



**Rural and Environment**

**2015/16 Full Year Progress Report**

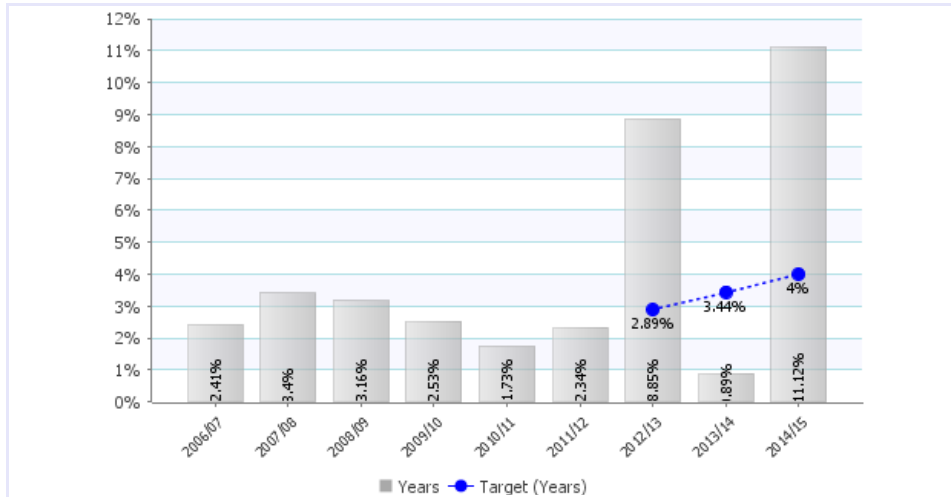
**Community Plan and  
Single Outcome Agreement**

**August 2016**

## Sustainable Development

### Additional % of employment land developed annually

Increase employment land developed annually to 4% by 2015



Source: Annual Angus Council Employment Land Review

2015/16 data is not yet available. There was a substantial increase in the take up of employment land to 11.2% (5.57ha) in 2014/15, from a particularly low figure of 0.89% (0.45 ha) in 2013/14. This has exceeded the target of 4%.



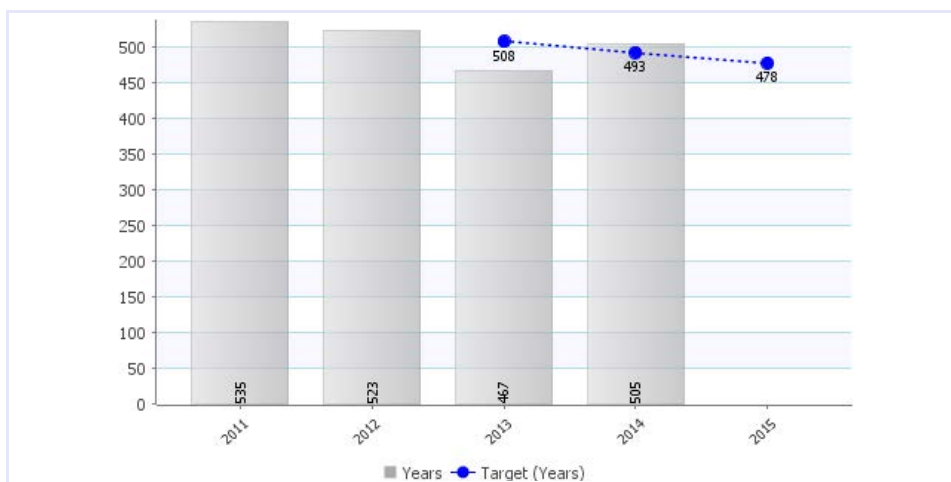
### Progress in 2015/16

We will agree allocation of employment land via the development planning process

As at June 2015, the Angus Council Employment Land Review 2015 identified 44.38 hectares as currently available (within one year), and 55.16 hectares available in 1-5 years.

### Household Waste Arisings per capita (kg)

15kg/capita reduction per year



Source: SEPA ('Scotland's environment' website)

2014 data is the latest available. Household generated waste increased from 54,258 tonnes in 2013 to 58,892 tonnes in 2014, and the household generated waste per person increased from 467 kg in 2013 to 505 kg in 2014 (compared to 460kg/person in Scotland as a whole). This failed to meet the target of 493 kg per person, however an overall longer-term reducing trend continues. The recycling rate in Angus increased to 52.4% in 2014 (compared to 42.8% average across Scotland) from 43.2% in 2013. Data for 2015 is yet to be verified but another significant increase in the recycling rate is expected due to the new kerbside recycling system being fully introduced.



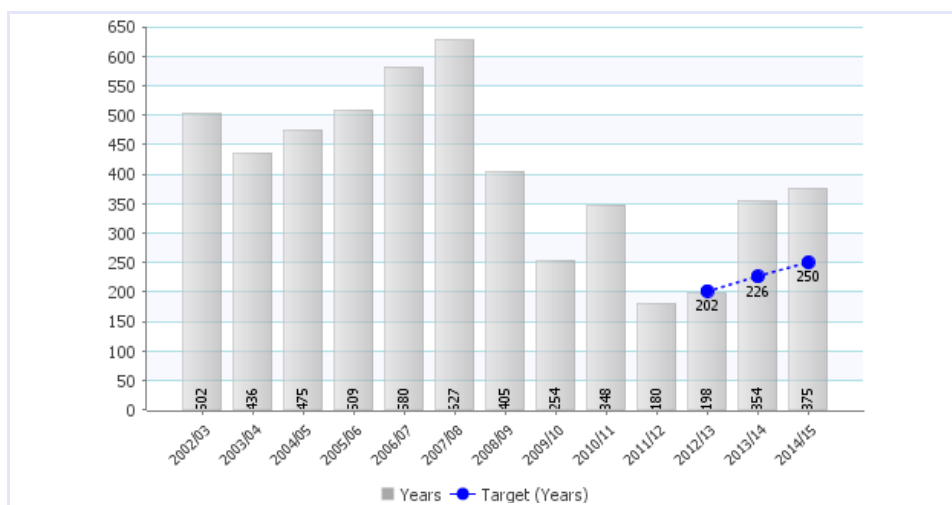
**Progress in 2015/16**

**We will implement Zero Waste Strategy/Plan**

The roll out of the new kerbside recycling service was completed during 2014 and is now operating effectively and has led to a significant increase in the amount collected for recycling. Reviews of recycling centres, garden waste service and food waste service have been undertaken with changes to these services proposed. A partnership with Dundee City Council is in place regarding a new long-term residual waste contract and treatment facility. 2015 data is expected to show that Angus now has one of the highest recycling rates in Scotland and sends a very low percentage of waste to landfill.

**Number of new house building completions**

Increase the rate of new house building to 250 by end 2014/15 from 2011/12 baseline



Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics - Local Outcomes Report/Housing Statistics for Scotland

The SNS Local Outcome Report, which provided the 2013/14 figure of 354, is no longer available. The figure of 375 new house building completions for 2014/15 has been amalgamated from Housing Statistics for Scotland: it includes all sector new build completions and net new dwellings provided during the year by conversion, but may not include new supply through refurbishment. The target of 250 new completions was exceeded.



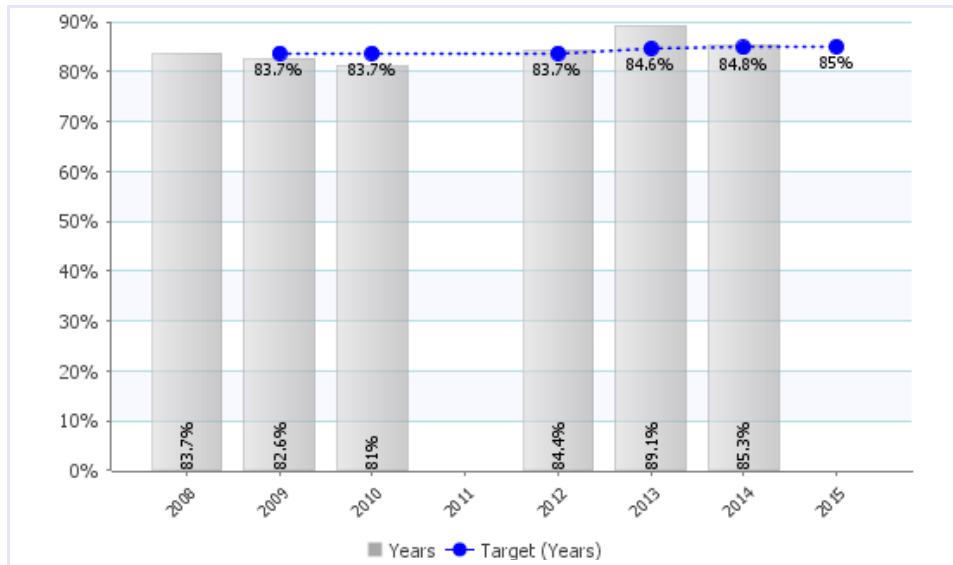
**Progress in 2015/16**

**We will implement the recommendations of the Local Housing Strategy**

A full progress update report on the LHS 2012-17 was provided to the Angus Housing Partnership in October 2015. This highlighted progress towards the strategic outcomes. Key achievements in 15/16 include: 36 new affordable homes completed and work started onsite to deliver a further 75 affordable homes through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (Council and RSL); we established a Shared Services Empty Homes Officer post with Dundee City Council, sharing resources to work with owners of empty homes to bring properties back into use; continuation of support for energy efficiency measures in private homes through the HEEPS programme; and we established a Housing, Health and Social Care Strategic Planning Group and developed the Housing Contribution Statement which forms part of the Health and Social Care Partnership's Strategic Plan. The next LHS, to cover the period 2017-22, is currently being developed. Evidence papers have been produced to inform consultation workshops for stakeholders on Housing Supply and Placemaking, Independent Living and Housing Options, and Stock Condition, Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency. Further consultation at a locality level is planned.

### % of units in town centres which are occupied

Increase the % of units in town centres which are occupied to 85% by 2015



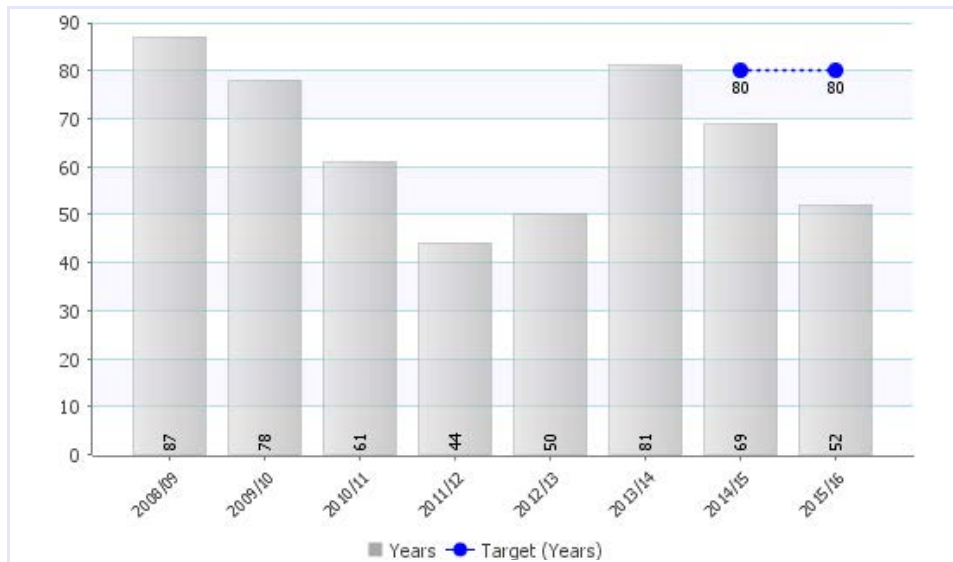
Source: Angus Retail Floorspace Survey, Angus Council

There is no update data available. The figure of 85.3% of units in town centres which are occupied was previously reported from the 2014/15 retail space survey and exceeded the target of 84.8%. The next retail floor space survey will take place in 2016/17.



### Number of Social Housing Completions

Increase number of social housing completions to 80 in 2014/15, from 2011/12 baseline.



Source: Housing Statistics for Scotland, Scottish Government

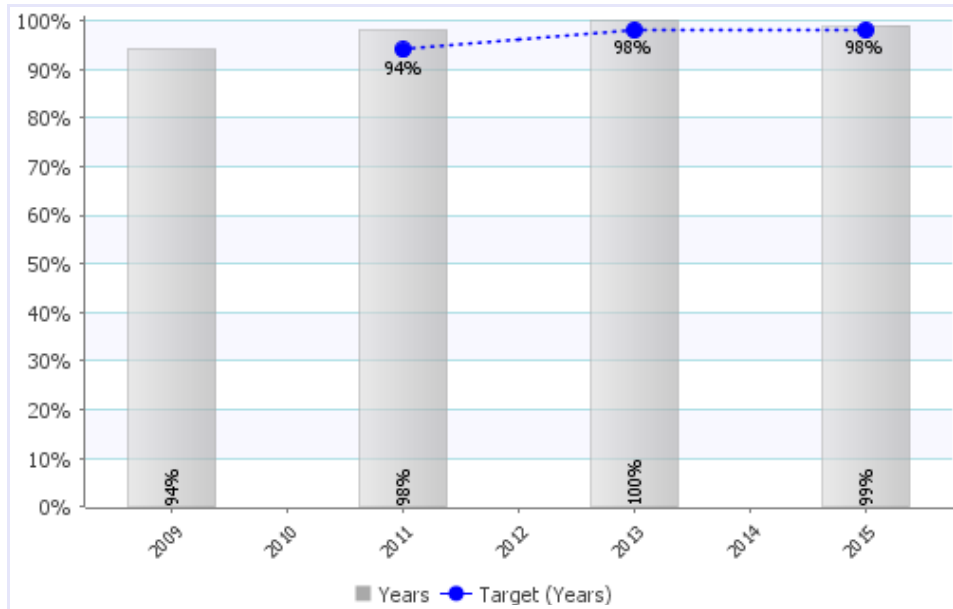
Social sector new build completions (by the local authority and housing associations) reduced from 69 in 2014/15 to 52 in 2015/16, missing the target of 80.



**Environment - natural and built**

**% of the population who are satisfied with the built environment**

Maintain the % of the population who are satisfied with the built environment at the 2011 level of 98%.



Source: Angus Citizens' Survey

Overall satisfaction of 99% with the built environment remains very high, according to the Citizens Survey in 2015, and exceeds the target of 98%. There are variations across Angus, however, with 90% of those living in the most deprived areas satisfied compared to 100% of all other participants.



**Progress in 2015/16**

**We will implement the Kirriemuir Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme**

**Grant Schemes** - Second Priority Project awarded grant for repair works at 1 – 7 Roods now completed (end March 2016). Priority Project at Airlie Arms Hotel offered grant award but declined due to business reasons. Grant monies reallocated to Small Grants Scheme. Final Priority Project at Ogilvy's Close has now commenced initial site clearance works. Grant monies offered to all three active Priority Projects total £428,481  
 Twenty Six (26) grants awarded under Small Grants Scheme between April 2015 and end-March 2016 totalling some £292,329. 15 buildings awarded grant under the Small Grants Scheme have been completed to date, 10 are currently in progress and 12 are still to commence.

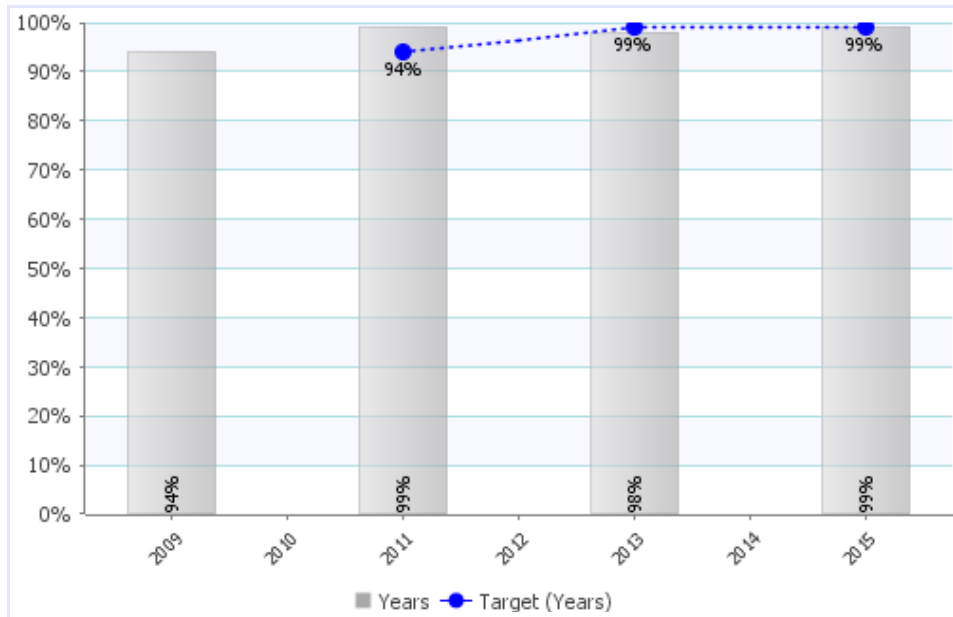
**Public Realm** – Landscaping works to enhance The Square underway with expected completion date of mid-April 2016.

**Training** -Commencement of Training programme in Traditional Building Skills and Maintenance with introductory Homeowners Event in November 2015. Training programme for 2016 commenced end of March and continues until November 2016. Primarily aimed at building contractors and professionals, the series of workshops and seminars are also open to homeowners with some background knowledge or understanding of buildings. Considerable interest expressed so far with very positive feedback from attendees of courses to date.

**CARS Legacy** - Work progressing on the CARS Legacy to illustrate how the project has achieved its outcomes at the end of the five year timescale.

**% of the population who are satisfied with the natural environment**

Maintain the % of the population who are satisfied with the natural environment at the 2011 level of 99%.



Source: Angus Citizens' Survey

Satisfaction with the natural environment remains very high, at 99%, equalling the target set. Some differences were highlighted in the 2015 Citizens Survey, with 94% for participants who lived in Arbroath East and Lunan satisfied compared to 99% or 100% in all other wards.



**Progress in 2015/16**

**We will carry out environmental improvements with respect to non-native species**

River South Esk Catchment Partnership - Invasive Non-Native Species Project: This project has run in the catchment since 2009 and although treatment has been very successful in largely eliminating Japanese Knotweed from the river banks in the three main areas of infestation; the Giant Hogweed problem persists in areas as spates allow the movement of seedbanks. The RSECP bought spraying equipment for the SWT ranger at Montrose basin so they can carry out work on the LNR. The SWT also received funds for the Angus Environment Trust to treat areas of the reserve which has been very successful and has allowed the treatment of Himalayan balsam in areas of the reserve.

**We will promote community involvement and community volunteers in management of their local environment**

BeeWild Project for Residential and Day Care Settings - Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) and Tayside Biodiversity Partnership received funding from the Angus Environmental Trust to complete 11 Site Biodiversity Action Plans and provide a suite of wildlife kits to improve the garden/grounds of 9 care homes, 1 day care centre and 1 sheltered housing complex in Angus. These included pre-formed plastic ponds and pond plants, wildflower seeds and plantplugs, orchard and wildlife trees, binoculars, wildlife identification charts and books. A selection of hand-crafted hedgehog hibernation homes, bug houses, bat and bird boxes were expertly made by volunteers in the VAA Arbroath workshop. Funding also contributed to a complete re-write of the Making Way for Nature booklet which is for the use of community groups and greenspace managers alike. Copies can be downloaded directly from <http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/2016/07/04/making-way-for-nature/> or paper copies requested from the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership. The purpose of this pilot project is to raise awareness of creating urban habitat for pollinating

insects such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies, as well as contributing to targets in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan (i.e. an increase in population for a number of species and enhancement of habitat). Continuing advice will be made available in the future and a pond management training day for the project participants is being held at the end of September (with Action Earth funding). It is hoped funding can be found in the future to expand the project across Angus - involving more care homes, day care centres and sheltered housing, but also raising awareness in business parks and industrial estates.

Small Blue and Coastal Butterflies Project - The project is Tayside and Grampian-wide and includes Butterfly Conservation Scotland East Branch, and the Tayside and N. E. Scotland Biodiversity Partnerships . The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's Small Blue Interest Group (set up in 2011) continues to arrange the annual survey and a well-attended training day was held for volunteers at Barry Buddon this June. The Kidney Vetch seeds donated by Scotia Seeds and grown on by local plant nursery Celtica Wildflowers have been planted out throughout the summer across a variety of sites. This has helped bring in new partners to the project, including the Montrose and Carnoustie Links courses. It is hoped the new plantings will help improve the connectivity of existing populations of the plant along the coast. This is important as it is the only foodplant of the Small Blue butterfly. In future Grayling butterfly surveys are being considered, another endangered coastal species.

Kirriemuir Swift Conservation Project – to continue to raise awareness of this important, but declining species, the Tayside Swift Interest Group ran a Swift drop-in Q&A session at Kirriemuir Library this July, followed by an evening Swift walk. Many of the swift nestboxes have been distributed, including two to Lisdin Care Home as part of its BeeWild project; another large supply of nestboxes has just been received and need to find homes by the end of the year. Advice is ongoing to property owners and local businesses on how to retain existing swift nest sites and where best to install new nestboxes.

Going the Whole Hog - As at 31 July 2016 'Going the Whole Hog' has had a total of 6498 participants. This has included visits to 50 Primary schools; 3 Secondary Schools; 14 Community Groups; 8 Schools/Community/Ranger Service Events. The project is due for completion by December 2016 and Angus Alive Ranger Service are delighted that they are well on target of reaching their aim (via Grant Aid from Angus Environmental Trust) of having a hedgehog hibernacula in every Angus primary school.

Amphibians in Drains – new trial sites are being explored, together with the potential of preparing an Amphibian Management Plan to share with Angus Council Roads to help safeguard amphibians in a number of housing estates. Subject to funding, this will link to a community Pond Doctor project to raise awareness of garden ponds and Sustainable Urban Drainage ponds across Angus. The amphibian ladders are now available to purchase direct in Angus via the British Herpetological Society [http://www.thebhs.org/images/stories/Downloads/BHS\\_gulleyPotLadder\\_flier.pdf](http://www.thebhs.org/images/stories/Downloads/BHS_gulleyPotLadder_flier.pdf). Following a SUDS audit in Perth & Kinross, OPAL surveys are underway to choose a suite of SUDS ponds to manage for biodiversity; it is hoped this survey work

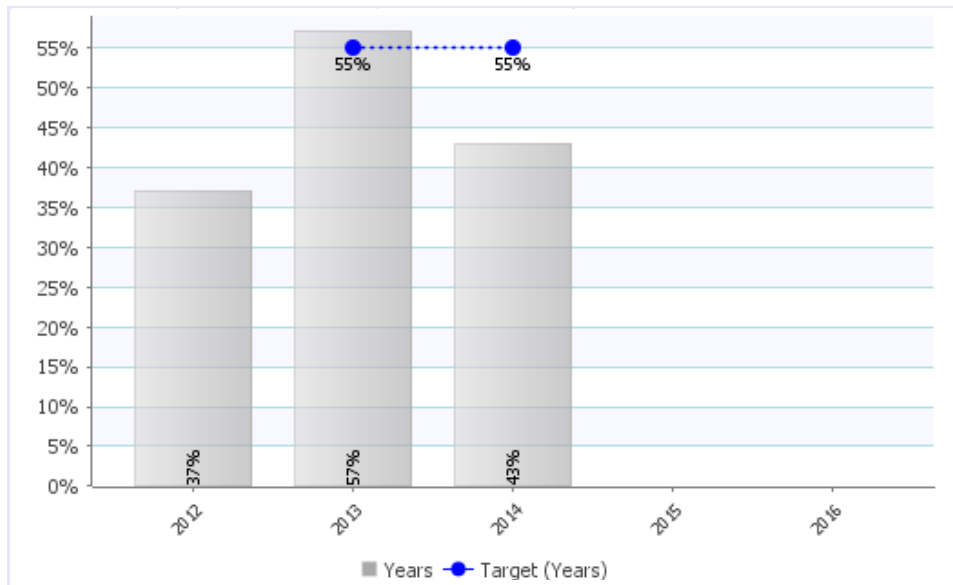
can be extended to Angus as soon as possible.

Business Parks & Industrial Estates Biodiversity Enhancement Initiative - Working with SEPA and other partners, the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership will be exploring the way forward to improve the biodiversity of business parks and industrial estates throughout Angus. A copy of the Making Way for Nature booklet will be circulated and on-the-ground projects discussed following brief Site Biodiversity Action Plans have been produced. The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership will be working with the N. E. Scotland Biodiversity Partnership to roll out its Business Counts events and booklet in 2017.

Building Better Biodiversity series of training workshops - As they have proved so popular in the past, new funding is being sought to continue lunch time seminars and occasional workshops in Angus. The first of these will be held in the autumn of 2016.

**The percentage of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week**

Increase the % of people making one or more visits to the outdoors per week to 55% by 2013/14.



Source: Scottish Household Survey

In 2014 the percentage of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week fell to 43% from 57% in 2013. The 2014 figure is not significantly lower than the Scotland average of 48% for the same period. The Angus figure has missed the target of 55%. (Data is based on small sample sizes).



**Progress in 2015/16**

**We will promote access to Cairngorms National Park and other natural sites**

DragonQuest, a dark woods augmented reality theatre adventure, attracted over 5000 people to Monikie Park in October/November 2015, and has been nominated for a Scottish Thistle Award (Scotland's Tourism 'Oscars'). 5% of the profits of DragonMatrix, the 2016 version of the experience, will be donated to the Trees for Life charity.

The Angus Walking Festival 2016 was held from 2-5 June 2016, for the first time as part of the ANGUSalive Trust, and supported by the Glen Clova Hotel, Peel Farm and the Forestry Commission Scotland. There were 18 walks with 323 bookings, which represented a 70% uptake. The 15th anniversary event will take place from 1-4 June 2017.

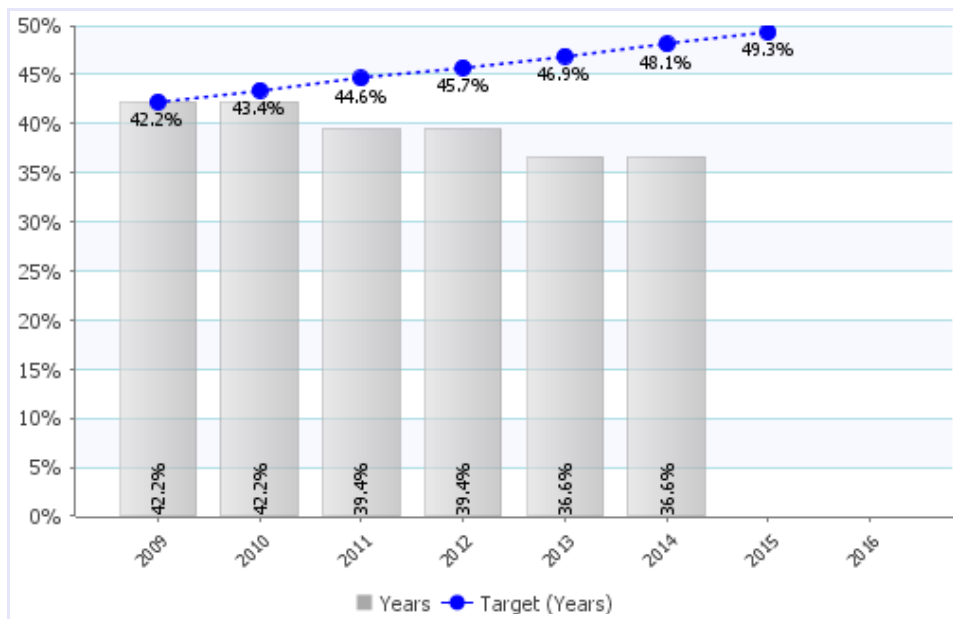


**We will consider the feasibility of implementing health initiatives linked to countryside walks, green prescriptions and green exercise**

Affiliated to the national Paths for All organisation, Steps Tay Health Angus provided walking opportunities during the year to encourage inactive/less able people to become more active and enjoy the local environment. A total of 19 trained volunteer walk leaders supported 12 weekly 'health walks' at various locations across Angus, involving around 140 participants each week. From 1 April 2016 walks continue under their own auspices with some support from the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership and Paths for All.

**% of river water bodies in Angus achieving good ecological status, good ecological potential or above**

Increase the % of river water bodies achieving good quality status to 49.3% by 2015.



Source: Scottish Environment Protection Agency

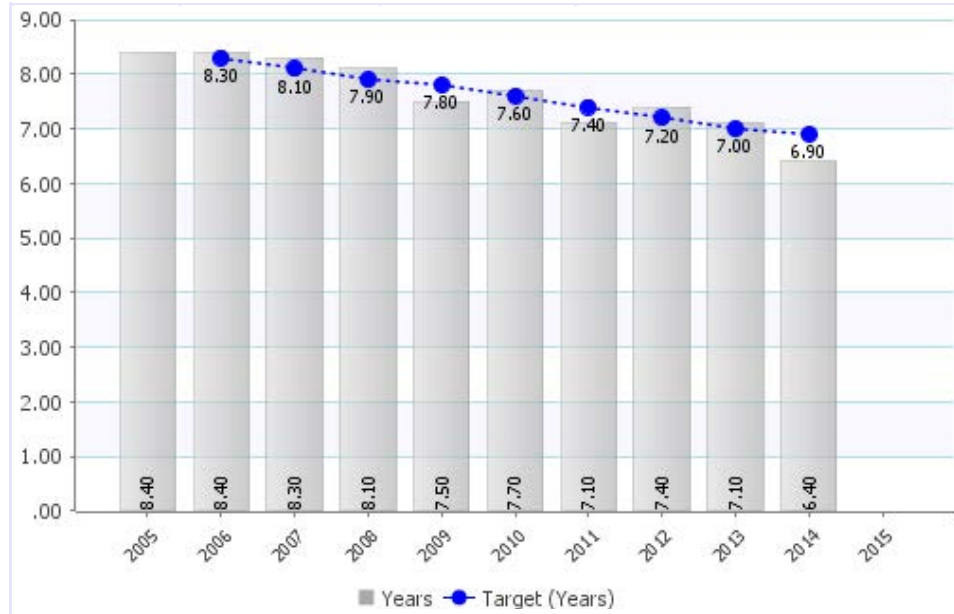
There was no change in river water bodies status between 2013 and 2014, with 36.6% of river water bodies achieving good status or above. The 2015 classification will be signed off later in 2016.



## Climate Change

### Tonnage of CO2/capita

Reduce the tonnage of CO2/capita by at least 42% by 2020



Source: Dept of Energy & Climate Change

2014 data is the most recent available and shows a drop to 6.4 t per capita, from 7.1t in 2013. This figure is better than target. Over the same period, the Scotland figure dropped from 6.6 t to 5.7 t per capita emissions.



### Progress in 2015/16

#### We will monitor local climate impacts

Ongoing landscape scale adaptation and mitigation works are carried out by a range of stakeholders in Angus with a particular emphasis on Natural Flood Management, particularly the River South Esk Catchment Partnership, the Esk Rivers and Fisheries Trust, SEPA and Angus Council Roads team. Previously a database of local severe weather events and their impacts were collated for a Local Climate Impacts profile (LCLIP) as part of ongoing adaptation work. A further LCLIP may be considered in the future.

[Angus Council's Climate Change Strategy Annual Report](#) will in future form the basis for Angus Council's statutory climate change report. There is a specific section on adapting to climate change which includes 20 actions – mainly looking at flooding issues and land management.

#### We will introduce biomass training opportunities

The Estates and Biomass course continues at Dundee & Angus College, with further renewables elements included in a number of additional courses, and an NQ in Renewable energy.

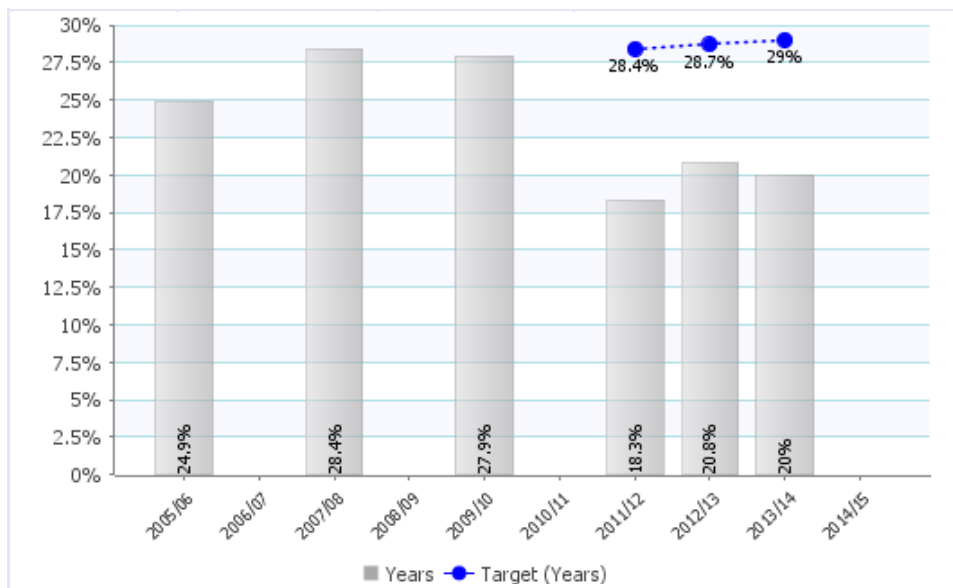
#### We will implement natural flood management measures

The large scale forestry project aimed at reducing peak flows in the upper South Esk catchment saw two areas of contour tree planting take place in Glen Clova and Glen Doll in 2014. The pilot project and research was supported financially by the Forestry Commission, Angus Council, Esk District Salmon Fishery Board and the Cairngorms National Park Authority with in-kind support from RSPB. This follows the example of work carried out in a number of studies, where it has been found that following planting trees along the contours of a hillside a flood peak reduction of around 40% could be achieved. Other studies have

	<p>shown that the greatest attenuation occurs for the smaller events achieving predicted flood peak reductions approaching 60–70% as complete forest coverage is attained. The effects are less pronounced in the case of the larger events, where woodland coverage of c. 80% was reported to effect a 30% reduction in peak flow values.</p> <p>The initial planting phase which took place in during 2014 cost of £80,000 and at present funds for the development of the project is being investigated. Forestry Commission Scotland would in future like to see similar work carried out in Glen Prosen which would also aid in slowing peak flow on the South Esk main stem. This project has multiple benefits not only for the river as it supports Scottish Government policies (tree planting and carbon sequestration), agriculture, low ground shooting potential and biodiversity.</p>
<b>We will develop ways to influence a reduction of CO2 from transport</b>	In 2015/16, 67 employees of Angus businesses/organisations received driver training.

**Percentage of journeys to work made by public or active transport**

Increase % of journeys to work made by public or active transport to 29% by 2013/14.



*Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), Scottish Government*

20.0% of journeys to work were made by public or active transport in 2014, a small drop from the two year average figure of 20.8% for 2012-13. The target of 29% has not been reached, however the small sample size means that there is a wide margin for error in this data.

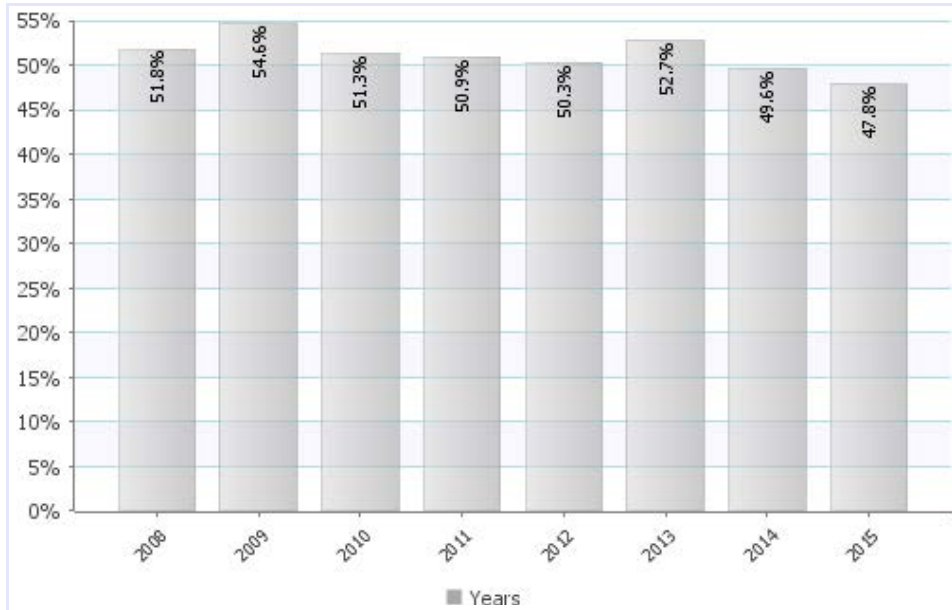


**Progress in 2015/16**

<b>We will implement the Angus Health and Transport Action Plan</b>	<p>The Angus Health &amp; Transport Steering Group has developed 'Angus on the Go'- a branding to promote all aspects of active travel across all Angus communities.</p> <p>Promoting active travel has been ongoing over the past year, and has included investing in special bus shelter panels and advertising on Stagecoach buses; cycle initiatives; lift share promotion and workshops for P7 school pupils in the Brechin area to promote active travel to the new campus.</p>
<b>We will support smaller organisations to develop and implement travel plans</b>	<p>Tactran's travelknowhow website, <a href="http://www.travelknowhow.org.uk/tactran/">http://www.travelknowhow.org.uk/tactran/</a>, supports organisations to develop and implement travel plans, however there has been no take up from businesses in Angus so far. Promotion of the site through Dundee &amp; Angus Chamber of Commerce is being considered.</p>

### Percentage of children walking to school (primary)

Increase the % of children walking or cycling to school to 55% in 2013/14



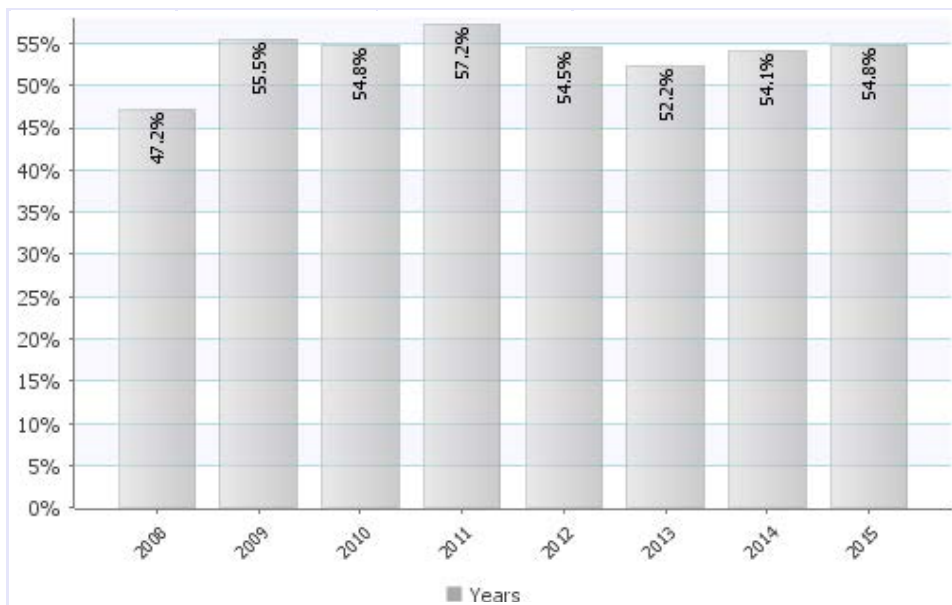
Source: Hands Up Scotland Survey

There was a decrease in primary school children walking to school, from 49.6% in 2014 to 47.8% in 2015. However, active travel overall increased, with a 2.5% increase in cycling and scooting/skating. The combined figure for primary school pupil active travel to school of 52.3% fell short of the combined target of 55%, and was also lower than the Scottish figure of 54.2%.



### Percentage of children walking to school (secondary)

Increase the % of children walking or cycling to school to 55% in 2013/14



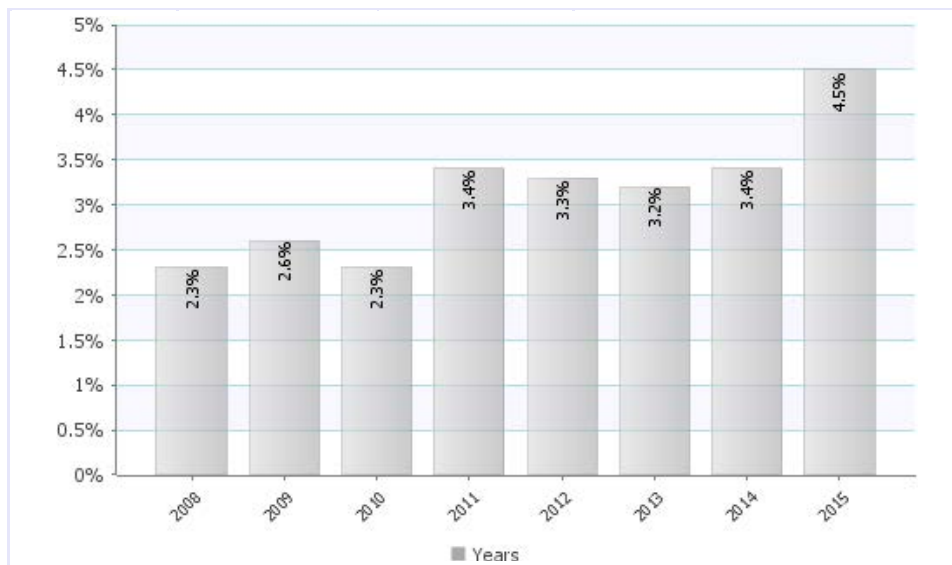
Source: Hands Up Scotland Survey

There was a slight increase in the percentage of secondary school children walking to school, from 54.1% in 2014 to 54.8% in 2015. The overall active travel figure for secondary school pupils was 57.5%: above the combined target of 55%, and above the Scottish figure of 43.9%.



### Percentage of children cycling to school (primary)

Increase the % of children walking or cycling to school to 55% in 2013/14



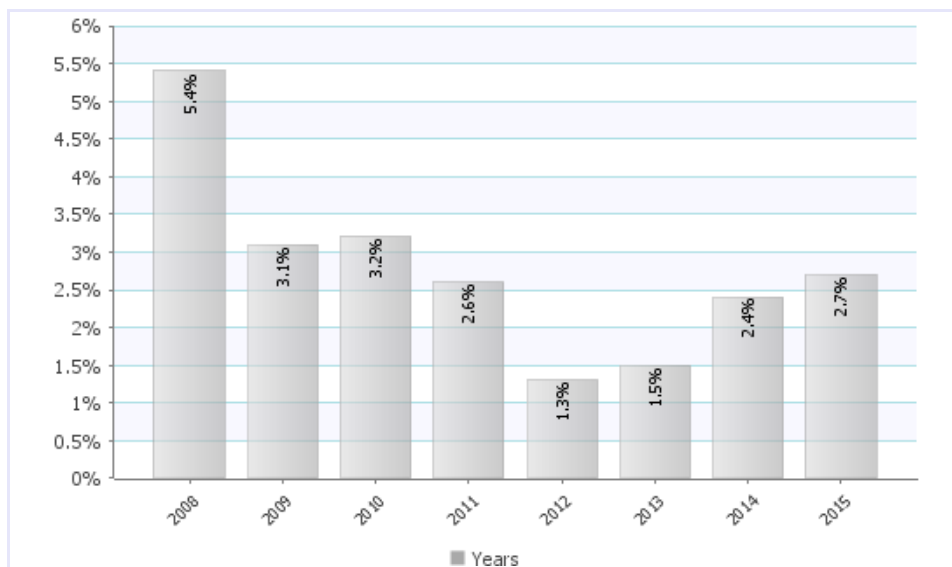
Source: Hands Up Scotland Survey

The percentage of children cycling to primary school increased from 3.4% in 2014 to 4.5% in 2015. The combined figure for primary school pupil active travel to school of 52.3% fell short of the combined target of 55%, and was also lower than the Scottish figure of 54.2%.



### Percentage of children cycling to school (secondary)

Increase the % of children walking or cycling to school to 55% in 2013/14



Source: Hands Up Scotland Survey

There was a slight increase in children cycling to secondary school, from 2.4% in 2014 to 2.7% in 2015. The overall active travel figure for secondary school pupils was 57.5%: above the combined target of 55%, and above the Scottish figure of 43.9%.



### Progress in 2015/16

**We will implement and update core paths plan and create cycle routes to schools**

The phased works of the approved rolling programme for minor upgrading works and signposting of core paths, including negotiations with landowners, continues to move forward.