

SLA Working Groups Terms of Reference - 15th December 2025

Purpose of the SLA

The aim of Scotland's Landscape Alliance (SLA) is to collaborate to raise awareness of the importance of Scotland's landscapes to climate resilience and biodiversity, our economic performance and public health and wellbeing. In doing this, we want to gain public and political support for the better care of Scotland's landscapes and places to maximise future benefits.

Vision

Our vision is a Scotland where the benefits of landscape are recognised and strengthened to support delivery of Scotland's National Outcomes, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the principles of the European Landscape Convention.

Objective

- An updated regulatory and policy framework that is joined-up in its approach, ensuring that the potential of landscape and place to deliver multi-functional benefits to people and our ecosystems, across every area of public policy.
- Increased understanding and heightened awareness with stakeholders and the public of the values and challenges facing Scotland's landscapes.
- A reinvigorated and connected landscape community acting as a landscape forum able to offer expertise and skills to support positive action on landscape matters.

Outcomes

In 2020 the SLA prepared a high level statement ***Landscape and Place for Success (Read [here](#))*** with 10 overarching outcomes that the SLA wish to achieve on a prioritised basis, followed in 2021 with 3 supporting position statements www.scotlandslandscapealliance.org/our-work/publications/

In 2025 the new Scotland's Landscape Charter was launched with endorsement and support from the Scottish Government and its agencies. www.scotlandslandscapealliance.org/the-charter/

Our key objective for 2026 is to develop an action plan to support the Charter so that it becomes embedded in everyday landscape decision making.

SLA Support

The SLA is supported by the National Trust for Scotland and Players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Executive Committee

The SLA is currently led by an Executive Committee (EC) made up of business, academic, NGO, professional institute and government agency representation. NatureScot, the Scottish Government's lead statutory body for landscape have observer status on the Committee and actively engage.

One of the SLA's primary roles is to convene Scotland's Landscape Community of interest which spans a broad range of organisations and individuals across urban design, protected scenic areas, biodiversity, economic regeneration, health and wellbeing and social justice. Currently around 60 organisations are actively engaged with the SLA through debate led events and working groups. The EC will continue to engage with its landscape community to promote the recommendations and maintain momentum to achieve the 10 overarching outcomes.

Purpose of the Working Groups

To provide a broad range of expertise from Scotland's landscape community to help develop a body of publications / reports providing current thoughts and advice on issues affecting Scotland's landscapes and also to enable the SLA to respond to landscape related policy consultations where a unified landscape response will be of most help to advising the Scottish Government.

Method of Working & Timeframe

The working groups will comprise approximately 6-10 individuals (this is not mandatory but felt to be a manageable number whilst representing a range of interests). Each working group will be assigned a Temporary Chair who will be a member of the SLA Executive Committee. At the first meeting of the Group a permanent Chair and a Vice Chair (if appropriate) canl be agreed.

Working groups are generally time limited depending on the output. Meetings will be online and the number of meetings and timeframe will be set out in advance by the assigned Chair and outputs agreed at the first meeting.

At the end of the agreed period working groups may be required to come together to share and debate outcomes at an event. Chairs will report their findings to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will oversee collation of the working group reports after any debate led events for final publication or submission.

Membership of Working Groups

Membership is open to any organisation or individual with relevant knowledge and experience and who wish to respond to a call by the SLA to its supporters on a specific topic . Chairs are appointed by the Executive Committee. The Chairs of the working groups are responsible for ensuring there is appropriate balance of knowledge and experience including representation from third sector, private, community and public sectors.

Resources & Support for Working Groups

The Chairs of the working groups will be responsible for organising suitable online meeting platforms. The Executive Committee may receive requests for support for research or costs associated with report production or wider stakeholder engagement. Members of working groups will cover their own costs of attending in person workshops or meetings.

Outputs

Any outputs from working groups will be branded as work by the SLA but working group members can be named as contributors.