

**Highland Community Planning Partnership - Single Outcome Agreement  
Report on Environmental Outcomes for Year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

**Annual Report**

The Board is invited to note the progress which has been made during the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 as set out in the table below. In general good progress has been made across the range of improvement/targets set out in the Single Outcome Agreement for the period to the end of March 2019. The Highland Environment Forum and a number of sub-groups continue to meet. A Highland Wildlife Fair was successfully held to pull together volunteers, projects, NGOs and others working on the environment together to exchange information and experience. This was a success and it is intended to hold this event again. However the effect of voluntary severance/budget cuts has had an immediate impact on the Council's ability to lead on, support others and deliver the biodiversity actions within the HBAP and the SOA. HC and SNH have agreed to extend the HEF administration and co-ordination contract for a further year (to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017), in part to support the work of the BAP steering group. This will at least allow us to track progress with priority actions and encourage partners to continue to deliver.

Despite these challenges you will note that a number of the targets have been achieved or even surpassed. I would draw your attention to the following achievements/issues:

**The environment will be managed sustainably in order to optimise economic, health, natural heritage and learning benefits**

The percentage of features in designated sites in favourable condition has increased from 80.0% in 2014-15 to 80.6% in 2015-16. The number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas (SPA), Ramsar sites and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) has been maintained.

There has also been progress in identifying and designating new sites. SNH published a map of wild land areas in June 2014. Wild Land Areas are the most extensive areas of high wildness across Scotland. They are identified as nationally important in Scottish Planning Policy, but are not a statutory designation. 20 of the 42 Wild Land Areas are within Highland. Thirty Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) were designated in Scotland's seas in July 2014, 8 of these are within or are adjacent to the Highland area. A consultation on marine SPAs has just taken place including the Rum pSPA and Moray Firth pSPA. A consultation for a harbour porpoise SAC – Inner Hebrides and the Minches pSAC was undertaken during the summer of 2016 and this proposed designation has recently been submitted to Europe by the Scottish Government for formal designation.

A Strategy/Action Plan for combating wildlife crime 2016-2019 was launched at the Highland Council headquarters in March 2016. Highland Partnership Against Wildlife Crime (HPAW) partners issue proactive press releases on seasonally topical awareness raising issues and, requests for information. Partners meet quarterly and

in between meetings they keep in touch over notable issues, liaise over press releases that are issued by HPAW and the group have developed a multi partner information/awareness raising power point presentation. Police Scotland confirmed in March 2016 the full time Wildlife & Environmental Crime Co-ordinator post has been made a permanent post. In the meantime though wildlife crime continues to be a contentious issue in Highland as in the rest of Scotland.

### **The effects of climate change in the Highlands will be minimised and managed**

The Highland Council's review of its planning guidance for onshore wind energy in response to new national policies is reaching conclusion. Comments received on the full draft Supplementary Guidance were considered by PDI Committee in August 2016 and revised supplementary guidance approved for adoption. Submission of the approved supplementary guidance to Scottish Ministers, seeking their clearance to adopt it as part of the Development Plan, is imminent. The guidance sets out how Highland Council will manage onshore wind energy development proposals by identifying areas where wind farms will not be acceptable, areas of significant protection and those with potential for wind farm development. Given the current pressures for development, Highland is carrying out a study to provide additional strategic consideration to identify sensitivities and potential capacity for windfarm development. Six areas have been selected; the Loch Ness area has been completed whilst the remaining areas are in progression and subject to consultation.

Highland Council has developed an energy efficiency programme of £4.3m for 2016-17 which will see renewable heating systems, gas heating upgrades and insulation measures attached to Highland Council stock. The carbon savings under the HEEP-ABS scheme in Highland from year 1 to year 3 amount to over 66,000 tonnes and the current year (year 4) is expecting to save in the region of 17,000 tonne. Highland Council has a partnering contract in place with E-On to provide Energy Company Obligation (ECO) contribution to the Council's HEEP-ABS fund and to plan, manage and undertake all suitable works in connection with the programme. Remote and rural areas with off-gas properties are being prioritised.

Information on the outcomes of the Warmer Homes Scotland scheme to date will shortly be published by the Scottish Government as part of their review of the scheme. In addition both the Fuel Poverty Strategic Working Group who monitor progress of funding programmes and inform future policy and the Rural Fuel Poverty Task Force are also due to publish reports later this year. Together these reports will provide much more detailed information on WHS and independent analysis of the HEEPS programme than is currently available.

### **People will have greater outdoor access and volunteering opportunities across Highland**

SNH and NHS Highland are progressing a natural health service action programme. This aims to develop a green health partnership to build on existing work at New Craigs and through the Active Highland Strategy. This will build up the contribution of the outdoors and contact with nature to health and well-being priorities in the Highlands. This work will be placed in the context of the emerging health and social

care partnership in Highland, so that it is seen as something that is central to what is being achieved rather than an additional initiative.

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) has been running Green Gyms and this work continues. This year TCV intend to deliver 50 Green Gym sessions to people from Inverness. These will deliver health and well-being outcomes under the auspices of environmental improvement activity. This project is separate to the wider Highland Green Gyms and has been supported via Highland Council's DAF monies. 4 new Green Gyms will be delivered in Caithness, Wester Ross, Inverness and Strathspey in 2016/17 resulting in 200 days of activity for volunteers to help improve their health and well-being whilst undertaking local environment improvement works. Volunteer days achieved are expected to exceed 1000 over the 15 month period of delivery. TCV are delivering a 3 year project within the Smithton and Culloden wards of Inverness to address issues of health inequalities within less advantaged communities, similar to the NHS funded post at Merkinch which recently ended due to lack of funds.

A 2 year environmental and employability focussed project in Caithness (Working for Caithness) has been established where greenspace improvements can act as a catalyst to help in delivering employability outcomes. Each year TCV are hoping to work with 64 participants on the Employability Green Gym; 20 participants on ASN school support (may be altered due to funding shortfalls in Education); 180 participants included within wider greenspace, health and well-being activity and an expected 8 greenspaces improved.

Following a successful pilot project called 'Woods, Waterways and Wellbeing', Scottish Waterways Trust managed to continue activity development and delivery and secured funding in late December 2015 to provide 45 'Nature Walks for Wellbeing' afternoon activities during 2016 (end of funding Dec 2016). This is currently one of the most subscribed activities at New Craigs hospital and attracts participants from halfway houses such as Aonach Mhor and people living in the wider community. Funds have now been found to maintain these walks during 2017 although additional funds are required to continue carrying this out at the current level. Research is showing a considerable positive effect and benefit to participants and has identified other incidental benefits that were not considered previously, such as NHS staff wellbeing through attendance and the relationship dynamic between staff and patients. Each week has an average of 15 participants during the reporting period.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion there is significant partnership activity underway to achieve the environmental outcomes set out in the Single Outcome Agreement. A number of the improvements/targets set out there have been achieved, most are on target for achievement and only a few are not progressing or will not be achieved. The latter in particular will be pursued during the 2016/17 year.

George Hogg  
Scottish Natural Heritage

**ANNEX**

**9.4 Table 18 : Delivery plan for environmental outcomes**

Long Term Outcomes	Intermediate/Short Term Outcomes	Indicators & Baseline info	Improvement/Targets	Annual Report - 31st March 2015	Annual Report - 31st March 2016
<p>The environment will be managed sustainably in order to optimise economic, health, natural heritage and learning benefits</p>	<p>The land, coast and marine area under designation will be maintained and the condition of designated features will be improved.</p>	<p>In 2013/14 the number of notified features within Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites and Special Areas of Conservation was 1647 and 1621 of these had been assessed.</p> <p>In 2013/14 the % of features in 'favourable condition' within these designated sites was 79.6%.</p>	<p>The number Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites and Special Areas of Conservation will be maintained.</p> <p>By 2016 all 1647 notified features within these designated sites will be assessed.</p> <p>80% of features into favourable condition by March 2016.</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> - The number Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites and Special Areas of Conservation has been maintained.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - By 2016 all 1647 notified features within these designated sites will be assessed.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - The % of features in favourable condition has increased from 79.6% in 2013-14 to 80.0% in 2014-15.</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> - The number Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites and Special Areas of Conservation has been maintained.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - By 2016 1630 of 1647 notified features within these designated sites had been assessed.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - The % of features in favourable condition has increased from 80.0% in 2014-15 to 80.6% in 2015-16.</p>
	<p>Wildlife crime in the Highlands will be reduced through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting and enhancing positive working relationships between multi-agency partners to ensure a collaborative approach to tackling wildlife and environmental crime in Highland.</li> <li>Raising the profile of reporting mechanisms in relation to wildlife crime with a view to increasing confidence in reporting and enhancing quality intelligence gathering.</li> <li>Maintaining specialist officers within Police Scotland to deal with wildlife crime.</li> </ul>	<p>There is currently no formal, multi-agency forum for addressing wildlife crime in Highland.</p> <p>There is currently no formal and co-ordinated approach to the reporting of wildlife crime in Highland.</p> <p>There are currently 8 wildlife crime liaison officers within Highland</p>	<p>An annual Wildlife Crime Conference will be co-ordinated, commencing March 2015. This will review on-going work and seek to address emerging trends and issues. By March 2016 an action programme will be developed that will address the issues raised</p> <p>A review of the various methods of reporting will be undertaken by March 2015. A plan to ensure that wildlife crime reports are efficiently co-ordinated will be developed and implemented by March 2016.</p> <p>The network of suitably trained and skilled WCLO's in Highland will be maintained and geographically spread so that reports of wildlife crime can be effectively acted upon.</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> - A Wildlife Crime Conference took place in March 2015 with positive feedback from all agencies in attendance.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - By March 2016 an action programme will be developed that will address the issues raised.</p> <p><b>TARGET NOT MET</b> - A review of the various methods of reporting was not undertaken by March 2015.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - A plan to ensure that wildlife crime reports are efficiently co-ordinated will be developed and implemented by March 2016. Area commanders have all been briefed and are aware of the importance of Wildlife Crime and their responsibilities regarding Wildlife Crime. There is a clear, documented, command structure both within Highland &amp; Islands Division and Police Scotland.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - The network of suitably trained and skilled WCLO's in Highland has been maintained and geographically spread so that reports of wildlife crime can be effectively acted upon. There are now 20 Wildlife officers stationed across the Highland and Islands Division within all Divisional Business Areas. WCLO's were provided with training in July and further training is planned for December 2015.</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> - See 31 March 2015 report</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - Strategy/Action Plan for combating wildlife crime 2016-2019 was launched at the Highland Council Headquarters on 14 March 2016.</p> <p><b>NO DATA PROVIDED</b></p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - HPAW partners commenced issuing proactive press releases on seasonally topical awareness raising issues and, requests for information.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - Police Scotland confirmed in March 2016 the full time Wildlife &amp; Environmental Crime Co-ordinator post has been made a permanent post.</p>
	<p>A Highland land use strategy will be implemented that will set out how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the responsible stewardship of natural resources in the Highlands. Ensure that land-based businesses work with nature to contribute to the prosperity of the Highlands.</li> <li>Ensure the responsible stewardship of natural resources in the Highlands.</li> <li>Deliver more benefits to the people of the Highlands.</li> <li>Better connect urban and rural communities to the land, with more people enjoying the land and positively influencing land use.</li> </ul>	<p>There is currently no Highland land use strategy.</p> <p>[There are a number of strategies that will inform a Highland land use strategy (e.g. the Scottish Forestry Strategy; the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy; River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive; Wild Deer: A National Approach etc.)]</p>	<p>A Highland land use strategy will be put in place by 2018 through a stakeholder process under the auspices of the Highland Environment Forum.</p>	<p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - a stakeholder working group has been formed. The national Land Use Strategy is being reviewed and the implications of this for Highland are being assessed/monitored. Progress has been reported to and discussed with the Highland Environment Forum which has an overview of this work.</p>	<p><b>TARGET NOT MET</b> - The stakeholder working group met twice over 2015/16 to consider the potential of delivering a Highland LUS. The group reviewed the finding of the Scottish Land Use Consultation and agreed the following: that the Scottish proposed strategy shied away from resourcing regional frameworks and as such the stakeholder group did not think it was appropriate to progress with the proposed project initiation proposal. Instead the stakeholder group agreed to stress their willingness to act as a land use partnership as proposed by SG but that regional land use planning would require additional resources from the Government. As an interim measure the group also agreed to engage with the refresh of the Highland Forest and Woodland strategy and to explore ways to better integrate current strategies.</p>

Long Term Outcomes	Intermediate/Short Term Outcomes	Indicators & Baseline info	Improvement/Targets	Annual Report - 31st March 2015	Annual Report - 31st March 2016
	Projects will be delivered to address the key strategic issues identified in the Highland Biodiversity Action Plan.	The Highland BAP (2011-2013)  In 2013 projects were underway to address 3 of the 10 key strategic issues identified in the Highland BAP.	Review the current Highland BAP and produce a new BAP (for 2015-2020) by end 2014.  Projects underway to address all key strategic issues identified in the new Highland BAP by end 2016.	<b>TARGET MET</b> - The current Highland BAP was reviewed and the new BAP (for 2015-2020) was approved in summer 2015.  <b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - Projects to address the key strategic issues identified in the new Highland BAP will be underway by end 2016.	<b>TARGET AT RISK</b> - The Biodiversity partnership continued to meet during 2015/16. A list of agreed actions/progress update has reviewed. voluntary severance/budget cuts has had an immediate impact on the Council's ability to lead on, support others and deliver the biodiversity actions within the HBAP  <b>TARGET AT RISK</b> -The partnership is due to meet on 4th October to look at projects to prioritise for future group effort.
	Projects to address priority Invasive Non-Native Species in Highland will be carried out.	In February 2013, the area of rhododendron infected National Forest Estate was <i>circa</i> 13,143ha with mature bushes being treated within 3,049ha of that area.  In 2013 none of the four priority zones outwith National Forest Estate was under control.  In 2013 there were no breeding mink in the control zone.  In 2013 Invasive Non-Native Plant Species (INNPS) eradication programmes were underway in 3 catchments covered by the West Sutherland Fisheries Trust (18 sites), the Cromarty Firth FT (7 sites) and the upper and middle catchment of the Findhorn-Nairn-Lossie FT (12 sites).  There is currently no rapid response mechanism for dealing with new INNPS.	National Forest Estate free from rhododendron by 2025.  In 2016, three of the priority zones outwith National Forest Estate will have rhododendron clearance underway.  No breeding mink in the control zone will be maintained in 2016.  In 2016 the INNPS eradication programmes will be maintained and invasive plants will be kept at low levels or eradicated. A further 4 control sites will be established within the Cromarty Firth FT catchment area.  By 2016 a rapid response mechanism will be in place to deal with newly established INNPS.	<b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - National Forest Estate will be free from rhododendron by 2025. Work on-going to refine the exact area of Rhododendron in the NFE. £6 million national control programme scheduled for the next 4 years starting from 2015/16.  <b>TARGET NOT MET</b> - No progress on rhododendron clearance within three of the priority zones outwith National Forest Estate and no obvious means to achieve this. SRDP funding for rhododendron control and other woodland Invasive Species such as grey squirrel, amounts to £3 million per annum for all of Scotland. This is less than what is required and as it is provided through the SRDP, there is a risk that the funds will be distributed to individual, small sites rather than large areas of multiple ownership where control measures are likely to be the most effective.  <b>TARGET MET</b> – There are no breeding mink in the control zone and this will be maintained.  <b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - In 2016 the INNPS eradication programmes will be maintained and invasive plants will be kept at low levels or eradicated. There has been a significant reduction (or eradication) in invasive plant infestation intensity at all treated sites. A further 4 control sites will be established within the Cromarty Firth FT catchment area and funding is actively being sought to consolidate effort in existing treatment areas and to expand the number of affected catchments and sub-catchments to be targeted for invasive species control.  <b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - By 2016 a rapid response mechanism will be in place to deal with newly established INNPS. This will be developed for all of Scotland, at the national level.	<b>TARGET ONGOING</b> -The work of the invasive species forum has slowed as a result of the loss of the Highland Council biodiversity officers, however a joint meeting is planned with the north east forum in April 2017 and this will look at common ground between the areas, provide new lessons in management techniques and inspiration for future activity.  <b>NO DATA PROVIDED</b>  <b>NO DATA PROVIDED</b>  <b>TARGET ONGOING</b> -The Rivers and Fisheries Trust Scotland are seeking funding support for a national project to tackle invasive species, in the meantime individual fisheries trusts are being as active as their budgets permit. Forestry Commission Scotland also continues to undertake invasive species control on its own estate.  <b>NO DATA PROVIDED</b>
The effects of climate change in the Highlands will be minimised and managed	The development and use of renewable energy will be increased through investment in appropriate opportunities, particularly wave and tidal power.	In 2013 the current installed capacity of renewable energy was 1471 MW. In 2014 it was 5080 MW. (NB These figures do not distinguish between large and small schemes or between onshore and offshore).	The current 2017 target for installed capacity of renewable energy is 2908 MW.  Three wave and tidal projects will be implemented by 2017.	<b>TARGET MET</b> - The current 2017 target for installed capacity of renewable energy is 2908 MW. This target has already been surpassed. THC is reviewing the target and the SOA will be updated accordingly.  <b>TARGET AT RISK</b> - it is looking increasingly challenging for three wave and tidal projects to be implemented by 2017.	<b>TARGET MET</b> - The current 2017 target for installed capacity of renewable energy is 2908 MW. As noted last year, this target has already been surpassed. THC is reviewing the target and the SOA will be updated accordingly. However, forward targets are already available in the Highland Renewable Energy Strategy (or derived from those): Year 2018, 3272MW; 2019, 3636MW; 2020, 4000MW; 2021, 4309MW; 2022, 4618MW. Note that the monitoring figure for 'installed capacity of renewable energy' as at 31 March 2016 is not yet available.  <b>TARGET AT RISK</b> - It is looking increasingly unlikely that three wave and tidal projects will be implemented by 2017. MeyGen Phase 1a scheme continues to make progress; less progress on other schemes. Slippage is beyond Council control. SHEPD has connected the MeyGen project to the 33kv Ness of Quoy's electricity distribution network. Also, a deal has been struck whereby Wind Harvest's 4-turbine Lochend wind energy development will share access to that network at times when the MeyGen project is not fully utilising it. There may also be some prospect of at least one more schemes

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	<p>A carbon neutral Inverness will be achieved in a low carbon Highland by 2025.</p> <p>The Highland Climate Change Declaration will be refreshed in line with other national programmes and there will be improved networking to better share, develop and implement good practice on climate change across all sectors.</p>	<p>The indicator organisations for this outcome are SNH and THC.</p> <p>In 2003-04, SNH set a target to reduce the 2000-01 CO2e emissions by 42% by 2019-20. For Highland the 2000-01 baseline was 987 tonnes CO2/year from work-related emissions. In 2011-12 the CO2/year from SNH work-related emissions was 640 tonnes i.e. a reduction of 35% for this time period.</p> <p>THC emissions base-line for 2011/12 was 63,374 tonnes CO2e.</p> <p>There were 21 public, 3rd sector and private bodies signed up to Highland Climate Change Declaration before the review in 2013.</p> <p>Allocate £1 million of capital projects per annum from the Carbon CLEVER Highland Council capital budget allocation from 2014/15. These projects will be in-line with the Carbon CLEVER objectives.</p>	<p>SNH expects to achieve its 2019-20 target during 2014-15. SNH will achieve a reduction of CO2/year from work-related emissions of 50% between 2000 to 2020. Between 2011 to 2020, SNH will reduce work-related CO2e emissions by 23%, as well as what is achieved from decarbonisation of the grid electricity, public transport networks and other wider social changes.</p> <p>An update on THC carbon emissions will be presented to committee in November 2014. Indicative figures indicate a 6% reduction in CO2 emissions over the past two years.</p> <p>THC will reduce emissions by 21% by 2020 - this equates to a reduction in emissions of 1,901 tonnes CO2e per annum.</p> <p>The Highland Climate Change Declaration was refreshed and rebranded as the Carbon CLEVER Declaration in 2013/14. There will be 50 public, 3rd sector and private bodies signed up to Carbon CLEVER Declaration by September 2014.</p> <p>THC will monitor progress towards a Carbon CLEVER Highlands through a survey of Highland residents by 2015.</p> <p>For 2014/15, the full £1 million capital budget allowance is expected to be fully committed by October 2014 for in financial year spend. From 2015/16 this will include a £200,000 allowance for a Carbon Clever community grant fund.</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> - SNH has reduced the carbon emissions from its own operations (throughout all of Scotland) by 49% since 2000, so reaching our 2002 target five years early. Our emissions fell from 2900 tonnes in 2000 to 1507 in 2014-15, with a fall of 25% since 2010-11.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - An update on THC carbon emissions was presented to committee in November 2014.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - The Council's carbon emissions decreased by 5% between 2011/12 and 2013/14 against a target of 3% per year. In 2011/12 Council emissions were 66,552 tonnes CO2 and in 2013/14 were 63,401 tonnes CO2. Data for 2014/15 will be presented to committee in November 2015.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> – The Highland Climate Change declaration was refreshed and rebranded as the Carbon Clever Declaration in 2013/14.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - There are currently 66 organisations signed up to the Carbon CLEVER Declaration which was re-launched in April 2014.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> – THC will monitor progress towards Carbon Clever Highlands through a survey of Highland residents in 2015.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - the full £1million capital budget was allocated for 2014/15. A wide range of projects were funded including: cycle paths; LED street lighting; the UHI Low Carbon Institute; improving active travel facilities; installing solar powered real time bus stop displays; and an electric bus charging post. This £1million has attracted and enabled an additional £1.8m of match funding investment across the Highlands. A further £1 million has been allocated from the Highland Council's capital budget for 2015/16 and decisions are currently being undertaken on projects to be funded. £200,000 has been apportioned for the Carbon CLEVER community grant fund. This fund will enable communities to develop and implement projects which are important to them and that reduce carbon emissions. Arrangements around the Carbon CLEVER community grant fund have been formalised and applications are currently being received.</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> - SNH set a target in 2003 to reduce the emissions from its own work by 42% by 2020 – a little over 3% a year, every year. The 42% target reflected the Scottish Government's target of a 42% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. This year SNH achieved a further 4% reduction. SNH's overall travel emissions for 2015/16 are 405,113kg CO2, whilst SNH's building emissions from electricity, oil and gas they use as well as Biomass are also ahead of the reduction target at 891,005 kg of CO2. There are certain sites / offices SNH exclude from their data and this is because they are sites where SNH co-locates in buildings with other organisations, who report all the building emissions. Overall this year our emissions come to 1,296,118kg CO2, which means that in total SNH have reduced their emissions by 53% since 2000.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - an update on THC carbon emissions was presented to Committee in November 2015.</p> <p><b>TARGET MISSED</b> - the Council's carbon emissions decreased 4% between 2011/12 and 2014/15 against a target of 3% per annum. In 2011/12 Council emissions were 66,552 tonnes CO2e and in 2014/15 were 63,841 tonnes CO2e. Data for 2015/16 will be presented to committee in November 2016, with a mandatory submission on progress under the Public Sector Climate Change Duties being made to the Scottish Government by 30th November 2016.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - The Highland Climate Change Declaration was refreshed and rebranded as the Carbon CLEVER Declaration in 2013/14.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - THC monitored progress towards Carbon CLEVER Highlands through a survey of the Council's Citizen's Panel in 2015.</p> <p><b>TARGET PARTIALLY MET</b> - ~£750k of the £1million capital budget was allocated for 2015/16 - the remainder will roll over to 2016/17. A wide range of projects were funded including: LED street lighting; heating upgrades in Council properties; installing solar powered real-time bus stop displays; and a £200k Carbon CLEVER Community grant fund. A further £500k has been allocated from the Highland Council's capital budget for 2016/17 and decisions are currently being undertaken on projects to be funded. £200k was apportioned for the Carbon CLEVER Community grant fund in 2015/16, and this fund enabled communities to develop and implement climate change projects that were important to them, and that reduce carbon emissions throughout the region.</p>

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	<p>Carbon emissions from domestic dwellings will be reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing the carbon efficiency of the Highland housing stock.</li> <li>Helping householders change their behaviour so that they use energy more efficiently.</li> <li>Reducing fuel poverty as a result of awareness-raising through good quality information and advice.</li> </ul>	<p>On 31st March 2014, 72% of the Highland Council domestic housing stock passed the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS).</p> <p>In 2013 there were zero private households receiving measures under the Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for the Highland Area-based Scheme.</p> <p>The estimate baseline CO2 emissions for domestic Highland properties in 2014 is modelled using Home Analytics v3 at 593,000 tCO2 pa.</p> <p>The number of unique Highland households where advice was provided in y/e 31st March 2014 was 4,801.</p> <p>In Highland, the EPC ratings of domestic dwellings is modelled using Home Analytics v3 at:  A and B: 1,288  C: 22,039  D: 42,271  E: 25,506  F and G: 16,721</p>	<p>By December 2015, 100% Highland Council social housing stock will pass the SHQS.</p> <p>The target number of private households receiving measures under the Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Highland will be:  Area-based scheme year ended 30th September 2014 - 300 External wall insulation;  Area-based scheme year ended 30th September 2015 - 500 External wall insulation; 500 Cavity wall insulation;  Energy Assistance scheme year ended 31st March 2015 - 350 installs.</p> <p>Achieve 30,000 lifetime CO2 tonnes savings for year ended 31 March 2015 through mix of domestic renewable installs and energy efficiency measures in private homes; and implementing energy saving behaviours.</p> <p>Provision of energy saving advice to 4,850 unique households during the year end 31st March 2015.</p> <p>Review Home Analytics data modelling for Highland homes with an aim to improve the accuracy of model for EPC ratings by March 2018.</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> - By December 2015, 100% of Highland Council's social housing passed the SHQS excluding several hundred properties including tenant opt-outs.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - The target number of private households receiving measures under the Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Highland was:  Area-based scheme year ended 30th September 2014 - 300 External wall insulation;  Area-based scheme year ended 30th September 2015 - 500 External wall insulation; 500 Cavity wall insulation;  Energy Assistance scheme year ended 31st March 2015 - 350 installs.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> – 53,000 lifetime CO2 tonnes savings (estimated) achieved through mix of domestic renewable installs and energy efficiency measures in private homes; and implementing energy saving behaviours. There were 282 Energy Assistance Scheme installs achieved at 30 April 2015.</p> <p><b>NO DATA PROVIDED.</b></p> <p><b>NO DATA PROVIDED</b></p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> - In December 2015.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b>- More than 6,000 unique householders in Highland have received advice from Home Energy Scotland during 2015/16 on one or more of the following topics: domestic energy efficiency measures and behaviours; water advice; micro-generation advice and transport advice.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - Lifetime CO2 savings: Around 36,000 lifetime CO2 tonne savings (estimated - based on 2014/15 evaluation) achieved through mix of domestic renewable installs and energy efficiency measures in private homes; and implementing energy saving behaviours.</p> <p><b>NO DATA PROVIDED</b></p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - There have been significant improvements to Home Analytics. EPC Rating v3.1.1 at 22 May 2015 was:  A-B 1,701  C 22,551  D 41,375  E 26,528  F-G 15,980  Unknown 0  Total 108,135</p>

Long Term Outcomes	Intermediate/Short Term Outcomes	Indicators & Baseline info	Improvement/Targets	Annual Report - 31st March 2015	Annual Report - 31st March 2016
	<p>The number and severity of accidental wildfires will be reduced through increased awareness, pre-planning, incident liaison and engagement with stakeholders.</p> <p>SFRS will promote partnership working through the creation of wildfire groups and increase pre-planning in preparation of peak wildfire periods.</p> <p>Private land owners and managers will support SFRS through the identification of human resources and physical assets.</p>	<p>In 2013 there were 2 local wildfire groups known to the SFRS in Highland.</p> <p>In 2013 there were 120 wildfire plans held by Operations Control.</p> <p>There has been a Scottish Wildfire Forum in place for 10 years but it requires re-energisation following the creation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</p>	<p>The number and location of active wildfire groups will be quantified by March 2015.</p> <p>In 2014/15 the SFRS will promote and collate the coverage of wildfire groups so they will be sufficient to deal effectively with accidental wildfires should they occur.</p> <p>In 2014/15 the number of local Wildfire plans held along with those submitted by stakeholders will be reviewed to ensure they are accurate, up to date and tested.</p> <p>The Scottish Wildfire Forum will be re-invigorated by October 2013. By 2014 the Forum will create strategic priorities and activities for Scotland - including for Highland - and these will relate to promoting wildfire reduction through specialist training, education, awareness raising and communication.</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> – There are still two known wildfire groups at Shildaig and Badenoch &amp; Strathspey.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - Liaison with deer management groups has been constructive but to date no further wildfire groups have been identified through this avenue, the SFRS continue to promote the importance of having groups in Highland.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - The Deer management groups are compiling fire plans and will share these with the SFRS when complete. The original 120 wildfire plans held in Control have been continually reviewed and added to with approximately 200 plans now available. Operations Control are liaising with further landowners so that plans are in place plans and assets declared.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - The Scottish Wildfire Forum has been re-invigorated and the Forum is in the process of creating strategic priorities and activities for Scotland - including for Highland.</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> – There are still two known wildfire groups at Shildaig and Badenoch &amp; Strathspey. One is currently being set up in Inverness &amp; Nairn District at the Dumnaglass Estate</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - Liaison with deer management groups has been constructive but to date no further wildfire groups have been identified through this avenue, the SFRS continue to promote the importance of having groups in Highland. No update</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - The Deer management groups are compiling fire plans and will share these with the SFRS when complete. The original 120 wildfire plans held in Control have been continually reviewed and added to with approximately 200 plans now available. Operations Control are liaising with further landowners so that plans are in place plans and assets declared. Ongoing</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - The Scottish Wildfire Forum has been re-invigorated and the Forum is in the process of creating strategic priorities and activities for Scotland - including for Highland. Still ongoing through issue of wildfire information Postcards to Landowners for Partnership Working .Helicopter Request Forms for Landowners have been reviewed.</p>
<p>People will have greater outdoor access and volunteering opportunities across Highland</p>	<p>The number of access/health related projects in Highland and/or in the 4 most deprived areas including Green Gyms and all abilities access will be increased.</p> <p>The Highland Core Path Implementation project (HCPiP) will be implemented and completed.</p> <p>There will be an annual increase in physical activity levels.</p>	<p>In 2013 there were approximately 2500 km of Core Paths in Highland Council area.</p> <p>In 2013 there was no baseline for the length of signed Highland Council Core Paths.</p> <p>In 2013 there was no baseline of the number of access projects in the 4 most deprived areas.</p> <p>In 2013 there was no baseline of the participation rate in access/ranger related events in the 4 most deprived areas.</p>	<p>Maintain the length of the core path network and improve the quality of these paths with both revenue and capital investment.</p> <p>Establish a baseline of the length of Highland Council Core Paths currently signed by 2015 and increase this by 20% by 2018.</p> <p>Establish a baseline of the number of access projects in the 4 most deprived areas by 2015 and increase this by 10% by 2018.</p> <p>Establish a baseline of the participation rate in access/ranger related events in the 4 most deprived areas by 2015 and increase this by 5% each year to 2018.</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET/ONGOING</b> – The length of the core path network has been maintained. The improvement of these paths through revenue and capital investment is ongoing. The core path plan review in Caithness and Sutherland (reaching completion) is likely to add further core paths.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET/ONGOING</b> – The length of Core Path Network is 2576 km. Currently 62% of the Core Paths are signed. This represents a total of 1606 km.</p> <p><b>TARGET NOT MET</b> – There have been no access projects delivered in Deprived Areas.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - 14 ranger events took place in the deprived areas in 2014/15 with an average of 37.4 attendees per event. This is mainly working with school from deprived areas.</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET/ONGOING</b> – The length of the core path network has been maintained. The improvement of these paths through revenue and capital investment is ongoing. The core path plan review in Caithness and Sutherland and the West Highlands &amp; Islands is likely to add further core paths.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET/ONGOING</b> – The length of Core Path Network is 2576 km. Currently 64% of the Core Paths are signed. This represents a total of 1648 km.</p> <p><b>TARGET NOT MET</b> – There have been no access projects delivered in Deprived Areas. <b>NO DATA</b></p> <p><b>NO DATA PROVIDED</b></p>
	<p>The Council will support allotments, especially in the 4 most deprived areas.</p>	<p>In 2013 The Highland Council supported 9 allotment sites, with 314 allotment plots.</p>	<p>By May 2015, the Council will review the allotment policy in the light of the Community Empowerment Bill and new improved targets will be set.</p>	<p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - The Community Empowerment Bill has recently passed through the Scottish Parliament. THC is awaiting accompanying policy guidance and will review the allotment policy when this is available.</p>	<p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - The Community Empowerment Bill has recently passed through the Scottish Parliament. THC is still awaiting accompanying policy guidance and will review the allotment policy when this is available.</p>



Long Term Outcomes	Intermediate/Short Term Outcomes	Indicators & Baseline info	Improvement/Targets	Annual Report - 31st March 2015	Annual Report - 31st March 2016
	<p>The number of environmental volunteering opportunities will be increased in 4 most deprived areas.</p> <p>The number of people involved in environmental volunteering will increase.</p>	<p>The indicator organisations for this outcome are TfL, TCV and SWT.</p> <p>TfL created 536 environmental volunteer opportunities in 2013. Within this overall figure, 4 opportunities were taken up by people from one of the 4 most deprived areas.</p> <p>In 2013 TCV created 544 environmental volunteer opportunities in Highland. In addition, 376 opportunities were created through the green gym projects in Merkinch and 120 in Newcraigs.</p> <p>In 2013 SWT enabled 97.5 volunteer days worked.</p>	<p>In 2017, TfL will create 767 volunteer opportunities. This will include 41 opportunities being taken up by people from one of the 4 most deprived areas.</p> <p>TCV will seek to secure long term and sustainable funding to maintain and increase the number of volunteer opportunities they offer.</p> <p>In 2015 TCV will explore the possibility of developing a Service Level Statement with THC to deliver agreed volunteering targets in Highland.</p> <p>By May 2015 SWT will review the 'Canal College' programme, currently working well in the central belt canal systems and it will investigate development of same for the Caledonian Canal based at Muirtown, Inverness. Promotion and delivery on the edge of Merkinch. Aims - to increase employability and provide skills and motivation. Possible 12 people on 12 week rolling programme. Potential of 720 volunteer days per programme.</p> <p>2016-2018 continue to offer innovative and useful short term volunteering opportunities for mutual benefit to canal and community. Aim to increase volunteer days to 200 per annum in this period.</p>	<p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - In 2014 (Jan to Dec) TFL created 717 volunteer opportunities. In 2015 from January to June 2015 TFL created 331 opportunities. The number of opportunities within the deprived areas has not been quantified.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - TCV have established six new green gyms in the Highland Area: Lochaber, Strathspey, Inverness, Easter Ross, Wester Ross and Caithness. There are no major issues in relation to our ability to deliver and who we can link with to enhance that delivery, our only current issue is funding. SWT fundraising/management team are working to fill the funding gap and make this project happen.</p> <p><b>TARGET NOT MET</b> - TCV have not developed a Service Level Statement with THC but will pursue this in the future.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - SWT have undertaken a great deal of planning in relation to the canal college programme in Highland and the central belt (employability/skills/healthy living/conservation outputs). A delivery plan and project objectives have been built with local and head office SWT and Scottish Canals staff that relate to the opportunities for delivery in Inverness. This is now in full draft form and shows potential for a three year programme of canal college starting in Autumn 2016. SWT staff (including Falkirk based CEO and fundraisers) have been developing the plan to include full finance requirements and are now engaged in a series of targeted applications for funding.</p>	<p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - TfL created 340 volunteer opportunities between July 2015 and March 2016, giving a total of 741 opportunities created over the year. The number of opportunities taken up by people from the four most deprived areas has not fully quantified, but at least 25 of these opportunities were used by people from disadvantaged communities. TfL is on track for meeting the SOA indicator by 2019.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - The 6 Green Gyms delivered from August 2015 to August 2016 have achieved a combined output of 879 volunteer days and undertaken a broad spectrum of works including habitat management, pedestrian access construction and maintenance, INNS removal, litter picks, etc. Wider TCV conservation volunteer activity listed 165 registered volunteers delivering 902 volunteer days of environmental activity between 01/04/15 and 31/3/16 involving tasks noted above, tree planting and a flagship 8 week sand dune stabilisation project for Subsea7 north of Wick. TCV Green Gyms® (including those listed above), over the same period, involved 198 registered volunteers delivering 1002 volunteer days of environmental activity.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - TCV have not secured a SLS with the Council but as stated above they have acquired Council funding through the Council's DAF monies.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - The Scottish Waterways Trust have passed through stage one of HLF funding applications for the proposed canal college 2 project. The stage 2 application is currently underway and it should be known if successful by late Autumn 2016. This project will open in Inverness in 2017 if the full £1.4m funding can be secured. Canal college 2 is essentially a skills training programme, learning through practical projects in the unique environment of the Caledonian Canal in Inverness (and based at two other lowland canal sites). It is hoped that tSWT can offer a place to over 100 people in Inverness area over three years, from the ages of 16 to 30, as well as engage others within the community to act as volunteer mentors. Participants will learn about the built, cultural and natural heritage of the canals whilst improving their own confidence and employability prospects. Three 12 week courses will be run annually with around 12 students in each.</p>