

Perth Declaration 2024

Community Land Scotland is publishing this Declaration on behalf of its Members. It is our collective vision for what is needed to create a flourishing country, through community landownership, by 2034.

The Declaration was developed through consultation with Members, starting at our 2024 conference in Perth and is part of the 100 Years of Community Ownership / Linn an Fhearainn project.

Community Land Scotland will work with our membership, allied organisations, the public sector and Scottish Government to create the cultural, financial and policy environment to deliver this Declaration.

The Declaration 2024

Over the next 10 years, Community Land Scotland will work to address the following six 'asks' from our membership. These will ensure the long-term ability of community landownership to deliver the sustainable development of the whole of Scotland.

1 **Secure diversified revenue streams to ensure financial stability with the ownership of assets at the heart of community-led organisations.**

This should be driven by entrepreneurial communities, that are supported to develop further financial skills and diverse revenue streams. This includes more support for communities to acquire and manage revenue-generating assets, alongside long-term secure funding when communities are saving services and providing clear public benefits.

2 **Community engagement between community landowners and their communities is purposeful, tailored, timely and continuous.**

For example, communities are properly resourced to develop and deliver Local Place Plans or, if preferred, Community Action Plans in all communities. This needs to be part of wider recognition of communities being key delivery partners for thriving and sustainable places.

3 **Land reform to address wealth imbalances.**

Robust land reform measures so that everyone can benefit socially and economically from Scotland's land. Scotland cannot describe itself as a fair country until more people have ownership of land and buildings.

4

The Right to Live in your community.

*We need recognition that young people have the right to live in the community that they grew up in. Depopulation, the housing crisis and transportation issues are all undermining this **right**. We need an integrated and interventionist approach to the rural housing and depopulation crisis.*

5

A Scottish Community Wealth* Fund from renewable energy development provides resource-deprived communities with income-generating assets.

This fund would draw from major national renewable energy developments and provide income for communities to start their community ownership journey on a strong footing.

6

An inclusive and enabling environment for high quality apprenticeships and jobs is created.

This needs to be made possible by enabling flexible infrastructure for housing, transport and childcare.

Delivering our Declaration

Community Land Scotland is calling on the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament to acknowledge the importance of the six areas of work outlined in the Perth Declaration. We have a number of legislative and policy opportunities to address the asks in our Declaration. Over the next 12 months we will be focused on ensuring these opportunities are maximised:

- * The Land Reform Bill provides robust mechanisms to diversify landownership and ensure that Scotland's land is owned in the public interest
- * Community Right to Buy is rigorously and independently reviewed so that our once world-leading community land rights are usable and robust to empower communities to take ownership of land and buildings

* Scotland's communities benefit from the renewable energy revolution through:



The creation of a Scottish Community Wealth Fund which all communities can access



Increased support for community owned renewables - with protected space on the grid and dedicated funding for establishing new projects and repowering



The mainstreaming of shared ownership models so that all new developments offer shared ownership to local communities as a standard



Revitalised community benefit models which deliver more benefits for local communities impacted by developments

* The Community Wealth Building Bill recognises the central importance of community ownership to Scotland's model of community wealth building and duly supports this economic model. As well as encouraging more radical interventions to build community wealth through diversified ownership, such as Compulsory Sales Orders and streamlined Compulsory Purchase Orders

* Scottish Government acknowledges the Right to Live in Your Community. This can be supported by a Scottish Community Wealth Fund to fund community housing projects. Alongside legislative levers to free up land for housing through the lotting mechanisms and Sites of Community Significance in the Land Reform Bill.

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Linn an fhearainn
— 100 Years of —
Community Ownership

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