



## Scottish Land Commission response to the Land Use Strategy 4

### The long-term future

#### Question 1

Do you find Map Figure 1 to be a helpful representation of current land cover?

Yes

No

#### Question 2

How can we most effectively represent housing and renewable energy alongside current land cover maps?

Overlaying spatial data on development by using planning data via the Improvement Service. The Improvement Service would be a useful contact point for this work: <https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/case-studies/falkirk-council/democratising-access-to-information-falkirk-councilopen-spatial-data>

#### Question 3

What sort of information about current land use would you find useful? (and how would you use it?)

More information about landownership would be helpful to aid transparency and decision-making. This could be gradually developed, building on the map of public sector landholdings which is already on the SG website. [Interactive map - gov.scot](#)

#### Question 4

Do you agree that these are the key areas that need to be delivered by Scotland's land?

Yes

No

## Question 5

**Are there any important land uses that you feel are missing or underrepresented in this list?**

The areas need to be more consistently defined and refer to a land use type such as 'peatland', 'biodiversity', 'housing' etc before linking to the relevant strategy or key driver for this. The SLC would recommend changing 'residential and industrial construction' to 'housing, development and infrastructure'.

## Question 6

**How do you think data and mapping can evolve to better support our understanding of future land use and national ambitions—including the impacts, benefits, opportunities and trade-offs of change?**

SLC believes that SG should take a more ambitious and transformative approach to data and mapping so that it can support the LUS4 aims of policy alignment and integrated land use. For instance, having these tools will support decision-making/prioritisation. A more coordinated, transparent approach to data and mapping is an opportunity for joined-up delivery, monitoring and sharing of resources/skills, thus supporting Public Service Reform objectives.

There are several ways in which a map should support our understanding of future land use. It can do this by:

- 1) Showing geospatial data in an interactive way.
- 2) Adding administrative boundaries such as catchment areas, national parks and regional/landscape scale initiatives. This could be achieved by taking a more regional approach to mapping.
- 3) Mapping at multiple levels to help with delivering policy integration and as this explores more regional/local level interactions.
- 4) Include plans and priorities– this includes Regional Land Use Plans/Frameworks, National Planning Framework 4 priorities and spatial plans. Adding option to overlay additional information and boundaries for spatial plans and strategic infrastructure plans are vital to delivering integrated land use and understanding land use pressures/trade-offs.

## Question 7

What tools, data, or approaches would help improve this understanding over time?

We recommend learning from Regional Land Use Partnerships/Frameworks, local and holding scale cases about how tools, data and approaches would help improve understanding about the future impact, benefits, opportunities, and trade-offs in an area. These lessons should feed into policy and practice at a national level and guide LUS4.

## Question 8

Do you think the description provided captures what is meant by 'integrated landscapes'?

Yes

No

## Question 9

Do you agree that integrated landscapes are the most effective approach to addressing Scotland's land use ambitions?

Yes

No

Please give reasons for your answer.

Yes, a holistic approach is required to deliver on Scotland's multiple social, environmental and economic objectives. However, the SLC recommends that LUS4 should be more directive and state how Scotland Government intends to deliver integrated land use- in policy and practice using different policy levers. For instance, we would like to see how different policy mechanisms such as tax, investment and fiscal policy will help deliver integrated, place-based land use.

## Question 10

Have we identified the right factors influencing land use integration?

Yes

No

### Question 11

Which of these factors do you feel are the most influential?

The most important factor and main focus for the LUS should be to influence policy coherence and leadership by Scottish Government.

### Question 12

Are there any important factors we have missed?

### Question 13

Would the inclusion of case studies help to illustrate the practical delivery of integrated land use?

Yes

No

### Question 14

Would the inclusion of information on ecosystem services and opportunities for increased benefits help to illustrate the wider value of integrated landscapes?

Yes

No

### Question 15

Do you agree that the role of LUS4 should be to influence policy makers and regulators in order to create an enabling environment that incentivises and/or supports land managers, communities and partnerships to further integrate land use/management?

Yes

No

## Question 16

**Are there other ways in which LUS4 could support alignment and integration?**

The LUS4 should support policy alignment and coherence by:

- 1) Setting out how our multiple targets are reconciled/tensions addressed.
- 2) Get cross policy buy-in through an agreed national land use framework to enable Ministers to make bold decisions needed to tackle the twin crises and support a just transition.
- 3) Set out the challenges and opportunities for better land use integration in policy and what will be done to address these.
- 4) Fully embed and invest in capacity for regional approaches, building on the experience of Regional Land Use Partnerships.
- 5) Set out SG's available policy mechanisms for delivering the LUS vision. Such as land use policy, tax and fiscal policy, sectoral budget accountabilities and data coordination.

## Question 17

**Do you agree with the proposed approach to developing a new vision and integrated set of objectives for the Land Use Strategy?**

Yes

No

## Question 18

**Which approach would you prefer for LUS4?**

Removal of the land use principles

Establishment of a refreshed set of principles (if this is your preference, please tell us what you think they should cover and how you envision their application)

A smaller number of concise principles that are pragmatic, action-orientated would be helpful to guide policy development. They could act as a checklist to help embed place-based, integrated outcomes in other policy areas. For example, this could include principles around promoting transparency and use of data regarding land and property and a principle on promoting place-based, collaborative approaches.

## Question 19

**To what extent do you agree that the draft indicators provide a strong basis for measuring progress toward improved outcomes under the Nature and Climate theme?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Unsure

If you selected "Disagree" or "Unsure", please tell us why

We recommend approaching the monitoring of LUS outcomes differently. The stated aim of the indicators is to “monitor progress towards more integrated landscapes”. To measure this, we do not recommend focusing on sectoral outcomes alone as increase in one type of land use is not an appropriate measure of integrated land use outcomes. Focusing on a smaller number of indicators that measure the performance of principles in the LUS4 for example, number of Regional Land Use Partnerships, or reference to LUS4 principles in other policies, should be considered as part of measuring the impact of the LUS4.

### Question 20

Are you aware of other data sources that could be used to monitor progress towards these outcomes?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please highlight them

A lot of cross-over with existing data sets including the Environment Strategy monitoring framework and dashboard. This could be centralised. E.g. [Environment Strategy: Initial Monitoring Framework](#)

### Question 21

To what extent do you agree that the draft indicators provide a strong basis for measuring progress toward improved outcomes under the Jobs, Skills and Economy theme?

- Strongly Agree

- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Unsure

If you selected "Disagree" or "Unsure", please tell us why.

See Q19

### Question 22

Are you aware of other data sources that could be used to monitor progress towards these outcomes?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please highlight them

See Q19

### Question 23

To what extent do you agree that the draft indicators provide a strong basis for measuring progress toward improved outcomes under the Community, Places, People and Equity theme ?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Unsure

If you selected "Disagree" or "Unsure", please tell us why.

See Q19

### Question 24

Are you aware of other data sources that could be used to monitor progress towards these outcomes?

Yes

No

If yes, please highlight them

### Question 25

Are you aware of any ways in which the proposed vision and objectives need to consider the different experiences, both positive and negative, current or future, of the following groups?

- island communities
- young people, (children, pupils, and young adults up to the age of 26)
- those with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation); and/or
- groups or areas at socio-economic disadvantage (such as income, low wealth or area deprivation)?

### Question 26

Are you aware of any potential costs and burdens that you think may arise as a result of the vision and objectives within this consultation? If so please give details?

No, however investing in the delivery of LUS can create longer-term efficiencies. The LUS should be supported by resource to enable delivery, including:

- Underpinning Regional Land Use Plans capacity;
- Making systems improvements to data and mapping.