



Towards Single Outcome Agreements

Partner Briefing

In November 2007, representatives of national and local government signed a historic concordat, which committed both to moving towards Single Outcome Agreements for all 32 of Scotland's councils.

Single Outcome Agreements are agreements between the Scottish Government and each council which set out how each will work in the future towards improving national outcomes for the local people in a way that reflects local circumstances and priorities.

The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) between each Council and the Scottish Government, is based on the 15 national outcomes. 'The national outcomes reflect the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework but they also reflect established corporate and community plan commitments across Scotland's Councils and Community Planning Partnerships. As importantly, progress on the mutually agreed outcomes for Scotland as a whole (the 'national' outcomes) cannot in most cases happen unless progress is made at local level. Through the Concordat, Councils are committed to supporting progress at national level through improvement in outcomes at local level.'

Source: Improvement Service

The agreements aim to:

- 'Ensure that locally elected leaders are free to provide the services people in their local area need and deserve without having their hands tied by micromanagement from the centre.
- Reduce the myriad of bureaucracy and reporting that has held councils back for too long. The new system is designed to focus on outcomes - what the council will actually deliver for the people it serves.'

Source: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/SOA

The first round of Single Outcome Agreements were submitted around the summer of 2008. The SOA underpins the funding to be provided to local government over the period 2008-09 to 2010-2011.

'All of the outcome agreements are uniquely shaped to reflect the needs and circumstances of the areas they cover and designed to ensure local people know exactly what their council is committed to provide on their behalf. But in one crucial way the agreements are also all the same. Each of the 32 maps out a brighter, more successful future for the people of Scotland, with all levels of government working together to deliver better services across the whole of the country.'

Scottish Government COSLA Concordat, Dec 2007

New Arrangements

The concordat states:

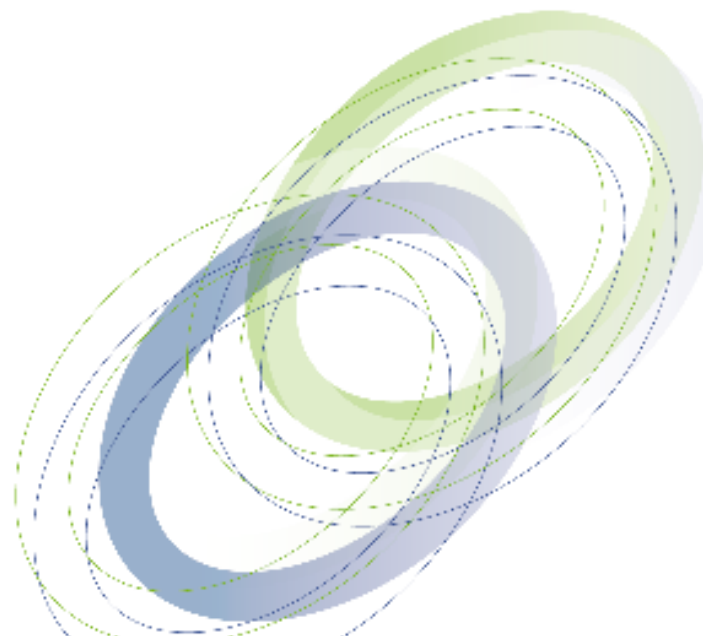
- 'That there will be a move to a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) for every council, based on the agreed set of national outcomes (underpinned by agreed national indicators), supported by streamlined external scrutiny and effective performance management.
- Each council will be required to submit a single report around the turn of the financial year on the year just finished and plans for the year to come, starting in 2008-09, setting out progress and achievements towards the national outcomes.
- The SOA will cover all local government services in each local authority area as well as a significant range of the responsibilities of Community Planning Partnerships where local authorities have a significant part to play.
- Under the new arrangements proposed, each local authority will be required to submit a single report around the turn of the financial year on the year just finished and plans for the year to come, starting in 2008-09, setting out progress and achievements towards the national outcomes and the commitments as set out.'


Scottish Government COSLA Concordat, Dec 2007

Reductions in ring-fencing

In 2007-08, funding to local government was provided in the local government finance settlement and in a series of ring fenced specific grants. In 2007-08, these specific grants (which include Police Grant) totalled £2.7 billion. As part of the package proposed, a considerable number of these specific grants will be rolled up and transferred into the local government settlement. The level of ring-fencing in 2008-09 (excluding Police Grant) will reduce to around £0.5 billion, with the intention that the level will reduce further to £0.3 billion by 2010-11.

A small number of ring-fenced funding streams will remain under the partnership package on offer. Among those which will be rolled up by 2010-11 are the current Community Regeneration Fund Grant and Private Sector Housing Grant.





Specified set of commitments

Scottish Government and local government have each made a specified set of commitments, do what is required to ensure delivery of key government policies and programmes including:

- Freezing council tax rates in each local authority at 2007-08 levels.
- Making an additional 1,000 police officers available in communities through an investment of £54 million to support additional recruitment of new officers and building capacity at a national level as well as providing support for key retention and redeployment initiatives.
- Introducing the Small Business Bonus Scheme in a phased way from April 2008 pending full implementation in 2010-11.
- Improving the learning experience for children and young people by improving the fabric of schools and nurseries; developing and delivering A Curriculum for Excellence; and, as quickly as is possible, reducing class sizes in P1 to P3 to a maximum of 18 and improving early years provision with access to a teacher for every pre-school child. Additional capital allocation and specific arrangements for local authorities to maintain teacher numbers in the face of falling school rolls will allow significant progress on this policy over the Spending Review period.
- Expanding pre-school provision and making substantial progress towards a 50% increase in pre-school entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds.
- Free school meals – Providing nutritious free school meals for all P1 to P3 pupils in the pilot areas until the end of the current academic year (ie up to June 2008). The remainder of 2008-09 will be taken up with evaluation of the trials. In 2009-10, provided the evaluation of the trials is positive, legislation will be introduced to allow extension of the nutritious free school meals to all pupils in P1 to P3.
- Subject to necessary legislation being passed, extending entitlement to free school meals to all primary and secondary pupils of families in receipt of maximum child tax credit and maximum working tax credit from August 2009.
- Vocational education/skills – working in partnership with colleges, local employers and others as appropriate to give more school pupils opportunities to experience vocational learning.
- Kinship care – providing allowances for kinship carers of “looked after children” to treat them on an equivalent basis to foster carers.
- Improving care home quality through care home fees and the quality framework.
- Free personal care – increasing current standard payment levels in line with inflation from April 2008 and allowance for subsequent years (this is not intended to cover any significant adjustments arising from the Sutherland review).
- Carers’ support – progress towards delivering 10,000 extra respite weeks per annum at home and in care homes.

National Performance Framework



Purpose: To focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing economic sustainable growth

Purpose Targets

| Indicator | Target |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Economic Growth (GDP) | To raise the GDP growth rate to the UK level by 2011 To match the growth rate of small independent EU countries by 2017 |
| Productivity | To rank in the top quartile for productivity amongst our key trading partners in the OECD by 2017 |
| Participation | To maintain our position on labour market participation as the top performing country in the UK and to close the gap with the top five OECD economies by 2017 |
| Population | To match average European (EU15) population growth over the period from 2007 to 2017, supported by increased healthy life expectancy in Scotland over this period |
| Solidarity | To increase overall income and the proportion of income earned by the three lowest income deciles as a group by 2017 |
| Cohesion | To narrow the gap in participation between Scotland's best and worst performing regions by 2017 |
| Sustainability | To reduce emissions over the period to 2011 To reduce emissions by 80 per cent by 2050 |

Strategic Objectives

WEALTHIER & FAIRER - Enable businesses and people to increase their wealth and more people to share fairly in that wealth

SMARTER - Expand opportunities for people in Scotland to succeed from nurture through to life long learning, ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements

HEALTHIER - Help people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care

SAFER & STRONGER - Help local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life

GREENER - Improve Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

THE GOVERNMENT'S PURPOSE

TO FOCUS GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES ON CREATING A MORE SUCCESSFUL COUNTRY, WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL OF SCOTLAND TO FLOURISH, THROUGH INCREASING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

HIGH LEVEL TARGETS RELATING TO THE PURPOSE

GROWTH PRODUCTIVITY PARTICIPATION POPULATION SOLIDARITY COHESION SUSTAINABILITY

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

WEALTHIER
& FAIRER

SMARTER

HEALTHIER

SAFER &
STRONGER

GREENER

NATIONAL OUTCOMES

We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe

We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people

We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation

Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens

Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed

We live longer, healthier lives

We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society

We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk

We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger

We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need

We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others

We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations

We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity

We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production

Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

NATIONAL INDICATORS AND TARGETS

At least halve the gap in total **research and development spending** compared with EU average by 2011

Increase the **business start-up** rate

Grow **exports** at a faster average rate than GDP

Improve **public sector efficiency** through the generation of 2% cash releasing efficiency savings per annum

Improve people's perceptions of the **quality of public services delivered**

Reduce the number of Scottish **public bodies** by 25% by 2011

Reduce the proportion of driver journeys delayed due to **traffic congestion**

Increase the percentage of Scottish domiciled **graduates** from Scottish Higher Education Institutions in positive destinations

Improve knowledge transfer from **research activity** in universities

Increase the proportion of **school leavers** (from Scottish publicly funded schools) in positive and sustained destinations (FE, HE, employment or training)

Increase the proportion of **schools** receiving positive inspection reports

Reduce number of working age people with severe **literacy and numeracy** problems

Increase the overall proportion of **area child protection committees** receiving positive inspection reports

Decrease the proportion of **individuals living in poverty**

60% of school children in primary 1 will have no signs of **dental disease** by 2010

Improve the **quality of healthcare experience**

Increase the proportion of **pre-school centres** receiving positive inspection reports

Increase the **social economy turnover**

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 the percentage of the **adult population who smoke** to 22% by 2010

Reduce **alcohol related hospital admissions** by 2011

Achieve annual milestones for reducing **inpatient or day case waiting times** culminating in delivery of an 18 week referral to treatment time from December 2011

Reduce the proportion of people aged 65 and over admitted as **emergency inpatients** two or more times in a single year

Reduce mortality from **coronary heart disease** among the under 75s in deprived areas

Increase the percentage of people aged 65 and over with high levels of care needs who are **cared for at home**

All unintentionally **homeless households** will be entitled to settled accommodation by 2012

Reduce overall **reconviction rates** by 2 percentage points by 2011

Reduce overall **crime victimisation rates** by 2 percentage points by 2011

Increase the percentage of **criminal cases** dealt with within 26 weeks by 3 percentage points by 2011

Increase the rate of **new house building**

Increase the percentage of adults who rate their **neighbourhood** as a good place to live

Decrease the estimated number of problem **drug users** in Scotland by 2011

Increase positive public perception of the general **crime rate** in the local area

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 **journeys to work** made by public or active transport

Increase the proportion of adults making one or more **visits to the outdoors** per week

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 of **waste** sent to landfill by 2010

Increase to 70% key **commercial fish stocks** at full reproductive capacity and harvested sustainably by 2015

Improve people's perceptions, attitudes and awareness of **Scotland's reputation**

NATIONAL INDICATORS AND TARGETS