

Local Government and Communities Committee

Consultation of the Scottish Parliament on the Scottish Government's Revised National Outcomes

Submission from Aberdeenshire Council

Thank you for the opportunity to provide views to the Local Government and Communities Committee as part of the Scottish Parliament response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the updated National Outcomes as part of its broader look at the National Performance Framework.

In general, the evidenced based approach to reviewing the outcomes is welcome particularly the inclusion of an extensive engagement programme. The intention to explicitly align the outcomes with other strategies and policy frameworks already in existence regionally and nationally is also helpful and it is hoped this will support a more collaborative and consistent strategic policy development across Scottish Government Directorates.

Specifically in relation to the three outcomes of interest to the Committee:

- We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe
- We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally
- We grow up loved, safe and respected, so that we realise our full potential

These are aspirational outcomes that are desirable for both Scotland as a whole and the communities of Aberdeenshire. Aberdeenshire Council's [Council Plan 2017-2022](#) which is providing strategic direction to the council and being used to inform decision making in the coming years, has a number of priorities that reflect and will support these national outcomes including:

- Provide the best life chances for all our children and young people by raising levels of attainment and achievement
- Work with parents and carers to support children through every stage of their development
- Work to reduce poverty and inequalities within our communities

These priorities were developed and shaped through a robust strategic assessment, extensive community engagement and political direction

The [Local Outcomes Improvement Plan](#) for Aberdeenshire has similarly identified three focused priorities for delivery that should positively impact on these national outcomes in particular:

- Changing Aberdeenshire's Relationship with Alcohol
- Reducing Child Poverty
- Connected & Cohesive Communities

Acknowledging the proposed national indicators are still in draft, the suggested indicators that will help evidence achievement of the outcomes seem appropriate. An understanding of the direction of travel for the indicators would have been useful and in particular the 2030 targets set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act should be reflected in the indicators supporting the outcome 'We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally'.