

Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) is the policy umbrella body for organisations working in the built environment in Scotland. Drawing on extensive expertise in a membership-led forum, BEFS informs, debates and advocates on the strategic issues, opportunities, and challenges facing Scotland's existing built environment. BEFS is a supporting member of the [Climate Heritage Network](#).

BEFS response and evidence below:

Page | 1

1. Are there any changes to the current set of 11 National Outcomes that you would propose? If so, in summary, what would these be?
2. Are there new National Outcomes that should be included in the National Performance Framework, if so why should they be included?
3. Are there any changes you would propose to the wider National Performance Framework or set of National Indicators?

BEFS supports the views expressed by **Culture Counts** that:

*the Outcome for culture and its vision, underplay the breadth of the culture sector, its cross-cutting impacts, influences and contribution to life in Scotland. It is audience-centric and inward focused, limited in how it captures the potential to make contributions across Scottish society and economy and does not factor the external impacts of the sector's work.*

This lack of appreciation for the cross-cutting benefits that come from cultural-heritage means many across the sector are continually explaining and reiterating the wide-reaching positive impacts of their work. This continual 'fight' to ensure cultural-heritage is appreciated across social, economic and climate arenas takes significant effort and resource which could be redirected for high-impact activities with increased positive outcomes.

BEFS would also want to see greater alignment with the UN-SDGs particularly:

11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

Measured by: 11.4.1

Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal)

The NPF currently has many outcomes which are predicated upon continual improvement/growth – and here the connections are more tenuous. The knowledge itself related to the outcomes and data collected does not lead to improvements, and whilst there is a drive across all outcomes to 'get better' the lack of any clearly defined targets (in most instances) does not promote change and improvement at any perceivable pace. BEFS would support **NTS** in their call for aims/targets where appropriate.

Additionally, many outcomes are based purely on numbers – such as visits to cultural sites, not on quality of experience – or of opportunity. We are currently merely measuring when we could be assessing value and benefits.

#### 4. What impact does the current National Outcomes have on your work?

The NPF and outcomes are central to the policy work we do as an organisation, and key to activity across the sector. They, and the related links to the UN-SDGs, form a consistent framework with which activity can be

aligned. The outcomes (whilst at times imperfect, or incomplete) provide longitudinal data to measure progress (or stasis) against.

The existence of the NPF and Outcomes provides a coherent common language and vocabulary for organisations to work with and towards. Historic Environment Scotland aligns its work with the Outcomes, and – as a grant giving body – this in turn, aligns much sector activity with the Outcomes.

The [state of historic sites](#) is key to the work we do in the sector as the (limited) knowledge that these statistics provides about the condition of our homes and heritage sites helps to highlight and underpin work relating to skills shortages, maintenance issues (such as the [Tenement Maintenance](#) work BEFS supports). The longitudinal data here is one of the few consistent national statistics which demonstrates what work is needed across housing, heat in buildings, and net-zero portfolios.

## 5. What are the main obstacles and barriers in the further implementation of the National Outcomes?

- There needs to be greater understanding of the inter-connection and interrelation of departmental activities, policies and outcomes. **SCVO** refers to this (and other aspects) as a need for *policy coherence*. Which policies and areas have primacy (whether of action or of funding) – and any hierarchy of approach – is as muddy in the NPF as it is within NPF4.
- Data remains a key challenge across informed policy making. From data gathering, data holding, and data use – as well as transparency of data and access. BEFS have long supported an enhanced data infrastructure (particularly in relation to our existing built environment) and would draw attention to [the report](#) commissioned by BEFS and the David Hume Institute. Without knowledge about our existing buildings (age, condition, materials) we will not be able to meet net zero goals, provide warmer homes, or make best use of the agency and local authority estates.

One of the objectives of the NPF is to support collaboration and participation (as well as supporting Wellbeing, provide the Values for the Scottish Government and to Measure Success), the current system instead supports a siloed working environment which is further emphasised by Scottish government budgeting. Targets and Outcomes taking into account cross-sectoral inputs could help to incentivise, and enable, cross-portfolio working to deliver against net-zero, wellbeing and wider community aims.

BEFS agree with the view expressed by **HES**, that:

*We suggest that the current Scottish Government budgeting frameworks hinders the ability for government and public bodies to deliver across the outcomes, as budgets are allocated to portfolios that tend to align to singular National Outcomes. This issue is likely to become increasingly important in relation to the public reform under constrained financial and economic conditions.*

BEFS would be delighted to be part of further discussions relating to the NPF and the Outcomes, as the third sector intermediary for those working within the existing built environment, we are happy to represent Members across a wide range of organisations.

BEFS recommends that those looking to evidence the cross-cutting impacts of cultural heritage examine the following:

- [Our Past Our Future – Scotland’s strategy for the historic environment](#)
- [Green Recovery Statement](#)
- [This extract from the Report of the Built Heritage Investment Group to the Strategic Historic Environment Forum \(from 2019\)](#)

And, with regard to the importance of data and evidence, the following reports:

- [ScotLIS 3 A critical Tool for Scotland](#)
- [Building Futures Report](#) part of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society - Climate Emergency Summits

BEFS responses to a number of Consultations in relation to the Built Environment can be found at:

<https://www.befs.org.uk/resources/consultations/>

#### RESPONDENT INFORMATION

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The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference: **Publish response with name**

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise? **YES**

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy. **I CONSENT**