

Landscape - transforming our lives and experience: Responding to the Social Renewal Advisory Board's Report – If not Now When?

1. Purpose

To advise the Minister of the key messages from Scotland's Landscape Alliance on the place of landscape in transforming lives and to position this work as a key enabler in the Scottish Government's ambitions towards a fairer, greener, healthier Scotland.

2. Background

The Social Renewal Advisory Board (SARB) report "If Not Now, When?" presents transformational ideas on how to deliver change for Scotland after the pandemic. Scotland's Landscape Alliance (SLA) a collaboration of over 60 diverse organisations with a shared interest in the benefits and better care of landscape has taken this a step further towards how lives across Scotland could be transformed by viewing landscape as a key enabler to deliver on these ambitions. Not something passive but active.

The SLA has responded to the SARB recommendations and have set out it's aims on how landscape can help address the issues of inequality and exclusion faced by those in our deprived communities through access to locally available quality landscape for climate adaptation, health and wellbeing, recreation, learning, play, food growing and community cohesion.

3. Key messages

The key messages are set out in the diagram below and outline the interplay between meeting people's needs, involving local communities and the role of government in delivering the blueprint for a coherent strategy across Scotland to address issues following COP26 on climate change, food production, housing, education and health as well as tackling ongoing inequalities in our deprived communities.



4. Our Recommendations – Scottish Governments’ 9 point plan

- 1 **Landscape is the solution** to tackling inequality by delivering climate and food resilience, community cohesion, health and wellbeing, education – Good practice examples are found at *Forth Valley Hospital and Larbert Woods* (www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/forth-valley-hospital-detail) and *Glasgow Smart Canal and Claypits Park* (www.scottishcanals.co.uk/placemaking/north-glasgow/glasgows-smart-canal/)
- 2 **Making access to good quality, local landscape** a right and a responsibility for everyone – pride in our environment.
- 3 **Education** - Increase understanding of rights and responsibilities and increase participation. An example of this is *Naturally Birmingham – Future Parks Accelerator Project* (<https://naturallybirmingham.org/about>)
- 4 **Food** – increase growing potential on land and buildings such as *Urban Roots, South Glasgow: Food for Thought* and *Port de Versailles*, the largest urban roof top farm (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dlbISxfOxw>)
- 5 **Place principle always** – make communities voices large in legislation and regulation.
- 6 **Leadership** – to create a shared vision for landscape at national and local levels – give SLA a place to drive this.
- 7 **Funding** – direct investment to deliver clear outcomes on climate, food, health and tackling inequalities; and
- 8 **Data** – consistency across public, private and community sectors – used strategically in planning systems and to encourage investment.
- 9 **Social innovation** – excite and drive communities to do more building on what works.

5. Our ask of Scottish Government

Our request is simple – to move landscape considerations

From	To
Periphery	Mainstream
Afterthought	First thought
Passive	Active
Responding	Driver

Our work is at the link below and we are keen to enter into discussions across government to translate these ideas into reality to the benefit of current and future generations of Scottish people.

[Read Here](#)