Strategy and Policy Issues

1. How can the linkage between the various strategies and policies related to regeneration be improved?
   Single section within Scottish Govt website that identifies (and provides links to) all relevant strategies – as someone who regularly uses various websites to access info (including documents) it is always difficult to find and time consuming to get to the list of current strategy/policy. Consistent use of Govt Ec Strat as the starting point for other strategy and policy – how do individual documents support the key aims/objectives of GES?

2. Can physical, social and economic regeneration really be separate entities? The Committee would find it useful to hear about projects distinctly focussed on one or more aspects, and the direct and indirect outcomes of such activity. No, I think they are closely interlinked and project/programme activity is of greatest (and most sustainable) value when a combined approach is adopted for project development and delivery.

3. Are we achieving the best value from investment in this area? If not, how could funding achieve the maximum impact? Could the funding available be used in different ways to support regeneration?

   We need to continue to focus on major opportunities and priorities, but have a plan of action to address cumulative small declines in places to address issues before they become major constraints. The use of specialist vehicles and organisations through a ‘whole town’ or ‘whole place’ approach is, in my opinion, often the best value for delivery.

Partnership Working

4. What delivery mechanisms, co-ordination of, and information on the funding that supports regeneration are required, to facilitate access by all sections of the community?
   Again, easy to access info (via Govt and other websites) to the sources of funding that are available for regeneration.
5. Should funding be focussed on start up or running costs? What is the correct balance between revenue and capital funding? Please indicate reasons for your views

Can’t continue to fund start-up costs without addressing ‘whole life’ costs or we risk wasting people’s time/effort, and taxpayers money. We need to provide sustainable funding for projects/programmes over a realistic period against which outcomes and impacts can be secured. Constant short-term approaches turn people off. Need both capital and revenue – allocation of funding should be based on a sensible business plan that delivers against strategy and policy targets.

6. How can it be ensured that regeneration projects are sustainable in the long term?

They need to be funded for an appropriate length of time, they need to be based on sensible business plans, they need sufficient people to deliver and partnerships with other stakeholders. Need to get the buy-in from private sector, but be clear about what is regeneration and what is simply development – developers building houses (even on a brownfield site) is not regeneration.

**Practical Issues**

7. What actions could the Scottish Governments forthcoming community capacity building programme include to best support communities to „do regeneration” themselves?

Communities need lots of hand holding and support if they are to do regeneration themselves – it takes years to build up expertise, confidence and support. Can’t expect community groups to take on this responsibility without substantial support. Need to be careful that any community focused effort does not simply create greater disadvantage – it is those places that have well-educated and affluent residents that are best placed to take up community-led regeneration, but these are the places that need it least.

8. What role should CPPs play in supporting the community in regenerating their communities?

No sure about CPPs at all – don’t really see any major impact, they don’t lead much and seem to be talking shops that, at best, co-ordinate local activity.

9. How can CPPs best empower local communities to deliver regeneration? Please provide any examples of best practice or limitations experienced that you think the Committee would find useful in its scrutiny.

They could provide capacity building and resource support for local people.

10. How can the outcomes of regeneration truly be captured and measured? What are the barriers to capturing outcomes and how should the success of regeneration investment be determined?

We can measure some stuff, but don’t get hung up on it as the real change will be in people’s perceptions and behaviours. Should be using measurement in a more
innovative and linked way – recent discussions from RTPI about using GES outcomes in measuring planning outcomes/impacts. What are the priority indicators for regeneration in Scotland – do they come from the GES or from the National Performance Framework / Single Outcome Agreement – it needs clarity. There needs to be an opportunity for local variation but also a coherent national approach that links people, place and economy.

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