

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Resources to support community engagement can be found in relation to three policy agendas: planning, land reform and community empowerment.

Each agenda has its own primary legislation which defines a basic set of 'rules' for community engagement. The three agendas have complementary objectives for community engagement, as quoted in the middle of the diagram.

Click on underlined text to take you direct to each document. More information, including short summaries of each document, can be found overleaf.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

OBJECTIVE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“help communities to do more for themselves and have more say in decisions that affect them”

Source: *Scottish Government, a short guide to the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) Act 2015 (p2)*

PRIMARY LEGISLATION

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

GUIDANCE

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

National Standards for Community Engagement *Good practice principles designed to improve and guide community engagement.*

VOICE *Complementing the National Standards, VOICE is a digital tool to assist individuals, organisations and partnerships with delivering meaningful community engagement.*

AGENCIES

Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) Community engagement *Webpage with news, links and training.*

Citizens Advice Scotland Engaging hearts and minds *A high-level guide explaining how public agencies can take the public with them when planning new buildings or activities, with case studies from Scottish Water and others.*

DTA Scotland Involving Your Community *A practical guide to the benefits and techniques for involving and consulting local communities in community asset based projects.*

EHRC Advice and guidance *Promoting equalities in community engagement.*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Argyll and Bute Community-Led Action Planning Toolkit

Cairngorm National Park Community Action Planning Toolkit

Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Community Engagement Toolkit

West Lothian Council Engaging Communities Toolkit: A Practical Guide to Community Engagement

OTHER SELECTED SOURCES

Community Places Community Planning Toolkit: Community Engagement *Provides guidance on issues to consider when planning and designing community engagement.*

Dialogue by Design A Handbook of Public and Stakeholder Engagement *This handbook has a special focus on how to design engagement processes – for example, which method to use in different types of situation and how to keep track of stakeholder participation.*

Involve People and Participation *This guidance sets out how to plan for participation and choose from amongst the many available participation methods, with practical detail.*

Leapfrog Tools and toolboxes *Simple tools for bringing people together, exchanging ideas and making stronger, more active communities.*

Regeneration Wales A Guide to Effective Community Engagement *This 2015 guide identifies some key engagement techniques that have stood the test of time and are recognised internationally as valuable approaches.*

The Guardian Top tips on community engagement *Simple tips on how to engage communities successfully.*

LAND REFORM

OBJECTIVE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“Engagement helps ensure that the aspirations and concerns of communities across Scotland are rightly taken into account, enabling and empowering them to help shape decisions about land. It helps to create trust between local communities and those with control over land and demonstrates that land is being managed well.”

from: *Scottish Government, Guidance on Engaging Communities in Decisions Relating to Land, April 2018 (Ministerial Foreword, page 3)*

PRIMARY LEGISLATION

Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016

GUIDANCE

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Guidance on Engaging Communities in Decisions Relating to Land *Principles and guidance for landowners and agents to engage fairly with communities on land-related matters.*

Good practice in overcoming barriers to community land-based activities *Research report outlining success factors and examples of good engagement between landowners and communities.*

SCOTTISH LAND COMMISSION

Protocol and Route Map: Community Engagement in Decisions Relating to Land *Straightforward principles and specific expectations to support greater collaboration and community engagement in decisions about land.*

Practice Guide: Developing an Engagement Plan for Decisions Relating to Land *A guide to help decision-makers about the use or management of urban and rural land to develop an engagement plan to effectively communicate and engage with communities.*

AGENCIES

Forest Research Toolbox for public engagement in forestry and woodland planting *Practical easy to read advice about when and how to engage members of the public – not just for foresters.*

Forest Research Principles of Public Engagement *Core values and design principles involved in planning public engagement.*

Forest Research Public Engagement and Forestry: Key Lessons for Working in Urban Areas *Practical advice on public engagement in an urban context that summarises key lessons, experience and methods, with relevance to a wide range of contexts.*

HIE Ten Steps to Community Ownership *A toolkit of guides, advice videos and templates for community organisations wishing to own land or property.*

HIE Keeping the Community Involved *Simple community engagement guidance for community organisations undertaking projects.*

SNH Talking About Our Place Toolkit *For local communities to organise engagement and projects to understand and shape their local place, with a focus on landscape and natural environment. It includes guidance and practical tools.*

UHI Working Together for Sustainable Communities *A report of projects carried out between 2007 and 2012 exploring collaborative initiatives between privately owned estates, communities and other partners, including guidance and advice.*

PLANNING

OBJECTIVE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“Developments... can often have a smoother journey through the planning process... Communities also have much to gain from helping to shape change.”

from: Scottish Government, *Places, people and planning: a consultation on the future of the Scottish planning system*, 2017 (p23)

PRIMARY LEGISLATION

Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006

GUIDANCE

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Place Standard *The Place Standard tool is a way of assessing and evaluating places to support communities and the public sector, private sector and third sector to work together to deliver high-quality, sustainable places.*

Planning Advice Note 3/2010: Community Engagement *This 2010 advice links with the National Standards for Community Engagement (subsequently updated in 2015). It provides advice to communities on how they can get involved in planning, and advice to planning authorities and developers on ways of effectively engaging with communities on planning matters.*

Guide to the Use of Mediation in the Planning System in Scotland *The purpose of this 2009 guide is to help those involved in the planning system in Scotland to understand how mediation can be used to enhance the planning process.*

AGENCIES

PAS SP=EED Practical Guide to Engagement *A practical guide to effective community engagement in planning.*

SCDC Local Place Plans: challenges and opportunities *This Scottish Government funded report contains suggestions for forthcoming national guidance on Local Place Plans as community-led plans to support planning reform, community empowerment, and alignment of community and spatial planning and local governance.*

PAS Local Place Plan Guide: the PAS approach *Pending formal guidance for Local Place Plans from the Scottish Government in early 2021, this guide is intended as a helpful resource for any community group looking to prepare a Local Place Plan.*

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Renfrewshire Council Local Place Plans ‘How-to’ Guide *This ‘How To Guide’ explains the local authority’s expectations for Local Place Plans in Renfrewshire, and outlines steps in their preparation.*

East Ayrshire Council Placemaking Plans guide *Please email via the link to request a copy of the guide, which guide explains how to prepare local ‘Placemaking Plans’, community-led plans which take forward the spatial and planning elements of local Community Action Plans.*