

LINK Members' eBulletin May 2009

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LINK News

Chief Officer, Jen Anderson

For staff this is the reporting time for accounts, OSCR, annual stakeholder evaluation, and for our key funders.

Board: the Board approved the Budget Outturn and the revised Budget for 2009-10 at their meeting on 24 April. A spreadsheet template for carbon accounting is being prepared and will be circulated to members for their own use.

Networking Meeting, 24 April: Notes will be circulated shortly. Discussions on taskforce engagement and the possibility of forming a 'sustainable land use' taskforce or forum of which the current woodlands taskforce would be a subgroup.

National Conversation: an internal LINK meeting is being organised 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.

RSE Proposed Inquiry: following an invitation from Professor David Sugden in March 2009, LINK Board have agreed to provide some modest financial support (£500) to the proposed RSE Inquiry into the implications of climate change and the challenges of public acceptance of climate change policies and the institutional structures needed to deliver them.

LINK Operating Plan 2009-10: This has now been approved by the Board.

SOAs: At the subgroup meeting on 19 March, it was agreed that whilst it is important to track local outcomes, currently there are low resources in LINK or member organisations to do this, and instead LINK would prepare a general statement for local authorities giving our main asks, along the lines of those for manifestoes. LINK will ask main reps for their ideal indicators and targets and bring these together for the statement. A SOAs steering group is being formed. Also, SOAs will be on the agenda of the next LINK quarterly ministerial meeting in the autumn.

AGM: Preparation is underway for the AGM, Board Meeting and Networking Meeting in Perth on 25 June. John Mayhew will be stepping down as chair and Ian McCall (RAS) has been nominated as his replacement. Deborah Long will continue as vice-chair and David Downie will continue as treasurer, although a replacement is being sought for this role.

Annual Congress: 19-20 November, possibly Perth or other central belt venue. A theme of environment and economics, potentially with a link to wellbeing is being developed. A congress steering group is currently being formed.

Climate communications: This subgroup are planning to meet to agree the broad messages for all LINK members.

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Parliamentary Officer, Andy Myles

Legislation: Very busy period - see our summary of the [current progress of legislation](#).

European Election hustings: The European Parliament elections are on 4 June. LINK are organising a hustings event on 20 May, 7pm at the St Augustine's church on George IV Bridge in Edinburgh, with a panel of five answering questions from the audience. Details will be emailed to members when arrangements are more final.

SEW2010: The steering group met on 29 April, agreed a broad theme of 'Scotland's environment - its great', the aim of 'lobbying light', and preparatory work has now begun. It is hoped that various site visits can be arranged for the spring and summer 2010 so that MSPs can see and take part in members' work. Events in parliament would be subject or 'team' based rather than taskforce based, and would be tailored to more closely match funders' needs.

Political Strategy Report: Prepared with input from the Parliamentary Forum and approved by the LINK Board and network at their meeting on 24 April. Some members have taken the report to their own executive boards and some have sent it to their UK colleagues to keep them informed of whats happening in Scotland. Both uses are welcome but remember that the report is limited circulation to the LINK network.

The report will be produced every six months, and the next issue in September will look at how LINK relates to the EU. The following one will look at how LINK relates to local authorities, in particular with less single party council, the role of party manifestoes in influencing local politics and local priorities and performance.

Party Conferences: LINK staff and one member attended the SNP Spring party conference in mid-April. Useful contacts were made and the marine fringe event was successful. We will be attending the Tory conference in Perth on 14-15 May.

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Finance Officer, Hugh Green

Annual Accounts: prepared for April 2008-09 and the audit is about to be completed. The Board Report and Accounts has now been finalised and will be circulated to all members as part of the AGM papers later this month.

Funding Subgroup: The FSG met in February and May and reviewed the LINK Essential Services Budget for 2009-10 with the aim of reducing the planned increases on membership subscriptions for the year, in recognition of the financial pressures which member organisations are experiencing. A letter will be sent to all member representatives shortly.

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Information Officer, Adean Lutton

Web revisions: Steady progress is being made with the web designer and it is hoped the new version will go live in late May.

Data Management: We have been reviewing the choices available to have a more integrated system for email mailings, and events membership and subscription data to potentially replace our current Outlook, Access and Excel formats.

DI nC Workshop: Notes on a half-day workshop with other third sector organisations led by EKOS held in Perth on 29 April. This is part of a year-long, Scotland-wide research into the support needs of community groups, including skills, knowledge, network development as well as funding needs. A survey questionnaire will be sent to us which all members are encouraged to also complete.

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Other News

Wildlife and Countryside Link April Ebulletin

News of WCL's 'Blueprint for Water' report and success on **regulatory budgets being scrapped**.

European Parliament Elections Hustings Events

SCVO European Policy Group and Poverty Alliance are holding a hustings event on Tuesday 2 June, at the St Augustine's church on George IV Bridge in Edinburgh. Additionally, the European Parliament Office in Scotland is holding some regional awareness-raising activities for the elections:

Edinburgh: Choice box 4-8 May and Roadshow 13 May, both in Festival Square

Glasgow: Choice box 11-15 May at the top of Buchanan Street.

The Choice box is interactive booths where you can record 20-second messages to the European Parliament.

More information from the **European Parliament UK website**.

Retrofit of a power plant with CCS technology (carbon capture and storage)

At a power plant at Lacq, southern France, energy company Total has upgraded an existing gas-fired boiler with CCS technology and has been operating since the end of April. Environment Agency chairman Chris Smith said "this re-emphasises the importance of making sure that Britain takes an early opportunity to put itself in the lead worldwide in taking the technology forward."

From 1 April 2009, the IUCN UK Committee Secretariat has a new host, the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, email iucn@rzss.org.uk

New **Scotland National Rural Network** website, this replaces the Rural Gateway website which is available until 11 May 2009.

Freedom of Information - Update - April 2009

The Freedom of Information Commissioner has issued new resources designed to assist the voluntary sector in making better use of the Act in its campaigning, advocacy and policy work.

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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:

Proposals for minor amendments to the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006

Responses should be sent to charityact@scotland.gsi.gov.uk before **24 July**.

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LINK Diary

- May 11** Access to Justice workshop, Edinburgh. More details from **Jen**.
May 14 Quarterly Ministerial meeting, Edinburgh. More details from **Jen**
May 26 LINK Health and Wellbeing meeting, Perth
June 25 Board meeting, 5-7pm. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm.
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		
12 May Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh	Institute of Governance at the University of Edinburgh and The Hansard Society	10 years of Devolution day conference
13 May Perth Concert Hall	Paths for All Partnership, Sustrans, Living Streets Scotland, the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and Cycling Scotland	Second Active Travel National Conference, Walking, Cycling, Connecting Communities. A good networking opportunity.
20 May 2009 Biosphere, Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh	Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland (HEACS)	Past Forward – Celebrating and Promoting Our Historic Environment A national conference with Michael Russell MSP speaking.
27 May Hampden Stadium, Glasgow	Supporting Voluntary Action (SVA) Think Tanks project	Shaping the Future Together The Supporting Voluntary Action (SVA) Think Tanks project is hosting an away day to bring together senior staff and board members from intermediary, infrastructure, community, voluntary and social

		<p>enterprise organisations to discuss the future of third sector support services and networks.</p> <p>Reserve a place online at http://thinktanks.eventbrite.com.</p> <p>For more information contact supportingvoluntaryaction@scvo.org.uk or 0141 225 8021.</p>
<p>30 May 1-5pm The Pleasance, Edinburgh</p>	<p>Friends of the Earth Scotland, UNISON and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland.</p>	<p>To Copenhagen and Beyond</p> <p>Chaired by Rob Edwards, Environment Editor, Sunday Herald, and featuring experts from the UK and other countries with workshops on mobilising for Copenhagen.</p> <p>Programme</p>
<p>3 June Edinburgh Training & Conference Venue, St Mary's Street, Edinburgh</p>	<p>Shelter Scotland</p>	<p>Shaping the housing landscape</p> <p>Day conference, 9.30am - 4.00pm</p> <p>Learn more about the new Housing Bill.</p> <p>It will cover two main topics: reforming the Right to Buy and modernising regulation of social housing.</p>
<p>20 June Victoria Halls, Dunblane</p>	<p>SAGS</p>	<p>Annual Scottish Allotments Conference 2009</p> <p>Programme</p>

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Publications Received

An Outline of the Case for a Green Stimulus

Prepared by the researchers from the **Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change** and the Environment and the **Centre for Climate Economics and Policy** who also prepared the Stern report.



The report examines the economic case for both fiscal stimulus packages and 'green' expenditure. Specific measures and investments

are assessed, on a scale from 1-3, in terms of timeliness, long-term social return, positive lock-in effects, domestic multiplier and job creation, targeting areas with slack, and time-limitedness and reversibility.

European Union Biodiversity Action Plan

This 2008 report summarises the ten principal objectives over four policy areas and gives examples.

