



**SURF**  
Scotland's Regeneration Forum

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice

## **Session 1 - A Sustainable Climate and Economy – 27<sup>th</sup> August**

### **Biographies**

**Kate Wimpres** | Director/ Chair | North Edinburgh Arts/ SURF



Kate is a third sector leader, who has worked for arts organisations and local authorities across Northern Ireland and Scotland since 1990.

Currently Kate is the Director of North Edinburgh Arts, which provides opportunities for individual and community development through contact with the professional arts. The organisation is active in the local regeneration process, advocating the role of the artist and creativity as positive forces within the dynamic of a community in flux.

Alongside Chairing Scotland's Regeneration Forum (SURF) she sits on the Board of Tinderbox Orchestra and North Edinburgh Childcare.

In August 2019 Kate was appointed as Convener of the first Citizens' Assembly of Scotland.

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**Andy Milne** | Chief Executive | SURF



SURF is Scotland's regeneration forum for practitioners, policy makers and academics. By sharing and channelling the experience, views and ideas and of its extensive membership of over 300 cross-sector organisations, SURF helps to inform better policy and practice for more successful and sustainable community regeneration throughout Scotland. SURF is primarily concerned with shared efforts to tackle the causes and degenerative impacts of poverty and inequalities.

Andy became Chief Executive of SURF in 2003. Since then, it has expanded its capacity, range and influence. In addition to an extensive programme of networking activities and information outputs, SURF also delivers an innovative Alliance for Action programme. It links local assets and initiatives with national policy and resources via a range of practical, place based, cross sector, community regeneration collaborations.

Prior to his SURF role, Andy spent 10 years as co-ordinator of the Wester Hailes Representative Council; frequently cited as a model of genuinely community led innovation, representation and

service delivery. He found his way into independent community development work via studying architecture and an interest in politics.

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**Christopher Murray** | Research & Administration Assistant | SURF – Scotland's Regeneration Forum



Christopher's role is to carry out research and other work in support of SURF's day-to-day operations and events. At present, he is working on SURF's 2021 Manifesto for Community Regeneration.

Christopher has worked for SURF since 2017, prior to this he has worked for Aberdeen City Council and Barrhead Housing Association. He has an Undergraduate Degree in History from the University of Aberdeen, and a Masters Degree in Public and Urban Policy from the University of Glasgow.

Outside of SURF he is a volunteer with the asylum and homelessness charity Positive Action in Housing.

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**Dr Katherine Trebeck** | Advocacy and Influencing Lead | Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll Scotland)



Dr Katherine Trebeck is Advocacy and Influencing Lead at the Wellbeing Economy Alliance and co-founder of WEAll Scotland.

She is a political economist with over eight years' experience with Oxfam GB (including developing the Humankind Index). She sits on a range of advisory boards, holds several academic affiliations and is a Distinguished Fellow of the Schumacher Institute.

Katherine is a member of the Scottish Government's Sustainable Renewal Advisory Group and Zero Waste Scotland's Demystifying Decoupling Advisory Group.

Katherine instigated the Wellbeing Economy Governments partnership and her book *The Economics of Arrival* (with Jeremy Williams: Policy Press) was published in 2019.

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Emma is the Information, Communications and Events Officer at SURF. Having worked at SURF since 2012 her role includes; overseeing membership and network communications, SURF event management – including the Annual Conference and SURF Awards Dinner, the management and delivery of the annual SURF Awards scheme and the gathering and distribution of information from the Alliance for Action programme and SURF’s wider activities. She was also involved in the evaluation of the Resilient Scotland funding model.

She has an Honours degree in Marketing and Enterprise and has been working in marketing and communications for 16 years, and has been working in UK wide regeneration for 12 years, particularly around place-based regeneration, social enterprise, community development and social value assessment.

Emma has a background in creativity and the arts having trained in Acting. She previously worked in retail window dressing and visual displays. She has worked with various community groups and arts projects.

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## **Session 2 - Land and Transport in a Climate Emergency – 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

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**Derek Rankine** | Policy & Participation Manager | SURF – Scotland’s Regeneration Forum



The purpose of Derek’s role is to help SURF take an informed and inclusive approach towards meeting its central aim: improving the lives of people in Scotland’s poorest communities by supporting a coordinated approach to regeneration policy and practice.

The role involves facilitating participative engagement, undertaking research and analysis, presenting information effectively and influencing policy. He represents SURF member interests in policy areas such as community empowerment, economic development, culture and heritage, land reform, and town centre regeneration. He also manages place-based initiatives in Argyll & Bute and Dumfries & Galloway, which form part of SURF’s Alliance for Action programme.

Derek has worked for SURF since graduating from the University of Glasgow with an MA in politics in 2005. He is also a Trustee of Regional Screen Scotland, the development agency for independent cinemas, film clubs and film festivals in Scotland.

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**Shona Glenn** | Head of Policy and Research | Scottish Land Commission



Shona is an economist with more than 15 years’ experience in economic development. She is currently Head of Policy and Research at the Scottish Land Commission having previously worked in both the private sector and local government.

Passionate about the need to build a wellbeing economy by putting land back where it belongs, at the heart of our economic model.

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**Heather Cowan** | Head of Transport Strategy, Climate Change and Integration | Transport Scotland



After Edinburgh University, Heather joined London Underground Limited on a graduate programme laterally working in operational management.

She moved back to Scotland to join Transport Scotland in its rail directorate and her roles included managing ScotRail Franchise on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

She has embraced the opportunities within Scottish Government to move roles and has since worked in Public Health in Alcohol Policy and Delivery, and on a Review of Public Health.

Heather returned to Transport Scotland to take forward a collaborative review which culminated in the recently published National Transport Strategy [www.transport.gov.scot/NTS2](http://www.transport.gov.scot/NTS2). Heather is currently Head of Transport Strategy, Climate Change and Integration for Transport Scotland.

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**Nick Skelton** | Director – Strategic Planning and Economics | Stantec



Nick Skelton is Director, Strategic Planning & Economics with Stantec. He has responsibility for the firm's planning and economics service in Scotland, and development of its economics offer across the UK. He has over 30 years' experience across the private and public sectors in all parts of the UK, the Republic of Ireland, Australia and Hong Kong.

He has acknowledged expertise in economic and strategy development, planning and economic analysis, regeneration planning, and infrastructure development.

His work spans area development strategies, major development projects, road, rail and canal infrastructure improvements, national and international visitor attractions, as well as renewable and other energy projects. He lectures in socioeconomic impact analysis and its EIA role and has also presented to Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment seminars. He has also provided expert witness evidence to Planning Inquiries, Hearings and other forums in the UK and overseas.

In the last 2-3 years, Nick has applied his case making and business case development experience on City Deal, TIF and other work in Glasgow, Renfrewshire, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, Argyll & Bute, Perth & Kinross and elsewhere. He is currently developing the Business Case for a Growth Deal proposition for the Falkirk area. Vacant & derelict land and how it can be used effectively is a recurring theme across much of his project work. PBA is currently working with the Scottish Land Commission, helping development of a framework to establish the effects of vacant and derelict land on local communities and Nick is directing this analysis.

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**Emma Scott** | Information, Communications and Events Officer | SURF



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## **Session 3 - Post Covid lessons for building back better – 10th September**

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**Dr Elaine Cooper** | Learning and Development | SURF – Scotland's Regeneration Forum



Elaine's overall responsibility is to identify, collect and analyse learning from across SURF's work streams to share throughout SURF's network to inform policy and funding decisions.

Elaine has been with SURF since 2013, initially working as a consultant for SURF's Alliance for Action, before joining SURF on staff in 2015. She is currently reviewing the Alliance programme, editor of the re-launched SURF Journal and takes the lead for SURF's Creative and Heritage Alliance and the expanded People and Sector Connector Service.

Her previous life as a journalist, academic and consultant honed the research and communication skills she now uses to support regeneration and inequalities programmes. Her abiding interest is in health and wellbeing and in policy which tries to address inequalities.

Until 2018 Elaine enjoyed four years of unusual and educational access to the workings of a variety of institutions, including prisons and hospitals, as one of NHS Scotland's independent assessors for their Healthy Working Lives awards programme. Before SURF, she worked across the country evaluating NHS, local authority and voluntary programmes in the UK's poorest communities. Research for her doctorate (The Role of Values in the Policy Process, 2011) on the subject of health and nutritional inequalities included more than 150 interviews with Scottish children, their families and education workers.

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### **Aileen Campbell MSP** | Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government | Scottish Government



Aileen Campbell was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government in June 2018. Her responsibilities include; social justice, tackling inequalities, community empowerment, the third sector and democratic renewal.

Aileen grew up on her parents' tenant farm and attended Collace primary school and Perth Academy before graduating with an MA joint honours degree in Politics with Economic and Social History at the University of Glasgow.

She started a career in publishing by working as an editor for Keystone, a construction magazine, in 2003 and was an editorial assistant on the pro-independence newspaper, the Scottish Standard. Before her election to parliament, Aileen also worked for Nicola Sturgeon in 2005 and Shona Robison in 2006 as a Parliamentary Assistant.

She was first elected to the Scottish Parliament in May 2007 as a list member for the South of Scotland. She was re-elected as the MSP for Clydesdale in May 2011 and appointed as Minister for Children and Young People. Aileen Campbell was appointed Minister for Public Health and Sport in May 2016.

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