



# Sustainable Falkirk

A strategy contributing to  
Local Agenda 21 in the  
Falkirk Council area

2002 - 2004



## FOREWORD

The Council has always had responsibility for protection and enhancement of the environment. The environmental agenda has been changing and growing in significance. No longer is the environment an optional extra: increasingly, care for the environment is being built into our thinking about development, the economy and social issues. There is also a growing recognition that our actions in this country can affect the environment and quality of life elsewhere in the world.

The term 'sustainable development' is increasingly used to describe this concept and hence the term 'Sustainable Falkirk'. This might sound like jargon, but it really is about adopting good practice, taking responsibility for our actions, and taking a joined up approach to economic, social and environmental issues. The long list of actions contained in the strategy demonstrates the range of topics involved; including waste, energy, education, transport, climate change and the physical environment. There is a strong emphasis on the environmental angle, but a range of other strategies also focus on the social and economic components of sustainable development.

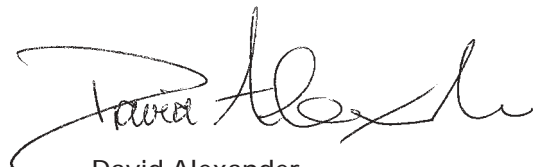
Taken together, these strategies and actions aim to demonstrate how we can help to tackle global problems and also improve quality of life at the local level.

It is quite clear that the Council cannot deliver such ambitious aims acting alone. This strategy is about partnership. There is a role for everyone including; individu-

als, community groups, government agencies, local businesses and voluntary groups. It is intended to be a strategy through which the whole community can make a commitment, with the Council playing a co-ordinating role. The partnership approach has already been developing through the preparation of the Strategic Community Plan, which provides an overarching framework for 'Sustainable Falkirk'

It is also clear that we cannot change established practices overnight: it is a case of promoting gradual year on year improvement, with new actions being developed and regular reports on how these actions are making a difference. It will be a continuous process, not a one-off paper exercise. Over time, we hope to build up commitment to the strategy, gradually bringing more players into the partnership.

Finally, if you are concerned about local quality of life, or contributing to the solution of global problems, take an interest, get involved or just ask for more information. We all have a role to play in ensuring that this strategy is effective.



David Alexander,  
Leader of Falkirk Council



**Falkirk Council**

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## What is Local Agenda 21?

It is an international agreement signed by over 155 countries at the Earth Summit held in Rio in 1992. The objective of the agreement is for each country to take action to safeguard the natural resources of the planet.

### Local Agenda 21 at the local level can be defined as follows :

“The process by which the Council works with its partners and communities to agree a strategy and action plan for the long term social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.”

### What is sustainable development?

There are several formal definitions, a common one is:

“Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs”.

### A practical example of sustainable development which is relevant to the local area.

Investing in energy efficiency measures such as insulation in homes and offices has several benefits. It can save money and therefore has economic benefits. Homes and offices become more comfortable, healthier places to live and work creating a social benefit. Less energy is wasted in heating the buildings thereby reducing pollution and minimising the use of resources resulting in an environmental benefit. This is a good example of applying the sustainable development win, win, win solution. A solution that addresses economic, social and environmental objectives.

### Summarising the local approach

- Gradual year on year improvement.
- Integrating care for the environment into other subjects.
- Building on achievements to date.
- Preparing a new strategy to develop the approach

### The Local Contribution to LA21

- Implement the *Sustainable Falkirk* strategy.
- Implement the Strategic Community Plan.
- Review and report on other key strategies.

## 1 Introduction

### Why is a Sustainable Falkirk strategy necessary

**1.1** This strategy deals with the contribution we can make locally to address major national and international problems arising from the way we care for our planet and the environment. Governments across the world, including the UK government have made a commitment to a programme of action to tackle these problems. This commitment now forms the basis for a wide range of recent European Union, UK government, and Scottish Executive policies and initiatives. It is usually referred to as Local Agenda 21 (LA21) - An agenda of action for the 21st century. Local Authorities are expected to take the lead in co-ordinating action at the local level by preparing appropriate strategies.

**1.2** Most people now have a reasonable knowledge of these problems; there has certainly been more press, television and other media coverage of them recently. In summary, these are problems which arise from the way the world and its communities are damaging the global environment on which we all depend for survival. Often this damage is not apparent in the short term, but problems are gradually being built up for the future. Some current examples include: climate change caused by pollution of the atmosphere; the destruction of fish stocks caused by over-fishing; or the way we use our countryside for food production. There are many other examples, all of which display problems caused by short term decision making and a lack of consideration for the environmental impact of decisions. This emphasis is a key aspect of LA21 - the need to take a long term view and consider the environment when making decisions.

### Why is this relevant to the Falkirk area?

#### How does it affect you as an individual?

**1.3** It is logical to conclude that we all affect the environment in some way: everyone is a consumer, we all travel, and we all produce waste. All of these activities can cause environmental damage. It is equally logical to suggest that the current situation can only be improved by individuals and communities making changes in the way they lead their lives. These changes cannot be achieved simply through governments passing laws or by the action of pressure groups. It is individuals and groups of individuals acting together who can make a difference. It is also logical to suggest that care for the global environment has to start with care for the local environment. Local action is therefore the key to the success of global initiatives. It would be inappropriate to aim for a contribution to global problems without also tackling local issues.

## What type of approach should be adopted?

**1.4** This strategy is not simply about the environment or green action in the traditional sense. The UK government and many other bodies have recognised a lack of “joined up” thinking as a major issue, with the economy, the environment and social topics often being dealt with in isolation. The recommended approach now encourages economic and social development which recognises the need to care for the environment.

**1.5** In considering this approach, it is reasonable to ask the question, why should individuals take an interest in tackling global problems if they face the more immediate local problem of unemployment or poverty? The government certainly sees better prospects of tackling environmental problems if we have a strong economy and robust social policies. The term “sustainable development” is generally used to describe the approach. While this might seem an academic theory, it is essentially about adopting good practice, tackling problems and issues in an integrated way, working efficiently in partnership and often taking a longer term view. It is not easy to achieve; it requires commitment and a willingness to change current practices.

## The Falkirk Council approach to sustainable development

**1.6** Many other local agencies are addressing aspects of sustainable development but the Council has assumed the lead role in seeking to co-ordinate local activity and to develop partnerships with others. The intention is to prepare a strategy for the whole community, led and co-ordinated by the Council. The task is to transfer the theory outlined above into a programme of practical action at the local level.

**1.7** Much preparatory work has already been done. From the early stages, it was accepted that the ideals of sustainable development will not be achieved overnight and the promotion of gradual improvement was recognised as the most realistic way forward. The subject was approached from an environmental angle by the Council through the preparation of an “Environmental Strategy” which aimed to deliver an action programme, to achieve a better integration between economic, social and environmental subjects and to raise awareness. The last Environmental Strategy published in 1999 signalled the aim to work towards the preparation of this strategy for sustainable development.

**1.8** More recently the commitment to promote sustainable development was reaffirmed in the Strategic Community Plan (SCP) 2000-2005. The SCP provides an umbrella strategy for the area, setting

out a vision for the future, identifying key local issues and how local agencies and the community can work together to address these issues.

## What has been achieved to date?

**1.9** From the above description of the approach to sustainable development, it can be seen that we are not starting with a blank sheet in preparing the *Sustainable Falkirk* strategy. Much has been achieved to date, through the ongoing work on the Environmental Strategy, the development of the SCP and indeed action by other organisations. These achievements take the form of practical action on the ground, the development of new policies, the formation of partnerships and success in involving the community.

## Confirming the local contribution to Local Agenda 21

**1.10** It is recognised that achievements to date, to an extent take the form of a long list of actions, often promoted by committed individuals or agencies. There is still some way to go to achieve the ideals of sustainable development; to achieve a situation in which there is effective integration between economic, social and environmental factors. This strategy attempts to highlight gaps in current activity and opportunities for improved practices, aiming to continue the process of gradual improvement. There is also a recognised need to develop better measures of progress; to be able to demonstrate clearly that the aims and targets are being achieved and are delivering improvements both locally and globally.

**1.11** This *Sustainable Falkirk* strategy is seen as a major step in delivering the commitment to sustainable development made in the SCP. Implementation of the SCP and *Sustainable Falkirk* will constitute a significant contribution by the local community to Local Agenda 21.

**1.12** In summary, this strategy takes forward the commitment to sustainable development and LA21 by including the following steps:  
(see overleaf)



## Summary of the structure of the *Sustainable Falkirk* strategy

- Providing a long-term vision for the community
  - Including a local charter which partners are asked to sign to signify commitment
  - A brief assessment of progress to date
  - Identifying priority areas for action based on previous work and consultation
  - An assessment/audit of the contribution made by existing policies and strategies
  - A list of actions addressing the priorities
- with dates and organisations responsible
  - Measures of progress towards our vision
  - Proposals for taking the strategy forward
  - An invitation to submit comments

## 2 Our Vision

**2.1** It is important to have a vision both as something to aim for in the action we take and to highlight what we are trying to achieve. We want the community in the Falkirk area to embrace sustainable development, to become a sustainable community, but this will take time, so any vision or goal for a more sustainable Falkirk must recognise this and look to the long term. This strategy is for a period of three years but our vision should be for around 20 - 25 years hence. It also must address Falkirk's contribution to the global community and not just local issues that are important to us. This further develops the vision for the community contained in the Strategic Community Plan.

**2.2** With this in mind our vision is to realise a sustainable community which can be represented by 12 themes. These themes were developed from the principles of Local Agenda 21 by the thirty-two Local Authorities in Scotland and it should be possible to apply the themes to any community.

### The Twelve Themes

#### A healthy environment

1. Resources, water, land and energy are used efficiently.
2. Waste is minimised then re-used, recycled, or recovered before careful final disposal.
3. Pollution is limited to levels which do not damage natural systems.
4. The diversity of natural heritage is valued and protected.

#### A prosperous economy

5. Local needs are met locally - supporting local business and employment.
6. Everyone can undertake satisfying and fairly paid work in a vibrant and diverse economy which recognises the value of unpaid work.
7. Access to work, goods, services and other people is not achieved at the expense of the environment or limited to those with cars.
8. Everyone has access to good quality food, water, housing and fuel at reasonable costs.

#### An inclusive society

9. Health and well-being are promoted through safe, clean and pleasant environments. Health services work to prevent illness as well as provide care for the sick and support for carers.
10. People live in confidence without fear of violence and crime, or persecution because of their race, gender, sexuality, personal circumstances or beliefs.
11. Local traditions and cultural identity are valued, whilst opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.
12. Everyone has access to the skills, knowledge and information needed for them to play a full part in society and its decision making.

### 3 The Sustainable Falkirk Charter

**3.1** As part of our commitment to a more sustainable local community we have created a charter. The charter below sets out the basic principles of commitment to a more sustainable Falkirk area. Organisations identified within the Action Plan have been invited to sign the charter. We hope that over time others will follow.

Sustainable development is the process through which economic, social and environmental concerns are integrated into the decision making of organisations, individuals and communities. The *Sustainable Falkirk* Partnership exists to progress sustainable development in the Falkirk Council area, helping to protect and improve the quality of life locally and contribute to national and international action to protect our environment. The partnership consists of a wide range of organisations who wish to support sustainable development and who will endeavour to protect our environment wherever possible.

The key aims of the partnership are to achieve a more sustainable community through:

- **In house action:** Taking action to tackle environmental impacts directly and indirectly caused by the activities of our own organisations.
- **Integration:** Integrate economic, social and environmental considerations into all decision making in a balanced way.
- **Partnership:** Working with others wherever possible to achieve our goals.
- **Community Involvement:** To actively involve all sections of the community in achieving a sustainable community.

We the undersigned, as members of the *Sustainable Falkirk* Partnership are committed to the above aims and will work with our partners and the wider community to achieve them.

- Avesia Ltd
- British Waterways
- BTCV Scotland
- Central Scotland Countryside Trust (CSCT)
- CSV Central Action
- Falkirk Area Biodiversity Partnership
- Falkirk Council
- Falkirk Environment Trust (FET)
- Forth Estuary Forum
- Grangemouth Enterprise Ltd.
- Keep Scotland Beautiful (EnCams Scotland)
- Mid Scotland Environmental Education Forum (MSEEF)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley (SEFV)
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

## 4 Progress To Date

**4.1** The introduction to this strategy emphasises the amount of preparatory work leading up to the *Sustainable Falkirk* strategy. As part of this work, there has been a major effort to consult the wider community, to publicise key events, and develop or maintain partnerships with groups and agencies.

**4.2** This work has involved consultation on a range of Council strategies and participating in the development of policies and strategies prepared by other local agencies and groups such as Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Central Scotland Countryside Trust and the Falkirk Area Biodiversity Partnership. Of particular relevance to a more sustainable Falkirk has been consultation on the Environmental Strategy (last reviewed in 1999) and most recently, the ongoing partnership working on the development of the Strategic Community Plan. The latter included a specific workshop on Local Agenda 21 in October 2000 and a workshop on the future Area Waste Strategy in February 2001.

**4.3** This preparatory work has enabled us to obtain an impression of priorities to be addressed in *Sustainable Falkirk*. These priorities are a combination of those identified from community consultation and those arising from the requirements imposed by national policy, such as the need for action to tackle climate change. Section five lists the Priority Areas for action, describes in general terms the nature of the issues, and the general objective in aiming to address the issues. This approach enables the strategy to focus on the community's perception of priorities, rather than solely those of the Council.

**4.4** The Action Plan, which forms the major element of the strategy, is set out to show how the list of priorities is being addressed. It is preceded by an audit and assessment of the main existing policies which contribute to sustainable development. It must be acknowledged that the existing policies and the action plan do not represent a complete answer to local issues, nor do they fully achieve the ideal of sustainable development. These do however represent steps in the process of gradual year on year improvement working towards the vision of this strategy.

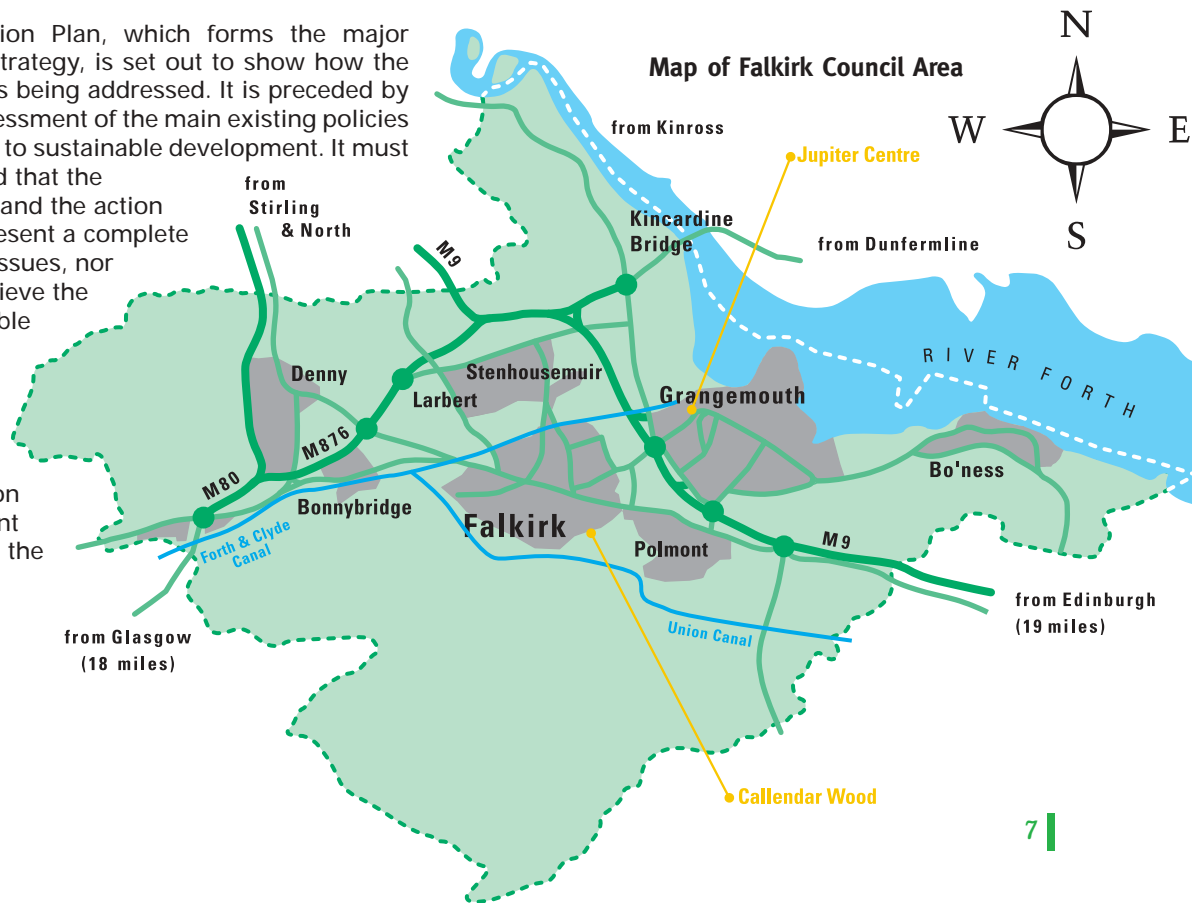
### Some local examples of good practice

**4.5** There are already some examples of projects that represent good progress towards a more sustainable community, for example: the community partnership involved in the restoration of Callendar Wood in Falkirk; the Green Scene event for Schools often held at the Jupiter Centre; and the multi-agency effort to regenerate the Lowland canals network (the Millennium Link project). These projects are greatly beneficial to the Falkirk area through new economic opportunities, community well being and environmental improvement.

**4.6** In addition to these project examples many organisations have taken action to reduce their environmental impact, for example, action by companies in Grangemouth to reduce their polluting emissions.

### Where we go from here

**4.7** If we can recognise what we have done we must also recognise what we have not. If we were to fully cover all issues of sustainable development, the list of what needs to be done would be very long. However we should remain positive, the first step in addressing what has not been done is to admit it. The areas that have been identified as priorities in the next section are examples of where more action is required most urgently. Other issues will be identified as the strategy progresses.



## 5 Priority Areas for Action

**5.1** Sustainable development is a topic that affects everything and everyone. It is difficult to draw boundaries to the subject. We have chosen to tackle the most important issues at a local level while not forgetting the responsibility towards national and international initiatives on the environment.

**5.2** There is currently no accepted method for prioritising issues. Climate Change has, however, been recognised as the most significant threat to our future by the Scottish Executive. The Council has consulted, through the Community Plan Partnership, organisations such as local companies, community groups, interest groups, individuals and other public bodies to obtain a local viewpoint on priorities for action. This consultation was carried out through a workshop event held on the 4th of October 2000 and combined with the results of previous consultation exercises carried out for the Council's 1999 Environmental Strategy. In devising priorities, we have combined consultation results and the key issues identified by government advice e.g. Climate Change, to create the following priority areas for the strategy in approximate order of significance.

**5.3** These priority areas are briefly summarised as:

- Education and awareness
- Waste minimisation and recycling
- Greener transport
- Improve the image and quality of the physical environment.
- Climate change
- Integrating environment issues into plans, policies and strategies.
- Consultation and community involvement

**5.4** The major concern for each of these priority areas is set out in Table 1 overleaf along with an objective forming the basis of future action. The priority headings are used to structure the action programme which is the key component of the strategy.

**5.5** In addition to these priority areas, we have added an eighth category to the Action Plan which is not included in Table 1 and which we have called "Other action which makes a significant contribution to sustainable development". This includes action that does not fall into one of the priority areas above but nevertheless makes a significant contribution towards the vision of a sustainable community.



**Table 1 Priority Areas**

<b>1 Education and awareness</b>	
<b>› Concern</b>	
<p>Most of us have not been formally educated about environmental issues such as climate change or the impact that we have on our environment. If individuals, organisations and communities are unaware of the impact of their actions they will not be motivated to take steps to change or support others in taking such steps. The first step to a more sustainable community is providing information to individuals so that they become more aware of the consequences of their actions and the reasons why</p>	<p>other members of the community are changing their behaviour.</p> <p><b>› Objective of action to address concern</b></p> <p>To improve the awareness and understanding of sustainable development and environmental issues within individuals, organisations and communities to encourage them to take action; and to provide more in-depth educational and training opportunities for those who wish to learn more.</p>
<b>2 Waste minimisation and recycling</b>	
<b>› Concern</b>	
<p>The Falkirk area produces approximately 98,000 tonnes of municipal waste (1999/2000 figures). Only 8% of this waste is recycled. The risk of pollution; cost of collection and disposal; and the requirement for landfill capacity for this waste are increasing. Waste also indicates inefficiency; the more business waste we produce the more inefficient our local economy becomes and the less competitive our local businesses will be. The key to rectifying this</p>	<p>situation is to minimise waste in the first place but where this is not possible more waste should be re-used or recycled.</p> <p><b>› Objective of action to address concern</b></p> <p>To minimise waste production in the Falkirk area. Where waste is produced to increase the amount that is reused, recycled or recovered and reduce the overall amount of waste going to landfill.</p>
<b>3 Greener transport</b>	
<b>› Concern</b>	
<p>Two-thirds of the trips made by Falkirk Council residents are undertaken by car yet 40% of households do not own a car. Apart from the fact that a transport network and local services based on car transport may exclude non car owners, there are also significant environmental impacts. Car use contributes greatly to climate change; affects human health through local air pollution, noise and the encouragement of lower levels of exercise; and damages ecosystems through pollution and other indirect effects. A more sustainable community</p>	<p>should aim for a greater proportion of public transport trips and a reduced number of car trips. Those car trips that are undertaken should have less impact on the environment and human health.</p> <p><b>› Objective of action to address concern</b></p> <p>To reduce the need for travel but where travel is necessary to reduce the proportion of travel that is undertaken by car, and where car travel is necessary to reduce the environmental impact of that travel.</p>
<b>4 The image and quality of the physical environment of the area</b>	
<b>› Concern</b>	
<p>There is some concern that the Falkirk area has a poor image in the eyes of visitors, tourists and within resident local communities. This image is linked to the quality of the physical environment incorporating aspects such as: the quality of planning and design; use of brown field sites; the loss of green space; historic buildings etc. The quality of life in local communities is also reduced because of the amount of unsociable behaviour such as dog fouling, littering, fly tipping, and vandalism. Only by taking steps to address these issues will the</p>	<p>image of the area be enhanced and the quality of life for the community improved.</p> <p><b>› Objective of action to address concern</b></p> <p>To improve the overall image of the area through: improving the quality of new development; greater effort in tackling litter issues; raising standards of design; greater utilisation of brown field sites; providing greater protection and enhancement of greenspace and wildlife habitats; better quality landscaping.</p>

## 5 Climate Change

### › Concern

Much of our energy needs are met by the use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas. The heating of buildings; electricity for cooking, lighting and equipment; and fuel for transportation all rely heavily on fossil fuels. However the use of fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere. CO<sub>2</sub> acts as a thermal barrier in the atmosphere trapping heat and causing global temperature rises. The impact of climate change on Scotland and the Falkirk area cannot be fully predicted. However recent scientific studies suggest that we can expect more rainfall, slightly higher temperatures, increased flooding and more severe weather events. Other less obvious impacts are crop

damage and changes to eco-systems which could impact on agricultural, forestry and human health. Action to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels by using them more efficiently and utilising more energy from alternative sources such as solar, hydro, wind and bio-mass is the only way to address climate change.

### › Objective of action to address concern

Contribute to efforts to address climate change by minimising the use of fossil fuels through improved energy efficiency and increased use of renewable fuels such as wind, hydro, solar, and biomass.

## 6 Integration of environmental issues into plans, policies and strategies

### › Concern

Sustainable development cannot be achieved unless environmental objectives are incorporated into future plans, policies, and strategies. Without this integration environmental issues will continue to be sidelined in favour of short term economic and social objectives. In the long term this may result in costly and irreversible environmental problems and

reduce the quality of life for the community as a whole.

### › Objective of action to address concern

To integrate environmental objectives into key plans, policies and strategies within the Falkirk area.

## 7 Consultation and community involvement

### › Concern

Without community involvement and proper consultation on key issues, progress towards a sustainable community will not be achieved. While major organisations such as the Council can make significant changes using their influence and resources, real progress will only be achieved if communities and individuals begin to make lifestyle changes. In short, the wider community and

individuals need to be consulted and involved in sustainable development to enable them to contribute too.

### › Objective of action to address concern

To involve and consult the community in progressing sustainable development.

## 6 Audit of Existing Policies and Strategies

**6.1** The introduction explained the wide ranging nature of the subjects covered by LA21 and emphasised the linkages between them. In preparing *Sustainable Falkirk*, we are not starting from scratch. A number of local policies, strategies and initiatives already exist which contribute to sustainable development and address some of the priorities identified through consultation. Some of these policies have been put in place to tackle the national and international issues which underlie the effort to prepare LA21. An example of these is transport policy which aims to reduce the pollution arising from the growth in road transport, by shifting the balance back towards public transport.

**6.2** It is not possible to describe or summarise all of the policies which have links with LA21 given their number and complexity. However the Strategic Community Plan (SCP) 2000-2005 is an important component of the commitment to LA21 in the area. It provides an umbrella strategy for all local agencies, identifying the key issues and how the main local agencies and the community will work together to tackle these issues. It has been drawn up through intensive partnership working and adopts sustainable development as an underpinning principle but does not elaborate in detail on how this will be delivered.

**6.3** The SCP provides an overview of the thrust of policy already adopted by the local partnership of agencies. It has particular strengths in identifying the main social and economic issues, many of which contribute to the aims of sustainable development. A summary audit of the SCP in Table 2 overleaf follows these introductory paragraphs. This describes how the SCP contributes to sustainable development and identifies further action which requires to be addressed.

**6.4** In addition, a number of policies have already been adopted by partners or are in preparation which are driven by the agenda of sustainable development. These contribute significantly to the local and global initiatives and must be recognised. A list of the main policies in this category is given below. A summary audit of these policies is included as Appendix 1 to the strategy and details are contained in the Action Plan under each Priority Area.

**6.5** List of key policies/strategies driven by sustainable development (Agency responsible in brackets):

- Local Transport Strategy (Falkirk Council)
- Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Strategy (Falkirk Council)
- Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy 2001 (Falkirk Council)
- Falkirk Council Structure Plan - Finalised Written Statement 2001
- Air Quality Strategy - 3rd Stage Review and Assessment (Falkirk Council)
- Central Scotland Forest Strategy 1995 (Central Scotland Countryside Trust)
- National Waste Strategy Scotland - Forth Valley Issues Paper : No Option But Change and Draft Area Waste Plan (Scottish Environment Protection Agency)
- Forth Estuary Forum Management Strategy (Forth Estuary Forum)
- Falkirk Council Countryside Access Strategy (Falkirk Council)
- Falkirk Area Local Biodiversity Action Plan (Falkirk Area Biodiversity Partnership)

**6.6** A diagram identifying how these policies / strategies link together, is shown in Appendix 2.



**Table 2 Summary Audit of Strategic Community Plan**

<b>Summary of Purpose / Aims of Strategy</b>	
<b>Strategic Community Plan 2000 - 2005 and closely related Community Learning Strategy</b>	
<p>SCP takes the form of a series of themes supported by a list of actions and targets. These have been agreed through intensive consultation with partnership of agencies and community groups.</p> <p>The SCP encompasses the general thrust of a wide range of existing policies and strategies relevant to the area.</p> <p>Following an assessment of the key strategic issues for the area, develops, through partnership working: a shared vision for the area; agreement on priorities for action; better co-ordination of working between agencies; and an increase in the collective capacity to deliver improvement and change. The related Community Learning Strategy is regarded as delivering the community learning needs of the SCP.</p> <p>The SCP is based on the following five themes identified by the partnership:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase jobs, income and enterprise for all our citizens. Stresses need for all citizens to be involved in the economy and to avoid exclusion of any group. Support for local business and job creation.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Enable citizens to live healthily and safely. Recognises importance of healthy lifestyle and a safe / healthy environment. Promotes dissemination of information / advice and access to facilities for all.</li> <li>3. Stimulates working partnerships amongst agencies, organisations, citizens and communities. Recognises that SCP will only be successful if there is a commitment to partnership working including maximising community and voluntary sector involvement.</li> <li>4. Tackle disadvantage and discrimination in all its forms. Aims to address the issue of social exclusion and to remove barriers to the involvement of groups and individuals arising from poverty, gender, culture, education etc.</li> <li>5. Create and sustain an environment in which people want to live, visit and work. Focus is on physical environment, enhancement, protection of the heritage, civic pride and promotion of tourism, makes a commitment to integrate care for the environment with economic and social development of the area.</li> </ol>
<b>Linkages to Sustainable Development</b>	
<p>Adopts sustainable development as underpinning principle of the SCP.</p> <p>Aims to reach a consensus on the key issues for the area through working with local agencies and community representatives.</p> <p>Directly contributes to sustainable development through the selection of themes and actions / targets associated with them. In particular:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes sound local economy</li> <li>• Targets actions on priority areas and groups</li> <li>• Ensures all groups have equal access to facilities, services, information and education</li> <li>• Promotes better access to skills, knowledge and information</li> <li>• Strong emphasis on partnership working and community participation</li> <li>• Promotes enhancement and conservation of the environment and local heritage</li> </ul>
<b>Areas for Further Action</b>	
<p>The focus is on local issues and the SCP needs to demonstrate how it contributes to the global dimension of sustainable development.</p> <p>Needs to demonstrate how the underpinning principle of sustainable development will be applied in practice.</p> <p>Based on a relatively short timescale of 5 years and not on the longer term vision of sustainable development.</p>	<p>Need to develop better measures of progress on delivering the themes and aims and in achieving sustainable development.</p> <p>Need for a clearer reference to the linkages between individual themes and actions e.g health and the environment, economic development and environmental protection.</p>

## 7 Introduction to the Action Plan

**7.1** The action plan which follows is categorised according to the priorities described in Section five. Within the focus of these priority areas, there is well established national advice on the four main types of action which local partnerships can take to make their communities more sustainable. These four types of action have already been reflected in the *Sustainable Falkirk Charter*:

- **In-house Action.** It is important that organisations (and individuals) take responsibility for their own environmental impacts and take action to address them as part of sustainable development. This has a twofold objective, firstly, it sets an example to others and secondly because of the collective significance of the Council and its many partners, any improvements can have a significant impact on the area. For example, reducing waste and energy consumption, improving management practices for biodiversity and “green purchasing” can all have a significant effect.
- **Policy Integration.** A fundamental requirement of sustainable development is that all policies, strategies and plans should reflect sustainable development principles. In other words, they should contribute to and support sustainable development. This type of action has also been identified as a priority area in section five. Several actions to address policy integration are included within the action plan.
- **Partnership Working.** LA 21 focuses on partnerships. Through developing action in partnership we intend to promote a *Sustainable Falkirk Partnership*. The partnership will be responsible for sharing good practice and driving forward sustainable development within the Falkirk area. It is the combined actions of individuals and partnerships which can change things for the better.
- **Community Involvement.** Without community involvement, sustainable development cannot be achieved. Communities and individuals can change aspects of their daily lives and support the action of organisations in their area. This type of action has also been identified as a priority in section five.

### The Status of Actions

**7.2** The list of actions includes current actions which are generally ongoing and to which there is already a commitment. These incorporate some of the elements of the Council's previous Environmental Strategy. In addition, there are new actions developed as a result of work leading up to the preparation of this strategy. Columns in the action plan explain the reasons for the action, the organisation responsible, and a target date where

possible. In some cases, there is a need for further confirmation of support from the organisation responsible and the identification of appropriate resources.

### Resources

**7.3** In the case of current actions, provision is generally made within the budgets of the responsible agencies for the delivery of the action. This also applies to some of the new actions although in other cases resources have to be assessed and committed.

**7.4** Although resources available to deliver sustainable development actions are comparatively restricted, there are opportunities to obtain funds from a range of sources to progress new initiatives. These include: Lottery and European Union Funds; Landfill Tax funds; company sponsorship; Scottish Natural Heritage and other specific grant aid. The Council has also earmarked a modest budget (£100,000 in 2000/2001) to “pump prime” new initiatives. Where significant new resources are required before actions can progress this is highlighted in the action plan with a “\$” symbol.

**7.5** Within the action plan some actions will address more than one priority area. In these cases the action has been placed in the priority area in which it will have the most significant impact. Lead partners are generally listed first. Actions contained in the Strategic Community Plan have not been repeated within the action plan and the target dates require confirmation through further consultation.

### Measuring progress on sustainable development

**7.6** The introduction stresses that this strategy does not represent a completed task. It has to be regarded as a major step in an ongoing process working towards the ideals of sustainable development. The strategy will be reviewed on a regular basis to assess progress and the need for new action. In this respect, it is vital to further develop a list of key indicators (see section nine) which will be used as measures of progress and as a means of reporting to the partners and wider community.

## 8 Action Plan

### 8.1 Education and Awareness

Objective: To improve the awareness and understanding of environmental issues and sustainable development within individuals, organisations, and communities; and to provide more in-depth educational and training opportunities for those that wish to learn more.

8.1 Education and Awareness	Action to address objective	Reason for action	Partners	Target Dates
	<b>Current Action</b>			
	1.1.1 Publication of the Falkirk Green Diary - six editions per year. \$	The Green Diary provides information on environmental issues and sustainable development within the Falkirk area.	CSV Media, Falkirk Environment Trust	Six editions annually
	1.1.2 Within Falkirk Council, Green Office Guidelines have been produced. These will be updated to reflect recent changes in environmental information and offered to other office based organisations.	The guidelines provide information to staff enabling them to take action to reduce waste, energy use etc.	Falkirk Council, Friends of the Earth (Scotland)	Ongoing in current form until 2002
	1.1.3 Running of the Millennium environmental training project for small to medium sized enterprises.	The Millennium project provided environmental training to companies and their employees to help them identify opportunities for cost savings through adopting good environmental practice. The information from the project is now available on a website.	Falkirk College	Ongoing, reporting annually on progress
	1.1.4 Promoting the awareness of environmental issues in schools through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the provision of an Environmental Education Support Teacher</li> <li>funding school environmental education projects with a dedicated project budget.</li> <li>running major educational events for pupils and teachers, such as Green Scene, and producing a guide to events - The Outdoor Diary .</li> </ul>	Education and raising awareness at an early stage is vitally important to ensure that young people grow up with an understanding of sustainable development. A dedicated support teacher is important to ensure the co-ordination of action in schools and to provide advice to teachers and the links to the school curriculum. The teacher post is a short term pilot project subject to decision on continuation.	Falkirk Council/Schools, Mid Scotland Environmental Education Forum, SNH	Ongoing, reporting annually on progress
	1.1.5 Promoting environmental issues at local events such as the Kinneil Heritage and Country Fair and through publications and articles.	Local events and publications have an important role in raising awareness amongst the community.	Falkirk Council, Falkirk Area Biodiversity Partnership	Ongoing, reporting annually on progress
	1.1.6 Operation of the Central Scotland Energy and Environment Forum (CSEEF).	The CSEEF runs regular events to promote and share good environmental practice amongst the business community.	Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley (SEFV), SEPA, Falkirk, Stirling & Clackmannanshire Councils	Ongoing, reporting annually on progress
	<b>New Action</b>			
	1.2.1 Introduce a training course for Eco-preneurs. \$	Now, and increasingly in the future some of the most significant business opportunities will arise from sustainable development. Training individuals in how to develop new "eco-businesses" will assist individuals realise those opportunities.	Falkirk College	2004
	1.2.2 The creation of a "Green House" and community training demonstration. \$	The Green House will demonstrate what changes could be made to a typical house to make it more fuel efficient, kinder to the environment and cheaper to run. Community training will provide capacity building within a community area to encourage individuals to improve their own property and save money.	Falkirk College, Falkirk Council and other partners to be agreed	2004
	1.2.3 Publication of "Green School Guidelines" resource pack supported by £8,000 project budget.	This guide is aimed at encouraging teachers to undertake school projects which will contribute to the school curriculum and educate children about environmental issues.	Falkirk Council, SNH, Falkirk Area Biodiversity Partnership	2002
	1.2.4 Publish and distribute a "Green Household Guide" to residents in the Falkirk area.	This guide will make people aware of some of the small changes they can make to their lifestyles which will benefit the environment and perhaps themselves. For example becoming more energy efficient.	Falkirk Council, Friends of the Earth Scotland, CSV Media	2003
	1.2.5 Introduction of a training course on environmental issues and sustainable development for Council staff and members.	Training provided to staff and members will enable them to be more informed about environmental issues when making decisions.	Falkirk Council	2003
	1.2.6 Develop an annual Green Award scheme for businesses in the Forth Valley area.	An award scheme will help highlight those companies which are taking environmental issues seriously and benefiting from it.	SEFV	2002
	1.2.7 Train business advisors to give advice on environmental issues which have an impact on businesses in the Falkirk area.	Business advisors in the Business Gateway network are often the first point of contact for assistance and so it is important that they are aware of the key environmental issues affecting businesses.	SEFV, Falkirk Council	2003
	1.2.8 Produce a "State of the Environment" report to highlight the condition of the physical environment in the Falkirk area.	An assessment of the quality of the environmental resources in the local area will assist in targeting future effort for improvement and highlight the importance of the environment to the local community.	Falkirk Council, SEPA, SNH	2002
	1.2.9 Investigate the production of a guide to environmental taxation for the local businesses in the Forth Valley area (including Falkirk) as part of the environmental advice within the Business Gateway. \$	The increasing use of economic instruments to address environmental issues, for example environmental taxes, may present new opportunities for businesses.	SEFV	2003
	1.2.10 Promote research work to investigate the link between the environment and issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the incidence of crime</li> <li>community health</li> <li>the attractiveness of the Falkirk area for economic investors.</li> <li>the future impact on the businesses/companies operating in the Falkirk area. \$</li> </ul>	Until the link between the environment and other social and economic factors is recognised by all, then there will continue to be decisions made and strategies implemented which are not optimal. A need for better integration between economic/social and environmental factors and policies has been recognised. Targeted research on specific issues is considered necessary to explore the linkages and develop appropriate responses.	Falkirk Council and others	2004



## 8.2 Waste Minimisation and Recycling

Objective: To minimise waste production in the Falkirk area. Where waste is produced to increase the amount that is reused, recycled or recovered and reduce the overall amount of waste going to landfill.

### 8.2 Waste Minimisation and Recycling

Action to address objective	Reason for action	Partners	Target Dates
<b>Current Action</b>			
2.1.1 The development of a Forth Valley (FV) Area Waste Plan following on from the National Waste Strategy and Forth Valley Waste Issues Paper.	The National Waste Strategy developed by SEPA aims to minimise waste production and increase the level of recycling and recovery of waste in order to meet new policy and legislative targets. The FV Area Waste Plan will address these aims in the Falkirk area.	SEPA, Falkirk Council, Scottish Water, Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley	2002
2.1.2 Promote through publicity the increased use of Falkirk Council recycling sites. The Council provides over 60 sites for the recycling of bottles and cans and facilities to compost green waste at its Roughmote site.	Falkirk Council has a key role in providing facilities to enable and encourage individuals and organisations to recycle their waste.	Falkirk Council, Alloa Community Enterprises	Ongoing
2.1.3 Promote household collection of paper, cans, textiles and aluminium foil through the Action Recycle Blue Bag scheme.	The fortnightly household collection provides a service to enable householders to recycle more waste.	BTCV Scotland, Falkirk Council, Falkirk Environment Trust	Ongoing subject to annual funding
2.1.4 Provision of a community liaison officer and BTCV development officer to encourage increased rates of recycling and waste minimisation within the Falkirk area.	Individuals and organisations could be doing more to manage their waste. The Community Liaison Officer's role is to encourage more people and organisations to get involved in recycling and waste minimisation.	BTCV Scotland, Falkirk Environment Trust	Ongoing subject to annual funding
2.1.5 Support Grangemouth Enterprises white goods and furniture recycling project.	Greater numbers of kitchen appliances and furniture are being landfilled at the end of their life. This project aims to ensure that where possible, appliances and furniture are repaired and reused.	Falkirk Council, Falkirk Environment Trust, Grangemouth Enterprise Ltd	Ongoing subject to annual funding
2.1.6 Investigate the feasibility of setting up a computer recycling project including the provision of training and employment opportunities. \$	An increasing proportion of the waste stream is from electrical equipment such as computers. There is potential to create employment and reuse waste through the refurbishment of used computer hardware.	Falkirk Council, Grangemouth Enterprise Ltd	Ongoing
2.1.7 Continue the East of Scotland Water waste minimisation project targeting small/medium sized local businesses through phase 2 of the project.	The East of Scotland Waste minimisation project assists businesses to make savings through improved waste minimisation and management.	Scottish Water and other partners	Ongoing
<b>New Action</b>			
2.2.1 Implement the Forth Valley Area waste plan following its production. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Local Waste Plan \$</li> <li>Investigate joint working with Area Waste Group members.</li> </ul>	See 2.1.1. above.	See 2.1.1	2002 onwards
2.2.2 Provide waste minimisation and environmental expert(s) through the Business Gateway service. \$	The Business Gateway service is a one stop service providing assistance to local businesses. Making an expert on environment and waste issues available through this network will help local businesses to take advantage of new business opportunities and cost reductions, through environmental measures.	Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, Falkirk Council, Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council	2002 onwards
2.2.3 Support the development of Waste Exchange and information facilities for local businesses through the Forth Valley Business Waste (FVBW) Network. \$	The FVBW Network will encourage the use of waste exchange facilities and information to enable local companies to utilise the waste produced by other companies as a raw material and reduce waste production.	Falkirk College, BTCV (Scotland), SEPA, Falkirk Council, Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley	Ongoing, annual report on progress.
2.2.4 Expand recycling facilities within Council office buildings to recycle or reuse a greater proportion of waste e.g. compostable material and fluorescent tubes.	Although office waste may be a small part of the overall waste stream in Falkirk Council the action taken in the office can set an important example to the community and other organisations.	Falkirk Council	2002
2.2.5 Support a wider range of waste recycling projects funded through Landfill Tax Credits.	Currently Landfill Tax Credits fund a wide range of environmental projects. Greater concentration on waste related projects is desirable given that the funds come from waste disposal. However to date the number of projects proposed has been low.	Falkirk Environment Trust and partners, the wider community, Shanks Avondale, local landfill operators	2002
2.2.6 Upgrade the Council's composting facilities with the introduction of a modern shredding machine and composting facilities. \$	An upgrade of existing facilities will allow more biodegradable waste to be diverted away from landfill.	Falkirk Council	2002
2.2.7 Provide information for school pupils on waste disposal, litter, recycling etc. through an insert in pupils school diary organiser.	Educating school pupils about sustainable waste management is important for the future well being of our community.	Falkirk Council, Falkirk Environment Trust	2002
2.2.8 Undertake a review of the Council's commercial waste production. Concentrating in particular on the separation of waste, purchasing of material such as recycled aggregates, and waste minimisation opportunities. \$	There may be significant opportunities to reduce the level of commercial waste produced by the Council, increase the amount of commercial waste reused and recycled, providing support to the recycled product market and reduce costs.	Falkirk Council	2003
2.2.9 Investigate the use of recycled materials and locally grown timber for countryside path projects.	There may be opportunities to reuse aggregates and other materials in path construction. The use of locally grown timber will support local employment.	CSCT, Falkirk Council	2004



### 8.3 Greener Transport

Objective: To reduce the need for travel but where travel is necessary to reduce the proportion of travel that is undertaken by car, and where car travel is necessary to reduce the environmental impact of that travel.

### 8.3 Greener Transport

Action to address objective	Reason for action	Partners	Target Dates
<b>Current Action</b>			
3.1.1 Continue to support flexible working practices such as flexitime for the Council's workforce.	Home working and flexitime arrangements reduce the need to travel and the need to travel at peak times thereby reducing congestion.	Falkirk Council	Ongoing
3.1.2 Implement the actions and projects within the Council's Access Strategy and Local Transport Strategy, for example the extension and development of local footpath networks. \$	Many of the actions within these two strategies are aimed at addressing the objective of "Greener Transport".	Falkirk Council, SNH, CSCT and others	Ongoing, annual report on progress
3.1.3 Develop the Council's website to enable the community to undertake more business transactions and obtain more information "online" reducing the need to travel to Council offices.	By allowing more transactions to be undertaken by e-mail and on the internet Falkirk residents can avoid travel to Council offices.	Falkirk Council	Ongoing, annual report on progress
3.1.4 Continue collating information on the split of total journeys between car and other methods of transport being undertaken in Falkirk to allow accurate measurement of public transport and private car usage.	The split of journeys by mode e.g. train bus, car will allow trends in transport usage to be measured and action to be more specifically targeted.	Falkirk Council	Ongoing
<b>New Action</b>			
3.2.1 Appoint a Green Transport Officer to prepare and implement green travel plans for the major employment sites in the area. Encourage the production of green travel plans through Business Gateway. \$	Green Travel plans are a holistic way of examining how people travel to their work and identifying opportunities to encourage greater use of alternatives to cars.	Falkirk Council, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, Falkirk College, British Waterways,	2002 onwards
3.2.2 Produce guidance for organisations and the public on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using vehicles more efficiently.</li> <li>Alternative fuels for vehicles.</li> </ul>	Providing guidance will allow individuals and organisations to make informed choices and take action.	Falkirk Council and the community	2002 onwards
3.2.3 Investigate the feasibility of a Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) pilot project within the Council's vehicle fleet to reduce polluting emissions. \$	LPG is a cleaner alternative to petrol and gas. If feasible this could reduce the environmental impacts of the Council's fleet.	Falkirk Council	2002
3.2.4 Introduce public transport information to the work place to allow employees and clients to make more informed choices about transport to and from business premises.	Often the initial barrier to individuals using greener transport is the lack of information on alternatives e.g. bus routes/ times/ path networks.	Falkirk Council and others	2002 onwards
3.2.5 Promote the use of the canal towpaths for pedestrians and cyclists, linking to other path networks and investigate the use of the canal for freight traffic.	Pedestrians and cyclists could be encouraged to use the canal towpath as an alternative to road routes. Use of the canal for freight may reduce the levels of road freight in the Falkirk area.	British Waterways, Falkirk Council	2003
3.2.6 Link local action with the Scottish Executive national campaign to promote alternatives to car travel.	The Scottish Executive is planning annual awareness raising campaigns that could provide a firm basis for local awareness raising.	Falkirk Council	2002 onwards
3.2.7 Investigate the possibility of implementing a Quality Contract or franchise to cover the bus services and routes in the Falkirk Area	A quality contract or franchise would allow the Council to take more control of bus services in the Council area.	Falkirk Council	2004
3.2.8 Development of "e-Falkirk" - an internet site that allows access to Falkirk's businesses and public services online. \$	This should allow Falkirk residents to undertake more transactions and purchases from their home reducing the need to travel.	Falkirk Council	Business Plan by 2001
3.2.9 Investigate options for introducing further incentives for greener transport within Falkirk Council through measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a car share scheme</li> <li>travel expense policy</li> <li>the use of pool vehicles</li> </ul>	The current travel expenses and car loans policy may favour car use over other modes of travel. Car sharing by employees reduces the number of car journeys and pool cars may reduce the need for employees to bring cars to work for business journeys	Falkirk Council	2003
3.2.10 Investigate and report on other measures that can be taken to influence directly or indirectly the move towards greener transport.	There may be various ways to influence individuals' transport decisions that have not yet been targeted e.g. through the licensing system.	Falkirk Council	2004



## 8.4 The Image & Physical Environment of the Area

Objective: To improve the overall image of the area through: improving the quality of new development; raising standards of design; greater utilisation of brown field sites; providing greater protection and enhancement of greenspace and wildlife habitats; better quality landscaping; greater effort in tackling litter issues.

### 8.4 The Image & Physical Environment of the Area

Action to address objective	Reason for action	Partners	Target Dates
<b>Current Action</b>			
4.1.1 Continue to provide support and funding to develop and implement the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. \$	The LBAP aims to protect and enhance habitats and safeguard the variety of plants and animals we have in the Falkirk area. The LBAP covers habitats as diverse as bogs, woodland and urban parks. Implementing the actions arising from the LBAP will improve the physical environment for people as well as wildlife.	Falkirk Environment Trust, Falkirk Council, SNH, LBAP Partners Group	Annual report on progress
4.1.2 Continue to promote the implementation of the Central Scotland Forest Strategy, its associated annual programme of works and the Falkirk Green Space Initiative. Raise awareness of the Forest initiative within the community.	This initiative contributes significantly to improving the image of the area and enhancing specific countryside and "urban fringe" areas. There is a need to continue the momentum of the initiative through the funding support of partners and by raising awareness and increasing community involvement.	Central Scotland Countryside Trust, Falkirk Council, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, local communities	Ongoing
4.1.3 Complete and publish the Falkirk Council Contaminated Land Strategy identifying appropriate sites and appropriate action required	Work on this strategy is at an intermediate stage with the development of information on sites and a methodology for inspection and assessment. Completion of the strategy and the implementation of any necessary action will assist in improving the image of the area and dealing with sources of potential pollution where there is an assessed risk to receptors (people, habitats, species).	Falkirk Council, appropriate landowners, SEPA	Subject to Scottish Executive approval.
4.1.4 Continue to develop the introduction of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) into new developments in line with the policy set out in the Falkirk Structure Plan 2000.	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems aim to allow surface water arising from rainfall to dissipate naturally rather than overloading the drainage system. The implementation of SUDS will increase the number of natural water features such as ponds in the landscape.	FFLAG	Ongoing
4.1.5 Contribute to the implementation of the Forth Integrated Management Strategy and its associated actions. \$	This strategy is soundly based on the principles of sustainable development. Its implementation will help to ensure that there is an integrated approach by a range of partner agencies to the future management of the local area. Implementation of its guidelines and action can improve conditions in the river, conserve its natural resources, raise awareness and understanding and promote its value as a recreational and economic and natural heritage asset.	Forth Estuary Forum	Ongoing
4.1.6 Continue to review underdeveloped land in public ownership with a view to achieving environmental improvement and an environmentally sensitive management regime.	The Council and other public agencies are major landowners in the area. A proportion of the land is unused and subject to a very limited management regime. There is scope for action to improve specific sites and to develop a more systematic approach to long term management. Action has already been taken on some sites which has provided work and training under the "New Deal" heading.	Falkirk Council, other public agencies	Ongoing
4.1.7 Following approval of the Falkirk Council Structure Plan seek to ensure that the plan's sustainable development criteria are built into future local plans and decisions on development applications.	Sustainable development is one of the key principles of the finalised Structure Plan. Implementation of its provisions will assist in improving the image of the area, in protecting important environmental assets, in introducing more sustainable transport and in promote good practice.	Falkirk Council, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, private developers, businesses and the wider community	Annual report on progress
<b>New Action</b>			
4.2.1 Produce a design guide to encourage the incorporation of environmental concerns and enhancement of the natural environment into future development. In particular produce a design guide to influence the quality of development adjacent to the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals.	The design quality of new developments such as housing schemes could be improved. For example: improved layouts to provide more greenspace for children's play and adult recreation; more individual design and integration into existing developments to improve the physical attractiveness of new developments etc.	Falkirk Council, British Waterways, Communities Scotland	2003
4.2.2 Incorporate sustainable development criteria into the policies of the Council wide Local Plan and include in development applications.	Local Plans are statutory documents and therefore have a strong influence on the location and quality of future development.	Falkirk Council	Ongoing, annual report on progress
4.2.3 Develop a joint initiative to reduce the incidence of fly tipping in the area. \$	Fly tipping can blight local areas that are targeted by illegal tippers. As the cost of waste disposal in landfill sites increases fly tipping may become more of a problem.	Falkirk Council, SEPA, CSCT	2002
4.2.4 Prepare park development plans for eight public parks and develop "biodiversity parks" to encourage more sensitive management of parkland. \$	Park development plans will encourage environmental improvement and provide a framework for external funding for improvements.	Falkirk Council	2003
4.2.5 Develop a demonstration housing pilot project that incorporates energy efficiency, and other environmental considerations to benefit residents and the environment. \$	More housing projects should utilise best practice in design and energy efficiency. The development of a housing project using best practice in a practical and cost effective way should encourage best practice to be adopted in other housing projects.	Falkirk Council, LINK Group, Communities Scotland	2004
4.2.6 Produce supplementary planning guidance on biodiversity and sustainable development to encourage higher quality development.	Supplementary planning guidance informs and encourages developers to improve the quality of development to benefit the community.	Falkirk Council	2004
4.2.7 Develop action to tackle litter problems through the Estates Management Review in progress. \$	All litter is recognised as a major concern for local communities.	Falkirk Council, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Dawson Ward Management Initiative, SE Pathfinder Projects	Annual report on progress



## 8.5 Climate Change

Objective: Contribute to efforts to address climate change by minimising the use of fossil fuels through improved energy efficiency and increased use of renewable fuels such as wind, hydro, solar, and bio-mass.

### 8.5 Climate Change

Action to address objective	Reason for action	Partners	Target Dates
<b>Current Action</b>			
5.1.1 Undertake a variety of efficiency measures within Council buildings such as: a staff awareness campaign to identify efficiency improvements; energy efficiency audits; the introduction of energy management systems, insulation improvements and improved heating/lighting controls. Other organisations also take similar action.	Improving energy efficiency reduces the use of fossil fuels and therefore results in less carbon dioxide emissions, as well as reducing costs.	Falkirk Council	Ongoing, annual report on progress
5.1.2 Continue to implement the Council's Home Energy Conservation Strategy and increase investment in proactive measures. Extend action to private sector housing.	To promote energy conservation in housing and contribute to the reduction in emissions which cause global warming while contributing to local quality of life by providing better housing conditions, affordable warmth and reduced expenditure.	Falkirk Council	Ongoing, annual report on progress
5.1.3 Providing funding support to the Local Energy Advice Centre.	The Energy Advice Centre provides free advice on energy efficiency to householders and local businesses.	Falkirk Council	Ongoing, annual report on progress
5.1.4 The Council obtains electricity from a renewable energy supply for twenty three of its largest buildings as part of its new electricity contract.	The use of renewable energy via the national grid: reduces CO2 emissions compared to fossil fuels; encourages the creation of new renewable energy capacity; is exempt from the Climate Change Levy and so offers good value for money.	Falkirk Council	Ongoing until 2003
5.1.5 Complete publish and implement the Council's Air Quality Assessment.	Air quality is a particular local issue, the general perception being that air quality is relatively poor. Available data suggests that quality is better than perception. Work to assess air quality is at an intermediate stage.  Dealing with poor air quality issues can contribute to global initiatives on emissions and assist in improving the image of the area.	Falkirk Council, SEPA	Ongoing, annual report on progress
<b>New Action</b>			
5.2.1 To aim to maintain or increase the Council's percentage of renewable energy purchased as part of its electricity contract.	As 5.1.4 above.	Falkirk Council	2003 onwards
5.2.2 Carry out a comprehensive survey to identify potential renewable energy projects within the Falkirk area. This study will cover both the potential for community led projects and those that can be developed by existing or new businesses.	A comprehensive survey will provide a starting point for the development of renewable energy projects in the Falkirk area.	Falkirk Council, SEFV	2002
5.2.3 Investigate the feasibility of developing hydro power generation from the movement of water within the Lowland Canal Network.	Water movement within the canal infrastructure offers a free source of energy using small scale hydro turbines.	BW, Falkirk Council, SEFV	2003
5.2.4 Produce a revised utility purchasing guide for local businesses to advise them how to make efficiency savings on their energy costs.	Local businesses are now subject to the Climate Change Levy. This guide will assist businesses to reduce their costs and become more competitive.	Falkirk Council, SEFV	2002
5.2.5 Set a target for CO2 reduction within the Council and produce annual reports of progress towards this target.	The Council as a responsible public body should set a target for the reduction of CO2 emissions in line with government policy.	Falkirk Council	2002
5.2.6 Investigate the feasibility of re-instating the redundant hydro scheme at Muiravonside country park.	The redundant hydro scheme could be an excellent renewable energy demonstration project. Much of the previous infrastructure of the old scheme remains.	Falkirk Council	2003
5.2.7 Undertake a feasibility study for the development of a district heating system within the Falkirk area.	District heating systems can offer efficient heating at a reduced cost. Schemes can be linked to existing power generators such as combined heat and power plants or powered by renewable energy such as a bio-mass generator.	Falkirk Council	2002
5.2.8 Review the contribution of tree cover and peat bogs to combating climate change in the Falkirk area and recommend changes to policy that will increase that contribution.	Trees and plants in general absorb carbon dioxide removing it from the atmosphere and combating global warming. This process is called sequestration.	Falkirk Council	2004



## 8.6 Integration of Environmental Issues into Plans, Policies & Strategies

Objective: To integrate environmental objectives into key plans, policies and strategies within the Falkirk area.

### 8.6 Integration of Environmental Issues into Plans, Policies & Strategies

Action to address objective	Reason for action	Partners	Target Dates
<b>Current Action</b>			
6.1.1 Council reports for Committee are screened using a checklist to ensure environmental issues have been considered. This however needs to be further strengthened with guidance on completion of the checklist.	To ensure that reports have considered environmental concerns when recommending a course of action.	Falkirk Council	See 6.2.6 below
<b>New Action</b>			
6.2.1 Introduce an Environmental Management System (EMS) into one Council service.	An EMS ensures that action on environmental issues such as pollution, energy use, waste are enshrined in internal procedures. An EMS also requires continuous year on year improvement.	Falkirk Council	2004
6.2.2 Carry out annual test checks on Council Committee reports and Annual Service Plans to confirm environmental issues and sustainable development have been appropriately considered in decision making and planning.	Annual operating and service plans have a key role in directing resources. Ensuring that these plans adequately address environmental issues and sustainable development is a first step towards mainstreaming environmental considerations.	Falkirk Council	2002
6.2.3 Undertake a minimum of one internal audit review per year on an area of Falkirk Council's activity that has significant environmental impacts.	Audit and Best Value reviews are key tools in identifying operations which could contribute more to sustainable development.	Falkirk Council	2001 onwards
6.2.4 Incorporate a sustainable development section into the "Best Value" Review Guide for Council services.	As 6.2.3 above.	Falkirk Council	2002
6.2.5 Undertake an audit of significant plans, policies and strategies in the Falkirk area and engage authors on areas where more progress could be made.	An audit of plans, policies and strategies will identify areas of linkage and areas where environmental issues could be incorporated into future plans.	Falkirk Council	Annual Audit
6.2.6 Introduce a simple check list and guidance to ensure that environmental concerns and sustainable development have been covered in Board / Committee reports.	As 6.1.1	SEFV, Falkirk Council	2002
6.2.7 Introduce an environmental purchasing policy and agree plans to address a selection of products and services annually.	<p>Currently purchasing within the Council is based mainly on purchase cost considerations. This does not fully consider the true cost of purchases to the Council or the community. Other factors need to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental impact of the product/service.</li> <li>• Support for recycled/reused product to stimulate market demand.</li> <li>• Whole life costs e.g. energy efficient bulbs are more expensive to purchase but over their lifetime they are cheaper to operate making them cheaper overall.</li> </ul>	Falkirk Council	2002 onwards
6.2.8 Continue to implement socially responsible investment principles in accordance with Falkirk Council Pension Fund's published Statement of Investment Principles.	The Falkirk Pension Fund is administered by Falkirk Council on behalf of Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire employees as well as other bodies such as SEPA. With funds in excess of £60 million the Pension Fund has the ability to influence companies' attitude to suitable development through fund manager engagement.	Falkirk Council	Report annually on progress
6.2.9 Update the Council's Environmental Policy Statement currently contained within the 1999 Environmental Strategy.	The environmental policy statement sets out Falkirk Council's policy towards a number of environmental issues. There is a need to update this statement and put in place monitoring systems to record compliance with the policy.	Falkirk Council	2002



## 8.7 Consultation and Community Involvement

Objective: To involve and consult the community in progressing sustainable development.

### 8.7 Consultation and Community Involvement

Action to address objective	Reason for action	Partners	Target Dates
<b>Current Action</b>			
7.1.1 Continue to update the Community Planning Partnership on progress regarding sustainable development and Local Agenda 21.	To keep the community partners updated on the progress towards development and implementation of Local Agenda 21 and this strategy.	Falkirk Council	Ongoing
7.1.2 Use comments and responses received from the community to inform future development of the strategy.	To take account of community views on the progression of sustainable development.	Falkirk Council	Ongoing
7.1.3 Continue to support the Development of Falkirk Environment Trust (FET) recognising its role as a partnership of local agencies promoting and funding local sustainable development projects.	FET provides a forum for various agencies to promote sustainable development projects and reach consensus on priorities.  Funding support for local projects is seen as an important means of promoting community involvement and local action.	FET Partners	Ongoing, annual report on progress
<b>New Action</b>			
7.2.1 Investigate running a "participatory appraisal" project on sustainable development as part of the Local Community Planning process. \$	Participatory appraisal techniques are frequently used to identify what individuals wish to see happen in their community. This can be used to target future action.	Falkirk Council, Falkirk Area Biodiversity Partnership, CSCT	2003
7.2.2 Give presentations at area forums, community councils and other local events to inform and consult the community.	Local events are a good opportunity to explain what action / plans are happening in the local area, enabling questions to be answered and concerns to be taken account of to shape future plans.	Falkirk Council	2001 onwards
7.2.3 Produce an annual report on the progress of Sustainable Falkirk that is available to the public.	An annual report enables Falkirk area residents and other stakeholders to review performance.	Falkirk Council	2002 onwards
7.2.4 Support community action through the production of a guide providing advice on funding options and voluntary support for community initiatives. \$	Current funding provided by the Council and partners is relatively modest. There are several alternative sources of funding and voluntary support which should be investigated to enable a wider and more ambitious range of projects to be pursued.	Falkirk Council, CSCT and other partners	2002

## 8.8 Other Action that makes a Significant Contribution to a Sustainable Community

Objective: To progress sustainable development in the Falkirk Council area.

### 8.8 Other Action that makes a Significant Contribution to a Sustainable Community

Action to address objective	Reason for action	Partners	Target Dates
<b>New Action</b>			
8.2.1 Investigate the feasibility of supplying water for the industrial complex at Grangemouth via the canal network to reduce the amount of treated (potable) water wasted in industrial uses. Investigate a pilot canal water extraction scheme with one industrial user in the Falkirk area. \$	Using water from the canal network would reduce the need to treat water to drinking quality standard thereby reducing energy and chemical usage and demand from potable supply reservoirs.	Avecia, BP, BW, Cal Gavin, DTI, Enichem, ESW, ONDEO Nalco, National Engineering Laboratory, SEPA (Grangemouth water users group)	2002
8.2.2 Investigate the proposition to encourage companies operating in the environmental technology sector to locate in the Falkirk area. \$	The environmental technology sector is set to grow significantly due to the need for more sustainable practices. The Falkirk area could benefit from the associated jobs and prosperity from this.	SEFV, Falkirk Council	2003
8.2.3 Support the establishment of a Forth Valley Food Links initiative which promotes the development of a sustainable local food economy  Target action in Social Inclusion Partnership and Urban Regeneration Areas. \$	This action aims to continue progress made during a completed 18 month pilot project supported by the Soil Association. This pilot highlighted the potential to develop the local food economy and projects associated with it. The initiative includes the following main aims contributing to sustainable development.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting environmentally and socially responsible food production.</li> <li>Create jobs in local food production through direct marketing.</li> <li>Increase market for locally produced food and retain money in the local economy.</li> <li>Reduce the impact of transport associated with food distribution.</li> <li>Improve local diet and general health by improving awareness and access to fresh local food.</li> <li>Increase support for local progress in their community.</li> </ul>	Falkirk Council, Forth Valley Primary Health Care Trust, Clackmannanshire Council, Stirling Council, Community Groups, Producers	2002



## 9 Measuring Progress

**9.1** As part of this strategy we are committed to reporting annually on progress using appropriate measures. While reporting on the completion of actions within the Action Plan will form part of this reporting, this alone will not tell us whether the community is becoming more sustainable over time. To do this we need to develop “sustainability indicators”. These indicators measure the outputs or outcomes of the action we take and should reflect the real situation in the community. In this way the success, or otherwise, of the actions we take will be measured.

**9.2** While we anticipate there will be further work undertaken nationally to develop a suite of suitable indicators that can be compared between Council areas, within this strategy we have proposed a suite of our own local indicators (see Table 3). These should measure progress towards addressing both the Priority Areas identified in section five and progress towards achieving the long term vision.

**9.3** When compiling this list of suggested indicators, we have taken into account: existing research and guidance on indicators; the ease or difficulty in obtaining the data for each indicator; whether the indicator is reported already in another form; and relevance to the local area. In some cases, the information may not be in place to initiate the use of an indicator and it may be necessary to set up collection systems to ensure that data is made available. The number of indicators proposed has been limited to reduce the resource implications of collecting data and reporting.

**9.4** These indicators cover a broad range of “quality of life” aspects and are expected to form the core of a suite that will be reported periodically every two to three years.

**9.5** To ensure a clear link between indicators and the themes of our vision we have noted which themes an indicator relates to. Often an indicator overlaps many of the 12 themes and vice versa. This demonstrates the interconnection between many different issues.



**Table 3 Suite of sustainability indicators**

Environmental Indicators:	
<p><b>1. Awareness of sustainability:</b></p> <p>Periodic survey of awareness of sustainable development and environmental issues in the local population and business. (Theme 12)</p>	<p><b>7. Percentage of new housing developed on brownfield land in the Falkirk area:</b></p> <p>Measure of the effectiveness of the land use planning process to direct new housing development to previously used sites, identified in indicators 6. (Theme 1, 4, 7)</p>
<p><b>2. Waste:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The total amount of household waste going to landfill sites.</li> <li>• The total amount of municipal waste (commercial and household waste).</li> <li>• Percentage of household waste recycled.</li> <li>• The total amount of biodegradable municipal waste diverted from landfill. (Theme 2)</li> </ul>	<p><b>8. Water quality:</b></p> <p>Chemical and biological quality of rivers in the Falkirk Council area. (Theme 3, 9)</p>
<p><b>3. Survey of travel patterns:</b></p> <p>Periodic survey of local travel patterns and transport preferences. (Theme 1, 3, 7)</p>	<p><b>9. Air quality:</b></p> <p>Levels of air pollution for key pollutants in the Falkirk Council area. (Theme 3, 9)</p>
<p><b>4. Traffic congestion:</b></p> <p>Levels of congestion on key roads in the Falkirk Council area, measured through annual traffic volumes at key sites. (Theme 1, 3, 7)</p>	<p><b>10. Protection of heritage:</b></p> <p>Measure of trends in conservation of historic buildings/features and important trees in the Falkirk Council area, using records of listed buildings and tree preservation orders. (Theme 4, 11)</p>
<p><b>5. Sustainable transport infrastructure:</b></p> <p>Measure of any increase or loss in miles of path and cycle way to indicate the efforts of the Council and its partners to support sustainable transport. (Theme 1, 3, 7)</p>	<p><b>11. Biodiversity:</b></p> <p>Net change in natural and semi-natural habitats plus changes in population of selected key species in the Falkirk Council area. (Theme 4)</p>
<p><b>6. Hectares of vacant and derelict land in the Falkirk area:</b></p> <p>Measure of previously developed land no longer utilised. (Theme 1, 4, 7)</p>	<p><b>12. Noise pollution:</b></p> <p>Measure of the main types of noise complaint as an indicator of noise pollution. (Theme 3, 9)</p>
	<p><b>13. Energy use:</b></p> <p>Measure of energy consumption and carbon dioxide output by Falkirk Council. The aim will to be measure this for the whole Council area in future years. (Theme 1, 3)</p>
	<p><b>14. Renewable energy:</b></p> <p>Measure of “green” energy generated in the Falkirk Council area. (Theme 1, 3, 5)</p>
Social Indicators:	
<p><b>15. Crime:</b></p> <p>Measure of criminal activity in the Falkirk Council area, using number of crimes recorded annually in the Falkirk area per 1000 population. (Theme 10)</p>	<p><b>17. Housing:</b></p> <p>Levels of homelessness and number of dwellings below the tolerable standard in the Falkirk Council area. (Theme 8, 9)</p>
<p><b>16. Education:</b></p> <p>Measure of educational attainment in the Falkirk Council area, using percentage of school leavers going on to further or higher education. (Theme 12)</p>	<p><b>18. Physical health:</b></p> <p>Life expectancy for men and women in the Falkirk Council area. (Theme 8, 9)</p>
	<p><b>19. Mental health:</b></p> <p>Number of suicides in the Falkirk area. (Theme 6, 8, 10)</p>

## Social Indicators (continued):

### 20. Community involvement:

Community involvement in decision-making measured by turnout at elections. Increased levels of public participation are a key element of sustainable development. Election turn out figures provide an indication of levels of interest in local issues. (Theme 12)

## Economic Indicators:

### 21. Levels of employment:

Annual employment and unemployment figures. (Theme 5, 6)

### 22. Local economy:

The health of business and the economy in the area can be measured by the amount of new business start ups and business closures. VAT registration and de-registrations is an appropriate measure of this. (Theme 5, 6)

### 23. Tourism:

Number of visitors annually to the Falkirk area. Tourism not only provides an indicator of the quality of the environment, but it also highlights the distinctiveness and image of the locality. (Theme 4, 10, 11)

### 24. Diversity of employment:

Employment by sector in the Falkirk area. A healthy mix of different employment sectors is a more sustainable option than a concentration in one single sector. (Theme 5, 6)

## 10 The Next Steps

**10.1** Following the publication of this finalised strategy, the emphasis will be on the promotion and implementation of the actions. This will involve partnership working between local agencies and gaining or maintaining community support for actions and new initiatives. Raising awareness of the issues will remain paramount and the methods used to achieve this will include local media coverage, leaflets, events, posting information on web sites, meetings and workshops. The development of a partnership group of interested individuals and groups as already mentioned in section seven, is also proposed to progress the major issues. New actions will also be identified through this process.

**10.2** This ongoing process will include an annual report on progress and an overall review of the strategy every three years. This time period may be subject to change arising from legislative changes, major policy changes or further development of the Strategic Community Plan.

**10.3** There will be a continuing need to be innovative in identifying resources to implement the Action Plan. It is unlikely that significant new or additional resources will be available to deliver sustainable development. The approach must involve making better use of available resources and the pooling of resources between partners to achieve the multiple benefits of sustainable development.

**10.4** The overriding aim must be to maintain the momentum of continuous year on year improvement which is essential to achieve the vision of a sustainable community.



## 11 Your Views and Comments

**11.1** We welcome views and comments on this strategy at any time. Please send your comments or views to Callum Blackburn (Sustainable Development Officer) or Gordon Laird (Environmental Co-ordinator):

- By telephone: 01324 504712 / 504713
- Or by fax: 01324 504709
- Or by e-mail: [callum.blackburn@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:callum.blackburn@falkirk.gov.uk)
- Or by post to: Callum Blackburn, Sustainable Development Officer, Falkirk Council, Abbotsford House, David's Loan, Falkirk FK2 7YZ.



## Appendix 1

### Audit of Policies/Strategies Driven by Sustainable Development

#### Central Scotland Forest Strategy 1995

##### › Summary of Purpose / Aims of Strategy

Central Scotland Countryside Trust (CSCT) in partnership with a wide range of organisations including Councils, Local Enterprise Companies, landowners and communities

The initiative has been progressing over almost 20 years through the implementation of an annual programme of works developed with the partners and local communities.

The Central Scotland Forest (CSF) idea was initiated more than 20 years ago to tackle the neglected landscape between Edinburgh and Glasgow, caused by years of mineral working, industrial development and changing farming / forestry practices.

The broad long term aim was to transform the degraded landscape through tree planting to create a "forest". This

was not intended to be a blanket of trees but woodlands interspersed with farmland, towns, villages, lochs, grassland and moors. This vision included

- Removal of dereliction and eyesores
- Contributing to improving the image of the area as an aid to promoting investment, economic activity and jobs
- Providing recreational opportunities for local people
- Promoting wood related businesses
- Placing major emphasis on education and community involvement in projects. Including a recent "Education in the Forest" initiative.

##### › Linkages to Sustainable Development

Although the basic concept is physical enhancement of the area the CSF concept is based on the following key principles

- Sustainability
- Partnership working
- Integrated management of land
- Quality of work
- Heritage conservation
- Local benefits

It places strong emphasis on linking and integrating the economic, social and environmental benefits of the works, and also in developing a long term vision of the area.

Strongly contributes to the identified priority "Improving the image and physical environment of the area".

##### › Areas for Further Action

The need to maintain the momentum of the initiative through ongoing funding by key partners.

The need to raise awareness of the initiative and promote ownership of the forest concept by the community.

#### Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy February 2001

##### › Summary of Purpose / Aims of Strategy

Required by Environmental Protection Act 1990.

To respond to a duty placed on Local Authorities to undertake a strategic inspection of all land in the area to

identify sites considered to be contaminated. Once sites meeting the terms of the Act are identified the responsibility for regeneration of these sites will be allocated to the Council or SEPA.

##### › Linkages to Sustainable Development

This legislation is driven by the need to reduce impact on the environment and minimise risk to people and other sensitive receptors.

##### › Areas for Further Action

This is an intermediate stage in the process of examining contaminated land. Further work necessary to determine levels of risk and priorities for action.

## National Waste Strategy Scotland (Forth Valley)

### Issues Paper : No Option But Change January 2001

#### › Summary of Purpose / Aims of Strategy

Prepared by Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in partnership with Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley and East of Scotland Water

First part of a process leading to the preparation of the "Forth Valley Area Waste Plan".

The aim is to prepare a plan for the local area to address a number of important issues associated with the production and disposal of waste including.

- The need to address the requirements of EU legislation designed to promote improved environmental performance.

- The overall area wide shortage of capacity in appropriate landfill sites.
- The rising costs of disposing of waste particularly through landfilling.
- Public expectations of higher standards in the disposal of waste.
- Economic pressures to improve current practices and reduce costs to business. There is significant scope to improve business efficiency by minimising waste and developing clean technology.

#### › Linkages to Sustainable Development

This is a fundamental element of sustainable development.

The plan will address questions of the wise use of resources, environmental protection, the adoption of best practice, and economic development.

The issues affect the wider community as everyone produces waste and has a role to play in improving the current unsatisfactory situation.

- ★ NB. At the time of publication a draft strategy is with the Scottish Executive

#### › Areas for Further Action

Following consultation the intention is to proceed to the production of a Draft Area Waste Plan and then to a final version of this plan later in 2001.

Identifies particular needs to address local issues such as

- Low levels of recycling
- Limited landfill capacity in the Forth Valley area
- 95% of all waste is discarded
- Lack of information on private sector wastes
- The need to promote existing waste minimisation and recycling schemes.

## Air Quality 3rd Stage Renew and Assessment

#### › Summary of Purpose / Aims of Strategy

The main objective of the strategy is to make sure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality in public places which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life.

LAQM requires local authorities to review and assess air

quality regularly and systematically.

Falkirk Council have decided not to declare an air quality management area, based on the results of the most recent review and assessment.

#### › Linkages to Sustainable Development

Air Quality is a particular local issue and there is a perception that air quality is not good. Important for several reasons:

- Air pollutants can effect the health of the community
- Air pollutants contribute to global warming, climate change, acid rain etc.

Local action in this area is a vital contribution to global effort.

#### › Areas for Further Action

There is a need to continue with the extensive monitoring programme to ensure that air quality continues to improve. In addition data will be required for land use planning and transport issues. There is also a need to provide public information to raise awareness of air quality issues.

## Falkirk Council Local Transport Strategy 2000

### › Summary of Purpose / Aims of Strategy

This also covers the statutory obligation to prepare a Road Traffic Reduction Plan.

To support at the local level, the principles of the Government national transport policy. Particularly

- To provide a safe and efficient transport network serving all sectors of the community.
- To encourage the increased use of sustainable

travel modes within or to the Falkirk area.

Through the Road Traffic Reduction Plan to

- Prepare targets either for the reduction of road traffic or the reduction in the rate of traffic growth.

Includes the promotion of cycling, walking and public transport.

### › Linkages to Sustainable Development

The overall thrust of national policy is the promotion of sustainable integrated transport networks aimed at reducing dependence on the car for personal travel. This is aimed at reducing problems associated with this form of transport such as congestion, air quality, pollution, health and safety.

### › Areas for Further Action

Local conditions are such that traffic conditions do not act as a deterrent to car use (low levels of congestion) two thirds of all local trips made by car but only 40% households own a car.

These factors and limited resources make it difficult to promote sustainable travel patterns. Much more work required.

## Falkirk Council Structure Plan, Finalised Written Statement - February 2001

### › Summary of Purpose / Aims of Strategy

This addresses a statutory requirement to prepare a strategic land use plan to provide a broad framework for detailed policies in Local Plans and for determining applications for development.

Indicates the general scale and location of future development including housing, shopping, leisure, transport and protection of environmental assets.

### › Linkages to Sustainable Development

Strongly linked to sustainable development, the promotion of which is a key element of the plan's vision and strategy. The emphasis is on improving quality of life and promoting sustainable development. In particular, aims to conserve / enhance environmental assets, improve quality of design, integration of development and transport to reduce car trips and to contribute to global / local environmental commitments.

### › Areas for Further Action

The test is to ensure that major development decisions are taken on the basis of the Structure Plan and the Local Plans which follow on from it.

## Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Strategy (Falkirk Council)

### › Summary of Purpose / Aims of Strategy

Government legislation (HECA) requires Local Authorities to publish a report on energy conservation measures, that are considered to be practical, cost effective and likely to result in significant improvement in energy efficiency of houses in the area. Target is 30%

improvement in energy efficiency over 10 years from 1997.

Being implemented through partnerships action with Council as co-ordinator.

### › Linkages to Sustainable Development

HECA is driven by environmental factors in terms of need to conserve energy and reduce emissions which cause global warming.

"Quality of life" benefits in terms of health, affordable warmth and reduced household expenditure are also recognised.

### › Areas for Further Action

Recognised need for greater action in the private housing sector.

Need for greater investment in strategy action.

## Falkirk Council Countryside Access Strategy 2001

### › Summary of Purpose / Aims of Strategy

Strategy addresses public demand for better access to the countryside.

Also addresses Government commitments to giving people greater freedom to enjoy the countryside through appropriate changes in legislation and encouraging action by Local Authorities and other agencies.

Aims to achieve a consensus in meeting the needs of groups and communities seeking access to the

countryside as well as those who own or manage it.

Aims to achieve a network of strategic and local paths, close to where people live, planned and co-ordinated to meet the needs of walkers, cyclists, horse riders and the less able, without compromising the needs of those who live and work there.

Aims to proceed through consultation with local communities, to set priorities and targets on an area by area basis.

### › Linkages to Sustainable Development

Makes a significant contribution to quality of life for local people by providing opportunities for access to and enjoyment of the countryside. Contributes to improving the health of communities through opportunities for recreation / physical activity for a range of interests including walking, cycling and horse riding.

Strong emphasis on community consultation and achieving a consensus between users and landowners.

### › Areas for Further Action

Need to promote the implementation of the strategy through the identification of appropriate funding sources.

Need to ensure that opportunities offered by the developing access network in the area are recognised as contributing to the local agenda on health being developed through Health Improvement Plans.

Need to promote awareness of access opportunities within the local community.

## Falkirk Area Local Biodiversity Action Plan

### › Summary of Purpose/Aims of Plan

The Falkirk Area Biodiversity Action Plan process aims to safeguard our local biodiversity, ensuring that our nationally and locally important plants, animals and habitats are conserved and enhanced.

In working towards this objective the process aims to:

- Protect and enhance our rare and threatened plants, animals and habitats, responding to the local and national needs of biodiversity.

- Encourage, inspire and enable all local groups and individuals to take action to conserve their local biodiversity.
- Promote awareness and understanding of biodiversity, its importance for local and global communities, and our responsibility to conserve it and use it wisely.

### › Linkages to Sustainable Development

Biodiversity plays a vital role in providing us with a pleasant and healthy environment in which to live, work and learn. It also provides vital resources such as food, fuels, medicines and other materials. The protection of our biodiversity is a central element of sustainable development.

### › Further Action

The Falkirk Area Biodiversity Action Plan is an ongoing process. Further species and habitat action plans have still to be produced and there is much work to be done in implementing these plans and reviewing them on a regular basis.

Following publication of the Biodiversity Action Plan, there will be a need to increase the level of awareness of biodiversity locally and take steps to encourage greater participation from local individuals, communities and interest groups.

The process is supported by a healthy and enthusiastic partnership of organisations and individuals. However there remains a pressing need to secure continued support for the Biodiversity Officer post and adequate resources for the implementation of the local habitat and species action plans.

## Forth Integrated Management Strategy 1999

### › Summary of Purpose / Aims of Strategy

Prepared by the Forth Estuary Forum (FEF). FEF is a partnership of organisations with an interest in the existing and long term management of the River Forth. Partners include Falkirk Council and other local authorities, SEPA, ESW, RSPB, SNH, Historic Scotland, Crown Estate, Forth Ports, Babcock International. With participation by other private companies.

This is a non statutory document which includes advisory guidelines and actions. It is intended to influence the content of other strategies, plans, and action programmes.

The overall vision of the Forum is "Through partnership, to achieve a consensus strategy for the management of the Forth Unit identifies measures needed for 'a proper balance' between securing future economic prosperity and maintaining environmental quality".

The Strategy aims to improve the way the Forth is managed by.

- promoting integrated management (encouraging bodies to work together and to consider management of the Forth as a whole)

- promoting a new approach to management (that will bring users and regulators together to discuss and resolve issues at a local level).

The FEF Strategy contains guidelines and actions on 11 cross-sectional themes as follows:

1. Management of Coastal Accesses.
2. Sustainable fisheries management.
3. Promoting sustainable economic development.
4. Strategic planning.
5. Liaison and partnership working.
6. Co-ordinated research and information provision.
7. Changing attitudes and individual behaviour.
8. Access to and enjoyment of the Forth.
9. Improvement of environmental quality.
10. Conservation of the Forth's heritage.
11. Maintenance of biodiversity

### › Linkages to Sustainable Development

The strategy is based on the principles of sustainable development and partnership working although it is focused on the River Forth and not the whole Council area.

It provides an excellent source of information about the Forth and Estuary and advice on good practice in managing all aspects of the river and its immediate surroundings.

These are supported by 6 'flagship projects' to demonstrate how the partnership can deliver projects.

### › Areas for Further Action

The strategy has attempted to consult and involve the community at all stages of the process.

There is a need to ensure that the guidelines and advice contained in the strategy are built into the policies and programmes of partner agencies. It is also important to ensure that commitments are made to deliver the "flagship" projects.

Also a need to ensure continuing support for the FEF partnership approach.

## Appendix 2

### Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

#### Terms

##### **Biodiversity Action Plan**

Biodiversity refers to the whole variety of life on Earth including, the ways that plants and animals live together in communities, the range of different species and variations within them. Action Plans are a means of identifying targets and priorities at the local level for safeguarding natural habitats and species.

##### **Central Scotland Forest**

An ambitious long term project to transform the landscape between Glasgow and Edinburgh. The forest will not be one continuous blanket of trees but woodlands interspersed with farmland, towns, village, lochs and open grassland. The project is not just focused on the creation of the forest but also on the recreational and economic benefits that are derived from it.

##### **Climate Change (Global Warming)**

Refers to humanity's impact on the global climate and weather systems. Caused by a build up of gases in the atmosphere that enhances the natural greenhouse effect, causing the Earth to warm and climates to change. Likely to cause major economic, social and environmental affects if left unchecked. Major causes are man made emissions of carbon dioxide and methane plus deforestation/ habitat loss.

##### **EU**

Refers to the European Union which provides funds for specific projects under a range of headings and provides a framework for legislation through European Directives.

##### **Green Space Initiative**

This is an established initiative which aims to enhance the countryside around the towns and villages of Falkirk Council area by linking existing parks and opens spaces, improving the landscape and creating landscaped corridors with paths and cycleways.

##### **Green Transport / Travel Plans**

Such plans provide means by which employers encourage employees to seek alternatives to travelling alone by car to work. Such plans are intended to benefit the environment by reducing pollution, cutting congestion, reducing the need for car parking and they can also provide other benefits for the firms involved. Green Transport / Travel Plans can also be applied to schools.

##### **Landfill Tax**

This is a government tax charged on every tonne of material deposited in landfill sites. It is designed to encourage the minimisation of waste, the reuse of materials and greater levels of recycling. This will reduce material going to landfill which can be

environmentally damaging and in the long term economically inefficient. Under the legislation 20% of this tax revenue can be reclaimed by landfill operators to spend on qualifying environmental projects carried out by recognised environmental bodies or trusts. Within the Falkirk Council area Falkirk Environment Trust distributes Landfill Tax funds.

##### **Local Agenda 21**

The term used to describe a local programme of action on sustainable development for the 21st century.

##### **Pollution**

Refers to any emissions caused by humans that reduces the quality or quantity of the natural environment. Well known issues includes, water pollution, land contamination, acid rain and light pollution.

##### **Strategic Community Plan (SCP)**

The process through which the Council and its public sector partners can agree a strategic vision for their area, and the action each partner will take to implement the vision.

##### **Sustainable Development**

The most common definition is " development which meets the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their needs " Alternatively, if you think of our planet and its natural environment as being a bank account for all of us, we should live off the interest from that account and not eat into the capital.

#### Abbreviations

**BTCV:** British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

**BW:** British Waterways

**FET:** Falkirk Environment Trust

**FET Partners:** Falkirk Council, BP Grangemouth, Central Scotland Countryside Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, Falkirk College, BTCV Scotland, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, Shanks Avondale (local landfill operator)

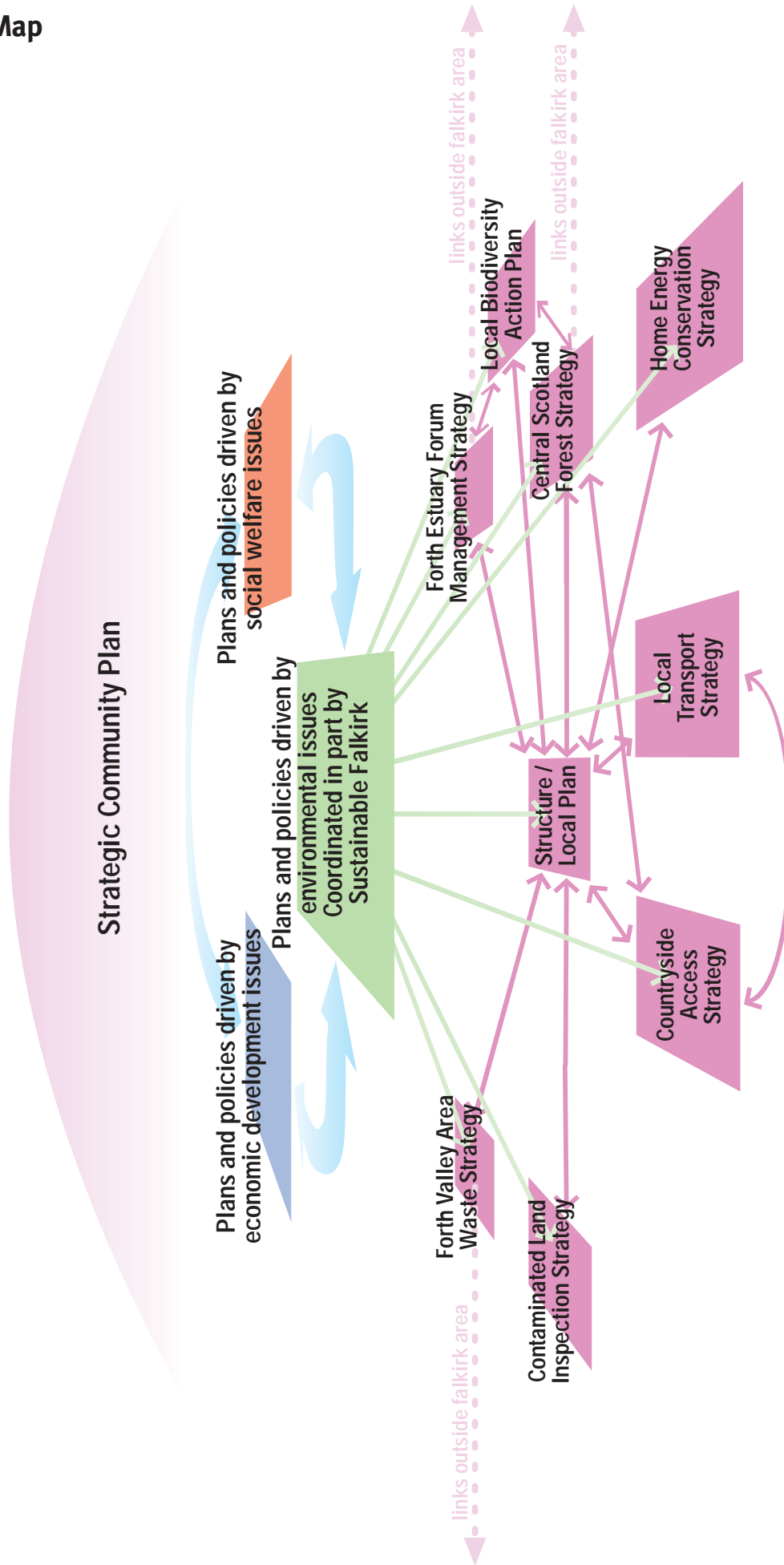
**FFLAG:** Falkirk Flood Appraisal Group (Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, West Lothian and Stirling Councils; East of Scotland Water; House Builders Federation; British Waterways; Railtrack; Scottish Natural Heritage; British Association of Insurers; Scottish Environment Protection Agency)

**SEFV:** Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley

**SEPA:** Scottish Environment Protection Agency

**SNH:** Scottish Natural Heritage

**Communities Scotland:** formerly "Scottish Homes"



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في اللغات الأخرى في المجتمع.

此文件設有其他  
語文，請向有關  
方面索取。

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੀਆਂ ਹੋਰ  
ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਪੁੱਛਣ ਤੇ ਮਿਲਦਾ ਹੈ।

یہ دستاویز دوسری کمیونٹی زبانوں میں مطالبے پر دستیاب ہے۔



**Keep Informed:** Ask to join our database and receive periodic information on the progress towards a more Sustainable Falkirk area and at the same time let us know your views, contact Callum Blackburn (Falkirk Council Environmental Strategy Officer) on 01324 504712. Or you could find out more about environmental issues and sustainable development from books, news or even the internet.

**Act Locally:** Could you help by giving some of your time? If so contact your Community Council or a local voluntary group to see what they are doing to promote sustainable development and what you can do to help. Contact the Voluntary Action Resource Centre (VARC) 01324 636571 to find out what voluntary groups operate in your area.

Or start your own community project e.g. organise a clean up, or action to improve a green space near to you.

If you are concerned about the loss of species and habitats why not get involved in the Biodiversity Partnership and help to preserve and enhance the diversity of life in your area, contact the Falkirk Area Biodiversity Officer on 01324 504863.

If you are already involved in a group encourage them to get involved in the Sustainable Falkirk process.

**Make your views known:** Attend Area Forum and community meetings and make sure your concerns are heard.

**Share and influence:** If you have experience of environmental management share your experience with others. Encourage others to think and act more sustainability too.

**Lifestyle Check:** Is your own lifestyle sustainable? For example: is your home energy efficient? Contact your Local Energy Advice Centre 0800 512 012 and ask about action you can take at home to reduce your energy bills.

Do you minimise and recycle your waste? Contact the Falkirk Council Waste Strategy Co-ordinator on 01324 501888 for advice .

**Do a little - Change a lot!**

