52% female and 48% male. Although no current figures are available, it seems likely that the numbers will have increased further in the last seven years.

Environment

84% of residents rate Falkirk as a good place to live. This increases each time we conduct our biannual Council tax survey. The area is home to several important ecological sites: seven nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest; three European designated sites comprising of 2 Special Protection Areas for birds and a Special Area of Conservation for flora and fauna; and a RAMSAR site, an international wintering ground for many bird species. There are also many locally important areas requiring protection from development so that they can continue to be enjoyed by all our residents. The area also sits at the heart of the Central Scotland Forest project.

According to the [SEPA flood map](#), significant parts of our area could be subject to flooding along the Forth estuary and along some of our river valleys. To help protect the area, a routine inspection and clearing regime has been put in place at sensitive watercourses to help mitigate the risk of flooding. A major flood prevention scheme commenced in Bo'ness in 2008 and a programme of investigations is underway to assess and quantify the risks at other locations across the Council area.

The amount of vacant and derelict land has been decreasing, from 282ha in 2002 to only 138.5ha in 2008 as land has been regenerated and put to new uses. However, a significant proportion of the remaining land has been in this condition for a considerable period of time.

Our record on waste recycling is good. In 2007/08 36% of waste was recycled or composted compared to Scottish average of 31.7% and the proportion has been increasing year on year from 19% in 2004/05.

The Council, in our capacity as an Energy Conservation Authority, is required to meet target reduction in carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions across all housing tenures of around 30% over 10 - 15 years. In the period to March 2007, the Council reported a reduction in CO2 emissions of 24.1% which is an 8% improvement over a 2 year period demonstrating the investment the Council has made in improving the energy efficiency of its stock.

Heritage and Tourism

The iconic Falkirk Wheel, which was built as part of the Millennium project to reopen the Forth and Clyde and Union canals, now attracts over 500,000 visitors each year.

In a partnership project with British Waterways and the Central Scotland Forest Trust, the Council secured £25m of Big Lottery funding in 2008 for the approximately £43m Helix project which will transform the environment between Falkirk and Grangemouth, creating a new landscape with iconic public art works, a new canal link and boat moorings, contemporary park, community allotments and improved path networks connecting communities.

These modern attractions add to the historic attractions of the area. The Antonine Wall achieved World Heritage status in 2008 and will require to be protected and promoted. Other heritage attractions such as Callendar House, Blackness Castle, the Pineapple, the Hippodrome and many others of local rather than national significance remain in need of heritage protection and promotion as tourist attractions. The Category A listed Hippodrome in Bo'ness received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of a wider Townscape Heritage Initiative. The Hippodrome was Scotland's first purpose built cinema and following a major refurbishment programme opened again in April 2009.

Our location in the heart of Scotland makes its position ideal for day trips and this has been the focus of tourism promotion to date. The Council is pro-active in promoting the area as an events venue and delivers Big in Falkirk – Scotland's National Street Arts Festival which attracts thousands of visitors each year. This year Big in Falkirk celebrates its 10th anniversary and will form the cornerstone of the area's Homecoming celebrations.

In October 2008, we successfully hosted the annual National Mod, the major Gaelic festival in Scotland, bringing many visitors from across the country, and internationally, to the area.

The area also has significant and growing hotel capacity for both business and leisure markets. There are currently a total of some 750 bedrooms in medium/large hotels (20+ rooms).

Culture and Leisure

Taking part in culture and leisure activities helps to promote good health and the Council has a wide variety of facilities including the National Athletics Stadium at Grangemouth with both indoor and outdoor facilities. The Stadium has been included in the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympics Games (LOCOG) Guide for facilities for Olympic athletes training and preparation camps.

The Council has recently opened a new library in Polmont and a replacement one in Stenhousemuir as part of the town centre regeneration. Increasingly, use is being made of online access to information held in the libraries and free wireless internet access is available in all libraries. Libraries take an active part in community learning, working with children and young people and their families, as well as older people, in areas such as reader development, literacy, digital and family learning.

Cultural performance activities take place in Falkirk Town Hall and, increasingly, within communities. There is an active arts development programme, particularly for young people, including opportunities for participation in music, dance, drama, film and media activities. A

successful Youth Film event was held in June 2008 and one of the films showcased as this event was selected competitively to be shown at the National Media Museum, Bradford, as part of the Co-operative Young Film-makers 2008.

Leisure activities are also targeted at improving life experiences of young people. There is a wide range of sport and leisure development activities taking place during school holiday periods, evening and weekends e.g. Youth Only Zone at Grangemouth Sports Complex. These activities not only encourage people to become more active but play an important role in supporting some young people away from anti social behaviour activities. We also work in partnership to encourage people to be more active more often through such schemes as our GP exercise referral scheme.

Community Safety

Our area has a lower crime rate than other parts of Scotland with only 642 crimes recorded per 10,000 population in 2007/08 compared to a Scottish figure of 749 and the rate fell by 4% compared to the previous year. Almost all types of crime are below the Scotland average, for example, the rate of domestic housebreaking was 28 per 10,000 households compared to 34 per 10,000 households in Scotland as a whole. The clear up rate for crimes is well above the Scottish average, with 57% of all crimes being cleared up, compared to only 48% of all Scottish crimes solved.

Vandalism was one of the most frequently reported crimes but numbers are falling, from 3,118 incidents in 2006/07 to 2,772 in 2007/08. More people in our area are satisfied with what local agencies are doing to tackle anti-social behaviour (45%) than in Scotland as a whole (39%).

Fear of crime is often higher than actual crime. While this can sometimes be a reflection of national issues rather than local problems, we understand the impact it has on individuals and communities. In 2008, 89% of residents in the Falkirk area said that they feel very or fairly safe in their local area during the day although this dropped to 51% at night. Both these figures represent an improvement compared to the survey carried out two years previously.

Along with the rest of Great Britain, road accident and casualty numbers have been decreasing since the latter peaked in 1966. In the Falkirk Council area, an average of 105 road users were seriously injured or killed per year in the period 1994-1998. By the period 2003-2007, however, the average had fallen by 30% to 73 per year.

The rate of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 population in our area is consistently below the Scottish average. In 2007/08 the rate in our area was 5.68 compared to over 7.5 in 2006/07. In addition the rate of wilful fires and hoax 999 calls are reducing. We have worked closely with young people in our area to understand the impact of fire raising and have a thriving youth intervention programmes.

Regeneration

Falkirk town is the main administrative and retailing centre for the area. It has a vibrant town centre which has been popular with shoppers for its mix of usual high street retailers and specialist shops.

Throughout our area, some 10,400 people are employed in the wholesale and retail sectors. However, recent closures of retail premises due to the collapse of some national chains such as

Woolworths have left gaps in our high streets which could prove difficult to fill in the current climate. The area is also suffering from increased competition from neighbouring centres such as Livingston and new out of town centres in Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Council has commissioned a new retail survey as part of its revision to the Local Development Plan which will provide up to date information on local shopping patterns to update the survey carried out some ten years ago.

Work has started on the regeneration of the area's district centres. Developer partners have been appointed for all four centres (Bo'ness, Denny, Grangemouth and Stenhousemuir). The regeneration of Stenhousemuir town centre is nearing completion. During 2008 a new library, park facilities and retail provision, including a new Asda store opened. The Bo'ness Townscape Heritage initiative continues to deliver economic regeneration and built heritage conservation to Bo'ness town centre. Regeneration masterplans prepared for Bo'ness foreshore, Denny and Grangemouth are at an earlier stage in the development process, with community consultation completed. Planning applications for each are expected in the near future.

However, with the economic downturn, investment in regeneration has slowed with an extension to the timescales for the delivery of the Falkirk Gateway (an ambitious project of commercial, retail and leisure uses on the east side of Falkirk).

The economy of our area faces significant challenges as the "credit crunch" and resultant economic downturn takes effect. The economic recession during 2009 and beyond could inhibit the regeneration of our local economy and blight prospects for business, investment and jobs. Action has been initiated at national level to assist business and the economy however concerted action is also needed at local level to mitigate the effects of recession.

As a partnership we are keen to act on behalf of local businesses, people and communities, leading the response to minimise the impact of the economic downturn and maintain the momentum of regeneration. We understand the potential impact of the economic downturn and we look to the area's economic strengths, the actions underway currently to bolster the area's economy and the key actions we will be required to deliver, to aid the response to the downturn and ensure our area's continued development.

In terms of housing regeneration, the priority areas identified in the 2004/09 LHS have now largely been addressed albeit there is a need for on going intensive housing management to underpin the improvements made. The next LHS will identify future housing regeneration priorities.

Deprivation

While not suffering from the same concentrations of deprivation as experienced in the cities and some other local authorities, there are still pockets of deprivation in most of the towns in the Council area. Following the 2001 Census, the Partnership carried out its own deprivation analysis which identified eleven Priority Areas. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) published in 2004 confirmed much of this analysis and this was reinforced when it was updated in the SIMD 2006 which identified ten areas of deprivation – datazones in the worst 15% in Scotland - which almost exactly matched our own analysis.

We are now working through the Fairer Scotland Fund in the following ten areas⁶:

- Bo' ness
- Camelon
- Dawson
- Denny
- Grangemouth
- Hallglen
- Maddiston
- Westquarter
- Callendar Park Flats, Falkirk
- Middlefield, Falkirk

Each of these areas has its own characteristics and vary in size from a population of just 600 to almost 3,000. Various projects and initiatives are underway in these areas. In the SIMD 2006 almost 13,000 people lived in an area ranked in the worst 15% in Scotland – 8.8% of the total population of our area.

We expect to review these areas when the new SIMD is published in the autumn of 2009. However it is recognised that many of those who suffer from deprivation do not live in the most deprived areas.

There are a significant number of people in our area living on working age benefits. 5,420 people of working age (aged 16-59) were on Income Support in May 2008 and 7,560 on Incapacity Benefit. This represents 6.0% and 8.4% of the working age population respectively and compares with the Scottish proportions of 6.9% and 8.4%.

The current state of the economy, with increased costs of fuel etc has an impact on people within our communities and in particular people in our poorer communities. We are monitoring the situation to ensure we have the right balance of services when people most need them. This is particularly important when people require advice for debt and money problems.

- Joint Statistics for the Council's Community Advice Service and the 3 CAB's which cover the Falkirk Council area highlight that in the third quarter October 08– December 08, there was a total of £12.2 million of debt over 374 new cases compared to £6.74 million of debt and 262 cases for the same period in 2007. It is anticipated that there will be a significant demand on these Services in 2009.
- The Council's Homelessness Service has indicated that there has been an increase in demand for Debt Advice by people being either made homeless or are at risk of being made homeless due to arrears
- Council Tax collection rates are only slightly down on the same period last year. However there are some early indications that that the economic down turn will have an impact on Council Tax collection rates.
- Rent arrears are generally in line with the same period in 2007. Again early indications are that the economic downturn will have an adverse effect on rent arrears.

⁶ For further information on these areas see:

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/corporate_policy/community_regeneration/priority_areas_for_regeneration.aspx

Our area and the economic downturn

The UK economy is undergoing a significant and deep recession. The UK Government anticipates an economic decline of 1.25% during 2009. The impact of this decline is already being felt by our businesses and communities. While the long term impact of this recession cannot yet be properly forecast we know:

- Unemployment, which early in 2008 fell to below the Scottish average, its lowest level for 25 years, has increased in the past year and is now 4.1%, with 3,902 people unemployed (Feb 2009).
- Investment in regeneration projects has slowed. The timescales for delivery of key projects in Bo'ness and Falkirk Gateway have had to be extended due to reduced demand and capacity for investment.
- Several local companies have announced redundancies or plan to reduce staff levels. Many local companies experience difficulties in accessing funds to maintain cash flow or progress new investment. Additional problems result from increased energy costs or supply chains fragmenting.
- Other evidence of economic stress has been witnessed in reduced trading activity in town centres and increased claims for hardship relief. A substantial drop in house purchases has been witnessed and enquiries for business properties have reduced.
- It is anticipated that 2009 will show increases in unemployment, further decline in business confidence and activity and lower levels of investment.

Despite this, our economy has substantial strengths. Partners locally demonstrate resilience and a resolve to face the economic challenge in the year ahead:

- Our economy is strong and diverse, with sectoral strengths in petrochemicals, engineering, food and drink and logistics.
- Falkirk's economy includes major companies such as Alexander Dennis Ltd, BP, Ineos, Forth Ports, Asda and Kemfine. Many companies compete successfully in markets where the recession's impact will be less significant and where opportunities for business growth can be exploited.
- Public sector investment programmes in new schools, housing, health, and roads are likely to 'cushion' some of the impacts of recession, particularly in construction.
- The area has capacity to respond to investment opportunities that arise and can exploit the prospects for economic growth to return. We are well-located, have a growing population, a strong commercial and industrial base and presents many excellent development opportunities.
- Recent business surveys have demonstrated that, despite the economic challenge, local companies remain fairly positive about levels of sales, investment and jobs in the coming year.
- A solid partnership exists between the public and private sectors in our area to ensure our response is proactive and effective.

The Response to the Economic Downturn

The economic downturn demands a response by many partners, in the public and private sectors. We recognise the leadership role the partnership and in particular the Council has and utilising this to harness local capacity to address the economic challenge is vital. There is a need to:

- Exploit opportunities for investment and, despite the financial pressures, maintain expenditure locally, particularly in the hard-pressed construction sector, to upgrade local infrastructure and maintain the momentum of regeneration projects.
- Manage the impact on local companies, assisting them to access business support in the form of business advice, grant and loan funding and networking opportunities.
- Ensure that local organisations target their efforts to reduce the impact of unemployment, guiding people to available jobs and other assistance, while minimising the impact for those hardest to reach.

Falkirk Council is a significant player in the provision of business property within the local economy. Our portfolio of industrial, office and retail space comprises over 800 properties and generates a rental income of around £4.5 million. As such there are potentially things we could do for specific businesses that are our tenants. While this approach would no doubt be welcomed by those tenants, we would have to have due regard to the financial history and viability of the business concerned. The implications for our own budgets, which is being stretched during the recession, will also be a factor. Such action would also only help a small number of businesses.

It is considered that a more comprehensive and targeted approach to the impact of the downturn is needed. The economic recession will impact many communities, individuals and businesses within the Council area and this demands a joint response by all partners. This response must build upon the existing commitments that have been initiated to develop our economy via 'My Future's in Falkirk'. It must progress a set of key actions in the following areas to address the economic challenge.

Business Support:

Through the actions of the Business Gateway, Falkirk Council and Scottish Enterprise, a range of support services are available for business start-up and growth. Strong links have been established between the business community in Falkirk and the support network via the Falkirk Business Panel. Action is currently underway to review our approach to business support services with the aim of establishing a new "one-stop" service for business in our area. However there is plainly an urgent need to bolster support to businesses at this time. It is therefore proposed to extend local business support services including those delivered through the Business gateway and in the Joint Working Agreement currently operated with FEAT.

In addition to existing business support programmes, the Council will invest £100,000 to:

- a) Promote a package of local business support assistance delivered via the Business Gateway and the Joint Working Agreement with FEAT to aid companies adversely affected by the recessions and, by engaging with the Falkirk Business Panel, conduct networking opportunities to help address the issues involved;
- b) Assist local retailers, by asserting the value of shopping locally, promoting town centres, and progressing town centre regeneration;
- c) Review the Council's responsiveness to business in its advice services, speed of decision-making, delegation and exercise of regulatory powers; and
- d) Initiating a programme to promote local tourism, including upgrades to tourist signage, local events etc.

Transport, Infrastructure & Investment

Our area is well-located in Scotland. However there are significant constraints to access for its key economic assets including the Grangemouth Freight Hub, the Petrochemical complex and business locations. The funding of infrastructure works has also proven to be a significant constraint to regeneration investment. Work is currently underway to promote improved transport links and maintain investment that reflects the significance of Falkirk to the national economy. Meanwhile it is important to maintain investment levels in the local economy. Investments by the public sector in new schools, affordable housing etc. will help to maintain the buoyancy of the local construction sector and downstream industries.

In addition the Council will:

- (i) Pursue the case for accelerated capital investment under the recently announced Scottish Government capital programme fund to upgrade infrastructure links in the Falkirk Council area; and
- (ii) Promote investment in new affordable housing and stimulate new development through construction of housing for rent and, in partnership with local RSLs and other housing agencies, deliver new homes for rent or low cost ownership.

Business Locations

The provision of sites and premises for business is a key priority for the Partnership and projects are underway to ensure competitive business locations are available for investment and business growth. Successful schemes have been completed at Alcan, Wholeflats and Bo'ness. However for some schemes, infrastructure, Section 75 requirements and other market constraints have delayed investment. As a result, a responsive and targeted approach is required to ensure that a range of business locations is available to respond when the economy regenerates.

Additionally the Council will:

- (i) Seek to accelerate £600,000 of its planned investment in business property through the capital programme;
- (ii) Adopt a flexible response to maintain investment in regeneration schemes, extending timescales for delivery and reviewing upfront infrastructure commitments; and
- (iii) Extend the flexibility of the Council's approach to planning — reviewing its approach to Section 75 agreements attaching to planning consents. In addition, we will also be re-evaluating the impact of the impending recession as a material consideration in determining planning applications to attract investment and maintain jobs.

Assisting the workforce

It is important to ensure that we maintain a skilled and flexible workforce and that the impact of the recession on local people in terms of unemployment, financial exclusion and homelessness is minimised. Considerable effort has been directed in recent years to promote opportunities for young people to access the labour market. This effort will be maintained, however additional actions by the Council will be taken to:

- (i) Review access to jobs locally and redundancy support services to ensure a continuing co-ordinated response to unemployment;

- (ii) Assisting local companies to access training advice and support, particularly to engage young people in work based training and/or apprenticeship programmes;
- (iii) Engage money advice and social services to assist in directing enquiries for increased support and assistance to meet local need.

Taking the Plan Forward

Importantly, this Action Plan will not divert us from our long-term vision of a robust, diverse and thriving local economy. The current strategy is being reviewed and a revised version will be brought forward next year, outlining the longer term ambitions for the area.

The actions proposed for the economic downturn are targeted, short term and involve all Council Services and partners. It is anticipated that, in addition to current commitments, the additional actions proposed in this action plan will involve a commitment of £700,000. These actions have the intended effect of managing the impact of the recession across our area, whilst enabling the area's economy to respond for the longer term, exploiting opportunity and building on the area's undoubted strengths.

FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA'S COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

National Outcome One - We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.					
<p>Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Antonine Wall was inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in July this year, following being chosen as the UK's nomination in February 2008. Following the announcement, the area received a great deal of press attention, given that some of the longest and best preserved stretches of the Wall can be found in our area. Work is now ongoing to ensure the area takes advantage of the World Heritage Site status. This is in addition to the Falkirk Wheel now being Scotland's 8th most popular visitor attraction. (ii) The Helix was awarded £25 million from the Big Lottery's Living Landmarks programme. In addition, the Council has also committed significant amounts of funding to this project, which has recently seen the appointment of design teams who will be responsible for further developing this exciting initiative. (iii) While we have seen a decrease in the town centre ranking of Falkirk, principally due to new out of town retail parks being considered in these stats and significant development activity in other town centres. Our position as a market town remains strong. Falkirk Town centre was awarded Business Improvement District status in May 2008. This will ensure the town can continue to develop and grow. (iv) The Council took the decision to reduce car parking charges in Falkirk Town centre. This has ensured our town centre will be a more attractive destination for shoppers and commuters alike. (v) The plans for regenerating our other town centres continue to develop. At Stenhousemuir Town Centre we opened the first shop units open and progressed the library and further shops, public realm and public art programmes. Consultations were completed to finalise the master plans for the development of Denny and Grangemouth Town centres. (vi) The Council launched the delivery phase of the 'Forth Dimension' a major heritage tourism project in conjunction with Clackmannanshire Council and the Stirling Smith Museum and Art Gallery. This project seeks to enhance the Forth Valley Museums status in the tourism economy by exploiting the potential of the areas advantageous geographical position and the strength of its heritage and existing museum collections. (vii) During 2007/08 the number of business advice requests for consumer protection completed within 14 days reached 88.7% compared to 65.9% the previous year. (viii) We progressed business property projects, including the regeneration of the former Alan site and creation of Bo'ness Business Centre, commencing work on new offices at Wholeflats and completing disposal of sites for development at Callendar Park and Central Park business sites. (ix) The underlying trend of visitor figures at Callendar House continued to rise with an increase of 14% in local visitors across the entire year. <p>N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.</p>					
Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
The quality of our infrastructure will help promote the growth of the local economy (CP)	Net number and rate of new businesses formed in local authority area on an annual basis	+ 70 180 per 100,000 population	+ 185 259 per 100,000 population	At least Scottish average 2007 – 283 per 100,000 population	At least Scottish average
Ensured our profile reflects our area as a destination of choice (CP)	Total Gross Added Value of businesses in the area	£2,112m -2004	£2,203m – 2005 – latest available	Increase	Increase
	Total business stock	3,889	3,951	Increase	Increase
Increased business investment, innovation and competitiveness and	No of occupied business properties as a % of the total	98.6%	97.3%	Maintain above 95%	Maintain above 95%

the diversification of our economy (SCP)	Total business stock in priority industries e.g. chemicals, construction, financial services etc	1162	1204	Increase	Increase
Raised the profile and image of the area through promoting and marketing the area to attract new investment (SCP)	RSA awards accepted / paid Average no and value	4 £1m	3 £620,000	Increase	Increase
	Business advice requests for consumer protection completed within 14 days	65.9%	88.7%	95%	95%
Raised the profile and image of the area through promoting and marketing the areas as a culture and leisure destination (SCP)	Increasing the total visitor expenditure to the area (per calendar year)	£76 m	Data not yet published	Increase	Increase
	Increasing the number of bed nights taken up by tourism related visitors (per calendar year)	1.27m	Data not yet published	Increase	Increase
Improved the image and quality of the physical environment including town centres (SCP)	Falkirk Town Centre national ranking per CACI	10 th in Scotland	15 th in Scotland	Improve	Improve
	Total area of Vacant and Derelict land Total	52ha 90ha 142ha	138.5ha	Reduce	Reduce
	Carriageway condition - % of network that should be considered for maintenance treatment	54% Falkirk ranked 25 th in 2006/07	35% Indicator definition was changed. Falkirk ranked 12 th in 2007/08	Below 35%	Maintain
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Progress in reducing Vacant and Derelict land from 2002 to 2007 is dealt with in the Development Plan Monitoring Report Spring 2008. A Service Review of Roads Services including carriageway condition maintenance is in progress.</p> <p>Falkirk Action Plan – Economic Downturn - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/about_council/news/PDFs/economic_downturn.pdf</p>					

National Outcome Two - We will realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.					
<p>Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :</p> <p>(i) In 2007/08 86.8% of young people left school for a positive destination from a total of 1,722 and means the % of leavers entering a positive destination has reached a five year high. Over the last five years the % of young people entering a positive destination after leaving school has increased by 12.4%. While the number of young people entering further and higher education has increased from last year it is still below the Scottish average by 9%. Improving the chances of young people has been one of our partnerships key priorities over the last number of years.</p> <p>(ii) The Community Benefits in Procurement programme has derived 24 apprenticeship and skill-seeker placements as part of the new secondary school replacement programme. A further 25 placements are planned for 2008/09, as part of other contracts and also partner agreements with Link Housing for new housing. An additional 35 placements are projected in the following years.</p> <p>(iii) A total of 644 people were engaged in the Council's employment and training programmes in 2007/08.</p> <p>(iv) The Council secured the transfer of responsibility for the management of the Forth Valley Business Gateway contract. The Council worked to ensure the transfer of responsibilities from Scottish Enterprise took place timeously. Falkirk Council also has taken the lead for the Forth Valley area in the business gateway. The number of Volume Start ups within the Forth Valley area in the first three months of operation performed ahead of target and above the Scottish average.</p> <p>(v) The Council and our partners have also sought to stimulate local employment. In 2007/08 the Council supported 278 new business start ups through the Business Gateway. The Council also increased the uptake of work based training to 560 in 2007/08, compared to 432 the previous year. The Council also increased the number of modern apprentices and skill seekers it managed by 13% in the same period. With Council support a total of 729 jobs have been created or secured in 2007/08.</p> <p>(vi) We have expanded the range of funding, exhibiting selling and networking opportunities for local artists and crafts people.</p> <p>(vii) The Partnership has prioritised £3.4 of the Fairer Scotland Fund to ensure that people in our most disadvantaged areas can access employment and training opportunities. A particular focus of this has been on young people leaving school for a positive destination.</p>					
Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Increasing the wealth and prosperity of our area(CP)	No of claimants in receipt of out of work benefits per 1,000 population. The benefits are defined as Jobseekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Income Support (carers, lone parents and other on income related benefits) (FSF)	No of claimants 15,150 101.2 per 1,000 population 161.9 per 1,000 working age population	No of claimants 14,890 98.8 per 1,000 population 154.9 per 1,000 working age population	Reduce	Reduce
Increase the number of people in jobs particularly the young and long term unemployed (SCP)	Employment Rate	78.6%	78.5%	Increase	Increase
Increase lifetime earning potential for all our citizens (SCP)	Number of community benefit in procurement programmes with number of jobs and beneficiaries	0	24	60	Increase
	The proportion of school leavers in a positive destination In worst 15% SMID (FSF)	84% n/a	86.8% 75.7%	Increase	Increase

	% of 16-19 year olds not in education, employment or training (FSF)	19%	16%	Reduce	Reduce
	Reducing the number of unemployed people relative to the Scottish average	Falkirk 2.1% Scotland 2.2% Sept 07	Falkirk 2.6% Scotland 2.5% Sept 08	Reduce	At or lower than the Scottish average.
	Increasing satisfaction of business panel with events	93%	TBC	Maintain	Maintain
	Increasing the number of business start up support from the Council through national business gateway	300	278	300	Maintain
	Increasing the uptake of work based training provision provided by the Council	432	560	600	Maintain
	Increasing the numbers of new starts on national training programmes	201 150	227 600	300 600	Maintain
	Increasing the number of jobs created or secured by business development community planning activities	684	729	Increase	Increase
	% of working age people receiving job related training in the 13 weeks prior to survey	23.3%	19%	Increase	Increase
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Falkirk Action Plan – Economic Downturn - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/about_council/news/PDFs/economic_downturn.pdf</p> <p>More Choices, More Chances – Reports to Falkirk Council</p> <p>http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/NR/rdonlyres/B4CFB454-6553-4959-B03A-9F13F12FD5CD/0/MABrochure300707.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/community_schools/community_schools.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/community/employment_and_training/training_opportunities/training_opportunities.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Three - We are better educated, more skilled and more successful renowned for our research and innovation.

- (i) The Business Panel continues to be optimistic about the future of the Council area. From the latest survey 92% of businesses think the Falkirk Council area is a good place to be located and that they will continue to consolidate and expand over the coming year.
- (ii) The Council opened new primary schools in Kinnaird and Maddiston thus ensuring our youngest pupils have the highest quality learning environment. This is in addition to the planned replacement of our remaining secondary schools. This programme will mean all secondary schools will have been rebuilt within the last 10 years.
- (iii) In 2007/08 schools reported that young people were engaged in 287 entrepreneurial activities, 17 of which were Fair Trade activities. This represents an increase of 16% on the previous year's figures. Schools continue to link with local businesses to promote Enterprise in Education with a total of 427 partnerships established. Carrongrange School was only one of 10 in Scotland to be recognised as socially enterprising school at an awards ceremony earlier in summer 2008. It was also short listed as one of the top 3 in the most enterprising special schools category at the 2008 Scottish Education Awards.
- (iv) The Council and our partners became an early implementer of 16+ learning choices model launched by the Government in Feb 2008. This will ensure all young people leaving school will be offered arrangements appropriate to their needs e.g. training, employment, further education or indeed continuing at school by December 2010. This is one of the most ambitious schemes of this nature in Scotland. In addition the Council has developed new progression pathways for those young people who need pre apprentice provision. To date this new opportunity has supported 406 young people of which 93% moved into a positive outcome.
- (v) A new business unit opened in Bo'ness to offer modern accommodation for small businesses. In addition further units are under construction at Wholeflats in Grangemouth.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Our area will be recognised as having a culture of aspiration and ambition (CP) Support lifelong learning in the community (SCP)	The % of school leavers moving into				
	Higher education	25%	28%	28%	28%
	Further education	16%	19%	20%	20%
	Training	10%	12%	7%	7%
	Employment	33%	28%	31%	31%
	Diversity in sectoral employment: - numbers and percentage.				
	Wholesale and retail;	11,000 – 18.9%	10,400 – 17.6%	Monitor	Monitor
	Manufacturing;	9,100 – 15.6%	9,300 – 15.7%		
	Health and Social Work;	9,000 – 15.4%	9,100 – 15.4%		
	Public Administration;	5,500 – 9.4%	5,600 9.4%		
	Real estate, renting business activities	5,200 - 8.9%	5,900 – 10%		
	Other industries	18,600 – 31.8%	18,900 – 3%		
	% of school leavers offered a guaranteed a positive destination	-	-	50% 2008 75% 2009 100% 2010	100%
	% of working age population with SVQ3 or above	47.1%	47.6%	Improve	Improve

Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)

Adult Learning Strategies and Plans - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/community/community_education/adults/adult_learning.aspx

National Outcome Four - Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens					
<p>Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A local strategy for delivering Curriculum for Excellence has been developed and significant progress has been made in implementing it. (ii) In 2009, the Council will complete its programme to rebuild all of our eight secondary schools. Two new primary schools have recently been completed and a third, an additional Roman Catholic primary school for the Stenhousemuir area, is in the final stages of planning. (iii) Our partnership became an early implementer of the new 16+ learning choices model launched by the Government in February 2008. This will ensure all young people leaving school will be offered arrangements appropriate to their needs e.g. training, employment, further education or indeed continuing at school by December 2010. This is one of the most ambitious schemes of this nature in Scotland. In addition the Council has developed new progression pathways for those young people who need pre apprentice provision. To date this new opportunity has supported 406 young people of which 93% moved into a positive outcome. We also employ 255 modern apprentices within the Council at any one time. This means we are well on course to meet our commitment of 5% i.e. 300 of our workforce being modern apprentices by autumn 2009. (iv) Overall, our schools have performed steadily during 2007/08. Against most of the categories assessed and reported on by HMIE, our schools have been assessed at 90% or above as being good or very good. The S4 cohort has performed consistently in terms of attainment between 2006/07 and 2007/08. As a result of the percentage of young people leaving school without progressing into employment, further or higher education or training has fallen from 16% in 2006/07 to 13% in 2007/08. (v) In 2007/08 schools reported that young people were engaged in 287 entrepreneurial activities, 17 of which were Fair Trade activities. This represents an increase of 16% on the previous year's figures. Schools continue to link with local businesses to promote Enterprise in Education with a total of 427 partnerships established. Carrongrange School was only one of 10 in Scotland to be recognised as Socially Enterprising School at an awards ceremony earlier in summer 2008. It was also short listed as one of the top 3 in the 'most Enterprising Special School' category at the 2008 Scottish Education Awards. (vi) The Council opened a replacement library in Stenhousemuir and recently opened a further new library in Polmont. These new facilities give people within our communities the opportunity to access not only books, but on line facilities. The number of times the public accessed computer terminals in libraries was up slightly last year. (vii) In 2007/08 our adult literacy and numeracy team worked with 262 learners to improve their reading, writing, number and English language skills. A number of learners gained accreditation in Communication and Numeracy, and several achieved ESOL SQA units necessary to qualify for British Citizenship. (viii) As part of a Forth Valley wide partnership, our libraries introduced a reader in residence at Polmont Young Offenders Institute. (ix) We developed the innovative and sustainable junior tour guide scheme with P7 adults from Comely Park Primary School – training and enabling them to deliver tours of Callendar House to other visiting school children. The project was designed to encourage and enable young people to learn new skills, develop self confidence and a self belief aiding their transition to secondary school. 					
Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Our workforce will be highly skilled (CP)	Proportion of schools in HMIE reports published during the previous 3 years achieving 'good' or 'very good' or excellent for:				
Promote early learning experiences for all young children to enable them to have the best possible start (SCP)	a) Structure of the curriculum b) The teaching process c) Leadership d) Expectations & promoting achievement	a) 94% b) 89% c) 100% d) 89%	a) 94% b) 89% c) 94% d) 100%	Reporting measures changed by HMIE and will be reflected in the 2010 /11 SOA	Reporting measures changed by HMIE and will be reflected in the 2010 /11 SOA
Provide appropriate and relevant learning experiences and child care for children and their families (SCP)	e) Equality & fairness f) Partnership with parents & the community	e) 100% f) 94%	e) 100% f) 94%		
Raise levels of attainment and					

<p>achievement in education (SCP)</p> <p>Provide high quality teaching in schools and early years establishments</p> <p>Provide flexible curriculum that meets the needs of all young people.</p>	<p>The % of pupils in P3, P4, P6 & P7 attaining or exceeding the appropriate levels for their stage in</p> <p>Reading 85%</p> <p>Writing 81%</p> <p>Mathematics 88%</p>	85%	85%	85%	5-14 measures under review.
	<p>Cumulative Attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded schools for S4 -</p> <p>% of the S4 roll gaining level 3 or better in English and mathematics;</p> <p>% of S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards as SCQF level 3 or better;</p> <p>% of S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 4 or better;</p> <p>% of S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better</p>	<p>91%</p> <p>89%</p> <p>73%</p> <p>30%</p>	<p>91%</p> <p>89%</p> <p>72%</p> <p>33%</p>	<p>96%</p> <p>93%</p> <p>77%</p> <p>36%</p>	Improve
	<p>Cumulative attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded secondary schools for S5 –</p> <p>% of the original S4 roll gaining 1 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better</p> <p>% of the original S4 roll gaining 3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better;</p> <p>% or the original S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better</p>	<p>34%</p> <p>17%</p> <p>6%</p>	<p>37%</p> <p>19%</p> <p>7%</p>	<p>39%</p> <p>22%</p> <p>10%</p>	Improve
	The % of young people who leave school without employment, further or higher education or training	16%	13%	Reduce	Reduce
	<p>% of pupil attendance at school</p> <p>Primary 95.6%</p> <p>Secondary 89.9%</p>	<p>95.6%</p> <p>89.9%</p>	<p>95.4%</p> <p>90.8%</p>	<p>96%</p> <p>92%</p>	<p>96%</p> <p>92%</p>
	Number of young people in secondary schools involved in Pupil Councils.	251	375	450	450

Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)

Learning to Achieve sets out our commitment to improving the educational experience for young people in our schools.

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/policies_and_leaflets_for_parents/leaflets/Learning%20to%20Achieve%20-%20Full.pdf

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/policies_and_leaflets_for_parents.aspx - A number of policies and strategies underpin this outcome.

National Outcome Five - Our children will have the best possible start in life and are ready to succeed.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) During the last session, Larbert High School and Bo'ness Academy took part in the 'Young Enterprise Programme'. The teams competed at the Forth Valley final and the Larbert High School team went on to represent the area at the Scottish final in June.
- (ii) Carronrange became 1 of only 10 schools in Scotland to be recognised as a Socially Enterprising School at a national awards ceremony in Edinburgh. Four S6 pupils received the Schools Award for Social Enterprise on behalf of their school from Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. Carronrange School was also short listed as one of the top 3 in the 'Most Enterprising Special School' category at the 2008 Scottish Education Awards.
- (iii) We developed play areas at Douglas Park Bo'ness and Gala Park Denny along with play parks at Burnside Place, Carron and Greenhill.
- (iv) School meal uptake remains consistent. The development of new secondary schools and improved dining facilities, together with the continued development of menu choices, are anticipated to increase uptake over the next 24-36 months. These figures are based on national census results and compare favourably with national trends. We also have one of the lowest charges for school meals in Scotland and the highest uptake for free school meals.
- (v) Much of our work is taken forward through the local Early Years Strategy that underpins the national Early Years Framework.
- (vi) As part of 'My Future's in Falkirk', we have developed a Making the Connections programme for young people. Surveys of young people indicate an increasingly positive attitude to our area.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
All our children will be happy and healthy and able to make positive decisions about their own health (SCP)	Proportion of children living in households that are dependent on out of work benefits or child tax credit more than the family element (finalised awards) number per 1,000 children aged 0-16	166 Child Tax Credit - 539	158 Child Tax Credit - 553	Monitor	Monitor
All our children will achieve their potential through learning and being creative and developing the skills and knowledge to make them fulfilled happy adults (SCP)	Provision of a suitable mix of affordable, accessible and high quality of early learning and child care (0-4)				
	(i) Pre-school education places;	100%	100%	100%	100%
	(ii) toddlers places;	92	92	127	Maintain mix of public and private provision
	(iii) baby places	24	24	36	
	(iv) wraparound care	164	220	232	
Ensure high quality early years learning experiences including sufficient provision for vulnerable young people and their families (SCP)	% of looked after children who on leaving care achieve at least one subject at SCQF level 3 or higher	48%	71%	Better than the Scottish Average 58.8%	Better than the Scottish Average

	% of looked after children who on leaving care achieve both English and Maths at SCQF level 3 or higher	26%	44%	Better than the Scottish Average 37.9%	Better than the Scottish Average
	Proportion of low birth weight per 1,000 live singleton births	51.8	51.2	Reduce	Reduce
	Pregnancies among under 20 year olds per 1,000 population	61.2	61.6	Reduce	Reduce
	School meals taken as % of school roll Primary Secondary	60% 50%	59% 50%	65% 55%	Maintain
	% of schools with breakfast clubs	35%	35%	35%	Increase
	Increase the proportion of newborn babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks	18.8%	19.2%	Increase	Increase
	% of eligible children who take up free school meals- registered and present Primary Secondary	93% 50%	99% 87%	99% 90%	99% 90%
	The no and proportion of looked after and accommodated children in community placements rather than residential care	84%	86%	Better than the Scottish Average 81%	Better than the Scottish Average
	The proportion of young people who are looked after and accommodated who have a plan	100%	100%	Better than the Scottish Average 89%	Better than the Scottish Average
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Plans and Strategies that underpin our approach to early years.</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/childcare_and_preschool/childcare_and_preschool.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/policies_and_leaflets/leaflets/Curriculum%20Guidelines.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/policies_and_leaflets/leaflets/For%20Falkirk's%20Bairns%20-%20Integrated%20Childr.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/policies_and_leaflets/leaflets/Looked%20After%20Children.pdf</p>					

National Outcome Six - We will live longer, healthier lives.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) The partnership approved a new Health Improvement Plan in August 2008. This plan sets out clear targets and actions for improving the health of individuals and our communities over the life of the plan.
- (ii) All our primary, secondary and special needs schools and nursery centres have now become health promoting, with 64 establishments achieving level 2 accreditation and 7 level one. 98% of our educational establishments are now health promoting. This helps encourage young people to pursue a healthier lifestyle. During 2007/08, the number of young people participating in Council health promoting activities more than doubled to 5,072 compared to 2,315 in 2006/07. The number of young people attending our leisure centres also increased by over 8,000 during the same period.
- (iii) The Council approved a Core Paths Plan in spring 2008. This plan develops the work contained within the Outdoor Access Strategy that aims to promote the countryside to both residents and visitors. This last year has seen the implementation of the Braes and Bo'ness / Blackness paths network.
- (iv) The Council launched an Active Campaign in the summer of 2008. This promoted a range of activities from tea dances to organised sporting activities. This included opening the school swimming pools in Larbert and Braes High School to the public. A new Teen Gym initiative was started at all 3 circuit clubs to provide access for young people.
- (v) 24 active peer educators were recruited and trained in Grangemouth, Denny, Falkirk and Maddiston. These peer educators then delivered 47 training sessions since last year and have made contact with 823 young people.
- (vi) Over 200 young people were involved in the Commonhealth Games, incorporating physical activities and alcohol awareness, with a number of events from cycle trips to football matches. These activities were linked to the Straighttalk Peer Education Project.
- (vii) A new circuit health and fitness club opened at the Mariner Centre which has been very successful with over 20,000 users in less than a year.
- (viii) A Book Prescription Service was developed in partnership with the NHS. Libraries across central Scotland undertook to stock books required by GPs to encourage self-help in appropriate circumstances. A MacMillan Cancer drop-in support centre opened in Falkirk Library where nursing staff and volunteers work in partnership with library staff to offer information, advice and support to cancer sufferers in a non-medical environment.
- (ix) Social Work Services achieved the Scottish Government target of zero delayed discharge cases by April 2008. The Social Work Service has significantly improved the recording of carer's assessments since last year by a huge increase recorded since then.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Our citizens will be supported to make positive health choices in order that they can live longer (CP)	Deaths per 100,000 population from coronary heart disease and all cancers	2006	2007	Monitor	Monitor
	CHD - No of Deaths	357	361		
	Crude Rate	238.5	239.5		
Promoting healthy living within our communities (SCP)	All Cancers – No of Deaths	446	419	Reduce	Reduce
	Crude Rate	298	278		
Reduce health inequalities (SCP)	People aged 65 and over admitted for any reason two or more times in a year as an emergency to acute specialties per 1,000 population	41.6	47.98		

<p>Improve emotional health, psychological and social well being. (SCP)</p> <p>Reduce the level of alcohol, drugs and substance misuse (SCP)</p>	Reduce the increase of daily dose antidepressant prescription	33.2	35.2	Reduce	Reduce
	Reduce psychiatric readmissions within one year for those who have had a psychiatric hospital admission over the 7 days	n/a	95	Reduce by 10%	Reduce
	Reduce the rate of alcohol related acute hospital admissions (in patient or day cases) with alcohol as the main diagnosis	181	192	Reduce	Reduce
	Number of suicides	2006 16	2007 18	Reduce	Reduce
	Number of delayed discharges > 6 weeks	394	164	Reduce	Reduce
	Delayed Discharge from hospital greater than 6 weeks per 1,000 population admitted to hospital	1.1	0.2	Nationally set target of 0	0
	Life expectancy at birth Life expectancy at age 65	2004-2006 At birth M – 74.5 F – 79.4 At age 65 M – 15.5 F – 17.9	2005-2007 At birth M – 74.9 F – 79.5 At age 65 M – 15.9 F – 18.1	Increase	Increase
	High BMI in Primary 1 children – number of reviews and % of children receiving a review who are overweight	1,426 20.9%	1,467 16.8%	Reduce	Reduce
	Number of alcohol related diseases	2006 29	2007 37	Reduce	Reduce
	% of schools designated as ‘Health Promoting schools’	4%	98%	100%	100%
	Participation in organised culture and leisure activities	28,105	35,558	37,000	Increase

	Leisure Centre admissions for adults	483,125	458,428	460,000	Increase
	Leisure Centre admissions for young people	388,792	396,834	400,000	Increase
	Leisure Centre admissions for Leisure cards	54,108	59,061	60,000	Increase
	The number of people participating in healthy lifestyle physical activity programmes	13,537	19,669	20,000	Increase
	The number of participants in sports development classes	7,637	10,766	11,000	Increase
	The number of young people participating in health promoting initiatives Falkirk Council Forth Valley College	2,315 300	5,072	5,000 300	Maintain number engaged and increase quality of service provided
	No and rate per 1,000 population of carer assessments carried out	266 2.3 per 1,000	1,236 10.6 per 1,000	Better than the Scottish Average	Better than the Scottish Average
	Staff qualification – the percentage of care staff who are qualified, Working in care homes for older people (65+) Working in care homes other adults (18-64)	63.5% 90.0%	72.2% 80.0%	Better than the Scottish Average for 2007/08 65+: 53.9% 18-64: 56.4%	Better than the Scottish Average
	% of older people aged 65+ with intensive care needs receiving services at home	33%	33.3%	Maintain level of service	Maintain
	Home care - total hours as a rate per 1,000 population aged 65+	579.4	593.6	Maintain level of service	Maintain

	Home care % home care clients aged 65+ receiving personal care	67.2%	71%	Maintain level of service	Maintain
	Home care - % home care clients aged 65+ receiving care in evenings/overnight	28.6%	26.6%	Maintain level of service	Maintain
	Home care - % home care clients aged 65+ receiving care at weekends	69%	59.9%	Maintain level of service	Maintain
	Rate per 100,000 pop of all emergency admissions for patients of all ages	8687	9439	Reduce	Reduce
	Reduce smoking among adults – no of successful quits in one month – self reported	n/a	777	Increase	Increase
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Plans and Strategies that underpin our approach to health, care and well being.</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/policies_and_leaflets_for_parents/leaflets/Guide%20to%20Primary%20Athletics.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/community/sport_and_activities/physical_activity_strategy.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/community/sport_and_activities/lets_make_falkirk_more_active/lets_make_falkirk_more_active.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/education/school_information/active_schools/active_schools.aspx</p> <p>http://www.nhsforthvalley.com/web/files/Healthcare_Strategy_files/NHSFV_Review_of_Integrated_HC_Strategy_2007-12.pdf</p> <p>http://www.nhsforthvalley.com/web/files/Performance_files/Annual_report_2007-2008_FINAL.pdf</p> <p>http://www.nhsforthvalley.com/web/files/Publications_MiscStrategicPlans_files/CORPORATE_PLAN_interim_final_310308.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/community_care/community_care.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Seven - We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish Society.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) A number of projects have been progressed through the Fairer Scotland Fund to be targeted at our individuals and communities of greatest need. These projects included measures to ensure access to debt and money advice services, further support to move people into employment and training and also measures to improve the environment of our areas of greatest need.
- (ii) The Fairer Scotland Fund has also supported particular projects aimed at people not traditionally engaged in our employability services. This includes a focus on homeless young people, people from an ethnic minority background and also young people with a disability.
- (iii) In order to support some of our most vulnerable people within our communities, the Council developed two very innovative home support schemes earlier this year. The first, in conjunction with Grangemouth Enterprises and the Falkirk Homeless Project (Quickstart), the Council entered into a Public Social Partnership that provides furniture to homeless people and families that maximises the benefits to the wider community in terms of waste management and employment / training opportunities. Secondly, the Council recently appointed a Handyman to provide a small repairs service to all tenures. This service will benefit people aged 60 or over, or any person registered disabled who do not have an able bodied person living with them.
- (iv) The Council introduced the use of a housing support needs matrix as part of its homelessness assessment process. This assists in identifying vulnerable people who would benefit from support to sustain a tenancy.
- (v) The Council published an updated Equalities Scheme this year. This set out the priorities for the coming years and included focusing on looked after children, young males, physical assessments of buildings, as well as building relationships and community engagement. In conjunction with this, the Council, along with our community planning partners, published guides for migrant workers in our local area, highlighting issues such as housing, health, safety and employment. This complemented the Council's recently approved guidance on communicating with minority ethnic communities and people with a sensory impairment.
- (vi) In September this year the Council provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee on Child Poverty. We were one of only two Councils asked to give verbal evidence on our approach to tackling poverty and in particular child poverty, following our written submission.
- (vii) The Council working in partnership with the area's three Citizen's Advice Bureaux have helped 1,266 people who have gone into debt in 2007/08 by assisting them in renegotiating £32.3m of debt. Although the number of benefit enquiries has dropped during the period, benefit gains have increased by £1.7m between 2006/07 and 2007/08.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Disadvantaged communities will benefit from better services (CP)	Median earnings in £'s for residents living in the local authority area who are employed – full time weekly gross pay	Residents £429.60	Residents £458.00	Increase	Increase
Increase the number of individuals participating in the local labour market (FSF)	Median earnings in £'s for workforce based in the local authority	Workplace £418.40	Workplace £428		
	No of claimants in receipt of employment related benefits	15070	14780	Reduce	Reduce
Increase household income (FSF)	Reduce the earnings differential between male and female residents	£482.9m £406.20 f	£467.80m £434.40f	Reduce	Reduce
	Number of people experiencing multiple deprivation i.e. people living in the worst 15% of areas in Scotland	13,225 (8.8%)	13,248 (8.8%)	Reduce	Reduce

	% of households assessed as homeless who are in priority need	71%	78%	Increase	100% by 2012
	The % of homeless households provided with permanent accommodation in Council stock who maintained their tenancy for at least 12 months	91%	93%	Increase	Increase
	% of households where respondent or partner has a bank or building society account	SHS 2005/06 91%	Not available – bi-annual update	Increase	Increase
	Number of active members of local credit unions	n/a	1,480	Increase	Increase
	The number of new learners participating in adult literacy programmes Falkirk Council Forth Valley College	178 650	439 700	300 700	Maintain
	Learning centres and learning access points A – number of users as a % of resident population B – the no of times the terminals are used per 1,000 population	8.9% 565.6	7.9% 640.7	Maintain Increase	Maintain Increase
	Number of new IT learners from priority area and with special needs Falkirk Council Forth Valley College	49.7% 777 650	23.7% 500	30% 500	Increase
	Number of time the free public access terminals are used in libraries	84,360	95,899	96,000	Increase
	The number of individuals obtaining Welfare benefits advice Debt advice – new cases	17,150 681	16,166 698	Target not appropriate	n/a

	Number of benefit enquiries and benefit gains (FSF) Falkirk Council Citizen's Advice Bureaux	23,647 £7.7m	22,669 £9.4m	Target not appropriate	n/a
	Number of new debt cases and total debt negotiated (FSF) Falkirk Council Citizen's Advice Bureaux	1,411 £26.7m	1,266 £32.3m	Target not appropriate	n/a
	Average time (days) to process new housing benefit claims	29.8 days	26.8 days	Reduce	Reduce
	Average time taken in calendar days to process all new claims and change events in housing and council tax benefit from the date of first notification.	n/a	TBC	TBC	Awaiting data from DWP.
	Number of working age benefit claimants relative to Falkirk Council average in Priority areas – areas in worst 15% SIMD 2006	2,700 2.03:1	2,650 2.04:1	Reduce	Reduce
	The number of benefit claimants in priority areas participating in work based training Falkirk Council Forth Valley College	102 183 in Falkirk LEA	163 150	150	Increase
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Plans and Strategies that set out our approach to housing and poverty.</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/your_housing_options/your_housing_options.aspx http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/your_housing_options/council_housing/council_housing.aspx http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/corporate_policy/community_regeneration/fairer_scotland_fund/fairer_scotland_fund.aspx http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/community_care/community_advice_service/community_advice_service.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Eight - We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) Earlier this year, the Council and our partners established two locality based children's teams that ensure we have a more holistic approach to meeting the needs of children and young people. The Council, in partnership with key agencies, has further progressed the integration of Children's Services. This has been assisted with the appointment of two locality managers for each of the respective pilots in Denny and St. Mungo's. A number of staff from different partner agencies are now co-located in Denny. Nineteen multi-agency training sessions have also been provided at which a total of 313 members of staff attended.
- (ii) The Partnership has been a pilot area for a national initiative to improve outcomes for children affected by domestic abuse. This pilot identifies children affected by domestic abuse and ensures that appropriate services are put in place at the earliest opportunity.
- (iii) Services and advice for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder were launched. These provided practical support and advice for young people and their families including ensuring staff have the essential skills required.
- (iv) During 2007/08 the number of carer assessments undertaken experienced a 3-fold increase by 970 assessments compared to 2006/07. We also increased the percentage of home care clients aged over 65 who received personal care by 5.5% in the same period.
- (v) The Council continues to review and develop our child protection arrangements. We have, in addition to training our own staff in this critical area, expanded our training to other community and voluntary organisations. These arrangements and other measures to strengthen our child protection measures are being taken forward through the approved Child Protection Committee business plan.
- (vi) Following a successful funding bid, the Council has entered into an agreement with Arberlour Child Care Trust to develop a service for young female care leavers. This service will provide enhanced and intensive support for young women leaving care moving into independent living.
- (vii) We have also plans to expand our provision of residential care with the opening of two additional residential places in Tremanna child care unit. This will ensure our provision for our most vulnerable children is of the highest standards.
- (viii) We have developed over the last year, training and development opportunities for our valued foster carers. This has resulted in over 50% of our Foster Carers achieving SVQ awards.
- (ix) We are seeking over the coming months to develop a robust strategy that will address issues of poverty within our area. In particular we will seek to address child poverty - its causes and effects.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Vulnerable children will be protected (CP)	Number and % of dental registrations (3-5 years)	3,366 68.3%	3,869 78.5%	Monitor	Monitor
People will have equitable access to local health, support and care (CP)	Proportion of social background reports submitted to the Children's Panel within 20 days	42%	46.7%	Better than the Scottish Average 38%	Better than the Scottish Average
All our children will grow up in a safe environment where they are protected and enabled to enjoy their lives(SCP)	Rate per 1,000 of child protection referrals / investigations carried out during the year	15.2	15.1	Target not appropriate	n/a

	Number and % of first contacts following supervision requirement within 15 working days	70 78%	133 82%	Better than Scottish average 82.1%	Better than the Scottish Average
	Number and rate per 1000 of looked after children at home at 31 st March	129 3.30	218 5.54	Target not appropriate (Scottish average: 4.81)	n/a
	Number and rate per 1000 of looked after and accommodated children at 31 st March	225 5.76	268 6.81	Scottish average 6.45	Scottish Average
	Number of Children receiving Playscheme Respite sessions provided by the children with disabilities team	171	200	Maintain level of provision.	Maintain
	Reducing the number and percentage of persistent young offenders	64 10.9%	40 6.8%	Better than the Scottish average 2007-08: 8.7%	Better than the Scottish Average
	Number of Children's Panel Members appointed in a year.	27	34	Maintain	Maintain
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Plans and Strategies that underpin our services to children and young people who are vulnerable including our homelessness strategy:</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/children_and_family_services/child_protection/child_protection.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/children_and_family_services/child_protection/integrated_childrens_services.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/children_and_family_services/pdfs/getting_it_right.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=2251</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=2593</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/homelessness/homelessness.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Nine - We will live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) Citizens' confidence in their personal safety in their communities has increased. In 2007/08 89% of citizens were confident of their personal safety during the day and 51% during the night. This compares with 84% and 47% respectively in 2006/07.
- (ii) We are seeing the benefits of our investment in tackling anti-social behaviour in recent years. The average time to respond to anti-social domestic noise complaints fell from 157 hours in 2006/07 to 19 hours in 2007/08 and is less than one hour during 2008/09. The reported levels of anti-social behaviour also fell in the same period from 3474 to 3320.
- (iii) In summer this year the Council started a £5.2m programme of flood prevention, including approximately £4m programme for Bo'ness.
- (iv) The Council established a project to develop closer relationships between parents and schools. This complements a project launched in schools 'Restorative Approaches' piloted in the Braes and Larbert High Schools which recognises the school as a community and individuals within the school have a responsibility to each other.
- (v) Further investment in Camelon Children's Centre is planned. This will ensure the centre can cater for the youngest and most vulnerable children in our communities.
- (vi) The detection of environmental legislation in respect of litter, dog fouling and fly tipping offences has risen from 409 in 06/07 to 551 in 07/08.
- (vii) A highly popular taxi marshalling service that was introduced over the Christmas and New Year periods was continued following a successful evaluation.
- (viii) We developed a series of collaborative arts projects focussed on supporting young people to develop safer lifestyles including working with the Maddiston Young Women's Group to develop a peer education film and working with excluded young people in Stenhousemuir to set up a temporary gallery space.
- (ix) The Sport & Leisure and Community Education Services launched a Youth Only Zone at Grangemouth Sports Complex in partnership with local police to provide a safe environment for young people on a Saturday night.
- (x) The recording of Adult at Risk of Harm investigations has increased as a result of the standardisation of recording practice following the implementation of the new Adult Support and Protection policy and procedures across the Forth Valley area.
- (xi) Central Scotland Police has conducted a detailed strategic assessment in order to establish the threats facing our communities. Examination of these threats has allowed priorities to be set in accordance with the level of risk each threat poses. The current priorities for Central Scotland Police, which obviously impact on community safety, are Public Protection (including child protection, domestic abuse, sex offenders and sex crime), disorder and anti social behaviour (including vandalism and violence), drugs (community level problematic drug abuse and dealing), road deaths and injuries, serious organised crime (including cross border drug dealing, human trafficking and fraud), as well as counter terrorism).

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Our citizens will be protected (CP)	% of adult residents stating that they feel 'very safe' or fairly safe' when at home alone at night	SHS 2005/06 97%	Survey carried out every 2 years	Increase	Increase
Improve crime reduction and community safety (SCP)	Confidence in individual safety in local areas	2006	2008		
Reduce fear of crime (SCP)	During the day	84%	89%	Maintain increase	Maintain increase
Reduce the incidence of death, injury	At night	47%	51%		

<p>and economic loss by fire and respond effectively to a broad range of fire and other emergencies (CSFRS)</p> <p>Support the delivery of safer communities (CSP)</p> <p>Preserve and restore public order; (CSP)</p> <p>Investigate crime effectively (CSP)</p> <p>Contribute to the reduction of crime (CSP)</p> <p>Continue to increase public re-assurance (CSP)</p>	<p>Volume and rate of recorded crimes and offences per 10,000 population</p> <p>Crimes and offences are categorised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1 – Crimes of violence • Group 2 – crimes of indecency • Group 3 – Crimes of dishonesty • Group 4 – Vandalism, fire-raising and malicious conduct • Group 5 – other crimes which includes all drugs offences • Group 6 – offences (miscellaneous) Group 7 – offences (road traffic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.9 • 16.8 • 280.7 • 226.3 • 140.3 • 370.6 • 649.5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14.4 • 18.5 • 278.5 • 201.9 • 135.4 • 384.7 • 727.6 	<p>Reduce Groups 1 -4</p> <p>Groups 5 – 7 maintain</p>	<p>Reduce Groups 1 -4</p> <p>Groups 5 – 7 maintain</p>
	Overall prevalence of problem drug misuse – No of problem drug users in the area	n/a	856	Reduce	Reduce
	The proportion of social enquiry reports submitted to court by due date	99.9%	99.9%	Better than the Scottish average 2007/08, 97.3%	Better than the Scottish average
	Probation – the proportion of new probationers seen by a supervising officer within one week	87.5%	93.2%	Better than the Scottish average 2007/08, 69.3%	Better than the Scottish average
	Community service – the average hours per week taken to complete community service orders	3.3	3.2	Better than the Scottish average 2007/08, 3.3	Better than the Scottish average
	Food hygiene – the % of premises with a minimum inspection frequency of 12 months or less, that were inspected on time	99.3%	97.1%	96%	Maintain
	The number of casualties killed or seriously injured on our roads	84 – moving 5-year annual average 2002-2006	73 – moving 5 year annual average 2003-2007	Fewer than 67 – moving 5 year annual average 2006-2010.	No target set beyond the Local Transport Strategy 2006-2009
	The number of persons, including children, killed or seriously injured per million vehicle kilometres	2002-2006 average 0.058 KSI per mVkm	2006 outcome – latest available 0.045 KSI per mVkm	Reduce No target has been set for this new measure	Reduce No target has been set for this new measure

	The number of children killed or seriously injured per million vehicle kilometres	2002-2006 average 0.009 KSI per mVkm	2006 outcome – latest available 0.012 KSI per mVkm	Reduce No target has been set for this new measure	Reduce No target has been set for this new measure
	The number of persons, slightly injured per million vehicle kilometres	2002-2006 average 0.238 persons per mVkm	2006 outcome – latest available 0.215 persons per mVkm	Reduce No target has been set for this new measure	Reduce No target has been set for this new measure
	% communicable disease investigations started within time	98.4%	98%	95%	Maintain
	Inspection of trading premises – the % in high and medium risk inspections that were inspected on time	97.9%	96.8%	95%	Maintain
	Consumer complaints completed within 14 days of receipt	71.5%	51.8%	50%	Target revised to meet, realistically, Falkirk's conciliation approach to consumer complaints
	Cost of repairs on schools due to vandalism	£216k	£183k	Decrease	Decrease
	Number and rate per 1,000 of adults at risk of harm investigations	13 1 per 1,000	123 5.2 per 1,000	Target not appropriate	n/a
	The number of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 population	7.48 (Scottish average 10.7)	5.68	Reduce	To reduce at least as quickly as the Scottish average is falling
	The number of accidental fire fatalities per 10,000 population	0.2	0 (Scottish average increased by 62% from last year)	Lower than the Scottish average	Lower than the Scottish average
	The number of incidents resulting in casualties per 10,000 population	0.93	0.73 (Scottish average increased by 6% from last year)	Reduce	Lower than the Scottish average

	The number of wilful fire raising incidents per 10,000 population	77.56	65.06	Reduce	Reduce to 50%
	The number of hoax emergency calls to the Fire and Rescue service per 10,000 population	17.16	9.69	Reduce	Achieve a year on year reduction
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Falkirk Council's policy on road safety is in the Local Transport Strategy 2006-2009 and the Road Safety Review and Plan 2006. The Food Safety Service Plan was approved by Falkirk Council and is audited by the Food Standards Agency</p> <p>Central Scotland Police – Vision: Strategic Business Plan 2008 -2011 and performance plans – http://www.centralscotland.police.uk/about/exec/public_documents.php</p> <p>Social Work Criminal Justice Plans- http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/criminal_justice_services/criminal_justice_service.aspx</p> <p>Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service - http://www.centralscotlandfire.gov.uk/in-the-community/</p> <p>Partnership Anti Social Behaviour Strategy - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/corporate_policy/antisocial_behaviour/antisocial_behaviour.aspx</p> <p>Partnership Community Safety Strategy http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/policy_performance_review/corporate_policy/community_safety/PDFs/community_safety_strategy.pdf</p> <p>Homelessness Strategy http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/homelessness/homelessness.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Ten – We live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) The Council successfully secured Scotland's largest Big Lottery Fund award of £25million to establish the Helix to improve the environment between Falkirk and Grangemouth. Critical to the success was the level of community engagement and support for the project and demonstration of civic pride.
- (ii) Our housing repairs service continued to improve with an increase in repairs completed on targets in both emergency repairs and other repairs. In addition, customer satisfaction levels were also high with 91% satisfaction over the last 18 months.
- (iii) 7 specifically designed homes for people with a disability were completed by the Council this year, with a further new 114 Council houses and 210 RSL homes planned over the coming years.
- (iv) We have developed a Home Energy Strategy that will help support our efforts to reduce fuel poverty and raise awareness of energy efficiency in our housing.
- (v) The Council is implementing a strategy to assist homeless people. This is with a view to supporting and reducing the number of homeless people in our area. We are also introducing a new Housing Allocations Policy. This is set against an increase in demand for social housing. For instance, 1771 sought relocation from their current council house due to changed circumstances.
- (vi) Research into Affordable Housing was carried out in 2007 to inform the revised Affordable Housing Policy within the Local Plan. This indicated that lone parents represent the most significant type of household in current housing need. At a Falkirk Council level, 27% of applicants in current need are lone parents, most of which are requesting a larger property comprising 3 or more bedrooms. Newhaven (2007) Affordable Housing Needs. 3 larger properties have been built in 08/09.
- (vii) The Affordable Housing Needs Research indicated that Falkirk Council area has an annual average shortfall of 145 affordable housing units over the 10 year period 2006/7-20016/17. The RSL new build programme has been factored into this calculation in the first 3 years of the aforementioned time period. Source Newhaven (2007) Affordable Housing.
- (viii) Affordable Housing provided by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) is funded through the affordable housing investment programme provided by the Scottish Government Housing and Regeneration Division and private finance. The Council is required by HARD to submit a SHIP which sets out the development programme over the next 5 years. HARD set and manage the affordable housing investment programme for the Falkirk Council who demonstrates through the SHIP how many units could be produced if funds were available. HARD set completions and approval targets on an annual basis.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Our housing continues to meet the needs of people who live and may wish to live in our area (CP) Increase pride and satisfaction with their local community (FSF) Ensure the provision of a range of affordable housing options which meet the needs of local people	The % of residents stating their neighbourhood as a 'very good' or fairly good' place to live.	2006 81%	2008 84%	Improve	Improve
	In worst 15% SMID (FSF)	73%	68%		
	Total larger (4+ bedrooms) affordable homes completed	0	0	Targets to be developed each year	To be confirmed
	The number and variety of affordable homes • total rented RSL and Council new build units completed;	65	8	169 (subject to AHIP allocations each year and obtaining consents)	Increase

<p>including those with specific needs (LHS)</p> <p>Improved and maintained the Council's core housing stock (LHS)</p>	• total low cost home ownership new home build units completed	8	0	41	
	Total tender approvals completed for new build affordable homes	51	105	Increase	Increase
	% of Council tenancies allocated to homeless people	37%	53%	Increase	Increase
	% of RSL tenancies allocated to homeless people	-	45%		
	% of Council tenancies allocated to other groups in housing need	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
	% of RSL tenancies allocated to other groups in housing need				
	Homeless applications allocated Council housing, % allocated within 12 months of assessment	98%	92%	Increase	Increase
	% of cases reassessed as homeless or potentially homeless within 12 months of previous cases being completed	4.1%	3.8%	Reduce	Reduce
	% of council house sales settled within 26 weeks	86.1%	90.1%	Increase	Increase
	Privacy – percentage of residential care places that are in single rooms Older people (65+) Other Adults	88% 93.3%	92.3% 94.3%	Better than the Scottish average 2007/08 65+: 91.7% 18-64: 92.3%	Better than the Scottish average
	The proportion of people in single rooms with ensuite provision in care homes older people (65+) other adults (18 -64)	72% 33%	72% 37%	Better than the Scottish average 2007/08 65+: 74% 18-64: 51%	Better than the Scottish average
	The number and rate per 1,000 adult population of Mecs community alarms provided	703 6 per 1,000	683 5.9 per 1,000	Better than the Scottish Average	Better than the Scottish average
	The number and rate per 1,000 population of new adaptations provided during the reporting year	499 4 per 1,000	536 4.6 per 1,000	Better than the Scottish Average National data not yet available for 2007/08	Better than the Scottish average

	% of householder planning applications dealt with within 2 months	85.1%	82.9% 12 th in Scotland	90% or first quartile of Scottish Councils	Top quartile in Scotland
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Planning: Progress within the Council Services to support the Falkirk e-Planning project is running on track with the national project. This project will provide an improved level of service through online submission of planning applications and appeals, an online information system for tracking applications and viewing associated documents and an interactive local plan.</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/about_council/performance_zone/service_performance/corporate_neighbourhood/draft_housing_service_plan_2008_2011.pdf</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/policies_and_strategies/homelessness_strategy.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/housing/policies_and_strategies/housing_partnership_activity.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Eleven – We will have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) In 2006/07 we worked with community groups to organise 16 community clean ups. This increased in 2007/08 to 20. In addition we worked closely with schools on various activities to promote their responsibility for their local communities. This included litter picks, orienteering, competitions etc. We will increase these activities by 25% over the next year.
- (ii) 'Community Concerns Us' campaign was launched in spring this year. This campaign highlighted how people could report on anti-social behaviour within their communities.
- (iii) Further support has been given to develop youth initiatives such as football and rugby. This has meant there has been an increase in the number of young people participating in physical activity over the last year.
- (iv) The Council was the first to introduce 'cool to the touch' containers as part of the meals on wheels service. These containers are 98% biodegradable and ensure that the 42,000 meals delivered every year to the 328 users stay warm when delivered, while being cool when removed from ovens.
- (v) The Council delivered a 10 week 'Virtual Baby' programme to 40 young people as well as taster sessions to 300 pupils in schools and community based settings. This comprehensive programme gave young people an insight into the knowledge and skills required to make informed decisions about parenting.
- (vi) We have developed an educational resource called 'House about me?' which is used in S3 and S4 to raise awareness of the issues that young people would face in setting up home independently and to highlight the realities of becoming homeless.
- (vii) Domestic Anti-social Noise complaints: During the first half of 2008-09 the average response time has been 0.33 hours and over 2008-09 and Qtr4 of 2007-08 all visits were within the target time of 2 hours.
- (viii) While the number of clients obtaining self directed support has decreased the actual amount of expenditure on self directed payments has increased by £76,500 in 2007/08.
- (ix) CVS Falkirk and District have, through the Fairer Scotland Fund, developed volunteering as a way back into employment. This approach has obvious benefits for local community and voluntary organisations.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Citizens and communities will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and well being (CP) Changing attitudes and modifying behaviour (SCP) Divert young people away from criminal activity and antisocial behaviour (SCP)	The number and rate per 1,000 clients obtaining self directed support	43 0.4 per 1,000	39 0.3 per 1,000	Target not appropriate	n/a
	Anti social noise complaints – average time to respond (in hours)	157	19	Average response time less than 2 hours. All response visits to be within 2 hours.	Average response times less than 1 hour. All response visits to be made within 2 hours.
	No of community litter clean ups organised	16	20	25	Increase
	Number of young people involved in a range of youth intervention initiatives	40	120	Increase	Minimum of 150 young people involved each year

	Levels of reported anti-social behaviour	3,474	3,320	Reduce	Reduce
	% of tenancies sustained for at least 12 months	91%	93%	Increase	Increase
	ASB – % acknowledgement of new instruction issued within 1 day	100%	100%	Increase	Increase
	ASB - % lodged in Court within 4 days of final instruction / information	100%	100%	Increase	Increase
	% of homeless applicants fleeing domestic abuse	20%	22%	Monitor	Monitor
	Rates of domestic abuse incidents per 10,000 population	117	126	Monitor	Monitor
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Central Scotland – Vision: Strategic Business Plan 2008 -2011 http://www.centralscotland.police.uk/about/exec/public_documents.php</p> <p>link to domestic abuse strategy, multi agency minutes etc: http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/human_resources/equal_opportunities.aspx - http://www.rahmas.org.uk/ http://www.centralscotland.police.uk/homepages/domestic_abuse/index.php</p> <p>Engaging with Communities - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/community/community_education/engaging_with_community.pdf</p> <p>Community Litter Strategy: http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/estates_management/litterzone/litterzone.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Twelve - We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it enhance it for future generations.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) Earlier this year we allocated £600,000 that will ensure our major sporting and cultural centres are maintained to the standards our communities require. This resulted in investment being made to Callendar House, Grangemouth Sports Complex, upgrading our Leisure facilities, as well as improving local football facilities.
- (ii) The Council approved a Parks Development Plan. This Plan set out ambitious targets for improving parks across the District. Alongside this, £200,000 has been allocated this year to improve our local parks and play areas.
- (iii) We have recently approved a draft Open Space Strategy that has an overarching objective of securing the long term improvement to the quality of open spaces in the Council area so that they can provide a sustainable and diverse resource for the benefit of communities they serve.
- (iv) In September this year we launched a new litter strategy. This strategy built on the successes of the last plan. In addition earlier this year, we launched a community support pack for communities and groups who want to take action on local environmental projects such as neighbourhood clean up projects. This was complemented by a small grants scheme that would be made available to groups and organisations to plant trees, shrubs etc in their local communities.
- (v) The Council supported the development of a project called ‘Communities along the Carron’ which was successful in being awarded European Funding. This project seeks to connect local communities to the River Carron and develop a vision for using the river as a community resource. The aim is to reconnect communities along the river by gathering information on water quality, ecology and habitats, heritage, access and resources including shops, businesses and local attractions.
- (vi) We have improved performance on a number of key indicators to improve our built environment and open spaces. This includes increasing the percentage of planning applications processed within target time. The percentage of special uplifts completed within 5 days has also risen from 78% in 2006/07 to 92.8% in 2007/08. We have also improved on the removal of abandoned cars within 14 days from 85.2% in 2006/07 to 89.4% in 2007/08.
- (vii) The introduction of a range of measures has seen an ongoing improvement in the responsiveness of the Special Uplift Service during 2007/08, which is now in place to assist in maintaining continued performance standards.
- (viii) The cleanliness score was lower in 2007/08 due to 1 out of the 6 surveys taken providing a significantly lower than average score due to land ownership problems.
- (ix) Phase one of Stenhousemuir town centre has been completed and rephrasing of Bo’ness foreshore has been agreed.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	‘Progress’ target/s to 2010-11	‘End’ target/s & timescale/s
We will improve the built environment (CP)	% of non householder planning applications dealt with within 2 months	40.7%	49.5%	60%	60%
Our open spaces will be attractive accessible and safe (CP)	% of all planning applications dealt with within 2 months	64.5%	67.1% 10 th in Scotland	80% or first quartile of Scottish Councils	80%
Improving the quality of the built and natural environment for local neighbourhoods (SCP)	Traffic light failure repairs completed within 48 hours	90.6%	94.5%	95%	95%
	Street light failure repairs completed within 7 days	96.2%	97.1%	93%	93%
	% programmed watercourse assessments carried out	95%	97%	90%	90%

	Assessment survey scores of cleanliness in public places	72	70	73	Maintain
	Abandoned vehicles removed within 14 days of notification	85.2%	89.4%	80%	85%
	Special uplifts completed within 5 days	78%	92.8%	95%	95%
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Environmental Plans and Strategies -</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/estates_management/litterzone/litterzone.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/environmental_protection/environmental_protection.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/law_admin/customer_and_development_services/freedom_of_information/environmental_information.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/open_spaces_strategy/open_space_strategy.aspx</p> <p>http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/planning_and_environment.aspx</p>					

National Outcome Thirteen - We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) Our Social Work Services were subject to a number of major inspections this year. This included an inspection of all social work services. To ensure it is understanding and meeting the needs of its customers more fully, the Service has introduced a range of customer feedback mechanisms. These include more consistent arrangements for dealing with complaints, further training and supervision of reception staff and also a revised set of service information leaflets.
- (ii) The Stenhousemuir Children and families Social Work team received a top Social Work Care award which recognised their best practice in tackling alcohol and vandalism related crime, as well as offering reactive services to our most vulnerable families.
- (iii) Racial abuse and harassment is monitored across Forth Valley by partners who have signed up to the RAHMAS strategy. This ensures a consistent approach can be adopted in relation of support for victims and the development of initiatives to deal with perpetrators and to change attitudes and behaviours. An example of the work done is the race awareness programme using Persona dolls which are being rolled out across our nurseries and primary schools.
- (iv) The partnership also published a range of booklets for migrant workers and their families moving into the Council area. These were launched at the Community Planning Partnership Conference in October 2008.
- (v) The MEC service was further developed and modernised. This now provides up to date hardware and software for people living at home, including people with complex needs and head injuries.
- (vi) During the course of 2007/08, the Council has improved the number of buildings which are suitable and accessible to disabled people from 56% in March 2007 to 63.4% in March 2008 and then to 65.7% by October 2008.
- (vii) We worked with local people to produce Local Community Plans in Grangemouth and Denny & District in 2007/8 and in 2008/09 produced draft Local Community Plans for the Braes and Larbert/Stenhousemuir areas.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
Our citizens continue to access critical services that meet their needs. (CP)	No of civil marriages	307	316	Monitor	Monitor
Develop our approach to local community planning in all our communities (SCP)	No of civil partnerships	6	9	Monitor	Monitor
	No of baby naming ceremonies	6	11	Monitor	Monitor
	No of renewal of wedding vows ceremonies	11	7	Monitor	Monitor
	No of people attending citizenship ceremonies	56	54	Monitor	Monitor

	Public Access % of council buildings that are suitable and accessible to disabled people	56.0%	63.4%	78% by 2010	100%
	Public Access % of schools that are fully or mostly accessible to disabled people	86%	86%	90%	After 90% target is achieved further progress will depend on school replacement programme
	No of old people's welfare organisations operating across the Council area	40	40	Maintain	Maintain
	No of racist incidents and racially motivated crimes	279	229	175	Reduce
	Percentage of racially motivated crimes	78.5%	n/a	71%	Reduce
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Public Access (Council Buildings): October 2008- 65.7% accessible (88 out of 134 buildings). During 2008, 5 buildings were improved and existing accessible buildings received improved and/or additional equipment. The target/budget will be monitored & any funding shortfall advised. (extract from Equalities Scheme progress report)</p> <p>Central Scotland – Vision: Strategic Business Plan 2008 -2011 http://www.centralscotland.police.uk/about/exec/public_documents.php</p> <p>Update on Equality Scheme Annual Report etc -http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/human_resources/equal_opportunities.aspx Racial Attacks and Harassment Multi Agency Strategy - http://www.rahams.org.uk Forth Valley College – International Students Advice and Guidance - http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/International Forth Valley College – Reporting racial attacks and harassment. - http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/students/Equalities/Racist+Incident+Reporting.htm</p>					

National Outcome Fourteen - We will reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

- (i) Earlier this year it was announced that Falkirk Council was one of only six Councils that had been successful in bidding for Smarter Choices, Smarter Places funding. The Government's grant of £926,000 will be met with Council and partners funding of £453,000 to develop sustainable transport options for the Larbert / Stenhousemuir area – 'Take the Right Route.
- (ii) The Council continues to roll out the 3-bin system across the area to assist in our efforts to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Thanks to our communities, steady improvement has been maintained on our recycling rates during the year. In 2007/08 the tonnage of waste collected per 1,000 population fell by 82.4 tonnes compared to the previous year. We also reduced the total tonnage of bio degradable waste being sent to landfill by over 6,500 tonnes in the same period.
- (iii) In line with our Biodiversity Strategy progress has been made in a number of areas. These include the production of an Integrated Network Study Programme for the Falkirk Council area, the publication of Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning guidance, the development of a bird feeding project in the Council's care homes and the completion of a conservation project which saw the enhancement of three pond clusters.
- (iv) The Council launched a Carbon reduction campaign in autumn 2008. This is aimed at reducing the Councils own carbon footprint by 20% in five years. This is in addition to nearly 97% of the Councils vehicles now running on low emissions fuel – an increase of 9% in the last year. The revised specification of new Council vehicles procured via the annual replacement programme, has enabled an increased proportion of the Council's fleet now operating with reduced-emission technology. This trend will continue with 100% of the Fleet having reduced emission technology by 2010
- (v) Over April to September 2008 43.8% of Municipal Solid Waste was recycled or composted, above our target for 2010. 56.2% of MSW went to landfill.
- (vi) In November 2007 two additional monitoring stations were added to the network in Falkirk Town Centre and Hags due to elevated levels of NO2.
- (vii) Grangemouth Air Quality Management Area: Action plan for AQMA submitted to Scottish Govt in July 2007. AQMA Working Group meetings held October 2007 and November 2008 involving: Scottish Govt., SEPA, Ineos and Falkirk Council. Next working group due May 2009 and approximately every 6 months thereafter. Four Falkirk Council sites became part of the Scottish air quality network in July 2007. This improves the quality of the data and provides real-time data to the public. Moray (Grangemouth) site will also become part of the Scottish Air Quality network. Falkirk Council's own air quality website is under development.
- (viii) Progress with environmental indicators was reported in the Development Plan monitoring report.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
We will be greener (CP)	Tonnage of municipal waste collected per 1000 population	760.9 tonnes	678.5 tonnes	Reduce	Reduce
Promote a safety and efficient multi modal transport system that minimises on the local environment (SCP)	The maximum total tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste allowed to be sent to land fill	45,142	38,633	50,470 - 08/09 48,144 - 09/10	Reduce
Demonstrate commitment and direct contribution to the attainment and promotion of sustainable development	Proportion of municipal waste collected by the Authority: recycled or composted	35% 24.8% 10.1%	36% 24.3% 11.7%	Increase % of MSW recycled or composted 30% 2008 40% 2010	50% 2013 75% 2025 - aspirational

(SCP) Improving our approach to waste management (SCP) A reduction in the numbers of people living in fuel poverty (LHS)	Proportion of adults travelling actively to work or education	2005/06 Walk – 11% Cycle – 2% Scotland Walk – 11.8% Cycle 1.6%	No update available Survey due during 2009	Increase	Increase
	Percentage of children travelling actively to school (walking or cycling)	63.4% Primary 74.3% Secondary	No update available School survey due May 2009	Increase	Increase
	% of our vehicle fleet with reduced emission technology	80%	88%	100%	100%
	Compliance with EU and UK government air quality directives	Sulphur dioxide (UK) objective exceeded at 2 monitoring sites in Grangemouth.	Sulphur dioxide (UK) objective exceeded at 2 monitoring sites in Grangemouth	Compliance with EU and UK government air quality objectives at all 9 monitoring sites within the Council area	Compliance with EU and UK government air quality objectives at all 9 monitoring sites within the Council area
	% of educational establishments achieving Eco Schools awards: Bronze awards; Silver awards; Green Flags	73% 47% 12%	75% 52% 21%	80% 60% 30%	80% 60% 30%
	Reported incidents of illegal tipping Refuse Accumulations	134 476	Awaiting update	Assuming all incidents are reported – reduce number	Assuming all incidents are reported – reduce number
	Total number of dwellings brought up to SHQS by criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolerable standard • Free from serious disrepair • Energy efficiency • Modern facilities and services • Healthy, safe and secure Total	0 541 2131 1514 1012 1491	0 308 1976 1221 208 1324	Increase	Increase
Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible) Air Quality - www.scottishairquality.co.uk Plans and targets for Refuse Disposal (Municipal waste): are set in the Forth Valley Area Waste Plan . Falkirk Council's policy on travel to work and school is in the Local Transport Strategy 2006-2009 Sustainable Development Strategy -					

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/sustainable_development_and_environmenta/sustainable_falkirk_strategy.aspx
Biodiversity Strategy - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/biodiversity/falkirk_area_biodiversity_action_plan.aspx
http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/biodiversity/getting_involved.aspx

National Outcome Fifteen - Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

Local context – briefly summarising evidence from the Area Profile; demonstrating the local relevance of this National Outcome; and summarising progress and achievements in 2008-09 :

(i) In addition to ensuring our services are focused on achieving local outcomes, we understand that we must seek to continually improve the way we do business. This commitment underpins the core values of the Partnership. To achieve this, we have recently reviewed our Best Value Improvement Plan. This follows the progress made in taking forward the areas for improvement outlined in the Audit Scotland Report on our Audit of Best Value and Community Planning.

(ii) An updated Best Value Improvement Plan noted progress on the following areas:

- A. Implementing new performance management software that will ensure consistent reporting of information to Members and the public;
- B. Approving a Corporate Asset Management Plan for 2007-2010;
- C. Developing further our approach to procurement including preparing an updated procurement plan;
- D. Developing clear criteria for undertaking Strategic Best Value Reviews and completing the Diagnostic Project;
- E. Approving an HR and Workforce Planning Strategy;
- F. Further taking forward our accreditation on IIP with Finance Service being awarded IIP status in summer this year;
- G. Achieving the Healthy Working Lives Award earlier this year; and
- H. Implementing customer service standards.

On going improvement programmes, particularly the replacement of 4 secondary schools will result in the increase in the number of operational buildings of appropriate condition for current use. This is complemented by the opening of the new Acute Hospital for the area in 2011. A new Police HQ for the Falkirk Command area was opened a few years ago and complements a relatively new Fire Station for the main Falkirk Council area.

N.B. Links to other relevant National Outcomes may also be noted in this section.

Local Outcome/s	Indicator/s	Baseline at 2006-07	2007/08 Performance	'Progress' target/s to 2010-11	'End' target/s & timescale/s
We are committed to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public service • Performance • Partnership (CP) 	Sickness absence - % of working days lost through sickness absence for chief officers and local government employees	5.4%	6.0%	4%	4%
	% of who people who contacted the Council that were satisfied with the service they received		72.7%	Increase	Increase
	% of operational buildings of appropriate condition for current use.	89.4%	89.9%	Increase	Increase
	% of people who feel informed about the Council		75%	Increase	Increase
	% of SPIs in upper quartile	33%	34%	Maintain	Maintain

	Response repairs the % of housing repairs completed within the target times	77%	83%	Increase	Increase
	Tenancy changes – the % of rent loss due to voids	1.6%	1.5%	Reduce	Reduce
	% of homeless assessments completed within 28 days	39%	46%	Increase	Increase
	The % of not low demand dwellings that were relet within 4 weeks	15%	11%	Increase	Increase
	% of tenants satisfied with the Council as a landlord		93%	Increase	Increase
	% of Council tax collected in the year	96.2%	96.4%	Maintain	Maintain
	Time taken to respond to emergency calls Central Scotland Police Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service - % handled in less than 1 minute	84% 61.8%	84% 65.1%	Maintain 66.7%	Maintain A 70% target achieved
<p>Brief links to relevant plans or other commitments of the local partners to support delivery of these outcome/s (with hyperlinks if possible)</p> <p>Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service – Performance and business plan http://www.centralscotlandfire.gov.uk/about-us/organisation/performance.html</p> <p>Central Scotland – Vision: Strategic Business Plan 2008 -2011 http://www.centralscotland.police.uk/about/exec/public_documents.php</p> <p>Falkirk Council’s Corporate Plan - http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/about_council/performance_zone/corporate_plan/corporate_plan.aspx</p> <p>Scottish Enterprise – Business Plan – http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/se-operating-plans-current</p> <p>NHS Forth Valley – Corporate Plan - http://www.nhsforthvalley.com/home/Pubs/pubs_corporatePlan.html</p>					

What we need to deliver our vision and outcomes.

The partnership has made a commitment to delivering on the vision for our area. However in order for our aspirations to be fully realised we have certain issues that require to be addressed.

National Outcome	Priority	Policy/Resource
National Outcome One	Request that Government reinforce policy (and where possible funding support) for the regeneration of local town centres.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome One	The World Heritage Site status secured for the Antonine Wall will place greater pressure on the need to develop an appropriate supporting infrastructure, e.g. signage, interpretative and access opportunities. The successful bid was assisted by a partnership through Historic Scotland and the 5 local authorities along the line of the Wall. There is a need to secure funding to continue to ensure a coordinated approach to developments and further discussion with the Scottish Government would be welcomed.	Resource
National Outcome One	The HELIX project is a phased initiative and continued dialogue about SG funding opportunities to further develop community and environmental benefits in the longer term would be welcomed.	Resource
National Outcome One	Request that the Scottish Government look to accelerate the provision for Councils to enact Compulsory Purchase Powers, particularly to assist in delivery of major regeneration schemes.	Policy
National Outcome One	Funding required to provide support for the Grangemouth Freight Hub and Avon Gorge – a nationally significant project.	Resource
National Outcome Two	Maintain the request for transfer of Business Gateway (national level) funding and local regeneration budgets.	Resource
National Outcome Two	Need to develop the Workforce Plus Action Plan and Youth Training Guarantee – particularly in light of the new economic circumstances facing the area.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Two	Skills Development Scotland is still “bedding-in” and while we welcome the efforts made by SDS already to link with our partnership, we understand this effort should be further encouraged and continued.	Policy
National Outcome Three	From OECD report Quality and Equality in Schooling in Scotland implement recommendations 8, 9, 14, 17 and 18.	Policy
National Outcome Four	From OECD report Quality and Equality in Schooling in Scotland implement recommendations 1, 11, 12 and 13.	Policy
National Outcome Four	Finalise Curriculum for Excellence.	Policy
National Outcome Four	Implement the national Early Years Strategy.	Policy
National Outcome Four	Provide sufficient capital and revenue funding to support P1 – P3 class size reduction, to reflect the continuing rising birth rates in Falkirk.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Six	Request that recognition is given to the opportunity offered by the hosting of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014 to the whole of Scotland and that financial support is offered to Councils in order that potential benefits can be maximised in delivering a lasting legacy.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Six	Request that greater recognition is given to the role that Physical Activity initiatives can play in community regeneration programmes.	Policy
National Outcome Six	The strategic direction and framework for eCare is still an issue for us. The development of eCART for NHS FV has been delayed and we still have inadequate funding to progress eCare in Forth Valley.	Policy and Resource

National Outcome Six	The funding of Free Personal Care remains a big issue for local authorities	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Six	Government to review targets for delayed discharge in that they do not take account of choice or need.	Policy
National Outcome Seven	The request for the Sc. Govt to provide a definition of vulnerable adults into employment is still required and this should be pursued by the SG and the Improvement Service to avoid 32 local authorities having to develop 32 similar but different versions.	Policy
National Outcome Eight	Improving mental health services for children, young people and their families. There has been no policy development on this since the 2005 report and no indication of funding to be provided to advance this agenda.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Eight	The request for the review of the funding for looked after and accommodated children following the Arthur Midwinter Review is still applicable as the numbers of these cases continue to increase.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Eight	A strategy for Unpaid carers is needed that addresses supporting carers, including young carers and associated funding is required.	Policy
National Outcome Nine	Confirmation required of the funding that will be provided for the 2009-19 Adult Support and Protection.	Resource
National Outcome Nine	The resource implications of community sentencing/penalties require to be addressed nationally. This relates to a range of criminal justice activities within the Council from the supervision and management of community service orders, probation orders and work with the Courts, but also to the multi agency management of sex offenders and violent offenders where there can be significant implications (including financial) for local services especially relating to housing services and child protection services.	Resource
National Outcome Ten	Funding made available for RSLs to build low cost homes should be made available to local authorities.	Policy and Resource
National Outcome Ten	Regulation surrounding HRA and how it can be spent should be reviewed.	Policy
National Outcome Fifteen	The call for a more joined up work by the Scottish Government is still applicable.	Policy
National Outcome Fifteen	The Crerar Review promised a reduction in the burden of reporting. Again, this is still an issue. We are still being asked to collect and provide huge datasets and a range of new performance measures by different parts of the Scottish Government.	Policy

Scope of the Agreement

Working with others to deliver our vision is a way of life in the Falkirk Council area. Since 1996 we have worked with a wide range of public, private and voluntary bodies to help improve the lives of local people. Community planning brought fresh impetus to our established partnership ethos as well as a formal mechanism for further developing the area's vision. We are proud of the many tangible benefits our active engagement with our partners and our communities continues to produce. It is our intention to use our Single Outcome Agreement to further develop our partnership, and to promote joint working to deliver our vision for our area.

We believe our vision is challenging and unique to our area. Along with our partners, we agree that our activities should have a clear link with and make a positive contribution to promoting and achieving this long-term vision. It is important to our communities that our Single Outcome Agreement is clearly linked to the vision for our area.

Integral to our vision is a commitment to sustainability, equality of opportunity and social inclusion, with an emphasis on environmental, social and economic development. We want to make sure everyone in the area is part of the vision, especially those who are most disadvantaged or socially excluded.

We have a strong track record in establishing innovative and effective partnerships, linked to our strategic priorities, across a range of sectors. We will continue to work closely with other public organisations as well as the private sector, involving key stakeholders and the community through initiatives such as the business panel, local community planning and the Council survey.

We intend to enhance our approach to community engagement as part of the ongoing development of community and corporate planning linked to our Single Outcome Agreement.

Customer and Citizen Focus, Consultation and Engagement

Citizens always come first in our area. We are a responsive partnership. We engage energetically with our citizens to shape and improve services and we listen hard and respond to what they say. We consult our major stakeholder groups on an ongoing basis and use the results to make service improvements. This information has informed the development of this Single Outcome Agreement.

Examples of our formal engagement process with the community are

- Our biennial household customer satisfaction survey is one of the largest in Scotland, with over 3,500 responses in 2008.
- We engage with parents regularly through a range of activities, including a parents' focus group, an annual parents' conference and a bi-annual newsletter sent to all parents in the area and our parents' service is working towards Chartermark.
- We are rolling out a comprehensive community engagement strategy that will not only support the work of the Council but also our partnership.
- We produce Neighbourhood and Patch Plans for Council tenants and owners in mixed tenure estates and consult annually on the service priorities and improvements customers wish to see.
- We have effective and enthusiastic Pupil Councils.
- We regularly consult the 700 local businesses that are members of our Business Panel.
- We promote local community planning to inform strategic development of neighbourhoods.
- We have developed a partnership web site – Falkirk Online - that is regularly used to consult our communities on a variety of issues.

- We work closely to support the Public Patient Forum that underpins the work of the Community Health Partnership.

The vision for our area was established in 2000 by a process of community engagement that included community representatives and the business sector, as well as key public sector agencies. This ensures that our vision includes the aspirations of all sectors of our community. Our vision is set for 20 years and is underpinned by a series of five year Strategic Community Plans, as well as individual agency corporate plans.

Governance and Performance Management

Progress on the Single Outcome Agreement will be monitored by individual agencies and organisations, as well as the Community Planning Partnership in a number of ways.

Each organisation and agency has ensured that our local outcomes are embedded into the Single Outcome Agreement framework. This means that the Council, Boards etc will monitor progress against this annually through our existing performance management framework. Each signatory to this Single Outcome Agreement has formally signed up to all the local outcomes and measures. We recognise however that we all have a different part to play in ensuring the achievement of those outcomes.

Our Strategic Planning and Management System (SPMS), sets a common operational framework to link all our activities to our strategic priorities and key service delivery objectives. It takes the form of a strategic pyramid relating our key priorities to what we are able to achieve with the resources we have, taking account of the different levels of policy development at the overall corporate/strategic level. The Single Outcome Agreement complements our SPMS and our existing reporting framework.

The Strategic Planning and Management Framework



The Corporate Plans of each agency as well as our policies, strategies and service plans set a clear agenda for the partnership. We regularly review our achievements to ensure we are delivering what we said we would deliver. Reviews are at three levels:

- Review of achievements against the local outcomes and now the Single Outcome Agreement;
- Review of the development of implementation of our policies and strategies; and

- Review of implementation of Service Plans and capital and revenue budgets.

Each Council Service develops a Service plan which sets out the action that each service will take to deliver our priorities. Service Plans in turn lead to divisional, unit and individual work plans so that every employee is clear how the work they do contributes to the goals and values of the Council and the local outcomes contained within this agreement. Service Plans are produced each year and services report to the Best Values Forum on a quarterly basis on an agreed set of targets and performance indicators. This approach recognises the Council's statutory requirement to not only participate in Community Planning but also to lead the partnership and promote the well being of our area. We have reviewed our approach to service planning given the development of the SOA and have further aligned our plans to our local outcomes.

Community Planning

Our Community Planning partnership will have a critical role in developing and monitoring how we are achieving our outcomes. Our Strategic Community Plan details the shared priorities of our partnership. We have aligned the priorities contained in that plan with the national outcomes and local indicators. This will embed our Single Outcome Agreement within the governance and public reporting structures of all partners and will ensure that we are monitoring how collectively we are achieving our vision for the Falkirk Council area.

We understand the need to scrutinise what we are setting out to achieve. In order to do this we have a Leadership Group and a Management Group that are underpinned by Implementation Groups. In addition to this we have a number of cross cutting groups that ensure key areas of activity such as sustainability, equalities and children are taken account of in all that we do.

The Leadership Group provides strong political and strategic direction for Community Planning. The Leader of Falkirk Council chairs the Leadership Group and it includes Board and Chief Officer representatives from NHS Forth Valley, Scottish Enterprise, Central Scotland Police, Forth Valley College, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue and CVS Falkirk and District.

The Management Group, chaired by the Chief Executive of Falkirk Council has responsibility for overseeing the work of the Implementation Groups and again has representation from the partners listed above. The Implementation Groups are responsible for developing action plans to take the work of the partnership forward. The action plans relate directly to the relevant operational service plans of the Council and our partners. Progress against each action is monitored by the use of agreed performance measures. These performance measures, agreed by our partners have been used to support our Single Outcome Agreement.

The chair of each implementation group reports directly to the Management Group on progress made in achievement of our outcomes. If there are issues in relation to progress against our agreed targets, the relevant members of the Management Group are responsible for taking these back to their own organisations for action. We are currently seeking to ensure that we link our performance management systems to ensure information on performance is reported timeously and to all appropriate forums.

The Leadership Group holds the partnership to account for its performance and ensures that it achieves the priorities and outcomes detailed within the Single Outcome Agreement. After reporting to the Leadership Group, the Council's Policy and Resources Committee can approve any recommendations or changes suggested by the Leadership Group, as can the Police Board, NHS Board etc.

Our annual Community Planning conference, which involves interested parties in our communities, is where our partners give feedback to each other and our communities on the progress we have made towards achieving our vision. Our work in communities to support Local Community Plans ensures the interests and

views of our citizens are taken account of and develop community capacity to participate in the process is developed.

Our last community planning conference in October 2008 focused on the contribution and progress partners had made in achieving the vision for the area and local outcomes. This also highlighted the contribution made by local communities to these priorities. While the underpinning theme of the conference was the Single Outcome Agreement, it is important that we do not report on progress against process but actually positive changes we have supported in communities as a result of our efforts.

Ongoing Development of the Single Outcome Agreement

Our refreshed Single Outcome Agreement has been reviewed by our Community Planning Partners.

Our agreement will also develop over time to reflect our maturity in measuring all sectors and partners performance in achieving our vision. Importantly over time we will include indicators to measure our community and voluntary sectors contribution to community life. We understand the valuable contribution volunteers and carers make to the lives of individuals and communities. We will hope over time to reflect this contribution over time within our Single Outcome Agreement.

It is through this and our Strategic Performance Management System that we will refine and develop the detail of the Single Outcome Agreement. Any changes in relation to local or national outcomes will be reported to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee and partner equivalents, as well as to the Leadership Group of the Community Planning partnership. In addition each key partner has formally approved the outcomes and measures contained in this SOA.

Our partnership processes will identify areas where the implementation of a national policy initiative may lead to any pressure on Council or partners budgets. We welcome the position of the Scottish Government in that they have made a commitment to address this jointly as part of our maturing relationship.

The Single Outcome Agreement will provide us with a means of summarising existing performance information contained within both our Corporate and Community Planning systems. The Outcome Agreement helpfully tracks changes over time and thus provides us with a vehicle by which to scrutinise our performance and thus progress towards our local outcomes.

The targets set have been set for the duration of the Agreement. However we will review these annually to ensure they are challenging and continue to be relevant.

Public Reporting

It is our intention that following an annual review, we will ensure our communities are informed about the progress we are making. We will report on progress through the Council's and Community Planning Partners existing mechanisms for public performance reporting e.g. Falkirk Council News, our web sites and our community portal – Falkirk online.

Risk Management

Each of our partner organisations has clear processes for identifying, addressing and mitigating risk. We understand risks can come in a number of forms including competing priorities, lack of progress leading to reputational risks. In addition to our individual risk management strategies, we are developing a risk management framework for our Community Planning Partnership.

This Single Outcome Agreement will be endorsed by Scottish Ministers, Falkirk Council, NHS Forth Valley, Central Scotland Police, Forth Valley College, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, SESTRAN and by CVS Falkirk and District. All parties hope that over time this Single Outcome Agreement will lead to significant benefits for all people living, working and visiting in our communities.