Land Reform: community ownership and beyond

Land Reform Unit, Scottish Government
Why community ownership?

Community groups use ownership of assets for a wide range of things. So far in this financial year alone, we’ve had:

- Community growing space
- Woodland
- Community hub
- Leisure space
- Workshop and industrial units
- Elderly care centre
- Social housing
- Shops
- Post office
- Orchard

Dave Thomson, Head of Community Land Team
Bonnymuir Green Community Trust

Dave Thomson, Head of Community Land Team
What are the routes to community ownership?

There are a number of routes open to community groups to get ownership of assets:

• Negotiated sale
• Community Right to Buy (Part 2)
• Community Right to Buy Abandoned, Neglected or Detrimental Land (Part 3A)
• Asset Transfer

There are more options on the way:

• Community Right to Buy Land to Further Sustainable Development (Part 5)
• Compulsory Sale Orders

Dave Thomson, Head of Community Land Team
The Scottish Government has committed £10m to the Scottish Land Fund each year to help with community buyouts, no matter which route is taken.

Community groups from across Scotland have accessed this fund.

Dave Thomson, Head of Community Land Team
Roadshows

• 2 April – Galashiels: Scottish Borders Campus
• 21 May – Glasgow: The Pyramid at Anderston
• 3 September – Perth: AK Bell Library
• 15 October – Inverness: Inverness College UHI

Attendance at these can be booked through Eventbrite. Just head to Eventbrite.co.uk and search for ‘community right to buy’.

Dave Thomson, Head of Community Land Team
How do I find out more?

- Our own stand here at The Gathering (Stand 33)
- Community Land Scotland: https://www.communitylandscotland.org.uk
- Community Ownership Support Services: https://dtascommunityownership.org.uk
- National Lottery Community Fund: www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/scottish-land-fund
- Highlands & Islands Enterprise: www.hie.co.uk

Dave Thomson, Head of Community Land Team
Our land is vital to our wellbeing, prosperity and sense of national identity. It is important that we look after our land and continue to improve its productivity in terms of economic, social and environmental terms. Land reform, in both urban and rural contexts, is already making an important contribution to making Scotland a more successful country for the benefit of all.

Key features
All of Scotland’s land
Social justice and human rights
Cross cutting

Key issues
Diversity of ownership
Scale and concentration
Fiscal and tax arrangements
Inclusive and sustainable development
Engaging and empowering communities

Pauline Davidson, Head of Land Reform Policy & Legislation Team
The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 provides for:
- A Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement
- The Scottish Land Commission, to drive forward and advise Ministers on future reform
- A Register of Controlling Interests in land
- Guidance on engaging communities in decisions about land
- Further Community Rights to Buy

Policy development
- Maintaining momentum
- Further reform
- Scottish Land Commission
Widespread support during the consultation on the Bill.
Applies to everyone
Foundation for all land decisions and for further land reform
First in the world
Vision
A Scotland with a strong and dynamic relationship between its land and people, where all land contributes to a modern and successful country, and where rights and responsibilities in relation to land are fully recognised and fulfilled.

Six principles
• Respect relevant human rights in relation to land
• More diverse pattern of land ownership and tenure
• More local communities should have the opportunity to own, lease or use buildings and land
• High standards of land ownership, management and use
• Improved transparency of information about the ownership, use and management of land
• Greater collaboration and community engagement

Pauline Davidson, Head of Land Reform Policy & Legislation Team
What it does

Provides the framework for all land matters
Articulates and embeds human rights in relation to land
Scottish Ministers must promote its principles
• Principle 6 - Guidance on engaging communities
• Informs other frameworks eg National Planning Framework
Land Commission must have regard to it
• Developing protocols
Ongoing programme of engagement and promotion
Evaluation and review

Pauline Davidson, Head of Land Reform Policy & Legislation Team
Increasing transparency

Register of Controlling Interests in Land
Will enable engagement with people making decisions about land
By looking behind opaque land ownership structures

Scope
- unincorporated associations
- partnerships
- trusts
- overseas entities
- other contractual arrangements

Timescale
- secondary legislation
- operational 2021

Pauline Davidson, Head of Land Reform Policy & Legislation Team
Further reform

Policy development and engagement on key issues
- Embedding human rights
- Engaging and empowering communities
- Diversity of ownership especially increasing community ownership
- Scale and concentration of ownership
- Inclusive and sustainable development
- Fiscal and tax incentives

- Scottish Land Commission – programme of research and recommendations to Ministers for further reform
- Future legislative changes

Pauline Davidson, Head of Land Reform Policy & Legislation Team
Questions and discussion

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