

**Motion S4M-07111: John Wilson, Central Scotland
Welcoming Oxfam's Our Economy Report
Wednesday, 4th September, 2013**

Summary

- LINK supports the publication of Oxfam's report "Our Economy – towards a new prosperity"
- In particular, we strongly support the recommendation to "Build on the National Performance Framework and the Oxfam Humankind Index to create a better way of measuring our collective prosperity."

"For too many Scots, the existing economic model is failing. Far from improving their lives, it traps them in a cycle of economic hardship. Yet it is possible to overcome poverty, both in Scotland and across the UK - many of the solutions already exist, hidden within the very communities hit hardest by an economic model that worships at the altar of 'economic growth'. The extraordinary work of our partners in Scotland has helped frame this report, where we hope to show how allocating resources in a more effective and sustainable way can deliver lasting change."

– from Oxfam's "**Our Economy – towards a new prosperity**", June 2013

"We want to live in a Scotland where we measure the success of our society intelligently. We want to live in a Scotland where economic, social and environmental success is equally valued – and where they all are measured in terms of their long-term sustainability and our living within environmental limits. We want to escape from the position where economic 'growth' is given primacy. We want our prosperity to be related to the common wealth of the planet we live on."

- from LINK's "**Referendum Challenge**", June 2012.

Scottish Environment LINK strongly supports the publication of Oxfam's report "Our Economy – towards a new prosperity". Coming from a social perspective, the report echoes and matches our doubts, concerns and disagreement with the proposition that unending "economic growth" is the best or only way to measure the success of our society. Like Oxfam, we seek to find ways of measuring our economic, social and environmental wellbeing - all together, without any one sphere being dominant. A healthy environment is the essential foundation for a strong economy and a stable society.

This is why LINK is taking part in discussions, organised by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, to improve the content, operation and effectiveness of the National Performance Framework. It is the basis for our evidence to Parliament on the Budget. And it is the principal reason for our opposing the imposition of a "duty to promote sustainable economic growth" on Scotland's environmental regulators in Section 4 of the Regulatory Reform Bill.

Accordingly, LINK supports many of the Oxfam report's recommendations – and in particular, we strongly support the recommendation to "**Build on the National Performance Framework and the Oxfam Humankind Index to create a better way of measuring our collective prosperity.**"

For further detail of our thoughts on this issue, please see "**Environment and the Economy: Helping Scotland to Flourish**" <http://www.scotlink.org/files/policy/PositionPapers/LINKHelpingScotlandFlourish.pdf>

MSPs might also wish to read similar excellent material on the issue from the Carnegie Trust UK, in their publication "**Measuring What Matters**" at <http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/changing-minds/enterprise-and-society/measuring-progress,-measuring-wellbeing>

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