

**Highland Community Planning Partnership - Single Outcome Agreement  
Report on Environmental Outcomes for Year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

**Annual Report**

The Board is invited to note the progress which has been made during the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 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 its sub-groups continue to meet to discuss and deliver SOA environmental outcomes across Highland. The Forum has established active working groups supporting its work, specifically: the Highland Biodiversity Partnership, the Highland Invasive Species Forum, the Outdoor Volunteering group and Marine Litter Working group.

The effect of voluntary severance/budget cuts continues to have an impact on the Council's ability to lead on, support others and deliver the biodiversity actions within the HBAP and the SOA. 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 number Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites and Special Areas of Conservation has been maintained and the percentage of features in favourable condition remains high, 80.5% in 2016-17.

The Highland PAW group is working and raising awareness about wildlife crime in the region including the establishment of a full time Wildlife Crime Officer (WCO), poaching patrols, better reporting mechanisms, training and PR.

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

The Highlands remain ahead of the Council's targets for installed capacity of renewable energy, with significant and emerging contributions from a wide range of types of renewable. The Highland Council adopted its Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance in November 2016. The programme of additional landscape sensitivity appraisals to further assist consideration of wind energy proposals has progressed; appraisals for Caithness and for the Black Isle, Surrounding Hills and Moray Firth Coast were consulted on and are moving forward to adoption, whilst a further appraisal has recently been commenced for Sutherland and Ross-shire. The Supplementary Guidance assists with identifying and designing onshore wind energy projects that can be supported through planning and hence are more likely to gain consent, be implemented and contribute towards renewable energy targets.

Phase 1a of the MeyGen tidal energy project is up and running and the developer is preparing for Phase 1b (which has support from European Commission funding), although (September 2017) Phase 1c has been unsuccessful in securing a contract to supply electricity under the latest allocation round for 'contracts for difference'. The Dounreay Tri floating wind energy scheme received consent, although there are doubts about whether it will go ahead and no further tidal schemes, nor any wave schemes, are currently showing

strong signs of proceeding soon to implementation within Highland's waters. However, the Beatrice Offshore Windfarm is now under construction and (September 2017) it has been announced that the consented Moray East Offshore Windfarm (MORL) is to be awarded a contract to supply electricity. Extensive projects continue to strengthen and grow the electricity grid, helping Highland to realise its renewable energy potential. The Highland Council is working with others to help drive forward energy master planning, local energy strategies and identification of opportunities for heat networks.

The carbon savings under the HEEP-ABS scheme in Highland from year 1 to year 4 amount to over 83,800 tonnes and the current year (year 5) is expecting to save in the region of 23,000 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 private properties continue to be prioritised, year 5 focuses on properties classed as hard to treat (Swedish Timber houses).

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

Whilst not a specific objective of the current SOA an initiative is underway to develop a Highland Green Health Partnership and which it is anticipated will be a key action in delivery of the new Highland Outcome Improvement Plan. In particular NHS Highland, the Highland Third Sector Interface and SNH are working together on this. In essence this involves access too, working with and enjoyment of the Highland environment to assist in good physical and, particularly, mental health. This fits well with public strategies at diverting away from always using drug based treatments and tackling negative lifestyle choices.

Canal College, an initiative of Scottish Waterways Trust, is now underway in Inverness and is going well. The first 14 week programme has been completed with all candidates moving on to positive outcomes. Considerable benefits have taken place in the young candidates including the learning of new skills such as stonemasonry, construction, bushcraft skills, wildlife conservation and health and safety. Participants build confidence and understand how to work with others as well as get into healthy habits. There are eight more programmes to deliver up until June 2020 which should help to make lives much brighter for some young people and their families and friends. Volunteering opportunities continue to be offered throughout the year, some are group oriented practical conservation days and others may be specific tasks that can be carried out individually and over a longer period. Recent longer term tasks include mentoring, carrying out promotion for events and completing research for green care therapy programmes.

### **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 in the SOA have been achieved, most are on target for achievement and only a few are not progressing or will not be achieved.

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 2017
<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 2017 1636 of 1647 notified features within these designated sites had been assessed.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - The % of features in favourable condition has decreased from 80.6% in 2015-16 to 80.5% in 2016-17.</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> - Strategy/Action Plan for combating wildlife crime 2016-2019 was launched at the Highland Council Headquarters on 14 March 2016.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - Reporting of crime - This can be done by direct attendance at Police Stations ,contact with 101 , I phone app ,email with Police Scotland , email to non government organisation who will contact Police as an intermediary , direct contact with Police officer. 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>

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	<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 NOT MET</b> - Following the review for the Scottish Land Use Strategy and lack of available resource to take forward a Highland strategy it has been agreed that key bodies/interests in developing sectoral strategies will improve communication/integration but not take forward the development of a more local strategy.</p>
	<p>Projects will be delivered to address the key strategic issues identified in the Highland Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>The Highland BAP (2011-2013)</p> <p>In 2013 projects were underway to address 3 of the 10 key strategic issues identified in the Highland BAP.</p>	<p>Review the current Highland BAP and produce a new BAP (for 2015-2020) by end 2014.</p> <p>Projects underway to address all key strategic issues identified in the new Highland BAP by end 2016.</p>	<p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - Biodiversity partnership has continued to meet during 16/17 and reviewed the actions list.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - There are 32 projects ongoing with mixed progress due to resourcing issues. The partnership is continuing to meet quarterly and review and carry out projects. Local Biodiversity Action Groups are carrying out the projects and reporting back to this forum.</p>

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	<p>Projects to address priority Invasive Non-Native Species in Highland will be carried out.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>In 2013 none of the four priority zones outwith National Forest Estate was under control.</p> <p>In 2013 there were no breeding mink in the control zone.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>There is currently no rapid response mechanism for dealing with new INNPS.</p>	<p>National Forest Estate free from rhododendron by 2025.</p> <p>In 2016, three of the priority zones outwith National Forest Estate will have rhododendron clearance underway.</p> <p>No breeding mink in the control zone will be maintained in 2016.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>By 2016 a rapid response mechanism will be in place to deal with newly established INNPS.</p>	<p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - The group met over 2016/17 and there is ongoing commitments to learn new techniques and to meet and network with others facing similar invasive species management issues.</p> <p><b>TARGET NOT MET</b> - Foyers and Strontian community woodland have been surveyed for rhododendron and works to be scheduled in 2017/18.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING:</b> Mink resident population eradicated from Spey Valley. Current Ness and Beaully Fisheries Trust is undertaking a programme of controlling mink in the Ness and Beaully catchment.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - The Rivers and Fisheries Trust Scotland are still waiting to see if their funding applications have been successful. Himalayan Balsalm first round of removal by hand at Kingssteps, Nairn in 2017/18. Also treatment of giant hogweed at Kingssteps.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - Highland has a INNS group that meets quarterly to address invasive species including new outbreak. Highland Council receives reports of Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed and will only react if there is a health concern on council property in relation to Giant Hogweed. It is landowner responsibility to deal with the invasive species. Note that the Ness and Beaully Fisheries Trust had funding in 2017 to remove Giant Hogweed in the Munloch area but required landowner permission to proceed.</p>
<p>The effects of climate change in the Highlands will be minimised and managed</p>	<p>The development and use of renewable energy will be increased through investment in appropriate opportunities, particularly wave and tidal power.</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>The current 2017 target for installed capacity of renewable energy is 2908 MW.</p> <p>Three wave and tidal projects will be implemented by 2017.</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> - The 2017 target for installed capacity of renewable energy is 2908 MW. As noted last year, this target has already been surpassed. The provisional monitoring figure for 'installed capacity of renewable energy' (as at 1 January 2017) is 5979MW, 2435MW of that being constructed and under construction whilst the remainder being consented but construction yet to commence; monitoring noted the Beatrice Offshore Windfarm as being in the latter category at that point and as the maximum consented capacity. Forward targets already available in the Highland Renewable Energy Strategy (or derived from those) are: Year 2018, 3272MW; 2019, 3636MW; 2020, 4000MW; 2021, 4309MW; 2022, 4618MW. THC may review and update the targets.</p> <p><b>TARGET MISSED</b> - With respect to wave and tidal schemes, the target of three schemes being delivered by 2017 has not been achieved due to a number of factors affecting progression of some projects by developers, which are beyond the Council's control. However, Phase 1a of the consented MeyGen tidal scheme for the Inner Sound has been successfully implemented.</p>

Long Term Outcomes	Intermediate/Short Term Outcomes	Indicators & Baseline info	Improvement/Targets	Annual Report - 31st March 2017
	<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</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> - see 31st March 2016 Annual Report</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - an update on THC carbon emissions was presented to Committee in November 2016.</p> <p><b>TARGET MISSED</b> - the Council's carbon emissions decreased 5% between 2011/12 and 2015/16 against a target of 3% per annum. In 2011/12 Council emissions were 66,552 tonnes CO2e (note this is higher than the initial indicator as additional emissions were captured and added in) and in 2015/16 were 63,665 tonnes CO2e. Data for 2016/17 will be presented to committee in November 2017, with a mandatory submission on progress under the Public Sector Climate Change Duties being made to the Scottish Government by 30th November 2017.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - see 31st March 2016 Annual Report</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - see 31st March 2016 Annual Report</p>

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			<p>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 PARTIALLY MET</b> - ~£750k of the £1million capital budget was allocated for 2015/16 - the remainder rolled over to 2016/17. A wide range of projects were funded including: accessibility and signage across the Highlands, Climate Challenge game pilot, EV charge point in Dornoch ; and £240k specifically for energy efficiency projects. A further £500k has been allocated from the Highland Council's capital budget for 2017/18 and decisions are currently being undertaken on projects to be funded.</p>
	<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>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</p>	<p><b>TARGET MET</b> - Post-SHQS the Council has budgeted between £5 and £6m each financial year to 2021 to carry out energy efficiency works in its stock. This will contribute to efforts to reach the EESSH.</p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b>- More than 3,950 unique householders in Highland have received advice from Home Energy Scotland during 2016/17 on one or more of the following topics: domestic energy efficiency measures and behaviours; water advice; micro-generation advice and transport advice.</p>

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		<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>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 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>TARGET MET</b></p> <p><b>TARGET MET</b> - There have been significant improvements to Home Analytics. Home Analytics Scotland v3.2 improves the accuracy of the information; the number of data variables available has increased; and the amount of known data has increased.</p> <p>In Highland, EPC ratings at 8 September 2017 are:</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>A-B</td><td>2,956</td></tr> <tr><td>C</td><td>26,560</td></tr> <tr><td>D</td><td>36,542</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>27,755</td></tr> <tr><td>F-G</td><td>23,804</td></tr> <tr><td>Unknown</td><td>4,585</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>122,202</td></tr> </table>	A-B	2,956	C	26,560	D	36,542	E	27,755	F-G	23,804	Unknown	4,585	Total	122,202
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	<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-energised 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></p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - Liaison with deer management groups continues to be constructive. The SFRS continue to promote the importance of having groups in Highland.</p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - The Deer management groups continue to compile fire plans. The original 120 wildfire plans held in Control have been continually reviewed and added to. 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-energised.</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</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</p>	<p><b>TARGET- MET / ONGOING</b> - The length of core path network has been maintained. The improvement of these paths is likely to be reduced due to substantial budget reduction. The Core Path Plan reviews is likely to add further core paths</p> <p><b>TARGET MET/ONGOING</b> - The length of Core Path network is 2576km. Currently 64% of the Core paths are signed, representing a total of 1653 km</p> <p><b>TARGET NOT MET</b> – There have been no access projects delivered in Deprived Areas.</p>

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		<p>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>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</b> - 34 ranger events took place in the deprived areas in 2016/17 with 1282 attendees in total (despite a decrease in ranger staff). This is due to a focus of mainly working with school with pupils from deprived areas.</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> - THC is still awaiting accompanying policy guidance for Part 9 of the Community Empowerment Act and will review the allotment policy when this is available. When Part 9 comes into force, the Council officially has two years to publish a Local Food Growing Strategy.</p>
	<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</p>	<p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - TfL created 375 volunteer opportunities with its conservation weeks between 1st April 2016 and March 2017, 361 with its conservation day opportunities and 50 regular local people volunteering days giving a total of 786 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 30 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></p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b></p> <p><b>TARGET ONGOING</b> - Canal college is underway in Inverness and is going well. Volunteering opportunities have been offered throughout the reporting period</p>

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			<p>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>opportunities have been offered throughout the reporting period,</p>