

**BRIEFING PAPER:****Contribution Allotments, gardens and orchards can make to the Single Outcome Agreement local outcomes and indicators.****CONTEXT**

The Single Outcome Agreement will set out the outcomes which each Local Authority is seeking to achieve with its community planning partners. These will reflect local needs, circumstances and priorities, but should be related to the relevant national outcomes agreed in the Concordat. The Scottish Government has developed a set of 45 'national indicators' to track progress towards outcomes, which include explicit targets. Local Government has been developing a 'menu' of local indicators that Councils can select from to monitor progress at a local level. Councils can also use locally developed indicators alongside the indicators in the menu. Three key points should be noted:

- (a) All National Outcomes should be considered in developing the SOA, even if some are considered to be of very low priority for their area by Councils and Community Planning Partnerships;
- (b) The prioritisation of outcomes should be based on good evidence and analysis;
- (c) Councils should express Local Outcomes in ways that are locally well established and/or relevant to pre-existing corporate or community planning commitments, but ensuring they are linked to the relevant National Outcomes.

Below are the National Outcomes and Indicators to which Scottish Allotments believe gardens, allotments and orchards can make a significant contribution.

<b>National Outcome</b>	<b>National Indicator and Target:</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Local Garden, allotments indicator</b>
<b>1.</b> We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.	<b>28:</b> Increase the percentage of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing research shows benefits of gardening to health, communities and environment.</li> <li>• In order to reach the government targets for new build there must be denser housing developments. Allotment gardens would enable both denser housing typographies and the opportunity to garden.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of the population who have the opportunity to garden -</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b> We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.	<b>2.</b> Increase the business start up rate <b>13</b> Increase the social economy turnover.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horticulture is one of the fastest growing sectors in the economy but the potential is not being exploited fully. There are many opportunities for small businesses associated with gardens, orchards and allotments and the processing of produce associated with them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of new startups associated with gardens, allotments and orchards.</li> </ul>
<b>4.</b> Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.	<b>8.</b> Increase the proportion of schools receiving a positive inspection report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research shows that young people learn 'through their fingers'.</li> <li>• Gardening is an excellent way to instill attitudes to learning, practical skills and knowledge about the natural environment, food and climate change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of eco-schools with green flag awards for gardens.</li> <li>• Percentage young people associated with allotment sites</li> </ul>
<b>5.</b> Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.	<b>7.</b> Increase the proportion of school leavers in positive and sustained destinations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research from Scandinavia shows the importance of forest schools and interaction with the natural environment in the development of confidence and ability in young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of School allotment gardens and links with local allotment associations.</li> </ul>

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<b>6.</b> We live longer, healthier lives.	<p><b>21.</b> reduce the mortality from coronary heart disease among the under 75's in deprived areas</p> <p><b>15.</b> Increase the average score of adults on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale by 2011</p> <p><b>20</b> Reduce proportion of people aged 65 or over admitted as emergency patients 2 or more times in a year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research shows that moderate regular exercise reduces heart disease and that gardening is the best form of exercise, available to all ages and physical ability.</li> <li>• Gardening decreases stress and increases mental well being.</li> <li>• Allotments are outdoor communities that support elder people - both the activity of gardening and the social interaction keeps them fit and healthy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % elder people from deprived areas who garden either on individual allotment plots, on community plots or in Green Gyms.</li> <li>• % people who have taken up gardening and improved their WEMWBS.</li> <li>• Increase in GP referrals for gardening.</li> </ul>
<b>7.</b> We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.	<p><b>15.</b> Increase the average score of adults on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale by 2011</p> <p><b>27.</b> Increase the rate of new house building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gardening has numerous health and social benefits.</li> <li>• Opportunity to garden is a social justice issue with many people in deprived areas without access to gardens or allotments close to their dwellings.</li> <li>• With new build need the opportunity to garden and new designs for gardens, allotments and orchards that incorporate biodiversity and inclusion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Profile of gardeners on local allotment sites - gender balance, special needs catered for, age profile reflects community norm.</li> <li>• Improvement in number allotment sites in areas identified by SIMD</li> </ul>
<b>8.</b> We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.	<p><b>15.</b> Increase the average score of adults on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale by 2011</p> <p><b>37.</b> Increase the proportion of adults making one or two visits to the outdoors per week.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allotment sites enables families to have an enjoyable activity together in the open air.</li> <li>• Allotment gardening enable inter-generational bonding, transfer of knowledge and skills and support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % families and grand-children visiting allotment sites regularly</li> <li>• Training available in horticultural skills</li> </ul>
<b>9.</b> We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate chaos - famine, is likely to increase crime, disorder and danger. If people have the skills to produce some of their own food,</li> <li>• A strong local identity can be helped by allotment and horticultural associations and local community events on allotment sites. This improves vandalism rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variety and amount locally grown produce.</li> <li>• Number people involved with gardening and other events at local allotment sites.</li> </ul>
<b>10.</b> We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.	<b>32.</b> Reduce overall ecological foot-print.	<p>Gardening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enables people to reduce their food miles;</li> <li>• provides an activity close to home so reducing transport miles in search of entertainment,</li> <li>• contributes to the local environment and biodiversity.</li> <li>• Organic gardening reduced the carbon footprint.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % people growing some of their own food.</li> <li>• % new allotment plots, community gardens and orchards.</li> <li>• % people walking, cycling to allotment sites</li> </ul>

<p><b>11.</b> We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.</p>	<p><b>28.</b> Increase the percentage of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allotment associations provide the opportunity for people to learn how to work together to support, improve and maintain their environment.</li> <li>• Allotment sites provide the opportunity for social interaction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % new allotment associations</li> <li>• % reduction in disputes reported to local authorities for negotiation by local associations</li> <li>• Increase in community events associated with allotment sites - open days, fetes, fruit and vegetable days, seed swops etc</li> </ul>
<p><b>12.</b> We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.</p>	<p><b>35.</b> Biodiversity - increase the index of abundance of terrestrial breeding birds. <b>37.</b> Increase the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors each week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allotments and gardens support biodiversity, provide a vehicle for understanding and enjoying the natural environment and an opportunity to individuals to contribute towards the protection of the soil.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % wildlife areas - hedges, ponds, etc on allotment sites</li> <li>• % events with gardeners and LBAP officers.</li> <li>• Increase in the standard gardens and plots.</li> <li>• % fruit trees in local area</li> <li>• % increase in organic gardening</li> </ul>
<p><b>13.</b> We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local food contributes to national identity.</li> <li>• The cultivated landscape is a source of pride - Heritage gardens and parks are well used and loved as shown by visitor numbers.</li> <li>• If people tend their own allotments and gardens then they gain more understanding of the value and beauty of our cultivated landscape.</li> <li>• The opportunity to garden contributes to an inclusive national identity- a nation of gardeners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % local food events associated with local food.</li> <li>• % gardens open to the public locally</li> <li>• % parks with local flower and herb patches cultivated by local groups.</li> <li>• growth of horticultural clubs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>14.</b> We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.</p>	<p><b>39</b> reduce to 1.32 million tones waste sent to landfill by 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plot-holders compost waste and use product for enhancing their soil.</li> <li>• Home grown food does not need packaging.</li> <li>• Plot holders often are proud of their recycling skills.</li> <li>• organic gardeners do not use fertilizers or pesticides.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % composters and compost facilities on allotment sites</li> <li>• % local grown food.</li> <li>• % organic gardeners.</li> <li>• % energy saved by not using fertilisers and pesticides</li> <li>• Water saved by sustainable water management in gardens and allotments.</li> </ul>