

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

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

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

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