

Action note from SEPA LINK meeting 8 August 2011 at SEPA HQ Stirling

Attending:

LINK: Helen Zealley, President and SEPA Board member

Dan Barlow, LINK Trustee, WWF Scotland

Lloyd Austin, LINK Trustee, RSPB Scotland

Deborah Long, LINK Chair, Plantlife Scotland

Alice Walsh, LINK Development Officer

SEPA: David Sigsworth, Chair

Campbell Gemmell, Chief Executive

David Gorman, Head of Environmental Strategy

James Curran, Director of Science and Strategy

1. Review of previous meeting and action note (4/5/10)

All actions had been addressed. The contacts chart would be updated **Action: AW/DG to update list of key contacts by topic for sharing between organisations.**

2. Political developments and impact on respective organisational priorities:

Scotland: SEPA is promoting its 2-page vision statement, how it wishes to progress with better regulation/service/environmental outcomes with fewer resources; and awaits announcement of the government programme on 22 September. SEPA has good liaison with Energy and Enterprise building understanding of common goals. LINK's topline concern is the relegation of sustainable development, with differing levels of understanding of it across government. Upcoming opportunities for framing the debate - where success would equate with good environmental outcomes were discussed. Agreed that an inclusive 'national conversation' on natural capital/assets would be beneficial, mirroring that on the economy. The meeting discussed ways to build on the current level of interest.

SEPA prepared a briefing on Rio which it would share, and it was agreed useful to encourage more proactivity in Scotland.

SEPA is holding Parliament events in September and meetings committee clerks, and would like to hear more about LINK's priorities.

Actions: JC/LINK FWTF (Lisa Webb) to liaise on Hydro Nation.

DG/JF and Andy Myles/LINK members to meet on network's Parliamentary priorities.

DG to ensure AW sent briefing on Rio.

UK developments of relevance: SEPA's comms with EU are good, therefore less focussed on Westminster developments where environment is fully devolved. Discussion on developments on CAP /SRDP/ Sustainable Land Use Strategy agreed a meeting would be useful.

Action: DG to liaise with LINK SLUS/ATF (Vicki Swales)

3. Land and Ecosystem Services, Natural Environment White Paper and Scottish response.

The meeting discussed progress for Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and ways forward. LINK view was that linking SBS review outcomes to the NEWP would delay action. There are opportunities to link outcomes of SBS review to the SLUS. These issues related to discussions under 2 above, requiring momentum for positive action.

DG and LA to draft key issues for wider debate on environment and success.

4. Update on key SEPA transformational projects:

Better Regulation update: Paper circulated. SEPA required legislative change, including its funding regime, to do its job effectively; if the legislation was not forthcoming there would be resourcing problems. SEPA would value support from the ENGOs. Following useful meetings held in August and May, SEPA would prepare an update.

Action: Jo Green to send briefing to AW for circulation when appropriate

Step change in Science and Strategy update: JC updated the meeting on the drive to create 'sustainability science', including pilots for citizen science, integrating lab and data facilities, and changes to monitoring regime in line with the BR agenda through CAMERAS. Costs have been cut by 21% with some reinvestment of

savings. Discussions across the UK are happening through OPAL. LINK can assist as a gateway to members. Focus on coordination of monitoring through CAMERAS. Intention is for it to relate to the National Performance Framework and it should help in forming better indicators SEPA would share its input to the NPF review which had not been conducted mostly internally between SGov and agencies.

**Action: JC/Anne Conrad to contact Kate MacColl for onward circulation of information/requests to members
DG to send AW response on review of NPF**

Scotland's Environment Web update: A briefing had been circulated. Key issue is that it will be an overview, not a replacement of other repositories. Launch of Phase 1 planned for October, with further discussions thereafter. NGO engagement and advocacy of it useful. The LINK contact is Gill Rowse, at SWT.

5. Sustainable Economic Growth – in the context of National Performance Framework/the need for strong high level sustainability indicators to guide progress

LINK highlighted this as a priority area for the network, and holding government to account. There was, and would not be, formal consultation on the NPF review. A LINK seminar (which SEPA would attend) in August pertained though views should be submitted sooner. Awareness raising of MSPs was needed, WWF was preparing a briefing. It was agreed that a meeting on NPF should be held in the first half of September.

Action: DG to liaise with AW on dates.

6. Air quality – high level concern about EU target breaches/Glasgow Commonwealth Games etc.

This concerned several member bodies of LINK with SGov planning to delay action until 2020 unacceptable. Division of responsibilities between local authorities, SEPA and SGov was a factor. SEPA would welcome greater powers. Air quality and transport were currently seen as low priority for SGov by NGOs. Data collection and monitoring were ineffective. DFM may have more interest.

7. AOB.

Red tape challenge: SEPA was not entering discussions as environment is devolved.

Next meeting should be arranged for June 2012, though potentially there will be issues for discussion at fairly high level in the autumn.

The future of the Landfill Tax in Scotland is an item for next year.

Action: DG/AW.

Revised contacts list.

Issue	SEPA lead	LINK member leads. Green indicates where there is an active LINK taskforce.	LINK staff In general please contact Kate MacColl for circulating info/requests to members, kate@scotlink.org
Agriculture, including CAP reform, SRDP	Dave Gorman/Mark Aitken	Agriculture taskforce temporary convenor Jonathan Wordsworth, j.wordsworth@archaeologyscotland.org.uk Also Vicki Swales Vicki.Swales@rspb.org.uk	
Air quality	Jane Allan	Dan Barlow, WWF, Stan Blackley, FoES, Keith Irving, Living Streets, keith.irving@livingstreets.org.uk ; sblackley@foe-scotland.org.uk ; dbarlow@wwfscotland.org.uk ;	
Biodiversity	Depending on issue- Dave Gorman, Roger Owen or Scot Mathieson	General interest, please contact staff.	
NPF review	Dave Gorman	Dan Barlow WWF, also Maggie Keegan, convenor LINK Local Governance TF) dbarlow@wwfscotland.org.uk ; mkeegan@swt.org.uk	
Scotland's Environment Web	Martin Marsden, Dave Gorman	Gill Rowse, SWT, is the LINK delegate on the SE Web steering group. gdowse@swt.org.uk	
Waste	Kenny Boag, Alan Reid	Stan Blackley FoES, Dan Barlow, WWFS sblackley@foe-scotland.org.uk ; dbarlow@wwfscotland.org.uk ;	
Freshwater, including FRM, WFD, Hydro Nation, Better Regulation	David Harley/Scot Crawford for water issues David Faichney, Les Watson for flooding	Lisa Webb convenor Freshwater taskforce lisa.webb@rspb.org.uk Depute convenor Callum Sinclair, RAFTS callum@rafts.org.uk	
SOAs	Alan Farquhar	Maggie Keegan, convenor LINK Local Governance taskforce mkeegan@swt.org.uk	

SLUS	Dave Gorman/Mark Aitken	Vicki Swales convenes (SLUS TF) Vicki.Swales@rspb.org.uk Depute Tony King SWT, tking@swt.org.uk	
Climate/energy	Dave Gorman/Paula Charleson	Sam Gardner WWF Scotland sigardner@wwfscotland.org.uk ; Jim Densham RSPB Scotland jim.densham@rspb.org.uk Stan Blackley, FoES sblackley@foe-scotland.org.uk Many member bodies are interested in aspects. Staff can advise.	
Climate change adaptation	Dave Gorman/Paula Charleson	Jim Densham convenor of LINK Climate Adaptation taskforce jim.densham@rspb.org.uk	Kate MacColl
Economics/alts to GDP	Dave Gorman/Eric Mcrory/Ishani Erasmus	Dan Barlow WWFS, Jonny Hughes SWT, jhughes@swt.org.uk Lloyd Austin, RSPB, Stan Blackley FoES	Andy Myles andy@scotlink.org
Land and ecosystem services	Dave Gorman for LUS, Roger Owen or Dave Gorman for ecosystem services	Deborah Long Plantlife, deborah.long@plantlife.org.uk Jonny Hughes SWT jhughes@swt.org , Vicki Swales RSPB Vicki.Swales@rspb.org.uk (SLUS TF) Of wide interest to many other members, please contact Kate.	Kate MacColl
Landscape	-	John Mayhew, convenor Landscape TF info@ruralscotland.org	
Marine, all issues	Brian Miller Sandy Downie Phil Leeks (depending on the issue)	Callum Duncan Marine Conservation Society convenor of LINK Marine taskforce scotland@mcsuk.org	2 dedicated marine policy officers Lindsay Roberts and Sarah Archer. Lindsay@scotlink.org ; sarah@scotlink.org
Planning, Strategic Environment Assessment	Alan Farquhar or Lesley Duncan	Aedan Smith, convenes LINK Planning taskforce Aedan.Smith@rspb.org.uk	
Citizen Science	Anne Conrad		Kate MacColl for circulation of info