

LINK Members' eBulletin December 2008

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LINK NEWS

Invite to LINK Festive Reception

LINK's annual Festive Reception Will take place on Wednesday 17 December 6-8.30pm at St Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. More information is available from [Susan](#) in LINK's Parliamentary Office.

Update on SEW 23-27 February 2009

The Scottish Environment Week (SEW) Steering Group continue to make plans and raise funds for events in and around Parliament. The themes being covered by members and taskforces this year are agriculture, biodiversity, climate, marine and fundraising for biodiversity (SEFF). The mid-week reception will be Wednesday 24 February. Contact [Susan](#) for the latest details.

LINK Forward Planning Meeting, 31 October, Birnam

[Notes and action points](#) from our forward planning meeting. How to take forward the actions agreed will be considered by taskforces and will be on the agendas of the next Board and Networking meeting on 22 January 2009.

Update on LINK Recruitment for Parliamentary Officer

Candidates were interviewed at the end of November, and we are very pleased to announce that Andy Myles, previously head of advocacy with RSPB Scotland and more recently as special adviser on environmental issues to the Deputy First Minister (2005-07), has been appointed. Some of you will already know Andy, and in his first week with us will be coming our Festive Reception to start meeting with LINK folk.

Notes on the LINK Ministerial Meeting, November 2008

[Notes of the discussions](#) between LINK and Michael Russell and his colleagues covering CAP, climate, flooding, woodland expansion, including funding of these areas. The next meeting is planned for late January-early February 2009. For more information contact [Jen](#).

Notes on the LINK Meeting with the Chief Planner, November 2008

[Notes on the meeting](#) between the LINK Chair and two trustees and the Chief Planner Jim MacKinnon and Senior Planner David Liddell to discuss the changes to the planning system recently announced.

Notes on the LINK Strategy Workshop with Bruce Britton, November 2008

Various members and staff took part in further discussions on LINK's strategy 2009-12 and a Draft Strategy document will be circulated to member bodies during mid-December for their consultation. It is hoped to have full sign-off by members by mid-March 2009. For more information contact [Jen](#).

LINK Climate Communications Subgroup Meeting, November 2008

As one of the action points from the Climate Gathering workshop in August 2008, some four members met in Edinburgh on 27 November to identify the key communications messages in the areas of energy, transport, waste and food. Report and proposals will follow as soon as possible.

EC Conference 'Europe's Rural Areas in Action', Cyprus, October 2008

[Notes on the conference](#) attended by Mandy Gloyer representing LINK as one of only two non-governmental Scottish stakeholders invited. The CAP and CAP Budget was discussed and the European Network for Rural Development was launched.

Notes on SOA on COSLA website

Single outcome agreement processes were a big issue at LINK's Congress and Forward Planning meetings in October, and the [key Cosla documents on SOA](#) comprising the Letter from Rory Mair, Chair of the High Level Group; the Key Messages document; the SOA Guidance document for CPPs; and Version 2 of the Menu of Local Outcome Indicators

which will be presented to the Scottish Government by the end of February 2009 are available as one Pdf.

Notes on the LINK and COSLA Liaison Meeting, October 2008

The LINK Chair and five members met Cllr Alison Hay and her colleagues and **discussions** covered climate change, flooding, procurement, waste, marine and SOAs. Similar meetings will be arranged in the future when agendas are relevant. The main action point is for LINK Members and taskforces to consider presenting their interests to local authorities in terms of the Scottish Government's national indicators.

Paper prepared by Simon Pepper for David Hume Institute, July 2008

The paper prepared by LINK Honorary Fellow, Simon Pepper, '**Climate Change – How Did We Meet Our Targets? A Retrospective From 2050**' gives a useful overview of future scenarios.

Notes on Go Greener Briefing Meeting with Scottish Government, October 2008

Davina Shiell's (FoES) report on the **briefing meeting on the Scottish Government's Go Greener Campaign** she attended on 7 October, and part of the wider discussion about climate and behaviour change.

New Delegates

Healthy Environment Network (HEN) Steering Group: Ian McCall (RAS)

Web Update

Following the web survey undertaken during the summer, the Internal Comms subgroup made up of three staff have had ongoing discussions with the web designer for revisions of the website to make it more visual and more useable, and work will be undertaken during December and January.

Notes on Data Protection Course

Key points from a one-day SCVO course on Data Protection attended by Adean in November 2008.

New LINK Outputs

LINK Agriculture and Biodiversity Taskforces Response to the Scottish Government Consultation on **Honey Bee Health Strategy**, November 2008.

LINK Response to the Scottish Government **EU Engagement Action Plan** consultation, October 2008.

Other News

Joint UK Links

Notes on the Devolution Seminar held in Birmingham in October include the action-based agreements were made, such as the biodiversity groups agreed to work together on an issue based basis and to exchange workplans to aid in that process. Other things that the Links agreed to consider in their future work were how to add value to the post climate change delivery agenda, how to share skills and knowledge more, and exploration of an 'added value test' for all Joint Links work and the idea a safe forum for Links to explore potentially contentious issues.

The next steps are to turn the seminar's conclusions into practical action and the WCL Secretariat and Management Committee will initiate proposals and discussions for this to happen. The 2010 seminar will be hosted in 2010 by either NIEL or LINK.

Quarterly Reports from Other Links

Wales Environment LINK Quarterly Report, **July-September 2008**

Wildlife and Countryside Link Quarterly Report, **July-September 2008**

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Consultations

Sign up to [seConsult](#), the Scottish Government weekly email alert service to tell you of new consultations and provides brief descriptions and web links.

9 January 2009	BRISC's e-petition calling on the Scottish Government to establish integrated local and national structures for sharing biological data to inform biodiversity decision-makers.
E-petition on Scottish Government website	Please consider adding your name to the petition and for further information email Ann-Marie Smout of the BRISC
14 January 2009	SNH Consultation on the Natural Heritage Futures Update 2008 and SEA Environmental Report.
SNH	As part of the 2008 Update, for each of the prospectuses a statement has been produced that identifies significant changes in policy drivers or legislative context, new mechanisms or changed priorities and the implications these have for the objectives and actions for the natural heritage. Please send comments to strategy@snh.gov.uk or by post to Emma Jordan Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW. Any queries, please contact Emma Jordan on 01738 458652
27 January 2009	FC Consultation on the Role of Forests in Climate Change.
Forestry Commission	The consultation relates to legal provisions in the Scottish Climate Change Bill that may be needed to give Ministers the powers to modify certain functions of Forestry Commission Scotland. This would allow new and innovative activities to help tackle climate change. The consultation also invites suggestions – in the context of a wider option review - on other actions that could be taken to maximise the contribution of the national forest estate The FC are seeking creative ideas and solutions and would like to hear as many views as possible. For full details, see www.forestry.gov.uk/fcclimateconsultation . Any queries, contact email David Henderson-Howat or telephone 0131 314 6560.

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LINK Diary 2008

Winter TBC	Possible LINK Workshop on National Parks Review. Venue TBC.
Winter TBC	LINK Workshop on Management of Task Force Workload. Venue TBC.
December 17 2009	Festive Evening Reception, St Augustine's Church, Edinburgh.

January 22 Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm. Perth.

February 23-27 LINK Scottish Environment Week, Holyrood.

April 23 Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm.

June 25 Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm.

October 22 Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm.