

Working for Sustainable Development through Single Outcome Agreements

A contribution from Scottish Environment LINK

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Executive summary

The aim of this report is to help ensure that Single Outcome Agreements are working towards a more sustainable future for Scotland. The report also aims to provide support from Scottish Environment LINK and its member bodies to Community Planning Partnerships in the ongoing process of drawing up and reviewing Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs), in relation to sustainable development and with particular reference to the environment. The environment is the context for all activity in Scotland and a healthy, protected environment is central to achieving all five of the government's Strategic Objectives. However, LINK members have concerns that many aspects of the environment are not yet recognised in SOAs, nor in "below-the-waterline" management activity.

The report sets out LINK's preferred outcomes and indicators on a range of environmental topics. We hope these will inform the SOA process and influence activities which contribute to achieving the local outcomes identified in each area. These proposed outcomes and indicators should also inform future development of Local Outcome Indicators, leading to better SOAs in terms of Scotland's environmental commitments. The Menu of Local Outcome Indicators published in November 2009 is disappointing in this respect. The cautious approach adopted in terms of types and availability of data to be used has led to serious omissions and potentially restrains aspiration. LINK members are keen to support Improvement Service partners in addressing this, and were pleased to note acknowledgement of such 'gaps' in the Good Practice Guide accompanying the November 2009 Menu.

Key recommendations from LINK's report:

- Local priorities and area profiles need to recognise the importance of sustainable development and the environment.
- Sustainable development issues should be integrated into SOAs and reflected in both above- and below-the-waterline activities, with links between these two levels to ensure positive action is reinforced.
- LINK recommends that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is carried out on all SOAs.
- Preferred outcome indicators are given for ten topics related to environmental issues in Part II, along with additional outcomes and indicators which aim to inform below-the-waterline activities and reflect local characteristics.
- LINK and its member bodies are keen to offer support and advice to local authorities in the drawing up and review of SOAs. Contact details for these organisations are given in the Appendix.

LINK's preferred outcomes and indicators for the ten priority topics we have identified, are:

Biodiversity / Ecosystems / Greenspace – National Outcomes 1, 5, 6, 10, 12, 14

Outcome: Delivery of priorities identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

Indicator: Number of LBAPs that have progressed and/or increased/been completed.

Source: Data held by local authorities.

Climate Change - National Outcomes 10, 12 and 14

Outcome: Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced for local authority operations and in the local authority area through the exercise of local authority functions, contributing to the national statutory climate change targets.

Indicator: Carbon Management Plan, Carbon Trust. Local authority own data; DECC National Indicator 186 Per capita reduction of CO₂ emissions in the local authority area.

Source: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/loc_reg_dev/ni185_186/ni185_186.aspx.

Ecological footprinting / Consumption and use of resources / Waste – National Outcomes 10, 12 and 14

Outcome: Ecological or Carbon Footprint is reduced.

Indicator: Ecological or Carbon Footprint.

Source: <http://resource-accounting.org.uk/downloads/scotland/?page=downloads&area=scotland>.

Education / Volunteering - National Outcomes 3, 4, 11, 12

Outcome: All schools have a whole school approach to sustainable development education (SDE) – embedding it in their work on the curriculum, how the campus is run and in the culture of the school.

Indicators:

- Number of schools with SDE in their School Development Plan.
- Number of schools with an SDE Action Plan.
- Number of schools achieving an Eco Schools Green Flag.
- Number of schools achieving Rights Promoting School or other Global Citizenship award.

Source: Local Authority own data, HMIE inspection process.

Historic and Built Environment - National Outcomes 4, 10, 12

Outcome: An effective system for managing change in the historic environment is maintained.

Indicator: Historic Environment Service maintained by every local authority to an agreed national common standard.

Source: Archaeology Scotland annual publication; Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. ALGAO Scotland <http://www.algao.org.uk/Association/Scotland/ScotIntro.htm>.

Landscape - National Outcomes 1, 13, 10

Outcome: Exemplary management of National Scenic Areas (NSAs) by local authorities.

Indicator: Agreed management plans for NSAs drawn up and implemented with SNH and other stakeholders.

Source: SNH National Scenic Areas <http://www.snh.org.uk/scripts-snh/ab-pa03.asp>.

Physical activity / Health – National Outcomes 6, 10, 12, 14

Outcome: Increase in the number of children and adults meeting minimum recommended physical activity targets.

Indicator: Targets and activities in local physical activity strategy are achieved.

Source: Scottish Government/Local authority physical activity data.

Recreational access – National Outcomes 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14

Outcome: More people enjoy regular visits to the outdoors / local greenspace for recreational purposes.

Indicator: Increase in percentage of people making one or more visits to the outdoors each week.

Source: Scottish Recreation Survey http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/321.pdf / local authority data, such as Ranger Service programme, Country park/core path visitor counts.

Transport – National Outcomes 1, 6, 10, 14

Outcome: Local environments are highly conducive to walking and cycling for people of all ages and abilities.

Indicator: Increase in the number of local journeys (less than 5 miles) made by walking or cycling.

Source: Scottish Household Survey: Travel Diary <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/09/11094846/0>.

Water and Flooding – National Outcomes 10, 12

Outcome: Sustainable management of water resources and flooding.

Indicator: Number (or percentage) of water bodies meeting good ecological status/potential under the Water Framework Directive.

Source: SEPA's District and Area River Basin Management Plans.

Indicator: Proportion of total flooding expenditure allocated to natural flood management measures (such as area of floodplain restored, protected or enhanced).

Source: Local authorities' biennial reports produced through Flood Risk (Management) Scotland Act.

Part 1

1. Introduction

1.1. Aim of the report

The aim of this report is to provide support from Scottish Environment LINK and its member bodies to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) in the ongoing process of drawing up and reviewing Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) in relation to sustainable development, with particular reference to the environment. Scotland has many national and international commitments relating to environmental issues which are delivered at a local level. The ultimate aim is to ensure that SOAs are working towards a more sustainable future for Scotland, and to provide a meaningful and credible way to measure this progress. LINK member bodies will use the report in their engagement with local authorities focussing on their key areas of interest. Comments made by LINK member bodies have been formulated in this report to produce suggested outcomes and indicators which LINK hopes will inform the SOA process and influence the management activities which contribute to achieving the outcomes which each local authority has identified.

LINK members are amongst many stakeholders across Scotland wishing to actively contribute to the development of Scotland's Local Outcome Indicators. As such, LINK has identified additional and alternative indicators which can help towards progressing key local outcomes. We would encourage wide community involvement in future development of the Indicators published in November 2009 by the Improvement Service, where current reliance on certain types of statistics and their availability creates critical omissions and could affect the longer term aim of the SOA process to deliver national strategic objectives at the local level.

LINK recognises that as SOAs are being developed, much information and guidance is being produced. We have therefore attempted to keep this report concise but invite local authorities to contact LINK and its member bodies for further discussion as required. See the contact list in the Appendix.

1.2. The role of Scottish Environment LINK

Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment organisations. It has over 30 member bodies collectively representing around half a million people and a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society.

LINK assists communication between member bodies, government and its agencies and other sectors within civic society. While LINK acts at local, national and international levels to ensure that the environment is fully recognised in the development of policy and legislation affecting Scotland, there is no doubt that the new outcomes approach for government in Scotland has presented a challenge for many member bodies.

Both LINK and its member bodies want to work in partnership with local authorities, as well as with organisations such as the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), in the ongoing development of SOAs to ensure that sustainable development is given appropriate recognition. It is readily acknowledged that CPPs have made considerable achievements in the process of developing SOAs so far, especially given the short time frame in which to do so. It is also recognised that the underlying aim of SOAs is to reflect and deliver on local priorities, and this has rightly resulted in a great diversity in the way SOAs have been produced.

LINK is keen to offer support to Improvement Service partners in terms of addressing the 'gaps' identified in the Improvement Service Good Practice Guidance¹ published November 2009. Presently, there is a lack of local indicators to measure consumption and footprint, biodiversity, water and flood management, recreational access, education for citizenship and volunteering². LINK members wish to support future development of SOAs and good practice guidance, and can offer advice on certain issues which are not being addressed effectively, or where it is felt that certain opportunities are being missed in terms of achieving outcomes relating to the environment. The sustainable use of resources and the enhancement of biodiversity are as relevant to LINK interests as active travel and health, outdoor recreation and the conservation of the historic built environment.

1 Good Practice Note on the Use of Outcome Indicators Within Single Outcome Agreements, November 2009

2 These issues are not addressed by the Menu of Local Outcome Indicators published November 2009

2. The importance of sustainable development in SOAs

The value of Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it is clearly shown by the setting of one of the Scottish Government's five Strategic Objectives as *Greener Scotland*, and this is specifically reflected in National Outcomes 10, 12 and 14 (see Table 1 below for listing of all National Outcomes with relevant National Indicators which relate to the environment). Yet the realisation of all of the government's five Strategic Objectives is based on having a healthy and protected environment. Sustainable development needs a balance between the economy, the environment and society, and the environment is thus more fundamental in importance than its reflection in just one strategic objective would imply.

The environment is the context for all activity in Scotland, economic or otherwise, and LINK member bodies' interests range across the whole spectrum of that activity. LINK believes that the Scottish Government's overarching aim of furthering sustainable economic growth cannot be achieved without placing the environment at the heart of all activities. This is particularly clear in relation to key industries such as food, tourism or whisky production, which overtly rely on a clean and healthy environment, but it is also true that businesses want to invest in a country which values its environment and is a pleasant place to be situated in.

The links between a high quality environment and a high quality of life have also been made. Communities which have access to well-maintained, good quality greenspace, land for community cultivation, path networks, or which have easy links to the wider countryside, mean it is easier for people to be more active, thus improving the population's health record. While biodiversity is intrinsically important, it is also recognised that the benefits to both physical and mental health of an accessible, biodiverse environment and pleasant landscape are particularly strong. Areas which people want to visit also score highly as places people want to live in, and people feel safer if they get to know their neighbourhood on foot. It is essential that school children have access to the outdoors where they can learn about the natural world and grow their own food; where subjects are brought to life and both children and adults learn new skills.

A Healthier, Smarter, Wealthier & Fairer and Safer & Stronger Scotland, as well as a Greener Scotland can only be achieved by clearly recognising the integral role played by the environment and its provision of the context for all activity, and by including environmental targets and indicators across all of the sectors.

At a national level, three national outcomes are particularly linked with sustainable development and the environment, numbers 10, 12 and 14. Yet the achievement of many other outcomes and national indicators is also underpinned by the quality of our environment and its importance as a context for other activities. This is shown in Table 1 (page 9).

3. The Single Outcome Agreement process

We pay tribute to the huge amount of work done so far in this process and would like to support the future development of SOAs in order to enable CPPs to fully achieve their outcomes at a local level, and to contribute towards the national outcomes. While there are many differences in the ways that the various Community Planning Partnerships have drawn up their SOAs, certain key areas of concern for LINK member bodies have been identified.

As well as the reservations outlined above regarding choice of indicators, LINK is concerned that some priority local themes do not feature environmental topics, or make explicit the extent to which the environment is integrated into all of the government's strategic objectives and thus give the issues due consideration. Likewise, some Area Profiles do not give full recognition of the extent to which the environment provides a context towards achieving local outcomes. While sustainable development issues may be covered in "below-the-waterline" management activities, this is not always the case. In addition, the lack of specific mention at a high level also needs attention. CPPs are therefore urged to ensure that environmental issues are fully taken into account and opportunities for joining up different topics are found in order to reinforce positive action. Environmental issues need to be incorporated into below-the-waterline activities, and, at the same time, the more links that are made between above- and below-the-waterline activities, the more likely it is that outcomes will be achieved.

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 states that the responsible authority should apply Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to all its plans and programmes. LINK recommends that SEA is carried out at least once at the start of the three-year rolling SOA process, and again when the SOA changes. If there is any lack of clarity about the need or not (in law), SEA should be applied on a discretionary basis for the benefits it will ensure of identifying any significant negative impacts of the stated outcomes and enabling action to be taken to mitigate these impacts. An additional benefit will be to ensure that outcomes act in synergy rather than being inadvertently antagonistic. LINK hopes that consideration of potential interactions between outcomes will become a priority for Improvement Service partners in the development of future Local Outcome Indicators. LINK will monitor for pertinent information, so as to support that discussion.

We hope this report will augment the information available to CPPs by endorsing some relevant Improvement Service indicators and by providing additional existing and proposed outcome indicators in certain topic areas relating to sustainable development. These should be seen as being of particular use to CPPs in terms of their below-the-waterline management activities. Taking these together with the Improvement Service menu, CPPs should be able to identify the outcome indicators which best represent their local priorities and work towards the achievement of their local outcomes. LINK's proposed outcome indicators are listed by topic in Part II of this report. Contact details of organisations which can engage in further discussion on these topics are given in the Appendix.

Table 1: National Outcomes and Indicators which have a particular relevance to the environment

National Outcome 1. We live in a Scotland that is the best and most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
Reduce the proportion of driver journeys delayed due to traffic congestion
National Outcome 3. We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.
Reduce the rate of increase in the proportion of children with their Body Mass Index outwith a healthy range by 2018.
National Outcome 4. Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
Reduce the rate of increase in the proportion of children with their Body Mass Index outwith a healthy range by 2018.
National Outcome 5. Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
Reduce the rate of increase in the proportion of children with their Body Mass Index outwith a healthy range by 2018.
National Outcome 6. We live longer, healthier lives.
Reduce the rate of increase in the proportion of children with their Body Mass Index outwith a healthy range by 2018. Increase the average score of adults on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale by 2011. Increase healthy life expectancy at birth in the most deprived areas. Reduce mortality from coronary heart disease among the under 75s in deprived areas. Increase the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week.
National Outcome 7. We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
Increase the average score of adults on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale by 2011. Increase healthy life expectancy at birth in the most deprived areas.
National Outcome 8. We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
Reduce the rate of increase in the proportion of children with their Body Mass Index outwith a healthy range by 2018
National Outcome 9. We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
Increase the percentage of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live.
National Outcome 10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
Increase the percentage of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live. Reduce overall ecological footprint. Improve the state of Scotland's Historic Buildings, monuments and environment. Increase the proportion of journeys to work made by public or active transport.
National Outcome 11. We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
Increase the percentage of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live.
National Outcome 12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations.
Reduce overall ecological footprint. Increase to 95% the proportion of protected nature sites in favourable condition. Improve the state of Scotland's Historic Buildings, monuments and environment. Biodiversity: increase the index of abundance of terrestrial breeding birds. Increase the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week.
National Outcome 13. We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.
Improve the state of Scotland's Historic Buildings, monuments and environment. Increase the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week.
National Outcome 14. We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.
Reduce overall ecological footprint. Increase the proportion of journeys to work made by public or active transport. 50% of electricity generated in Scotland to come from renewable sources by 2020 (interim target of 31% by 2011). Reduce to 1.32 million tonnes waste sent to landfill by 2010. Ensure 70% key commercial fish stocks at full reproductive capacity and harvested sustainably by 2015.

Part 2

Topics with suggested outcomes/indicators for Single Outcome Agreements

LINK bodies have identified the topics below as a framework for Councils / Community Planning Partnerships to consider the extent to which their SOA contributes to National Outcomes and Indicators relating to the environment. As is to be expected, there is some overlap between topics. Each topic has LINK's preferred headline outcome(s) and indicator(s) but the additional information contained in each topic table aims to provide suggestions for the "below-the-waterline" management activity as well. This wide range of information has been included to acknowledge the variations in each local authority area in terms of Area Profile and Local Outcomes, and the varying availability of some data.

- Biodiversity / Ecosystems / Greenspace
- Climate change
- Ecological footprinting / Consumption and use of resources / Waste
- Education / Volunteering
- Historic and built environment
- Landscape
- Physical activity / Health
- Recreational access
- Transport
- Water and flooding

1. Biodiversity / Ecosystems / Greenspace – National Outcomes 1, 5, 6, 10, 12, 14

Local authorities have a statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. This should be referenced within each SOA, with links to related actions underway. To reverse the decline in biodiversity, action is needed, not just in specially protected areas, but throughout Scotland’s rural and urban environment. The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy calls for Scotland to become a world leader in the conservation of biodiversity, and all need to play their part.

Conserving biodiversity is not only a desirable goal in itself; it is also vital in supporting Scotland’s response to tackling climate change and in protecting and enhancing the ecosystem services upon which Scotland’s social, economic and cultural wellbeing depends.

Biodiversity is also an integral part of local distinctiveness and an essential part of the environmental and cultural heritage of local communities. Local biodiversity contributes to the quality of life and can enhance people’s health in terms of physical and mental wellbeing. Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnerships are the best way to discuss, consult, plan and carry out biodiversity projects at a local level, while also contributing to national and UK targets, such as the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Good quality greenspaces (ie, those rich in wildlife) can help create attractive places in which to invest and live and green networks can link greenspaces such as parks and woodlands to the wider countryside, providing routes that can be used for recreation and travel, as well as allowing species to move freely in response to climate change.

LINK preferred outcome and indicator:

Outcome: Delivery of priorities identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

Indicator: Number of LBAPs that have progressed and / or increased / been completed.

Source: Data held by local authorities.

Additional outcomes and indicators to inform SOA and below-the-waterline activity on issues related to biodiversity:

Outcomes	Indicators	Sources
Increase in populations / condition of relevant national priority species and habitats over next 3 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of national priority targets included in LBAP and progress towards meeting them. Baseline: 2008 reporting round to identify percentage of national priority targets included in LBAP. Measure of delivery: actions progressed and/or increased species numbers of habitat condition. 	Local authority data
Local biodiversity is enhanced through effective management of locally iconic habitats and species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of hectares under agri-environment management. Number of Rural Development Contract applications including measures supporting BAP and LBAP species. Number of hectares of native woodland creation. Condition of designated sites. Number of (or hectares of land designated as) local nature conservation sites (LNCS). Baseline: LNCS survey; target: establish LNCS/ identify new LNCS/and or increase percentage of cover. 	SGRPID monitoring FCS and SG data
Soil quality is improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of private composters. Percentage increase of household waste going to local authority composters. Percentage returned to market gardens and private gardeners. 	Local authority data / WRAP / Scottish Water

<p>Greenspace is enhanced and managed for wildlife.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of butterfly species present (indicator in development). • Percentage of local authority managed greenspace managed for wildlife. • Hectares of functional green networks. Baseline: identify and map land given over to green network to improve linkages between existing wildlife habitats and create new corridors to allow wildlife movement between habitats. Assessed using integrated habitat network model, e.g. BEETLE model developed by Forest Research. (This is a climate change adaptation mechanism). • Open Space Strategy and action plan in place and targets achieved. • Number of greenspace/habitat enhancement projects achieved. • Number of local authority greenspaces managed with organic methods. • Increase in allotment sites in local authority including area, tenancy, unlet allotments, accounts. 	<p>Butterfly Conservation Scotland data</p> <p>BEETLE model not yet being used by local authorities but recommended by LINK for future use</p> <p>Open Space Audits carried out in all local authority areas which contribute to Open Space Strategies</p> <p>Local authority statutory records</p>
<p>Increased percentage of land in favourable environmental condition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of degraded peatland under restoration (this will contribute to climate change mitigation). • Percentage of peatland in favourable condition (this will contribute to climate change mitigation). • Percentage of land in area under cultivation (private and community gardens) compared to that under tarmac, decking and hard cover. • Percentage of peat substitute used in Parks and cultivated areas. • Number of designated sites with planning permission. 	<p>Local authority data available in some areas</p> <p>Open Space Audits</p> <p>The Greenspace audit and Local Plans</p> <p>Local authority data</p> <p>SNH</p>
<p>The impacts of planning decisions are assessed accurately and comprehensively regarding their effects on biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning advice produced on when, where and how EIAs should be undertaken for invertebrates, fungi, lichens, etc. • Guidance produced on how the Scottish Biodiversity List should be used by planners. • Development plan policies in place to protect the natural environment and biodiversity. • Area of land available for community cultivation per head of population or per household. 	<p>Local authority planning data available in some areas</p> <p>Local authority data</p>

2. Climate change – National Outcomes 10, 12 and 14

LINK advocates a separate reporting line in SOAs on climate change, even though greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are already included within reporting on ecological footprinting. This is because there is an increasing number of requirements which local authorities now need to incorporate within the SOA process and the context is rapidly changing. Most importantly, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 introduces a duty on all public bodies, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the exercise of their functions, which will come into force by February 2011. The Scottish Government will produce guidance on what is required of public bodies to ensure consistency in understanding of the duty and actions to be taken. In addition, all 32 local authorities have signed the Scottish Climate Change Declaration and report annually on their activities.

LINK preferred outcome and indicator:

Outcome: Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced for local authority operations and in the local authority area through the exercise of local authority functions, contributing to the national statutory climate change targets as set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

Indicator: Carbon Management Plan, Carbon Trust. Local authority own data; DEFRA National Indicator 186 Per capita reduction of CO₂ emissions in the local authority area.

Source: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/loc_reg_dev/ni185_186/ni185_186.aspx.

Outcomes	Indicators	Sources
Local authority is actively engaged with the community to achieve GHG emissions reductions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicly available plan with targets and timescales to achieve significant reductions in GHG emissions from local authority operations. GHG emissions reduction and climate change adaptation measures are incorporated in all strategies, plans and programmes. Annual statement of progress on emissions reduction in operations, area, and on climate change adaptation. 	<p>Local authority carbon management plan</p> <p>Local authority corporate plans, development plans, service plans</p>

3. Ecological footprinting / Consumption and use of resources / Waste – National Outcomes 10, 12 and 14

The Ecological Footprint is a national indicator in the National Performance Framework and consumption-based (footprint) reporting on GHG emissions is a requirement under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and referenced in the National Performance Framework. The Local Footprints Project (a partnership between WWF Scotland and Sustainable Scotland Network) has been working to help local authorities and schools make an effective contribution to reducing Scotland's footprint. The Ecological and Carbon Footprints are outcome indicators which provide high level area-wide environmental impact data on transport, housing energy, food and more. The footprint data provides an average (per capita) figure that can be used to provide a baseline from which to monitor the direction of travel in future, particularly when supported by input of local data.

Footprint is an aggregate indicator, and a useful high level compass to measure progress towards environmental sustainability. Underpinning this strategic outcome with service plans and projects across the partnership (below-the-waterline) is critical to footprint reduction. The footprint data can be used and modelled to identify how policies and plans are impacting outcomes related to natural resource use and CO₂ emissions in the area. The footprint data is provided on a per capita basis and can therefore be easily related and described to a variety of community audiences. Footprint data reflects the geography and characteristics of the local authority area and population, as well as local and national policies which are being implemented so it is a useful part of the Local Area Profile.

Reducing the ecological footprint is a long term outcome that can only be delivered through partnership working, but reductions will come through analysis and adaptation of the community plan, local plans, transport strategies, housing strategies, etc. Local Footprints has produced a briefing on using the Ecological Footprint in SOAs which is available at <http://www.localfootprints.org>.

The area of sustainable consumption and production is a significant gap that needs to be addressed in the development of the SOA process and LINK supports calls by WWF Scotland and the Sustainable Scotland Network for:

- (i) continued use of Footprint for education/awareness raising, scenario planning and policy analysis by local authorities and CPPs;
- (ii) further investment of time and effort to understand and make use of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) data, and Footprint analysis to inform activities that will contribute to the achievement of outcomes;
- (iii) local authorities and CPPs to work together with the Local Footprints Project to increase local and national investment in scenario planning and policy analysis, and broader awareness raising, through the combined use of Footprint and DECC GHG inventory data; and
- (iv) Scottish Government, CPPs and other key stakeholders to invest in the Footprint approach at national and local levels, to develop improved time series data, improved Scottish and local sources of data, and to commit to long-term production of results.

This work should contribute to developing the Footprint and improving its use as an indicator.

LINK preferred outcome and indicator:

Outcome: Ecological or Carbon Footprint is reduced.

Indicator: Ecological or Carbon Footprint.

Source: <http://resource-accounting.org.uk/downloads/scotland/?page=downloads&area=scotland>.

Additional outcomes and indicators to inform SOA and below-the-waterline activity on issues related to Ecological Footprinting:

Outcomes	Indicators	Sources
Local footprint is stabilised (and reduced in future).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footprint data measured with REAP-based footprints methodology. • Review of actions completed as signatory of Scotland's Climate Change Declaration. • SOA process accompanied by footprinting study. 	As above
Waste reduction is being actively addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste reduction targets being met. • Recycling targets being met. 	Local authority data

4. Education/ Volunteering - National Outcomes 3, 4, 11, 12

There are many indicators covering education in SOAs, and the environment needs to be recognised as the context for much educational work, whether for school groups on guided tours of natural heritage sites, or adults learning skills alongside ranger services. Volunteering is also regarded as a positive indicator for communities and there are many opportunities for involvement in conservation volunteering.

LINK preferred outcome and indicator:

Outcome: All schools have a whole school approach to sustainable development education (SDE) – embedding it in their work on the curriculum, how the campus is run and in the culture of the school.

Indicators:

- Number of schools with SDE in their School Development Plan.
- Number of schools with an SDE Action Plan.
- Number of schools achieving an Eco Schools Green Flag.
- Number of schools achieving Rights Promoting School or other Global Citizenship award.

Source: Local Authority own data, HMIE inspection process.

Additional outcomes and indicators to inform SOA and below-the-waterline activity on issues related to Education/Volunteering:

Outcomes	Indicators	Sources
School pupils regularly undertake learning activities in natural environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of hours per week where learning takes place outdoors within school grounds or nearby greenspace, woods or countryside (averaged over year to take account of bad weather). 	Local authority own data, HMIE inspection process
All school pupils have the opportunity for longer periods of contact with the natural environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of school pupils having a full day or longer outdoor learning experience through Ranger Service, John Muir Award, Forest Schools Initiative, Natural Connections Award Programme or similar each year. 	Local authority own data, HMIE inspection process
An increase in the proportion of young people moving on to positive, sustainability-based destinations after leaving school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of young people entering BTCV Natural Talent apprenticeships in conservation and taxonomy or similar schemes. • Increase in the numbers of young people entering further and higher education courses with a sustainability focus. 	Local authority own data, HMIE inspection process Scottish Funding Council http://www.stats.sfc.ac.uk/infact/
Continuous progress in embedding sustainable development education (SDE) in Community Learning and Development (CLD) Services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the numbers of CLD staff trained in SDE. • Increase in the number of SDE CLD learning opportunities delivered. 	Local authority own data, HMIE inspection process

<p>An increase in the number of adults participating in adult learning related to sustainable development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of volunteers/volunteer days working with local Ranger Services and local branches of environmental NGOs. • Number of volunteer days spent in LBAP actions and other environmental projects. • Number of local events/activities to raise awareness of natural and cultural heritage. • Number of people attending local ranger led events. • Number of people participating in volunteer surveying, 'wildlife' recording, biological data input and adding records to Local Record Centre. • Number of community service projects that enhance the natural heritage. 	<p>Local authority own data, HMle inspection process</p>
<p>The quality of educational experience is increased.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools are using the historic environment to help deliver the Curriculum for Excellence. • Audit of current materials available for schools and uptake surveyed. 	<p>Learning and Teaching Scotland: Curriculum for Excellence</p>

5. Historic and Built Environment – National Outcomes 4, 10, 12

All local authorities and planning authorities should have access to an adequately resourced heritage service with both archaeologists and conservation officers available to give advice and support to individuals and communities in their area. This must include access to a fully resourced Sites & Monuments Record / Historic Environment Record (SMR / HER) accessible to the public. Most local authorities already have this but the level of provision is variable and we are concerned that though such a service is essential to meet Scottish Government commitments under SHEP (Scottish Historic Environment Policy) and to meet the National Outcomes, it is not seen as a central policy requirement.

LINK would like to see an annual indicator on the provision of heritage services in each local authority, including positions held and access to a fully resourced SMR/HER. As a further indicator of progress we would wish for an indicator for heritage sites to be identified, and either protected and enhanced, or recorded each year. Also an indicator of the level of community engagement in their local heritage (subsidiary indicators could include arrangements made to facilitate access to sites, leaflets & other related publications, heritage trails produced etc.). This would additionally inform the SHEA (Scottish Historic Environment Audit).

LINK preferred outcome and indicator:

Outcome: An effective system for managing change in the historic environment is maintained.

Indicator: A Historic Environment Service maintained by every local authority to an agreed national common standard.

Source: Archaeology Scotland annual publication; Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) Scotland <http://www.algao.org.uk/Association/Scotland/ScotIntro.htm>.

Additional outcomes and indicators to inform SOA and below-the-waterline activity on issues related to the Historic and Built Environment:

Outcomes	Indicators	Sources
An effective system for managing change in the historic environment is maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An adequately resourced Historic Environment Records Service in each local authority area (specialist positions held, access to adequately maintained SMR/HER to a nationally agreed standard). Publicly accessible database of local sites and record of how often it is used. Volume of information exchanged between local authorities and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) national databases. Number of entries for each local authority in Discovery and Excavation Scotland. 	<p>ALGAO Scotland Archaeology Scotland Local authority data</p> <p>Local authority data</p> <p>RCAHMS/ Local authority data</p> <p>Archaeology Scotland</p>
Employment is increased through the care, repair and maintenance of the historic environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number (all categories) of buildings listed of Historic and Archaeological Interest at risk reviewed annually. Number of buildings at risk brought back into use monitored. Percentage of local authority income spent on historic and built environment monitored. 	<p>Scottish Civic Trust register of buildings at risk</p> <p>Local authority data</p> <p>Local authority data</p>

<p>The historic environment is afforded due respect in all activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual reporting on status of heritage sites. • Percentage of Conservation Areas with a Conservation Area Appraisal adopted. • Number of local authorities which have reviewed the need to designate new conservation areas and reviewed the boundaries of their existing conservation areas in the last 5 years. • Programme of Conservation Area Management Plans identified. • Number of World Heritage Sites kept on register. • Number of partners supported and included in CPP including voluntary sector bodies with an interest in the historic environment. 	<p>SHEA Local authority data</p> <p>Local authority data</p> <p>Local authority data</p> <p>UNESCO http://whc.unesco.org/en/list</p> <p>Local authority data</p>
<p>Stronger, more confident communities are developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of local heritage projects. • Number of Heritage trails, leaflets, etc produced. • Support and advice for local societies is available. • Number of local community archaeology projects supported. 	<p>Heritage Lottery Fund data Local authority data</p> <p>Local authority data</p> <p>Archaeology Scotland, SCAPE Trust (Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion), Scotland's Rural Past, Heritage Lottery Fund</p>
<p>The historic built environment is protected and enhanced through the development plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All major applications to be accompanied by a Sustainability Statement/ Appraisal. • Culture and leisure strategy in place. 	<p>Local authority data</p> <p>Local authority data</p>

6. Landscape – National Outcomes 1, 13, 10

Scotland's landscapes and seascapes, along with other aspects of our natural and cultural heritage, are integral to our national identity. From the panoramic vistas of the highlands to the textured mosaics of trees and fields around our towns, the scenery and wildlife encountered while enjoying the outdoors can be inspirational. Yet there are many issues impacting on the outdoor environment, some of which may enhance it while others may be to its detriment. The quality of the landscape is an attractor for investment and also engenders a pride in people for their local environment. Yet there can be direct impacts from developments such as quarrying, housing or golf courses, or from government policies like transport, energy, forestry and agriculture, which can all have a widespread effect on landscapes throughout Scotland. Wild land is of particular concern since despite the existence of a range of designations and planning policies, Scottish Natural Heritage has estimated that the amount of wild land unaffected by visual intrusion was cut by 25% between 2005 and 2008. If the Scottish Government signs up to the principles of the Scottish Landscape Charter, then local authorities would be expected to adopt these principles as a local outcome.

LINK preferred outcome and indicator:

Outcome: Exemplary management of National Scenic Areas (NSAs) by local authorities.

Indicator: Agreed management plans for NSAs drawn up and implemented with SNH and other stakeholders.

Source: SNH National Scenic Area <http://www.snh.org.uk/scripts-snh/ab-pa03.asp>.

Additional outcomes and indicators to inform SOA and below-the-waterline activity on issues related to Landscape:

Outcomes	Indicators	Sources
Wild land protected and enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Local Development Plan maps which show core areas of wild land. 	SNH Wildness in Scotland's Countryside http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/polstat/pd-wsc.pdf
Special Landscape Areas positively managed to enhance their special qualities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of local authorities which have reviewed local landscape designations and put policies for their management in place with appropriate actions and targets. 	SNH Guidance on Local Landscape Designations http://www.snh.org.uk/pubs/detail.asp?id=389
All Council land explicitly managed according to principles of sustainable land use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of management plans for all land owned or managed which make explicit reference to forthcoming Scottish Government Sustainable Land Use Strategy for all land owned or managed by Council. 	Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Section 57 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2009/asp_20090012_en_1

7. Physical activity / Health – National Outcomes 6, 10, 12, 14

An active population is a healthy one, and Scotland's Physical Activity Strategy *Let's make Scotland more active* contains specific targets which should be referenced at a local level in SOAs. There are many win-win situations to be achieved in this area. For example, investment in greenspace and path networks will not only improve local biodiversity levels but will also enable more people to use active modes of transport for journeys to work and school and for recreation, thus improving the population's mental and physical health and reducing obesity levels.

LINK preferred outcome and indicator:

Outcome: Increase in the number of children and adults meeting minimum recommended physical activity targets.

Indicator: Targets and activities in local physical activity strategy are achieved.

Source: Scottish Government/Local authority physical activity data.

Additional outcomes and indicators to inform SOA and below-the-waterline activity on issues related to Physical Activity and Health:

Outcomes	Indicators	Sources
More people using active modes of transport to get to school, work, shops and other services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the number of children walking and cycling to school. Increase in the number of adults walking and cycling to work. Increase in the number of all local journeys (less than 5 miles) by walking and cycling. 	Scottish Household Survey http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/09/11094846/0 / Local authority data
Previously inactive people are becoming more active.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in Paths to Health groups set up, numbers of participants. 	Paths to Health data
More people are participating in gardening.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time expected to obtain a plot from the waiting lists for allotments held by the local authorities. 	Local authority data
Children are meeting minimum requirements for physical activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of children having 2 hours of PE each week. 	Local authority data

8. Recreational access – National Outcomes 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14

Scotland's landscape is world famous and, coupled with our world-class access legislation, there are many opportunities for all forms of outdoor recreation. However, for most people, having paths and recreation opportunities close to their homes is also important, giving them the opportunity to travel using active modes, or to take exercise in a local park. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 contained a duty on all local authorities to prepare core paths plans based on extensive public consultation. These plans are now in the process of being adopted and should be referenced within SOAs to help ensure their implementation.

Scottish residents spent £3.1 billion during visits to the outdoors in 2007 (SNH Scottish Recreation Survey 2007), so there is a real economic benefit in encouraging more visits to the outdoors, not to mention the obvious health and educational benefits.

The Ranger Service is key to delivering many of these outcomes to the local authority's residents, providing the interface between the public, council departments and land managers.

LINK preferred outcome and indicator:

Outcome: More people enjoy regular visits to the outdoors / local greenspace for recreational purposes.

Indicator: Increase in percentage of people making one or more visits to the outdoors each week.

Source: Scottish Recreation Survey http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/321.pdf / Local authority data, such as Ranger Service programme, Country Park / core path visitor counts.

Additional outcomes and indicators to inform SOA and below-the-waterline activity on issues related to Recreational access:

Outcomes	Indicators	Sources
Local people and visitors have access to, use responsibly, and enjoy a wide range of active outdoor recreation opportunities including the opportunity to garden.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of core paths plans. • Increased numbers of people using paths. • Increased length of paths/path density. • Delivery of Access Strategy. • Delivery of Allotment strategies. • Increasing user satisfaction relating to quantity and quality of opportunity, eg, varied and well maintained local walking and community cultivation opportunities. 	<p>Local authority data</p> <p>[LINK notes the gap in most local authorities for qualitative data.]</p>
Communities have access to local high-quality, well-managed local greenspace / countryside for recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion and quality of greenspace (including opportunity to garden) per head of population within a specified radius of settlement. • Percentage of adults accessing / enjoying local green space. • Number of rangers per 200,000 population. • Percentage adults cultivating local land. 	<p>Open Space Audit</p> <p>Local authority data/Scottish Government data</p> <p>Local authority data</p>
Communities have access to information and education that helps them to appreciate and enjoy biodiversity and landscapes and cultivate their gardens for wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people participating in outdoor enjoyment opportunities, eg, school visits, guided walks and open days. • Number of disabled people or people from deprived areas participating in outdoor recreation. • Number of partnership projects delivering outdoor recreation opportunities. • Number of interpretation boards/leaflets produced. 	<p>Data from Local organisations offering these attractions / Ranger Service data</p>

9. Transport – National Outcomes 1, 6, 10,14

Reducing the number of private motor vehicle journeys each day should be an objective for all local authorities, in line with the Scottish Government’s target in the National Transport Strategy to stabilise traffic volumes at 2001 levels by 2021. One way to achieve this while also achieving other objectives is by promoting active modes of travel. A quarter of all journeys between 1–2 miles (and over half of all journeys in Scotland under 5 miles) are undertaken by car – distances that can easily be done by bicycle or on foot for the shorter trips. Fewer cars mean fewer accidents, less congestion and improved air quality as well as an increase in the number of people rating their neighbourhood as a good place to live. Achieving a reduction in car use is also a benefit in terms of social equality, since households in deprived areas are less likely to be car owners. There are also clear benefits to health and physical activity targets. The SOA should include links to the Regional Transport Strategy and local physical activity strategy.

LINK preferred outcome and indicator:

Outcome: Local environments are highly conducive to walking and cycling for people of all ages and abilities.

Indicator: Increase in the number of local journeys (less than 5 miles) made by walking or cycling.

Source: Scottish Household Survey: Travel Diary <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/09/11094846/0>.

Additional outcomes and indicators to inform SOA and below-the-waterline activity on issues related to Transport:

Outcomes	Indicators	Sources
Fewer private motor vehicle journeys are made each day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in number of journeys taken with car as main mode of travel. Reduced carbon footprint. 	Scottish Household Survey: Travel Diary http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/09/11094846/0 Carbon/Ecological footprint data
All people will have high quality and easily accessible local services and facilities, feel socially included and enjoy living in their neighbourhoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More people giving high ratings re liveability of their neighbourhoods. Reduced percentage of average household income spent on transport. 	Scottish Household Survey: Travel Diary http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/09/11094846/0
All children are safe, healthy and active.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the number of children walking and cycling to school. Decrease in the number of child pedestrians and cyclists involved in road accidents/ crashes. 	Scottish Government data

10. Water and Flooding – National Outcomes 10, 12

Currently there is no National Indicator relating to flooding and local authorities are under no obligation to assess their performance. However, the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 brings new responsibilities and local authorities need to start thinking about how progress towards implementing national and local flood measures will be monitored.

LINK preferred outcome and indicators:

Outcome: Sustainable management of water resources and flooding.

Indicator: Number (or percentage) of water bodies meeting good ecological status/potential under the Water Framework Directive.

Source: SEPA's District and Area River Basin Management Plans.

Indicator: Ratio of expenditure on flood risk management devoted to natural flood management measures (such as area of floodplain restored, protected or enhanced), hard engineering and other measures.

Source: Local authorities' biennial reports produced through Flood Risk (Management) Scotland Act.

Additional outcomes and indicators to inform SOA and below-the-waterline activity on issues related to Water and Flooding:

Outcomes	Indicators	Sources
Sustainable management of water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage improvement in ecological status under Water Framework Directive. Number of Water Framework Directive improvement measures taken forward/implemented by the local authority. Length of water bodies restored. Number of new Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) in place. Number of SUDS retro-fitted. 	SEPA's District and Area River Basin Management Plans
A reduction in flood risk achieved using sustainable approaches to flood risk management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of new houses built on flood plains. Number of properties/people affected by flooding. Number of properties/people located in areas where risk of flooding is >1%. Length of rivers/coasts restored, enhanced or otherwise improved. 	Local authorities' biennial reports produced through Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act.

Appendix

LINK member bodies listed below may be contacted for further discussion regarding specific topics as indicated. Where there is a named contact, this is correct as at January 2010 but details may change in future. If in doubt, please contact staff at LINK on tel: 01738 630804, or 0131 225 4345, or visit <http://www.scotlink.org> for members' up-to-date contact details.

Topics and associated LINK member organisations

1. Biodiversity / Ecosystems / Greenspace

Badenoch & Strathspey Conservation Group, Bat Conservation Trust, Buglife, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation Scotland, Cairngorms Campaign, Friends of Loch Lomond, Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust, Marine Conservation Society, National Trust for Scotland, Plantlife, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Allotments & Gardens Society, Scottish Countryside Rangers Association, Scottish Native Woods, Scottish Raptor Study Groups, Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Woodland Trust Scotland.

2. Climate change

Friends of the Earth Scotland, John Muir Trust, RSPB Scotland, Woodland Trust Scotland, WWF Scotland

3. Ecological footprinting; Consumption and use of resources; Waste

Friends of the Earth Scotland, Living Streets, Scottish Allotments & Gardens Society, WWF Scotland

4. Education & Volunteering

Butterfly Conservation Scotland, RSPB Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society, Scottish Countryside Rangers Association, Scottish Native Woods, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, WWF Scotland

5. Historic and built environment

Archaeology Scotland, Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, Living Streets, National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Countryside Rangers Association

6. Landscape

Archaeology Scotland, Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, Cairngorms Campaign, Friends of Loch Lomond, John Muir Trust, Mountaineering Council of Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, North East Mountain Trust, Ramblers Scotland, Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society, Scottish Campaign for National Parks, Scottish Countryside Rangers Association, Scottish Wild Land Group

7. Physical activity / Health

John Muir Trust, Living Streets, Mountaineering Council of Scotland, Ramblers Scotland, Scottish Allotments & Gardens Society, Scottish Countryside Rangers Association, Sustrans, Woodland Trust Scotland.

8. Recreational access

Cairngorms Campaign, Friends of Loch Lomond, John Muir Trust, Mountaineering Council of Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, North East Mountain Trust, Ramblers Scotland, Scottish Allotments & Gardens Society, Scottish Countryside Rangers Association, Sustrans

9. Transport

Friends of the Earth Scotland, Living Streets, Ramblers Scotland, Sustrans, WWF Scotland

10. Water and flooding

RSPB Scotland, WWF Scotland

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Badenoch and Stathspey Conservation Group

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Bumblebee Conservation Trust

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