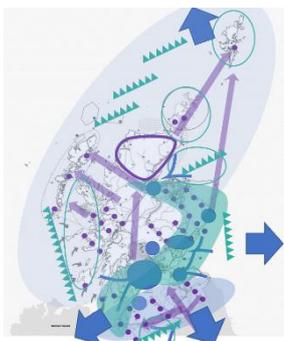


NPF4 / RSS EVENTS

'Place' – 27 May 2021



This note provides a summary of the themed 'place' event held on 27th May, attended by 47 participants from RSS groupings, stakeholder interests, SG policy leads and key agencies.



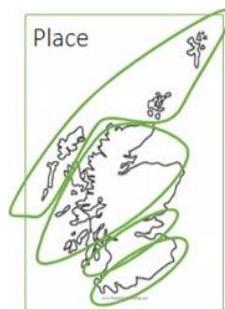
Kevin Murray gave an overview update and introduced [a summary of the previous day's output on the theme of 'people'](#) which explored spatial strategy options, with an emerging draft diagram adjacent.

A series of presentations set the context for the workshops:

- [Shona Glenn, Scottish Land Commission - Vacant & Derelict Land](#)
- [Darren Hemsley, Nature Scot - nature based solutions / Green Infrastructure](#)
- Digital Narrative - ['Place'](#)

Key presentation themes included:

- Tackling the underutilised potential of VDL will require a national effort.
- Create a publicly available map based VDL resource with support information that could include: planning status, contamination, ownership, etc.
- Need to set targets to bring VDL into productive use and monitor progress.
- Nature based solutions / Green networks provide multiple benefits inc biodiversity and health & wellbeing.
- We need to normalise this GN approach, learn from good examples and deliver 'on the ground'.

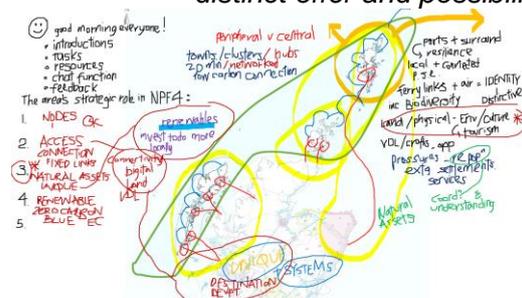


In sub-groups, delegates reflected on any significant patterns from the combined RSS mapped outputs so far and what strategic contribution each area might make to a national spatial strategy?

Feedback was provided from each of the sub-groups as follows:

1. Islands

Unique natural and cultural assets; value distinct offer and possibilities



Key points:

Value special environmental and cultural qualities of islands.

- Safeguard special qualities + realise associated benefits e.g. sustainable tourism destinations, quality of life to support population growth etc

Island Hubs and Community Nodes.

- Settlement / development hierarchy based around nodes with ports, airports, public transport and services.
- Carefully manage rural re/population – don't burden infrastructure.
- Interpret 20MN concept in rural/island context - 20 min rural development hubs -?- based around electric cars, e/bikes, safe walking, high speed internet across bigger geographies.

Access and connectivity

- Ferry, air, active travel etc + possibly fixed links in the future; access to housing, land (VDL/crofts), services and digital are significant constraints to sustainable growth/development.

Net zero, renewables + blue economy

- Investment and development to generate local benefits to support sustainable island communities; create long term local jobs, enable local harbour infrastructure investment, access for local supply chains, upskilling the local workforce etc; positive effects for biodiversity and environmental quality.

