

# SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AGREEMENT

STIRLING COUNCIL AND SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT  
PROTECTION AGENCY



27 AUGUST 2018



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## STIRLING COUNCIL AND SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

**Between:**

**Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)**

Corporate Office  
Strathallan House  
Castle Business Park  
Stirling  
FK9 4TZ

**And**

**Stirling Council**

Viewforth  
14-20 Pitt Terrace  
Stirling  
FK8 2ET

(each a “Party” and together the “Parties”)

27 August 2018

## OUR JOINT VISION

Our joint vision is for the Stirling City Region to live within one planet limits. The Stirling City Region will act as a beacon to all regions, cities and towns on how to achieve the needs of its people, communities and businesses, consistent with environmental excellence.

Our vision aims to lead to the following outcomes:

- Making a flourishing city region with opportunities for all
- Helping our citizens to achieve social benefits
- Developing economic opportunity in harmony with natural systems
- Making our city region more resilient
- Making our city region more sustainable
- Better connecting people and their environment



### What are Sustainable Growth Agreements?

Sustainable Growth Agreements are voluntary, non-legally binding, formal agreements through which an organisation (or organisations) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) can explore new and innovative ways to improve environmental performance and focus on practical actions that deliver environmental, social and economic success.

### Why are we collaborating through this Sustainable Growth Agreement?

This Sustainable Growth Agreement is the first with a local authority and the only one covering a city region. Stirling Council and SEPA will use this Agreement to help to focus on the delivery of the bold, innovative and aspirational clear vision proposed for the Stirling City Region through the City Region Deal.

The Parties agree to work collaboratively to deliver the commitments set out in this Agreement. The Agreement aims to support the transformative change of the Stirling City Region, moving towards long-term prosperity (environmental, social and economic success) supported by inclusive, sustainable growth. It is not about ‘business-as-usual’ but rather about pushing boundaries, providing leadership and challenging and changing the current way we do things. In doing so, we can create a place that lives up to that bold and aspirational vision of a modern, forward-looking, sustainable city, operating successfully within the constraints of our one planet. The Agreement creates a safe space for collaboration, identifying opportunities for Stirling Council and partners to go beyond regulatory compliance to develop new and innovative ways of working, while delivering One Planet Prosperity.





### What is One Planet Prosperity?

SEPA has chosen the phrase 'One Planet Prosperity' to reflect the challenge all nations, cities, businesses and communities face, of reducing the over-use of the planet's natural resources. The challenges of the 21st century mean that an Environmental Protection Agency must also increasingly help its society to tackle diffuse sources of pollution, over-use of natural resources and major environmental challenges, such as climate change. According to the ecological footprint measure, if everyone in the world were to live like the average Scottish citizen, we would need approximately three planet Earths to provide all their resources and absorb all of their waste. We only have one planet, however, and most nations around the world face the dilemma of significantly over-using our one planet's capacity to support human activity.

This is the motivation behind SEPA and Stirling Council's aim of working together towards One Planet Prosperity. While more efficient production processes and better product designs will help reduce our society's ecological footprint, there is also a need for households, businesses and the whole of the public sector to consume less, and to consume resources more efficiently. The public sector has a significant role

to play through its procurement of goods, services and buildings. Embedding One Planet Prosperity thinking into spending and investment decisions can help to reduce waste and emissions, make more efficient use of resources, stimulate the market for more sustainable products, create opportunities for innovative circular economy businesses and set an example to our partners and the wider community.

During the lifetime of this Agreement, significant resources will be invested in the Stirling area, especially through the City Region Deal, presenting many opportunities to implement environmental excellence. SEPA recognises that the availability of resources dictates the extent to which Stirling Council priorities can be achieved and that these resources are limited. One of our biggest challenges is to create systems and lifestyles that make sure all communities can live harmoniously and equitably on one planet without creating overwhelming problems for this and future generations. By committing to this agreement, Stirling Council agrees to work with SEPA towards the goal of One Planet Prosperity. Stirling Council is committed to working through the Sustainable Stirling Partnership to assist with this.

### Delivering tangible benefits in the first two years

During the first two years, we will jointly deliver the following benefits:

#### Partnership planning

Stirling Council and SEPA agree to work through and with the Community Planning Partners and others to develop a Sustainable Development Plan by the end of March 2019, including a baseline measure of Stirling's Ecological Footprint. We will jointly target One Planet Prosperity.

#### Waste and recycling

We will conduct a full audit of our respective in-house waste and recycling arrangements and take any necessary actions to maximise recycling and reduce landfill.

We will work in partnership with residents, organisations and businesses in Stirling City Centre to better manage waste arrangements and maximise recycling. We will then expand this work into other towns and villages.

We will undertake a full scale review of public realm litter bins to better segregate waste streams and maximise recycling.

We will explore the opportunities of developing a local reuse and repair centre to divert waste from landfill as well as exploring the opportunity of an aggregates and inert waste recycling system.

#### Single use plastic

We will review uses of single-use plastic throughout our organisations to ensure this is minimised to the greatest extent possible.

#### Vacant and derelict land and buildings

We will work together to increase the scale and scope of work to tackle vacant and derelict land and buildings in our area, including the use of compulsory purchase where necessary.

### Fleet and travel for work

We will have a presumption in favour of all new small fleet purchased or hired being electric vehicles (EV) with any exceptions to this requiring Chief Executive consideration and approval of the operational reasons.

We will audit our own in-house operations to encourage the use of the most sustainable modes of travel, to ensure that we achieve best value and to minimise environmental impact.

#### Park and ride

We will review current park and ride arrangements to consider how best to maximise this provision in promoting the most sustainable modes of travel in our city centre.

#### EV charging

As Stirling Council delivers greater provision of electric charging points throughout its area, we will positively consider any opportunities for provision at SEPA and Stirling Council premises, ensuring that they are available on the public charging network wherever possible.

#### LED conversion

We will jointly review progress of the Council's LED conversion programme to maximise opportunities to reduce carbon emissions.

We will also positively consider all opportunities to incorporate new technology such as EV charging points for residents, air quality monitoring, traffic monitoring, CCTV equipment etc.

#### Metrics and data management

We will work to develop integration of SEPA data and access to SEPA data visualisation expertise, and explore potential integration with Scotland's Environment website.

#### Flood risk management

We will increase our collaborative working to support the delivery of actions to reduce flood risk across the city region.



Ethical investments

We will annually report to Stirling Council and the SEPA Board actions taken to move towards divestment from fossil fuel-related investments.

Air quality monitoring

We will commence a comprehensive programme of air quality monitoring throughout the Council area, including fixed and mobile monitoring stations. This will focus on the city and town centres, at strategically considered sites.

We will proactively put as much of this information as possible into the public domain so that we can raise the awareness of local residents about local air quality, to engage them in tackling this challenge.

Enforcement

We will work jointly to ensure a robust programme of enforcement is developed across the legislative responsibilities of both the Council and SEPA.

We will also consider examining appropriate and innovative use of secondments of staff to and

between our organisations to ensure this can happen seamlessly and in partnership.

We will ensure ongoing improvement and compliance with existing and new environmental permissions for waste management and water environment protection. SEPA will provide support with targeted training for key compliance issues.

Resource use

We will develop a public drinking water refill initiative.

Timeline of developments

This Agreement and its specific commitments will be subject to ongoing review. Both parties commit to working together and developing both the strategy and its action plans as time progresses. A formal review will be undertaken every year whereby annual performance will be reviewed against each party's commitments. Any improvement actions will be considered and mutually agreed in the interest of pushing forward the continuous improvement of working towards One Planet Prosperity.



SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AGREEMENT MANAGEMENT

- 1. All applicable laws continue to apply to the Parties and nothing in this Sustainable Growth Agreement is intended to, or shall be deemed to (a) establish any partnership or joint venture between the Parties, constitute any Party as the agent of the other Party, nor authorise any of the Parties to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of the other Party; and (b) adversely affect or prejudice the ability of Stirling Council or SEPA to act in their respective capacity as regulators.
- 2. The Parties have agreed that this Sustainable Growth Agreement will remain in place for four years from the date of signing this Sustainable Growth Agreement.
- 3. This Sustainable Growth Agreement is not legally binding and creates no legal rights or legal obligations between the Parties. Both Parties are accountable and responsible for honouring their commitments in this Sustainable Growth Agreement.
- 4. This Agreement will be made available to the public by both Parties (e.g. on SEPA and Stirling Council websites).
- 5. There will be a formal Annual Review and joint Annual Reporting by SEPA and Stirling Council to assess progress against the commitments set out in this Sustainable Growth Agreement and to assess success.
- 6. The Annual Review and joint Annual Report can also identify areas of focus for the following year, possible amendments to the Sustainable Growth Agreement and opportunities to promote the Sustainable Growth Agreement.
- 7. The joint Annual Report on this Sustainable Growth Agreement will be presented to the SEPA Board and Stirling Council's full Council, or other relevant Committee or Panel, and to the Stirling City Commission, and made available to the public.
- 8. Both Parties reserve the right to withdraw from this Sustainable Growth Agreement if they believe it is no longer effectively promoting their aspirations (going beyond compliance).
- 9. If a Party is considering withdrawing they will notify the Chief Executive of the other party in writing of their intention. Both Parties agree to work together to seek a resolution wherever possible.

Signatories

Signed For and On Behalf of Stirling Council

Signed For and On behalf of SEPA

Scott Farmer, Council Leader

Terry A'Hearn, Chief Executive (SEPA)

Danny Gibson, Depute Leader

Stewart Carruth, Chief Executive (Stirling Council)



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### Further Information

Stirling Council  
[www.stirling.gov.uk](http://www.stirling.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01786 40 40 40  
 StirlingCouncil  
 StirlingCouncil

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Scottish Environment Protection Agency  
[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)  
Tel: 03000 99 66 99  
 ScottishEnvironmentProtectionAgency  
 ScottishEPA

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<http://contactscotland-bsl.org/>