

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

Welcome and housekeeping

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

Community Enterprise Island Development Group
Scottish Rural Network



Community Led local Development
Ayrshire Rural and Islands Ambition

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

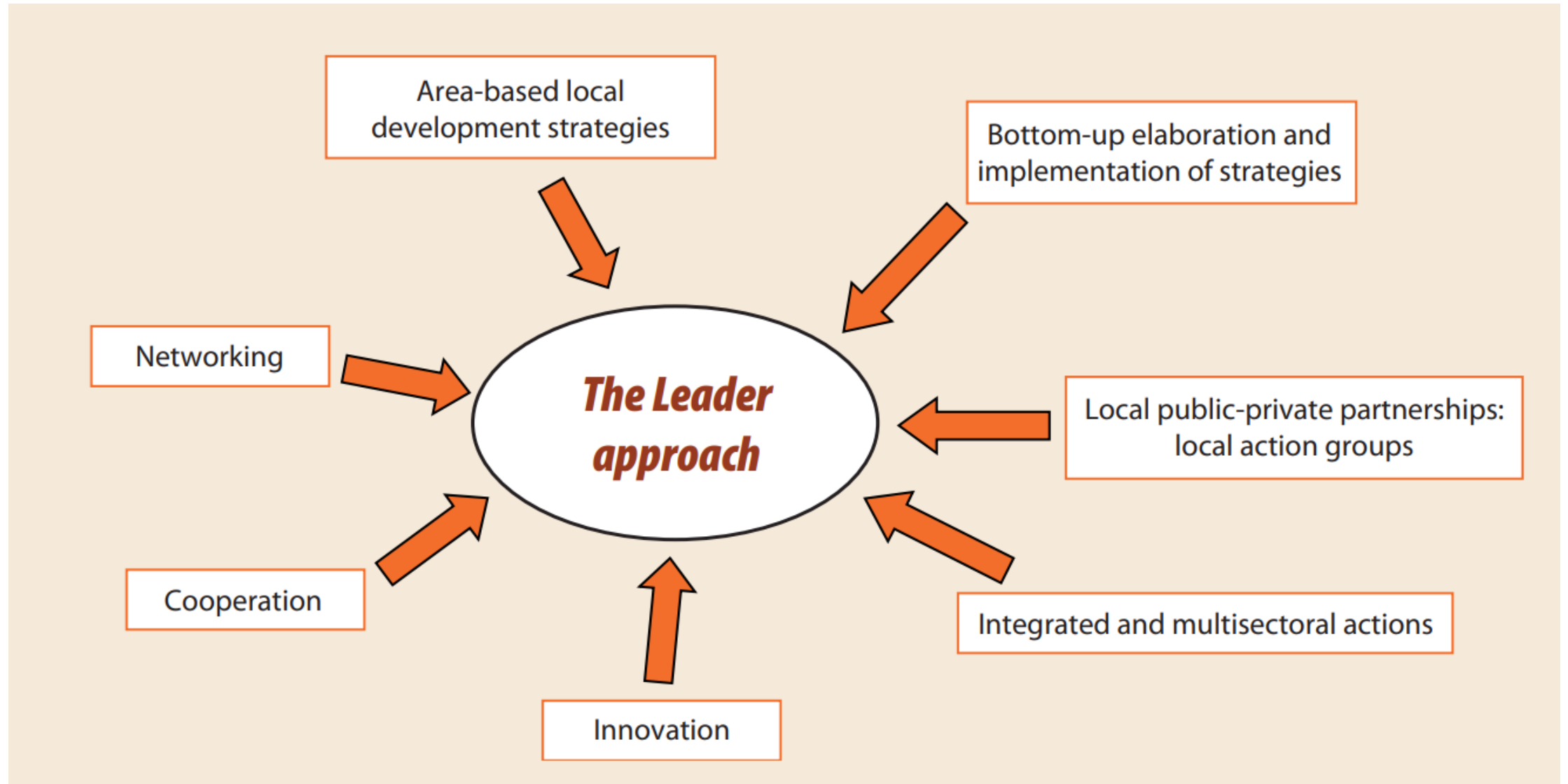
Second half – SG priorities and emerging policies:

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 focused 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 & RICIA Funds Launched	£3.3M budget to test future CLLD approaches.
2022/23	CLLD re-established	£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



**Programme for
Government 2025-26**
Building The Best
Future For Scotland

Scottish Government priorities

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

97 projects in 23/24

59 projects in 23/24

115 projects in 23/24

296 projects in 23/24

**Programme for
Government 2025-26**

Building The Best
Future For Scotland

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.”

Rural Scotland Data Dashboard



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

RESAS

Rural & Environmental Science
and Analytical Services

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

2024 asp 11

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

1

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 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

11

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

Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill

1

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.

5

Community wealth building statement

1

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 retention,

(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

1

Community-engagement obligations in relation to large land holding

2

Community right to buy: registration of interest in large land holding

3

Modifications in connection with section 2

4

Lotting of large land holding

5

Modifications in connection with section 4

6

Establishment of the Land and Communities Commissioner

PART 2

LEASING LAND

CHAPTER 1

MODEL LEASE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSES

7

Duty to publish model lease

CHAPTER 2

SMALL LANDHOLDINGS

8

Small landholdings

9

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

11

Resumption in relation to 1991 Act tenancies

12

Resumption in respect of limited duration tenancies and repairing tenancies

13

Compensation for disturbance on resumption

SP Bill 44

Session 6 (2024)



Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024

2024 asp 11

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.

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Commencement Information

11 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



Rural Communities Policy

Home / Rural Communities Policy

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 2024.

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), and Ipsos.

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 ethical.

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 communities

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

Further pages in this section

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

Explore More »

Projects

NISRIE

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) Areas¹ based on area (40%) and socio-economic need (60%). The latter was measured using the Socio-Economic Performance (SEP) Index², 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.

¹ 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>

² Infographic available at [https://www.hutton.ac.uk/sites/default/files/files/SEP Index values \(2011\).pdf](https://www.hutton.ac.uk/sites/default/files/files/SEP%20Index%20values%20(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?

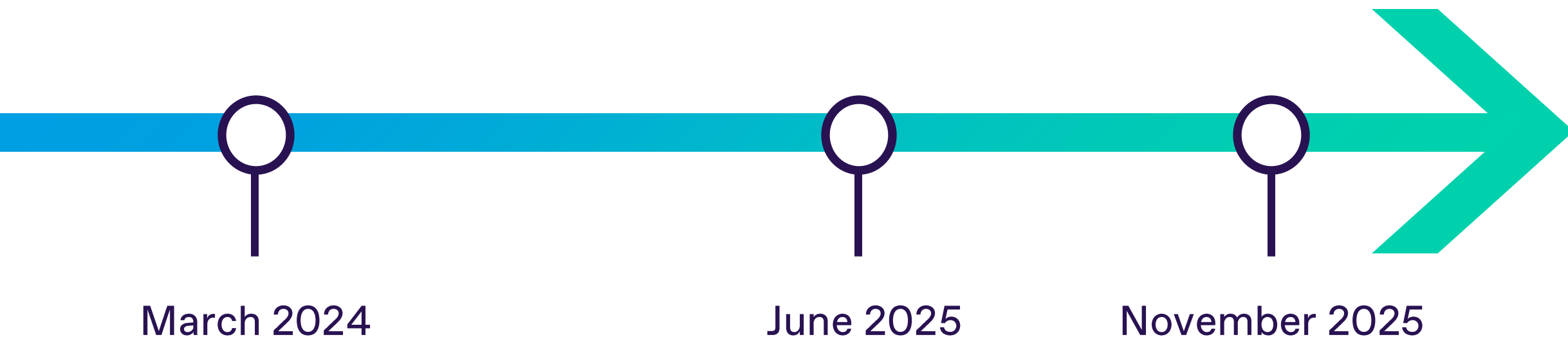
Setting the context

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 **what** is happening, as well as **how** and **why**

Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review



Research Process

January
2025

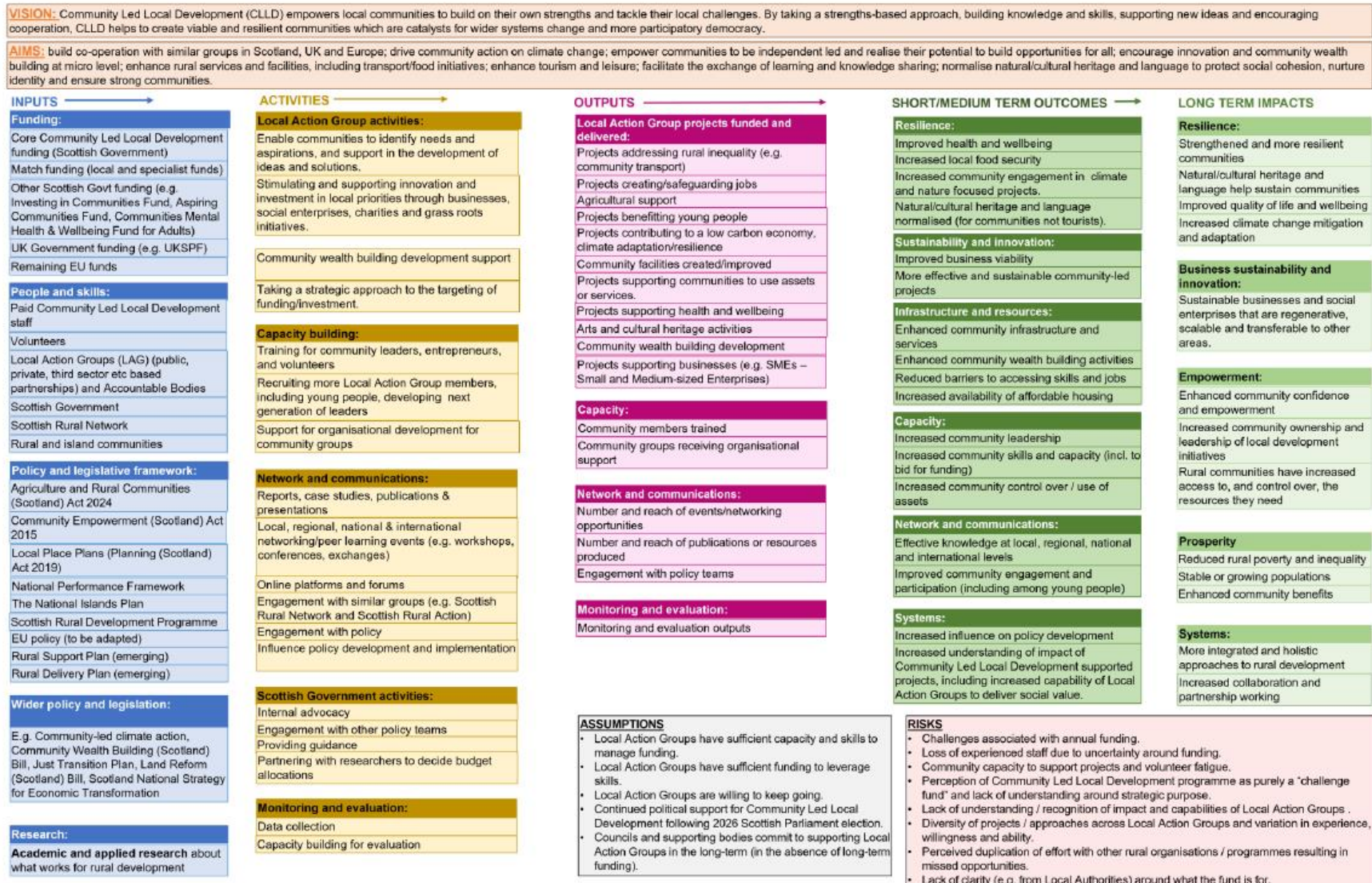
- Stage 1: Theory of Change
- Stage 2: Evidence Review
- Stage 3: Fieldwork
- Stage 4: Reporting

← We are here

January
2026

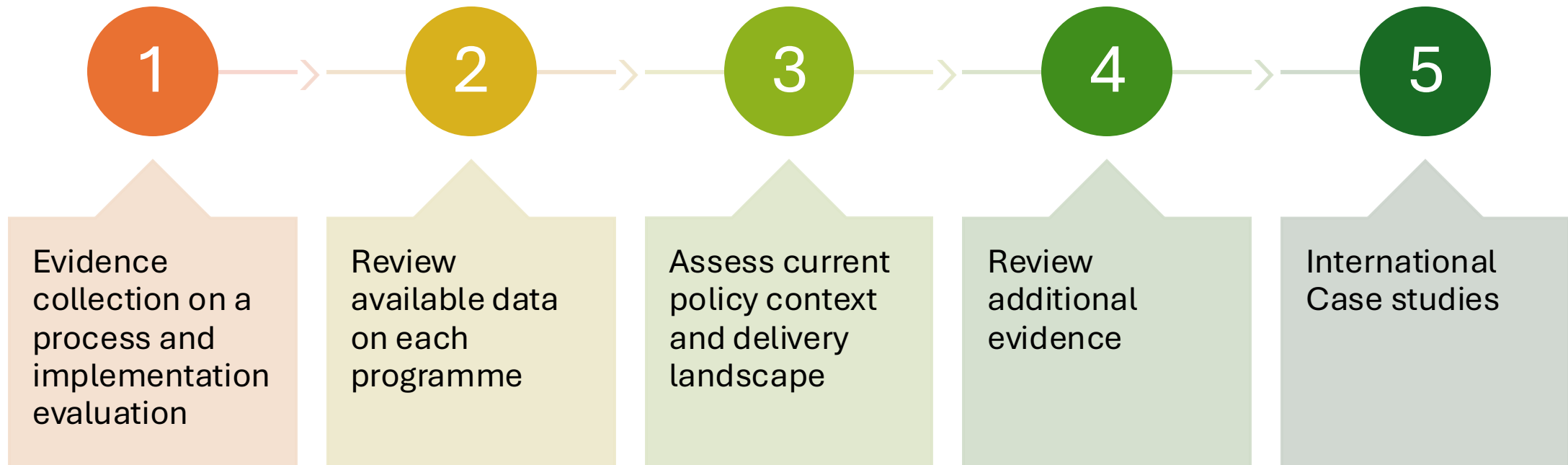
Stage 1: Four Theories of Change

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



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



Agriculture, Environment and Marine



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



Agriculture, Environment and Marine



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



Agriculture, Environment and Marine



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

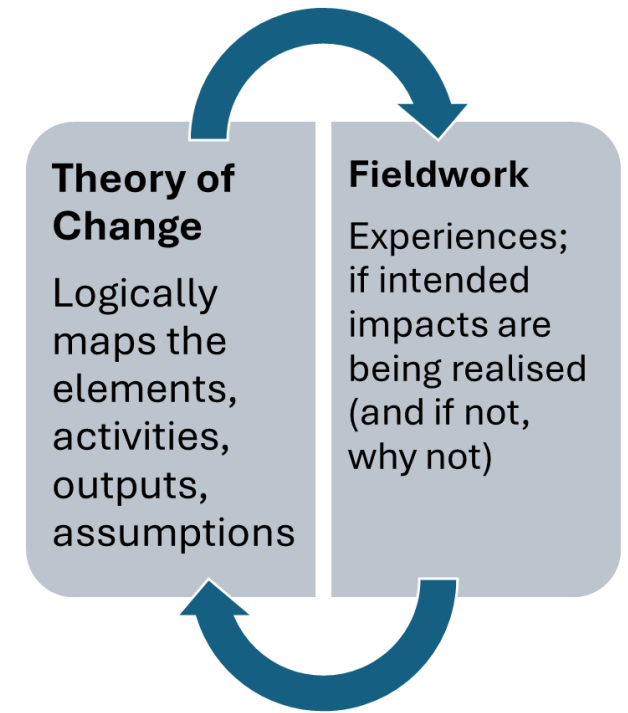
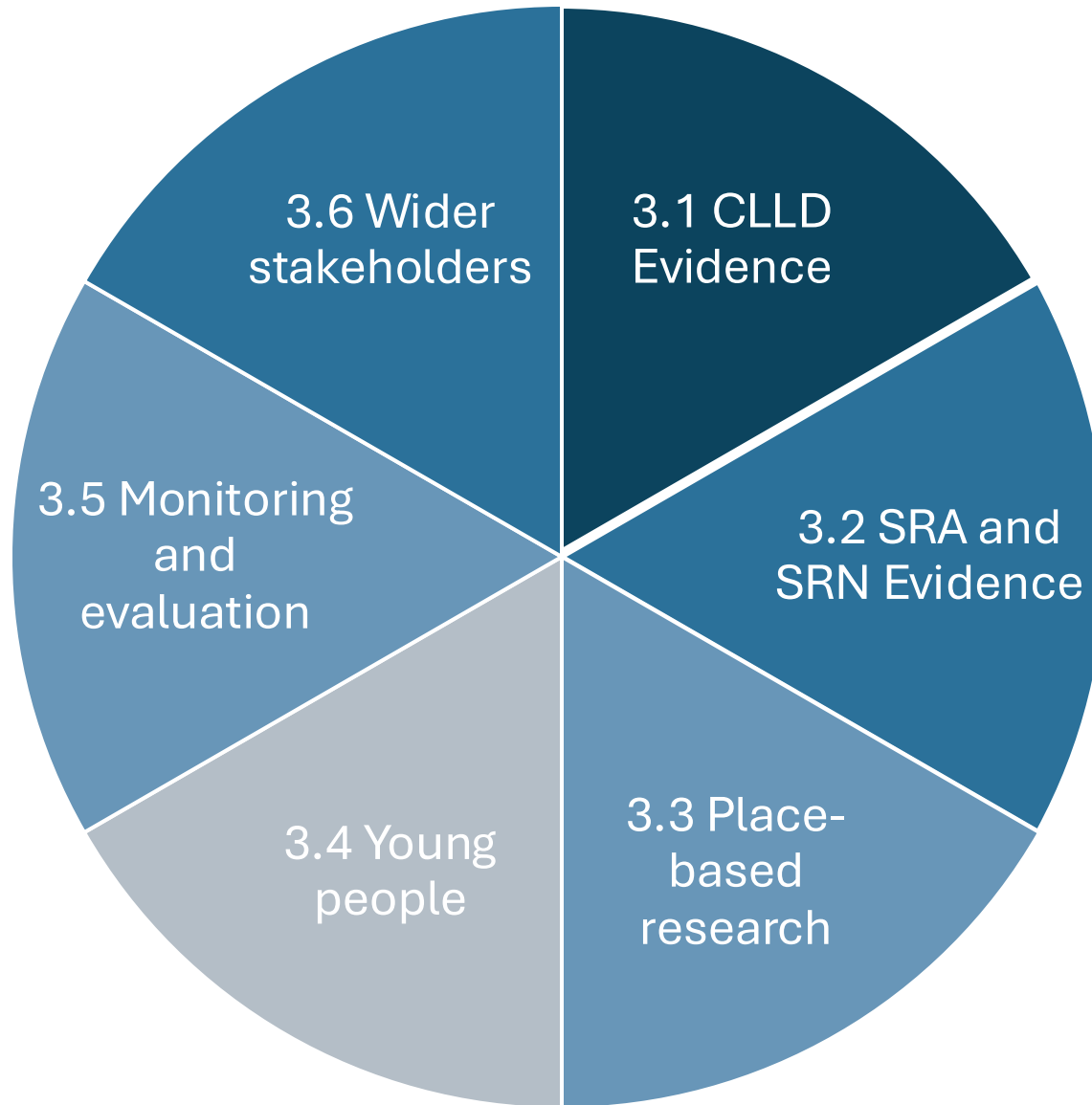


Agriculture, Environment and Marine



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

Stage 3: Fieldwork



Place based research:

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

CHI

science ceilidh
creativity curiosity
equity wellbeing

IMPACT HUB Inverness
Serving the Highlands and Islands

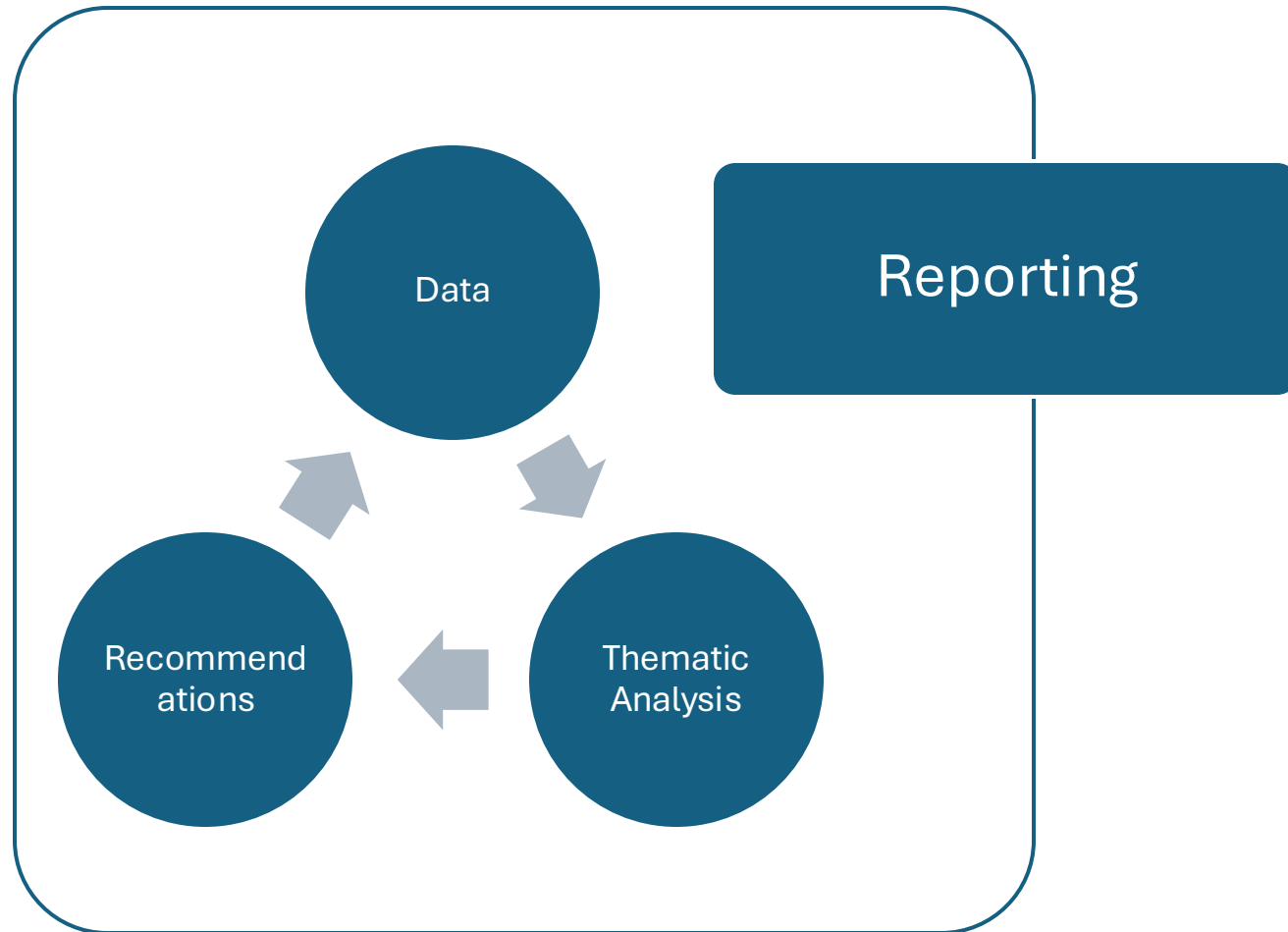
SRUC

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

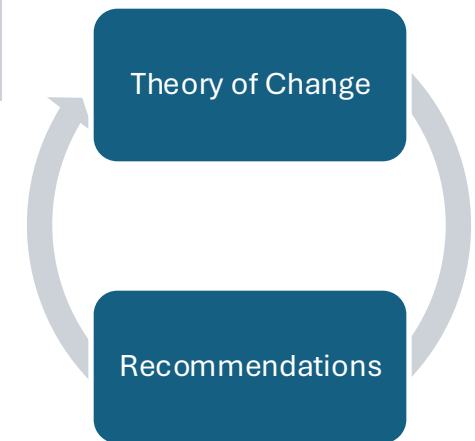


Figure 1.1 Community Led Local Development (CLLD) theory of change

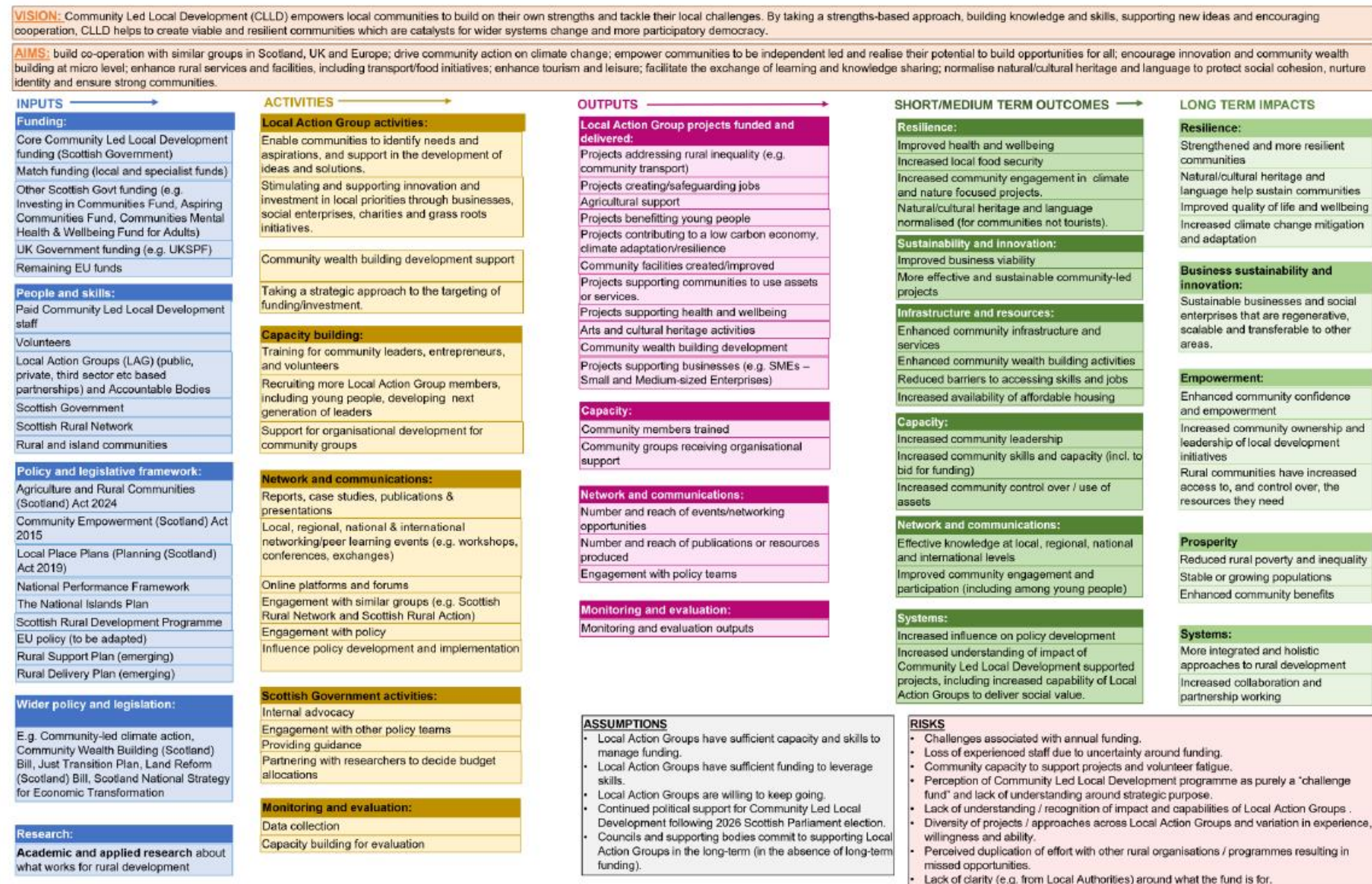


Figure 1.4 Overarching Theory of Change



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.



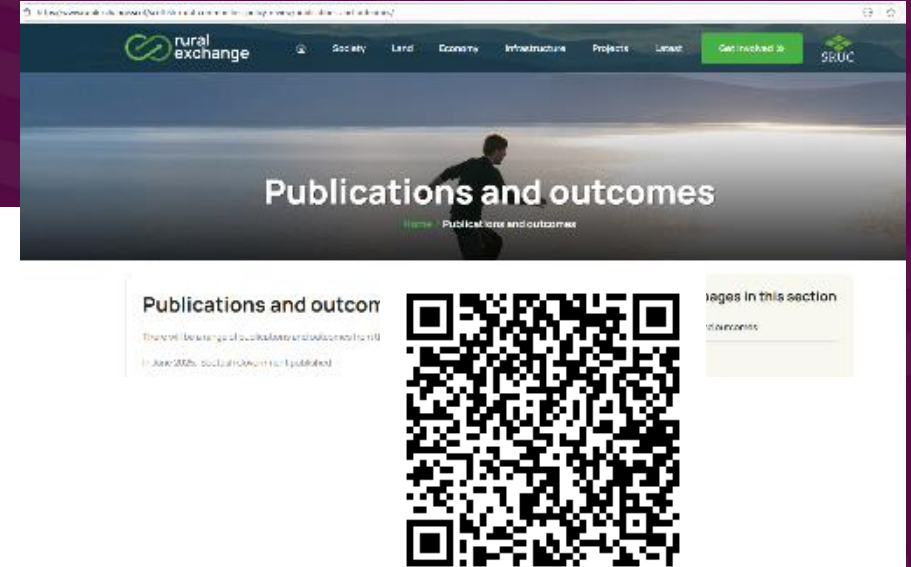
Next steps

- 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!

- carey.doyle@sruc.ac.uk
- [Rural Policy Centre](#), SRUC
- [Rural Exchange](#)
- [Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review](#)



Acknowledgements

RESAS

Rural & Environmental Science
and Analytical Services



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Refreshment break

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

Breakout groups

Session B: Achieving network sustainability

Breakout groups

9/

Review and reflections

Stuart Oliver

10/

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	

1/

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

7/

Day 2 closing

David Cameron

Lunch

Session G

Branding and logo

Urban Foresight

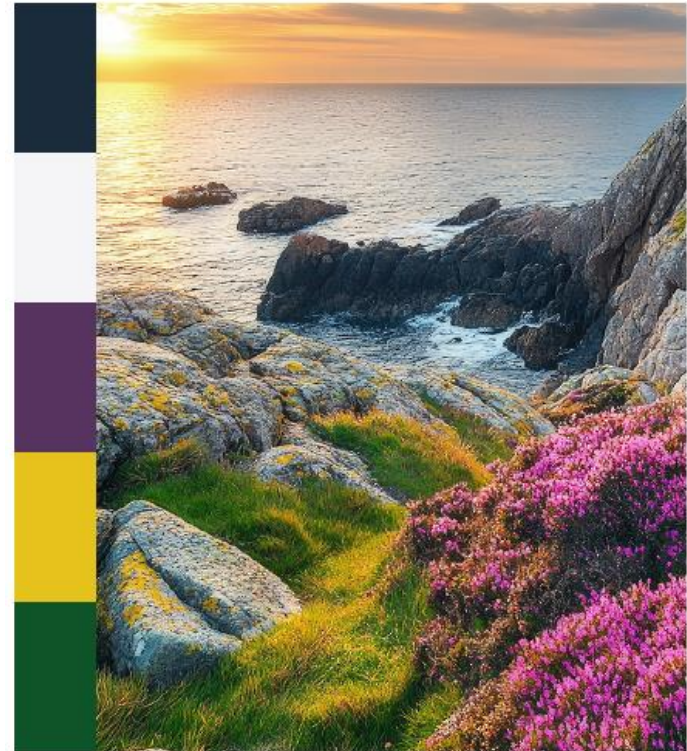
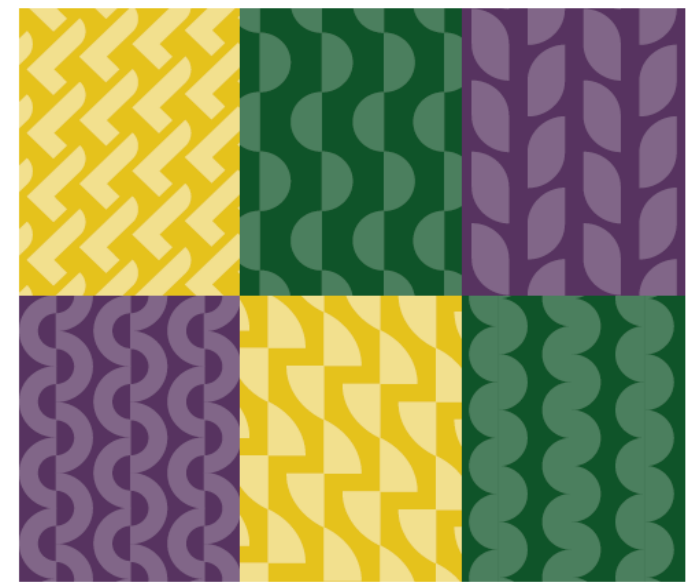
Logo 1/

- 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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