

**Draft**

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

<b>Long Term Outcomes</b>	<b>Intermediate/Short Term Outcomes</b>	<b>Inputs/Resources Partners TBI</b>	<b>Indicators &amp; Baseline info</b>	<b>Improvement/ Targets</b>
<p>The natural heritage will be managed sustainably in order to optimise economic, health 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>Scottish Natural Heritage (Brian Dickson)</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>

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	<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>Police Scotland (Divisional Commander via local policing single point of contact - SPOC)</p>	<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>

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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 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>The Highland Council (Nicole Wallace)</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (George Hogg)</p>	<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>Projects will be delivered to address the key strategic issues identified in the Highland BAP.</p>	<p>The Highland Council (Janet Bromham/ Jonathan Willet)</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>

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	<p>Projects to address priority Invasive Non-Native Species in Highland will be carried out.</p>	<p>The Highland Council Invasive Species Group</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>

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<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>The Highland Council (David Cowie)</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. This target has already been surpassed. THC is reviewing the target and the SOA will be updated accordingly.</p> <p>Three wave and tidal projects will be implemented by 2017.</p>

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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 Highland Council (Stephen Carr)</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (Sheila Curry)</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 CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by 42% by 2019-20. For Highland the 2000-01 baseline was 987 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/year from work-related emissions. In 2011-12 the CO<sub>2</sub>/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 CO<sub>2</sub>e.</p> <p>There were 21 public, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and private bodies signed up to Highland Climate Change Declaration before the review in 2013.</p>	<p>SNH expects to achieve its 2019-20 target during 2014-15. SNH will achieve a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>/year from work-related emissions of 50% between 2000 to 2020. Between 2011 to 2020, SNH will reduce work-related CO<sub>2</sub>e 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e per annum.</p> <p>The Highland Climate Change Declaration was refreshed and rebranded as the Carbon CLEVER Declaration in 2013/14. There will be 41 public, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and private bodies signed up to Carbon CLEVER Declaration by April 2014.</p> <p>THC will monitor progress towards a Carbon CLEVER Highlands through</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>Highland Affordable Warmth Forum</p> <p>Home Energy Scotland</p> <p>Community groups</p>	<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 Highland.</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:</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:  <u>Area-based scheme</u> year ended 30th September 2014 - 300 External wall insulation;  <u>Area-based scheme</u> year ended 30th September 2015 - 500 External wall insulation; 500 Cavity wall insulation;  <u>Energy Assistance scheme</u> 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 3,000 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</p>

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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>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Phil Green)</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- invigoration following the creation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.</p>	<p>The number and location of active wildlife 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>

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<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>The Highland Council Access Officers and Health Co-ordinators (George Duff)</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>The Council will support allotments, especially in the 4 most deprived areas.</p>	<p>The Highland Council</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>

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	<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>Trees for Life (TfL) The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) Scottish Waterways Trust (SWT)</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>

