

Scotland's Landscape Alliance

Updated Executive Committee Terms of Reference: 1 February 2021

Purpose

The aim of Scotland's Landscape Alliance (SLA) is to collaborate to raise awareness of the importance of Scotland's landscapes to climate resilience and biodiversity, our economic performance and public health and wellbeing. In doing this, we want to gain public and political support for the better care of Scotland's landscapes and places to maximise future benefits.

Objective

- An updated regulatory and policy framework that is joined-up in its approach, ensuring that the potential of landscape and place to deliver multi-functional benefits to people and our ecosystems, across every area of public policy, is realised.
- Increased understanding and heightened awareness with stakeholders and the public of the values and challenges facing Scotland's landscapes.
- A reinvigorated and connected landscape community acting as a landscape forum able to offer expertise and skills to support positive action on landscape matters.

Vision

Our vision is a Scotland where the benefits of landscape are recognised and strengthened to support delivery of Scotland's National Outcomes, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the principles of the European Landscape Convention.

Outputs

In 2020 the SLA and its Working Groups prepared:-

1. *Landscape and Place for Success (Read [here](#))* - a high level statement with 10 overarching outcomes that the SLA wish to achieve over the next 5 years:
2. Three detailed Position Statements that inform recommendations to: -
 - Increase Scotland's resilience to climate change and associated environmental challenges (*Read [here](#)*)
 - Improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland and reduce health inequalities (*Read [here](#)*)
 - Support integrated land uses and deliver inclusive growth in Scotland's economy (*Read [here](#)*)

Proposal

The EC will continue to engage with its members, Working Groups and wider landscape community to promote the recommendations and maintain momentum to achieve the 10 overarching outcomes following an agreed action plan and timeframe.

- **Communications and Engagement:** deliver an evidence-based communications and engagement strategy to raise the public profile of Scotland's landscape and its contribution to addressing the environmental, social and economic challenges we face.
- **Scotland's Landscape Forum:** We will develop the role of the SLA to become the forum for discussion and insight on landscape matters. We will act as a point of contact for advice, guidance and expertise. We will offer challenge seeking to ensure appropriate landscape considerations relating to climate and resilience, health and wellbeing, land use and the economy are incorporated into relevant statute, policy, mechanisms and practice.
- **Land Management:** We will work with our members to consider how their property and land can be managed and used to deliver and demonstrate the widest range of benefits:

5 Year Outcomes of the SLA

Across each of the three themes on a prioritized basis:-

1. There is leadership and recognition amongst key stakeholders (including the public) of landscape's many benefits and the need to protect and care for Scotland's landscape in order to deliver them.
2. There is better integration of regulation and policy for landscape and biodiversity, recognising their mutual dependencies and co-benefits.
3. We understand, can measure and quantify landscape quality. Methods of evaluation and investment recognise the multiple contributions of landscape and biodiversity to Scotland's economy and our cultural, social and environmental wellbeing.
4. Develop and implement an internationally recognised national statute for landscape protection which safeguards the benefits and co-benefits offered by well-managed landscapes.
5. Greater numbers of people are actively participating in landscape at all levels and are positively engaged in landscape decision making.
6. Policies impacting on the landscape are shaped to positively contribute to the environmental, health and economic challenges of our time.
7. Land use and development planning, mechanisms and incentives are designed to maximise investment in landscape to deliver multiple benefits.
8. Urban and rural landscapes are designed and actively managed to increase resilience to environmental and health challenges.
9. Place/landscape-based decision-making informs trade-offs helping to resolve potential land-use conflicts.
10. Those responsible in achieving landscape quality for resilience, health and the economy are supported and work collaboratively to take the necessary actions.

Action Plan and Timeframe

An updated action plan and timeframe will be developed and published.

NTS and LIS Partnership

NTS and LIS have established a partnership to host and support the SLA. This will constitute: -

- Coordination of communications via in house support.
- Provision of secretariat and support for meetings of the Executive Committee.
- Act as the commissioning bodies for research or any other contractual obligations.
- The partnership has committed sufficient funds to support communication and engagement.

Executive Committee & Working Groups

The Executive Committee will appoint any new members as required to ensure a balance across the committee to represent all areas of landscape and place. The EC will set up any further Working Groups from the SLA members as required to achieve its work. Leads for any ongoing Working Groups will constitute an Executive Committee of the SLA which will provide support, guidance, coordinate if required and further commissioning of research and oversee collation and production of final outputs.

Members of the Executive Committee and Working Groups will be expected to cover their own costs. Direct meeting costs of the Executive Committee along with secretariat services will be provided by the NTS/LIS Partnership but third parties (including SLA members) will be approached in the event of further resource requirements being identified.

NTS and LIS will act as co-chairs of the Executive Committee. Ongoing Working Groups will appoint their own chairs.

Membership of the SLA

The SLA will be open to any organisation or individual who commits to contributing to its aims or work. Ideally membership will span public, voluntary, community and private sector bodies.