

Rural Society in Transition

Planning for 21st Century Rural Potentials & Challenges
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Finding a Place for Community Planning in Ireland?

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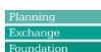
Presentation

1. To outline the evolution of community planning in Scotland in relation to devising shared outcomes
2. To present research findings which emphasise well-being as a shared policy goal
3. To imagine what roles might be required in re-imagining rural society in Ireland



Project objectives

1. To identify and explain the **legislative, policy and organisational arrangements** for community-based planning across the devolved UK.
2. To identify **how joint-working relations are designed, organised and managed**.
3. To investigate issues of **community engagement**.
4. To examine the **relationship between community planning and land use planning**.



Exploring New Models of Community-based Planning in the Devolved UK

(with Professor Simon Pemberton; Keele University).

Funded by the Planning Exchange Foundation

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
Central Government	Communities and Local Government (x2)	Scottish Government Public Bodies & Public Service Reform Division	Welsh Government Local Government Division	Government of Northern Ireland Department of the Environment
Local government associations across the UK	Local Government Association	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities	Welsh Local Government Association	Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Community body (national level)	Locality Planning Advisory Service	PAS (formerly Planning Aid for Scotland)	-	Community Places
Strategic partner	Independent Steering Group member	National Health Service	National Health Service	-
Local authority	Strategic level	Strategic level	Strategic level x 3	Strategic level (x 2)
Local authority	Delivery level (neighbourhood planning)	Community level (regeneration)	Delivery level (sustainability)	Land use planning

Community planning: A (very) quick overview

1. Rationalisation of services – “integrated service delivery”
2. High quality public services & continuous improvement as part of a long-term process
3. Joint-working (co-production) – involving a range of actors, organisations, activities, values, cultures & behaviours
4. Strong, cooperative leadership & citizen-centricity
5. An emphasis on proactively engaging communities
6. A focus on well-being in environmental, social & economic aspects
7. Partnership, prevention, people, performance & **prioritisation**
8. Not just new actors – and new roles – but a rescaling of organisations, relations & an ethos of shared societal goals
9. New performance regimes



Put simply

It is about a group of people that come together to look at unblocking issues and talking about the really difficult stuff that is happening and which needs a group of people to work at a strategic level. There is a clear remit of breaking down barriers, but also working together.

Strategic Local Service Board representative – Wales.

It is the kind of high-level, strategic collaboration that a thoughtful taxpayer would expect to happen anyway.

(SURF, 2016)

Strengthening of statutory basis for community planning

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

*It gives a defined purpose for what community planning should achieve for the first time, which is very much about **improving local outcomes and tackling inequality**.
It places **a range of duties on a number of partners** - not just the local authority, but also the health board, integrated joint board, etc., - to support community planning.
And the **involvement of communities** is **right at the heart** of it.*

Local authority strategic officer - Scotland

... a more intricate, sophisticated understanding of local circumstances and a more intense response from partners

Scottish Government representative

Mutual learning & innovation

- Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 sets out how the eleven councils, as lead partners, will '*work with statutory bodies and their communities to develop and implement **a shared vision for promoting the well-being** of an area, community cohesion and improving the quality of life of its citizens.*'

... the only show in town....

Northern Ireland representative

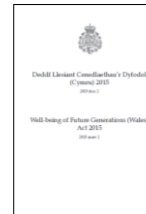
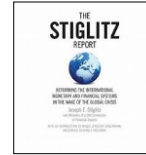
A transition to well-being

‘...the time is ripe for our measurement system to shift emphasis **from measuring economic production to measuring people’s well-being**. And measures of well-being should be put in a context of **sustainability**’

Scotland’s National Performance Framework is ‘an international leader in wellbeing measurement’

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

2009



New mind sets? Well-being & Joint working

- Move away from silo / sectoral services to more joined up working with an emphasis on the outcomes for **individuals, families and communities**
- Emphasis on early intervention / **prevention** and person-centred approaches
- Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – strengthens the status of the National Performance Framework highlighting identifying **local** outcomes for well-being that meet **national** priorities

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

THE GOVERNMENT'S PURPOSE
To focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth

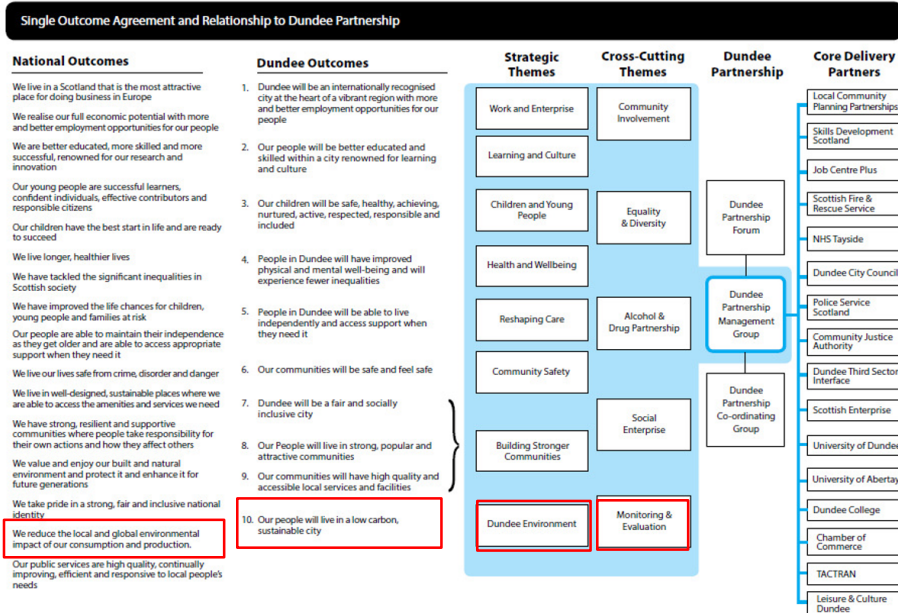
HIGH LEVEL TARGETS RELATING TO THE PURPOSE
Growth Productivity Employment Innovation Security Cohesion Sustainability

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

WEALTHIER & FAIRER	SMARTER	HEALTHIER	GREENER
We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe			
We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people			
We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation			
Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens			
Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed			
We live longer, healthier lives			
We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society			
We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk			
We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger			
We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need			
We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others			
We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations			
We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity			
We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production			
Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it			
Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs			

HOW ARE WE DOING?
Visit www.scotlandperforms.com to track latest progress

December 2011



Relevance to rural communities?

Community Planning Partnerships are required to identify better outcomes for specific communities, reducing the gap in outcomes between the most & least deprived groups & improving long term sustainability of public service provision

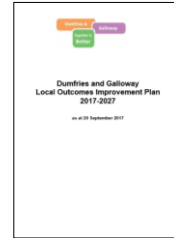
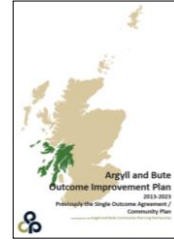
The [local] articulation of a shared overarching purpose requires the strategic alignment of different scalar actors – often with different priorities /statutory responsibilities

Understanding place:

- What are local people's concerns, needs, priorities?
- How can we re-solve issues?
- How will we know if we've made a difference?

Rural challenges?

- **Geography:** A highly rural area with many small communities (often separated by water)
- **Demographics:** Ageing, population decline, population density
- **Inequalities:** Health, income, economic deprivation – access to services (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation)
- **Mapping exercises:** Digital connectivity, fuel poverty, isolation, access to health services, recreation, affordable housing, size of schools, transport (including road safety)



"Major disadvantages: terrible transport links by road and rail... "Poor bus service, no major shops..." where I live, the buses are every two hours' (p.17)

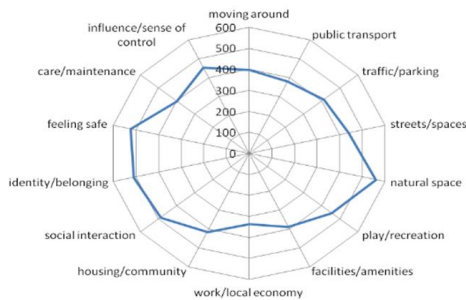
Rural challenges?

The biggest concerns that people in Girvan (South Ayrshire) relate to:

- work and the local economy
- public transport

Other issues include:

- Child poverty
- Less good outcomes for young carers
- Prevalence of dementia
- Loneliness & social isolation



Place Standard Feedback Tool
Collated Diagram



Focus for improvement

Strategic Delivery Partnerships

1. Integrated children's services
2. Community safety
3. Health & wellbeing
4. Economy, employment & sustainability

Iterative process

Strategic improvement themes

1. Closing the poverty-related outcomes gap for children & young people
2. Supporting older people to live in good health



Implications for reimagining rural society in Ireland?

1. Shifts attention away from a relatively narrow focus on individual service providers' inputs & outputs towards making a qualitative difference in individuals', families' and communities' lives – well-being outcomes
 - Hierarchical – does central government want to take the lead?**
 - Is an outcomes / well-being / reducing inequalities focus appropriate?**
2. Demands iterative & collaborative processes involving blended data collection, analysis & action across sectors
 - To what extent might inputs, outputs and processes be shared?**
 - Is a cross-sectoral, cooperative working practice & culture in place?**
3. Ensures strong community engagement
 - Are there appropriate tools, spaces & mind sets for genuine listening?**
 - What mechanisms exist for prioritising the use of scarce resources?**

A place for community planning in Ireland: Your role?

Clarity of roles: local government (councillors/officers); partner organisations; voluntary sector; community groups; individual citizens...

Alternative roles - planning for, resourcing & providing / securing the provision of services may involve new service providers, new services, new forms of service

Leadership roles – championing integration & delivery

Organisational roles – how best to organise roles and responsibilities - both in terms of organisational capacity but also spatially

Research & analysis roles – open source; robust

Evaluation roles - metrics and methods?

Initiating role?

Full Report

Pemberton, S. and Peel, D. (2016) *Exploring New Models of Community-based Planning in the Devolved UK*, Glasgow: Planning Exchange Foundation.

Available at: www.planningexchange.org.uk