



Law Society
of Scotland

Consultation Response

Building Community Wealth in Scotland

9 May 2023



Introduction

The Law Society of Scotland is the professional body for over 12,000 Scottish solicitors.

We are a regulator that sets and enforces standards for the solicitor profession which helps people in need and supports business in Scotland, the UK and overseas. We support solicitors and drive change to ensure Scotland has a strong, successful and diverse legal profession. We represent our members and wider society when speaking out on human rights and the rule of law. We also seek to influence changes to legislation and the operation of our justice system as part of our work towards a fairer and more just society.

Our Rural Affairs sub-committee welcomes the opportunity to consider and respond to the Scottish Government consultation: Building Community Wealth in Scotland.¹ The sub-committee has the following comments to put forward for consideration.

General Remarks

Given the remit of the sub-committee, we do not wish to comment substantively on the technical and industry-focussed questions set out in the consultation. However, we wish to make the following general observations.

We welcome legislative and policy change that will boost rural economies and empower local communities.

Whilst we welcome the consultation, we would stress the need for any legislative reform to adequately balance the environmental, economic, and social considerations of rural communities in Scotland. In particular, legislative change in this area should be informed by the input of rural communities. We note that the examples in the consultation of the CWB approach being used, e.g. in Cleveland, Ohio and in Preston, will not be wholly reflective of the specific considerations, opportunities, and challenges facing rural communities in Scotland.

More detailed analysis of the specific legislative proposals will be required in due course to ensure compliance with legislative and executive competence, legal clarity, and avoid unintended consequences.

¹ <https://consult.gov.scot/economic-development/community-wealth-building-consultation/>

For further information, please contact:

Robbie Forbes
Policy Team
Law Society of Scotland
0131 476 816
policy@lawscot.org.uk