



National Performance Framework & Sustainable Development Goals

Introduction

During Weekend 3, the Sustainability session will explore the member's priority statement:

"...the kind of Scotland we are seeking to build will be a sustainable country balancing environmental, economic and social impacts for the good of the country and its citizens"

To aid learning and deliberation, the National Performance Unit within the Scottish Government has kindly prepared a summary of Scotland's National Performance Framework and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

What is the National Performance Framework (NPF)?



Introduced in 2007, and updated in 2011 and 2016, the National Performance Framework (NPF) sets out **a vision for national wellbeing in Scotland**. It sets an overall purpose and vision for Scotland and highlights the broad 'National Outcomes' that support the purpose.

The NPF also provides measures on how well Scotland is progressing towards those outcomes. Performance is reported on the **NPF website** (<http://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>).

What is the purpose of the NPF?

The NPF is **Scotland's wellbeing framework**. It explicitly includes 'increased wellbeing' as part of its purpose, and combines measurement of how well Scotland is doing in economic terms with a broader range of wellbeing measures. These 'National Indicators' incorporate a range of different types of data – from social attitudes and perceptions to economic and environmental statistics – in order to paint a broad picture of Scotland's performance.

The NPF provides a framework for collaboration and planning of policy and services across the whole spectrum of Scotland's civic society, including public and private sectors, voluntary organisations, businesses and communities. It is based on **delivering outcomes that improve the quality of life for the people of Scotland**.

What are the key components of the NPF?

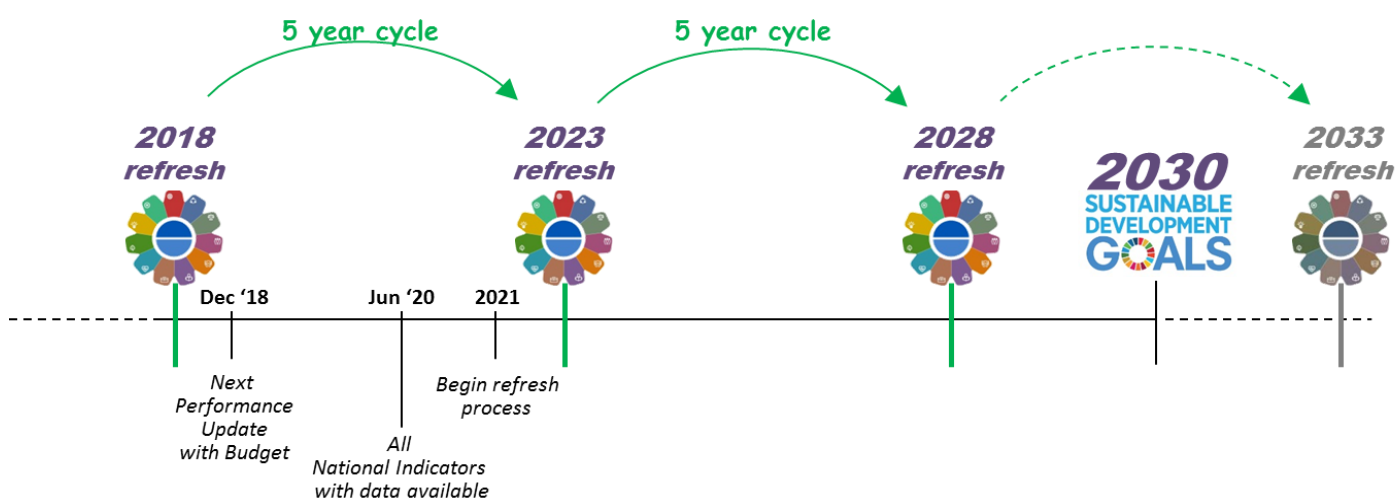
- **Our Purpose** sets out the direction and ambition for Scotland.
- **Our Values** describe the underpinning principles that we share as a nation.
- **11 National Outcomes** describe what we want to achieve and the kind of Scotland we want to see.
- **81 National Indicators** help us track our progress.
- **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** align our global responsibilities.

What's different about the revised NPF published in June 2018?

The Scottish Government conducted a series of **public, expert and internal consultation exercises** in 2017-18, with help from partner organisations and key stakeholders, including the Carnegie UK Trust, Oxfam Scotland and the Children’s Parliament.

This review identified a set of National Outcomes which better **reflect the values and aspirations of the public, expert stakeholders and Ministers**, and improve **alignment with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. It also simplified the language and look of the framework. Better tracking of progress in reducing inequalities, promoting equality, and encouraging preventative approaches were also prioritised. The subsequent changes to the National Outcomes also led to a **review of the overall framework**, including the National Indicator set and purpose and values.

The next review of the NPF will take place in 2023.



Why does the NPF have a values statement?

The NPF values describe a society characterised by openness and transparency, in which people and organisations treat each other with **kindness, dignity, compassion** and respect the rule of law. The values inform the behaviours people in Scotland should see in everyday life and are part of a commitment to improving individual and collective wellbeing.

The values also inform decisions about what is prioritised to make progress on the National Outcomes and how we will behave to get there.

Who is accountable for the delivery of the NPF?

Following the introduction of the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#), Scottish Ministers have a duty to consult on, develop and publish a new set of National Outcomes for Scotland and **to review them at least every five years**.

The refreshed NPF was debated and approved by the Scottish Parliament and has cross-party support. Scottish Ministers are accountable to the Scottish Parliament for the NPF's development and delivery.

The NPF was launched jointly by the Scottish Government and COSLA and local government plays a key role in the delivery of the National Outcomes. Scotland's Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs), which encourage public bodies to work with local communities to design and deliver better services, support the NPF through their Local Outcomes Improvement Plans (LOIPs).

The NPF promotes partnership working by making **organisations jointly accountable for planning and spending to achieve shared Outcomes**. Everyone in the public sector has some accountability for supporting Scotland to deliver progress on the National Outcomes. [Partnership working and close collaboration](#) will be key to delivering progress. All sectors have a vital role to play, and some accountability, for delivering the NPF.

How are we progressing the NPF?

Although significant progress has been made across Scotland over the last 10 years, the NPF is a **long-term strategic performance framework**. Change will take time and involve considerable shifts in culture, systems and practice. The five year review cycle as well as the SDG 2030 timeline will help us take that long-term view.

[Scotland's Wellbeing – Delivering the National Outcomes](#) was published on 30 May 2019. This report shows how Scotland is placed one year on from the publication of the refreshed NPF. The report brings together existing data on key issues, trends and features

which the evidence suggests are important to consider when making decisions on policy, services and spending.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals



The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. As part of this the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action – they set out **17 ambitious goals** (outlined above) underpinned by 169 specific targets that all UN nations are expected to achieve by 2030. Scotland was one of the first countries to sign up to the SDGs in 2015.

The SDGs require local adaptation, meaning that they should help enrich existing local and national plans or programmes, helping to identify any gaps and lend momentum. The NPF is Scotland's framework to localise the SDGs. Both the NPF and the SDGs share a desire to create a better world and a recognition of the challenges involved.

Working in partnership is critical to achieving both the National Outcomes and the Sustainable Development Goals, as Goal 17 highlights. No one organisation, including

government national and local, can achieve the ambitions alone. In Scotland we already have a good partnership infrastructure in place and this will continue to develop.

Where can I find out more?

- [The NPF website](#) displays data on our progress towards the National Outcomes and hosts a range of resources to support outcomes based working.
- [UN Sustainable Development Goals website](#)
- You can [download a pdf version of the NPF](#) from the website.
- Contact the National Performance Unit, Scottish Government, directly at: NationalPerformance@gov.scot.

Key terms explained

Our Purpose	Collective vision for the kind of Scotland we would like to live in. Sets out the direction and ambition for Scotland over the longer term.
Our Values	A sense of what we are about as a nation in terms of our underlying principles, how we relate to others, and the approach we will take to achieve our ambitions.
National Outcomes	Describe what we would like to achieve as a nation and the kind of country we aspire to be. They set out in simple, high level, terms what people have told us is most important to them in relation to their lives, their communities and their country.
National Indicators	Help us to track progress towards the National Outcomes and ultimately the delivery of Our Purpose. They are not targets , but support wider assessment of progress. They show how we are progressing towards the National Outcomes, and towards the SDGs.
Local Outcomes Improvement Plans (LOIPs)	Strategic plans produced by CPPs which set out the local outcomes they agree to prioritise for improvement. They typically feature a small number of priorities on which CPPs agree they can make a positive difference.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	A set of 17 goals and 169 targets which provide the United Nations' blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030. They address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace and justice. They interconnect and operate on the principle of leaving no one behind. The SDGs are embedded within the NPF and sit alongside our wider national ambitions and reporting obligations.