# CLLD National Workshop: Day 1

04 November 2025

Glasgow, Scotland

PREPARED FOR

**CLLD Network** 

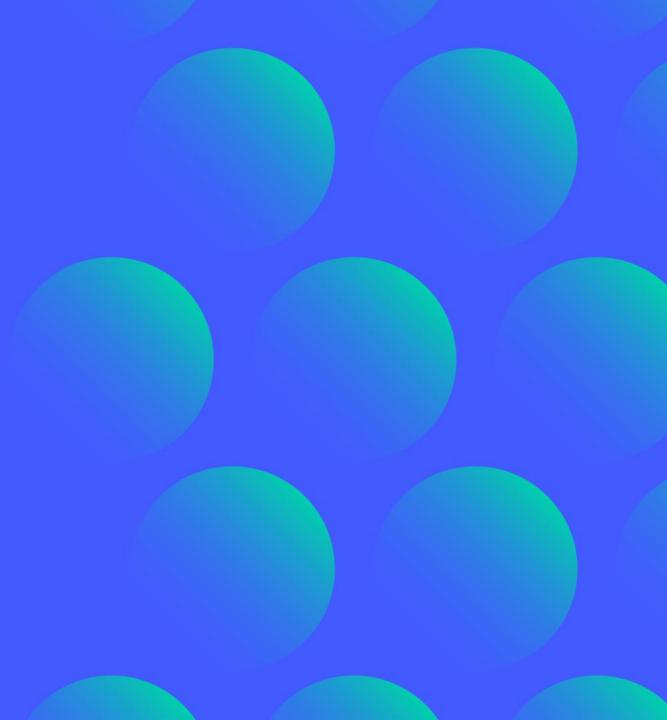


# Agenda: Your ambitions for advocacy, influence, and local community action

Session		Leader	
$\rightarrow$	Welcome and housekeeping	David Cameron	
$\rightarrow$	Introduction	Stuart Oliver	
$\rightarrow$	The policy scene	Jody Fleck	
$\rightarrow$	Setting the context	Stuart Oliver	
$\rightarrow$	The 'art of the possible'	Dinah Jackson	
<b>→</b>	SRUC policy review	Carey Doyle	
<b>→</b>	Refreshment break		
$\rightarrow$	What does a high-performing LAG look like? (Session A)	Break out groups	
$\rightarrow$	Achieving network sustainability (Session B)	Break out groups	
$\rightarrow$	Review and wrap back		
<b>→</b>	Final word		

# Welcome and housekeping

**David Cameron** 



# Introductions and housekeeping >

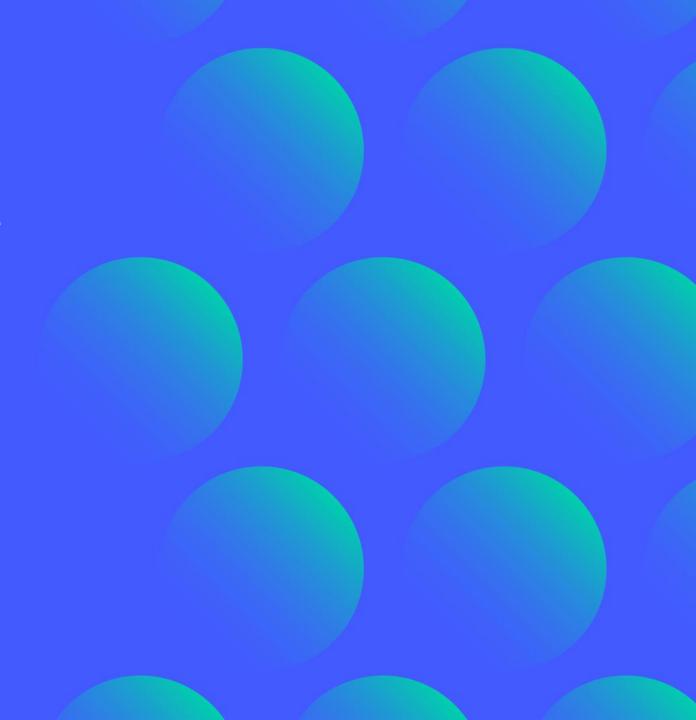
# Welcome to the National Workshop. A few reminders before we begin:

- 1. Housekeeping
- 2. Expectations
- 3. Background



# Introductions

**Stuart Oliver** 



# Introductions

- →If you went forward in time... what would success look like for the new CLLD Network?
- →Write only a few words and put the geographic area your organisation is from in the top right-hand corner (if a national organisation put where your HQ is).



# Community-Led Local Development Back to basics and looking forward

CLLDNet workshop – 4 November 2025 Jody Fleck, Rural Communities, Scottish Government



# What I will cover

# First half - LEADER/CLLD 101:

- 1. Brief history of LEADER and CLLD
- 2. LEADER principles
- 3. Roles of LAGs, Coordinators and Accountable Bodies

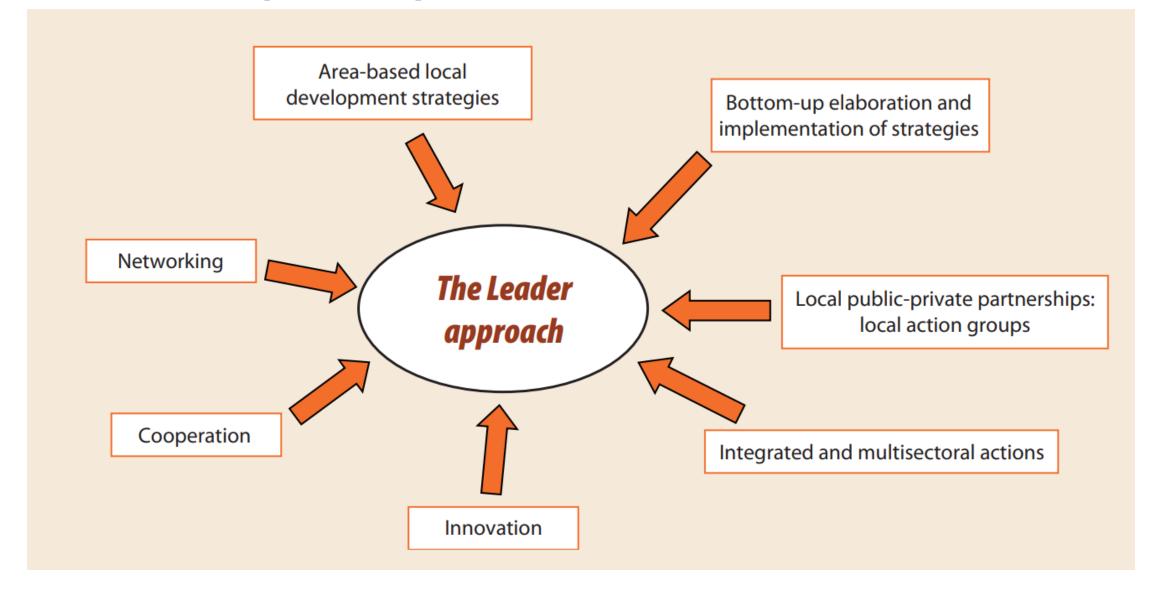
# Second half – SG priorities and emerging policies:

- 1. National priorities
- 2. Rural Delivery Plan
- 3. National Islands Plan
- 4. Legislative programme
- 5. Rural Support Plan

# History of LEADER and CLLD

Year(s)	Programme / Phase	Highlights	
1991–1993	LEADER I (Experimental Phase)	217 LAGs across EU; 6 in Scotland; focused on disadvantaged rural regions.	
1994–1999	LEADER II (Testing Phase)	906 LAGs; 14 in Scotland; expanded coverage, still focus on disadvantaged areas.	
2000-2006	LEADER+ (Maturity Phase)	1,153 LAGs; 13 in Scotland.	
2007–2013	LEADER Axis 4 (Mainstream Phase)	2,402 LAGs; 20 in Scotland; 11 Fisheries LAGs under EFF.	
2014–2020	CLLD Introduction and extension	LEADER extended to CLLD via ERDF & ESF; 3,300 LAGs: 21 LAGs & 11 FLAGS in Scotland.	
Dec 2021	Closure of LEADER programme in Scotland	Due to EU exit.	
2021/22	Testing - RCTC & RCIA Funds Launched	£3.3M budget to test future CLLD approaches.	
2022/23	CLLD re-stablished	£11.6M budget; £8.6M to LAGs via RCLF; £3M via RICIA.	
2023/24	CLLD consolidated	£9.6M allocated to LAGs; RICIA discontinued.	
2024/25 and 2025/26	CLLD matured	£11.2M allocated to LAGs in 2024/25 and £8.8M in 2025/26.	

# LEADER principles







Local Action Group members, Coordinators and Accountable Bodies

# Scottish Government priorities

- Eradicating child poverty
- Growing the economy
- Tackling the climate emergency
- Delivering high quality and sustainable public services



# Scottish Government priorities

- Eradicating child poverty
- Growing the economy
- Tackling the climate emergency
- Delivering high quality and sustainable public services



# Rural Delivery Plan

The first vision for rural mainland Scotland and nine strategic objectives, focusing on:

- Agriculture and Marine Economy
- Digital
- Population and Skills
- Social Justice
- Housing
- Health and Social Care
- Environment and Climate Change
- Transport
- Culture

"The Rural Delivery Plan will act as a framework to consider the full breadth of policy delivery in the rural space; it is an opportunity to bring together often siloed areas of interest and consider what is happening holistically."



# National Islands Plan



# POPULATION RETENTION AND ATTRACTION

To support people to live, work and thrive on Scotland's islands by facilitating locally-led solutions for population retention and attraction



**CONNECTIVITY:** To deliver reliable, affordable and integrated transport and digital connectivity, enabling social and economic links to, from and between islands.



**HOUSING:** To increase the availability of affordable, suitable homes on islands, supporting economic growth, year-round communities, essential services and long-term population sustainability.



**HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE:** To improve access to tailored health and care on islands by strengthening local services, embedding digital care where appropriate, and giving island communities more influence over decisions.



**ECONOMY, EDUCATION & SKILLS:** To grow sustainable island economies through targeted investment, support for local businesses, and education and training opportunities that enable islanders to learn and work locally.



**CLIMATE, NATURE & ENERGY:** To accelerate the transition to net zero on islands by supporting renewable and nature-based solutions, ensuring local ownership and securing fair returns for island communities while building long-term resilience.



**POVERTY & SOCIAL JUSTICE:** To reduce poverty and inequality on islands by addressing higher living costs, tackling fuel and transport challenges, and improving access to services and opportunities.



**EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES & CULTURE:** To strengthen island communities by investing in local leadership, building community capacity, and supporting island cultures, languages and heritage.

# MONITORING

Scottish Islands Survey – Islands Data Dashboard Annual reports to the Scottish Parliament Monitoring framework



# Legislative programme

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024. (See end of Document for details



# Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024

The Bill for this Act of the Scottish Parliament was passed by the Parliament on 18th June 2024 and received Royal Assent on 30th July 2024

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision enabling the support of agriculture, rural communities and the rural economy through the creation of a framework for that support, to make provision for continuing professional development for those involved in agriculture and related industries, to make provision in relation to the welfare and identification of animals, to repeal spent and superseded agricultural enactments; and for connected purposes.

### PART 1

# OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING

- Overarching objectives of agricultural policy
  - (1) For the purposes of this Act, the objectives of Scottish agricultural policy are-
    - (a) the adoption and use of sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices,
    - (b) the production of high-quality food,
    - (c) the promotion and support of agricultural practices that protect and improve animal health and welfare
    - (d) the facilitation of on-farm nature restoration, climate mitigation and
    - (e) enabling rural communities to thrive.
  - (2) The Scottish Ministers may, by regulations, amend the objectives of agricultural policy
  - (3) Regulations under this section are subject to the affirmative procedure.

# Commencement Information

II S. 1 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 38(2)

Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill

THE FOLLOWING ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS ARE ALSO PUBLISHED: Explanatory Notes (SP Bill 62-EN), a Financial Memorandum (SP Bill 62-FM), a Policy Memorandum (SP Bill 62-PM), a Delegated Powers Memorandum (SP Bill 62-DPM) and statements on legislative competence (SP Bill 62-LC).

# Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill [AS INTRODUCED]

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to require the Scottish Ministers to prepare and publish a statement about community wealth building; to require local authorities and relevant public bodies to prepare and publish a community wealth building action plan, and to implement that plan; to require certain public bodies to have due regard to community wealth building guidance produced by the Scottish Ministers; and for connected purposes.

# Community wealth building statement

# Community wealth building statement

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must prepare a community wealth building statement.
- (2) The community wealth building statement must set out the measures that the Scottish Ministers are taking or intend to take to-
  - (a) reduce economic and wealth inequality between individuals and communities in and across Scotland, and
  - (b) support economic growth in and across Scotland,

by facilitating and supporting the generation, circulation and retention of wealth in local and regional economies.

- (3) The measures may include-
  - (a) using public procurement to facilitate or support such generation, circulation and
  - (b) promoting-
    - (i) employment opportunity,
    - (ii) workforce development.

    - (iii) equality in the workplace,
  - (c) diversifying ownership of land or other assets by facilitating or supporting community ownership,
  - (d) bringing vacant and derelict land back into use in a way that provides financial, social or environmental benefit to the community.
  - (e) encouraging local business start-ups or entrepreneurship,

SP Bill 62 Session 6 (2025)

# Land Reform (Scotland) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

# CONTENTS

Section

### PART 1

LARGE LAND HOLDINGS: MANAGEMENT AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

- Community-engagement obligations in relation to large land holding
- Community right to buy: registration of interest in large land holding
- Modifications in connection with section 2
- Lotting of large land holding
- Modifications in connection with section 4
- Establishment of the Land and Communities Commissioner

# PART 2

LEASING LAND

# CHAPTER 1

MODEL LEASE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSES

Duty to publish model lease

### CHAPTER 2

SMALL LANDHOLDINGS

- Small landholdings
- Extension of Tenant Farming Commissioner's functions

## CHAPTER 3

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

Tenant's right to buy

10 Registration of interest and right to buy

- Resumption in relation to 1991 Act tenancies
- Resumption in respect of limited duration tenancies and repairing tenancies
- Compensation for disturbance on resumption

SP Bill 44 Session 6 (2024) Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024. (See end of Document for details)



# Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024

2024 asp 11

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  - (d) the facilitation of on-farm nature restoration, climate mitigation and adaptation, and
  - (e) enabling rural communities to thrive.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers may, by regulations, amend the objectives of agricultural policy under subsection (1).
- (3) Regulations under this section are subject to the affirmative procedure.

# Commencement Information

II S. 1 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 38(2)

# Budget (Scotland) (No. 4) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

# CONTENTS

Section

# PART 1

FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26

Use of resources etc.

- 1 The Scottish Administration
- 2 Direct-funded bodies
- 3 Borrowing by statutory bodies

The Scottish Consolidated Fund

- 4 Overall cash authorisations
- 5 Contingency payments

# PART 2

FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/27

6 Emergency arrangements

# PART 3

# MISCELLANEOUS

Amendment and repeal

- 7 Budget revision regulations
- 8 Repeal of spent provisions

Final provisions

- 9 Interpretation
- 10 Commencement
- 11 Short title

Schedule 1—The Scottish Administration

Schedule 2-Direct-funded bodies

Schedule 3-Borrowing by statutory bodies

SP Bill 56 Session 6 (2024)



# **Rural Communities Policy**

# What is the project?

The Scottish Government has commissioned a review of three core elements of their funding and support for rural communities: Community Led Local Development (CLLD), Scottish Rural Action (SRA) and the Scottish Rural Network (SRN). The evidence generated in this project will inform the new rural Scotland support system which will deliver the provisions of the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act

This project will deliver an evidence base to inform this new rural Scotland policy support system. This will be undertaken by a team led by SRUC (Rural Policy Centre), University of the Highlands and Islands (Perth),

# What is the approach?

The project will combine existing evidence on rural community interventions (including what works well and what are the barriers and challenges) with theories of change for each of the programmes and new evidence collection with rural communities. The team has designed a multi-stage approach to deliver this project, which is grounded in our desire to undertake research which is creative as well as equitable and

The research will consider how CLLD. SRA and SRN have:

- · delivered objectives
- · fit strategically with wider public and third sector support
- · experienced challenges and opportunities

The approach also:

- · recognises innovation as one of the core principles of community led local development
- acknowledges concerns around research and consultation fatigue amongst stakeholders and

Insights will generate options and recommendations to inform the future rural community development

Further	pages	in	this	sectio	1

Publications and outcomes

Privacy Notice

Stage 2: Evidence Review

Stage 3: Fieldwork

Stage 1: Theory of Change

Methodology

# Get Involved

Tell us about your experience of rural or island life with our surveys and feedback forms

# Projects

ReRIC

Scottish Land Insights

Rural Lens







# Producing indicative allocations for Community Led Local Development funding in Scotland (2022-23)

# Jonathan Hopkins and Valentina Farinelli

Social, Economic and Geographical Sciences Department The James Hutton Institute December 2022

# Background and purpose of document

This note provides a short summary of analysis which was undertaken at the James Hutton Institute to distribute funding (£11.6m in total, £7.6m of which was allocated by this analysis) which was made available for Community Led Local Development (CLLD) in 2022-23 in Scotland. In the 2014-20 period, LEADER funding was distributed to 21 Local Action Group (LAG) Areas<sup>1</sup> based on area (40%) and socio-economic need (60%). The latter was measured using the Socio-Economic Performance (SEP) Index<sup>2</sup>, developed by Andrew Copus at the James Hutton Institute for small areas (Data Zones) in rural areas and small towns. The population-weighted average SEP Index for each LAG Area was used for funding distribution. However, the SEP Index was published in 2015 and is somewhat out of date, in terms of the age of data used and its structure, which uses an old version of the National Performance Framework. This updated analysis aimed to account for recent events and newly emerging regional patterns of socio-economic need.

This note presents a simplified and readable overview of the analysis. It accompanies a zip archive which contains data and code. The data analysis has also contributed to additional research within the 2022-27 Strategic Research Programme, within the Rural Futures Theme: however, only work relevant to the CLLD allocations is described here and is included within the other resources.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Published map available at https://www.ruralnetwork.scot/sites/default/files/documents/LEADER%202014-20%20-%20GIS%20-%20LDS%20-V9%20-%2003%20Feb%202016.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Infographic available at https://www.hutton.ac.uk/sites/default/files/files/SEP Index values (2011).pdf

# Questions for CLLDNet

- How should the CLLD budget be 'top-sliced'?
- How do we collectively demonstrate the value of YLAGs, continue to support existing YLAGs and help establish new YLAGs?
- How can LAGs lever in other public and private funding? e.g. share successful examples that can be replicated?
- How can we support more cooperation between Scottish LAGs and with Europe LAGs?
   e.g. national, regional and/or international projects?
- Can we co-develop a national M&E framework for the next 3-5 years?

# Setting the context

**Stuart Oliver** 



# Background and progress so far

A new Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) network is being initiated and developed. This third national workshop is designed to move us to the creation of the CLLD network for rural and island Scotland.

This workshop will build on previous workshops held in March 2024 and June 2025.



Aim: To support the development of a stronger, collaborative, and influential CLLD network for rural and island Scotland.

# **Objectives**

By the end of the workshop, we will have:

- → Gathered collective input to shape the vision, priorities, and structure for the new national CLLD Network.
- → Explored ideas for governance, capacity building, sustainability, and communication in more depth
- → Built stronger relationships across LAGs and partners to support future collaboration.
- → Agreed the next steps to turn our shared input into a launch-ready network proposal

# What we need from you today

- → Be open and honest
- → Get involved every voice matters; small groups only work if everyone joins in.
- → Think big this is about shaping the future of CLLD, we don't need to replicate old or existing models
- → Be respectful and constructive
- → Be positive this is a rare opportunity to come together, work together and help create something new and important to Scotland's future.

# The 'art of the possible'

**Dinah Jackson** 



# Perspectives from the rural and island Youth LAGs

A future of collaboration and youth empowerment to shape local communities and create impact.

# Hopes are for:

- ✓ Greater collaboration and connectivity, locally and nationally
- ✓ Involvement, engagement, and empowerment that amplify young people's voices in shaping and making decisions
- ✓ Funding and financial sustainability; ring-fenced youth budgets and determination
- ✓ Visibility and impact to bring awareness to the potential of community-led action



# Priorities: Influential power in the collective voice of young people

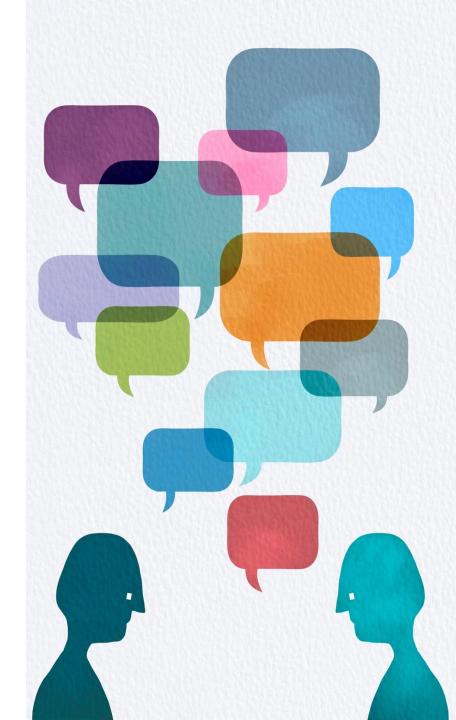
# Short-term priorities for long-term success and a strong desire for wider political action.

- ✓ Communications that boost visibility of youth-led CLLD
- ✓ Meaningful connections through repeat rather than one-off events
- ✓ Networking with a specific aim of fostering collaborative opportunities, could be residential
- ✓ Strategy that facilitates wider impact
- ✓ Political antenna and relationship-building to engage with government officials coupled with examples of CLLD impact on policy
- ✓ Training and mentorship that builds policy capacity and engagement confidence and underpins engagement with organisations across Scotland

# Communications

# Relationships vary but there are common perspectives.

- ✓ Clear channels through which to communicate with LAGs; a focus on relationship building
- Easing time constraints and capacity bottlenecks
- ✓ Dialogue for value and mutual understanding of aims and objectives
- ✓ Integration and consideration; shared problem solving, training activities, and collaboration







# Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review Update

Community Led Local Development Network
Workshop

3 November 2025

Dr Carey Doyle, Project Manager
Rural Policy Centre at Scotland's Rural College
carey.doyle@sruc.ac.uk



# Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review

- Independent review reporting to Scottish Government, led by SRUC.
- Project aims:
  - To evaluate the delivery of Community Led Local Development, Scottish Rural Action, and Scottish Rural Network.
  - To examine their strategic fit in relation to wider public and third sector interventions, identify their unique role and impact, any gaps or areas of duplication
  - To consider and propose options for their future role, focus and delivery, including in relation to the Rural Support Plan and wider rural policy, and in the context of the forthcoming Rural Delivery Plan
  - To consult and engage with a range of stakeholders, and
  - To produce practical recommendations.
- An implementation and process evaluation, which looks at <u>what</u> is happening, as well as <u>how</u> and <u>why</u>

# Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review







# Research Process

January 2025

- Stage 1: Theory of Change
- Stage 2: Evidence Review
- Stage 3: Fieldwork

January 2026

# Stage 1: Four Theories of Change

# Figure 1.1 Community Led Local Development (CLLD) theory of change

VISION: Community Led Local Development (CLLD) empowers local communities to build on their own strengths and tackle their local challenges. By taking a strengths-based approach, building knowledge and skills, supporting new ideas and encouraging cooperation, CLLD helps to create viable and resilient communities which are catalysts for wider systems change and more participatory democracy.

build co-operation with similar groups in Scotland, UK and Europe; drive community action on climate change; empower communities to be independent led and realise their potential to build opportunities for all; encourage innovation and community wealth building at micro level; enhance rural services and facilities, including transport/food initiatives; enhance tourism and leisure; facilitate the exchange of learning and knowledge sharing; normalise natural/cultural heritage and language to protect social cohesion, nurture identity and ensure strong communities.

INPUTS

# Funding:

Core Community Led Local Development funding (Scottish Government)

Match funding (local and specialist funds)

Other Scottish Govt funding (e.g. Investing in Communities Fund, Aspiring Communities Fund, Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund for Adults) UK Government funding (e.g. UKSPF)

Remaining EU funds

# People and skills:

Paid Community Led Local Development

Local Action Groups (LAG) (public, private, third sector etc based partnerships) and Accountable Bodies

Scottish Government

Scottish Rural Network

Rural and island communities

# Policy and legislative framework:

Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

Local Place Plans (Planning (Scotland) Act 2019)

National Performance Framework

The National Islands Plan

Scottish Rural Development Programme EU policy (to be adapted)

Rural Support Plan (emerging)

Rural Delivery Plan (emerging)

# Wider policy and legislation:

E.g. Community-led climate action, Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill, Just Transition Plan, Land Reform (Scotland) Bill, Scotland National Strategy for Economic Transformation

Academic and applied research about what works for rural development

## ACTIVITIES

### Local Action Group activities:

Enable communities to identify needs and aspirations, and support in the development of ideas and solutions.

Stimulating and supporting innovation and investment in local priorities through businesses, social enterprises, charities and grass roots initiatives.

Community wealth building development support

Taking a strategic approach to the targeting of funding/investment.

## Capacity building:

Training for community leaders, entrepreneurs,

Recruiting more Local Action Group members, including young people, developing next generation of leaders

Support for organisational development for community groups

## letwork and communications:

Reports, case studies, publications & presentations

Local, regional, national & international networking/peer learning events (e.g. workshops, conferences, exchanges)

Online platforms and forums

Engagement with similar groups (e.g. Scottish Rural Network and Scottish Rural Action)

Engagement with policy

Influence policy development and implementation

# Scottish Government activities:

Internal advocacy

Engagement with other policy teams

Providing guidance

Partnering with researchers to decide budget

# Monitoring and evaluation:

Data collection

Capacity building for evaluation

# OUTPUTS

# Local Action Group projects funded and

Projects addressing rural inequality (e.g. community transport)

Projects creating/safeguarding jobs

Agricultural support

Projects benefitting young people

Projects contributing to a low carbon economy, climate adaptation/resilience

Community facilities created/improved

Projects supporting communities to use assets

Projects supporting health and wellbeing

Arts and cultural heritage activities Community wealth building development

Projects supporting businesses (e.g. SMEs -Small and Medium-sized Enterprises)

# Capacity:

# Community members trained

Community groups receiving organisational

# Network and communications:

Number and reach of events/networking

Number and reach of publications or resources

Local Action Groups have sufficient capacity and skills to

Local Action Groups have sufficient funding to leverage

Continued political support for Community Led Local Development following 2026 Scottish Parliament election.

Councils and supporting bodies commit to supporting Local

Action Groups in the long-term (in the absence of long-term

Local Action Groups are willing to keep going.

Engagement with policy teams

# Monitoring and evaluation:

ASSUMPTIONS

funding).

manage funding.

Monitoring and evaluation outputs

# SHORT/MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES -->

Improved health and wellbeing

Increased local food security Increased community engagement in climate

and nature focused projects. Natural/cultural heritage and language normalised (for communities not tourists).

# Sustainability and innovation:

Improved business viability

More effective and sustainable community-led projects

### Infrastructure and resources:

Enhanced community infrastructure and

Enhanced community wealth building activities Reduced barriers to accessing skills and jobs Increased availability of affordable housing

Increased community leadership

Increased community skills and capacity (incl. to bid for funding) Increased community control over / use of

assets

# Network and communications:

Effective knowledge at local, regional, national and international levels

Improved community engagement and participation (including among young people)

Increased influence on policy development Increased understanding of impact of

Community Led Local Development supported projects, including increased capability of Local Action Groups to deliver social value.

## LONG TERM IMPACTS

Strengthened and more resilient communities

Natural/cultural heritage and language help sustain communities Improved quality of life and wellbeing Increased climate change mitigation

# Business sustainability and

Sustainable businesses and social enterprises that are regenerative. scalable and transferable to other

### **Empowerment**:

Enhanced community confidence and empowerment

Increased community ownership and leadership of local development initiatives

Rural communities have increased access to, and control over, the resources they need

# Prosperity

Reduced rural poverty and inequality Stable or growing populations Enhanced community benefits

### Systems:

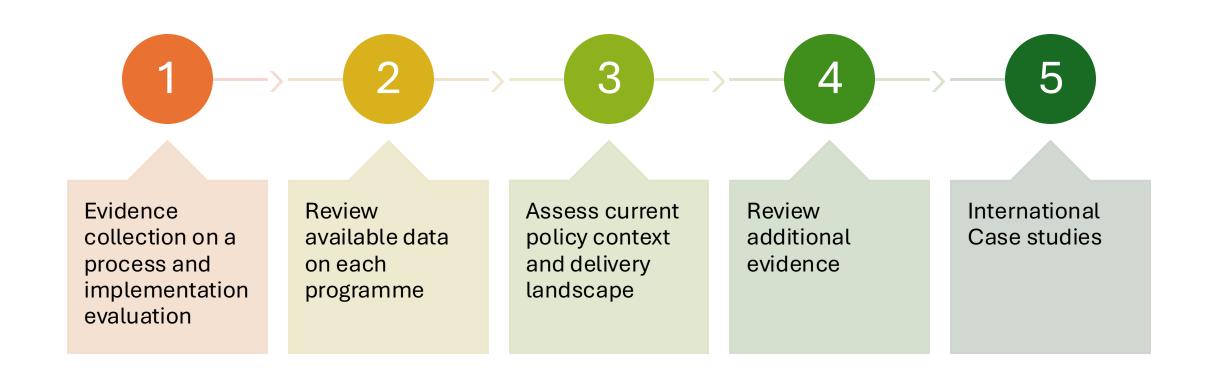
More integrated and holistic approaches to rural development Increased collaboration and partnership working

- Challenges associated with annual funding.
- Loss of experienced staff due to uncertainty around funding.
- Community capacity to support projects and volunteer fatigue.
- Perception of Community Led Local Development programme as purely a "challenge fund" and lack of understanding around strategic purpose.
- Lack of understanding / recognition of impact and capabilities of Local Action Groups . Diversity of projects / approaches across Local Action Groups and variation in experience, willingness and ability. Perceived duplication of effort with other rural organisations / programmes resulting in
- missed opportunities. Lack of clarity (e.g. from Local Authorities) around what the fund is for.



Community Led Local Development -Scottish Rural **Communities Policy** Review: stage 1 theories of change gov.scot

# Stage 2: Evidence Review



# International case studies









Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review - Stage 2. Ireland case study

Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review - Stage 2. England case study Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review - Stage 2. Canada case study

> Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review - Stage 2. Finland case study



**Agriculture, Environment and Marine** 



Agriculture, Environment and Marine





**Agriculture, Environment and Marine** 



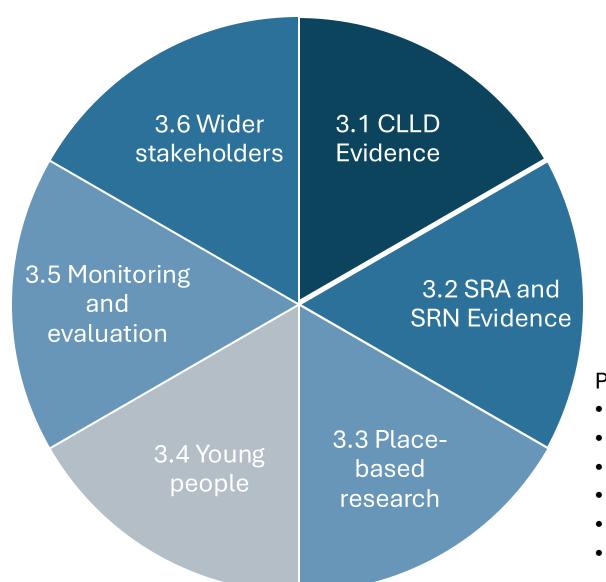
Agriculture, Environment and Marine





Ruralexchange.scot/scottish-rural-communities-plicy-review/publications-and-outcomes/

### **Stage 3: Fieldwork**





Logically
maps the
elements,
activities,
outputs,
assumptions

#### Fieldwork

Experiences; if intended impacts are being realised (and if not, why not)



- Scottish Borders
- West Lothian
- Orkney
- Outer Hebrides
- Moray
- Highland



creativity curiosity

CHI

science ceilidh

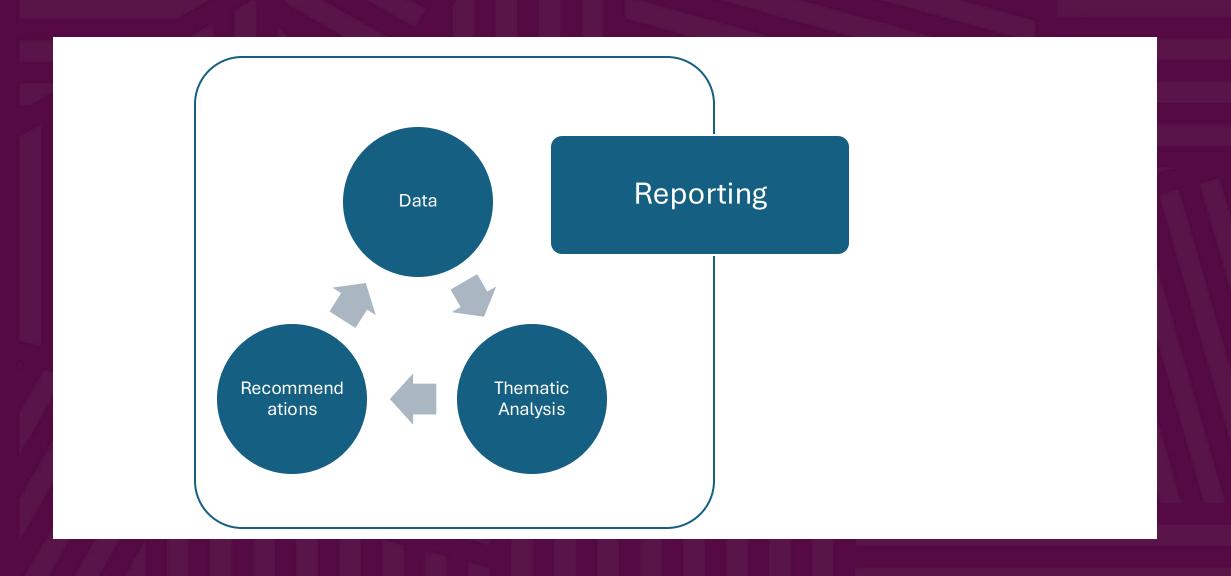


### Thank you for participating!

#### **CLLD** data collected includes:

- Secondary data on CLLD funding (SG, SVE)
- CLLD coordinator survey responses
- LAG member survey responses
- CLLD applicant survey responses
- Place based case study interviews
- CLLD coordinator and stakeholder interviews
- Particular areas of focus (M + E),
- Strategic considerations across the initiatives

## Analysis, Recommendations, Reporting



### Recommendation Approach

#### Selected Aims:

- Strategic fit, unique role and impact, any gaps or areas of duplication,
- To consider and propose options for their future role, focus and delivery,
- To produce practical recommendations.

Remit from SG to think strategically and identify transformational recommendations

### Recommendation Structure

Minimal intervention (works on inputs/activities in the Theory of Change)

Mid-level intervention
(addresses activities,
outputs, and
short/medium term
outcomes)

Transformational intervention

(engages across the
 entire causal chain
 (inputs → outputs →
 outcomes → impacts)

Recommendation 1

Recommendation 2

Recommendation 3

Theory of Change

Recommendations

#### Figure 1.1 Community Led Local Development (CLLD) theory of change

VISION: Community Led Local Development (CLLD) empowers local communities to build on their own strengths and tackle their local challenges. By taking a strengths-based approach, building knowledge and skills, supporting new ideas and encouraging cooperation, CLLD helps to create viable and resilient communities which are catalysts for wider systems change and more participatory democracy.

AIMS: build co-operation with similar groups in Scotland, UK and Europe; drive community action on climate change; empower communities to be independent led and realise their potential to build opportunities for all; encourage innovation and community wealth building at micro level; enhance rural services and facilities, including transport/food initiatives; enhance tourism and leisure; facilitate the exchange of learning and knowledge sharing; normalise natural/cultural heritage and language to protect social cohesion, nurture identity and ensure strong communities.

INPUTS ----

#### Funding:

Core Community Led Local Development funding (Scottish Government)

Match funding (local and specialist funds)

Other Scottish Govt funding (e.g. Investing in Communities Fund, Aspiring Communities Fund, Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund for Adults)

UK Government funding (e.g. UKSPF) Remaining EU funds

#### People and skills:

Paid Community Led Local Development staff

#### Volunteers

Local Action Groups (LAG) (public, private, third sector etc based partnerships) and Accountable Bodies

Scottish Government Scottish Rural Network

Rural and island communities

#### Policy and legislative framework:

Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

Local Place Plans (Planning (Scotland) Act 2019)

National Performance Framework The National Islands Plan

Scottish Rural Development Programme

EU policy (to be adapted) Rural Support Plan (emerging)

Rural Delivery Plan (emerging)

#### Wider policy and legislation:

E.g. Community-led climate action, Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill, Just Transition Plan, Land Reform (Scotland) Bill, Scotland National Strategy for Economic Transformation

#### Research:

Academic and applied research about what works for rural development ACTIVITIES -

#### Local Action Group activities:

Enable communities to identify needs and aspirations, and support in the development of ideas and solutions.

Stimulating and supporting innovation and investment in local priorities through businesses, social enterprises, charities and grass roots initiatives.

Community wealth building development support

Taking a strategic approach to the targeting of funding/investment.

#### Capacity building:

Training for community leaders, entrepreneurs, and volunteers

Recruiting more Local Action Group members, including young people, developing next generation of leaders

Support for organisational development for community groups

#### Network and communications:

Reports, case studies, publications & presentations

Local, regional, national & international networking/peer learning events (e.g. workshops, conferences, exchanges)

Online platforms and forums

Engagement with similar groups (e.g. Scottish Rural Network and Scottish Rural Action)

Engagement with policy

Influence policy development and implementation

#### Scottish Government activities:

Internal advocacy

Engagement with other policy teams

Providing guidance

Partnering with researchers to decide budget allocations

#### Monitoring and evaluation:

Data collection

Capacity building for evaluation

OUTPUTS

#### Local Action Group projects funded and delivered:

Projects addressing rural inequality (e.g. community transport)

Projects creating/safeguarding jobs Agricultural support

Projects benefitting young people

Projects contributing to a low carbon economy, climate adaptation/resilience

Community facilities created/improved

Projects supporting communities to use assets or services.

Projects supporting health and wellbeing

Arts and cultural heritage activities

Community wealth building development

Projects supporting businesses (e.g. SMEs – Small and Medium-sized Enterprises)

#### Capacity:

Community members trained

Community groups receiving organisational support

#### Network and communications:

Number and reach of events/networking opportunities

Number and reach of publications or resources produced

Engagement with policy teams

#### Monitoring and evaluation:

Monitoring and evaluation outputs

SHORT/MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES ->

#### Resilience:

Improved health and wellbeing

Increased local food security

Increased community engagement in climate and nature focused projects.

Natural/cultural heritage and language normalised (for communities not tourists).

#### Sustainability and innovation:

Improved business viability

More effective and sustainable community-led projects

#### Infrastructure and resources:

Enhanced community infrastructure and services

Enhanced community wealth building activities

Reduced barriers to accessing skills and jobs Increased availability of affordable housing

#### Capacity:

Increased community leadership

Increased community skills and capacity (incl. to bid for funding)

Increased community control over / use of

#### Network and communications:

Effective knowledge at local, regional, national and international levels

Improved community engagement and participation (including among young people)

#### Systems:

Increased influence on policy development

Increased understanding of impact of Community Led Local Development supported projects, including increased capability of Local Action Groups to deliver social value.

#### LONG TERM IMPACTS

#### Resilience:

Strengthened and more resilient communities

Natural/cultural heritage and language help sustain communities Improved quality of life and wellbeing Increased climate change mitigation and adaptation

#### Business sustainability and innovation:

Sustainable businesses and social enterprises that are regenerative, scalable and transferable to other areas.

#### Empowerment:

Enhanced community confidence and empowerment

Increased community ownership and leadership of local development initiatives

Rural communities have increased access to, and control over, the resources they need

#### Prosperity

Reduced rural poverty and inequality Stable or growing populations

#### Systems:

More integrated and holistic approaches to rural development

Enhanced community benefits

Increased collaboration and partnership working

#### RISKS

- Challenges associated with annual funding.
- Loss of experienced staff due to uncertainty around funding.
- Community capacity to support projects and volunteer fatique.
- Perception of Community Led Local Development programme as purely a "challenge fund" and lack of understanding around strategic purpose.
- Lack of understanding / recognition of impact and capabilities of Local Action Groups .
   Diversity of projects / approaches across Local Action Groups and variation in experience.
- willingness and ability.

  Perceived duplication of effort with other rural organisations / programmes resulting in missed opportunities.
- Lack of clarity (e.g. from Local Authorities) around what the fund is for.

#### ASSUMPTIONS

- Local Action Groups have sufficient capacity and skills to manage funding.
- Local Action Groups have sufficient funding to leverage
- Local Action Groups are willing to keep going.
- Continued political support for Community Led Local
  Development following 2026 Scottish Parliament election.
- Councils and supporting bodies commit to supporting Local Action Groups in the long-term (in the absence of long-term funding).

#### Figure 1.4 Overarching Theory of Change

Act 2024 Community

Mobilise & enable

KEY In common Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Scottish Rural Action (SRA) Scottish Rural Network (SRN) VISION Rural and island communities are resilient and empowered to shape their own futures. Collaborative approaches are embedded at community, national and international levels through a bottom-up, participatory approach. A grassroots rural movement to influence Innovation and collaboration for sustainable Communities to address their unique and resilient communities challenges, building on their strengths. policy and amplify rural voices AIMS Building capacity so that communities have ownership of their development 2. Facilitating connections between communities, policymakers and other stakeholders in Scotland and beyond 3. Influencing policy so that it better reflects the needs of rural and island communities Driving community action through Local Action Building the capacity of rural networks and Facilitating participation of rural Groups (LAGs) and building cooperation with developing a cross-sectoral understanding communities in policy development and similar groups in Scotland, UK and Europe of rural Scotland improving policy responsiveness LONGER TERM IMPACTS INPUTS ACTIVITIES OUTPUTS SHORT/MED TERM OUTCOMES People and skills Staff, Capacity building Capacity Enhanced capacity & Collaboration & cooperation members, volunteers engagement Training, recruitment Communities trained Increased partnership working and receiving and support Increased community support Research Training, workshops, Trust between Scot Gov. COSLA leadership, skills and Academic and applied community and policy Individuals and orgs participation & communities research about rural trained/upskilled engagement needs and assets, and Rural and island organisations Information sharing is the norm what works for rural Delivery and individuals advocate for Delivering capacity development their needs building grants **Empowerment** LAG projects funded Collaboration & and delivered Increased involvement of Enhanced community SG funding knowledge sharing stakeholders and uptake of confidence and control over Platforms Collaborate with UK, EU funding resources needed supporting a rural Match funding, other and international Improved networking & comms movement Scot Gov funding, UK Rural movement is recognised networks and partners Increased connections and Gov funding, remaining and valued Grants delivered knowledge sharing Connections & EU funds influence Engagement More effective policies Donations, with communities, Connections between Improved viability sponsorship, paid for CLLD, SRA and SRN as businesses, Integrated approaches to rural services national/ development well as businesses, Improved business viability / international communities, more sustainable community-led Policy and legislative Evidence-based policymaking partners & policy policymakers and projects framework makers Agriculture and Rural international partners Co-created policy Increased adoption of innovative Communities (Scotland)

technologies

Stronger & more resilient

Monitoring &

### Some reflections on creating policy

Independent research reporting to Scottish Government.

- My experience:
  - Policy making is not linear or simple. There are no silver bullets!
  - It is complex:
    - Feedback loops, iterative decision making, collaborations,
    - Politics,
    - Unpredictable events,
    - Institutional constraints.
  - Research can play a key role.

### Next steps

- Emerging themes and recommendations to Scottish Government.
- Report to Scottish Government end November 2025.
- Comments, editing, refinement.
- To be published Spring 2026, before election.



### Thank you!

- Publications and outcomes
  - Publications and outcor fleevel bearings of subladanter observation (III)



lages in this section

- carey.doyle@sruc.ac.uk
- Rural Policy Centre, SRUC
- Rural Exchange
- Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review

#### Acknowledgements

### **RESAS**

Rural & Environmental Science and Analytical Services



## Refreshment break

# Session A: What does a high-performing LAG look like?

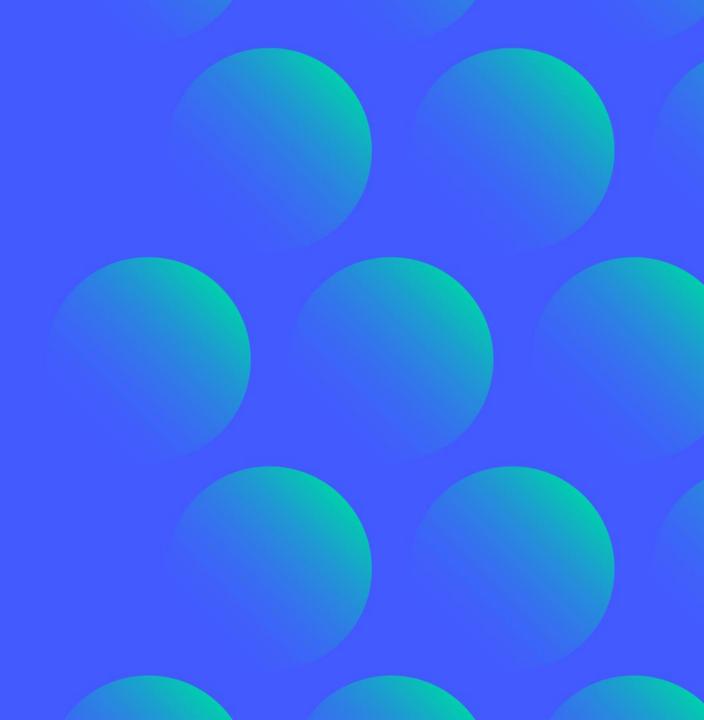
**Breakout groups** 

## Session B: Achieving network sustainability

Breakout groups

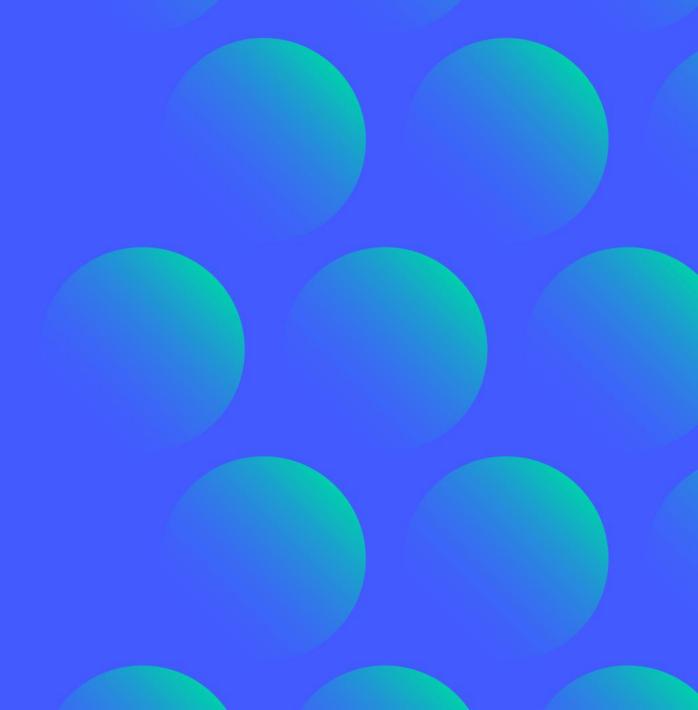
## Review and reflections

Stuart Oliver



## Day 1 closing

**David Cameron** 



## See you back at 9:00 tomorrow morning!

## CLLD National Workshop: Day 2

05 November 2025

Glasgow, Scotland

PREPARED FOR

**CLLD Network** 



#### Agenda: Developing a stronger, collaborative, and influential CLLD network

Session	Leader
→ Welcome back	Scott Petrie
→ Creating the governance structure (Session C)	Breakout groups
→ Building capacity and capability (Session D)	Breakout groups
→ Refreshment break	
→ International collaboration and cooperation (Session E)	Breakout groups
→ Ways of working and inter-LAG communication (Session F)	Breakout groups
→ Reflections and next steps	Stuart Oliver
→ Closing	David Cameron
→ Lunch	

## Welcome back!

**Scott Petrie** 



## Session C: Creating the governance structure

Stuart Oliver
Breakout groups

## Session D: Building capacity and capability

Breakout groups

## Refreshment break

# Session E: International collaboration and cooperation

**Breakout groups** 

# Session F: Ways of working and inter-LAG communication

**Breakout groups** 

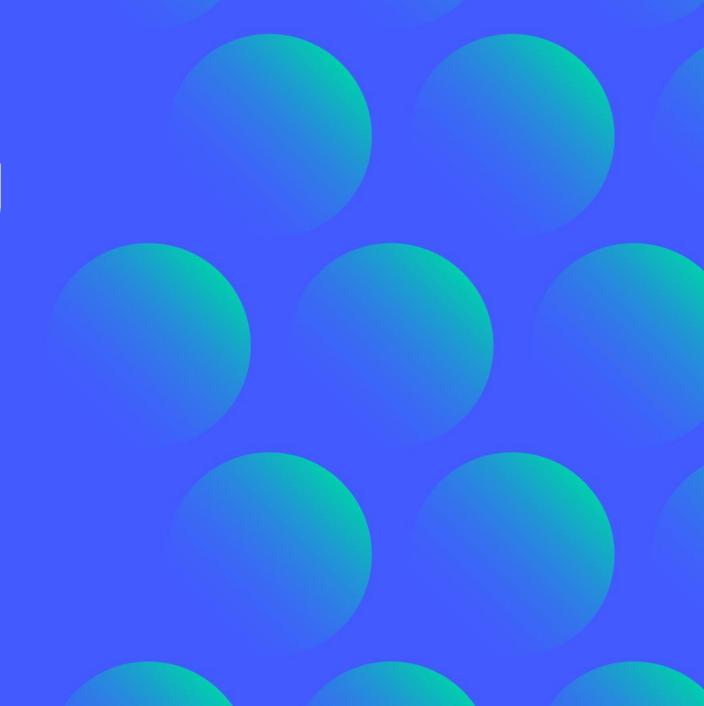
## Reflections and next steps

**Stuart Oliver** 



## Day 2 closing

**David Cameron** 

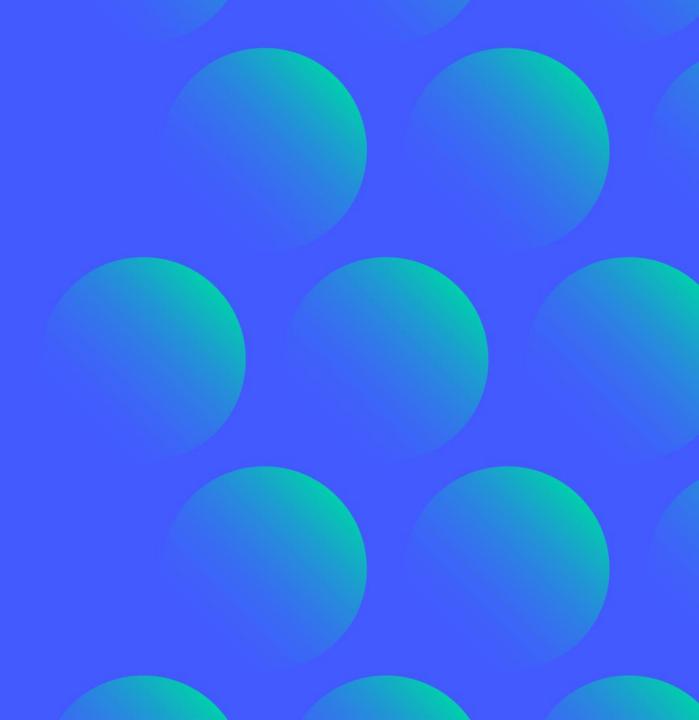


## Lunch

Session G

## Branding and logo

**Urban Foresight** 



#### Logo 1/

- Symbolises the Network's role in connecting Scotland's communities into a single powerful voice
- Scotland (Scots Pine) at the core, the network is visualised through land and sea
- Colours represent those of Scotland land, water, and heather











#### Logo 2/

- A simplified logo that leans into the Scotland/Network visual metaphor
- Treòraich (traw-rich) is a Gaelic word meaning to guide, lead or conduct
- Variant name: Seanchas (shea-na-chas) meaning conversation, talk, lore, storytelling, and (oral) tradition
- Colours and patterns inspired by the landscapes, sea, and hills across Scotland









**ISSUED** 04/11/2025

VERSION 1.0

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