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**Sent:** 21 February 2018 15:43

**To:** Global Goals

**Subject:** RE: Open letter to the Leader of the Council - SDGs in Scotland [PUBLIC]

**CLASSIFICATION: PUBLIC**

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your letter seeking commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I commend Scotland's ambition to pursue these goals at home and throughout world nations and I am pleased to endorse them on behalf of East Ayrshire Council. In answer to your call to action, I am pleased that we in East Ayrshire share these aspirations and have well established arrangements through our Community Planning Partnership to deliver on them.

The Council has adopted the Community Plan 2015-30, as its corporate plan and the organisation is aligned to its three strategic delivery themes: Economy & Skills, Wellbeing and Safer Communities, which cut across the 17 SDGs. It reports annually on its performance related to the whole suite of indicators and full range of partnership activities taken forward to improve outcomes in local communities.

Our commitment to achieving the SDGs is reflected in the following examples;

In relation to Poverty and Hunger, the Council has pledged its support for the "Stick Your Labels" campaign to challenge the stigma of poverty and will continue its focus on financial inclusion, which last year saw financial gains of over £4.6 million additional income for people who used the Financial Inclusion Team. We will continue to operate initiatives designed to tackle food poverty through increasing the uptake of free school meals and supporting organisations like Centrestage to deliver their "food with dignity" programme.

In relation to Good Health and Wellbeing; the Health and Social Care Partnership leads delivery of the local wellbeing agenda supported by the Council's Vibrant Communities Team and together have a range of community based programmes that have a positive impact on people's health and build resilience in our communities. We are seeing a reduction in the proportion of our local adult population who are dying prematurely. Raising educational attainment continues to be a key strategic priority for the Council as is working with our community partners to ensure our young people are work ready when they leave school. We are seeing positive trends in performance relating to improving literacy and numeracy as well as the proportion of school leavers who are in positive and sustained destinations.

Turning to Affordable & Clean Energy and Climate Action, our Energy Efficiency and Carbon Management Programme contributed to a 5% reduction in our carbon emissions between 2015/16 and 2016/17 and over 99% of our housing stock meets the energy efficiency element of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard. East Ayrshire is leading the way in

recycling and waste management in Scotland with the introduction of our new kerbside trolley recycling service; its innovative design will help improve the quality and quantity of materials captured for recycling , thereby reducing landfill waste.

In terms of Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure: through Invest East Ayrshire we are supporting entrepreneurship, attracting inward investment and growing the local business base; 89.9% of the area had access to superfast broadband in 2016/17 and we are working with local businesses and our neighbouring Councils to progress the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

In relation to Sustainable Cities and Communities and Life On Land, revitalising and diversifying our town centres is a strategic priority and our Local Development Plan ensures that our green infrastructure is fundamental to local developments. We are reconnecting communities in the south of our area with the local landscape and tackling large scale environmental degradation through our Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership, which is creating opportunities for leisure, tourism, skills and training that will renew the landscape and celebrate our local heritage.

As a Council, we are on a journey of transformation that pledges to have local people and communities at its heart and our approach is that we are “always on” engagement to ensure we have open and ongoing conversations with our citizens.

I trust this is helpful in illustrating how East Ayrshire Council contributes to delivery of a sustainable Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Douglas Reid  
Leader of the Council.