

# The Future of CLLD

Insights from stakeholder engagement and evaluation of Community-Led Local Development activities across Scotland

Community-led local development (CLLD) gives local communities the power to tackle their own, local challenges, building empowerment & resilience. A decentralised, grassroots approach develops knowledge and skills, supporting new ideas and encouraging cooperation.

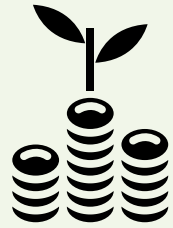


Previously delivered through the LEADER programme, in 2023/24, the Scottish Government has committed £11.6m to funding CLLD activities which address key rural priorities.

For every £1 invested

£4.02

of social value is created\*



## People & communities delivering CLLD

Community groups & charities

Micro-businesses and communities enterprises

Local Action Groups, with public, private & third sector representation

Third Sector Interfaces & other third sector support organisations

Network, associations and advocacy organisations

Local Authorities & other accountable body partners

## The unique nature of CLLD



### Development, not aid

Communities are development actors in CLLD - not beneficiaries. Financial investment enables capacity building for social and economic rural development.



### Testing the atypical

CLLD has a successful history of funding new ideas and solutions which would be considered 'too small' or 'untested' if considered by regional/national bodies.



### Building trust & policy coherence

Communities lead the decision-making & implementation process, building trust at different levels of governance and engaging with local, regional and national policy objectives.

## The year ahead

People & communities delivering CLLD are undertaking projects specific to their local community, but their impact has implications for Scotland's Rural Movement & activities at a national scale:



### Learning & Insights

- Working to embed **SROI learnings** in SDGs achievement
- Contributing to the **Rural Exchange & SRUC research**
- Learning from **place-based approaches** to delivery

### Policy & Strategy

- Shaping & implementing the **Rural Delivery Plan**
- Delivering against **Community-Led Vision plans**
- Mapping how CLLD contributes to **wider policy**

### Dialogue

- Participating in the **Scottish Rural Parliament**
- Supporting major consultations shaping rural life, including the **Agriculture Bill** and **Land Use and Agriculture Just Transition Plan**

Rural & island environments have unique geographies which require hyper-local **place-based** approaches

Over 930,000 **people** live in rural Scotland, with a higher proportion of older people, self-employment and multiple jobs than in urban areas.

The cost of living in rural areas is up to 30% higher than urban areas, and rates of severe **poverty** are rising\*\*

The unique context of rural communities

SOME GUARANTEED CORE FUNDING OVER MORE THAN 4 YEAR - EVEN AS MINIMUM INDICATIVE: (Communities should be able to co-design improvements in public services based on needs) EMBEDDED PART OF HOW GOOD PROGRESS FROM LEASIBILITY THROUGH

# Priority areas for development

In April 2023, the Scottish Government brought together over 100 stakeholders from the CLLD sector, including groups delivering activities, community development staff, grant managers, network organisations, academics and policy makers.



Sessions identified the key challenges and opportunities for those delivering grassroots CLLD. Keywords from the conference outputs include:



**Securing the resilience of the CLLD sector** through multi-year funding commitments, retaining skilled staff and recruiting experienced volunteers



**Embedding local, international and thematic collaboration** between communities or between communities and public, private or third sector partners to achieve shared outcomes



**Strengthening CLLD governance** through building specific skills, diverse representation and connecting support mechanisms



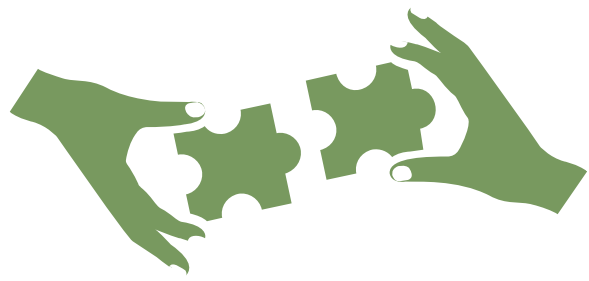
**Ensuring accessible funding for grassroots groups in rural areas**, overcoming unique barriers of rurality and connectivity



**Expanding community-led decision making** within the wider rural development sphere - utilising the skills and experience of CLLD



**Demonstrating and developing how CLLD delivery mechanisms can support wider policy priorities**, with CLLD an established model for 'bottom-up' engagement



## Opportunities for partnership & cross-cutting policy impact

### Eradicating child poverty

- Immediate relief informed by community networks
- Strategic interventions at a household level
- Building community capacity to participate in structural change

E.g. Lochwinnoch Community Development Trust hosted 'warm banks' in 9 different community spaces, which also built community connection & activity provision in winter 2022/23

### Delivering Net Zero

- CLLD infrastructure, networks and legacy projects set the foundation for engaged community climate action
- Awareness of localised vulnerabilities informs adaptation

E.g. Upper Eskdale Development Trust created a resilience directory, with shared assets and first-aid training to support vulnerable community members during extreme weather events

### Sustainable public services

- Community groups bring a rural lens to public service design as 'experts by experience'.
- CLLD projects test community-led solutions to address service challenges

E.g. Northwest Community Bus Association in Kinlochbervie trained drivers to enable elderly and disabled residents to access amenities and social opportunities

### Local Action Groups are distributing funding & providing capacity building support in 2023/24

- |                             |                                   |                       |                         |             |                       |              |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| North & South Aberdeenshire | Angus                             | Argyll & the Islands  | Ayrshire                | Cairngorms  | Dumfries and Galloway | Fife         |
| Forth Valley & Lomond       | Greater Renfrewshire & Inverclyde | Highland              | Kelvin Valley & Falkirk | Lanarkshire | Moray                 |              |
| Orkney                      | Outer Hebrides                    | Rural Perth & Kinross | Scottish Borders        | Shetland    | Tyne Esk              | West Lothain |

Further opportunities for connecting CLLD and wider policy priorities can be directed to the Scottish Government's Rural Communities team or [info@ruralnetwork.scot](mailto:info@ruralnetwork.scot).

\*SROI calculated using the Social Value Engine on 2022/23 CLLD delivery. \*\* Figures from *Poverty in Rural Scotland: evidence review* (2021).