

Service Plan: Sustainability – 2007/08

Part 1. Purpose of the Service

To develop corporate responses and drive forward strategic actions designed to mainstream environmental sustainability and responses to the climate change agenda.

Part 2. Plans to Improve Your Service in 2007/08

N.B. For the purposes of this Service Plan the terms ‘sustainability’ and ‘sustainable’ are taken to incorporate all strategic matters relating to environmental sustainability and climate change within the broader context of the sustainable development of South Cambridgeshire.

Abbreviations: SSO: Strategic Sustainability Officer SCDC: South Cambs. District Council

#	Action	Supporting Information (eg resources, outputs, outcomes and risks)	Complete by Month	Responsible Officer
Actions to Improve Customer Service (Council priority):				
1.	<p>Developing, producing and disseminating communicative materials and responses (as individual items or in series) aimed at raising public, staff/service, and/or member awareness and understanding of sustainability related issues – focusing upon behaviour change and the benefits of more sustainable lifestyles and communities.</p> <p>Actions may arise from: individual requests; in support of programmed or emerging initiatives; other services; third parties, or, more regular media contributions (e.g. South Cambs Magazine).</p>	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSO time ▪ Support from Communications Team ▪ Small materials/media budget <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Briefing notes, articles, publicity material, workshops, seminars <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a.) Improved awareness and understanding engendering more sustainable lifestyles, a better quality of life for present and future generations and low-carbon living. ▪ b.) SCDC services confident in leadership roles in relation to environmental sustainability within service delivery. ▪ c.) SCDC Members confident in advancing and promoting benefits of sustainable development and living. <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scheduling sufficient SSO time to deal with all requests as they arise; 	Ongoing	SSO

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unpredictable waves of sustainability interest as a consequence of media interest, environmental events (e.g. flooding, heatwaves) or development pressures. 		
2.	<p>Support and oversee the delivery of following local sustainability orientated energy schemes/initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a.) Energy for Good initiative aiming to encourage the uptake of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technology by households and organisations in the local area. The scheme is partnered by SCDC, Cambridge City Council, the National Energy Foundation and Energy for Sustainable Development. ○ b.) British Gas Cavity Wall Council Cashback Scheme. ○ c.) HeatProject – discounted insulation scheme ○ d.) Warmfront – Government scheme improving energy efficiency of homes for those on benefits. ○ e.) Energy Saving Trust – “Save Your 20%” initiative ○ f.) British Gas grant scheme for solar hot water heating and PV renewables. 	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Officer time ▪ a.) Advice co-ordinated/delivered through agreement with NEF (£2,000/annum) ▪ b.) Advice co-ordinated/delivered by SCDC Environmental Health Officer <p>Outputs: Public advice on how to reduce energy consumption or access energy from renewable sources (including availability of financial support).</p> <p>Outcomes: a. and f.) Increase in installation of renewable energy systems, which will help reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality across the district. b., c. and d.) Opportunity for local home owners with cavity walls but no insulation installed in them to improve their energy efficiency and reduce their energy costs. Such action will also help reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality across the district. e.) Individuals actively committing to trying to reduce their energy use by 20%.</p> <p>Risk: Insufficient resources to maximise promotion.</p>	<p>a.) Dec 07 b.) ongoing c.) ongoing d.) ongoing e.) tbc f.) launch April/May '07, then ongoing</p>	<p>SSO & Env. Health Officer Public Health / HECA officer</p>

#	Action	Supporting Information (eg resources, outputs, outcomes and risks)	Complete by Month	Responsible Officer
Affordable Housing and Growth Area milestones (Council priorities):				
3.	Manage and progress the work of the Northstowe Energy Topic Group. To include specific work in advancing and developing the Northstowe Sustainable Energy Partnership, necessary funding and options as to the establishment of an Energy Services Company via a localised energy infrastructure.	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSO time ▪ Partner time <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detailed energy supply assessment for Northstowe with a focus upon renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures to deliver the maximum viable environmental, social and economic benefit. ▪ Agreed partnership recommendations as to the most appropriate delivery mechanism, means of implementation and long-term management. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Securing the most sustainable and beneficial energy supply option for Northstowe. <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnership support and commitment ▪ Conflict with developers objectives ▪ Political will ▪ Uncertainty over innovation ▪ Loss of momentum ▪ Insufficient officer time 	In line with planning process	SSO
4.	Supporting the delivery of the Northstowe planning application through participating in partnership working, scheduled meetings and the constructive review of documentation arising from the perspective of maximising the sustainability content of development proposals.	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSO time <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active contribution to the planning 	In line with planning process	SSO

		<p>deliberative process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reviews of planning application documents, as required, which seek to promote and maximise the sustainability potential of the proposed development. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A planning application in which : i.) the strengths and weaknesses with regard to sustainability issues have been clearly identified (to assist in formal determination), and ii.) options to improve the delivery of sustainability measures have been put forward. ▪ Effective partnership working and relations to facilitate integrated sustainable solutions. <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insufficient officer time 		
5.	Responding to consultations on various large-scale planning applications including Cambridge East, Cambridge Southern Fringe, Cambourne and other significant land-use proposals with prominent environmental sustainability issues.	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSO time <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active contribution to the planning deliberative process. ▪ Reviews of planning application documents, as required, which seek to promote and maximise the sustainability potential of the proposed development. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning applications in which : i.) the strengths and weaknesses with regard to sustainability issues have 	In line with planning process	SSO time

		<p>been clearly identified (to assist in formal determination), and ii.) options to improve the delivery of sustainability measures have been put forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective partnership working and relations to facilitate integrated sustainable solutions. <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volume of requests / insufficient officer time 		
6.	<p>Manage and implement the necessary actions for the appropriate disbursement of the Arbury Park Innovation Fund (secured as part of a Section 106 agreement for the inclusion of innovative sustainability measures and technology) through the Innovation Fund Stakeholder Forum.</p>	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSO time ▪ Innovation Fund Stakeholder Forum <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detailed evaluation and consideration of applications for Innovation Fund support. ▪ Meetings of Innovation Fund Stakeholder Forum ▪ Approval of release of Innovation Fund monies. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The promotion and enabling of innovation in relation to sustainable development technologies and practices within the Arbury Park development. <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loss of momentum ▪ Build advances without sufficient or appropriate interest in taking up access to funds – leading to lack of sustainable innovation content on site. 	<p>First round applications considered by end April 2007 (further rounds as arising)</p>	SSO

#	Action	Supporting Information (eg resources, outputs, outcomes and risks)	Complete by Month	Responsible Officer
Actions to mainstream Council policies (Community Safety, Climate Change and Equalities):				
7.	Advising and supporting the SCDC Climate Change Working Group	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSO time ▪ Member Services support ▪ Small budget to cover expert witness expenses and site visits <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Series of fully minuted output orientated formal meetings covering climate change matters relevant to SCDC. ▪ District focused evidence-based climate change reports and reviews. ▪ Recommendations to Cabinet and/or Council covering policy and action within the scope of climate change mitigation and adaptation. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A group of well-informed members with the capacity and expertise to soundly consider all climate change matters with implications for South Cambs and, subsequently, offer meaningful recommendations in relation to policy and actions. <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of focus and directions in the Group's work ▪ Lack of transparency and evidence-based methodology in drawing up recommendations. 	Ongoing	SSO

8.	<p>Support sustainability orientated partnership working groups, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cambridgeshire Climate Change Forum ○ Sustainable Buildings Steering Group ○ Travel for Work Partnership Board 	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSO time ▪ Hospitality for meetings held at SCDC offices. <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pooled resources and expertise. ▪ Series of partnership working meetings. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Influence upon local policy and direction relating to climate change and a more sustainable built environment. ▪ Enhanced co-operation and shared knowledge. ▪ Integrated and more effective response to climate change issues and objectives. <p>Risk: Insufficient resources (typically officer time) amongst partners to attend meetings and fulfil actions arising.</p>	Ongoing	SSO
9.	<p>Develop and publicise the findings of a detailed ecological footprint study of South Cambridgeshire undertaken by Best Foot Forward in 2006.</p>	<p>Resources: SSO time</p> <p>Outputs: Promotional public initiative on level, problems of, and solutions to unsustainable consumption at the district level (partnering with other districts, county, region etc. as appropriate).</p> <p>Outcomes: Improved awareness of quantified unsustainable patterns of consumption in South Cambridgeshire with a focus on options and means for tackling them.</p>	Sept 07	SSO

		<p>Risk: Insufficient resources/priority to fully exercise potential of eco-footprint study.</p>		
10.	Review, update, re-adopt and monitor the progress of the Council's Climate Plan.	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSO time ▪ Cross-service meetings ▪ Climate Change Working Group time <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Member and service level discussions raising awareness and possible responses to climate change matters. ▪ Revised/renewed Climate Plan - strategic framework (objectives / priorities) and action plan to deliver updated outcome-orientated response to imperatives of the climate change agenda. ▪ Agreed monitoring process. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service and member level re-engagement with achieving climate change objectives. ▪ Climate change matters tied into, delivered and monitored through Council's service provision. ▪ Meeting a Nottingham Declaration commitment. <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Failure to achieve sufficient service-level engagement and adequate consideration/integration with service provision across the Council. 	Sept 07 and then ongoing monitoring	SSO

11.	Review, update, re-adopt and monitor the progress of the Travel for Work Plan for South Cambridgeshire Hall.	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSO time ▪ Facilities Management support ▪ As required to deliver and collate staff travel survey <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Travel for work survey results ▪ Revised/new Travel for Work Plan for South Cambridgeshire Hall – promoting more sustainable travel for work patterns (incl. more flexible working) ▪ Agreed actions to tackle on-site car park capacity issues, meeting planning consent conditions (esp. drive alone target), and reduce business mileage. ▪ Agreed monitoring process to regularly assess progress. ▪ Consideration of possible options re. Staff Bus services. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More sustainable staff travel patterns (benefiting staff and illustrating Council leadership) ▪ Progress towards achieving 49% drive alone target. ▪ Savings/efficiencies through reduced business mileage. <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Location of, and sustainable travel facilities for, South Cambs Hall create insuperable hurdles for staff in seeking to reducing ‘drive alone’ figures. 	Dec 07 and then ongoing monitoring	SSO
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Implications of not achieving 'drive alone' target.▪ Inability to offer sustainable alternative to Staff Bus services.▪ Resistance to reducing business miles across services.		
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Actions to deliver LAA targets:				
23	Mgt/reduction of CO2 emissions from road traffic	Material contributions anticipated from work relating to service plan actions: 4,5,6 (only if Car Club viable),11 N.B. contributions are essentially indirect as they primarily relate to behaviour change. Measuring contributions will generally be problematic although the contribution to the objective is very much there.	Ongoing	SSO & Planning Sustainable Communities Officers
Actions to improve the service provided by your team:				
24, 25, & 27	Increasing renewable energy capacity; homes on developments incorporating SUDS; new dwellings meeting very good/excellent BREEAM / ecohomes standard.	Material contributions anticipated from work relating to service plan actions: 2 (renewable energy only),3,4,5,6 N.B. contributions through actions 3,4 and 5 are indirect in nature as they primarily relate to influencing applications and their determination. They may however lead to S106 obligations as in action 6 which permit more direct influence.	Ongoing	SSO & Planning Sustainable Communities Officers
Actions to improve the efficiency or Value for Money of your service:				
		Resources: Outputs: Outcomes: Risks:		
Actions to develop and support your workforce and learning:				
		Resources: Outputs: Outcomes: Risks:		
Actions to address risks to your service:				
		Resources: Outputs: Outcomes: Risks:		

Part 3. Performance Indicators

Key to Colour Code in 05/06 “Top Quartile” column:

Top quartile		Middle to top quartile		Bottom to middle quartile		Bottom quartile	
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PI Code	PI Description	Past Performance					Future Targets		
		05/06		Top Quartile	06/07		07/08	08/09	09/10
		Target	Actual		Target	Actual	Target	Target	Target
Customer Service									
Affordable Housing and Growth Areas									
Community Safety, Climate Change, Equalities									
SX21	% SCDC single car users (Note 1)	49 %	63 %		60 %	66%	55 %	49 %	?
Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets									
Service Quality/Provision									
Finance, Efficiency and Value for Money									
Workforce and learning									
Other PIs									

Note: 1. As part of the move to Cambourne the agreed planning permission required the authority to achieve a target of 49%.

Part 4. Looking to the Future

Major issues or needs which your service will need to address (to maintain the level of service and new issues such as legislation, growth areas, demographic change)	Resource Requirements (Finance, staff, skills equipment etc)	Please tick appropriate years				
		2008/ 09	2009/ 10	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2012/ 13