



Welcome to the to 2020 SURF Annual Conference

Welcome to the 2020 SURF Annual Conference, on Land and Transport in a Climate Emergency - and now of course in a COVID crisis too.

This year's conference connects the elemental resource of land, with the essential connective role of transport. In doing so it will link the enhanced interest in place based regeneration with the means to build locally inclusive economies, into a national framework of access, exchange and enterprise. The crucial local, national and international context is the urgent Climate Emergency.

Given the global nature of that emergency, the first of the three sessions in this year's Covid adapted conference process on 27.8.20, features the internationally renowned Katherine Trebeck. Katherine, who is a long standing supporter of SURF's work, will make the opening presentation as part of the team that leads the [Wellbeing Economy Alliance](#).

The second session on 3.9.20, will focus on Land and Transport dynamics. It will feature expert insights from Shona Glen of the [Scottish Land Commission](#) and Heather Cowan of [Transport Scotland](#). Nick Skelton of [Stantec](#) will provide follow up comment on connecting policy aspirations with the practical complexities.

The Scottish Government supports and invests in SURF's work and welcomes the vital insights and learning that SURF brings from its membership and its own accumulated expertise over the last three decades of Scottish Regeneration policy and practice. Aileen Campbell MSP has been consistently engaged with SURF and its work in her key role as Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government. In the concluding SURF 2020 Conference session on 10.9.20, Ms Campbell will make a key note presentation on relevant Scottish Government policy and its further aspirations.

SURF's work is built on the knowledge, experience and priorities of its extensive, cross sector membership. While our progressive programme of events and processes, adapts in the evolving operating context for community regeneration, the overarching focus is always on tackling poverty and inequalities. What SURF learns is used to enhance practical cooperation and inform wider policy and investment considerations. The final session will also feature updated learning from [positive community based responses](#) to Covid- 19 challenges.

Consistent with SURF's inclusive approach, there will be opportunities throughout all three conference sessions for participants to raise questions, express views and advocate ideas. They will also be able to vote on some key areas of enquiry which are part of SURF's wider ongoing consultations towards its [2021 SURF Manifesto for Regeneration](#). That eventual set of constructive, practical proposals, will be widely promoted and debated with representatives of all of the main political parties in the run up to the May 2021 Scottish Parliament elections.

As Scotland's Regeneration Forum, SURF relies on the engagement and expertise of its 350 plus member organisations and contacts. SURF is especially grateful for the additional support that is provided by its key delivery partners, whose logos are listed below. Their commitment to active cross sector collaboration, enables SURF to operate as a truly independent and inclusive advocate of better community regeneration policy and practice.



Andy Milne – SURF Chief Executive 29.8.19

SURF Scotland's Regeneration Forum. Orkney Street Enterprise Centre, 18-20 Orkney Street, Glasgow G51 2BX
Tel: 0141 440 0122 / Email: info@surf.scot / Website: www.surf.scot

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Supported by: Creative Scotland, Glasgow City Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Historic Environment Scotland, Museums Galleries Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, the Scottish Government, Skills Development Scotland and Wheatley Group.