

LINK Members' eBulletin June 2009

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LINK News

Chief Officer, Jen Anderson

National Conversation: an internal LINK meeting is being organised for late June-early July so that we can give comments to the Scottish Government (John Mason and Gabby Pieraccini) who are keen to have our input. Please email [Jen](#) your comments.

WNE Bill: LINK workshop - now organised for 2 July. Details from [Jen](#)

SOAs: Members are once again strongly encouraged to submit in brief their key issues for the LINK assessment of what SOAs should deliver for the environment. A reminder is circulating - please respond!

Outcome Indicators Consultation Workshops: LINK members are invited to attend the workshops to discuss the 'Improving Local Outcome Indicators Project' which is a SOLACE-led project (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) being run by the Improvement Service, a joint initiative since 2005 of SOLACE and CoSLA. The workshop aims to rationalise the large number of indicators currently used by developing consensus on what are the most robust and meaningful outcome indicators that will be of genuine use in assessing progress made in the delivery of outcomes. Consultation workshops will be taking place on 17 June in Edinburgh and 19 June in Glasgow, email [Fiona Dick](#) to reserve your place.

Ministerial Meeting: good first meeting with Roseanna Cunningham on 14 May, [Notes](#) on website. Next Link meeting is scheduled for 16 September. A couple of early suggestions for that agenda are SOAs and local delivery, and environment and health. Request for other items will circulate in July.

Health and Environment: a joint meeting with Paths for All on 20 May agreed that in this busy area any LINK contribution should add value. A subsequent meeting of LINK members agreed to map what is already happening in the LINK network and take this to a meeting with other players in autumn. What is missing from current activity is alignment between many good initiatives, connection between sectors and some much needed policy integration at government level. LINK's access to policy and decision makers could be useful in pursuing this.

Access to Justice Workshop: The workshop for members on 11 May with Frances McCartney and Aidan O'Neill was a very useful opportunity. There is a pressing need for whole area of public law and protective costs orders to be opened up in Scotland. We came up with a number of potential actions and are investigating what capacity there is to progress these. Frances' Powerpoint notes are available from the [Perth office](#).

AGM and Network meeting: Please [let us know](#) if you are coming: AK Bell Library Perth, Thursday 25 June, 12.30 buffet lunch, 1.15 start to 4.15, followed by buffet and AGM.

Funding: We applied in February 2009 for a continuation of Scottish Government grant support for 2009-12 and this has recently been confirmed at £44,000 for this year and next, with an intention to maintain the grant at the same level for the third year although no guarantees are made at this stage. This is an increase of £4k from the previous grant. An application to SNH for a renewed three-year grant from 2010-13 is being prepared for submission before the end of August. A donation of £1500 from a Scottish Charity is being used to fund work on new LINK's website.

SEPA Liaison: the high level meeting had to be postponed and a new date is being sought, possibly in July. The agenda is wide ranging, more details from **Alice**.

LINK Members: The Soil Association Scotland have not re-joined LINK this year.

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Parliamentary Officer, Andy Myles

LINK Parliamentary Training Day: Wednesday 29 July, Edinburgh. Contact **Susan** for details.

LINK Parliamentary Forum: we are currently working on our manifesto.

European Election hustings: we held a hustings event on 20 May in Edinburgh with five people in a panel representing the main political parties.

Party Conferences: We attended the Tory spring conference in Perth on 14-15 May and had a marine fringe event.

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Other News

Summer Cabinet programme: As well as the formal Cabinet Meeting, Ministers will take part in National Conversation public meetings, host Homecoming receptions, and undertake visits and engagements around each visit. The schedule is:

28-29 June - Dundee

27-28 July - Melrose

3-4 August 3 and 4 - Stornoway

17-18 August - Aberdeen

31 August-1 September - Glasgow

2014 Games Legacy Plan: the draft plan was agreed at Cabinet on 2 June and focus will now be on the publication and launch of the plan in September and its delivery. The Plan covers a wide range of issues including sustainability and tourism, and LINK has representatives on the Legacy Forum and the 2014 Green sub-group.

London 2012 Cultural Olympiad

The **Cultural Olympiad** will, for the first time in Olympic history, span 4 years and act as a tool that enables people across the UK to create and participate in events and celebrations.

Discovering Places, one of the projects, aims to introduce a new generation to the hidden places and spaces of the UK. It will embrace the historical, built and natural environment and landscape, engaging new audiences in discovering the richness of the UK's towns, cities and natural landscapes.

LINK Board Member, Eila Mc Queen, will be representing LINK on 16 June at a meeting to discuss what Cultural Olympiad means in Scotland and how this relates to Glasgow 2014.

Wildlife and Countryside Link (WCL) May Bulletin

News of the WCL Whales Working Group meeting with Mr Papaconstantinou, Member of Cabinet for Environment & Trade at the EU Commission in Brussels, and **briefing paper**.

Also the WCL Farming and Rural Development Group has written a **letter** to the Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP calling for compulsory set-aside.

Northern Ireland Environment LINK (NIEL) June Bulletin

Reports of a wide range of environmental activities and the NIEL annual conference on transport and being active.

The **Commission on Scottish Devolution**, chaired by Kenneth Calman will be publishing its Final Report on 15 June 2009, and Board member, Lloyd Austin will be representing LINK at the launch of the report.

University of Strathclyde is undertaking a three-year study looking at the extent to which campaign groups and voluntary organisations in Scotland make use of Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation. Voluntary organisations of all shapes and sizes are invited to **take part in the survey**, regardless of whether or not they have previously requested information.

Third Sector Infrastructure and Support: Your Views Wanted. EKOS is undertaking a study into the advice, guidance, signposting and training available to the third sector in Scotland. Please fill in this **short survey** to share your views before 15th June. See also **notes of the EKOS workshop** LINK attended on 20 April.

SRDP News is now included in the Scottish Government monthly 'Rural News' newsletter - you can **register** to receive this.

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Consultations

You can sign up to **seConsult**, the Scottish Government weekly email alert service.

In addition to the Scottish Government consultations:

The Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill Consultation

Historic

The Bill is a tightly-focused technical amending Bill that will introduce new provisions and remove barriers to the use of existing powers that will enhance the ability of the regulatory and planning authorities to manage our historic environment in a sustainable way for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations.

Details. Closing date: 14 August 2009.

All responses should be sent to HS.Policy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Emissions Trading: Public consultation on EU ETS auctioning

European Commission

From 2013 at least half of the allowances under the EU ETS will be auctioned instead of being allocated to businesses free of charge.

The consultation covers all aspects of auctioning that may be relevant for the future Regulation.

Details.

Complete the online consultation questionnaire

Closing date is 3 August.

Stakeholders are also invited to attend a discussion on the consultation document that will be held during the Commission's **Green Week** conference on 24 June in Brussels.

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LINK Diary

June 25 Board meeting, 10-12pm. Board and Members Networking 1-4pm.
AGM 5-7pm
AK Bell Library Perth.

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

November 19-20 LINK Annual Congress and Forward Planning

December 16 Festive Evening Reception, St Augustine's Church, Edinburgh.

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Other Seminars and Conferences		
20 June Victoria Halls, Dunblane	SAGS	Annual Scottish Allotments Conference 2009 Programme
24 June Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh	SCCS	Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is organising a mass lobby of the Scottish Parliament on 24 June from 12 – 2.30pm. This is just before MSPs vote on the Climate Change Bill. See the SCCS website for the full listing of SCCS summer events.
25 June Augustine Church Centre, Edinburgh	SCVO	"When economies turn sour: International reflections on the third sector, government and recession" SCVO's Chief Executive Martin Sime recently returned from a six month study tour which straddled the banking collapse and recession in several countries. In this lecture, he will explore the short and long term impact on the third sector and reflect on the lessons to be learned. Contact Helen Swatton for details.

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Publications Received

Strategies for Engaging Young Adults in the Historic Environment.

This report commissioned from Applejuice sets out why it is important to engage young adults in the historic environment, examines the challenges facing the sector in this area, and recommends a series of strategies.



Biodiversity footprint of UK Foreign Direct Investment

As part of Global Impacts Programme, JNCC is developing techniques to track commodities coming into the UK and investment flowing out with the objective of linking these flows of resources to potential ecosystem impacts around the world.



UK based trans-national Companies have a significant potential role to play as sector leaders in transferring environmental best practice to host countries.

Centre for Mountain Studies **Annual Report** gives details of the 'Estates for 21 century' project, the first to take an integrated look at the Scottish uplands, and Professor Martin Price as the new Chair of the first UNESCO chairship in Scotland.



A Future for Northern Ireland's Built Heritage. This report brings together a range of papers and authors and gives recommendations.

