

Regional Land Use Partnerships (RLUPs)
 Questions considered and responses produced
 during the discussion
 that took place as part of the Summer Meeting
 Held in Carsphairn
 on 1st June 2018

Question	Response
1 What role is envisaged for the Land Use Strategy (LUS)? It has been suggested that of late it has been 'suffering from political neglect'.	1.1 The LUS should be given renewed momentum. 1.2 It was suggested that the need to implement a strategic approach to land use has never been greater.
2 How should 'regional' be defined?	2.1 A flexible approach should be adopted. 2.2 Existing structures / organisations should be used where these exist. 2.2.1 Additional resources may be required if the organisations are to fulfil a role as a Land Use Partnership. 2.2.2 Examples: Biosphere, National Park, Deer Management Group.

	<p>2.3 Regions need not be contiguous. For example, it was suggested that islands or groups of islands shared common challenges and therefore could form a single region.</p>
<p>3 Does a regional level provide additional benefit or just additional bureaucracy? Should rural policy be designed with just national and local elements?</p>	<p>3.1 A three-tiered structure was supported.</p> <p>3.2 The top tier would set strategic objectives.</p> <p>3.3 The regional (middle) tier would assess how each area could best achieve national objectives whilst also taking account of regional issues and priorities. Budgets would be devolved to this level.</p> <p>3.4 The local (lowest) tier would involve landowners and managers developing plans to deliver the regional objectives.</p> <p>3.4.1 The area covered by each plan would be tailored to meet the requirements of the regional plan and adjusted to take account of local conditions and the nature of the work covered by the plan.</p> <p>3.5 Cooperation and collaboration between different arms of government would be required at all levels, but in particular at the regional level.</p>
<p>4 How should regional decision making interact with national strategy?</p>	<p>4.1 There should be a clear link.</p> <p>4.2 If there is sufficient justification, it should be possible for regional decisions to over-ride national strategy.</p>

<p>5 Is there a shared perception of what form the Partnerships should take?</p>	<p>5.1 The partnerships must be fully inclusive of all rural interests.</p> <p>5.2 If an existing organisation is to take on the role of a Land Use Partnership it must be able to demonstrate that membership has been expanded to include representation of any interests not engaged with the organisation's primary role.</p> <p>5.3 Membership should be on merit.</p>
<p>6 Are different models required in different parts of the country?</p>	<p>6.1 Yes, but each model should be based on a common theme.</p>
<p>7 How can the Partnerships be established to ensure that appropriate decisions are reached?</p>	<p>7.1 The RLUPs should make decisions that reflect the national strategy (but note the comment at 4.2).</p>
<p>8 What structure is required in the GSA Biosphere area?</p>	<p>8.1 With some additional resource the GSA Biosphere is well placed to become a RLUP.</p> <p>8.2 The Biosphere area does not cover all of Galloway and therefore there might need to be some adjustment of boundaries.</p>

OTHER ISSUES

<p>1 Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services (SEARS)</p>	<p>1.1 It was suggested that to deliver land use guidance effectively the government agencies should work closely together.</p>
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	<p>1.2 Merging agencies (as has taken place in Wales to form Natural Resources Wales) would be one way to achieve this, but it was suggested that closer cooperation might be easier to achieve and more effective.</p> <p>1.3 It was suggested that the approach adopted to form SEARS should be revisited.</p> <p>1.4 For detail about the background to SEARS see the Scottish Government website¹.</p>
<p>2 Advisory Support</p>	<p>2.1 It was suggested that it might be possible to achieve some objectives through the provision of better advice to the owners and managers of land.</p> <p>2.2 It was recognised that funding alone does not always deliver change.</p> <p>2.3 The RLUPs could be encouraged to consider this approach as part of the preparation of delivery plans for their region.</p> <p>2.4 There might be a role for consultants able to offer a national perspective, but it might also be possible to train local people to provide advice on one or more topics in their local area.</p>
<p>3 Other Documents</p>	<p>3.1 This discussion did not break new ground. Some other references referred to during the discussion are listed below.</p> <p>3.2 Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016-2021</p>

¹ SEARS - <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/grants/Standardsservices/SEARS>

	<p>http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00505253.pdf</p> <p>3.3 Evaluation of the Regional Land Use Framework Pilots http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00492375.pdf</p> <p>3.4 The Scottish Wildlife Trust's Blog and a Discussion Paper produced by the Heather Trust – available from: https://bit.ly/2kiOMkc</p> <p>3.5 The Scottish Wildlife Trust's blog – “Whatever happened to the Land use Strategy”. https://bit.ly/2HAq6Eo</p>
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