



# Planning Ahead For Regeneration

towards a manifesto for a new Scottish Government



## SURF'S 2016 MANIFESTO FOR COMMUNITY REGENERATION: SECOND DRAFT (AUG 2015)

### ABOUT THIS PAPER

In its role as Scotland's independent regeneration network, SURF is developing a 'manifesto for community regeneration'. The final version will be presented to the main political parties for debate in advance of the 2016 Scottish Parliament elections.

This paper features an outline of 18 policy proposals aimed at reducing the impact of degeneration and supporting shared regeneration aims and activities. They are drawn from relevant SURF activities and interactions, independent research undertaken in the last three years, and initial consultation activity with key SURF partner organisations and a range of experts representing various regeneration-related sectors.

These proposals are arranged under the two complementary themes of **improving places** and **tackling poverty**. The ultimate shared aim is to enhance collective wellbeing.

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supporting Successful Places</li> <li>2. Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequality</li> </ol> | } | → | <p>With an ultimate focus on improving individual &amp; community wellbeing</p> |
|---|---|---|---|

These proposals, which represent a second draft of SURF's 2016 manifesto, will be presented for discussion and debate at SURF's 2015 Annual Conference, which takes place on Tuesday 25 August in Edinburgh. The interactive manifesto development process is outlined in Appendix 1.

### CONTENTS

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
<b>Regeneration: A SURF Perspective</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>In Summary: SURF's 18 Policy Recommendations</b>	<b>3</b>
Theme 1: Supporting Successful Places	4
Theme 2: Tackling Poverty & Inequality	8
Conclusion	11
<i>Appendix 1: SURF's 2016 Manifesto Development Process</i>	12
<i>Appendix 2: Special Thanks</i>	13
<i>Appendix 3: Selected Bibliography</i>	14

## REGENERATION: A SURF PERSPECTIVE

### REGENERATION AND DEGENERATION: HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Community regeneration is a coordinated process that is directed towards addressing physical, social, economic and environmental challenges in places where people live and work.

SURF's view is that the primary challenge in the regeneration of Scotland's disadvantaged communities lies in overcoming the impacts of degenerative forces. These impacts, for example, include the poverty, poor health and alienation that can develop when a community's major employer moves out or infrastructure connections are lost.

The root causes of degeneration are the effects of wider macro-economic trends and policies, in the last three decades in particular. Other influential factors include demographic, technological, cultural and ecological shifts.

In many places in Scotland, these forces have caused damaging upheavals, disconnections and deprivations at the community level. Meaningful policy responses should therefore focus on addressing degenerative causes 'upstream'.

That is a substantial long-term challenge, requiring sustained investment and bold political leadership. Short-term and localised approaches are often adopted in an effort to address more immediate pressures. A conceptually limited local regeneration focus is, however, unlikely to produce significant long-term outcomes where the main causes are outwith the community of concern and remain unaddressed.

In SURF's view, successful community regeneration is:

- rooted in the particular identity, culture, assets and connections of people and places;
- based on the meaningful involvement of the community of focus in both planning and delivery;
- a collaborative long-term process, which takes decades rather than months;
- a mechanism for appropriately linking local circumstances and assets to wider policies and resources.

Taking account of prevailing economic and social regeneration challenges, this manifesto proposes that the priority shared focus should be on improving places and tackling poverty & inequality, with the ultimate goal of enhancing individual and community wellbeing and autonomy.

### SCOPE AND FOCUS

Community regeneration concerns extend across a complex and interlinked field of public policy areas. These include, but are not limited to: architecture, community empowerment, culture & sport, economic development, education, employability, equalities, energy, equalities, health, housing, infrastructure, justice, land use and ownership, planning, private & social enterprise, procurement, skills, social care, transport, and urban design.

The main objective of this manifesto is to produce and present a concise list of bold and practical policy proposals for the political parties competing to form the 2016 Scottish Government to consider implementing, if elected.

In the process, it is not possible to fully represent the broad and diverse interests and concerns of SURF's cross-sector membership, which covers all regeneration-related policy areas. In producing a concise and coherent set of practical recommendations, closely aligned with the two priority manifesto themes, it is not possible to include all of the welcome suggestions offered. We remain grateful for the continuing interest engagement and support of all of our members and contacts in this constructive process and look forward to further debate and refinement.

#### ABOUT SURF

As Scotland's independent regeneration network, SURF's overall objective is to improve the wellbeing of residents in Scotland's disadvantaged communities.



SURF 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 extensive membership, which comprises over 280 public, private & third sector organisations.

SURF network activity includes seminars, conferences, policy exchanges, lectures, study visits, awards for best practice, and the distribution of information and evidence in a variety of formats. For more information on SURF and its activities, please visit our website: [www.scotregen.co.uk](http://www.scotregen.co.uk)

## IN SUMMARY: SURF'S 18 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

SURF argues that the next Scottish Government should:

### ***Support Successful Places by:***

1. Prioritising regeneration and public service investment in Scotland's 10% most deprived areas (as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation);
2. Replacing the Hub procurement model with one that supports local regeneration aims;
3. Identifying 15 strategic places in which to deliver sustained investment in major long-term regeneration projects, with a focus on identifying transferable learning;
4. Rebranding and realigning the Community Planning system;
5. Producing a glossary and guidance paper for public sector officials working in regeneration to advise on poorly understood terms and jargon that are to be avoided in external communications, accompanied by information and developmental support sessions;
6. Ensuring the building of at least 7000 new affordable homes per year;
7. Sustaining and enhancing the Town Centre Empty Homes Fund;
8. Ensuring there is an adequate and accessible community meeting space in all disadvantaged communities in Scotland (as defined as the 10% most deprived areas in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation);
9. Enhancing active support for community led regeneration, social enterprises and cultural organisations, whilst recognising that they alone cannot tackle all physical, social and economic challenges in disadvantaged places;
10. Commissioning the conception and delivery of a 'Big Data' research programme specifically geared to the challenges of community regeneration in Scotland.

### ***Tackle Poverty & Inequality by:***

11. Increasing the Minimum Wage (currently a reserved area) to the Scottish Living Wage;
12. Providing more flexible employability support via the post-2017 Scottish Work Programme and related resources;
13. Investing in direct job creation in areas of chronic employment market failure;
14. Facilitating greater employer-supported volunteering by compensating workers for time spent actively supporting their community;
15. Replicating the largely successful approach of Highlands & Islands Enterprise to address poverty issues in rural areas in the rest of Scotland;
16. Commissioning a series of 'social prescribing' pilots in selected General Practices in deprived Scottish communities with a view to exploring the potential of wider delivery;
17. Supporting Local Authorities to undertake Fairness Audits prior to implementing any public spending reductions;
18. Establishing a task force to research, understand and address degenerative economic dynamics in the current context.

The following sections of this paper provide explanatory notes for these policy recommendations.

The appendices provide supplementary information on SURF's manifesto development process.

## THEME 1: SUPPORTING SUCCESSFUL PLACES

### PRIORITY FOCUS ON DISADVANTAGED PLACES

#### **Refocusing Investments**

The ownership, management and distribution of resources are the key determinants of a place's regeneration context. Scotland has a respectable historical record in identifying and attempting to tackle regeneration challenges, but sometimes the analysis and investments are off target.

Disadvantaged places tend to reflect external factors acting upon them, rather than those within them. Despite widespread rhetoric and assumptions to the contrary, most resources and investments are directed to successful commercial centres and wealthier residential areas, rather than places that are marginal and poor.

Previous regeneration funds that were targeted at disadvantaged areas, such as the Fairer Scotland Fund, were amalgamated into mainstream Local Authority wide budgets in 2008. Following the economic crash of the same year, with a few notable exceptions, they have been absorbed in efforts to alleviate broader budget reductions.

#### **Rich Pickings, False Economies**

Even after seven years of counter-productive austerity-based economic policy, the UK remains one of the richest nations on the planet. It is also one of the most unequal. In Scotland, there is little evidence that substantial national & local government infrastructure and public service procurement budgets are being used to support intelligent preventative spend at any significant scale via interaction with local regeneration efforts.

There are concerns that, for short-term and purely financial efficiencies, these budgets are parcelled into massive generic contracts, suitable only for delivery by major companies. Valuable synergies for enhancing local businesses, jobs, skills, town centre improvements, and community cohesion, are being lost under current processes like the Hub initiative.

The Hub process corrals most large-scale public funded physical regeneration contracts into five 1m-population territories called HubCos, which cover the whole of Scotland. Investment and sub-contracting activities are channelled through HubCos under long-term and exclusive deals with the large-scale private companies involved in their operation. The benefits of replacing it with a socially beneficial community-focused model are considerable.

#### **Sharp Elbows and Tugged Forelocks**

Residents in affluent areas are more adept at accessing public sector resources and related advantages, especially in health, education and land use. Additionally, University of Glasgow research evidence indicates a predisposition in public service providers to provide middle-class enquirers with more prompt and positive responses to complaints, as compared with those made from people living in disadvantaged places.

In a major 2014 Scottish Parliament Committee inquiry into the delivery of regeneration, the final report noted that regeneration policy experts and community group representatives alike agree that there needs to be a stronger prioritisation of effort on areas of deprivation. Areas ranked within the 10% 'most deprived' in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation have the greatest concentration of social and economic problems, and these problems are entrenched. Dedicated regeneration investment is therefore required to address their deep-rooted challenges.

**SURF Proposal No. 1: To help address socio-economic inequalities, and achieve greater impact from public spending, the Scottish Government, local authorities, health boards and other public funded agencies should provide leadership by prioritising their capital and public service investments in the country's 10% most deprived areas (as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation).**

**SURF Proposal No. 2: Replace the Hub procurement model with one that supports local regeneration aims.**

## INVESTING AND LEARNING

High-profile national government inspired regeneration collaborations, such as Social Inclusion Partnerships and Urban Regeneration Companies, have resulted in some substantial successes and notable failures over recent decades.

In either case, for all of the investment of public time and money, there has been insufficient focus on measuring the poverty the inequality impacts of these substantial regeneration initiatives. There has also been a general failure to adequately identify and transfer learning to the rest of Scotland.

The development of clear and measurable 'convergence targets', focused on progressing a deprived community's employment, education and health & wellbeing outcomes towards the city or regional average would provide a constructive context for assessing investment models and impacts.

Convergence targets were adopted in six East London boroughs as a legacy for the 2012 Olympic Games. This has enabled the formal monitoring of progress against targets such as levels of crime, unemployment, and the attainment of school qualifications.

**SURF Proposal No. 3: Identify 15 strategically significant places in Scotland best suited to sustained and cooperative investment in long-term regeneration. Convergence targets should be adopted in such places to set social and economic outcome targets and monitor progress. Adequate processes to identify transferable learning and models of operation would add value to the limited geographical focus of these investments.**

## COMMUNITY PLANNING: STRATEGIC BABIES & BUREAUCRATIC BATHWATER

Scotland's statutory Community Planning framework provides a valuable nationwide basis for cross-sector service prioritisation and coordination. This is the sort of common-sense high-level strategic collaboration that a thoughtful taxpayer would expect to happen anyway.

As a practical concept, it stands in positive contrast to the lack of a similar cooperative leadership model in England and elsewhere. There have, however, been three persistent criticisms:

- 1 Presentation and trust:** Community Planning Partnerships were misnamed and frequently misrepresented through misleading rhetoric from the start in 2003. Rebranding them as 'Service Delivery Partnerships' would more accurately reflect their valuable purpose in seeking to improve the outcomes of public service delivery across a local authority area through enhanced cooperation. This could reduce confusion around their relationship to the local neighbourhood level, the spatial planning system, and the community empowerment policy agenda. The rebranding would provide a better basis for building trust and for considering mutually beneficial links to authentic community initiatives at the local level.
- 2 Disconnection from the planning system:** Places are where people, polices and resources connect for understanding and delivering effective local regeneration processes. Despite some barriers around legislative timeframes, there is potential for simultaneously improving both spatial planning and Community Planning outcomes by aligning the two processes. As recommended by the RTPI Scotland and partners, integration could include sharing strategic visions, engaging in joint consultations, and collaborating on the process of monitoring and review.
- 3 Poor communication:** The language in Community Planning is often complex and jargon-based. It can be easily misunderstood by the general public and professionals working in other fields. This tends to create confusion, erode trust, reinforce prejudices, and reduce the scope for cross-sector cooperation. The Scottish Government could offer a useful lead by producing a coherent guidance paper on regeneration policies and players, with accessible definitions on commonly used terms, supported by workshops and training sessions. This modest practical input could help by reducing and clarifying the multi-layered, sector-specific jargon that has evolved through extended phases of initiatives and partnerships.

**SURF Proposal No. 4: Rebrand Community Planning Partnerships as 'Service Delivery Partnerships', and align Community Planning with the spatial planning system.**

**SURF Proposal No. 5: Produce a glossary and guidance paper for Community Planning officials, and all public sector workers in regeneration, to advise on poorly understood terms and jargon that are to be avoided in their external communications; accompany dissemination of the paper with a series of regional information and training workshops.**

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING & LIVING TOWNS

In Scotland there are serious issues with the availability of good quality affordable housing. Factors such as huge waiting lists for social housing, rising rents, high house prices, and reduced access to mortgage finance, have all contributed towards the current situation in which low-income groups have particular difficulties in accessing adequate housing.

The Scottish Government's current target of building 6000 new affordable homes annually over the five years to March 2016 is understandable in the context of the recession. There is a strong case for increasing this target in the next Scottish Parliament to help meet continued excess demand for social rented housing.

In addition to its concerns and investments in Scotland's seven cities, the Scottish Government has raised debate on, and invested in, the particular challenges for Scotland's smaller towns. Scotland's towns and villages are still home to a greater percentage of the population than its seven cities.

Amongst other investment initiatives, the Town Centre Empty Homes Fund, established in the Scottish Government's broadly welcomed 2013 response to the Town Centre Action Plan, has helped bring some privately owned empty town centre properties back into use for affordable housing. This project has simultaneously enhanced the housing supply and vibrancy of town centres.

SURF agrees with Scotland's Empty Homes Partnership that this modest pilot fund should become a substantial long-term regeneration policy mechanism.

**SURF Proposal No. 6: Commit to the building of at least 7000 new affordable homes per year.**

**SURF Proposal No. 7: Build on current success by sustaining and enhancing the Town Centre Empty Homes Fund.**

## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT & CULTURE

### **Building Blocks**

There is broad recognition across policy-makers, practitioners, and academics, of the need to build capacity at the community level. The shared aspiration is to engage civil society more widely in the sustainable development agenda and in master-planning processes through formats such as community charrettes, landscape observatories and 'urban rooms'.

However, there has been sustained underinvestment in basic community development over the last two decades. Many disadvantaged places lack the most basic building blocks of community development, such as a meeting place to gather, share experiences and produce ideas.

This lack of basic resources is not only to the detriment of community cohesion, it also stymies any realistic prospect of reasonably representative community engagement with statutory partners on shared regeneration aspirations. While digital media can offer a useful source of interaction, it is not suited to building the sort of sustained relationships and mutual confidence required for meaningful empowerment.

There is also a strong case for more effective capacity building amongst many 'hard to reach' public and private sector chief executives and senior officers, who are both resource-holders and decision-makers.

### **Community Anchors and Market Viability**

Devolution of some local regeneration responsibilities and resources to organisations identified as 'community anchors' is generally supported as a means of building capacity and accessing local knowledge and ideas. It can also be problematic. It is certainly not a panacea for all physical, social and economic challenges facing Scottish communities. There are also legitimate concerns about resources, capacity and deliverability, as well as geographic and demographic equity.

In the current pressurised economic climate, the process of transferring public assets to community anchor organisations can, in some cases, represent the dumping of liabilities and the abdication of responsibilities. In the absence of adequate institutional responses to underlying poverty and inequality, even a well-intended asset transfer process can end up exacerbating inequalities and exclusion.

### **Creative Approaches**

A major 2014-15 academic study found that in England, the role of cultural organisations as strategic partners in place-based regeneration projects was seriously underdeveloped. The same applies to much of Scotland. In contrast, Dundee Partnership's 2015-2025 Cultural Strategy articulates ways in which creative arts bodies can add substantial value to local regeneration aims.

**SURF Proposal No. 8: Ensure there is inclusive access to an adequate community meeting space in all disadvantaged communities (as defined as the 10% most deprived areas in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation).**

**SURF Proposal No. 9: Actively support community anchors, social enterprises and cultural organisations, but don't pretend that they can do everything; set a clear and supportive operating climate by clearly stating the areas of activity that should be delivered by the public sector, and those which other service providers such as social enterprises can be realistically expected to deliver effectively.**

## **LINKING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE WITH SYSTEM INTELLIGENCE**

Information, knowledge and effective systems of interconnection are key drivers of economic growth. Learning from SURF's *Alliance for Action* practical experience demonstrates that local people and organisations hold the sort of highly specific place- and culture-sensitive knowledge that private companies like Google and Amazon spend billions trying to acquire. Technology firms are seeking to access, convert and exploit large volumes of complex information about modern urban living into usable commercial knowledge.

A number of public sector driven 'big data' projects are underway in Scotland, and support for this approach is strong in the fields of science, energy and medicine. SURF is concerned, however, that some regeneration-relevant areas like construction, transport and urban connectivity are being overlooked in current research initiatives.

**SURF Proposal No. 10: Invest in a regeneration-specific 'Big Data' research project and explore opportunities to connect it with existing fields of investigation; consider how the outcomes of such a project can be used as a basis for improved quality and ground-breaking innovation in community regeneration initiatives in Scotland.**

## THEME 2: TACKLING POVERTY & INEQUALITY

### STEMMING UPSTREAM CAUSES

Regeneration interventions are necessary where there is insufficient existing capacity to address the effects of public and private market failure. A concerted effort is required to overcome the impacts of degeneration, the root causes of which include externally enforced upheavals, disconnections and deprivations.

Meaningful responses must first focus on stemming the 'upstream' causes. The shared priority should be on tackling poverty and inequalities with a view to enhancing individual and community wellbeing and autonomy. No individual or community wants to be the subject of paternalistic interventions while the root cause remains unaddressed.

The Scottish Government and some of its agencies have begun to provide encouraging leadership based upon the above analysis. This section of SURF's manifesto proposes some practical policy measures to help address some of the upstream causes of poverty and inequality.

### WORK, PAY AND PARTICIPATION

#### **Beyond Basic Measures**

Financial difficulties for individuals, businesses and communities have increased over recent years as a result of recessionary impacts and austerity measures. 52% of working age adults in poverty in Scotland live in households where at least one adult was in employment, as do 59% of children in poverty. For many Scottish workers, the minimum wage has become the maximum available.

A growing body of evidence indicates that raising the minimum wage level to that of the Scottish Living Wage (as set by the Poverty Alliance) will significantly reduce health inequalities in Scotland. Although presently a reserved area, the First Minister and charities such as SCVO and the Poverty Alliance are campaigning for a devolution of minimum wage responsibilities to the Scottish Parliament. In any case, public sector agencies in Scotland could at least ensure that their employees, and third party staff working on the contracts that they provide, are paid the Scottish Living Wage or higher.

Shared aspirations for a fairer and better Scotland, in which individuals can benefit from, and contribute to, a more progressive economy, should be even higher and broader than the Scottish Living Wage. Arguments by Oxfam and the University of the West of Scotland for the establishment of a 'Decent Work Index', which involves assessing elements of the quality of work in the Scottish labour market such as stress, secure contracts, autonomy and clear working hours, are instructive in this regard.

#### **A Scottish Work Programme**

Since 2008, the number of under-25s in Scotland that are unemployed has almost doubled to 90k. The Work Programme will be devolved to the Scottish Government in April 2017. In other European countries, prospects for those out of work for a long time have improved through the better-quality commissioning and accountability of employability services at regional levels.

#### **Direct Job Creation**

New employability approaches could build on the Community Jobs Scotland experience to create jobs for the long-term unemployed in places where they don't exist as a result of market failure.

The lack of demand for workers in certain local economies, such as in south west Scotland, is a key factor in entrenched unemployment that is underplayed in current policy considerations. One assessment estimates the net cost of creating 100k jobs in the UK as £440m.

If the Scottish Government believes paid employment offers the best route out of poverty, it should take action to ensure that jobs are available throughout the country.

## **Inclusive Volunteering**

The Scottish Government is rightly enthusiastic about the potential of community knowledge and participation to help address isolation, poverty and inequality at the neighbourhood level. Many would-be community volunteers, however, lack the employment flexibility to regularly contribute to local community group activities.

Evidence from SURF's *Alliance for Action* suggests that the establishment of formal employer support arrangements would help more people contribute to community initiatives. Such arrangements may include employers providing compensation in time or pay for hours spent by workers representing their community in official forums.

**SURF Proposal No. 11: Increase the Minimum Wage (currently a reserved area) to the Scottish Living Wage, or at least ensure all people working on public service contracts are paid the Scottish Living Wage or higher;**

**SURF Proposal No. 12: Provide more flexible employability support via the Scottish Work Programme.**

**SURF Proposal No. 13: Invest in direct job creation in areas of employment market failure.**

**SURF Proposal No. 14: Encourage employer-supported volunteering by establishing arrangements in which workers are compensated for time actively contributed to local community groups.**

## RURAL CHALLENGES

People living in deprived areas in rural parts of Scotland face a set of challenges that can be manifested differently to those living in sizeable towns and cities. These typically include higher exposure to fuel poverty, social isolation, a limited supply of jobs, and poor access to public services, financial services, and the internet.

The EU-funded LEADER programme has helped address some of these issues by supporting the delivery of rural development strategies. Research by Scotland's Rural College's Rural Policy Centre indicates, however, an increased need in the post-2008 Scottish economy for rural issues to be addressed more strongly at a national policy level.

SURF activities highlight a general admiration in the regeneration sector for the consistent approach of Highlands & Islands Enterprise in driving people-centred regeneration and sustainable economic development activities in the north of Scotland. Its holistic approach is notable for prioritising local assets and identity of place, and for close and effective collaboration with partners of all sizes, including local authorities, social enterprises, and community groups.

Outwith the Highlands & Islands, however, there are concerns that rural regeneration issues do not receive the same level of attention through strategic policy mechanisms. The main regeneration functions of Scotland's other enterprise agency, Scottish Enterprise, are targeted at supporting successful businesses and large-scale infrastructure and renewable energy initiatives. In this situation, there is comparatively less focus on economically vulnerable small towns and rural areas in, for example, the regions of Perth & Kinross, South Ayrshire, and Dumfries & Galloway.

The Scottish Government should therefore explore the possibilities of reproducing the largely successful approach of Highlands & Islands Enterprise in the socially and economically challenged rural parts of the rest of Scotland. This may involve refocusing the regeneration functions of Scottish Enterprise, extending the geographical remit of Highlands & Islands Enterprise, or establishing a new regional economic development agency.

**SURF Proposal No.15: Replicating the largely successful approach of Highlands & Islands Enterprise to address rural poverty issues in the rest of Scotland.**

## SOCIAL PRESCRIPTIONS

Learning from SURF's *Alliance for Action* experience indicates the strong potential of delivering health information services in unconventional places such as supermarkets and pubs. This approach allows health professionals to engage with people, such as middle-aged men on low incomes, who have a tendency to avoid visiting their GP when faced with physical and mental health issues.

The similar concept of 'social prescribing' involves GPs prescribing patients with 'social first aid', such as a referral to a specific get-fit class or social group in the local community, in place of more generic advice *e.g.* "get more exercise." With an emerging body of evidence suggesting that loneliness can be as detrimental to a person's health as obesity, the preventative value of such an approach appears high. Pilot social prescribing projects in England have proved encouraging and Scotland should follow this lead in examining its potential.

**SURF Proposal No.16: Commission a series of 'social prescribing' pilots in General Practices in selected deprived Scottish communities, with a view to monitoring the social outcomes and exploring the potential of wider delivery.**

## SOCIAL RISK AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

With further public sector spending reductions forthcoming, and evidence of a widely damaging transfer of 'social risk' to those least able to bear it, Scotland's 32 local authorities should conduct Fairness Audits.

Fairness Audits would involve Councils formally assessing the impacts of further budget cuts on the most disadvantaged communities and citizens, and formulating ameliorative responses where such impacts are found to be significant.

The damage caused by a degenerative force – such as the closure of a major employer in a small town, or inappropriate housing policies that lead to concentrated areas of deprivation – can easily overwhelm the positive impacts of local regeneration investments.

Dedicated research into the structural characteristics of economic degeneration in modern Scotland is required to inform new thinking on effective approaches aimed at addressing poverty and developing alternative economic responses in a fresh approach to local and national regeneration.

Many public bodies claim to accept the strategic importance of, and positive evidence for, investment in preventative measures. This is not adequately reflected in current public spending commitments in Scotland.

**SURF Proposal No. 17: Oblige Local Authorities to undertake Fairness Audits prior to implementing public spending reductions.**

**SURF Proposal No. 18: Commission a working group or task force of independent experts to research degenerative economic dynamics in Scotland in the current context, in order to provide recommendations on how an improved understanding could inform regeneration policy and practice considerations.**

## CONCLUSION AND WHAT'S NEXT

The above 18 policy recommendations are being shared with the SURF network in advance of its 2015 Annual Conference (taking place on 25 August in Edinburgh).

SURF is keen to know:

- 1) Based on your knowledge and experience, do you think any of these proposals are unwise or unhelpful with regard to potentially influencing meaningful improvements in regeneration policy and practice?
- 2) Do you have any suggestions on policy recommendations that do not feature in this paper?

Conference guests will be invited to debate and prioritise the recommendations as presented in this paper. The conference also includes interactive sessions to debate what other aspects guests would like to see featured in SURF's manifesto.

The event is free to attend and places can be booked on our website at the following link:

[www.scotregen.co.uk/2015-surf-annual-conference/](http://www.scotregen.co.uk/2015-surf-annual-conference/)

SURF members unable to make the Annual Conference are welcome to send feedback to SURF's Andy Milne by email to [andymilne@scotregen.co.uk](mailto:andymilne@scotregen.co.uk).

The deadline for feedback for this stage of the manifesto development process is Tuesday 15 September. SURF is grateful for all feedback.

---

### End of Second Draft of SURF's 2016 Manifesto

Andy Milne, SURF Chief Executive  
Derek Rankine, SURF Events and Communications Manager  
August 2015

*Three appendices follow:*

- 1) *SURF 2016 Manifesto Development Process (p12)*
- 2) *Special Thanks (p13)*
- 3) *Selected Bibliography (p14)*

SURF Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network. Orkney Street Enterprise Centre, 18-20 Orkney Street, Glasgow G51 2BX  
Tel: 0141 440 0122 / Email: [info@scotregen.co.uk](mailto:info@scotregen.co.uk) / Website: [www.scotregen.co.uk](http://www.scotregen.co.uk)

SURF is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. Registered in Scotland as 'Scotregen Ltd' no. SC 154 598. VAT reg. no. 735 2880 21.

Supported by: Aberdeen City Council, Capital City Partnership, City of Edinburgh Council, Clyde Gateway, Creative Scotland, Dundee Partnership, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Housing Association, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Jobs & Business Glasgow, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, the Scottish Government, and Skills Development Scotland.

## **APPENDIX 1: SURF 2016 MANIFESTO DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

### **PHASE ONE: INITIAL CONSULTATION, MARCH TO MID-JUNE 2015**

The following five sources informed the development of a first draft of the manifesto:

- 1) **Interviews with SURF's 13 Key Delivery Partners** on their priorities;
- 2) **Interaction with relevant partner organisations** based on their sector-specific knowledge and perspective;
- 3) **Initial comments and suggestions from SURF members and contacts** via event discussions, e-bulletin responses, submissions via a dedicated leaflet, webpage comments, phone calls and one-to-one meetings;
- 4) **Lessons from SURF's broader activities**, including previous research and reports, as well as relevant expert contributions to our online magazine and event presentations;
- 5) **Secondary research** analysing independent reports published in the last three years on topics within community regeneration in Scotland.

### **PHASE TWO: SECOND STAGE CONSULTATION, MID JUNE TO END JULY 2015**

This first draft was presented to SURF contacts in approximately 50 additional consultative organisations, including professional bodies, umbrella groups and specialist networks. They were invited to comment on the draft policy recommendations and suggest any specific amendments.

The SURF team considered and collated the comments gathered in this phase two for production of this second draft in early August.

### **PHASE THREE: SURF NETWORK CONSULTATION, AUGUST 2015**

SURF is circulating this second draft to its network for further comment and discussion. A copy is also provided directly to those attending the SURF Annual Conference, taking place in Edinburgh on Tuesday 25 August.

The conference will be dedicated to interactive debate on the main themes and electronic voting on emerging priorities. The discussions and decisions will inform the final draft of SURF's Manifesto. For event information, visit the following webpage:

[www.scotregen.co.uk/2015-surf-annual-conference/](http://www.scotregen.co.uk/2015-surf-annual-conference/)

### **PHASE FOUR: FINAL DRAFT, OCTOBER 2015**

In October, SURF will submit the final version of its Manifesto for Community Regeneration to the main political parties that are contesting the May 2016 Scottish Parliament election. At the same time, it will be circulated across SURF's membership and promoted via social and conventional media channels.

### **PHASE FIVE: SURF NETWORK HUSTINGS DEBATE, APRIL 2016**

Finally, the manifesto content will be the basis of open debate at a special SURF event featuring relevant political party representatives in Edinburgh in April 2016, ahead of the May election.

## APPENDIX 2: SPECIAL THANKS

SURF is particularly grateful to the following individuals for their input into the first phase of SURF's manifesto development process:

- Neil Baxter, Secretary & Treasurer, Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland
- Jackie Brock, Chief Executive, Children in Scotland
- George Dodds, Director of Delivery, NHS Health Scotland
- David Fletcher, Assistant Director of Regeneration, Wheatley Group
- Alistair Grimes, Independent Consultant
- Angus Hardie, Director, Scottish Community Alliance
- Annette Hastings, Professor of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow
- Wendy Hearty, Public Health Adviser, NHS Health Scotland
- Kristen Hubert, Empty Homes Coordinator, Shelter Scotland
- Louise Irving, Housing Manager, East Kilbride & District Housing Association
- Andy Jack, Community Regeneration Officer, Link Group
- Peter Kelly, Chief Executive, Poverty Alliance
- Robert Livingston, Chief Executive, Regional Screen Scotland
- Susan Love, Policy Manager, Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland
- Dr Matt Lowther, Principal Public Health Adviser, NHS Health Scotland
- John MacDonald, Director for Scotland, Community Transport Association
- Alex McGuire, Executive Director of Development & Regeneration, Wheatley Group
- Craig McLaren, Chief Executive, RTPI Scotland
- Jemma Neville, Director, Voluntary Arts Scotland
- Chris Oswald, Head of Policy & Communications, Equality & Human Rights Commission
- Phil Prentice, Chief Officer, Scotland's Towns Partnership
- David Stewart, Policy Lead, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
- Francis Stuart, Research & Policy Adviser, Oxfam Scotland
- Peter Taylor, Policy & Development Consultant, Community Development Alliance Scotland
- Sara Thiam, Regional Director for Scotland, Institute of Civil Engineers
- Joy Watson, Tenants Services Manager, Hillcrest Housing Association
- Judy Wilkinson, Secretary, Scottish Allotments & Gardens Society

---

## APPENDIX 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Al Wear, Dr H., 2012, *The Practice of Community Charrettes Design in the UK*, Dundee: Architecture + Design Scotland & the University of Dundee  
<http://www.ads.org.uk/urbanism/features/practice-of-community-charrettes-in-the-uk>
- Asenova, D., Bailey, S., & McCann, C., 2013, *Managing the Social Risks of Public Spending Cuts in Scotland*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/public-spending-cuts-scotland-full.pdf>
- Beinhocker, E., 2015, *Why Information Grows: The Evolution of Order, from Atoms to Economies* by César Hidalgo, London: Financial Times  
<http://on.ft.com/1f7svrp> (registration required)
- Cambridge Policy Consultants, 2014, *Review of the Allocation of Employability Resources in Scotland: Final Report*, Cambridge: Cambridge Policy Consultants  
[http://www.employabilityinscotland.com/media/473005/sef\\_-\\_employability\\_research\\_-\\_cambridge\\_policy\\_consultants\\_-\\_final\\_report\\_-\\_november\\_2014.pdf](http://www.employabilityinscotland.com/media/473005/sef_-_employability_research_-_cambridge_policy_consultants_-_final_report_-_november_2014.pdf)
- CoSLA Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy, 2014, *Final Report: Effective Democracy – Reconnecting with Communities*, Edinburgh: CoSLA  
<http://www.localdemocracy.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Final-Report-August-2014.pdf>
- Curl, A. & Kearns, A., 2015, *Financial Difficulty and Mental Wellbeing in an Age of Austerity: The Experience in Deprived Communities*, Cambridge: Journal of Social Policy and Society  
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=9397267&fileId=S1474746414000475>
- Dodds, S., 2011, *Government Urban Regeneration Practice: Review of Evidence*, Edinburgh: Scottish Government  
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/94257/0113238.pdf>
- Doran, M. & Rushton, E., 2014, *The Future of Neighbourhood Regeneration: Golem or Pygmalion?*, Coventry: Chartered Institute of Housing  
<http://www.cih.org/resources/PDF/Policy%20free%20download%20pdfs/Policy%20essay%2010%20-%20The%20future%20of%20neighbourhood%20regeneration%20-%20Golem%20or%20Pygmalion%20-%20September%202014.pdf>
- Easson, G., 2015, *Ingredients for a Creative City*, Glasgow: SURF  
<http://www.scotregen.co.uk/scotregen/ingredients-for-a-creative-city/>
- Egan, M. & Lawson, L., 2012, *Residents' Perspectives of Health and its Social Contexts: Qualitative findings from three of Glasgow's Transformational Regeneration Areas*, Glasgow: Glasgow Centre for Population Health  
[http://www.gowellonline.com/assets/0000/0516/Residents\\_perspectives\\_of\\_health\\_and\\_its\\_social\\_contexts.pdf](http://www.gowellonline.com/assets/0000/0516/Residents_perspectives_of_health_and_its_social_contexts.pdf)
- Hastings, A. & Matthews, P., 2011, *Sharp Elbows: Do the Middle Classes have Advantages in Public Service Provision and if so how?*, Glasgow: University of Glasgow  
<http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/57021/1/57021.pdf>
- Hearty, W., 2015, *Health Inequalities in Scotland: Eight Action Points*, Glasgow: SURF  
<http://www.scotregen.co.uk/scotregen/scottish-health-inequalities-eight-action-points/>
- The Improvement Service, 2013, *Local Incomes and Poverty in Scotland: Developing Local and Small Area Estimates and Exploring Patterns of Income Distribution, Poverty and Deprivation*, Edinburgh: The Improvement Service  
<http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/assets/local-incomes-poverty-scotland.pdf>
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2014, *Findings: Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in Scotland 2013*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/poverty-exclusion-scotland-summary.pdf>
- Lloyd, Prof G., 2014, *Time for a New Prism? Regeneration vs Degeneration*, Glasgow: SURF  
<http://www.scotregen.co.uk/scotregen/time-for-a-new-prism/>
- Local Government & Regeneration Committee of the Scottish Parliament (1), 2014, *1<sup>st</sup> Report 2014 (Session 4): Delivery of Regeneration in Scotland*, Edinburgh: Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body  
[http://www.scottishparliament.uk/S4\\_LocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee/Reports/lgr-14-01w.pdf](http://www.scottishparliament.uk/S4_LocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee/Reports/lgr-14-01w.pdf)
- Local Government & Regeneration Committee of the Scottish Parliament (2), 2014, *8th Report 2014 (Session 4): Flexibility and Autonomy in Local Government*, Edinburgh: Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body  
[http://www.scottishparliament.uk/S4\\_LocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee/Reports/lgr-14-08w.pdf](http://www.scottishparliament.uk/S4_LocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee/Reports/lgr-14-08w.pdf)
- McCartney, G. & Taulbut, M., 2013, *The Chance to Work in Scotland*, Edinburgh: Scottish Public Health Observatory/NHS Health Scotland  
[http://www.scotpho.org.uk/downloads/scotphoreports/scotpho130624\\_thechancetowork\\_report.pdf](http://www.scotpho.org.uk/downloads/scotphoreports/scotpho130624_thechancetowork_report.pdf)

- McCormick, J., 2014, *Comment – Time for Action: Will the Smith Commission Help Reduce Poverty?*, Edinburgh: Holyrood Magazine  
<http://www.holyrood.com/articles/opinion/time-action-will-smith-commission-help-reduce-poverty>
- McKendrick, Dr J.H., 2014, *A Red Road to Regeneration in Scotland: A Common Weal Approach to Urban Regeneration*, Glasgow: Common Weal  
<http://www.allofusfirst.org/tasks/render/file/?fileID=6D230233-C84B-71C7-E5E69047CBDB4325>
- Milne, A., 2014, *Delivering and Developing the SURF Alliance for Action 2013-15*, Glasgow: SURF  
<http://www.scotregen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/2013-15-SURF-Alliance-for-Action-Interim-Report.pdf>
- NHS Health Scotland (1), 2014, *Places and Communities that Support and Promote Good Health*, Edinburgh: NHS Health Scotland  
<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/24543-Places%20and%20communities%20that%20support%20and%20promote%20good%20health.pdf>
- NHS Health Scotland (2), 2014, *2015 UK Election Briefing: Actions to Reduce Health Inequalities*, Edinburgh: NHS Health Scotland  
<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/24543-2015%20UK%20election%20briefing%20-%20Actions%20to%20reduce%20health%20inequalities.pdf>
- Oberlander, J., 2014, *Big Data and Data Science in Scotland*, Edinburgh: Scottish Science Advisory Council  
[http://www.scottishscience.org.uk/sites/default/files/article-attachments/SSAC%20Big%20Data%20and%20Data%20Science%20in%20Scotland%20Paper%20March%202014\\_0.docx](http://www.scottishscience.org.uk/sites/default/files/article-attachments/SSAC%20Big%20Data%20and%20Data%20Science%20in%20Scotland%20Paper%20March%202014_0.docx)
- Pauling, T., 2014, *Sturgeon Calls for Powers over Minimum Wage to be Devolved*, Aberdeen: Press and Journal  
<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/politics/holyrood/397471/sturgeon-calls-for-powers-over-minimum-wage-to-be-devolved/>
- Robertson, J., 2014, *Consultation Response: Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill*, Edinburgh: Built Environment Forum Scotland  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0044/00445460.pdf>
- RTPI Scotland, 2015, *Linking People and Places: Spatial and Community Planning in Scotland*, Edinburgh: RTPI Scotland  
[http://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/1301398/linking\\_people\\_and\\_places\\_final\\_-\\_web\\_version\\_march15.docx](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/1301398/linking_people_and_places_final_-_web_version_march15.docx)
- Rural Policy Centre, 2014, *Rural Scotland in Focus: Research Briefing - Summary of Key Messages*, Edinburgh: Scotland's Rural College  
[http://www.sruc.ac.uk/downloads/file/1960/rural\\_scotland\\_in\\_focus\\_2014\\_summary\\_of\\_key\\_messages](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/downloads/file/1960/rural_scotland_in_focus_2014_summary_of_key_messages)
- Scottish Community Development Centre, 2013, *Written Response to the Delivery of Regeneration in Scotland Inquiry*, Glasgow: SCDC  
<http://www.scdc.org.uk/media/resources/policy-and-practice/SCDC%20response%20to%20Delivery%20of%20Regeneration%20in%20Scotland%20Inquiry%2015%20March%202013.pdf>
- Scottish Government, 2014, *A National Statistics Publication for Scotland: Poverty & Income Inequality in Scotland 2012/13*, Edinburgh: APS Group/Scot Govt  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00454875.pdf>
- Sivaev, D., 2013, *A Year On: An Update on the Economic Legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games*, London: Centre for Cities  
<http://www.centreforcities.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/13-10-10-A-year-on-An-update-on-the-economic-legacy-of-the-Olympic-and-Paralympic-Games.pdf>
- Sosu, E. & Ellis, S., 2014, *Closing the Attainment Gap in Scottish Education*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/education-attainment-scotland-full.pdf>
- Tewdwr-Jones, M., 2015, *Bridging Culture and Regeneration in Newcastle & Gateshead*, Glasgow: SURF  
<http://www.scotregen.co.uk/scotregen/bridging-culture-and-regeneration-in-newcastle/>
- Trebeck, S. & Stuart, F., 2014, *Policy Paper - Our Economy: Towards a New Prosperity*, Oxford: Oxfam GB  
<http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/our-economy-towards-a-new-prosperity-294239>
- Uniscape, 2014, *En-Route International Seminar: Landscape Observatories in Europe II*, Torino: University of Torino  
<http://www.uniscape.eu/allegati/LOE%20seminar%20final%20program.pdf>
- Warwick Commission, 2015, *Final Report – Enriching Britain: Culture, Creativity and Growth*, Coventry: University of Warwick  
[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/research/warwickcommission/futureculture/finalreport/warwick\\_commission\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/research/warwickcommission/futureculture/finalreport/warwick_commission_final_report.pdf)
- Waters, R., 2015, *Google and the Tech Industry Search for 'Smart City'*, London: Financial Times  
<http://on.ft.com/1d695Sh> (registration required)
- Williams, R., 2013, *Why Social Prescriptions are Just What the Doctor Ordered*, London: The Guardian  
<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2013/nov/05/social-prescribing-fishing-group-doctor-ordered>