Review of the National Outcomes (Scottish Government Consultation)

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland. For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

1 Executive Summary

The Scottish Government have released a consultation as part of their review of the National Outcomes. Under the Community Empowerment Act (2015), the National Outcomes are required to be reviewed every five years. These outcomes are laid out in the National Performance Framework, this is the wellbeing framework of Scotland which measures progress towards the outcomes and sets out the vision for Scotland the Government wants to see.

The Scottish Government are looking to find out whether the National Outcomes describe the Scotland that you want to live in, and whether the existing National Outcomes are the right ones and reflect what matters to communities.

Click here to complete the consultation by 5 June 2023.

2 Background

The last review of the National Outcomes took place in 2018 with the following agreed upon 11 Outcomes:

1. Children - Grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential
2. Communities - Live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe
3. Culture - Are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely

4. Economy - Have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy
5. Education - Are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society
6. Environment - Value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment
7. Fair Work & Business - Have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone
8. Health - Are healthy and active
9. Human Rights - Respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination
10. International - Are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally
11. Poverty - Tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally

The National Performance Framework has four main roles:

1. Scotland's wellbeing framework - The NPF brings together the various aspirations for Scotland (social, cultural, environmental, economic, physical)
2. Collaboration and participation catalyst – The NPF brings together national and local government, businesses, voluntary organisations and communities to work together towards shared outcomes
3. Provides our values – Designing policies, delivering services and engaging people will be shaped by the values of kindness, treating everyone with dignity and compassion, and acting openly and transparently
4. Measures success – The NPF combines economic measures with wellbeing measures to determine how well Scotland is doing. There are 81 National Indicators

More information on the National Performance Framework can be found at https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/.

3 Consultation questions

1. How much would you say you know about Scotland's National Performance Framework (NPF)?
2. Do the current set of National Outcomes fully describe the kind of Scotland you want to see?
3. Does each individual National Outcome (set out below) describe the kind of Scotland you want to live in?
   - Children and Young People - We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential
   - Communities - We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe

- Culture - We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely
- Economy - We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy
- Education - We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society
- Environment - We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment
- Fair Work and Business - We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone
- Health - We are healthy and active
- Human Rights - We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination
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- Poverty - We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally

4. What, if anything, would you change about the National Outcomes? Why would you make these changes?
5. Complete this sentence: "I would like to live in a Scotland that…"

4 APSE Comment

APSE encourages our membership in Scotland to respond to this consultation. There have been significant changes in Scotland over the period since the last review. As this review is only undertaken every five years, it is important for local authorities to ensure their voices are heard in the debate about the relevance of the current 11 National Outcomes.

We support the use of National Indicators as a means of determining how much progress is being made against targets. However, it is important to ensure that any 'targets' are supported by meaningful performance improvements. APSE Performance Networks is the largest voluntary public sector benchmarking service across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Performance Networks offers local authorities the opportunity to use data to drive up your performance in quality, cost and productivity. For more information on joining Performance Networks, please visit our website at: https://apse.org.uk/index.cfm/apse/performance-networks/.

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APSE member authorities have access to a range of membership resources to assist in delivering council services. This includes our regular advisory groups, specifically designed to bring together elected members, directors, managers and heads of service, together with trade union representatives to discuss service specific issues, innovation and new ways of delivering continuous improvement. The advisory groups are an excellent forum for sharing ideas and discussing topical service issues with colleagues from other councils throughout the UK.

Advisory groups are a free service included as part of your authority's membership of APSE and all end with an informal lunch to facilitate networking with peers in other councils. If you do not currently receive details about APSE advisory group meetings and would like to be added to our list of contacts for your service area please email enquiries@apse.org.uk.

Our national advisory groups include:-

- FM and Building cleaning
- Catering (School Meals)
- Cemeteries and Crematoria
- Cost of Providing/Cost of Living Network
- Highways and Street Lighting
- Housing, Construction and Building Maintenance
- Local Authority Commercialisation, Income and Trading Network
- Parks, Horticulture and Grounds Maintenance
- Recovery and Renewal
- Renewables and Climate Change
- Roads, highways and street lighting
- Sports and Leisure Management
- Vehicle Maintenance and Transport
- Waste Management, Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing

Our Scottish advisory groups include:-

- Building and Housing
- Commercialisation
- Renewables and Energy Efficiency
- Roads and Street Lighting
- Soft Facilities Management

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