

Draft Sustainable Development Statement

Introduction

All Public Sector Bodies (PSBs) must demonstrate how they are progressing sustainable development as part of their Best Value duties, ensuring that sustainable development is:

- reflected in their vision and strategic priorities
- embedded in their governance arrangements
- contributed to in the way resources are planned and used
- effectively promoted through partnership working

Statutory guidance on Best Value states that to demonstrate a culture focussed on sustainable development, there should be a framework to facilitate integration into policies, plans and decisions, clear guiding principles and a range of measures to demonstrate impact in the context of a wider performance management approach where there is corporate accountability for delivery.

This Statement sets out the way in which Sustainable Development is currently reflected for Moray Council in line with this guidance, drawing out the wider framework to support integration into our policies, plans and decisions.

Further development work will be done as part of the review of the Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030 due to commence in 2024 for reporting in 2025. The content has been informed by the Corporate Best Value Self-Evaluation undertaken in 2024 in which the governance and guiding principles set out above were assessed as well developed with other areas as in development.

What is Sustainable Development?



In 2015 the United Nations adopted 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs – [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)) intended to act as a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Sustainable development means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The SDGs are interconnected and in Scotland are localised and implemented through the National Performance Framework (NPF).

This Statement reflects the SDGs with further development to be undertaken in the context of the Climate Strategy 2020-2030 review which will include consideration of how the wider concept of sustainable development fits into that strategy.

Sustainable Development Principles and Strategic Priorities for 2024-2029

Through the Corporate Plan 2024-2029 and underpinning Service Plans, the Council sets out how sustainable development is embedded in our priorities. This is detailed in Appendix A. Whilst Appendix A has a focus specifically on sustainable development, the SDGs are both all-embracing and interconnected, and as such, it should not be viewed as a comprehensive statement of all current sustainable development activity, but rather selected key actions which the Council has prioritised amongst many areas where sustainability is part of daily service delivery such as our waste collection or flood management.

Using performance indicators drawn from the Corporate and Service Plans, Appendix A helps to demonstrate the impact of sustainable development in relation to key economic, social and environmental issues where the Council has committed to act.

In progressing these actions, the Council is guided by principles which reflect our corporate vision:

- **Our young people grow up safe, well-educated and reach their full potential**
- **People lead healthy lives and have access to quality care when they need it**
- **Our businesses and communities prosper**
- **Our natural environment thrives for the betterment of all**

In adopting these principles, we are true to our values, including those which are most deeply rooted in sustainable development (shown in bold type).

| FAIR | Ambitious | Improving | Responsive |
|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle inequalities • Treat people fairly • Promote equalities and awareness • Consider our impact on others | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be outward looking • Promote and celebrate Moray • Be a great place to work • Ensure sustainable and efficient council services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive improvement • Encourage innovation • Take commercial opportunities • Invest in transforming to meet future needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be open and transparent • Promote community participation and involvement • Listen to and involve our communities |

Looking beyond the actions set out in Appendix A or already embedded in daily service delivery, some further short to medium term actions have been identified for completion as set out below to ensure that Best Value is achieved:

| Aim | Action | Lead Officer | Delivery Date |
|--|---|---|----------------------|
| Embedded in Governance | 1. Review of Summary of Implications Section of Committee Reports to ensure sustainable development is embedded within proposals | Head of Economic Growth and Development and Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance | December 2024 |
| | 2. Embed Framework reporting in Quarterly Performance Reports, Annual Corporate Plan report and Public Performance Report | Strategy and Performance Manager and Senior Communications Officer | June 2025 |
| Contributed to in Resource Planning and Use | 3. Identify any further sustainable development gaps in Climate Strategy Review with resources to address | Head of Economic Growth and Development | December 2025 |
| Promoted through Partnership Working | 4. Scope out Partnership interest in shared Sustainable Development priorities/actions in the LOIP Review | Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) | June 2025 |
| Promoted through Partnership Working | 5. Consider and Embed Community views on sustainable development in the revised Climate Change Strategy | Head of Economic Growth and Development | December 2025 |

Monitoring and Review






Moving forward beyond the existing strategic commitments set out in Appendix A, this Statement will be reviewed as the 2024/25 Climate Change Strategy Review progresses and the resultant changes are embedded in governance arrangements to guide decision-making, resource allocation and service delivery, ensuring that the Council's actions align fully with its vision and values in the context of an updated Climate Change Strategy.

Sustainable development will be considered as part of the corporate annual Best Value Self-Evaluation and the results will be incorporated into the next iteration of this Statement.

APPENDIX A

2024 Sustainable Development Goals - Delivery Framework Corporate / Service Plan Actions & PIs



| Action Status | |
|---|------------------------------------|
|  | Cancelled |
|  | Overdue; Neglected |
|  | Unassigned; Check Progress |
|  | Not Started; In Progress; Assigned |
|  | Completed |
| Action linked to Recovery and Renewal | |

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. NO POVERTY
2. ZERO HUNGER
3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4. QUALITY EDUCATION

| SD Focus | Corporate Priority | Source | Actions | Planned Outcome | Outcome Measures | Completion Target | Lead Officer for updates |
|----------|--------------------|--------|---|--|--|-------------------|---|
| Social | Reduce Poverty | CP | Maximise household income by working with partners to ensure financial inclusion services have maximum reach (CP Priority: Tackle Poverty and Inequality) | Moray will have lower levels of child poverty in line with national targets | CHN24 Proportion of children living in Poverty (after housing costs) (CP Priority: Tackle Poverty and Inequality) - LGBF | March 2025 | Interim Chief Officer (H&SCM) |
| Social | Reduce Poverty | CP | Early intervention addressing whole family well-being to ensure than children can reach their full potential (CP Priority: Tackle Poverty and Inequality) | Improved attainment at both Broad General and Senior Phase identified through ACEL and LGBF measures | CHN14a Literacy and numeracy attainment gap (P1, P4 and P7 combined) (CP Priority: Tackle Poverty and Inequality) - LGBF | March 2025 | Head of Education |
| | | | | | CHN14b Percentage point gap between the least and most deprived pupils (CP Priority: Tackle Poverty and Inequality) - LGBF | | |
| Social | Reduce Poverty | CP | Getting it right for every child so that we continue to improve attainment for all (CP Priority: Tackle Poverty and Inequality) | | CHN11Percentage of pupils entering positive destinations (ASN leavers / LAC leavers) (CP Priority: Tackle Poverty and Inequality) - LGBF | March 2025 | Head of Education |
| Social | | SP EGD | Prepare community safety response plan incorporating recommendations from agreed Annual Community Safety Report (EGD25-5.7) | Reduce the number of anti-social behaviour referrals | ENVDV269 Number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents recorded | March 2025 | Environmental Heath & Trading Standards Manager |

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

5. GENDER EQUALITY
6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES

| SD Focus | Corporate Priority | Source | Actions | Planned Outcome | Outcome Measures | Completion Target | Lead Officer for updates |
|----------|--------------------|--------|--|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Economic | Wellbeing Economy | CP | Progress Moray Growth Deal: bring the remaining Moray Growth Deal projects into delivery (CP Priority: Build Stronger Greener Vibrant Economy) | Retain and attract young people / families to live and work in the area | Proportion of 16-29 year olds within Moray Council (NRS Mid-Year) | March 2026 Interim target March 2025 – 7 of 8 projects in delivery | Head of Economic Growth & Development |
| Economic | Wellbeing Economy | CP | Delivery of the Community Wealth Building Strategy and Action Plan (CP Priority: Build Stronger Greener Vibrant Economy) | | Average gross weekly earnings (full-time employees) (SLAED) | March 2025 | |
| Economic | Wellbeing Economy | CP | Improve access to fair work, employment and training opportunities (CP Priority: Build Stronger Greener Vibrant Economy) | Increase the number of people in Moray benefitting from Fair Work | ECON8 Proportion of people earning less than the living wage | March 2025 | Head of Economic Growth & Development |
| Economic | Wellbeing Economy | CP | Enable more people to work by supporting access to affordable childcare (CP Priority: Build Stronger Greener Vibrant Economy) | Minimise barriers to people working such as childcare | Gender Pay Gap | March 2025 | Head of Economic Growth & Development |

| SD Focus | Corporate Priority | Source | Actions | Planned Outcome | Outcome Measures | Completion Target | Lead Officer for updates |
|----------|--------------------|---------|---|--|---|-------------------|---|
| Economic | | SP EGD | RMNZ Building heat and electricity – Scoping and research into increased renewable energy generation from Council buildings and land (EGD25-5.6a) | Achievement of targets, indicators and outcomes identified in Climate Change Action Plan to achieve Carbon Neutral by 2030 | CO2 emissions area wide: emissions within scope of LA per capita | March 2025 | Principal Climate Change Strategy Officer |
| Economic | | SP H&PS | Continue to reduce the carbon impact arising from Housing and Property Services (HP25-5.3) | Phased improvement of energy efficiency within corporate buildings and housing stock | % of houses meeting EESSH increased to be in line with LA benchmark circa 90% | March 2025 | Property Asset Manager |

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- 12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
- 13. CLIMATE ACTION
- 14. LIFE BELOW WATER
- 15. LIFE ON LAND
- 16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
- 17. PARTNERSHIPS

| SD Focus | Corporate Priority | Source | Actions | Planned Outcome | Outcome Measures | Completion Target | Lead Officer for updates |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--------|---|---|--|-------------------|--|
| Environmental | Flourishing Healthy Communities | CP | Delivery of the Levelling Up Fund elements of the Elgin City Centre Masterplan (CP Priority: Building thriving, resilient, empowered communities) | More of the activities, services and plans are influenced by the communities they serve | No of empty properties and vacant/derelict sites in the city centre | March 2026 | Strategic Planning & Development Manager |
| | | | | | No of additional residential properties in Elgin City Centre | | |
| Environmental | Flourishing Healthy Communities | CP | Delivery of Town centre Improvement Plan Delivery Programme (CP Priority: Building thriving, resilient, empowered communities) | | ECON09 Town Vacancy Rates | March 2025 | Strategic Planning & Development Manager |
| Environmental | Flourishing Healthy Communities | CP | Delivery of the Housing Investment and Affordable Housing Supply programmes (CP Priority: Build thriving, resilient, empowered communities) | Increase in affordable housing available in Moray | No of new supply social housing for rent - 32 completions 119 site starts | March 2025 | Housing Strategy & Development Manager |

| SD Focus | Corporate Priority | Source | Actions | Planned Outcome | Outcome Measures | Completion Target | Lead Officer for updates |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--------|--|--|--|-------------------|---|
| Environmental | Flourishing Healthy Communities | CP | Tackle the affordability and standard of our learning estate to ensure sustainability while meeting climate requirements | The Council adapts and acts to the impacts of climate change | CLIM1 CO2 emissions area wide per capita | March 2029 | Programme Manager Education |
| Environmental | | SP EGD | Prepare Climate Change Routemap (EGD25-5.6d) | Achievement of targets, indicators and outcomes identified in Climate Change Action Plan to achieve Carbon Neutral by 2030 | | August 2024 | Principal Climate Change Strategy Officer |
| Environmental | | SP ERC | Support the engagement and consultation work on service specific projects | More of the activities, services and plans are influenced by the communities they serve | | June 2026 | Communities Service Manager |

Mapping of Sustainable Development Goals to Key Strategies

| Sustainable Development Focus | Sustainable Development Goal | Corporate Priority | Relevant Strategies/Plans |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Social | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No poverty 2. Zero hunger 3. Good health and well-being 4. Quality education | Tackle Poverty and Inequality | <p>Children's Services Plan 2023-2026,</p> <p>Moray Education National Improvement Framework Plan 2024-2025</p> <p>Community Safety Strategy 2022-2026</p> |
| Economic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Gender equality 6. Clean water and sanitation 7. Affordable and clean energy 8. Decent work and economic growth 9. Industry, innovation, and infrastructure 10. Reduced inequalities | Build Stronger, Greener Vibrant Economy | <p>Moray Economic Strategy 2022-2032</p> <p>Community Wealth Building Strategy 2024</p> <p>Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030</p> <p>Nature and Biodiversity Position Statement 2023</p> <p>Partnership Community Learning & Development Plan 2024-2027</p> <p>Moray Pathways Local Employability Partnership Delivery Plan 2022-2025</p> |
| Environmental | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Sustainable cities and communities 12. Responsible consumption and production 13. Climate action 14. Life below water 15. Life on land | Build Thriving, Resilient, Empowered Communities | <p>Learning Estate Strategy 2022-2032</p> <p>Partnership Community Learning & Development Plan 2024-2027</p> <p>Elgin City Centre Masterplan</p> <p>Town Centre Improvement Plans</p> <p>Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030</p> |

| Sustainable Development Focus | Sustainable Development Goal | Corporate Priority | Relevant Strategies/Plans |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|---|
| | 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions 17. Partnerships | | Nature and Biodiversity Position Statement 2023 LHEES Strategy & Delivery Plan Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030 Moray Economic Strategy 2022 Moray Local Housing Strategy 2019-2024 Community Wealth Building Strategy 2024 |