



1992-2017: 12 Key Regeneration Policy Mechanisms

About This Paper

SURF – Scotland's Regeneration Forum has been supporting more coordinated and cooperative community regeneration since 1992. To celebrate our 25th anniversary, we are arranging a special series of events to explore what we can learn from the evolution, successes and failures of regeneration policy and practice over the last quarter century.

For our 2017 Annual Conference, on Thursday 31 August in the CoSLA Centre, Edinburgh, we are inviting our cross-sector network of practitioners, policy makers and academics to consider the question: 'What has regeneration ever done for us?'

Part of the event programme involves small group discussions on the aims, costs and benefits of the main national regeneration policies that have been implemented in Scotland since 1992. This paper includes a list of the 12 policies and process we think are most significant, with associated links.

Purpose and Key Questions

For SURF, the goal of the exercise is to support inclusive and constructive debate; and to thereby access the full range of cross-sector views, expertise and experience in the SURF network. The key points of interest include:

- What are the perceived contrasts in impacts and value-for-money across the various policies?
- What has been lost and what has been gained in regeneration policy and practice in the last 25 years?
- What usefully transferable learning outcomes are offered by past experience of different models?
- What has changed in the wider context that regeneration efforts operate in?
- How can past experiences inform the enhancement of contemporary policy and practice?

Rationale for selected polices

In producing a shortlist of past and existing models for consideration (which follows in the next section), SURF selected a range of policies and processes that are most clearly targeted at the regeneration of deprived places – which is SURF’s main focus. In doing so, we have excluded more general, population-wide policies in fields such as health, education, employability, economic development and planning.

In producing this paper for our Annual Conference participants, we consulted with several SURF members who have a strong knowledge of the policy and practice context of the past 25 years. While there was not complete consensus on which policies should be included in our final list, we selected 12 that were cited commonly and of a notable scale.

The 12 Policies and Processes

The numbered references at the end of this paper provide links to further reading.

1. **New Life for Urban Scotland** (1988-1999) – a £485m partnership based urban regeneration programme directed at four peripheral housing estates in Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Paisley, administered via Scottish Office led local partnerships. They focused mainly on housing, employability and environmental improvements.ⁱ
2. **Social Inclusion Partnerships (SIPs)** (1999-2005) – SIPs were based on the New Life for Urban Scotland partnership model. As Scottish Executive funded cross-sector, multi-agency bodies, they focused on measures aimed at reducing social exclusion. This involved delivering or supporting local projects in education, employability, health, crime prevention and other areas. Around £370m was expended in 48 SIPs, most of which worked within defined geographic boundaries, while some had a thematic focus.^{ii iii}
3. **Wider Role Fund** (2000–2011) – This programme encouraged housing associations to undertake regeneration initiatives linked to, but outwith, their core services. For most of its lifespan, the fund was delivered by the Scottish Government’s former Communities Scotland

agency. It distributed £12m per annum on an open competitive basis, in the three years to 2011.^{iv v}

4. **Land Reform** (2003–present) – The regeneration of fragile communities was a key motivating factor behind The Land Reform (Scotland) Acts of 2003 and 2016, and key aspects of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act of 2015. These legislative measures, supported by related resources, have granted and supported a series of new rights for community groups to purchase, own and manage land and buildings. There is around 0.5 million hectares of Scottish land in community ownership, and the Scottish Government aspires for this to rise to one million acres by 2020.^{vi vii}
5. **Community Planning Partnerships** (CPPs) (2003-present) – Each of Scotland’s 32 Councils has legislative responsibility for convening and leading a regeneration focused CPP. In addition to the Council itself, and its service departments, these multi-agency partnerships include, NHS Boards, police and fire services, and enterprise agencies. Since 2007, the 32 CPPs have been obliged to agree locally designed Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) with the Scottish Government. SOAs set out plans to improve public services and respond to local social and economic challenges. In 2015, CPPs gained expanded powers through the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act. These powers include the delivery of Locality Plans, which aim to engage community participation as a basis for focused action on problems in disadvantaged places.^{viii ix x}
6. **Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) / Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF)** (2004-2011) – These Scottish Executive/Government funding programmes were designed to support local authorities in tackling deprivation challenges. The CRF was introduced in 2004 with an annual budget of £104m. In 2008, it was replaced by the FSF, which distributed £145m per annum until 2011.^{xi xii}
7. **Urban Regeneration Companies** (URCs) (2004-present) – URCs are public/private partnership bodies tasked with managing a strategic, long-term place-based regeneration programme. The Scottish Executive established six URCs in Scotland in 2004-07 with the stated intention of engaging both the private sector and local community organisations. URC budgets, structures and approaches varied widely; by way of example, Raploch URC in Stirling prioritised new housing, infrastructure, and enterprise support. In 2010/11 the Scottish Government invested £37m in URCs. From 2011 onwards the URCs have been wound up or greatly reduced in scale, with the exception of Clyde Gateway, which operates in east Glasgow and part of South Lanarkshire.^{xiii}
8. **Social Enterprise Support** (2008–present) – The Scottish Government provides a number of dedicated support budgets and programmes to encourage the growth of social enterprises, many of which work towards local regeneration objectives. Its current 2017-2020 Social

Enterprise Action Plan prioritises the stimulation of new social enterprises and the growth of established ones.^{xiv xv}

9. **Town Centre Regeneration Fund (TCRF) (2009-10) / Town Centre Action Plan (2013-present)** – The TCRF provided £60m for capital investment in projects that responded to social, economic, physical and environmental problems in town centres and high streets. 66 grant awards were made from the one-off fund in 2009/10, supporting projects in 89 town centres. The process of that investment significantly enhanced the debate on the future of Scotland’s town centres. In 2013, in response to a National Review of Town Centres by an External Advisory Group, the Scottish Government published a Town Centre Action Plan, which set out a range of measures to further support and stimulate town centre regeneration.^{xvi xvii xviii}
10. **People and Communities Fund (2012-present)** – The Scottish Government’s 2011 Regeneration Strategy placed a strong emphasis on supporting regeneration initiatives that are developed and managed by community organisations. The People and Communities Fund (PCF) is one of its key community led regeneration programmes. PCF provided £41m of grant awards in 2012-16 via an open competitive application process. A formal evaluation of the programme is underway.^{xix xx}
11. **Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (2012-present)** – The Scottish Government’s 2011 Regeneration Strategy introduced this £25m per annum funding programme. It aims to provide local authorities with an additional source of investment for capital projects, with social benefits that aim to improve disadvantaged places. 29 projects will be awarded funding in 2018/19 via an open competitive process.^{xxi xxii}
12. **City Region Deals (2015-present)** – A collaboration between UK, Scottish and local government, City Region Deals involve major long-term strategic plans (10 years or more) intended to provide significant and sustainable enhancements to the economy and infrastructure of Scotland’s cities, and of the regions within their respective spheres of influence. Four City Region Deals have been approved in Scotland, of which the biggest is Glasgow, with a £1.13bn 2015-2035 plan. A further two are at the planning stage, as is a similar Growth Deal model for Ayrshire.^{xxiii}

Additional Note

SURF is aware that the proposed debate, based on the above selected policies, has some limitations. These include the following points:

- All policies are applied during a particular window in time with unique contextual factors; so why would an approach that worked well in the mid-1990s do the same post-2008?

- There have been formal, in-depth evaluations of some of these policies, but not others, which hinders effective comparison.
- Comparisons are further challenged by the reality that the purposes of regeneration policy vary widely – some aim to support economic growth, others to enhance the physical environment or reduce a specific social problem.
- It is notoriously difficult to measure the impact of any regeneration initiative or strategy amid the ‘noise’ of other policies and the general functioning and failures of the economy.

Despite such inevitable challenges, we have a great deal of interest in, and useful outcomes from, our 25 years reflective event series so far. For example, a change of venue was required for the initial debate on ‘Does Regeneration Work?’, in Glasgow Women’s Library on 23 May, due to excess demand.

We are hopeful that our Annual Conference plans to focus on specific policy mechanisms will also prove to be a useful exercise regardless of the above challenges.

Finally, we know that not all Annual Conference participants will consider themselves to be experts on the background to, and outcomes from, all of the above policies. To get a more rounded view, we are keen to gather an inclusive variety of experienced and new perspectives. To that end, the conference discussions will be supported by facilitators and guest experts, who will be available to help by providing additional information and answering queries.

Sources and Further Reading

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^v The Scottish Government, 2011, *Equality Impact Assessment: Wider Role Fund for Registered Social Landlords*, Edinburgh: The Scottish Government. Available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Equality/18507/EQIASearch/WiderRoleRSL>

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