



To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	Subject: North Lanarkshire Local Agenda 21 Strategy
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	
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### Introduction

1. This Report concerns the publication of the North Lanarkshire Local Agenda 21 Strategy. Promoting Sustainable Development within North Lanarkshire takes place through many different Strategies. However the publication of this Strategy with it's links to the Community Plan will provide the overall framework within which sustainable development can be promoted and further integrated into services. The text of the Strategy has been agreed by the North Lanarkshire Partnership. It is intended that a copy of the LA 21 Strategy will be available for all Members prior to this Committee meeting and that it will also be published on the Council's web-site. A Draft Copy of the Strategy is currently available in the Member's Library.

### Sustainability Implications

2. The comprehensive and inclusive nature of the Local Agenda 21 Strategy means that it provides the right guidance and background for further promotion and integration of sustainability.

### Background

3. At the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, over 150 governments, including the UK, committed themselves for the first time to a sustainable future. They agreed that the way forward was '**sustainable development**', and to encourage this they initiated a process called Agenda 21. The forty chapters of Agenda 21 cover topics ranging from health to employment and deforestation to waste. And while all these issues are discussed in global terms it is a fundamental fact that the majority of action to address these issues can only be achieved at a local level. The Summit recognised this and Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 calls on all Councils to draw up and implement Local Agenda 21s to promote sustainable development in partnership with its communities, local organisations and businesses. This document is North Lanarkshire's Local Agenda 21.
4. Local Agenda 21 is not an end in itself, it is a dynamic process which will shape the way sustainability is delivered at the local level. The North Lanarkshire Local Agenda 21 Strategy, following the advice of Cosla, links strongly to, and integrates with, the Community Planning Process. The two documents are bound together with a shared Vision and a Monitoring Framework that charts progress on delivering more sustainable and integrated services using a set of Key Indicators.
5. For the purposes of the Strategy, Sustainability has been defined using the definition coined by Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland the former Prime Minister of Norway:-  
"Development which meets present needs without damaging the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"
6. The Strategy also promotes the concept of the **sustainable community** as a long-term aim for the Council and it's partners. The Sustainable Community is one where there is a:-

#### A healthy environment

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

### A prosperous economy

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

### An inclusive society

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

7. The Local Agenda 21 Strategy also recognises that this Sustainable Community can only be achieved through the delivery of a range of integrated strategies, such as the Social Inclusion Strategy, the Local Health Plan, the National Waste Strategy and the Local Transport Strategy.

### Conclusions and Future Action

8. This document marks only a stage in the process of promoting sustainable development. There is much work required of the Council, its partners and the organisations who operate in North Lanarkshire to build more sustainable communities.
9. One of the keys to achieving the sustainable community is increased integration of services and a priority for future work will be creating the processes and environment where identifying sustainability issues and addressing them becomes part of the everyday planning and delivery of services. This will be done through continued partnership with the organisations involved in the Community Planning process and other partner organisations. In essence this Local Agenda 21 Strategy is Community Planning in action
10. Within this context and in response to the delivery of more sustainable services the priorities for future action will be:-
- Developing a co-ordinated Programme of Action on Climate Change
  - Developing a Sustainability Reporting Process for the North Lanarkshire Partnership
  - Embedding Sustainability principles in Purchasing Policies and Programmes of the Council and it's Partners
  - Exploring news ways of Service Delivery which better Integrates Services to those who live and work in North Lanarkshire
11. Developing sustainable projects and policies is a dynamic process in which there is continued change and progress. The Council's Web Site will provide up-to-date information on current activity and also provides links to a variety of other web sites which contain information on sustainable development.

### Recommendations

12. Members are asked to note the publication of the Local Agenda 21 Strategy for North Lanarkshire.



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