



Environment and Rural Development Committee

36th Meeting, 2006

Wednesday 13 December 2006

The Committee will meet at 10.45 am in Committee Room 2.

1. **Scrutiny of sustainable development:** The Committee will take evidence on the scrutiny of sustainable development from—

Maf Smith, Scottish Director, and

Helen Phillips, Senior Policy Analyst (Wales), Sustainable Development Commission.

Not before 11.30 am—

2. **Scrutiny of sustainable development:** The Committee will take evidence on the scrutiny of sustainable development from—

Ross Finnie MSP, Minister for Environment and Rural Development;

Kim Fellows, Director, Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Directorate, Scottish Executive; and

Simon Pepper, external member of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Sustainable Scotland,

and will decide whether to consider the evidence received, and options for further work on this issue, in private at its next meeting.

Mark Brough
Clerk to the Committee
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The following papers are attached:

<u>Agenda Items 1 & 2</u>	
Briefing paper <i>[Members only]</i>	ERD/S2/06/36/1a
Submission from the Sustainable Development Commission	ERD/S2/06/36/1b
Correspondence from the Minister for Environment and Rural Development	ERD/S2/06/36/1c
SPICe Briefing 06/75 Sustainable development – scrutiny of legislation	ERD/S2/06/36/1d

SUBMISSION FROM THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Many thanks for your invitation to the Sustainable Development Commission to appear before you on the 13th December and provide its perspective on the role of the Scottish Parliament in delivering sustainable development.

Ahead of this appearance, I thought that the following information would be of use to helping frame some of the views we would like to outline at on the 13th.

Firstly, it will perhaps be helpful to outline who the Sustainable Development Commission is, and our work within Scotland as well as across the UK as whole.

The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) is the Government's independent advisory body on sustainable development. The Commission reports to the Prime Minister and the First Ministers for Wales and Scotland. Established in 2000, the SDC is chaired by Jonathon Porritt and comprises 19 Commissioners supported by a policy secretariat. The SDC Vice-Chair for Scotland is Professor Jan Bebbington.

The SDC secretariat comprises almost 50 staff based in our offices in London, Cardiff, Belfast and Edinburgh. Our work covers a wide range of policy fields, and we aim to provide evidence based advice on the development of sustainable development across the UK. An increase of funding from the Scottish Executive and the UK Government is allowing us to upscale our work in Scotland, and we expect a staff team of five to be in place in January 2007.

It is also worth noting that the SDC Welsh team is involved in similar discussions with the Welsh Assembly about its own work on sustainable development, so our comments are framed with this wider discussion in mind.

In drawing up this response we have used expertise from Commissioners and the Secretariat, and have also compared our experiences of engaging in policy work within UK Government and the three devolved administrations.

It is worth starting by recognising that within the Scottish Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy – *Choosing Our Future* – the role of the Scottish Parliament is clearly recognised. Paragraph 14.22 notes that:

“The Partnership Agreement stresses the importance of robust Parliamentary arrangements to hold the Executive to account. Just as sustainable development challenges the Executive to change its way of working, so it presents challenges and opportunities for the Parliament: to encourage public access and participation in the issues and hold the Executive to account. **The Executive will work with the Parliament to explore new and effective ways of achieving these aims.**”

Within *Choosing Our Future* the Scottish Executive has also established clear roles for the SDC to play, noting in Paragraph 14.26 and 14.27 that:

“We need to ensure that the SDC in Scotland is well placed to advise government by:

- producing a strategic assessment of performance ahead of the next strategy
- reporting on an annual basis on progress in delivering the strategy
- providing access to authoritative advice that is based on clear evidence
- highlighting best practice in sustainable development in other countries, and building on current links in the EU, the OECD and other international organisations.

The SDC also has an important role to play in promoting sustainable development in Scotland: encouraging a climate of opinion, promoting wider public debate and shared learning, and developing partnerships with key organisations and sectors.”

We would therefore hope that in these two interlinked parts of the Strategy common cause can be found to ensure successful delivery of sustainable development in Scotland.

I trust that you find the attached of use ahead of the evidence session itself. Also, may I say that the Sustainable Development Commission would welcome an opportunity to provide further advice on how governance of sustainable development within the Scottish Parliament might function, should the Committee see that further work is needed once it has reviewed the findings of this meeting.



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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23 August 2006

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your letter of 27 June inviting me to submit further written briefing to the Committee on a number of sustainable development issues.

First, you asked about progress on three documents which our sustainable development strategy, *Choosing our Future*, had said would be published by spring 2006.

Two of these – the sustainable development strategy implementation plan and the revised set of Scottish sustainable development indicators – were published on 5 July. The implementation plan was accompanied by a summary progress report, which had been submitted to the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Sustainable Scotland in line with commitments made in the strategy. The delays in publication were because consultations on the two documents' content with Executive Departments and external partners and stakeholders took longer than we had expected.

The third document – the Scottish Action Plan for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development – also took longer to finalise than anticipated, mainly because of the large number of interests needing to be consulted, within and outwith the Executive. The Plan has now been finalised and will be published later this month.

Second, you asked about staff training and the revised policy-makers' toolkit. Work is in progress to embed sustainable development in policy making. Sustainable development runs through the Executive's Better Policy Making course, increasing participants' awareness and giving them the opportunity to reflect on how sustainability issues interact with policy development and the delivery process. This is followed through in the case studies used in the course. Later this year, the Executive will be running specific sustainable development courses for Senior Civil Servants and policy makers, in association with the University of Cambridge's Business in the Environment Programme and Forum for the Future. Course participants will be asked to evaluate these, in the usual way, and their feedback will be used to help develop further training opportunities.

In addition, a number of seminars on issues related to sustainable development are being arranged for staff generally, through the Executive's Policy Makers' Network and Policy Week. Previous such seminars held over the past year have proved popular with staff across the Executive.

In parallel, we have updated the policy makers' toolkit with the inclusion of a quick reference guidance note on sustainable development, as part of a wider programme of work we are taking forward on guidance and toolkits. Guidance has also been provided to help Business Managers and Departments incorporate sustainable development in annual business plans and the accompanying sustainable development statements. We are currently considering what further advice would aid Bill Teams and how best to make links with current toolkits such as Pre-Expenditure Assessment.

Third, you asked about the work of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Sustainable Scotland. The Cabinet Sub-Committee's role can be summarised as identifying priorities for action on sustainable development in Scotland, deciding on issues of timing and implementation, assisting Ministers in embedding sustainable development in their policies and programmes, and monitoring the Executive's overall performance on its environmental and sustainable development commitments. The fact that the Sub-Committee is chaired by the First Minister and includes the Deputy First Minister and other Cabinet Ministers from key portfolios helps to underline within the Executive the importance Ministers attach to sustainable development. It meets roughly quarterly to consider issues selected on the basis of their sustainable development significance, topicality and the extent to which they would benefit from collective Ministerial consideration.

In particular, the Sub-Committee oversaw the production of the Scottish sustainable development strategy, which sets out the Executive's priorities for action on sustainable development in Scotland, and of the strategy implementation plan mentioned above, which translates these into a more detailed work programme. In line with commitments in the strategy, the Sub-Committee will be responsible for monitoring progress against the implementation plan and the strategy, supported by regular quarterly progress reports, of which the report published on 5 July was the first. These will be supplemented by independent annual reports from the Sustainable Development Commission, the first of which we expect in early 2007.

The Sub-Committee also supports progress in portfolios by providing a forum for collective consideration of major policies in development, such as the Scottish Climate Change Programme and the National Transport Strategy, and measures to mainstream sustainable development within the Executive's systems and processes, such as the spending review. These discussions benefit from the additional perspectives and expertise provided by the Sub-Committee's three external members and help to prepare and inform discussions in Cabinet.

Finally, you asked how the Parliament and the Executive could work together on sustainable development and whether we had done any work on how sustainable development is tackled in other legislatures.

I have two main points in mind under this heading. First, I think it would be helpful to explore whether additional training or guidance could help Parliamentary staff to support Members in considering the sustainable development implications of issues coming before them – in all Committees – and ensuring that the Executive is held effectively to account for its application of sustainable principles. Secondly, Parliament has the ability through debates, the work of its committees and initiatives such as the Scottish Futures Forum and the Scottish Parliament and Business Exchange, to promote wider interest, awareness and engagement in sustainable development issues. We would be happy to work with the relevant authorities to identify and support opportunities to do this.

So far as other legislatures are concerned, the Executive is aware of the OECD study mentioned in your letter, which looked at approaches to sustainable development governance in Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the UK. We also take opportunities created by planned and ad hoc links with other regions or legislatures to learn about their approaches to a range of environmental and sustainable development issues. We have not however yet done any specific work on lessons for Scotland in the area of governance for sustainable development.

I hope that this reply is helpful. As you requested, an electronic copy has been sent to the Committee Clerk at ERDC@scottish.parliament.uk.

ROSS FINNIE



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – SCRUTINY OF LEGISLATION

GRAEME COOK

Scottish Ministers have committed to mainstreaming sustainable development issues in policy and legislation. This SPICe Briefing was requested by the Scottish Parliament Environment and Rural Development Committee to consider how different legislatures, and in particular committees, scrutinise legislation for impacts on the three strands of sustainable development – environment, economy and social. The Briefing outlines the background to sustainable development scrutiny in the Scottish Parliament, and details best practice from some national and international case studies.

SPICe briefing

16 October 2006

06/75

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KEY POINTS

- Sustainable development is the theory that social, economic and environmental aspects of life should be considered in a fair and balanced way
- The principle has been part of the discussion around the Scottish Parliament since the Report of the Consultative Steering Group on the Scottish Parliament in 1998
- The principle has been signed up to by the Scottish Executive, most recently through the Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy
- Tools exist which can be used by Scottish Executive policymakers to integrate the principles of sustainable development into policy and legislation
- The Scottish Executive gives some analysis, in accompanying documents to Bills, of their sustainable development impact
- The depth of this analysis has been variable and training is being developed for key Executive staff, including Bill teams
- The First Minister chairs the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Sustainable Scotland, though consideration of legislation is not an explicit part of the remit of the Sub-Committee
- Many governments are signed up to the theory of sustainable development, but legislatures seem, in general, to give the issue less consideration when scrutinising legislation
- Some argue that there is a need for better scrutiny by the Scottish Parliament of sustainable development issues, especially when considering legislation
- Most detailed work in the Scottish Parliament on this area has taken place in the Environment Committee, though the issue is a cross-cutting one
- The Scottish Executive has offered to work closely with Scottish Parliament Committees to ensure better scrutiny of legislation and policy
- Whilst few legislatures use a 'checklist' approach to scrutinising legislation for sustainable development issues, tools exist which could assist legislatures, and specifically committees, to consider whether legislation properly considers aspects of sustainable development
- There are useful national and international case studies in the field of sustainable development scrutiny, including in institutions which do not necessarily have primary legislative competence
- Some institutions use the expertise of independent offices for sustainable development to improve scrutiny of legislation

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development is the theory that social, economic and environmental aspects of life should be considered in a fair and balanced way and that policy, spending and resource use decisions taken now should not jeopardise the standard of living of future generations. The [UK Sustainable Development Strategy](#) (HM Government 2005) identifies five principles which form the basis for policy in the UK, through:

1. Living within environmental limits
2. Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
3. Achieving a sustainable economy
4. Promoting good governance
5. Using sound science responsibly

While the UK strategy recognises that some policies will place more importance on certain principles than others, the theory that sustainable development issues should be considered across Scottish Executive departments is beginning to be applied more widely. In the foreword to the [Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy](#) (Scottish Executive 2005) the First Minister and Deputy First Minister state that:

“Sustainable development is a concept easy to subscribe to, harder to put into practice. What matters is the change to culture, policy and action that results from a strategy – and this one is designed to deliver such change.”

One way for the Executive to achieve its aims is to mainstream sustainable development principles through legislation. The First Minister chairs the [Cabinet Sub-Committee on Sustainable Scotland](#), though consideration of legislation is not an explicit part of the remit of the Sub-Committee.

The role of parliaments is to scrutinise legislation, and the work of government. If governments subscribe to the theory of mainstreaming sustainable development, parliaments must take this into account when considering whether legislation is fit for purpose. For this to happen, those charged with scrutinising the work of the Executive would need the tools and knowledge to be able to consider whether such aspirations are being met.

This SPICe Briefing was requested by the Scottish Parliament Environment and Rural Development Committee to consider how different legislatures, and in particular committees, scrutinise legislation for impacts on sustainable development. This briefing does not explore the sustainable development policy of the Executive in great detail, though where appropriate mention is made of national or regional sustainable development policy, particularly in the case study section of the briefing.

The UK and Scottish Sustainable Development Strategies require the Sustainable Development Commission to examine and report on government performance in developing and delivering sustainable development. This is a different type of scrutiny to that undertaken by parliamentary committees.

In 2004 the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) commissioned research on behalf of the Environment and Rural Development Committee entitled [Is the Scottish Executive Structured and Positioned to Deliver Sustainable Development?](#) (Scottish Parliament 2004a). This research was published in September 2004 and was accompanied by a [press release](#) (Scottish Parliament 2004b). Whilst it contained a number of recommendations for the Scottish

Executive, it also contained some for the Parliament. These were that the Parliament should consider the following actions:

- Better integrate sustainable development into core staff training - Training should be provided to SPICe staff, Committee Clerks and as part of the general induction training to the policy staff supporting the individual parties and independent MSPs.
- Develop a checklist to help parliamentary committees to assess the sustainability of legislation under consideration - The Parliament should consider the introduction of a sustainable development checklist (similar to that already developed for equality issues) to enable MSPs and staff supporting all committees to better consider the sustainability implications of their work.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

In March 1999 [Scotland the Sustainable - 10 action points for the Scottish Parliament](#) (Advisory Group on Sustainable Development 1999) was published. The first of the 10 action points recommended was:

“The Parliament and Scottish Executive should demonstrate committed leadership. Priority should be given by the Parliament to put sustainable development at the heart of its policy making, to ensure the social inclusion of all Scots, to ensure economic vitality and environmental responsibility.”

Arising directly from the report of the [Consultative Steering Group on the Scottish Parliament \(CSG\)](#), the [Standing Orders](#) of the Parliament state that the Policy Memorandum accompanying a Bill should contain (Scottish Parliament 2006a):

“...an assessment of the effects, if any, of the Bill on equal opportunities, human rights, island communities, local government, sustainable development and any other matter which the Scottish Ministers consider relevant.”

This requirement has been applied to different degrees, though efforts to improve the awareness of key staff, including Bill teams, is developing in the Executive (Scottish Executive 2006a). In response to a request from the Environment and Rural Development Committee, the Scottish Executive made available a [statement](#) (Scottish Parliament 2006c) and [paper](#) (Scottish Parliament 2006d) on the impact of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill on sustainable development. An excerpt from the paper, showing analysis against the five key principles from the UK Sustainable Development Strategy is reproduced in Annex I.

The CSG report does not discuss parliamentary scrutiny of sustainable development issues any further¹. From the Scottish Executive perspective ([Scottish Executive](#) 2006), the Standing Orders are interpreted as:

“All primary legislation is subjected to a “sustainable development compliance test”, and the policy memorandum accompanying all Executive Bills in Parliament contains a statement as to whether the Bill touches on sustainable development and, if so, how. The approach is similar to that taken in relation to human rights compliance (Scotland Act 1998; Human Rights (Scotland) Act, 1998). Parliamentary scrutiny of Executive action on sustainable development has been characterised [as] insufficient by Birley (2001), who called for a specific committee to assume that role. At UK level, the Environment Audit

¹ This is different from the equivalent document in Wales where sustainable development is enshrined in founding legislation

Committee performs that role and considerable research has focused on its effectiveness)”.

There is therefore no formal requirement for committees, or the wider Scottish Parliament, to make explicit consideration of sustainable development issues. The [Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy](#) (Scottish Executive 2005a) fleshes out this topic a little (bold highlighting from document):

*“Executive bills submitted to Parliament include a summary of the likely implications for sustainable development. These are published on the Parliament’s website as part of the policy memoranda. To improve transparency and enhance the quality of these statements, **the sustainable development assessments accompanying Executive bills will also be published together on the Executive’s website.**”*

And:

*“The Partnership Agreement stresses the importance of robust Parliamentary arrangements to hold the Executive to account. Just as sustainable development challenges the Executive to change its way of working, so it presents challenges and opportunities for the Parliament: to encourage public access and participation in the issues and hold the Executive to account. **The Executive will work with the Parliament to explore new and effective ways of achieving these aims.**”*

In December 2005, at the launch of the Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy, the Minister for the Environment and Rural Development wrote to the Environment and Rural Development Committee, inviting it to start a dialogue with him on how to encourage public access and participation on the issue of sustainable development and to improve the way the Executive is held to account. The Minister stated (Scottish Executive 2005b):

“We are very keen to work with the Parliament to explore new and effective ways of achieving these aims and indeed this is one of the new commitments in the strategy. As I mention above, this potentially touches on the work of all Committees of the Parliament but it might be useful to start the discussion with you and other members of the Environment and Rural Development Committee. I hope we will be able to arrange an early discussion about how we might take this forward.”

The Committee considered some of these issues at its meeting on [21 June 2006](#) (Scottish Parliament Environment and Rural Development Committee 2006), and asked the Minister to flesh out, in writing, how he saw this process working. The Minister wrote to the Committee in August 2006, stating that (Scottish Executive 2006a):

- *I think it would be helpful to explore whether additional training or guidance could help Parliamentary staff to support Members in considering the sustainable development implications of issues coming before them — in all Committees — and ensuring that the Executive is held effectively to account for its application of sustainable principles*
- *Secondly, Parliament has the ability through debates, the work of its committees and initiatives such as the Scottish Futures Forum and the Scottish Parliament and Business Exchange, to promote wider interest, awareness and engagement in sustainable development issues. We would be happy to work with the relevant authorities to identify and support opportunities to do this.*

The Sustainable Development Strategy was debated in Parliament on [11 January 2006](#) (Scottish Parliament 2006b). The Convenor of the Environment & Rural Development Committee, Sarah Boyack MSP, explored the broader issue of sustainable development scrutiny stating:

“Every single policy committee of the Parliament should take the sections of the report, scrutinise them and ask what is happening on their watch. What is happening in the Enterprise and Culture Committee that relates to the document? What is happening in the Communities Committee? Such scrutiny should not only be carried out by the Environment and Rural Development Committee; it has to be taken on board by the whole Parliament. That is why the chamber needs to be full. All of us know how the whipping system works, but every member attends committees. I suggest that we follow the recommendations in chapters 14, 15 and 16. We should consider the radical ideas on targets and on driving us in a different direction. We should ensure that Parliament criticises the Executive regularly, that it takes responsibility and that it cuts through the rhetoric and the cross-party consensus. Every single committee should consider what the Executive is doing and should sign up to some of the tough decisions. Then we will get to choose our own future and achieve a sustainable Scotland. That is something that everybody in the chamber would sign up to. The real challenge is what we do as parliamentarians to make that happen.”

The Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development summed up the debate stating:

“Sarah Boyack, Mark Ballard and other members talked about the need for committees to become involved. I agree absolutely. The most important thing is that Parliament can take part and scrutinise the contribution that portfolio expenditure makes—the difference that is being made throughout the Executive. We would welcome that. We need to be able to work in partnership with the Parliament and we need to be clear about the contribution that each portfolio makes, whether it is negative or positive, to sustainable development objectives.”

There are some parallels with work carried out to ensure Equal Opportunities were properly mainstreamed across the work of the Committees in the Scottish Parliament. The Equal Opportunities Committee (2003) Report into [‘Mainstreaming equality in the work of committees and the Scottish Parliament’](#) developed a checklist backed up by some key questions:

1. What is the policy for? Who is the policy for? What are the desired and anticipated outcomes?
2. Do we have full information and analyses about the impact of the policy upon all equalities groups? If not, why not?
3. Has the full range of options and their differential impacts on all equality groups been presented?
4. What are the outcomes and consequences of the proposals? Have the indirect, as well as the direct, effects of proposals been taken into account?
5. How have the policy makers demonstrated they have mainstreamed equality?
6. How will the policy be monitored and evaluated? How will improved awareness of equality implications be demonstrated?

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOVERNANCE

Sustainable development as a concept has developed at a global level for many years, rising to prominence at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (the “Earth Summit”) at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 (though the principles were promoted for many years under different

headings). However, the role of scrutiny at a national or sub-national level is not one that has been given a high profile.

In 2002 the Organisation for Economic Development (OECD) published [Governance for Sustainable Development: Five OECD Case Studies](#) (OECD 2002). In a document running to just under 350 pages, 'scrutiny', is not considered in much detail, and is developed little in another 2002 OECD publication, [Improving Policy Coherence and Integration for Sustainable Development - a Checklist](#) (OECD 2002b). However, in 2006 the OECD published its developing thinking in [Good Practices in the National Sustainable Development Strategies of OECD Countries](#) (OECD 2006).

Other work carried out by global institutions seems to focus on general policy development, rather than legislative scrutiny. Examples include:

- [Sustaining Sustainability](#) by the [European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils](#) (2005)
- work by the [Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development](#) (NRG4SD)

The [Working Group on Environmental Auditing](#) has examined the role of scrutiny a little more closely. [Sustainable Development: The Role of Supreme Audit Institutions](#) (WGEA 2004) considers the broad range of how policy can be scrutinised but does not seem to develop the role of legislative scrutiny in this regard.

Earlier this year the Scottish Executive (2006b) published [Sustainable Development: a Review of International Literature](#). The remit for this document did not however, consider the role of legislatures in scrutinising legislation. The Minister for Environment and Sustainable development stated to the Environment and Rural Development Committee that the Executive had carried out no work considering best practice for sustainable development scrutiny in legislatures around the world (Scottish Executive 2006a).

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CASE STUDIES

Some national and regional governments have sustainable development written into their structures of government through legislation (e.g. Wales, Estonia, Tasmania), but the vast majority do not (including the Scottish Executive). However, most governments subscribe to the theory of sustainable development at some level.

There is not scope in this briefing to investigate the approach every country or devolved area takes when considering primary legislation. However, a broad spectrum of legislatures and expert umbrella bodies has been contacted in researching this topic. Those approached include:

- Spain, Netherlands, Hawaii, California, Western Australia, Australia, Canada, USA, Wales, House of Commons, London Assembly, Sweden, Estonia, Finland, Denmark, Belgium, France, Germany, New Zealand

In addition, a number of agencies were contacted, including:

- [Local Government for Sustainability](#), [United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies](#), [Forum for the Future](#), [Sustainable Development Commission](#), [Scottish Executive](#), [Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development](#) (NRG4SD), [Sustainable Development Research Network](#) (SDRN), [World Resources Institute](#).

Use of a sustainable development checklist is a concept that has developed a little at UK local authority level. For example, Cambridgeshire County Council has a sustainability checklist for overview and scrutiny of committees ([WWF 2004](#)). CAG Consultants have carried out some work for the English Regions Network (ERN) on sustainable development scrutiny. Part of this work resulted in some guidance (CAG Consultants 2004) for use by staff members in regional assemblies.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Below are examples of national legislatures which consider sustainable development to some degree. There is rarely a specific checklist for consideration of legislation, though there are some models for 'Futures Committees' and the like.

Canada

The Canadian House of Commons has a [Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development](#). However, no checklist exists for committees considering the sustainable development aspects of primary legislation (Library of Parliament of Canada 2006), though, as would be expected, committees are given a free hand when it comes to analysing proposed legislation.

The [Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development](#), created in 1995, has a key role in Canada. The Commissioner "*provides parliamentarians with objective, independent analysis and recommendations on the federal government's efforts to protect the environment and foster sustainable development*". The Commissioner reports annually to the Canadian Parliament, though does not have the mandate to consider the sustainable development implications of individual pieces of legislation that are brought before the Canadian Parliament. However, as part of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, the Commissioner can assess the implementation and/or application of a piece of legislation from an environmental or sustainable development perspective, within the context of an audit (Canadian Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development 2006), and also requires preparation of [sustainable development strategies](#) every three years (Officer of the Auditor General of Canada 2006).

Guidance for the preparation of the strategies is provided by the [Guide to Green Government](#) (Minister of Supply and Services 1995) though there have been calls from the Commissioner that the Government produce an overarching sustainable development strategy to help guide departments towards common objectives.

Two Canadian provinces, [Québec](#) and [Manitoba](#), have specific sustainable development legislation. The Quebec Sustainable Development Act 2006 states:

"The object of this Act is to establish a new management framework within the Administration to ensure that powers and responsibilities are exercised in the pursuit of sustainable development.

The measures introduced by this Act are intended, more specifically, to bring about the necessary change within society with respect to non-viable development methods by further integrating the pursuit of sustainable development into the policies, programs and actions of the Administration, at all levels and in all areas of intervention. They are designed to ensure that government actions in the area of sustainable development are coherent and to enhance the accountability of the Administration in that area, in particular through the controls exercised by the Sustainable Development Commissioner under the Auditor General Act"

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The purpose of the Manitoba Sustainable Development Act 1997 is “to create a framework through which sustainable development will be implemented in the provincial public sector and promoted in private industry and in society generally.”

Estonia

Estonia is one of only three governments which has sustainable development written into its constitution (the other two are Wales and Tasmania – both covered below) and the only national government to have this.

Committees of the Estonian Parliament (the Riigikogu) do not work to any sustainable development checklist (Chancellery of the Riigikogu 2006). However, the Riigikogu did approve the Estonian National Strategy on Sustainable Development, *Sustainable Estonia 21*, in September 2005 ([Estonian Ministry of the Environment](#) 2005). The Estonian Government had signed off the document some six months previously. *Sustainable Estonia 21* suggests that:

“To achieve substantive involvement of the Riigikogu in strategy-making, a Development Committee (an analogue to the Future Committee in Finland) should be established at the Riigikogu. The Committee would be the main state partner of the National Development Network (NDN) and a participant in strategy-making, the body through whom strategic planning would be realised at the state level. It would be dealing with both the general development strategy and the base strategies, ensuring that these are consistent with each other and that development- strategic standpoints are taken into account both in legislation and in budgeting. Although the committee cannot undertake the work of the Government and other parliamentary committees, it can formulate state’s positions with regard to long-term issues and provide the relevant orientations both to other parliamentary committees and the Government.”

The National Development Network mentioned above would be a politically independent body seeking to develop long-term programmes and harmonise the strategies of different sectors and monitoring their implementation.

Establishment of a Development Committee as outlined above has been under discussion in the Riigikogu but has not yet been established (Chancellery of the Riigikogu 2006).

Finland

In 1992 a substantial majority of Finnish MPs called for the Finnish Government to submit a report to Parliament on Finland’s long-term development options. The Finnish Parliament established a temporary [Committee for the Future](#) to consider the Government Report. This temporary Committee existed until 2000 when it was given permanent status. The Committee has five key tasks. It ([Parliament of Finland](#) 2006):

- prepares parliamentary documents entrusted to it, such as Parliament’s response to the Government’s Report on the Future
- issues statements to other committees on matters related to the future when asked to do so
- discusses issues pertaining to future development factors and development models
- analyses research regarding the future, including methodology
- serves as the parliamentary body responsible for assessing technological development and its consequences for society

The Committee for the Future takes the broad view that

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“It is the duty of parliament to observe the changing world, analyse it, and take a view in good time on how Finnish society and its political actors should respond to the challenges of the future. Democracy cannot be realised simply by accepting changes that have already taken place.”

The current Committee is focussing on five key areas:

1. The future of the Finnish information society
2. The future of public health care
3. Human security as an extensive long-term phenomenon
4. Regional innovation systems
5. Social capital in view of future risks for children and young people

More generally, guidance for those drafting Bills in the Finnish Government states that the Bill must include a brief assessment of economic, environmental and societal consequences i.e. the three pillars of sustainable development (Finland Ministry of Justice 2006).

Established in 1993, the [Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development](#) acts as a forum where sustainability ideas can be debated. Chaired by the Prime Minister, members include various other cabinet members, as well as representatives of NGOs, business, agencies, and civil servants.

Germany

There are two houses in the German Parliament. The sustainability agenda in Germany has been recognised as, up until the early 2000s, only really being of interest to the lower chamber of the German federal Parliament, (the Bundestag), where reports of investigatory committees through the 1990s drove the agenda and led ultimately to the German government giving the issue a higher profile ([OECD 2002a](#)).

Committees in the Bundesrat, the representative body for the German federal states in the German Parliament, do not have a formal sustainable development checklist to work to and even the Environment Committee does not have a particular distinct focus on fostering sustainability (Bundesrat 2006). One of the reasons for this is that it is perceived as difficult to define and measure the principle of sustainable development on a case-by-case basis. Issues which the committees do focus on are similar to those in other legislatures. Frequently recurring criteria include:

- environmental impact
- issues of enforceability
- degree of bureaucratization
- whether a measure can be financed
- compliance with EU provisions

It is assumed that sustainable development will have been considered during policy formulation. The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety takes the [policy lead](#) in this area. The [German Council for Sustainable Development](#), created in 2001, advises the government on its policy for sustainable development (Bundesrat 2006).

Ireland

Sustainable development issues are considered in certain areas of Irish legislation, primarily environmental protection, land use and planning. Whilst sustainable development is not

mentioned in the Irish Constitution, the 1996 Report of the Constitution Review Group (Stationery Office, 1996) recommended adding an article to the constitution to safeguard the environment, though the recommendation has not been implemented. Regarding scrutiny, the Oireachtas (the Irish Parliament) does not use any formal mechanism to take account of sustainable development issues when considering legislation.

In Ireland the third stage of a bill is the Committee Stage, where the Bill is examined in detail. There are currently 13 Select Committees that shadow government departments. There is no sustainable development checklist or any other kind of check list used by Committees when considering a Bill.

[Comhar](#) – the Irish Sustainable Development Council – has as its terms of reference to advance the national agenda for sustainable development, evaluate progress in this regard, to assist in devising suitable mechanisms and advising on their implementation, and to contribute to the formation of a national consensus in these regards.

New Zealand

The Local Government and Environment Select Committee does not work with a sustainable development checklist as such, however the [Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment](#) regularly provides the Committee with advice from a sustainability perspective when scrutinising legislation or the work of Government. The Commissioner for the Environment is an independent Officer of Parliament, and has powers including (Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment 2006a):

- obtaining information
- summoning people and examining them under oath
- protecting sources of information and maintaining confidentiality
- employing staff and consultants.

The Government's current policy position on sustainable development is outlined [online](#) (New Zealand Ministry for the Environment 2006). However, also of interest is the scrutiny work carried out by the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. In 2002, prior to the World Summit in Johannesburg, the Office evaluated New Zealand's progress on sustainable development since the Earth Summit in 1992. The report '[Creating Our Future](#)' (Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment 2002) analysed sustainable development in legislation and policies. The report revealed a very haphazard and ad hoc approach at that time. The Office is currently embarking on an [updated study](#) (Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment 2006b) due to report in April 2007.

One of the main developments in legislation since 2002 has been the introduction of the Local Government Act 2002². The Act “provides for local authorities to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities, taking a sustainable development approach”. The Act requires local authorities to identify community outcomes and develop long-term council community plans. The first round of these plans has been completed and [audited](#) by the Office of the Auditor-General and are seen by the Office as “auditing the future”.

² Available at: http://www.legislation.govt.nz/browse_vw.asp?content-set=pal_statutes

United Kingdom

There is no formal requirement for the UK Parliament to consider sustainability issues. The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) acts as an environmental watchdog on behalf of the House of Commons, but there is no mechanism for legislation, which is considered by committees established for the purpose (standing committees), to be appraised for sustainable development issues. However such issues may be taken up by Members during a Bill's passage and select committees such as EAC can consider draft legislation before it enters Parliament.

In June 2006 the EAC did report on the broader topic of [Sustainable Development Reporting by Government Departments](#) (Environmental Audit Committee 2006). Based on [work](#) carried out by the National Audit Office (2005a) the EAC report considers Government departments but does not consider Parliamentary scrutiny.

Furthermore, in July 2006 the Environmental Audit Committee [launched an inquiry](#) into policy appraisal and Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs). This followed a National Audit Office [report](#) (2005b) which stated that, of RIAs:

“Few identified all social or environmental impacts they might have been expected to cover. Social and environmental impacts were often not analysed in sufficient depth. And the variable presentation of RIAs made it difficult to see if and how sustainable development issues had been considered.”

The [Sustainable Development Commission](#) (SDC), the independent advisory body to the UK Government (and to the Scottish Executive), has a role to play in auditing government performance. The [Sustainable Development in Government Report \(SDiG\) 2004-5](#) (Sustainable Development Commission 2005) evaluates the performance of the different UK departments in delivering sustainable development objectives. It is interesting to note the SDC commentary on data collection and monitoring, a critical area if scrutiny is to be robust:

“As PwC have highlighted in their report, the data provided for SDiG 2005 contains numerous gaps and inconsistencies which vary by Department and Framework topic each year. This situation makes it difficult to monitor trends effectively and reach clear conclusions about progress.

Most Departments do not appear to have efficient monitoring and tracking systems in place to provide accurate data returns. For many Departments the SDiG reporting process seems to involve a last - minute scramble for data at the end of the SDiG year because the data gathering is not part of a constant management process. Although 12 out of the 13 Departments with mainly office-based estates have implemented an EMS at least one site, only four of the 13 have achieved 100% coverage.”

REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Hawaii

The [Hawaii State Legislature](#) does not appear to have a checklist for use by committees. However, more broadly, in 2005, the State Legislature passed a [law](#) that:

- Created a task force to review the Hawaii state plan and make recommendations for the “Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan.” This was done to “*define and implement state goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines for sustainable island development*”
- Required the Office of the Auditor to prepare a Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan

Chaired by State Senator Russell Kokubun, the [Sustainability Task Force](#) has members appointed by the Governor of Hawaii, the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, the Mayors of the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, and Honolulu, and the President of the University of Hawaii.

The 2050 Sustainability Plan will be submitted to the State Legislature in December 2007 and will be reviewed and discussed during the 2008 legislative session.

London

The Mayor of London, and the London Assembly, whilst not having legislation-making powers, still wield considerable influence, thus scrutiny methods are worth exploring in this briefing.

The Mayor of London has a duty to promote equality of opportunity, contribute to the good health of Londoners, and ensure London develops in a sustainable way. The London Assembly scrutinises the work of the Mayor. Specifically the Act which established the office states that the Mayor must:

- Have regard to the effect of all we do on the achievement of sustainable development in the UK
- When preparing or revising strategies, include policies and proposals best calculated to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the UK.

The Mayor uses sustainable development checklists for all three of the key cross-cutting areas he must consider, namely (London Assembly 2006):

- Equalities Impact Assessments
- Health Impact Assessments
- Sustainability Appraisal

The London Assembly committees do not use a specific checklist. Instead they measure progress against commitments set out in the Mayoral strategies and invite external expert opinion on how they think the commitments or progress can be improved on (London Assembly 2006).

Tasmania, Australia

Legislation exists in Tasmania to provide for sustainable development policies and to ensure environmental assessment. Another 42 Acts include the phrase ‘sustainable development’.

However the Tasmanian Parliament committees do not use any kind of checklist for sustainable development. The Committees are set up as select committees and standing committees according to their [terms of reference](#).

Victoria, Australia

Established in November 2003, the independent [Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability](#) promotes, audits and reports on environmental sustainability in Victoria. The Commissioner has a role in advising the Victoria Minister for the Environment, but is also carrying out work relating to:

- an Environmental Management Systems Strategic Audit of state government agencies and public authorities
- Encouraging sound environmental practices and procedures to be adopted by the Government of Victoria and local governments as a basis for ecologically sustainable development.

In July 2006 the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment published [Our Environment, Our Future - Sustainability Action Statement 2006](#). This document includes a section on 'Government leading by example'. This details actions in areas such as procurement and sustainable decision-making, but makes no reference to scrutiny by the Victorian Parliament. The [Sustainability Victoria](#) project exists to champion best practice on sustainability to all Victorians.

The Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the [Parliament of Victoria](#) does inquiry based work rather than considering legislation, responsibility for which falls to the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee.

Wales

The Government of Wales Act 1998 placed a duty on the Welsh Assembly Government to integrate sustainable development into everything the National Assembly does. The new arrangements for governance in Wales, due to be fully implemented after the election in 2007, will continue to require the integration of sustainable development although the duty will fall to Welsh Assembly Ministers rather than the legislature. The Welsh Assembly Government does not yet have a formal role in considering primary legislation, and it does not have a checklist to work to when carrying out other scrutiny roles.

However, thought has been given to ensuring better support for committees to help them better consider sustainable development issues. The clerking and research teams supporting the committees are seeking to do this, through for example, including, as appropriate, consideration of equality and sustainable development issues in briefing and lines of questioning provided for scrutiny of new and existing Welsh Assembly Government policies, legislation, the budget, the work of Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (ASPBs) and the Welsh Assembly Government Sustainable Development Action Plan.

This follows on from a [report](#) commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government on 'How effectively has the National Assembly for Wales promoted sustainable development?' (CAG Consultants 2003). A more recent [report](#) examined the Welsh Assembly Government (Sustainable Development Commission 2006), recommending that:

"Amongst officials, the level of understanding of sustainable development, and their capacity to use it as a central organising principle for smarter policy making and delivery, will be crucial factors in making further progress. Existing initiatives (such as the toolkit

under development with Forum for the Future) should be given more support, and should become part of a more coherent capacity-building programme.”

The Welsh Assembly Government already has an ‘Integration Tool’, which is reproduced in Annex II. This is used by small groups of staff to develop policy.

Western Australia

The Parliament of Western Australia has two houses, the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly. No Legislative Council committee has a specific mandate or approach that requires the consideration of sustainable development, though the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs has as part of its terms of reference that it should inquire into and report on:

“any public or private policy, practice, scheme, arrangement, or project whose implementation, or intended implementation, within the limits of the State is affecting, or may affect, the environment”

And that

“The Committee, where relevant and appropriate, is to assess the merit of matters or issues arising from an inquiry in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development and the minimisation of harm to the environment”

In the Legislative Assembly, most of the committee inquiries are issue based and do not assess/investigate legislation. Committees do not have a requirement to take into account sustainability, though this could be a consideration when the terms of reference are determined as part of the inquiry.

ANNEX I – EXCERPT FROM SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ANALYSIS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) BILL

PART 1: FISH FARMS & SHELLFISH FARMS CONTAINMENT & ESCAPE: FISH SECTIONS 1(3) – 1(6), 5, 6-12

SD Principle	Comments	Indicator
Environment	There remains a high degree of public interest and international concern about the number of escapes of salmon and trout from fish farms and the possible impact upon wild Atlantic salmon stocks. The provisions in the Bill ensure that the industry adopts appropriate measures to contain fish, prevent escapes [and if need be recover escapees.	✓
Governance	The proposals complement good practice promoted by the aquaculture industry through its own Code of Good Practice.	✓
Science	Scientific research has established that escaped fish have the potential to spread disease, compromise genetic integrity of wild stocks and increase competition in the freshwater environment.	✓
Society	The Bill will assist efforts to promote the recovery of wild Atlantic Salmon stocks in Scotland, thus benefiting wild fish interests and local communities. The aquaculture industry should benefit from the proposals as fewer escape incidents will result in reduced financial losses as a result of the loss of stock.	✓
Economy	The provisions in the Bill should not affect those who comply with the Industry's Code of Good Practice. Ultimately effective containment measures and escapes prevention will assure everyone, including the consumer, that Scottish finfish aquaculture is a responsible industry.	✓

ANNEX II WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATION TOOL



The Policy Gateway

Integration Process

- The Assembly's guiding themes are sustainable development, equality and social inclusion. Its current key areas are: helping more people into jobs; improving health; developing strong and safe communities; and creating better jobs and skills.
- This tool is based on these themes, areas and the objectives of the Strategic Agenda *Wales: A Better Country* (Sept 2003). It is designed to make sure that the development and implementation of an activity, be it policy, strategy, programme or project is contributing in the round to addressing the needs of Wales.
- The tool should be used to help stimulate dialogue, generate new ideas and encourage 'joined-up' thinking.



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Wales: A Better Country Key Objectives	Policy:		Completed By	Division	Date	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the economy Action on social justice for communities Action in our built and natural environment Strengthening Wales' cultural identity Ensuring better prospects in life for future generations Supporting healthy independent lives Promoting openness, partnership and 	Pages 1&2 should be completed by the sponsoring organisation or division				
Pages 3-6 should be completed by a Group drawn from a cross section of the organisation as a whole.						
Pages 3-6 must <u>not</u> be completed prior to the Group meeting.						
The Group should consider and come to a consensus on what contribution the activity makes to the aim outlined in each question before completing the explanation. In doing so you should consider the needs of all individuals regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion and belief, and sexual orientation						
Please use the following scale when considering what contribution the activity makes						
U		Undermining - significantly undermines the objective	F	Fair - makes some direct or significant indirect contribution to the		
P		Poor - does not fully explore the potential to contribute to the objective.	G	Good - makes a significant positive contribution to the objective.		
N	Neutral - does not contribute to the objective.	E	Excellent - makes a close to optimal contribution to the objective.			
i. What do you want to achieve in undertaking this project or policy?						
ii. What lessons have been learnt from previous similar activities in Wales or elsewhere?						
iii. What evidence have you gained from best practice and innovation in Wales or elsewhere?						
iv. What statistical/research evidence have you considered from Wales or elsewhere?						

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v. Who has been involved in the development of this project or policy?
vi. How have you tested whether this policy or project will fit with any other work being done?
vii. What are the measures of success?
viii. How will the policy or project be implemented?
ix. Does the policy set the framework for future consents for projects? (e.g. does the policy contain criteria or conditions which guide the way an authority decides an application for developmental consents?)
x. How much will it cost?
xi. What are the sources of finance and have these been agreed?
xii. What are the staffing implications?
XIII. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO COMMUNICATE THE DELIVERY OF YOUR POLICY? (E.G. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS, ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION)
XIV. WHAT ARE THE SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES?
xv. What are the ongoing commitments?
xvi. What arrangements are in place for monitoring and evaluation?
xvii. How does the project or policy promote equality, eliminate discrimination, and eliminate harassment across any or all of the equality strands (i.e. race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age, faith/religion)? In particular you should consider the requirements of the statutory duties for race, gender and disability.
xviii. What are the significant risks associated with this project or policy and how will they be managed?
xix. Does your project or policy have significant spatial implications? (e.g. will it have an impact on specific areas or communities and their different needs?)
xx. How does the policy encourage collaborative approaches to service delivery in line with commitments in Making the Connections?
xxi. What are the long-term (25+years) impacts and implications and how are you addressing these?
xxii. What are the implications of the project or policy beyond Wales?
xxiii. How does the project or policy tackle the root causes of unsustainable trends in society?

Welsh Assembly Government Integration Tool							Policy:								
WHAT CONTRIBUTION DOES THIS ACTIVITY MAKE TO:							<i>Contribution</i>			Supporting Evidence	Suggestions for Improvement				
							U	P	N	F	G	E			
1a	Developing a dynamic and enterprising economy for Wales to create and attract high added-value businesses?														
1b	Promoting enterprise, innovation and spreading prosperity to all parts of Wales?														
1c	Supporting better quality jobs and skills in all communities for the long term?														
1D	CREATING NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS AND SERVICES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTORS?														
1E	ENCOURAGING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO PROMOTE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN WALES?														
1F	PHYSICAL AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS TO HELP ACCESS FOR ALL TO WORK, SERVICES AND MARKETS?														
1G	HAVING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON EXISTING BUSINESSES BY PROCURING GOODS AND SERVICES LOCALLY?														
1H	INCREASING THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES ACTIVELY DEMONSTRATING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY?														
1i	SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTHY WORKFORCE?														
1J	PROMOTING OR SUPPORTING SOCIAL OR COMMUNITY BUSINESSES?														

2. Action on social justice for communities		U	P	N	F	G	E		
2A	PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL?								
2B	TACKLING POVERTY AND POOR HEALTH PARTICULARLY IN OUR MOST DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES.								
2c	Eradicating poverty and poor health amongst disadvantaged people (particularly children and their families living in poverty)								
2d	Helping individuals and communities to address the barriers to improving their quality of life?								
2e	Ensuring that all areas and individuals have access to good quality services?								
2f	Enabling people to have access to good quality, safe and affordable housing?								
2g	Enabling people to feel safe in their neighbourhoods and communities?								
2h	Providing resource-efficient housing and reducing fuel poverty?								
2i	Supporting local community voluntary action and volunteering?								
2j	Reducing economic inactivity and lowering dependence on welfare benefits?								
WHAT CONTRIBUTION DOES THIS ACTIVITY MAKE TO:		<i>Contribution</i>						Supporting Evidence	Suggestions for
		U	P	N	F	G	E		
3A	ENSURING THE DIVERSITY OF NATURE IS VALUED BY INCREASING THE AREA AND QUALITY OF WILDLIFE HABITATS?								
3B	ENCOURAGING PRUDENT USE OF RESOURCES AND MINIMISING WASTE?								
3C	BROADENING THE ECONOMIC BASE OF RURAL WALES?								

3D	WIDENING ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS?								
3E	PROMOTING WATER CONSERVATION AND PROTECTING WATER SUPPLIES?								
3F	PROTECTING THE DIVERSITY AND QUALITY OF INLAND AND COASTAL WATERS AND ESTUARIES?								
3G	FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT?								
3H	TACKLING THE CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE?								
3I	DEALING WITH THE OUTCOMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE?								
3J	REALISING THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE (E.G. RENEWABLE ENERGY)?								
3K	REDUCING THE NEED TO TRAVEL AND ENCOURAGING WALKING, CYCLING AND LOW CARBON MODES OF TRAVEL?								
3L	LIMITING POLLUTION TO LEVELS AT WHICH NATURAL SYSTEMS CAN COPE WITHOUT DAMAGE?								
3m	ADDING VALUE TO WELSH PRODUCE BY PROMOTING LOCAL PRODUCTION AND QUALITY FOODS WHILST SUPPORTING HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS?								
4. STRENGTHENING WALES' CULTURAL IDENTITY		U	P	N	F	G	E		
4A	PROMOTING THE CULTURAL LIFE OF WALES?								

4B	SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING THE WELSH LANGUAGE IN LINE WITH OUR VISION OF A TRULY BILINGUAL WALES?									
4C	ENCOURAGING EXCELLENCE AND PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND THE ARTS?									
4D	ENSURING ALL CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO PLAY AND LEISURE?									
4E	PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE LANDSCAPE AND HISTORIC HERITAGE OF WALES?									
4F	PROMOTING OUR CULTURAL STRENGTHS?									
4G	PROMOTING EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN WALES?									
4H	REFLECTING DIFFERENCES ACROSS WALES?									
4i	EXPANDING OUR INTERNATIONAL PROFILE?									
WHAT CONTRIBUTION DOES THIS ACTIVITY MAKE TO:		Contribution						Supporting Evidence	Suggestions for Improvement	
		U	P	N	F	G	E			
5A	PROMOTING LIFE-LONG LEARNING IN WALES THAT CONTRIBUTES TO PERSONAL FULFILMENT, SOCIAL COHESION, WEALTH CREATION, AND CULTURAL ENRICHMENT?									
5B	ENABLING PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THE LIFE SKILLS THEY NEED TO PROSPER IN A MODERN, CREATIVE ECONOMY?									

5C	RAISING LEVELS OF SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE AND ACROSS THE WORKFORCE?								
5D	ATTRACTING AND RETAINING TALENT – PARTICULARLY YOUNG PEOPLE - IN WALES?								
5E	PROVIDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES THEY NEED FOR THE BEST START IN LIFE?								
5F	ENSURING THE NEEDS OF OLDER PEOPLE ARE REFLECTED IN SERVICES AND POLICY?								
5G	ENSURING SERVICES AND POLICY TAKE FORWARD THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?								
5H	FACILITATING WIDER PARTICIPATION AND ENABLING PEOPLE TO HAVE A GREATER SAY IN BUILDING THEIR FUTURE?								
6. Supporting healthy independent lives		U	P	N	F	G	E		
6a	IMPROVING ACCESS TO SERVICES AND FACILITIES WITHIN COMMUNITIES?								
6b	ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF HEALTH PROBLEMS AND PREVENTING ILL HEALTH?								
6c	REDUCING HEALTH INEQUALITIES?								
6d	ENABLING ALL PEOPLE TO ENJOY HEALTHIER FULFILLING LIVES?								

6e	CREATING SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS THAT ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT HEALTH AND WELL BEING?								
6f	REDUCING THE CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS?								
6g	PROVIDING ACCESS TO AND AVAILABILITY OF GOOD QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE FOOD?								
7. PROMOTING OPENNESS, PARTNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION		U	P	N	F	G	E		
7A	DEVELOPING OPEN AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS AND ENSURING THAT UNDER REPRESENTED GROUPS CAN MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD?								
7B	STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS?								
7C	ENSURING THAT ALL RELEVANT PUBLIC AGENCIES ARE DELIVERING PLANS AND IMPROVING SERVICES IN AN INTEGRATED WAY?								
7D	ESTABLISHING GOALS AND MONITORING LONGER-TERM OUTCOMES; AND ENGAGING WITH STAKEHOLDERS, WHERE AND WHEN APPROPRIATE, IN SETTING THESE GOALS?								
7E	ENSURING THAT RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS AND ACTIVE ORGANISATIONS ARE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS?								
7F	ENSURING THAT THOSE WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY THE OUTCOMES ARE ENGAGED IN THE PROCESS OF FINDING SOLUTIONS?								

7g	ENCOURAGING ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP, ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION – INCLUDING BY UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS?								
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