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## Improving Local Outcome Indicators Project Project Background

- Initial SOLACE discussion on SOA process & current guidance
- Joint solution sought to common challenge faced across 32 SOAs
- General desire for:-
  - Fewer indicators (over 3,500 used in first round)
  - Greater clarity of focus & better guidance
  - Reducing administrative / reporting burdens
- Rationalise the large number of indicators (*“Don’t create an industry”*)
- Review ‘Menu of indicators’ & produce new version (Oct 2009)
- Look at potential for new (more meaningful) replacement indicators.

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## Project Aims (Outcome indicators)

- Need greater clarity on what we are seeking to measure
- We need robust baselines to measure progress against.
- Starting point is key outcomes identified in SOAs
- ...and working back from that...
- What are the most meaningful & robust outcome indicators available at local level & below \*\*
- Identify and build consensus on key outcome indicators
- Manageable no of clear, strategic outcomes, targets & indicators (range from 27 in Dundee to 347 in Borders)
- Assess gaps & potential ways of filling them

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## Project Aims (Wider issues)

Begin to consider wider related issues (not restricted by current data)

- Scope for more effective planning / joining up of public sector surveys?
- Improving data management & analysis
- Contribution analysis / Logic modelling  
(Understanding causal relationships and linkages across outcomes)
- Evaluation methodologies
- Capacity-building issues

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## Project Governance

- SOLACE-led project
- Project Board / Co-ordination Group
- Input from key sectors involved in SOAs:-

**SOLACE**

**Scottish Government**

**COSLA**

**NHS**

**Improvement Service**

**Enterprise Agencies**

**Police**

**Skills Development Scotland**

**Fire & Rescue**

**Scottish Natural Heritage**

**Audit Scotland**

**Scottish Funding Council**

*(other sectors inputting via consultative mechanisms)*



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## Project Approach

- Nine broad policy outcome areas covered. →
  - Seeking to reflect:-
    - All key outcome areas included in SOAs
    - 15 National Outcomes
  - Methodology – Desk review / Consultation
  - Using existing skills / resources
  - Outputs
  - Timescales
1. Environment
  2. Economy
  3. Community Safety
  4. Community Cohesion
  5. Culture
  6. Public Services
  7. Children & YP
  8. Inclusion & Equalities
  9. Health & Social Care

## The Process to Date

- Existing SOA Menu of Local Outcome Indicators
- Development of assessment criteria re what makes a good outcome indicator (e.g. *Outcome focused; Regularly published; Accessible; Available at the appropriate level; Stable; etc*)
- Initial desk review of Indicators (in some cases by non specialists)
- Initial review of comments by Scottish Government Analysts
- Now seeking early input on this ‘work in progress’
  - (At this stage we want a ‘conversation’ rather than a formal response).
  - Suggested improvements & new ideas

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# Project Communications

- Consultation mechanisms
  - Initial consultation workshops
  - Online consultation
  - 1-2-1 consultations
- Online Community of Practice (see last slide)
- Contains information about e.g. the role of project board & coordination group

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## Some Initial Comments

- Greater clarity & outcome focus are required.
  - Car journeys – healthy activity, pollution or congestion?
  - Waste – Decreasing CO2 or promoting recycling?
- Inconsistent definitions used in reported data
- Difficulty in finding data at Partnership level & below
- Difficulty with attribution e.g. in air / water quality
- Power of partnerships to impact on outcomes?
- Short/long term change - will updated data be available?

## Issues / Gaps

- Is it easier to report on processes than outcomes?
- How soon can we expect change?
- Should the priority be to improve existing indicators or develop new?

### Gaps:

- Access to / perceptions of green space
- Sustainable environment/economy – population change.

### Overlap with other frameworks/definitions:

- Statutory Performance Indicators?

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## Focus of Consultation

- There is an ongoing need for a range of Input, Activity and Output measures.
- But focus of project is on Outcome Indicators
- Seeking views on:-
  - Whether the key SOA outcome areas are covered?
  - What are the most relevant & robust local Outcome indicators?
  - What are the data gaps and how might these be filled?

# SNS Environment Data

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Greenhouse Gas Emissions	C02 or basket of gases?	Scotland Only
Ecological Footprint	Estimates?	Scotland Only
Protected nature sites	No uniform coverage	Scotland Only
Abundance of breeding birds	No info on measurement	Scotland Only
Adults visiting the outdoors	SHS	Scotland Only
Electricity generated by renewables		Scotland Only
Biodegradable Municipal Waste	SEPA	LA & Above – 2007-08
Waste recycled / composted	SEPA	LA & Above – 2007-08
Waste arisings per 1000 people	SEPA	LA & Above – 2007-08
Derelict land	Voluntary survey	LA & Above - 2006
Ambient air quality N02 / PM10	Air monitoring stations?	Data zone - 2002-2004
Dwellings in flood risk areas	Datasets limitations.	Data zone - 2006
Population within Xm of a site on the Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory	Trial indicator	Data zone & Above - 2005

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## Key Questions

- 1. What are the high level outcomes / strategic priorities for this area?**
- 2. Thinking about the high level outcomes / strategic priorities, are the most appropriate outcome indicators included in the current list?**
- 3. Looking to the future, could there be better or more appropriate outcome indicators that should be used / developed for this policy area?**
- 4. What are the most relevant equalities / inequalities outcome indicators that should be incorporated within this policy area?**  
*(Age, Disability, Gender, Race, Religion, Sexual orientation; as well as area deprivation)*
- 5. What are the gaps around the measurement of outcomes in this policy area? And how might those gaps be filled?**

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## Improving Local Outcome Indicators Project

**Further information:-**

**[www.improvementservice.org.uk/communities](http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/communities)**

***(and click on ‘Local Outcome Indicators Project’)***

