



SURF
Scotland's Regeneration Forum

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice



‘Governance and Power’

A SURF Debate

Thursday 24th May, 2018
Grand Central Hotel, Gordon Street, Glasgow

This debate is part of a progressive programme of work by SURF to promote and inform the current national Review of Local Governance.

Background and Purpose

The Scottish Government and COSLA supported review seems to offer a 'once in a generation' opportunity to more successfully link community challenges and assets, to larger scale processes and resources. The importance of improving those connections is a longstanding priority for SURF. In the current and anticipated climate of rising demands and reducing resources, it has become more than a priority. It is essential for any serious and sustainable regeneration strategy.

Which decisions on what resources, for what purposes, are best made at what level, by who, based on what information and what mandate; are some of the essential interlocked questions that need to be addressed.

To help us consider the varied possibilities and challenges in this cross sector and multi-level debate, we will hear first from **Robin McAlpine**, as Director of the Common Weal, and then from **Cllr. Alison Evison**, President of COSLA who will draw on their respective considerable experience and differing perspectives. The rest of the event will be a platform for constructive and participative open debate.

SURF will subsequently produce and circulate a summary report of the main points of debate. They will then be further explored in SURF's ongoing engagement in the formal Review process, and in its broader interactions with national and local policy makers. The main points of debate will also inform the content of **SURF's 23.8.18 Annual Conference** in Edinburgh, which will be on the topic of '**Community Led Regeneration; Getting Real**'.

Please see the [SURF website](#) for more details on SURF's full range of work in supporting better regeneration policy and practice across Scotland.

Programme

- 13:00 Networking Lunch
- 14:00 Welcome and Introduction: **Jamie Ballantine**, Vice Chair, SURF
- 14:10 Opening Presentations: **Robin McAlpine**, Common Weal and **Cllr. Alison Evison**, COSLA. Chaired by **Andy Milne**, Chief Executive, SURF
- 15:00 Open Debate
- 16:00 Summing Up: **Robin McAlpine** and **Cllr. Alison Evison**
- 16:10 Closing Remarks and Thanks: **Jamie Ballantine** and **Andy Milne**, SURF
- 16:30 Close of Event

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