Document 11

Scottish Government Sustainable Development Targets

Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

- Culture
- Communities

Cities are hubs for commerce, culture, science, productivity, economic development, and human development. Scotland's cities, towns, and urban environments have vibrant and unique cultures and we are committed to developing our cities and urban environments to be sustainable, safe, and inclusive. This goal is about creating places which are good for communities and work sustainably with the environment. Scotland already has a strong focus on place as part of the refreshed NPF. The new indicator set under the National Outcome for Communities 'We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe' aims to capture how people feel about their communities, neighbourhoods, environment and relationships with each other. The Communities National Outcome therefore enriches the story Scotland can tell under Goal 11 which focuses more on the sustainability of cities and infrastructure.

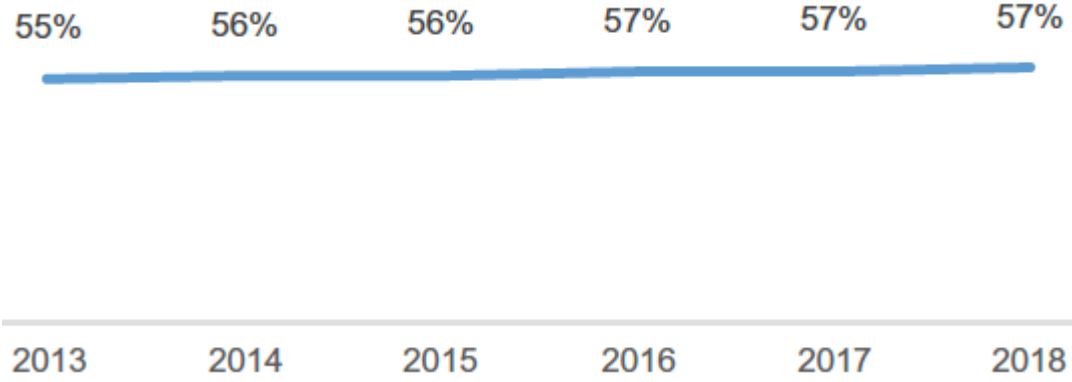
Safer cities and community spaces (targets 11.1)

The Data Picture: Perceptions of local area

Overall ratings of neighbourhood have been consistently high, with over nine in ten adults typically saying their neighbourhood is a 'very' or 'fairly' good place to live. The percentage of people who rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live had been gradually increasing from 51.1% in 2006 to 55.9% in 2011, remaining around this level since. The figure is at 57.4% in 2018.

Line graph shows perceptions of local area increased from 55% in 2013 to 56% in 2015. Following this, the upward trend continues to 57% in 2018.

The percentage of Scottish adults who rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live



Source: Scottish Household Survey

A place-based approach (targets 11.3, 11.4, 11.7)

Community empowerment

We know that place matters. Empowering communities to participate in shaping the places they call home is key to creating happy and sustainable communities. Community planning and ownership is therefore central to Scotland's place-based approach to reform. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires public sector organisations who deliver and resource local services to work together and with local communities, so they can improve outcomes on themes they agree as priorities for their area.

The Scottish Government's land reform agenda also plays a key role in promoting and supporting sustainable communities. Community ownership has often been about communities responding to market failure (for example the loss of facilities) or poor practice by landlords. Scotland now has a variety of legislative routes to community ownership of land and land assets, including pre-emptive rights to buy and compulsory rights to buy. These are supported by an annual £10 million Scottish Land Fund. This recognises the value of communities being able to make decisions about things that matter to them where community ownership is seen as a normal function of communities for their long term benefit.

Community ownership has historically been focused on rural areas. Recent legislation enables urban communities to take advantage of rights to buy, and we expect to see an increase in the number of community acquisitions in urban areas in Scotland as a consequence.

We have tended to measure community ownership by the scale of land owned by communities. In recognition of the new urban rights to buy, and the differences in the scale of land available, we are shifting to a measurement of the number of communities who own land. This is likely to provide a better indicator of the success of this policy.