

Working for sustainable development through Single Outcome Agreements

LINK's [report](#) (*published February 2010*) identifies 10 key areas for attention which will benefit the environment and improve Scotland's health, communities and the economy. These are Biodiversity, Climate Change, Ecological footprint, Education/Volunteering, Historic and Built Environment, Landscape, Physical activity/Health, Recreational access, Transport, Water and Flooding.

LINK members will monitor how these issues are addressed within Local Plans and SOAs and will overview emerging trends in the lead-up to the national and local elections in 2011 and 2012. In doing so, LINK members are keen to work with 'volunteer' Councils across the urban-rural spectrum and to engage with other stakeholders at the local and national level.

The environment has received a disappointingly low profile in the [official advice](#) given to local authorities though we know this gap is recognised, at least in part, and we are keen to work with the Improvement Service to address it. LINK's report represents a good contribution towards further analysis.

In the guidance to local authorities there is welcome attention to public and active transport, recycling and carbon emissions per capita, and many local authorities are making a real effort – for example 13 are using the carbon or ecological footprint as a measure of progress and 8 have included a biodiversity indicator.

This is not in itself sufficient, if we are to flourish. That needs action across the length and breadth of Scotland in all 10 areas identified here. A success would be to see all local authorities and community planning partners improving habitats for local wildlife, increasing opportunities for recreation and community gardening, tackling climate emissions across their areas and helping schools to become truly sustainable. We believe these priorities create better places to live, work and play – all working towards a more sustainable Scotland.

To discuss, or for information about how LINK member bodies can offer support, [contact LINK](#)

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