

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2009/2011 – ANNUAL
MONITORING STATEMENT**
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 6 OCTOBER 2010
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members are aware that each year the Community Planning Partnership is required to submit an annual monitoring statement on the Single Outcome Agreement. This report presents to Members the draft monitoring statement for the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). Members will be aware that the Single Outcome Agreement was approved by the Council and other partners in May 2009 and signed off by the Scottish Government in August 2009.
- 1.2 Members will also be aware that there is a requirement to produce an annual monitoring statement for the SOA each September. Attached to this report as appendix one, is the monitoring statement for the Single Outcome Agreement, which notes progress made against each outcome and specific indicators. It also sets out some key initiatives we have progressed over the last year to ensure we achieve the outcomes set out in the SOA.

2. DEVELOPING THE SOA FOR THE FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA

- 2.1 Members will recall that the most recent SOA was developed as a refreshed version of the first SOA, rather than a wholly new agreement with different outcomes and indicators. This has allowed a comparison to be made on progress against each of the outcomes from the first year of the SOA to date.
- 2.2 The monitoring statement in appendix one, sets out a summary of progress against each outcome and notes each of the indicators that measure progress against each outcome. The comparison statement then sets out the change in performance in terms of actual value, but also notes if this change supports the direction of travel agreed by the Partnership. As the SOA measures direction of travel, the change over time for each indicator is noted in most instances as a change of annual returns, rather than the more complex change in baseline.
- 2.3 The SOA monitoring statement also contains the information by which the Council measures its contribution to the Strategic Community Plan, as was previously presented to Members in the Corporate Plan monitoring report. Indeed, the majority of the local outcomes noted in the SOA are taken directly from the Council's Corporate Plan. As such, the Single Outcome Agreement monitoring statement is presented as both the monitoring statement for the SOA and the Corporate Plan.

- 2.4 From the summary statement attached, we can see that most of the outcomes are showing good progress. We have made significant improvements in indicators noted under outcome 3, which relate mainly to Education, but then have also noted a downturn in our economic indicators. This is understandable given the recession. It is important that the Council and our partners review the outcomes and indicators they are responsible for, given the need to ensure that the update statement reflects our understanding of the most current context within which we are trying to achieve our outcomes.
- 2.5 In addition to a factual statement on the progress made against each of the indicators, the annual monitoring process should also have regard to a qualitative assessment on the effectiveness of the partnership approach to achieving outcomes. A statement of progress under each of the Council's four goals which sit above outcomes, is also included within the statement. Much of this information has already been reported to Members through various reports to Scrutiny Committees and to the Best Value Forum.
- 2.6 Members will be aware that the Single Outcome Agreement underpins the outcomes we are trying to achieve as part of our overall approach to community planning. The current Strategic Community Plan is being reviewed with partners and will be presented to Members for approval in December this year.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Single Outcome Agreement is a significant document in that it sets out the commitment of the Council, our local partners and the Scottish Government, to meeting the changing needs of the Falkirk Council area. It is important that the Council and our partners monitor regularly the progress we are making against our local outcomes and take appropriate actions where necessary, to ensure progress is made towards achieving the vision for our area.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 **It is recommended that Members approve the Single Outcome Agreement monitoring statement attached in appendix one.**

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Date: 23 September 2010

Ref: ABK1010FC- SOA

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Summary Statement

National Outcome	No of indicators Performance Improving	No of indicators Performance Deteriorating	No of indicators Performance the Same	Provisional figures Comparison not appropriate	Total No of Indicators
1	5	5	0	0	10
2	5	6	0	0	11
3	16	2	0	2	20
4	11	1	0	1	13
5	14	3	0	1	18
6	16	9	0	4	29
7	15	4	0	3	22
8	3	2	0	4	9
9	23	3	0	2	28
10	12	4	0	1	17
11	5	2	0	3	10
12	4	3	0	0	7
13	3	0	0	5	8
14	11	4	0	0	15
15	7	5	0	1	13
Total	150	53	0	27	230
%	65%	24%	0%	11%	100%

**Falkirk Community Planning Partnership
Single Outcome Agreement
Monitoring Statement
September 2010**

Falkirk Community Planning Partnership has had a Single Outcome Agreement in place since June 2008. The SOA helps measure the progress we are making locally to achieve our shared vision for the Falkirk Council area. The purpose of this monitoring statement is to note progress the partnership has made in achieving our vision and local outcomes over the period of the agreements.

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

Our vision is to ensure that:

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

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

This agreement is shared by the following partners:

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

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

While this monitoring statement notes progress against our key outcomes, we set out in our last agreement specific actions we were going to undertake to address the economic recession and its effects on our local communities. Since agreeing our action plan and progressed action during 2009/10 we have achieved the following:

- Optimise community benefits from procurement. During 2009/10, 72 local people were provided with training or employment opportunities through a variety of contracts, including a partnership with LINK Housing. This includes contracts for a new and refurbished school, cladding works at Eastburn Tower and the HELIX project.
- Supporting local people in poverty or who have been adversely impacted on by both the recession and the banking crisis. This has been achieved by providing additional support to organisations who have targeted support on our most deprived communities, with a view to tackling financial exclusion.
- Raising awareness and developing a response to help support the retention of a resilient and vibrant local Third Sector.
- The Falkirk Council area gained recognition as the most enterprising area in Scotland in the UK's 'Enterprising Britain' competition. This was supported with recognition from CoSLA for our 'Backing Falkirk's Future' initiative.
- Our approach on modern apprenticeships received recognition at the national awards in the 'Large Employer, category and particularly our 'Pathways to Apprenticeship' programme.
- Activity on community learning and development supported 650 local people to gain an accredited award.
- Continue to invest in the quality of our infrastructure, with Banknock SIRR Development Framework winning an "outstanding" commendation in the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning.
- Falkirk residents received an award from Glassmaker O-I, for recycling 2500 tonnes of glass in the year 2009/10.
- Falkirk Council received the Council of the Year award at the APSE Scottish Housing & Building Awards and the Best employee initiative for Building and Housing 2010.
- We recognise the importance of Early Years provision, with Education Services overseeing the building work for the integrated Denny Day Nursery and Nursery School and the opening of Camelon Nursery. These, together with other work, have enhanced Early Years provision by increasing capacity for vulnerable children, babies and toddlers.
- Continued investing on our school estate with the completion of a major extension at Larbert Village Primary School and the completion of the refurbished Hallglen Primary School. The area is also served by 8 modern secondary schools and 1 secondary special school which provide facilities which are fit for educating our young people in the 21st century.

As a partnership, we understand that the recession will continue to affect individuals and communities for years to come. We must ensure the measures noted above are having the effect we expect, while continuing to meet the outcomes expressed within this single outcome agreement. Over the coming years we must continue to review progress against our outcomes. We understand that we will be facing great challenges in meeting the growing needs of our communities with reducing resources. We must become more efficient in our use of resources, not only individually, but across our partnership.

We are in the process of finalising our new Strategic Community Plan, having consulted extensively with both our key partners and our citizens. The Strategic Community Plan 2010 – 2015 sets out a challenging agenda for change, for Community Planning Partners, as well as our citizens and communities. Central to the new Plan, is a commitment to build and further both individual and community contributions to our vision and local outcomes. The Plan also addresses the key challenges and priorities facing the Falkirk Council area into the future. We continue to develop our approach on Community Engagement. We have just conducted our first engagement exercise on the new Community Plan utilising Falkirk Council's new Citizen's

Panel. We are also seeking to engage with individuals, as well groups of communities in new and innovative ways. This includes 'Communities Along the Carron' which during 2009/10 engaged with 18 communities along the River Carron. Emerging from this activity is an ambitious action plan generated by community representatives and to be taken forward by them. These projects will progress the green, historical and cultural potential which the river and areas adjacent to it offer.

In addition to this, we also seek to make public involvement integral to major projects, which will take the area further forward. One such example is the HELIX which is a lottery sponsored project to redevelop wasteland between Grangemouth and Falkirk as one of Scotland's most significant vibrant green spaces. Nearly 2000 people have been engaged with through a multitude of means to access their views on how the HELIX should be progressed. From this work, 45 adults and 32 young people are directly involved with the on-going design of the HELIX, including paths, allotments, project sentinels, environmental, as well arts and culture based projects.

Our agreement will continue to develop over time to reflect our maturity in measuring all sectors' and partners' performance in achieving our vision. Importantly, we will include indicators to measure our community and voluntary sectors' contribution to community life. This will support priorities set out in our new Strategic Community Plan 2010 – 2015. We understand the valuable contribution volunteers and carers make to the lives of individuals and communities.

The Single Outcome Agreement provides us with the means of summarising existing performance information contained within both our Corporate and Community Planning systems. The Outcome Agreement helpfully tracks changes over time and thus provides us with a vehicle by which to scrutinise our performance and thus progress towards our local outcomes. The targets set are for the duration of the Agreement. However, we review these annually to ensure they are challenging and continue to be relevant. The results of this will be published so that our communities can see the progress we are making in achieving their vision for our area.

In addition to noting specific progress for each indicator, we have also set out a range of actions that make a difference to the lives of individuals and communities. As these actions relate to our local priorities, they have been grouped under specific themes of economy, health and safety, disadvantage and discrimination and the environment. We will update both progress and future action each year.

FURTHER DEVELOPING A THRIVING, SUSTAINABLE AND VIBRANT ECONOMY

- The Falkirk Council recently received the accolade as the most enterprising place in Scotland, reflecting the approach adopted through My Future's in Falkirk. This initiative was initially established in the face of job losses in the petrochemical industry. Some of our most significant achievements as part of this initiative include:
 - The creation of the Falkirk Business Improvement District;
 - £20 million investment in regeneration;
 - The creation of two business parks on reclaimed land; and
 - The establishment of innovative partnership working.

- During 2009/10, the main economic driver for the Falkirk Council area 'My Future's in Falkirk' was refreshed. Underpinning this has been a successful partnership and the direct involvement of the Falkirk Business Panel in determining the priorities within the updated strategy. The success of the Business Panel has been secured by holding regular events such as the annual Panel conference and a Business Fair, which attracted nearly 400 delegates. These were supported by regular information sessions that were attended by approximately 220 delegates during the year.
- Falkirk Council in partnership with BP, Scottish Enterprise and Falkirk for Business, has worked to establish loan funding, particularly for small businesses. This is supported by a part-time Business Adviser to support fund applicants and provide aftercare. Loans of up to £10,000 are available, repayable over a 3-year period.
- We continued to invest in and develop our local infrastructure during 2009/10. The associated road works supporting the Council's NPDO schools programme were completed. Preparatory work in terms of the design, securing of planning consent and land acquisition for the proposed upgrade to A801 River Avon Gorge was completed. The next step is to secure funding from the Scottish Government for construction work to begin. The Council spent £700,000 on 23 capital lighting replacement schemes.
- Continuing investment in new technology and supporting infrastructure is essential if we are to secure sustainable economic growth. As part of this commitment, Falkirk Council continued to invest in its ICT infrastructure during 2009/10 to ensure that it continues to meet our changing needs. This has included the delivery of modern infrastructure to all 4 of our new secondary schools, as well as supporting the regeneration of Stenhousemuir town centre. Education Services WAN links have been improved to meet the requirements of the national GLOW project, with a further 19 ICT upgrades completed on Education properties during the year.
- In collaboration with INEOS Grangemouth, Education Services supported the My Future's in Falkirk inspired project 'Schools into Technology'. The project has two aspects – master classes for S1/S2 and the Science, Education and Technology Fair for P7 pupils. This is with the aim of encouraging more pupils to take science subjects at school and pursue a science or technology based career when leaving school. This is also designed to provide our young people with the necessary skills to work in local technology based companies.

CONTINUING TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF OUR CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES

- The Sport 4 youth project provides physical activity sessions for young people to reduce their levels of boredom and anti-social behaviour. This encompasses on average, 135 young people attending weekly sessions across 9 venues within the Council area. Access is free, but targeted on those from regeneration areas which have a higher risk of crime, unemployment and low life expectancy. Targeting on the 12 – 15 year age group has been highlighted by Community Safety partners. Female participation is also a priority for the project. Delivering sessions locally and in the evening has been successful in attracting and retaining young people. The project also links with work on substance misuse to support young people who have experience of this.

- The Community Planning Partnership is very aware of the impact on families of substance mis users. It is for this reason that support is provided for:
 - Grangemouth Family Substance Abuse Support, which helps families affected by someone else's substance misuse. This has resulted in 112 clients receiving support last year, 71 of which feel that they are now better able to cope.
 - A joint project between Social Work and the Aberlour Trust to provide tailored and integrated support packages, following referral and assessment where parental substance misuse places children at risk of neglect and / or harm, pregnant women or parents with new babies. Over the last year, 68 families have been supported by this service, enabling 97 children to be maintained at home and 76 to remain in mainstream school or nursery.
- Safe Drive Stay Alive is a performance provided by Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service, aimed at young people who may be driving alone or with friends for the first time. In 2009/10 performances were attended by over 1800, 4th to 6th year pupils from the Falkirk Council area. The project aims to highlight the potential consequences of dangerous or careless driving to young people who may be driving soon. This follows over 30 people having been killed and 2,500 injured on the roads in Central Scotland in the last three years. The project aims to reduce the number of road incidents involving young people. The impact on the attendees is very apparent on the day of attendance.
- Our Community Safety Partnership led by Central Scotland Police has continued recent year trends in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. Our success has been attributable to close and effective partnership working across key agencies to tackle and resolve emerging issues and challenges at the earliest opportunity. Pivotal to our success is effective community engagement which is undertaken in an integrated manner through 'Police and Community Together' (PACT) meetings. These meetings are facilitated by Community Police Officers working with local communities and involve partner agencies as required. They allow information to be provided and exchanged on issues and problems within communities and then designing realistic and prompt responses, as well as managing expectations in a pragmatic manner. PACT meetings are generally held on a monthly basis with priorities being set and reported on at each meeting.
- As part of our drive to improve the night time economy of Falkirk Town centre, the weekend taxi marshals is now provided throughout the year. During 2009/10 this resulted in 33,745 users who utilised this service to secure a taxi for an onward journey. Key stakeholders now see this as an important service.
- One of the main thrusts of work within the current Joint Health Improvement Plan is to increase the number of people improving their lifestyle and as a result, their health. One of the means of measuring this is by the number of people taking part in some form of physical activity. The number of people in general, participating in organised culture and leisure activities between 2006/07 and 2009/10, has increased by 48% from a baseline of 28,105 in 2006/07. Leisure centre admissions for young people have also been maintained at a high level, in excess of 370,000 young people during the same period. The number of people participating in healthy lifestyle and physical activity programmes has increased by 217% between 2006/07 and 2009/10, from a baseline of 13,537 in 2006/07.
- One highly successful aspect of physical activity is the encouragement of citizens to increase the amount of walking they do through initiatives such as Step Forth and Braveheart. One aspect of this is the annual Big Fit Walk which was first held in

Grangemouth in 2004, with 3000 people taking part. Over 8000 people took part in the 2009 Big Fit Walk. This initiative was recently nationally recognised for its success, by winning the Active Nation 'Active Factor 2010' award within the physical activity and health alliance category. This year's Big Fit Walk took place on 11 June. This is designed to stimulate and promote more regular exercise by citizens, by encouraging them to undertake 30 minutes of low to moderate intensity exercise each day. By doing so citizens will:

- Reduce their risk of heart disease by 50%;
 - Reduce the risk of a number of cancers, including bowel and breast cancer;
 - Reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes; and
 - Improve mood and as a result, reduce the risk of depression.
- Significant efforts have been made to reduce the number of children who are overweight, with a focus on their Body Mass Index. Between 2006 and 2008, the percentage of children in primary 1 who are overweight, having received a Body Mass Index review, has reduced from 20.9% to 16.8%. In Scotland, this percentage was much higher at 19.8%. The reduction in the Forth Valley area has been supported by NHS Forth Valley and Education Services through the 'Max in the Middle' initiative to focus on healthy eating amongst young people. Work has also been undertaken by Education Services through the 'Health Promoting' schools initiative, to better inform young people on healthy eating. The percentage of schools designated as health promoting, has increased from 4% in 2006/07 to 100%. This includes work taken on a Forth Valley basis to develop a 'Promoting Health and Wellbeing' accreditation scheme as part of Positive Approaches to Health. All schools within the Falkirk Council area have either achieved level 1 or 2 accreditation. We are now looking at applying the principles of Health Promoting Schools to all our child care establishments.
- Catering Services, Falkirk Council, have sought to widen the range of healthy eating options within school meals. One example of this is the Primary 'Pre Ordering Lunch' Service which has been developed by Catering Services, in partnership with Education Services. This aims to:-
- Encourage healthy food choices;
 - Ensure all pupils have a menu choice;
 - Reducing waiting time for pupils;
 - Further encourage the up-take of school meals; and
 - Encourage parent participation in menu selection for their children.

This initiative was run on a pilot basis within 12 primary schools between March and June. The scheme encompassed a colour coding system to identify the degree to which the meal is healthy. This was also facilitated by taking photographs of meals to be included in class lunch folders to aid healthy menu choice. Interim feedback from Catering Managers has been positive. Further feedback from Head Teachers and parents will be sought at the start of the new school term in August. The pre ordering service will be continued in the 12 pilot primary schools in the meantime.

- The HMIe Child Protection Inspection which reported in June 2009, found the following key strengths:

- Children experiencing domestic abuse received help quickly through an effective multi-agency approach;
- Helpful advice from legal services supporting immediate action and long term planning for children at risk;
- The health needs of looked after children away from home being met effectively;
- Use of a robust and effective approach by the Children's Commission to assess needs of children and agree service priorities; and
- Children and families being involved as partners in planning and delivery of services.

INCREASING OUR EFFORT TO TACKLE DISADVANTAGE AND DISCRIMINATION

- In January, we implemented the Council's new housing allocations policy (Homespot) and completed a re-registration of our housing waiting list – this choice-based approach to letting houses has improved the information available to prospective tenants and provides greater choice to our customers. The new approach also ensures that we are more effectively meeting our legislative obligation to house those in greatest housing need.
- A new Homelessness Strategy (2008-2013) for the area was launched in June 2009, with good progress being made in its implementation. We increased our stock of temporary housing accommodation for people experiencing homelessness, by an additional 105 properties and made a corresponding reduction in the number of people that the Council required to place in Bed & Breakfast accommodation in order to meet the Council's statutory duty to accommodate them.
- The Community Planning Partnership has supported the expansion of Credit Unions to widen access across the Falkirk Council area. In 2009/10 this resulted in attracting 277 new members, the recruitment of additional volunteers and the increase in opening hours.
- The area's 3 Citizen's Advice Bureaux have been supported to progress the financial wellbeing of people from our most disadvantaged communities, through the provision of clinics and additional appointments to minimise waiting time. During 2009/10 this has helped people experiencing or at risk of hardship. As a result, £49 million of debt has been renegotiated, with over 330 benefit checks completed and over 135 debt cases supported. These services have also helped clients to access approximately £740,000 in benefit claims.
- Older people have been supported through an advice project targeted on our most deprived areas, to access benefits and referrals to other agencies. These have been facilitated by home visits which have helped to secure £540,000 in additional benefits.
- During 2009/10, Falkirk Council's Employment and Training Unit helped 61 young people to make better transitions from High School, through developing effective pre school leaving activities. Of these, 44 were new starts during the year and 35 secured a positive destination when leaving. The 'Positive Transitions' project has linked with 8 High Schools across the Council area which help young people who require this type of intervention.

- In addition to this, a range of targeted post school interventions aimed at young people, aged between 16 and 19 who have left school is provided. These interventions are designed to secure positive destinations, specifically for those from the most deprived communities. This also helps to mitigate the threat of growing youth unemployment due to the recession. During 2009/10, 139 young people completed the 'employment gateway' of which 44 came from our most deprived areas. Performance for the year was nearly 300% above that of the original annual target. Work with local employers within the 'Backing Falkirk's Future' initiative has led to 100 support pledges being received, most of which comprise work experience and work based training.
- The Community Planning Partnership supports a project called 'People with Potential' by Edinburgh Cyrenians. This provides support through pro-active interventions and key work sessions for clients who are homeless, or are vulnerable to homelessness and who are also excluded from community life. During the reporting year, the project has supported 31 new young clients, as well continuing to support the cohort from 2008/09. This has contributed to securing 39 positive destinations for local young people. Referrals for this service increased by 150% during the year, due to increased management capacity and changes in resource allocation and prioritisation.
- The 'Rise Higher' project, run by the Salvation Army supports some of the most vulnerable local people. The project supports individuals who are furthest away from the labour market, including clients with learning disabilities, substance mis users and ex-offenders. During 2009/10, the project supported 71 individuals with courses, advice etc. which helped 14 clients access employment or full-time education. The project also helps to improve client's self-confidence and esteem and access education qualifications, some for the first time.
- The Community Planning Partnership supported Central Scotland Racial Equality Council for black and ethnic minority individuals to achieve their full potential, by accessing training, acquire skills and increase their employability. During 2009/10 this project supported 87 people, 17 of which have secured employment. This includes practical advice in applying for employment, as well as building individual's confidence.

ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT

- Our HEROS project built on previous work with significant enhancement during 2009/10. This provides environmental improvements for predominantly regeneration communities, while providing training opportunities for young people. This project has helped 15 individuals to secure permanent employment, 9 of who have attained vocational qualifications. A total of 14 environmental projects involving 21 community groups were completed during the year.
- The 'Carbon Crusader' programme introduced by Falkirk Council has mobilised employees to think about their local carbon footprint. This in turn has encouraged them to get more involved in developing practical solutions to both save money and reduce carbon emissions. After 18 months since first being introduced, independent evaluation suggests that for an initial marketing based cost of £2000, the programme has reduced:

- Carbon emissions by approximately 960 tonnes and from Falkirk Council buildings by a minimum of 3%; and
 - Energy and other costs by at least £160,000.
- The Community Planning Partnership supported measures to enhance Third Sector resilience during 2009/10 in recognition of the particular pressures faced by the sector in securing sustainable sources of funding and in the increased level of expectation on the role it can play in future. Measures included supporting a Third Sector convention in February 2010 to help improve the sustainability of local Third Sector organisations. The event was led by CVS Falkirk & District and attracted over 300 delegates from across Forth Valley. The event comprised 32 workshops on topics offering advice and support on how best to face the future financial climate. Further work flowing from the convention is taking place to develop a package of non-financial resilience based support to further underpin a vibrant and sustainable local Third Sector.
 - The Hippodrome Cinema in Bo'ness reopened in April 2009 following a £2.1m refurbishment; the programme for the year included first runs of 'Up', popular new releases, classic films and special heritage events. Local businesses have welcomed the Hippodrome, noticing increased footfall in the town on matinee days, as well as it being a valuable addition to the evening economy of the town.
 - As part of the drive to regenerate our town centres, we secured £2 million of investment from the Scottish Government to accelerate the regeneration of Falkirk, Denny, Stenhousemuir, Grangemouth and Bo'ness town centres. This includes work to restore and improve the historic churchyard and surrounding area in Falkirk town centre. As part of the development process for Stenhousemuir town centre, communities in both Larbert and Stenhousemuir, as well as local school children, have been involved in the design and commissioning of public artwork. Work on the Bo'ness Townscape Heritage Initiative included the completion and restoration of derelict tenements. Development agreements were also signed with developer partners for the further regeneration of Bo'ness and Denny town centre.
 - We have made significant progress in ensuring the sustainability of our open spaces through the completion of our Open Space Strategy, our Contaminated Land Prioritisation Model and the adoption of our Core Paths Plan. Upgrades and improvements to both our paths and our cycle paths network were completed in 9 different communities across the Falkirk Council area. A partnership with the Falkirk Allotments Society saw the completion of 18 individual garden allotments.
 - We completed our new Home Energy Strategy to help deliver on our commitment to reduce fuel poverty and promote energy efficiency in homes across the Falkirk Council area. In support of this, we created new advice pages to promote better Home Energy Efficiency on the Council's website, which are currently receiving approximately 1200 hits per month. We also developed a Home Energy advice booklet which has been adopted by Falkirk Council, together with other partners. Since the start of our Home Insulation Programme, over 4000 local properties have benefited from cavity wall and loft insulation. We have also produced a staff leaflet on Fuel Poverty to help improve the advice and service we provide for tenants most in need of fuel debt assistance.
 - The redesign of Camelon day service for adults with a learning disability has facilitated more localised opportunities. This has included changing the building use to

accommodate the Children with Disabilities Team and the Falkirk Learning Disability Team working together and creating a resource centric model.

- During 2009/10 Falkirk Council Criminal Justice Social Work Service provided around 44,385 hours of unpaid labour. At the minimum wage, this equates to £257,423 of effort for the benefit of the communities across Falkirk. The work has included:
 - Supporting individual charities
 - Litter picking
 - Ground clearance
 - Improving amenity areas
 - Growing crops for the Salvation Army