

# Single Outcome Agreements: SOAs

# Briefing on

## Monitoring Local Government

### Introduction

Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) are the means by which the performance of local government Scotland will be monitored. They came into place as part of the Concordat COSLA signed up to as part of the agreement to freeze council tax bills. Each council is required to publish its outcome agreement at the beginning of the financial year and this will then used to monitor performance throughout and at the end of the year. SOAs therefore provide detail of the priorities of each council

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### Outcomes

The Scottish Government has set 15 national outcomes describing what the government want to achieve over the next ten years. COSLA agreed to work towards these outcomes as part of the new Concordat. The local government SOAs are based on the national outcomes. Councils list their local outcomes under the national outcome headings. The reports also include the indicators councils will

use to monitor progress towards the outcomes and the actions they will be taking to make progress. The SOAs indicate where the priorities for spending will be. The reports also include detailed information of council areas covering all council areas of work. They are a therefore useful source of information that will be useful during any local campaigns by branches.

### 15 national outcomes

- We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
- We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for all our people
- We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation
- Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
- We live longer healthier lives
- We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger
- We live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need
- We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.

- We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity
- We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society
- We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk
- Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

Further Information:

**P and I Briefing on the concordat**  
<http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/briefings/briefing172concordat.pdf>

**Scottish Government National Outcomes**  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/scotPerforms/outcomes>

**Improvement Service link to all SOAs**  
[http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/component/option,com\\_docman/Itemid,43/task,cat\\_view/gid,561/](http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/component/option,com_docman/Itemid,43/task,cat_view/gid,561/)

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### Local outcomes and indicators

There is no space in a briefing to cover the SOAs for the 32 Local Authorities in Scotland. This is therefore a snapshot of one indicator

from three councils to support branches in examining their individual SOAs. s.

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### National outcome: We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe

Glasgow's local outcomes under this section are *increase the performance and volume of business carried on in Glasgow* and *improve the attractiveness of Glasgow as a place to live, invest work and visit*. Dundee has: *create a thriving economy where*

*prosperity, job opportunities and employability are developed across the city and Dundee will be a strong regional centre and a major Scottish city*. Angus' outcome is *Sustainable business growth is achieved*

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### Indicators

The indicators, targets and timescales show what will be measured to demonstrate achievement (or not) of the outcomes. Among Glasgow's indicators are business start up rates, labour productivity, conference delegate numbers and amount of land developed. Glasgow has detailed targets like a 6% net reduction in the level of vacant and derelict land in the city. The Dundee indicators are growth in the knowledge economy (council plan), growth in financial leisure and retail sectors, (3%) for both by 2011, reduce number of driver

journeys delayed due to traffic congestion ( target tbc) and % of journeys to work for which buses are used (increase by 33%). Angus indicators are: stock of businesses at the end of the year, number of local companies securing public sector contracts/subcontracts, number of companies expanding by employees and turnover, increase average gross weekly pay, increase range of good quality affordable housing, This demonstrates how different council's priorities are.

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### Action for branches

It is vital that branches go through the SOAs for their own councils. This will enable members to have a clear indication of the plans in their areas and prepare for the changes to service delivery and staffing that are indicated in the reports. There is a link in the further information box to all SOAs in Scotland. For further information

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