

Final list of new sustainable development indicators follows consultation

by [Nick Saltmarsh, SD Scene editor](#) 28 Jun 2013

The Government has published its response to the issues raised in the [consultation on new sustainable development indicators](#) and the recommendations from the **Environmental Audit Committee’s inquiry into Measuring Sustainable Development and Wellbeing, listing the final set of indicators.**

Defra is developing a new set of sustainable development indicators (SDIs) to meet the Government’s commitments to transparency and sustainable development. The indicators are intended to provide an overview of national progress on key issues that are important economically, socially and environmentally in the long term, and will complement the [National Wellbeing Measures](#) published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Headline indicators

| Economy | |
|------------------------|---|
| Economic prosperity | GDP, GDP per head, equivalised median income (before housing costs) |
| Long term unemployment | Percentage of people in unemployment for over 12 months by age group |
| Poverty | Proportion of children in relative poverty (before housing costs) Proportion of children in absolute poverty (before housing costs) |
| Knowledge & skills | Human Capital (£) by age group |
| Society | |
| Life expectancy | Healthy life expectancy at birth |
| Social capital | Civic participation: The proportion of people engaging in actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern at least once a year Social networks/social support: The proportion of people who have a spouse, family member or friend to rely on if they have a serious problem Social participation: The proportion of people who volunteered more than once a year Trust: The proportion of people agreeing that many of the people in their neighbourhood can be trusted |

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|------------------------------|--|
| Social mobility in adulthood | Proportion of working-age population employed in higher level occupations by social background |
| Housing provision | Net additional housing stock |
| Environment | |
| Greenhouse gas emissions | Greenhouse gases generated within the UK and Greenhouse gases from UK consumption |
| Natural resource use | Raw material consumption in non-construction and construction sectors |
| Wildlife & biodiversity | Bird population indices – (a) farmland birds, (b) woodland birds, (c) seabirds and (d) water and wetland birds |
| Water availability and use | Abstractions from non-tidal surface waters and ground waters |

Supplementary indicators

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Economy | |
| Population demographics | Total population by age group Household demographics projected up until 2021. |
| Debt | Public sector net debt and public sector net borrowing as proportions of GDP to 2017/18 |
| Pension provision | Employees in a pension scheme sponsored by their employer |
| Physical infrastructure | Value (£) of physical infrastructure by structure type |
| Climate change adaptation | Not identified |
| Research & development | Expenditure by UK business on Research and Development in cash and real terms and Environmental protection expenditure research and development expenditure |
| Environmental goods & services sector | Sales of Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services |
| Society | |
| Avoidable mortality | Mortality from causes that are considered avoidable |
| Obesity | Prevalence of excess weight in both children (4-5 year olds and 10-11 year olds) and adults |

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| Lifestyles | Prevalence of smoking in adults Proportion of adults doing 150 minutes of exercise per week Proportion of urban trips under 5 miles taken by (i) walking or cycling; (ii) public transport Average number of portions of fruit and vegetables consumed per day |
| Infant health | Low birth weight of term babies (full term babies with birth weight less than 2500g) |
| Air quality | Days when air pollution is moderate or higher in the UK |
| Noise | Noise complaints per 1000 population |
| Fuel poverty | Number of fuel poor households (thousands) in England |
| Environment | |
| UK CO2 emissions by sector | Carbon dioxide emissions by sector |
| Energy consumed in the UK from renewable sources | Renewable energy consumption as a percentage of capped gross final energy consumption |
| Housing energy efficiency | Energy efficiency ratings of existing and new housing |
| Waste | The proportion of household waste being reused or recycled The proportion of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste being reused, recycled or recovered |
| Land use & development | Land use by type |
| Origins of food consumed in the UK | The origins of food consumed in the UK by region |
| River water quality | The biological and chemical quality of rivers |
| Fish stocks | Fish stocks harvested sustainably and at full reproductive capacity |
| Status of species & habitats | Change in status of priority habitats and species (to be developed in line with biodiversity indicators) |
| UK Biodiversity impacts overseas | To be developed in line with biodiversity indicators |