



Community Right to Buy Review Reference Group

Wednesday 23rd April 2025, 10.30am, Online

Summary Meeting Note

Present: Michael Russell (Chair – SLC), Hamish Trench (SLC), Gemma Campbell (SLC), Pauline Smith (DTAS), Dave Thomson (Scottish Government), Patrick Kirkham (Scottish Government), Sandra Holmes (HIE), Ailsa Raeburn (CLS), Jamie McCaw (National Lottery Community Fund), Kirsten Logue (SoSE), Malcolm Cowie (Scottish Government)

Apologies: Katie Alexander (CES)

Introduction

The chair welcomed group members.

Topic Discussion

Malcolm presented on the review of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, covering the methodology of the review, the key findings and the next steps following publication of the reports on the act, Part 3 and Part 5. Malcolm invited SLC to join the National Asset Transfer Group.

A discussion followed which covered the following:

- The review and report were welcomes by members
- The timescale for next steps and whether legislative change might follow
- The need for changes to the Scottish Public Finance Manual to enable decision-making that supports transfers to communities
- Issues around pricing of assets and book value versus market value
- Issue of terms and conditions of sale after approval of transfers, especially when done at a late stage and what could be done to help address this.

Information sharing

- Community Wealth Building bill - there has been a call for views from the community. Another opportunity to influence support to enable community ownership. Interest from group in getting someone from SG CWB team to speak to group.

- CRtB Review Progress – nearing final draft of consultation paper. Will be run past the CRtB Review Reference Group before publication.

Topics for future meetings

- Community Wealth Building Bill
- ScotLand Futures – covering where land reform is going and where it should end up, including links to community ownership
- Largescale acauisitions
- End of SLF4 – what comes next and what can communities do
- What might SLF5 look like?
- Public financing.

Date of next meeting

To be confirmed. Need to tie in with CRtB Review Reference Group.