

# **SCOTTISH BORDERS LOW CARBON ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2023 – UPDATED ACTION PLAN AND PROPOSED PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK**

**Report by Director of Corporate Transformation and Services**

---

## **COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP - STRATEGIC BAORD**

**26 November 2015**

---

### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report updates the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board on progress to refresh the Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023 Action Plan. It also proposes a draft Performance Framework to support the monitoring of delivery of the Strategy Aims and Objectives.**
- 1.2 It was agreed when the Strategy was approved in October 2013 that the Action Plan would be reviewed regularly and the process to refresh the Action Plan began in February 2015. The refreshed Action Plan (Appendix 1) involved a thorough consultation process with a range of partners. To allow effective monitoring of progress against the Aims and Objectives of the Strategy, the Performance Framework (report attached as Appendix 2) has also been developed. It suggests a series of performance indicators ranging across the key objectives within the Strategy.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 I recommend that the Strategic Board:**
- (a) Agrees the updated Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023 Action Plan and that implementation of the Action Plan continues to be overseen by the Economy and Low Carbon Programme Delivery Team;**
  - (b) Agrees the draft Low Carbon Economic Strategy Performance Framework.**

### **3 LOW CARBON ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2023 - BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023 sets out the context for the transition to a low carbon economy at international, national and local levels. The strategy outlines a series of strategic aims and initiatives to deliver the key priorities identified by the Community Planning Partnership.
- 3.2 The Strategy is framed around a series of strategic aims which will contribute to the national aspirations set out by the Scottish Government. The strategic aims are: A. Improve Business Competitiveness; B. Improve Residents' Quality of Life; C. Adapt our Infrastructure; D. Increase Community Resilience.

### **4 ACTION PLAN REFRESH**

#### **4.1 Consultation**

The process to refresh the Action Plan began in February 2015. The actions within the Action Plan have been reviewed through detailed consultation with partners. Two well attended and successful partner workshops were held in March and April to review and redefine actions. Further specific 1-2-1 discussions with partners have continued since then leading to clearer definition of actions and agreed action leads being set out in the current version of the document. Progress with the refreshed Action Plan and Performance Framework has been considered regularly by the Economy and Low Carbon Programme Delivery Team and by the Joint Delivery Team on the 2 September 2015.

#### **4.2 Changes to Format**

The aims and objectives of the Action Plan remain as they were in the original version. The main areas which have been updated with new actions are around development of the renewable energy sector (Aim 1, Objective 3), support for community renewable energy schemes (Aim B, Objective 3), and preparing our infrastructure and communities to meet the challenges of a changing climate (Aim C, Objective 2 & Aim D, Objective 1).

#### **4.3 Action Leads**

In order to drive forward actions, lead responsibility for delivery is set out more specifically and all actions have an agreed lead partner identified. These lead partners have been crucial to the definition of each action and have agreed to act as project initiators who will co-ordinate and support the activity required by partners to deliver the action.

#### **4.4 Resources**

The previous Action Plan acknowledged that not all actions were fully resourced at the time of writing, but it was felt to be important that the Plan conveyed the ambition of partners to move the low carbon agenda forward. The previous Action Plan achieved this by setting out those actions which had secured resources and were part of planned activity by CPP partners and separating those actions which were part of a 'Project Pipeline' where resources had still to be identified.

- 4.5 To tackle this element, the revised format retains the 'Resource' column, and notes that resources are either 'In place' (row is toned light grey) or 'Resource required' (row has no tone). Completed actions from the

previous Action Plan are toned dark grey.

#### 4.6 Progress

In terms of overall delivery of activity in the previous version of the Action Plan, there has been good progress against the actions which were highlighted as being resourced. Examples of good progress include:

- Business Gateway action around low carbon advice for businesses, highlighted by the amount of loan funding accessed by Borders SMEs.
- Good progress has been made with domestic energy efficiency measures through the Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland, most recently supporting the installation of external wall insulation.
- Significant activity is being delivered by the Registered Social Landlords in terms of property upgrades, including energy efficiency measures and planning for the installation of renewable energy systems.
- The successful installation of a series of 8 electric vehicle rapid charging points, extending the network across the main Borders towns.
- Significant progress on the development of sustainable transport options through the work of the Strategic Transport Board

#### 4.7 Performance Framework

The draft Performance Framework has been developed, alongside the evolution of the Action Plan, and a report on this framework is attached as Appendix 2. The Performance Framework has been structured around a set of 'headline' indicators and in line with the overall aims of the Low Carbon Economic Strategy – Businesses, Home and Community. The headline indicators are extracted from national datasets, e.g. electricity and gas sales, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, while some of the themed indicators are collected locally, e.g. the number of enquiries to Resource Efficient Scotland from Scottish Borders businesses, and the number of visits made by the SBC Home Energy Advice Service. As implementation progresses, the suite of indicators will evolve as new information becomes available.

#### 4.9 Targets

The report on the draft Performance Framework at Appendix 2 gives an explanation as to why the indicators have been recommended, and shows trend information where available. Further work is required by partners to identify and agree realistic targets for each indicator. This will be progressed by the action leads and considered by the Economy and Low Carbon Programme Delivery Team.

### Approved by

**Service Director**

**Corporate Transformation & Services**

**Signature .....**

#### Author(s)

| Name          | Designation and Contact Number                                 |
|---------------|--|
| Bryan McGrath | Chief Officer Economic Development, Tel 01835 826525           |
| Louise Cox    | Environmental Strategy Co-ordinator, Tel 01835 824000 ext 8829 |