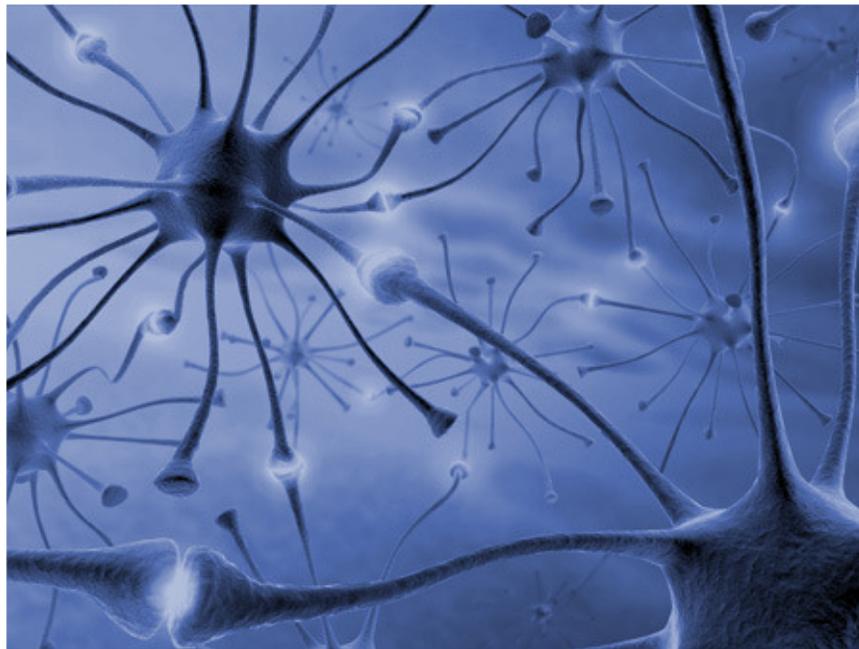




A SURF led 'Alliance for Action'

Supporting community resilience
and informing future policy & resource considerations.



This paper is a summary of the main points of discussion at the Govan and east Kirkcaldy launch events for SURF's 'Alliance for Action' programme.

Contents

| Section | Page No. |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Sharing Interests and Priorities | 3 |
| Open Discussion Outcomes | 4 |
| Future Action | 10 |
| Alliance for Action Partners | 11 |
| Further Information | 11 |

Introduction

SURF is building on its successful [‘Reality, Resources, Resilience’](#) 2011-12 research and activities programme by forming an ‘Alliance for Action’. The purpose is to link the policies and resources of national regeneration agencies with local knowledge, assets and initiatives. The main objectives of the Alliance are to:

- 1) **Strengthen** resilience and practical outcomes of successful initiatives in the two case study areas of East Kirkcaldy in Fife and Govan in Glasgow;
- 2) **Inform** wider policy and resource considerations for supporting more successful and sustainable community regeneration in the continuing recessionary context.

With welcome support from the Scottish Government, Resilient Scotland Ltd and other partner organisations, SURF is taking responsibility for a coordinated Alliance for Action programme of activities and events over 2013-15

This programme started with two local launch events in:

- Forth House, Kirkcaldy, on 26 February 2013
- The Pearce Institute, Govan, on 14 March 2013

Across the two events, a total of 82 participants were in attendance, comprising community group leaders and other regeneration stakeholders from the case study areas, and representatives of supportive national bodies such as Foundation Scotland, the Carnegie UK Trust, the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland and the Scottish Government.

The main aims for the two afternoon events were to:

- Highlight the main messages of SURF’s ‘Reality, Resources, Resilience’ report (pictured right);
- Outline aims and process for the proposed Alliance for Action;
- Facilitate a discussion on priorities, assets and resources in East Kirkcaldy and Govan;
- Begin exploring some possibilities for practical collaborations.

This paper presents a summary of the two open discussion sessions.



Sharing Interests and Priorities

At both launch events, SURF's Andy Milne set out the context of the Alliance for Action process and the aspirations for supporting collaborative action and learning. To initiate some early interaction, he asked participants to gather in small groups and discuss their views on local assets and areas of concern, and then report back to the wider audience.

The intention was to draw out recurring interests, topics and priorities to inform the subsequent open discussion. The headline items noted in this session were as follows:

East Kirkcaldy

- Children and families
- Community Councils
- Community empowerment
- Community Planning
- Creativity
- Credit unions
- Development trusts
- Economics
- Employment
- Existing community organisations
- Heritage
- Housing
- Ideas and resources
- Investment
- IT access
- Loan/grant support
- Local facilities
- Neighbourhood focus
- NHS and health
- Participation
- Pride
- Poverty and inequality
- Practical Action
- Private sector
- Reality
- Rural and urban lessons
- Social enterprise
- Social finance
- Third sector
- Welfare reform

Govan

Assets and interests

- Creativity, heritage and people
- Elder Park
- Govan Chamber of Commerce
- Govan Fair
- Riverside Museum
- The Portal
- Science Centre
- Show People and Fairground Museum plan
- Southern General Hospital
- Kinning Park Complex
- Lyceum Theatre
- Pacific Garden
- Pearce Institute
- Water Row
- Sunny Govan & Govan Press

Areas of opportunity

- Extent and diversity of Govan assets
- Some community activity overlaps
- Employment and volunteering
- Funding and other support
- Infrastructure and asset connections
- Links to statutory services (under stress)
- Re-circulation of resources
- Trading locally
- Power and decision making
- Govan as a transport hub
- Cycling and walking

Open Discussion Outcomes

Here are some of the main points from the respective open discussion sessions. Please note that this is a summary, not a narrative, and some elements may reflect differing perspectives.

Local Context

East Kirkcaldy

- Despite its well recorded and longstanding deprivation statistics, Gallatown has received no dedicated regeneration focus or investment so far.
- The catchment area of Pathhead Primary School in east Kirkcaldy (pictured right) is one of the most deprived in Fife, and within the most deprived 5% in Scotland.
- Manifestations of that deprivation include a lack of community safety, high levels of drug/alcohol dependency and poor health, education and employment outcomes.
- Since it suffers greater social and economic problems, local participants identified east Kirkcaldy as deserving a greater proportion of the public resources which are currently allocated to the whole town.
- GESTRA (Gallatown East and Sinclairtown Tenants & Residents Association) is recognised and active as the local community representative organisation. A big problem for GESTRA in developing further is that it lacks a local community facility in which to meet.
- The former Salvation Army Hall in east Kirkcaldy had been considered for redevelopment as a community hub by Fife Council, but the plan was not put into action because of high refurbishment costs.
- The impact of welfare reform is a major concern for those living and working in Kirkcaldy. It is anticipated that it will seriously damage the town's already struggling economy and will have very direct impacts for local residents.



Govan

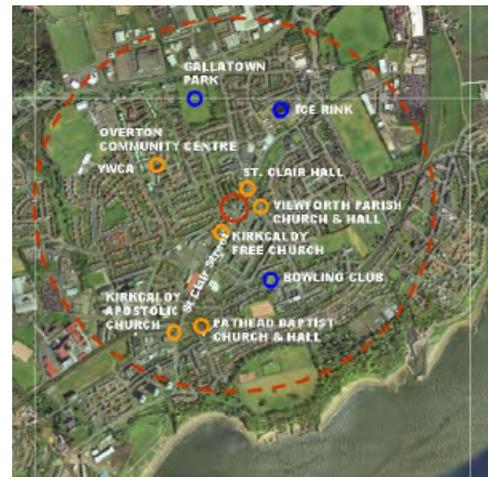
- The depth and range of community assets in Govan is widely recognised, as are the social and economic challenges.
- While there are some significant successes and investments in terms of local assets and activity, the potential for a sustainable Govan renaissance has not been realised and there are increasing social and economic pressures.

- Given continuing high levels of local poverty, unemployment and ill health, the impact of Welfare Reform measures is a major concern.
- Despite this challenging context, there is still a great deal of participative creative activity. There is largely focused on the possibilities for a more cooperative and coordinated approach to supporting authentic, community led regeneration.
- A key question is how best to link locally authentic Govan approaches and initiatives to the wider Glasgow City Council strategy and investments, which are generally more commercial and city centre focused.
- Govan is a major a transport hub for Glasgow and the west of Scotland. The largely unmet challenge is to adequately capture the potential benefits for local people and businesses.

What is Happening?

East Kirkcaldy

- The newly formed Kirkcaldy East Regeneration Forum is working on a four year process to agree and implement a Local Development Plan. GESTRA is involved in the planning process.
- Fife Council has been developing local budget management processes. The main purpose is to “make things happen” by enabling local authority staff to become more efficient at identifying and acting upon area priorities in cooperation with local partners.
- The Council has also been introducing successful participative initiatives on allocating grants to local groups
- A June 2012 summit brought together cross-sector stakeholders to discuss the regeneration of Kirkcaldy town centre. This proved productive in assembling a strong partnership which is now keen to translate ideas into action.
- The Architect firm Smith/Scott/Mullan previously worked with local stakeholders to identify physical regeneration priorities and options for the east Kirkcaldy area. This collaborative work was based on establishing a “gateway into Gallatown”. It is still hoped that two or three of the projects identified in this work will be put into action, and will create a new community facility (the map to the right indicates some potential options in the area).
- The Supermarket Health Check service highlighted in SURF’s Reality, Resources, Resilience work remains a valuable local



- resource. Key to its success has been the flexible, cross sector and sustained approach to providing highly accessible health information and support.
- Pathhead Primary School represents an important community resource. Its progressive, 'no exclusion' policy exemplifies its inclusive aspirations but more resources are needed to build on that potential and to ensure educational performance is not lost amongst urgent social/economic demands.
 - The University of Glasgow's 'Place Matters' project is currently focusing on Kirkcaldy as a case study.

Govan

- Impressive waves of creative and community based participative activity draw and build on different aspects of Govan's distinct social, cultural and historical assets. But they do not always connect well enough with each other and with external ebbs and flows of national and city based policy and resources.
- Similarly, there has been a range of significant but largely unconnected investments in new physical infrastructure e.g. Science Centre, Transport Museum, BBC Scotland Headquarters (pictured right), Southern General Hospital, Govan Cross and waterfront environmental improvements.
- Some significant financial investments in physical regeneration have been successfully coordinated via the Central Govan Action Plan but further progress is stalled under current pressures on key agency budgets.
- As identified in SURF's 'Reality Resources and Resilience' report, some existing and longstanding community assets and enthusiasms are being eroded by cuts and missed opportunities.
- There are current attempts to present a coherent narrative of a vibrant, well connected community which is aimed at engaging more substantial and coordinated future investment in Govan but there are issues of shared ownership and direction still to be resolved.
- More widely, the ability of public services and the commercial economy to meet local needs is hitting the limits of its capacity to adequately deliver. More participative democracy and development of the informal economy is needed to change conventional mind sets and develop new possibilities.
- Many local people have tended to turn their backs on collective participation due to the relative failure of earlier regeneration efforts to make much difference to their lives. More creative and practically productive approaches are needed to turn people back on to prospects for authentic regeneration.



- There are some signs of an institutional shift in attitude towards more productive engagement on local knowledge, assets and priorities. This includes the Scottish Government's recently stated enthusiasm for more community led regeneration and empowerment.

Some Opportunities for Progress

East Kirkcaldy

- The history and heritage that exists in every community in Scotland is an excellent way to build shared identity and purpose via with participation and enjoyment. The Heritage Lottery Fund has a small grants scheme (£3-10k), "All Our Stories", with a straightforward application process well-suited to community groups. One of the organisation's bigger grant schemes focuses on the use of historic buildings to support economic development.
- The area's schools have excellent IT suites. With some reasonable bureaucratic flexibility and modest resources, these could potentially be used outwith school hours by local families lacking IT access in their homes.
- Embedding a skilled community worker into schools could do much to bring positive change. Schools could then do much more to raise community confidence by hosting social and learning activities in evenings, weekends and during summer holidays.
- Local authorities and national agencies should lead by example by employing staff from the local area's poorer communities. Like the majority of private sector employers, they generally fail to do this at present.
- The JESSICA (Scotland) Trust is a new £15m community capacity building resource which is being distributed by Resilient Scotland Ltd. Its main aim is to encourage the development of socially enterprising, community led, regeneration initiatives. It currently uses a loan finance model to provide supportive, flexible funding. At this early stage of the fund's development, Resilient Scotland is interested in exploring how it can do so creatively to the best effect in cooperation with other funders and practitioners.
- The arts, and wider creative activity approaches, provide a cost effective and accessible means of engaging and empowering people in their local communities, even in the midst of a recession.
- The practical experience of local practitioners represents a rich and largely under-used source of information and innovation. More could be done to link that expertise with the considerations and decisions of policy-makers.
- While there appears to still be a fundamental difficulty in translating community knowledge effectively to the policy level, the current rhetoric for 'community

led' regeneration presents a good opportunity to increase community voices input the decision-making process.

Govan

- **Former Lyceum Theatre** - The owner of this significant local Art Deco building (pictured right) has aspirations to resurrect it as a cinema / cultural gathering area. A feasibility study is currently taking place and partners being sought. There is a lot of interest but the general climate of austerity is causing problems for the viability of the project and therefore the maintenance of the building.
- 
- The image shows the exterior of the Former Lyceum Theatre in Govan. The building is a multi-story Art Deco structure with a prominent corner window. A large mural on the facade depicts the theatre's interior and is framed by a red border with the text 'LYCEUM THEATRE GOVAN'. The sky is blue with some clouds.
- **Govan Fair** – This communal celebratory annual event of 250 years standing, currently exists on voluntary efforts and just £1 per head public spend but its immediate future is under threat.
 - **Kinning Park Centre** – This community rescued and voluntary run community centre provides a diverse range of accessible recreational and support services at very little cost but the building fabric and the volunteers are under severe strain and in need of urgent practical support.
 - **GalGael** – This highly regarded cultural craft and personal development project currently relies on a shifting patchwork of short term funding and commercial activity. It is looking to build its sustainability and capacity via business development and diversification.
 - **Elder Park** – This is an important landscaped green space (pictured right), which is in need of investment and care.
 - **Govan Waterfront** – A creative collection of Water Row based groups is using artistic process to build on local historical and cultural assets and forge productive links to Glasgow city e.g. by getting people who visit the Riverside transport museum over to Govan to explore its history and heritage. The adjacent and ancient
- 
- The image shows a statue of a man standing on a pedestal in a park setting. The statue is made of dark material, possibly bronze, and is set on a light-colored stone or concrete base. The background features trees with bare branches, a clear blue sky, and a fence in the foreground. A building is visible in the distance.

“Doomster Hill’ site is the focus of a range of proposals aimed at celebrating it as a symbol of deep rooted community identity. Recent campaigning has prevented it from being turned into a car park.

- **Show People** – The Show People at Water Row are looking to build a Fairground Museum. They note that there are 57 of these museums in England but none in Scotland.
- **Central Govan Action Plan (CGAP)** – Consistent with broadly shared carbon reduction and health improvement aims, there are early proposals to devise a network of walking and cycling paths and bridges to link local sites, services and infrastructure investments.
- **Sunny Govan Radio** - This longstanding local communications, promotion and support project is looking to start up a foundation course to help organisations struggling with issues such as funding applications and form filling.
- **Friends of Govan Community Garden** – Several local organisations invested successfully in the vision of local people to create a shared community garden out of a previously derelict and dangerous site. The voluntary community management group now struggles to run events and to maintain the environmental improvements due to a lack of funding.

Barriers and Challenges

East Kirkcaldy and Govan

- Cuts are often made to local authority budgets without the community being given adequate explanation or options. The tribal nature of party politics tends to work against the community being given accurate information and adequate opportunity to take more responsibility in the decision-making processes. Could this be turned around to mutual advantage?
- Despite some progress on devolving modest budget decisions, it seems unlikely that communities are going to be trusted with significant responsibilities in substantial financial decision-making.
- The Scottish Government has clearly signalled that it is concerned with welfare reform, but it has relatively few tools at present to address its anticipated impact on poverty and inequality.
- Some local politicians are against focusing investment in disadvantaged communities, because residents in these areas are generally less likely to vote than those in more affluent neighbourhoods. Older people, by contrast, do vote in considerable numbers and benefit from greater attention in local and national politics.

- It is important to explore and appreciate the context and opportunities locally, before forming resource allocations plans and priorities. It seems many regeneration funding bodies take the opposite approach, which is less helpful.
- Pound for pound, small regeneration projects can be as successful as big ones, and often more so. But smaller, creative, community-rooted projects tend to get overlooked and find it hard to sustain long-term commitment from partners.
- The Christie Commission presents compelling arguments for greater investment in preventative spending. But of £36bn in public spending in Scotland, only £250K is targeted on prevention.
- In supporting independent local activity and making constructive connections, it will be important to take into account the nature and dynamics of power in the city council and in relevant agencies. Who takes decisions, on what information and with consideration to what other priorities?
- There is a question of trust and confidence to be addressed and built upon with a view to supporting more creativity and more decisions being taken from within communities themselves.
- Pressures on public service budgets are tending to reduce accessibility for significant sections of the community. One example is the rate of charges for football pitches. This was said to result in young people breaking into the grounds (and therefore technically breaking the law) just to play on the pitch. Such instances increase a sense of mainstream agencies abandoning hard pressed individuals and communities.

Future Action

Forthcoming SURF Alliance for Action plans include:

- Creating a 'SURF APPP' – an academic, policy-maker and practitioner panel to advise and assist with the development, monitoring and evaluation of the Alliance for Action programme and activities.
- Raising awareness of a national launch event, which will take place within SURF's 2013 Annual Conference on Friday 5 July.
- Taking a flexible approach to using SURF's local and national network connections to develop practical outcomes in east Kirkcaldy and Govan; and in investigating wider learning from that practical experience.
- Arranging a series of local practice events focusing on relevant collaborative initiatives, to be held in East Kirkcaldy and Govan in Autumn 2013.
- Encouraging local and national Alliance for Action participants to link up independently of SURF as appropriate and to keep SURF 'in the loop' wherever practical.

- Providing updates on Alliance for Action progress will be provided widely and regularly in a variety of accessible forms.

Alliance for Action Partners

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Big Lottery Fund in Scotland | Improvement Service |
| Carnegie UK Trust | Jobs and Business Glasgow |
| Children in Scotland | Joseph Rowntree Foundation |
| Creative Scotland | NHS Health Scotland |
| Dundee City Council | Oxfam |
| Fife Council | Resilient Scotland |
| Glasgow Caledonian University | Scotland Rural College |
| Glasgow Centre for Population Health | Scottish Community Alliance |
| Glasgow Housing Association | Scottish Community Development Centre |
| GoWell (regeneration research project) | Scottish Funders Forum |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | Scottish Government |
| Highlands and Islands Enterprise | University of Glasgow |

Further Information

For regular updates on the SURF Alliance for Action, please sign up for SURF's e-bulletin at the following link: <http://www.scotregen.co.uk/stay-informed/>

Alternatively, contact SURF Chief Executive Andy Milne directly on:

- Tel: 0141 585 6848
- Email: andymilne@scotregen.co.uk
- Post: Orkney St Enterprise Centre, 18-20 Orkney St, Glasgow G51 2BX

General information about SURF and its work is available on the SURF website:

www.scotregen.co.uk

SURF Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network. Orkney Street Enterprise Centre, 18-20 Orkney Street, Glasgow G51 2BX
Tel: 0141 585 6848 / Email: info@scotregen.co.uk / Website: www.scotregen.co.uk

Supported by: Aberdeen City Council, City of Edinburgh Council, Clyde Gateway, Creative Scotland, Dundee Partnership, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Housing Association, Glasgow's Regeneration Agency, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, the Scottish Government, and Skills Development Scotland.

A not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. Registered in Scotland as 'Scotregen Ltd', Company No. SC 154 598. Vat Reg. No. 735 2880 21.