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By email
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I am Chair of a Round Table which considers the development of the **National Performance Framework (NPF)**. The COSLA President has been a member of the Round Table since October 2016. I write to invite you to join the group.

The NPF sets out, in the Purpose and National Outcomes, a vision for Scotland. It is a blueprint of a positive future, defined in broad terms, and based upon delivering outcomes that improve the quality of life for everyone. Progress is measured by a comprehensive set of indicators, covering a wide range of economic, social and environmental performance. I have enclosed a copy for your information.

The Round Table is an informal group which meets under the Chatham House Rule to encourage free and frank discussion. It also conducts some of its business in correspondence. The Round Table first met in 2013 in response to the growing interest across Parliament, civic society and internationally in the outcomes approach and in how indicators 'beyond GDP' could be used to define and measure national wellbeing. A small group of MSPs, representatives from the Third Sector and academic specialists were invited to come together and discuss how the National Performance Framework indicator set could be improved. A list of members is provided below.

Since 2013, the Round Table discussions have had a real impact and led to the following:

- Increased Parliamentary scrutiny of the NPF: Performance information is provided for Parliamentary Subject Committees to assist them in their scrutiny of the Draft Budget.
- Improved indicators: The March 2016 updating of the National Performance Framework saw the introduction of new indicators covering the concept of Fair Work as well as communities and environment.



- The outcomes approach is now in legislation: The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 at Part 1 places a duty on Scottish Ministers to consult on and determine national outcomes, to report on the progress towards achieving these and to undertake reviews of the national outcomes at least every five years. National outcomes are outcomes for Scotland that result from or are contributed to by the devolved functions of organisations that could be considered as “public bodies”, and other organisations that carry out public functions, such as private or third sector bodies who are contracted to deliver public services. These bodies must “have regard to” the national outcomes in carrying out their devolved functions.

The Round Table’s current agenda focuses on the development of a new set of national outcomes as required under the Community Empowerment Act. Sally Loudon, COSLA Chief Executive was at the last meeting of the Round Table on 22 June. Sally has been invited to provide the views of COSLA on current proposals for a new set of national outcomes.

I would welcome your participation on the group. Please feel free to contact me with any queries you may have or if you would like any further information on the Round Table itself.



DEREK MACKAY

Round Table Membership

Claudia Beamish, MSP	Scottish Labour
Murdo Fraser, MSP	Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party
Patrick Harvie, MSP	Scottish Green Party
Liam McArthur, MSP	Scottish Liberal Democrats
Liz Cameron	Group of 6 Business Organisations
Martyn Evans	Carnegie UK Trust
Jennifer Wallace	Carnegie UK Trust
Jenny Laing	Scottish Local Government Partnership
Jamie Livingstone	Oxfam Scotland
Francis Stuart	Oxfam Scotland
Professor George Morris	Public Health Consultant
Annie Quick	New Economics Foundation
Judith Robertson	Scottish Human Rights Commission
Grahame Smith	STUC
Daphne Vlastari	Scottish Environment Link
Simon Wakefield	Scottish Parliament Information Centre