

# Cross-Party Group on Rural Policy

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, 18:00-19:30 (Hybrid)

“Community Benefit, Tax, and Land Value Capture across renewable energy, natural capital and other globalised rural industries”

## Minutes (approved)

### Present

#### MSPs

Ariane Burgess MSP  
Emma Harper MSP  
Edward Mountain MSP

#### Speakers

Kathie Pollard  
Rob Davidson  
Neil MacKinnon

Scottish Land Commission  
South of Scotland Enterprise  
Galson Estate Trust (West Side Estates Group, Isle of Lewis)

#### Non-MSP Attendees

A	Khan
Aidan	McGlashan
Ailsa	Raeburn
Aimee	Spence
Alexa	Green

James	MacKessack-	Mike	Danson
	Leitch	Mike	Wood
Janet	Fisher	Mixar	Krayem
Jayne	Glass	Naomi	Beingessner
Jim	Hume	Nick	Rogerson
Jo	Vergunst	Nick	Rogerson
Jo	Rodgers	Patricia	Clark
Johanna	Norris	Paul	Cowie
John	Cairns	Rachel	Freeman
Josh	Doble	Reeni	Kennedy-Boyle
Kate	Anderson	Rob	Davidson
Kate	Lamont	Robert	Souter
Kenneth	Harvey	Rosie	Everett
Kirsty	Mcluckie	Samurath	Jabir
Liam	Sinclair-	Sandra	Holmes
	Thompson	Sarah	Marshall
lindsay	wood	Sarah	Skerratt
Lindsay	Dougan	Sarah	Sidgwick
Lorna	Dawson	Stan	Green
Lorna	Dawson	Stephen	Kelly
Lucy	Jenner	Sterre	Vester
Lucy	Rothenberg	Sue	Wyllie
Marc	Metzger	Theona	Morrison
Marcus	Craigie	Tim	Roads
Margaret	McSporran	Vanessa	Halhead
Mark	Shucksmith	Winnie	Xiao
Mary	MacLeod Rivett		

## Agenda item 1

### **Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Emma Harper MSP (chair and co-convener) welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted the MSPs in attendance and that no apologies were received from any MSPs.

It was confirmed that all participants had been emailed the agenda and the list of attendees and that the Rural Policy Centre (RPC) as Secretariat has a note of all apologies received and would list them in the meeting minutes as usual.

It was noted that speakers' presentations (slides and a video recording) would be uploaded to the CPG webpage on the RPC website along with the unapproved minutes. It was confirmed that the meeting would be recorded (no objections to this were received).

Group members were encouraged to send the RPC an email if amendments were required in the minutes. The minutes will be formally approved at the next meeting in December and an approved version uploaded to the website thereafter. It was noted that the Secretariat will include any action points, links etc. in the meeting minutes.

Participants were reminded to mute their microphones unless speaking and to raise

- Three short presentations were planned, followed by questions.
- The presentations provide perspectives from different organisations across Scotland.
- **Kathie Pollard**, Scottish Land Commission (SLC)
  - o Kathie provided an overview of the Commission's work on this topic, which includes guidance on community benefits from land, tax and land value capture.
  - o She highlighted the distinction between voluntary and required community benefits











**Key issues raised in the discussion included:**

- ***Engaging communities in the process and shared ownership models.***  
Jim Hume asked how you reach communities who are not engaged in the community benefit process? This was followed by questions from Ariane Burgess MSP as to why West Side Estates Group did not pursue shared



Kathie Pollard responded on the tax relief question, highlighting the potential of hypothecating tax to create and retain wealth locally. Reliefs and exemptions are included in their advice to Government and could factor into a community wealth fund at the local level, reemphasising the role of Local Place Plans

which will be shared on the Rural Policy Centre website alongside the meeting minutes.

- ***Costs of decommissioning***

Lorna Dawson asked about decommissioning costs and the risk this could pose to communities in the shared ownership model. Rob Davidson will provide a response directly on this point.