

QUESTION 3. *Are the seven principle aims of the strategy appropriate?*  
Change final aim to: To safeguard, enhance and promote the quality of the environment.

The promotion of a quality environment through education, tourism and as a contributor to an improved quality of life links into other aims such as economic development and should be emphasised in the aims. (Noted in section 2.26 and 2.27).

QUESTION 5. *Do you agree that the area surrounding Ayr Irvine and Kilmarnock located within the Core Investment Area should be the main focus of future development?*

Additionally there will have to be infrastructure investment around Fairlie prior to potential development of Hunterston as a deepwater port. (This is acknowledged in section 2.55, 2.56 and 2.62).

QUESTION 9. *In what ways can rural areas support the overall aim of developing the economy?*

There is a requirement for investment and support for rural business, development of tourism, wildlife tourism, outdoor recreation, agricultural diversification and increasing uptake in conservation management schemes like the Rural Stewardship Scheme. The development of core path networks and the other economic opportunities arising out of the Access legislation (part of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003) should benefit the rural economy

QUESTION 10. *Should more housing be built in the countryside?*

Within the boundaries of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park we have a preference for small scale rural housing developments that are appropriate to their location and are in keeping with existing, traditional styles.

QUESTION 19. *Two potential areas for commercial wind farm development have been identified, are these areas suitable? Should further areas be identified? What constraining factors do you envisage to future wind farm development?*

Wind farm development should be constrained within protected landscapes and other areas that are important for biodiversity, tourism and recreation. It may be useful to indicate areas where large windfarms developments are less likely to receive planning permission.

QUESTION 20. *An area has been identified for the large scale coppicing of wood for fuel and forest brash utilisation linked to a possible biomass or co-fired power station. Is this concept valid and how can community benefit be gained? Are there other areas that can be identified?*

There is potential for development of research facilities for renewable energy. With a range of renewable energy sources and educational establishments

there is potential for an alternative energy/sustainable development centre. This could be a working farm type of centre with wind, biomass fuel, slurry/methane, solar, underground heat exchange, hydro power, reedbed water treatment. Working with local universities to research new technologies the centre would have a tourism element.

*QUESTION 23. Apart from a recognition of the importance of the urban edge of the major towns it is not proposed to introduce landscape designations into the plan other than required by European and national legislation. Is this proposed policy stance correct?*

There should be an indication of areas where large scale developments are not encouraged, due to cultural, environmental or recreational constraints.