



Welcome to the to 2019 SURF Annual Conference on Place-Based Inclusive Growth

'Inclusive growth' is a broad concept that seems to tie together widely shared aspirations for addressing inequality, improving the economy, and regenerating Scotland's poorest places. But recent research carried out for the Scottish Government by IPPR Scotland finds that the term is vague and differently understood by key organisations and partners.

So, what do we actually mean by 'inclusive growth'? Does it really offer a new and effective approach for regenerating disadvantaged places and disconnected communities? Where is it already happening? What learning is transferable to different places and contexts?

At this year's SURF Annual Conference, leading politicians, academics and practitioners will help us explore the scope for making productive connections between challenges & assets, policy & resources, infrastructure & aspirations. Colleagues from SURF Award winning projects and progressive agencies will also be on hand to share their practice and experience via an 'Inclusive Places and Projects Marketplace'.

All of these regeneration partners, from across SURF's extensive cross-sector networks, are giving their time freely as part of our shared work towards a, greener, smarter, wealthier and fairer, safer and stronger, and healthier Scotland. As if that wasn't enough, we will even have award winning comedienne Janey Godley to have us all leaving with a smile.

Lastly, but just as importantly, thank you for your time and input today. The sharing of varied perspectives, experience, knowledge and ideas, has never been more important if we are to achieve genuinely inclusive growth.

Andy Milne – SURF Chief Executive 29.8.19.

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