

## **2014 SURF Annual Conference**

### **Land Ownership & Use Interactive Debate**

#### **Key Points (in no particular order)**

1. Role of HIE has been fundamental thus far;
  - a. Continuity of their continuing input in their geographic area is paramount
  - b. Mirror of HIE needs to be created for the rest of Scotland
2. 'Community Ownership' needs to be promoted as continuing in the rural context but expanding into the more urban setting where opportunities are identified
3. 4 key attributes are;
  - a. Desire for a 'project' at a local level
  - b. Support needs to be flexible to allow for individual circumstances
  - c. Funding needs to be available to pump-prime the project at the early stages and assist in pursuit of the physical transfer (which in turn may need acquisition and development funding)
  - d. Political will at local and national levels both for the concept and then for individual projects
4. Community Empowerment Bill (2016) vitally important to help modernise the process – felt not to be a fully robust piece of (proposed) legislation but willingness to work with it – keep an eye on Land Reform Review Group recommendations
5. Issues around where public assets currently sit – e.g. if in Arms-Length entity – how can they be extracted for community ownership?
6. What about derelict land or land which has lain undeveloped – how do communities get access to purchase? What about penalties for non-development, CPO etc?
7. Map of community ownership organisations needed – also of renewables projects and the proportion promoted by community ownership or where communities have a stake – what about best practice, case studies etc?

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