

Response ID ANON-WPFF-8JF4-F

Submitted to Community wealth building consultation
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General advancement of the Community Wealth Building approach

Q1. a) We are proposing a duty to advance Community Wealth Building, which form do you think this duty should take:

Option C

Please provide a reason for your answer:

All public bodies should be covered by the CWB duty, which requires a focus on generating local benefits. This includes Scottish Government, local authorities and Forestry and Land Scotland. A CWB Impact Assessment, like the Island Communities Impact Assessment, for policies, strategies and decisions would support CWB. A complaints procedure could allow affected communities to contest and review a policy or decision against CWB criteria under the four pillars.

The Crofting Commission should also be covered by the proposals. Crofting is a central element of many rural communities in the Scottish Highlands and Islands. There are over 20,000 crofts registered with the Crofting Commission and most are situated in coastal and island-areas of the Western Isles, Shetland, Orkney, Highland, and Argyll & Bute. Bringing the Crofting Commission within the Community Wealth Framework could highlight the wider positive and negative impacts on crofting communities of activities by the Crofting Commission, or lack thereof, to develop and promote crofting and to regulate crofts including ensuring that crofts are cultivated and maintained. Duties and guidance on CWB should, however, not be limited to public bodies but should involve large private businesses including large-scale landowners, akin to The Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement.

Local communities should be involved at every step of the way. Ultimately, CWB needs to be done by communities for communities. Public bodies and large private businesses should play an enabling role, but decision-making power should be devolved as much as possible. Where established, embedded, and well-regarded community-based organisations exist – including community trusts and grazing committees – they should be empowered to deliver CWB at local levels.

Q1. b) One way Scottish Government could support the implementation of the proposed Community Wealth Building duty is to provide statutory or non-statutory guidance. Would this be helpful to partners in meeting the proposed duty?

Yes

Please provide a reason for your answer.:

It would be helpful if guidance makes clear how the CWB legislation and proposed duties relate to other areas of legal action and reform, including the Good Food Nation Act, land reform, crofting reform and agricultural reform.

Q2. a) Are there other non-legislative measures that you believe are required to accelerate the implementation of the Community Wealth Building approach in Scotland?

Yes

Please provide a reason for your answer.:

Non-statutory or statutory guidance should make it clear to duty-bearers how the CWB duties relate to other areas of Scottish law and policy, including but not limited to the Good Food Nation Bill (and the duty on public bodies to produce Good Food Nation Plan), land reform, crofting reform and agricultural reform. There is an opportunity to pull things together under a CWB approach and ensure that other wide-reaching reforms also contribute to the CWB pillars, but significant efforts need to be made to ensure that CWB does not become a stand-alone framework which would greatly limit its transformative potential and risks conflict or duplication.

It needs to be clearer how rural development as an outcome under the Agriculture Bill relates to the CWB pillars. CWB principles should be mainstreamed into the agricultural reform to ensure that payments deliver on CWB and that crofting, which generates significant social, and community public goods incl. local employment, local food, traditional cooperative work, peer-to-peer learning, cultural heritage, and languages, is recognised and adequately supported under a new Agriculture Act.

Q2. b) Are there specific actions required to advance delivery of the items contained within the Shared Policy Programme outlined on page 11?

Yes

Please provide a reason for your answer.:

Currently, public procurement systems are often inaccessible to small-scale crofting businesses (restricted suppliers, unclear and/or admin heavy due diligence requirements, expensive). The demands of procurement systems – in terms of the quantity and types of foods – often do not match with the seasonal and small supplies that are offered by diverse and local crofting businesses, and the lumping together of food production with food processing and transport may put unrealistic burdens on small producers. Yet, procurement, if done right, offers significant opportunities to generate a steady and reliable demand for crofting produce, and increase access to locally grown and reared food for vulnerable groups such as children, people with poor health and the elderly. More research at case study level should be done to understand opportunities and barriers, including success stories such as the

Raasay Primary School but also cases where local sourcing is lacking. Account should be taken of views on this topic that were put forward in response to Scottish Government's consultation on a Local Food Strategy (2021).

Additionally, funding for successful agri-food education projects should be made available to build connections between schools and local food producers. They should also last for multiple years or should be continuous, to avoid loss of investments (finances, knowledge, and time). This includes funding for our very successful Crofting Connections project: "a programme of activities and events that inspired over 1,000 young people aged 5-16 living in remote rural communities throughout the Highlands & Islands about crofting past, present and future".

Spending pillar

Q3. Are there ways in which the law could be changed to advance the spending pillar of Community Wealth Building?

Yes

Please provide a reason for your answer. :

Introduce a target of 30% for public procurement in relation to sourcing from local food producers as a strong incentive to tackle existing barriers to local sourcing.

A legal requirement should be introduced to ensure that decisions on grant awards, as a form of public spending, are checked against the duty to support CWB in the local area. Recipients of large sums of public grant money should be obliged to show how the project will deliver on CWB, through active community engagement.

Workforce pillar

Q4. Employment law is reserved to the UK Parliament. Are there other devolved areas where the law could be changed to advance the workforce pillar of Community Wealth Building?

Not Answered

Please provide a reason for your answer. :

Land and property pillar

Q5. Are there ways in which the law could be changed which are not already covered in the proposals for the Land Reform Bill to advance the land and property pillar of Community Wealth Building?

Yes

Please provide a reason for your answer. :

Crofting is a predominantly small-scale and tenanted model of land use in the Scottish Highlands and Islands. Crofting brings significant community benefits, including employment opportunities, local food and fibre production, opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and traditional cooperative work (notably through common grazings), preservation of cultural heritage including traditional skills and languages and population retention. In light of crofting's potential for delivering on the CWB's land and property pillar, the need to support crofting should be explicitly recognised in the CWB Bill and a responsibility to consider the creation of crofts should be part of private and public estates' responsibility to implement the CWB pillars.

The focus of the CWB pillar should not solely be on growing community ownership, but rather on diversified tenure and collective/cooperative rights of use – as many different models of property ownership and use have the potential to deliver CWB.

Regulation of natural capital investment is also required to address the negative impacts of investments – e.g., inflated land prices, wealth extraction and power imbalances – on CWB and to realise strong community benefits from projects.

Inclusive ownership pillar

Q6. Are there ways in which the law could be changed to advance the inclusive ownership pillar of Community Wealth Building?

Not Answered

Please provide a reason for your answer:

Finance pillar

Q7. Are there ways in which the law could be changed to advance the finance pillar of Community Wealth Building?

Not Answered

Please provide a reason for your answer. :

About you

What is your name?

Name:
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What is your email address?

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:
Scottish Crofting Federation

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response only (without name)

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:
Slightly satisfied

Please enter comments here.: