A report from the 2012 SURF Annual Conference, delivered in partnership with NHS Health Scotland on May 29th in Edinburgh
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The 2012 SURF Annual Conference

Introduction

As Scotland’s independent regeneration network, SURF uses its extensive cross-sector network, which includes over 250 member organisations, to explore current practice, experience and knowledge in community regeneration in Scotland.

SURF provides a neutral space to facilitate this sharing of information through a programme of activities that includes seminars, conferences, international policy exchanges, annual awards for best practice and the distribution of a regeneration policy journal.

Constructive feedback from the SURF membership is used to positively influence the development of more successful regeneration policy and practice through SURF’s links with key policy-makers in the Scottish Government and elsewhere. A key feature in SURF’s programme of events and publications is our Annual Conference.

This report summarises the main points made by the keynote conference speakers, and includes highlights of the outcomes of various interactive elements, including themed discussion groups and electronic voting.

The broad range of views and opinions expressed at this event are welcomed and valued, but they do not necessarily reflect the views of SURF or the SURF network.

Purpose

The stated purpose of the 2012 SURF Annual Conference, delivered in partnership with NHS Health Scotland, was to:

- DEBATE perceptions of ‘reality’ in changing times and the shared challenges for regeneration
- EXPLORE resources at hand and how we can link up with those that are less obvious
- PROMOTE resilience for both sustaining and evolving regeneration efforts

Content

The 2011 SURF Annual Conference brought together communities, regeneration practitioners, policy-makers and academics from across the country and beyond to share experience and transfer knowledge on promoting resilience in adversity.

The content of the 2012 event was based on a programme of collaborative work that SURF has been undertaking in cooperation with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and with support from the Scottish Government. The aim of that work has been to explore the continued impact of recession-based policy decisions in disadvantaged Scottish communities, and emerging ameliorative responses.

1 A report from the previous SURF Annual Conference is available online at: http://www.scotregen.co.uk/pdf.pl?file=surf/file/SURF 2011 Annual Conference Report.pdf
The programme for the 2012 SURF Annual Conference—which took place on May 29th in the Surgeons Hall, Edinburgh—was as follows:

MORNING SESSION – *national policy to local realities*

9:15am Registration and coffee
9.45am Welcome, introduction and voting
   *Guest chair: Andrew Lyon, Converger, International Futures Forum*
10:15am A Sustainable Future
   *Alex Neil MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment*
10:45am Healthy Economics?
   *Dr Gerry McCartney, Head of Public Health Observatory, NHS Health Scotland*
11:15am Reality, Resources and Resilience
   *Andy Milne, Chief Executive of SURF, with community partners from SURF’s case study neighbourhoods: Karen McGregor of GESTRA & Gehan MacLeod Galgael*
11:45am Coffee Break – Learning from Success
   *Showcasing the four 2011 SURF Award winning projects: Greater Easterhouse Alcohol Awareness Project (People), Dedridge Environment Ecology Project (Place), Community Power Orkney (Partnership) & The Coalyard (Employability for All)*

EARLY AFTERNOON SESSION – *resources and political strategy*

12:05pm Resources Panel
   *Featuring representatives of Big Lottery Fund in Scotland, Scottish Government, ESEP Ltd, Scottish Community Foundation & Heritage Lottery Fund (Scotland)*
12:30pm International Perspectives
   *Meg Peterson, Cultural Planner, Visual Artist, Arts Educator & Project Manager (USA)*
1:00pm Networking Lunch

LATE AFTERNOON SESSION – *reality and action*

1:45pm Reality Checks
   *Five participative debate sessions*
3:00pm Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) Interest
   *Jim McCormick, JRF Scotland Adviser*
3:10pm I’ll Vote For That
   *Plenary vote on main Reality Checks outcomes*
3:30pm Panel Review
   *An open debate with a panel of key participants*
4:10pm Summary, Conclusions and What Next
4:30pm Close

Over 30 different contributors gave their time and expertise freely in representing a wide variety of sectors and perspectives.

SURF is grateful to all of them, and also to the 130 guests in attendance, for contributing to a successful, diverse and lively Annual Conference.
A Sustainable Future

Alex Neil MSP

Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment

KEY QUESTION: What approaches are being taken at national policy level to support sustainable community regeneration efforts in Scotland?

Alex Neil joined the Scottish National Party in 1985 and has been a member of the Scottish Parliament since 1999. He was appointed Scottish Government Minister for Housing and Communities in 2009, and was promoted to Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment in 2011.

Three-Fold Challenge

The economic downturn has presented three central questions for everyone in Scotland to consider. These are:

- How do we respond to the current situation?
- How should we manage our economy in the longer term?
- How can we deliver sustainable economic growth, both in Scotland and internationally?

Within our thinking around these challenges, we should of course be looking to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, health inequalities, and all the other social and economic problems that hold us back from reaching our full potential as an economy and as a society.

Two Priorities

For me, there are two overarching priorities to build a solid foundation for the way forward: creating jobs and delivering social justice.

By creating jobs, I mean ensuring there is work available for everyone who wants it. The cost of unemployment is higher than the cost of full employment. But this is not just about investing in welfare-to-work programmes.

There should be greater support for job creation in health, education and essential services. There should be a national investment bank to support the development of infrastructure projects and businesses that create meaningful jobs. A consensus is starting to emerge that we need to grow rather than squeeze our way out.

By social justice, I mean a fairer distribution of income, wealth and power in our society. We know now that trickle down theory is just that—a theory—so we need to start thinking differently if we are serious about addressing the wide and damaging inequalities in our society.

Local Efforts

We know that, in regeneration as in other

“...trickle down theory is just that—a theory—so we need to start thinking differently if we are serious about addressing the wide and damaging inequalities in our society” - Alex Neil
strategic policy areas, more can be done at a national level. But the same is true of the local level, in the communities in which all of us live and work, and I want to highlight some of our plans and priorities.

I’m pleased, firstly, to confirm that the Scottish Government will be supporting SURF as it continues its work to explore what more we can be doing to face up to the current challenges in the regeneration of Scottish communities.

Many of you will be aware that the Scottish Government produced a National Regeneration Strategy at the end of last year. All of that is now in place. For example, the People and Communities Fund, which will help community organisations with their regeneration activities, is now open for applications, and we are committed to continuing that over the next three years. The large JESSICA fund, now called SPRUCE, or Scottish Partnership for Regeneration in Urban Centres, is also being distributed to support regeneration in 13 local authority areas.

I’m also pleased that the Scottish Government has managed to aligned its regeneration investment strategy with that of the Big Lottery Fund, and we will continue to work together closely to ensure best use of our collective resources.

Where the Potential Lies

What we need now more than ever is an unprecedented effort by us all to coordinate our activities to focus on creating jobs, and social enterprises and non-profit activities represent major potential in what more can be done.

The Scottish Government is dedicating a huge budget in house-building and repairs, which creates all sorts of opportunities for niche markets for social enterprises and others around improving insulation, reducing fuel poverty and much more. The European Investment Bank will create even more opportunities for the third sector in housing. The sector has to continue to become more entrepreneurial and innovative, and I’m pleased that despite the cuts there is still a lot of money available for training and support.

We have made an additional £25m available to help young people, especially those from disadvantaged areas, into the labour market. We will also be supporting Development Trusts as they continue their excellent work that includes renewable energy projects.

Reasons to be Cheerful

In summary:

• The regeneration community is determined to face up to challenges

• Creating long-term permanent jobs leading to career development is the top priority

Despite the problems we are facing at all levels, I believe there is a lot to be hopeful about.

Improving job creation and access to meaningful employment will help us to take great strides towards regenerating our communities.
Healthy Economics

Dr Gerry McCartney
Head of Public Health Observatory Division, NHS Health Scotland

**KEY QUESTION: What makes for a healthy economy?**

As part of his public health training with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Gerry has worked in health protection, health service planning and health improvement. He has also attained a part-time honours degree in Economics and Development with the London School of Economics and the University of London. He took up a consultant post at NHS Health Scotland in 2010 as the Head of the Public Health Observatory Division.

Is Scotland’s Economy Sustainable?

What is the economy for? Does growth generate health and fairness?

The Scottish Government states that:

“Faster sustainable economic growth is the key which can unlock Scotland’s full potential and is the avenue through which we can deliver a better, healthier and fairer society”

But is our economic growth sustainable?

There are a number of reasons to believe that it isn’t. Firstly, the amount of private debt in our economy challenges the notion that it is sustainable.

Private Finance Initiative contracts, for example, have secured some private capital investment — see the green bars in this graph (opposite) — but for the next 20-30 years the public sector has to pay for it in the much greater proportions indicated in the red bars. That doesn’t seem sustainable.

Then there are demographic challenges for sustainability. The dependency ratio is set to grow considerably in the next 20 years.

There is also Scotland’s dependency on imports. Since the steelworks were closed down, we’re importing a lot of carbon. Is this sustainable? Are we on course to meet 2020 reduction tar-

“Is our economy sustainable? No. Radical change is required. And if something is unsustainable, it will eventually come to a stop; it’s just a matter of when.” — Dr Gerry McCartney

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1. Source: Scottish Government website, May 2012
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/scotPerforms/

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gets? Our economy is also dependent on oil in a time of rising scarcity.

Building an infrastructure around procuring resources and services from abroad presents a major challenge for sustainability.

This all points to radical change being required, as anything unsustainable will eventually have to stop by definition. But the opportunity for change is welcome.

The Health of Economic Growth

There is a lot of good evidence that shows a person’s health tends to improve if they get a good job, a rise in income and living standards, greater access to goods and services, and/or a move towards the top of a hierarchy.

In wider society, economic growth is also associated with vast declines in overall mortality. But it is also shares an association with rises in health and income inequalities, and in some specific causes of death.

So economic growth is not always positive when you consider a nation’s health. There are, however, some examples of a nation improving its collective health by changing, rather than growing, its economy.

Russian Federation vs Cuba

As shown in this graph (below), GDP growth trends in Cuba and Russia/USSR are broadly similar. But life expectancy trends, as shown in this second graph (above right), are markedly different. There are similar trends in other areas, such as cardiovascular disease mortality, where Cuba is doing comparatively better.

Why the differences in health outcomes?

Cuba has developed long-term policies that prioritise public health, interpersonal cooperation and a general commitment to egalitarianism. Following an appetite for privatisation in recent decades, Russia has taken a different approach. Cuba shows that an economic crisis does not have to lead to a crisis of public health.

The Scottish Mortality Phenomenon

When the west of Scotland’s health record is compared with other post-industrial regions in Europe, such as Saxony in Germany, Merseyside in England, and Northern Moravia in the Czech Republic, it does not come out favourably.

For example, in female life expectancy at birth, the west of Scotland ranks below all 10 other post-industrial European regions in the 2011 Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) study The Aftershock of Deindustrialisation.

Scotland also has a higher mortality rate than comparable western nations, and Scottish health inequalities are now wider than the rest of west and central Europe.

The Scottish mortality rate was around the European median until around 1950, when it started to diverge. A further change of pat-
tern and divergence was evident in 1980, and deprivation explains less of the higher mortality in Glasgow and Scotland from 1981 onwards.

Accounting for Exception

So what hypotheses explain this phenomenon, which is often known as the ‘Glasgow Effect’?

In a 2011 GCPH study, Accounting for the Scottish Mortality Excess, 17 possible explanatory factors (listed opposite) were considered.

While no single factor can explain the phenomenon in itself, in combination they can show why Glasgow and the west of Scotland has higher mortality than comparable European regions.

For example, health behaviours, including diet, alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, play a part, as does the climate, with a lack of sunlight and a deficit in vitamin D, and poverty levels.

Also of key significance is deindustrialisation and ‘political attack’. The west of Scotland lost the greatest number of industrial jobs as a proportion of total employment than other areas of post-industrial Europe.

‘Political attack’ refers to the neoliberal policies that Scotland and the UK was exposed to from the 1980s, on a scale which was not seen elsewhere in Europe. It is hypothesised that deindustrialisation was more managed and mitigated in other parts of Europe, and that Scotland was more vulnerable to such policies than the rest of the UK.

As The Herald columnist Ian Bell noted:

“The passage of 30 years does not alter the fact that a great many people were hurt, and hurt very badly, because of Margaret Thatcher... she willed an economic catastrophe. A large part of a generation never recovered.”

Urgent Debate

In conclusion, the Scottish Government has ‘sustainable economic growth’ as a key aim, but we are not close to achieving this.

Health and fairness need to be built into the economic model; they do not occur automatically.

There is an urgent need to debate the best way of developing healthier economics in Scotland.

The slides Gerry used to accompany his presentation are available on the SURF website:


Theories to explain the ‘Glasgow Effect’

1. Poverty and material deprivation
2. Migration
3. Genetic vulnerability
4. Health behaviours
5. Different culture of substance misuse
6. Different individual values (time, aspiration)
7. Family, gender or parenting differences
8. Health service supply or demand
9. Greater inequalities
10. Greater concentration of deprivation
11. Deindustrialisation
12. Sectarianism
13. Different culture (boundlessness, alienation)
14. Lower social capital
15. Culture of limited social mobility
16. Political attack
17. Climate (sunlight, cold weather)
KEY QUESTION: What have been the most problematic recessionary impacts in disadvantaged communities in Scotland? And what responses have been developed by communities and their partners to alleviate these impacts?

Andy Milne joined SURF as Chief Executive in 2003. Prior to that, he spent ten years as Coordinator of Wester Hailes Representative Council in Edinburgh, which was often held up as a model for community-led innovation and service delivery.

Karen McGregor is the Chairperson of the Gallatown East and Sinclairstown Tenants and Residents Association (GESTRA) in east Kirkcaldy, Fife.

Gehan Macleod is founder and project coordinator of the imaginative and unique GalGael social enterprise in Govan, Glasgow.

Reality, Resources, Resilience

This Annual Conference is based on a collaborative programme of work that SURF is undertaking with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and supported by the Scottish Government. The aim was to explore the ‘Reality, Resources and Resilience’ in Scottish communities under the impact of recession-related policy decisions at local and national level.

The basis for that work was two case study areas: the dense city area of Govan in Glasgow and the smaller town setting of the Gallatown neighbourhood of Kirkcaldy, Fife. The programme aims are: to deepen understanding of the effects of public and private spending reductions; to learn more about specific circumstances, linkages and changes in these communities; and to explore the responses being developed to alleviate effects of recessionary impacts.

The main focus has been on the lived experience and perspectives of residents, businesses, voluntary sector support bodies and public sector service organisations. This qualitative investigative work is being supplemented with relevant background statistical information from, among other sources, the GoWell study in Glasgow and the KnowFife research resource.

“This is the greatest economic downturn any of us have ever lived through. What do we know about the impact this has had on our communities?” — Andy Milne
SURF organised a series of public events to explore the resonance and policy implications of the main case study findings across Scotland.

**Phase One: Impacts**

From this process, SURF identified five main impacts arising from the recession that caused particular problems for residents of disadvantaged communities. These are:

1. False economies
2. Blocked systems
3. Fractured plans
4. Reverse empowerment
5. Sense of abandonment

One of the biggest areas of concern, ‘false economies’, refers to the disproportionately negative impact on disadvantaged communities from the effect of relatively minor ‘savings’ in, basic physical maintenance regimes. ‘Blocked systems’ refers to the far-reaching problems flowing from stymied opportunities in employment, education and housing.

Another important finding was the ‘sense of abandonment’ identified at the community level. Karen McGregor said that it was a particular problem for Gallatown residents that, despite the community being among the most deprived 5% of neighbourhoods in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, dedicated area-based financial support has been largely dispersed. Nor is there a community facility in which residents can gather and discuss how to discuss their concerns and plan community responses.

**Phase Two: Responses**

The second stage of the collaborative programme aimed to identify some of the ameliorative responses emerging from the two case study areas. SURF observed positive developments in:

1. Creative collaborations
2. ‘Liberating the front line’
3. Willing partners ‘bending the rules’
4. The useful political and bureaucratic cover of pilot projects
5. Some successes in scaling up and devolving down

Gehan Macleod said that creativity and heritage were key to Galgael’s approach. The project reconnects dislocated and vulnerable Govan residents back into traditional skills and identities that help to rebuild a sense of belonging and resilience.

On a larger scale, Glasgow Housing Association’s ‘Think Yes’ initiative was cited as a good examples of ‘liberating the front line’. Local housing managers have been provided with a dedicated budget and discretion to resolve tenants’ problems and requirements positively without resorting to more bureaucratic and ultimately more expensive formal procedures. Fife Council’s ‘Think Local’ system was highlighted as a similarly successful method of accessing previously unavailable local knowledge, networks and support.

Both approaches prioritised a coordinated effort on making the best use of resources and supporting resilience while tackling the reality of rising inequalities.

Further information on the ‘Reality, Resources, Resilience’ programme is available on the SURF website: [www.scotregen.co.uk/knowledge/publications.asp?sid=9](http://www.scotregen.co.uk/knowledge/publications.asp?sid=9)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation will publish a final report on the programme later in 2012.
International Perspectives

Meg Peterson
Cultural Planner, Visual Artist, Arts Educator and Project Manager

KEY QUESTION: What artistic and cultural approaches are being developed to revitalise disadvantaged communities in Chicago and reconnect them into a city-wide regeneration strategy?

After graduating with a Fine Arts degree from the University of Oregon in 2006, Meg began working to use art as a means of improving self-esteem, identity and community cohesion, mostly through teaching and grassroots work with communities throughout the city of Chicago. Since then, she has designed programmes, regenerated community spaces and organised events for schools, community centres, cultural institutions, markets, exhibitions and special workshops in Ghana, England, Italy and the USA.

Chicago in Context

With 2.7 million residents, ‘The Windy City’ is the 3rd most populous in the United States. The city developed as a grid-based design around Lake Michigan, with beaches up and down the coastline.

A major financial centre, it has the second largest business district in the United States after New York. It is also highly diverse, with in very approximate terms a third of the population being of white, black and Hispanic ethnicity respectively.

Chicago has a rich history in visual arts, improvised comedy, theatre, and jazz, blues and hip-hop music. At a grassroots level, a myriad of non-profit arts organisations, many with budgets of over $1m, support activities throughout the city.

The city does, however, face a number of challenges, including racial segregation, wide economic disparities, major gun violence and gangs, the impact of local budget cuts, and a distrust in local government resulting from several corruption scandals.

The Case for Cultural Regeneration

Arts and culture initiatives can, and do, play a central role in alleviating some of these difficulties and improve wellbeing...
throughout the city. Every person and place has a rich sense of culture to draw upon, which represents a valuable resource in itself.

Cultural programmes provide a low cost form of social regeneration, help to improve public spaces and community gardens, and facilitate the development of meaningful new connections between community members.

They also offer a myriad of ways to improve the health and wellbeing of participants. Self-expression raises participants’ confidence and self-esteem, community events promote unity across racial divisions, and arts education activities inform about the benefits of healthy eating and physical activity.

**Chicago Programmes**

In Chicago, activities are delivered in school lessons, summer camps, workshops, after-school activities, at art centres, street festivals, and in collaborative events and exhibitions with local businesses, community centres and churches.

Some prominent examples of the city’s ongoing cultural activities are:

- **Community Beautification**, a city-wide partnership approach to directly engage communities in improving their public spaces.

- **Reflections on Art and Equality**, engaging students and challenging stereotypes in telling stories through portraiture. Work is exhibited throughout the city.

- **Healthy Food Lessons**, using creativity to educate about the importance of a good diet.

- **Arts and Wellbeing**, promoting self-expression in school-children through line, shape and colour artwork.

**2012 Cultural Plan**

Chicago is currently developing a new Cultural Plan. There are six key aims:

- To increase cultural participation by increasing accessibility.
- To improve arts education for all age groups in primary & secondary schools.
- To cross-pollinate culture across the city.
- To strengthen capacity within the cultural sector.
- To ensure vibrant cultural spaces for cultural organisations, groups, artists, and neighbourhoods.
- To sustainably attract artists to, and retain them in, the city.

The Plan will be launched in Autumn 2012.

The slides Meg used to accompany her presentation are available on the SURF website: [www.scotregen.co.uk/knowledge/events.asp?sid=2](http://www.scotregen.co.uk/knowledge/events.asp?sid=2)

For further information on the 2012 Chicago Cultural Plan, visit: [www.chicagoculturalplan2012.com](http://www.chicagoculturalplan2012.com)
Learning from Success:
The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration

Representatives from the four winning projects in the 2011 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration attended the conference to share the lessons behind their success with conference delegates in a dedicated exhibition space. The four category winners were:

People: Greater Easterhouse Alcohol Awareness Project (GEAAP)
GEAAP uses peer support to significantly reduce the harm associated with the use and misuse of alcohol by delivering services in Glasgow’s east end, a geography with one of the UK’s lowest life expectancies.

Place: Dedridge Environment Ecology Project (DEEP)
DEEP transformed a heavily polluted and neglected local space in Dedridge, Livingston, into a beautiful nature trail, now popular with all age groups in the local community.

Partnership: Community Power Orkney
By sharing experience and generating revenue from six community-owned wind turbines, the Community Power Orkney partnership is implementing ambitious sustainable development plans for fragile island communities across non-mainland Orkney.

Employability for All: The Coalyard
The Coalyard social enterprise operates several businesses in South Lanarkshire. These offer accessible and highly effective transition-to-employment support for young people with learning disabilities.

Further information on these projects is available in a 2011 SURF Awards publication, which also highlights all shortlisted entries and is available from the SURF website.

The SURF Awards are delivered by SURF in partnership with the Scottish Government.
Despite the continuing impacts of the recession, a variety of financial resources are still available to regeneration projects in Scotland. A number of new opportunities have emerged in recent months, and representatives of five funding organisations were invited to the Annual Conference to give a brief outline of what type of regeneration activities they wish to contribute to. A short summary of the main funding streams highlighted in this panel session follows.

**People and Communities Fund**

- New fund launched by Scottish Government in May 2012
- Purpose is to promote community led regeneration by “supporting robust community organisations to grow and strengthen”
- Over £6m will be allocated annually from 2012/13 to 2014/15
- The fund is intended for the delivery of services or projects that meet a need or aspiration identified by community
- Community anchor organisations, including Registered Social Landlords and Community Development Trusts, are eligible to apply
- The Scottish Government is keen for applicants to demonstrate a holistic, partnership-led approach
- Guidance for applicants is available online: [www.scotland.gov.uk/pcf](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/pcf)

**JESSICA (Scotland) Trust**

- £15m endowment fund to support community led regeneration in disadvantaged communities in 13 local authority regions
- Regions include Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverclyde & North Ayrshire
- Fund is managed by Resilient Scotland Ltd, a new company established by the Scottish Community Foundation on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland
- Designed to complement the bigger SPRUCE fund (see below)
- Applications for Trust’s ‘Start & Grow’ fund opened in June 2012
- ‘Start & Grow’ offers grants & loans of £10k-£60k to community organisations
- Find out more about the Trust at: [www.scottishcf.org/resilient-scotland/](http://www.scottishcf.org/resilient-scotland/)

**SPRUCE**

- The £50m Scottish Partnership for Regeneration in Urban Centres (SPRUCE) fund supports regeneration and energy efficiency projects
- It was established with funding from the Scottish Government and the European Regional Development Fund
- Fund is managed by Amber Fund Management Ltd & supported by ESEP Ltd
- As with JESSICA (Scotland) Trust, projects in 13 most challenged Scottish regions are eligible for funding
- Fund provides competitively priced loans, but not grants
- Available to public, private and joint ventures
• Eligible projects include transport initiatives, retrofitting energy efficiency schemes and new office/retail space developments
• For more details, visit the fund website: [www.ambergreenspruce.co.uk](http://www.ambergreenspruce.co.uk)

**Big Lottery Programmes**

• The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland has a number of active and forthcoming investment programmes to support regeneration efforts in Scottish communities
• The Investing in Communities programme offers grants of between £10k to £1m to projects that aim to bring a lasting social change
• 2014 Communities is a new micro-grants programme to enhance the legacy of the 2014 Commonwealth Games by supporting grassroots involvement in sport & physical activity
• Awards for All provides small grants of up to £10k for a wide range of one-off community activities
• Community Spaces, which helps communities to work together to enhance their communal areas, will re-open in summer 2012
• The Big Lottery Fund is happy to advise on which funding stream is most suitable for specific regeneration projects. Call 0300 123 7110 to speak to an adviser or visit their website: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/scotland](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/scotland)

**Heritage Grant Programmes**

• The Heritage Lottery Fund (Scotland) supports all sizes and types of heritage projects
• The funding body has invested over £536m in Scotland’s heritage to date
• It has an increased budget for grants in the 2012/13 financial year
• The Townscape Heritage Initiative Programme awards grants of up to £2m
• There are other targeted grants programmes for initiatives concerning parks, landscapes and places of worship
• A smaller ‘All Our Stories’ programme awards grants of up to £10k for heritage-related activities such as arranging site visits, exhibiting collections and recording memories
• For more details, contact the HLF Scotland team on 0131 225 9450 or visit: [www.hlf.org.uk/scotland](http://www.hlf.org.uk/scotland)

The resources panel comprised:

◊ **Evelyn Boyd**, Big Lottery Fund in Scotland
◊ **Diane Gray**, Heritage Lottery Fund (Scotland)
◊ **Joe Noble**, ESEP Ltd
◊ **Cameron Stewart**, Scottish Government
◊ **Shelagh Young**, Scottish Community Foundation
Conference delegates were given the opportunity to take a ‘reality check’ in one of five discussion sessions based around the main conference themes of reality, resources and resilience. The topics were:

1. IT’S THE STUPID ECONOMY

**Key Question:** Achieving sustainable economic growth is the priority in Scotland, as it is generally across the world; but how, for whom, at what cost, and to what end?

2. CLASS ACTS

**Key Question:** Effective targeting of public resources is vital for sustainable communities. In times of austerity and upheaval, who is first in line for first class public services?

3. ASSETS & RESPONSIBILITY

**Key Question:** Scotland’s Chief Medical Officer and many others see enhancing community assets as vital for supporting resilience in austerity. Is there a danger that a focus on assets avoids the reality of the real economic challenge?

4. THIS LAND IS OUR LAND

**Key Question:** Land ownership is the power base of local regeneration. Are local authorities the best and only truly democratic model for owning, planning and developing public land? Does the present system of tax and incentives encourage the most beneficial use of land?

5. REGENERATION GAMES

**Key Question:** At the 2011 SURF Annual Lecture, Olympic Park Legacy Company Chair Baroness Ford made a strong case for delivering sustainable community benefits from the Olympics investments.

There are similar aspirations for the 2014 Commonwealth Games, but what realistic expectations can we have for a lasting legacy beyond east Glasgow?

Further information on the main points of discussion in each group follows.

1. IT’S THE STUPID ECONOMY

**Guest Presenters:**
- Mark Robertson, Partner, Ryden LLP
- Dr Katherine Trebeck, Research and Policy Adviser, Oxfam Scotland

**Facilitator:**
- Jim McCormick, Scotland Adviser, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

**Key points of discussion:**
- Scotland’s financial model is broken, but it is still a wealthy country in terms of assets.
- What is the position of young people in our economy?
- Are the complex post-industrial problems of this decade transitional or ‘locked-in’?
- Markets should become better suited
Reality Checks (continued)

to citizens’ interests—questions of power and organisation.
• Is this a collapse of an economic era, or ‘merely’ a recession?
• There are positives to build on, especially at the grassroots level.
• Communities should be seen as an efficient means of meeting needs.

Further reading:
• ‘Whose Economy?’ Seminar Papers, Oxfam Scotland (2011):
  http://goo.gl/k917Z
• ‘Do we have the guts to rethink our economy?’: Third Force News comment article (2012): http://goo.gl/uuJXi

2. CLASS ACTS

Guest Presenters:
• Annette Hastings, Senior Lecturer in Regeneration, University of Glasgow
• Ruchir Shah, Policy Manager, Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations

Facilitator:
• Pippa Coutts, Director, SURF

Key points of discussion:
• There is an inbuilt class bias in the delivery of public services.
• Many people employed in the welfare state are middle class and find it easier to serve people like them.
• People in disadvantaged communities experience a mismatch with statutory service providers.
• Localism might lead to the middle class becoming more empowered.
• There are big issues around digital exclusion, with no broadband access in 40% of public rented accommodation.
• It’s not just poverty that leads to class inequality in service provision, but also social capital.
• Should the middle class be penalised just for shouting the loudest?
• Community connectedness is the key issue in tackling inequalities.

Further reading:
• Connected Communities: Connectivity and Conflict in Periods of Austerity, Arts and Humanities Research Council (2011): http://goo.gl/XaOFA
Reality Checks (continued)

- Radical Scotland: Confronting the Challenges Facing Scotland’s Public Services, NESTA (2010): http://goo.gl/CzZqN

3. ASSETS & RESPONSIBILITY

Guest presenters:
- Dr Lynne Friedli, Health and Wellbeing Researcher
- Liz Gardiner, Director, Fablevision

Facilitator:
- Peter Taylor, Policy & Development Consultant, Community Development Alliance Scotland

Key points of discussion:
- Communities want their voices to be heard in a meaningful way.
- There are issues of distribution of power; local community members/groups don’t always feel structures enable them to have a real say over how local budgets are spent; local authorities appear to take decisions independently.
- There is a need for ‘connectors’ between community groups, funding agencies and local authority structures.
- An asset focus is necessary in aspirations for full employment.
- Competitive tendering amongst third sector can be problematic.
- Bureaucratic structures within public sector bodies can prevent communities ‘getting stuck in’.

Further reading:

4. THIS LAND IS OUR LAND

Guest presenters:
- Ian Wall, Director, SURF
- Andy Wightman, Author and Policy Commentator

Facilitator:
- Colin Armstrong, Senior Development Officer, Loretto Housing Association

Key points of discussion:
- There is a crisis in our failure to govern land relations; the current economic crisis was caused by a property bubble.
- When localities have the power to raise property tax, everyone can benefit e.g. New York’s Central Park was funded by tax on surrounding houses.
- Successive governments have taken public property and privatised it, from council housing to ports.
- Local authorities should do more to...
manage their own land, rather than set up arms-length organisations.

- On the other hand, arms-length bodies can set up partnerships, attract private finance and recycle profits.
- Berlin is a case study in property development: profits are limited at 40%, anything above this has to be reinvested locally.
- Recognising a plurality of interests in local community is difficult, for example the community was largely opposed to new car parking for Riverside Museum in Govan, Glasgow, but the museum had a legitimate need.
- Local authorities have the power to do more, e.g. the 2003 Community Planning Act, but political will is lacking.

**Further reading:**


**5. REGENERATION GAMES**

**Guest presenters:**

- Edward Harkins, Knowledge and Research Associate, SURF
- Paul Zealey, Head of Engagement and Legacy, Glasgow 2014 Ltd

**Facilitator:**

- Robert McDowall, Director, SURF

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**Key points of discussion:**

- Infrastructure initiatives for the 2014 Commonwealth Games are well underway.
- Economic development is a central focus; some companies across west Scotland are already benefiting.
- In health, key legacy aims are to encourage teenage girls to engage in exercise and to discourage middle aged men from reducing regular exercise.
- The legacy team appreciate that there have been many attempts in the past to regenerate Glasgow’s east end.
- But what about the rest of Scotland?
- There are questions about the impact of major sporting events; is the evidence of benefit always there?
- 1992 Barcelona Olympics is viewed as a model of success with a legacy linked to a much wider strategy.
- The legacy document was created three years ago and is aspirational—there are some concerns around over-promising/under-delivering.

**Further reading:**

The 2012 SURF Annual Conference also featured:

- Comments from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation’s Scotland Adviser Jim McCormick (top left). Jim summarised JRF’s main areas of policy interest for 2012-13, which include the poverty impact of welfare reforms.
- A ‘SURF soapbox’ (middle top) offering participants the opportunity to ‘rant’ for up to three-minutes on a pressing regeneration topic of their choice.
- A closing panel session with: David Cowan, Head of Regeneration Unit in Scottish Government; Dr Katherine Trebeck, Research & Policy Adviser for Oxfam Scotland; David Hume, former Chief Executive of Scottish Borders Council; and key speaker Meg Peterson (middle right & bottom right).
- Electronic voting (see page 23), table discussions and exchanges.

Reality Checks (continued)

Stephen Maxwell: A Tribute

At the Annual Conference respects were paid to SURF’s late Chair Stephen Maxwell, who passed away in April 2012.

Stephen joined the SURF Board of Directors in August 2009 and was elected as its Chair the following year. He served as Chair until the time of his death despite suffering from a long illness.

Alex Neil MSP and SURF Chief Executive Andy Milne, both of whom had known and worked with Stephen over a number of decades, led the tributes at the event.

Mr Neil said: “Stephen made a tremendous contribution to SURF, and a first class contribution to Scottish society and humanity.”

Andy Milne said: “Stephen brought the same humanity, intelligence and dedication to SURF that he did to many progressive organisations and causes in his very full life. He will be remembered at SURF, as he will elsewhere, with affection and respect in equal measure.”

What’s Next?

SURF aims to build on the ‘Reality, Resources, Resilience’ programme by developing an ‘Alliance for Action’.

Having established connections in the two case study areas of Gallatown and Govan, SURF and its local and national partners are keen to develop the work further.

The purpose of the ‘Alliance for Action’ would be to:

- Further explore and disseminate learning from progressive ameliorative responses being developed at community and corporate levels
- Promote links and practical cooperation towards investment in creative, community led projects and in the ‘liberating the front line’ approaches being taken by larger organisations
- Extract further policy lessons from the conjunction of existing policy/practice and lived reality

If you would like to keep up-to-date with programme developments, you can:

- Sign up for the SURF e-bulletin
- Visit the SURF website
- Follow SURF on Twitter
Appendix 1: Electronic Voting Results

Conference participants had the opportunity to answer questions on a range of relevant topics using electronic keypads. This appendix includes a selection of the delegates’ voting results. A full breakdown of the results, including the opportunity to see how different sectors responded, is available from the ‘knowledge centre’ section of the SURF website.

Which of the following sectors best describes the organisation you are representing today?

1. Academic Institution
2. Central Government/ National Public Body
3. Community Group
4. Local Authority/NHS Board
5. Private Sector
6. Voluntary Sector
7. Other

With current resource constraints, which one of the following should be the investment priority for most realistically supporting resilient regeneration?

1. Community assets development
2. Transport infrastructure
3. Education training and skills
4. Health and social care
5. Renewable energy
6. Public services
7. Housing and physical environment
8. Something else
Appendix 1: Electronic Voting Results (continued)

**Do you think there is a class bias in service delivery?**

1. Yes 75%
2. No 13%
3. Don’t know 12%

**Should there be a presumption in favour of allowing disused land to be made available to the community for uses that will benefit the public?**

1. Yes 93%
2. No 6%
3. Don’t know 1%

**Taking everything into account, will the benefits of the 2014 games (and its related activities) outweigh the costs?**

1. Yes 26%
2. No 57%
3. Don’t know 16%
Appendix 2: SURF’s Key Delivery Partners

SURF is grateful to its thirteen key delivery partner organisations for 2012.

These organisations provide SURF with much of the resources it needs to maintain its political and financial independence, and to continue to further develop its activities programme.
Appendix 3: Special Thanks

SURF is grateful to NHS Health Scotland for supporting the successful delivery of the 2012 SURF Annual Conference.

NHS Health Scotland is the national agency for improving the health of the population. It is a Special Health Board in NHS Scotland.

The agency’s work covers every aspect of health improvement, from gathering evidence, to planning, delivery and evaluation, and spans the range of health topics, settings and life stages.

The Role of NHS Health Scotland

The role of the NHS in improving health was previously described in Delivering for Health (2006). It was further developed in Better Health, Better Care (2007), describing the NHS in Scotland as an organisation that 'helps people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care.'

'Better Health, Better Care' lays 'the groundwork for a more radical and inclusive approach to achieving shared objectives, including goals to tackle poverty and disadvantage, and to regenerate our most deprived communities.'

NHS Health Scotland is a Special Health Board with a national remit that plays an important role in improving the health of everybody living in Scotland and tackling inequalities in health.

Its primary focus, as an organisation, is to work with local NHS Boards and their health improvement partners during the implementation phases of public health improvement and health inequalities programmes, and other initiatives designed to achieve health outcomes that meet public health HEAT (Health improvement, Efficiency and governance improvements, Access to services and Treatment appropriate to individuals) targets, promote equality and diversity, and address local priorities, thereby supporting the national outcomes in Single Outcome Agreements.

Key Aims and Priorities

The agency’s overall aim is to provide leadership and work with partners to improve health and reduce health inequalities in Scotland. This can be broken down into three key areas of work:

1. Supporting HEAT targets
2. Supporting the development, implementation and evaluation of the Scottish Government’s broader health improvement and health inequalities strategies
3. Strengthening the infrastructure for the development, delivery and performance of health improvement and reduction of health inequalities

Visit the NHS Health Scotland website at: www.healthscotland.com
Appendix 4: About SURF

SURF is Scotland’s independent regeneration network.

Aims and objectives

SURF’s overall objective is to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Scotland’s disadvantaged communities.

To meet this goal, SURF’s key aims are:

- To provide a neutral space for all sectors and players in Scottish community regeneration to share their knowledge and experience
- To stimulate challenging debate about community regeneration policy and practice
- To maintain a high status for community regeneration on Scotland’s political agenda
- To provide relevant and constructive feedback to key policy-makers

SURF network

The SURF network aims to be the primary arena for debate on community regeneration in Scotland. It acts as a channel for information, consultation and policy proposals, based on the knowledge and experience of its membership and wider connections.

SURF network activity includes seminars, conferences, international policy exchanges, an annual awards for best practice and the distribution of the regeneration policy journal, Scotregen.

This all provides a truly independent network to explore current practice, experience and knowledge, with which to positively influence the development of more successful regeneration policy and practice.

Background

SURF was established in 1992 as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. It is directed by a board of voluntary directors drawn from across its wide cross-sector membership of over 250 organisations.

SURF members range in size from small community groups to some of Scotland’s largest private companies. Membership organisations also include local authorities, housing associations, health boards, academic institutions, professional bodies, voluntary organisations and charities.

Further information on SURF’s activities, and how to get more involved, is available on our website: www.scotregen.co.uk

Report written and designed by: Derek Rankine of SURF. Event photography: Craig MacLean. Additional images and information diagrams are courtesy of NHS Health Scotland, Scottish Government, Meg Peterson, Andy Milne, Karen McGregor, and Gehan Macleod.

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