Who benefits and who pays?

Welcome to the SURF Annual Conference,

on 31.8.17 in the COSLA Conference Centre, Edinburgh.

For 25 years now, SURF has been supporting more coordinated and sustainable community regeneration policy and practice in Scotland. Its success in doing so is based on the extensive experience, knowledge and ideas of its cross sector membership.

Much has changed over the last quarter century and yet....as is often the case, much has remained the same. However, it seems reasonable to suggest that we are at a point of potentially significant change both internationally and locally. At such junctures, it is always wise to pause and consider past experience and future options.
The SURF network is a rich resource of practical collaboration, shared learning and fresh thinking. So this year’s conference programme is designed to actively engage that resource in a productive and enjoyable way for everyone, whatever their experience, role or priorities. We hope that collaborative participation will help to inform all of our future plans and actions, as we work together to regenerate Scotland’s most disadvantaged communities.

In summary the purpose of the conference is to:

- Draw on SURF’s 25 years of accumulated experience and that of its diverse, cross sector membership and networks.
- Reflect on the intended purpose and shifting context of community regeneration policy, practice and investment over the last quarter of a century.
- Consider what has worked well and what has not; who has benefited, who has not.
- Identify practical lessons that will be useful in ensuring that future models, processes and resources are best suited to meet present and anticipated challenges in community regeneration.
- Inform SURF’s November 2017 bi annual review and planning considerations on its future role and priorities.
- Gather constructive proposals on future policy and practice for presentation to national and local government, and relevant regeneration agencies and partners, across SURF’s nationwide networks and beyond.

Thank you for contributing your time and expertise in helping us make the most of this event for everyone involved.

Badged SURF staff team members will be on hand on the day for any further clarification or practical assistance required.