

Empowering rural communities?

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Leading the way in Agriculture and Rural Research, Education and Consulting

Outline of presentation



1. The policy drive towards community empowerment
2. Community empowerment priorities within the Cairngorms National Park
3. Implications of the wider community empowerment agenda... or “So what?”

Policy drive towards community empowerment

2000

2002

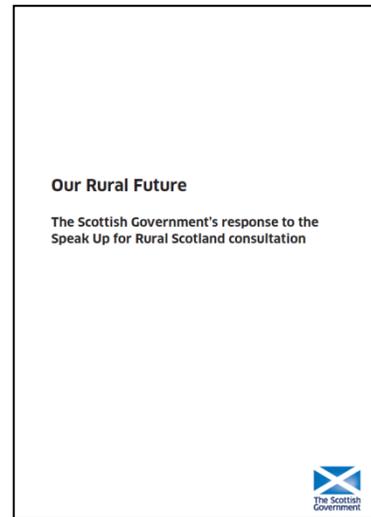
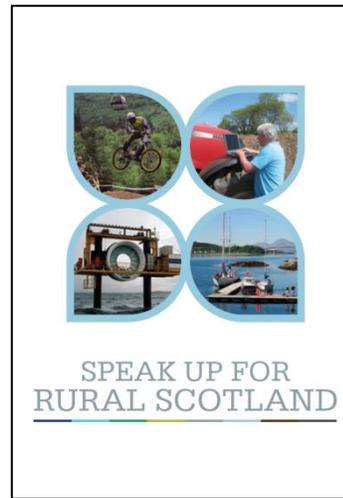
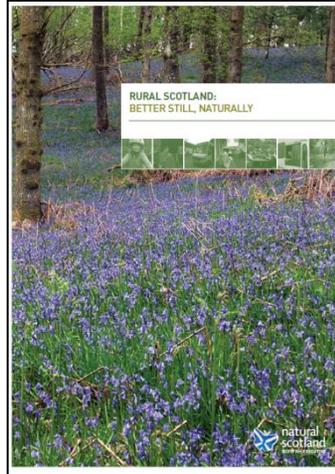
2007

2010

2011 →

Rural Scotland:
A New Approach

Having a say
in public
services



Having a say
in public
services

Public
services

Breaking
down
barriers

Thriving
communities

Active,
confident
and
empowered
communities

Community
participation

Community
enterprise
development

Drive towards community empowerment



2007

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

THE GOVERNMENT'S PURPOSE
To focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth

HIGH LEVEL TARGETS RELATING TO THE PURPOSE
Growth Productivity Participation Population Solidarity Cohesion Sustainability

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

WEALTHIER & FAIRER	SMARTER	HEALTHIER	SAFER & STURDIER	GREENER
We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe				
We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people				
We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation				
Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens				
Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed				
We live longer, healthier lives				
We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society				
We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk				
We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger				
We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need				
We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others				
We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations				
We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity				
We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production				
Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it				
Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs				

NATIONAL OUTCOMES

HOW ARE WE DOING?
Visit www.scotlandperforms.com to track latest progress

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We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others

Drive towards community empowerment



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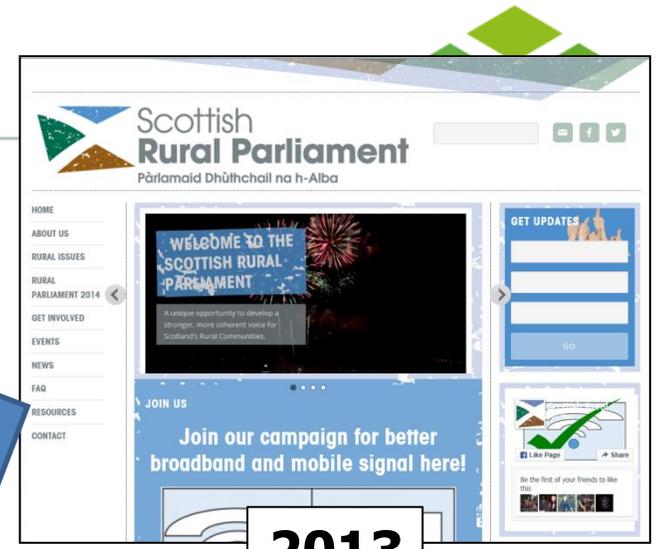
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2013

Drive towards community empowerment



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Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

Drive towards community empowerment



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Land Reform (Scotland) Bill

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Stage: **1** 2 3

A Bill for an Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision for a land rights and responsibilities statement; to establish the Scottish Land Commission, provide for its functions and the functions of the Land Commissioners and the Tenant Farming Commissioner; to make provision about access to, and provision of, information about owners and controllers of land; to make provision about engaging communities in decisions relating to land; to enable certain persons to buy land to further sustainable development; to make provision for non-domestic rates to be levied on shootings and deer forests; to make provision about the change of use of common good land; to make provision about the management of deer on land; to make provision about access rights to land; to amend the law on agricultural holdings to provide for a new form of agricultural tenancy, to remove the requirement to register before tenants of certain holdings can exercise a right to buy, to provide a new power of sale where a landlord is in breach of certain obligations, to provide about rent reviews, to expand the list of the persons to whom holdings can be assigned or bequeathed and to whom holdings can be transferred on intestacy and to make provision about landlords' objections to such successor tenants, to provide for a 2 year amnesty period in relation to certain improvements carried out by tenants, and to provide for notice of certain improvements proposed by landlords; and for connected purposes

Current Status of the Bill

This Scottish Government Bill was introduced on 22 June 2015.

Introduction of the Bill

[Bill \(As Introduced\) \(1.38MB pdf posted 23 June 2015\)](#)

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Cairngorms National Park

Community empowerment priorities:



- Preparation for the LEADER Local Development Strategy (2014-2015):
 - Review of Economic Development Strategies (EDS), Single Outcome Agreements (SOA) and Local Development Strategy (LDS) Eols for: Aberdeenshire, Angus, Highland, Moray, and Perth and Kinross.
 - Cairngorms NP internal and public strategy documents.
 - Similarities/differences in terms of:
 - Key descriptors of each area (vulnerabilities, assets etc.)
 - Priorities (vision, aims, objectives, themes)
 - Delivery approaches (e.g. role of partners)

Opportunities:



1. Already:

- a. Outstanding natural resources
- b. Strong primary industries (ag, forestry)
- c. World-renowned brands; tourism offerings.
- d. Further and Higher Education
- e. Some population growth (above ave of 2.1 p.a.%)
- f. Versatile, self-employed labour force.

2. For further development:

- a. Higher Education
- b. Renewable energy supply chains (engineering, fabrication, siting)
- c. Creative industry
- d. Lifestyle (businesses)
- e. Links between private, public and third sectors
- f. Consistently high quality tourism which is environmentally sustainable

Challenges:



1. Geography:

- a. Diverse and sometimes challenging geographical areas (rich agri, coastal, hill, mountain) – can lead to poor linkages between areas.
- b. Dispersed populations (high provision costs).

2. Deprivation and poverty:

- a. Pockets of deprivation, often hidden/masked.
- b. Poverty: fuel, child, and poverty-related experiences.

3. Employment:

- a. Fragility, seasonality, low-value jobs, low earnings, high dependence on public sector, patchy youth opportunities and skills.

4. Outmigration:

- a. Especially of youth (HEI-related too); ageing population.

5. Infrastructural deficiencies:

- a. e.g. broadband, roads; leading to actual and perceived remoteness.
- b. Business R&D; HEI impact in and for the area.
- c. Housing and community facilities.

6. Low local spend:

- a. Tourism (outwith main honeypots) and retail (larger cities)

Priorities:



1. Key, over-riding themes:

- a. **Preventative: to “break the cycle”.**
- b. Viable business culture; innovative; value-added; enterprise.
- c. Supporting people to overcome barriers; employability; edn.
- d. Enhancing physical infrastructure (BB, roads, aff housing).
- e. Enhanced engagement with communities in d-making.

2. Other priorities:

- a. Development, but with reduced environmental impact.
- b. Reduce inequalities, esp poverty; targeted.
- c. Health and wellbeing, especially: Early years and older people (independence); and young teenagers: enhance ambition.
- d. Support growth of social economy and 3rd sector.
- e. Lifelong learning opportunities.

Delivery of these priorities?

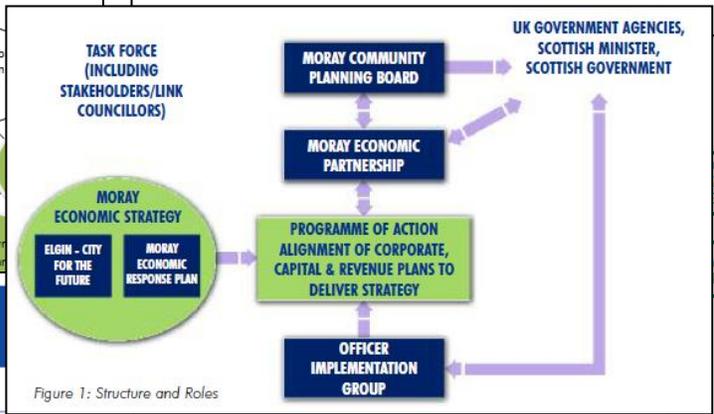
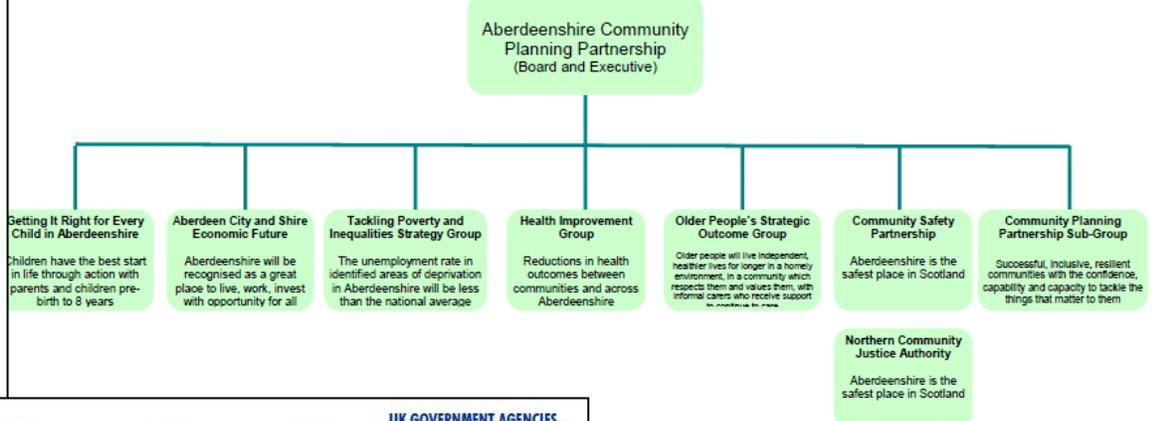
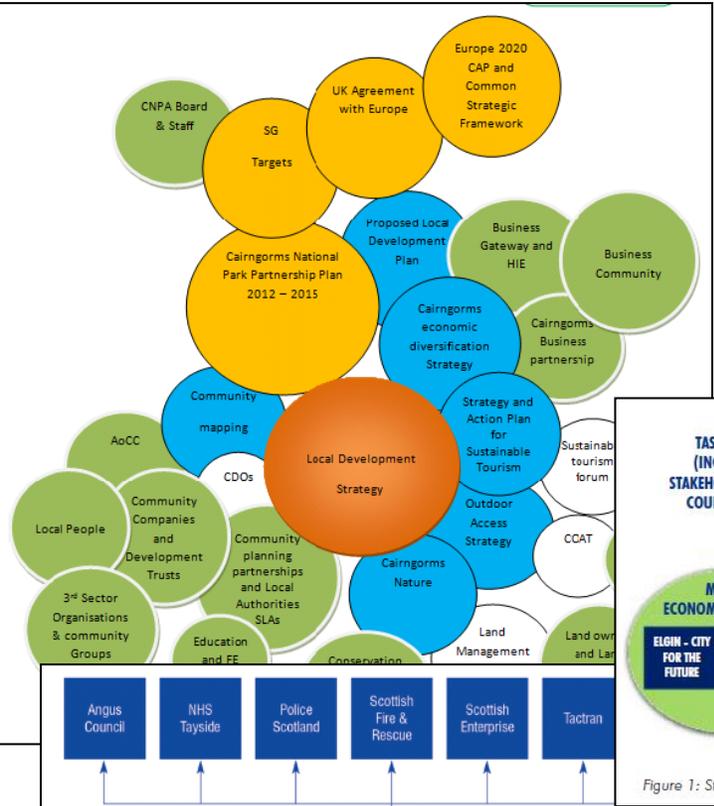
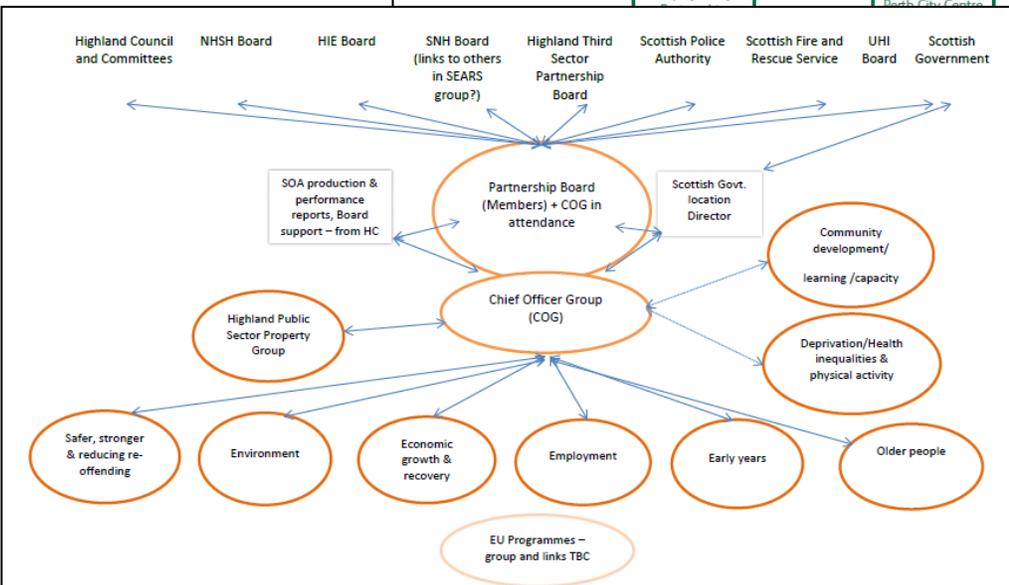
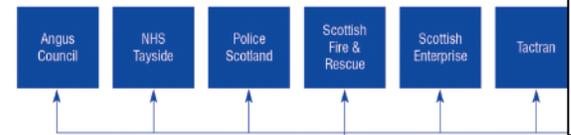
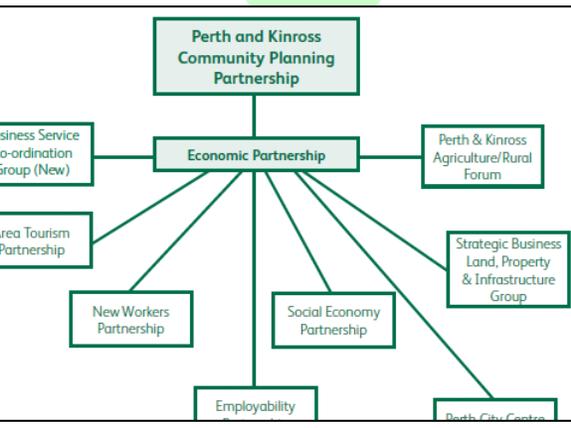
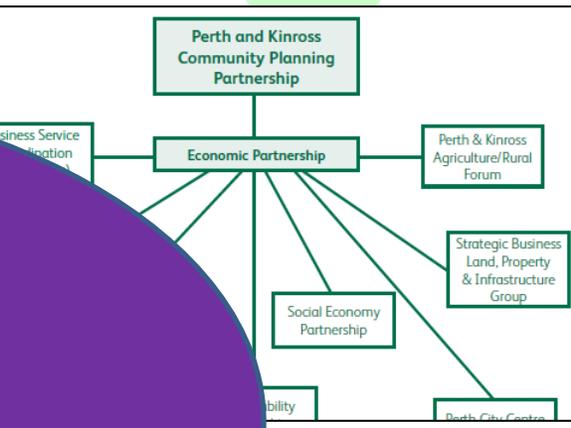
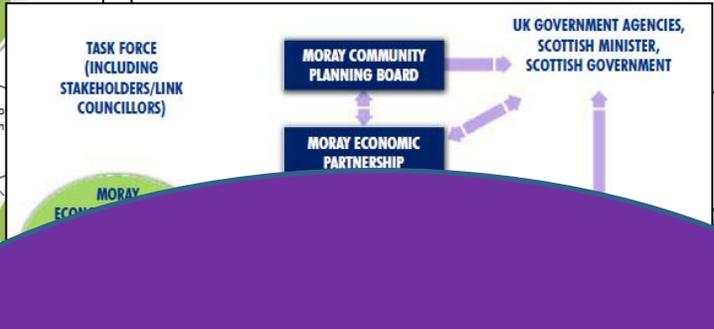
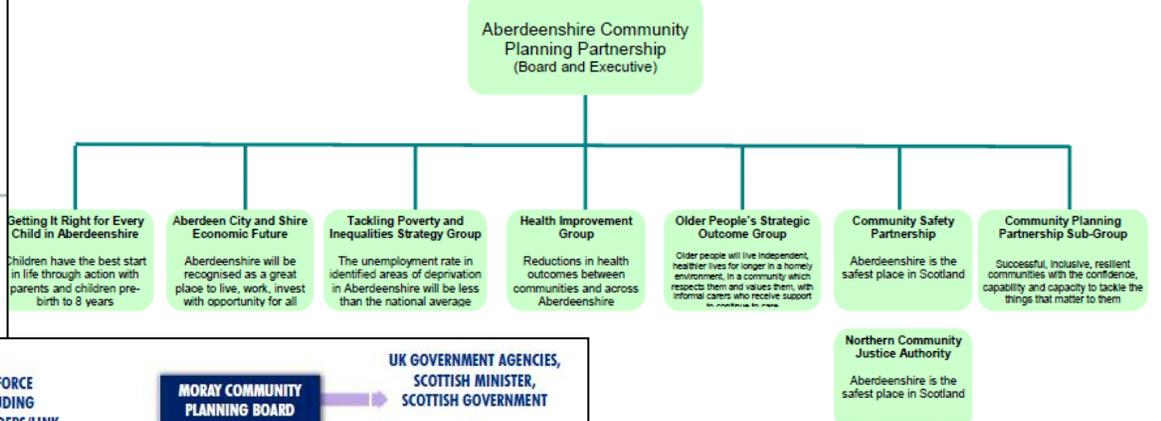
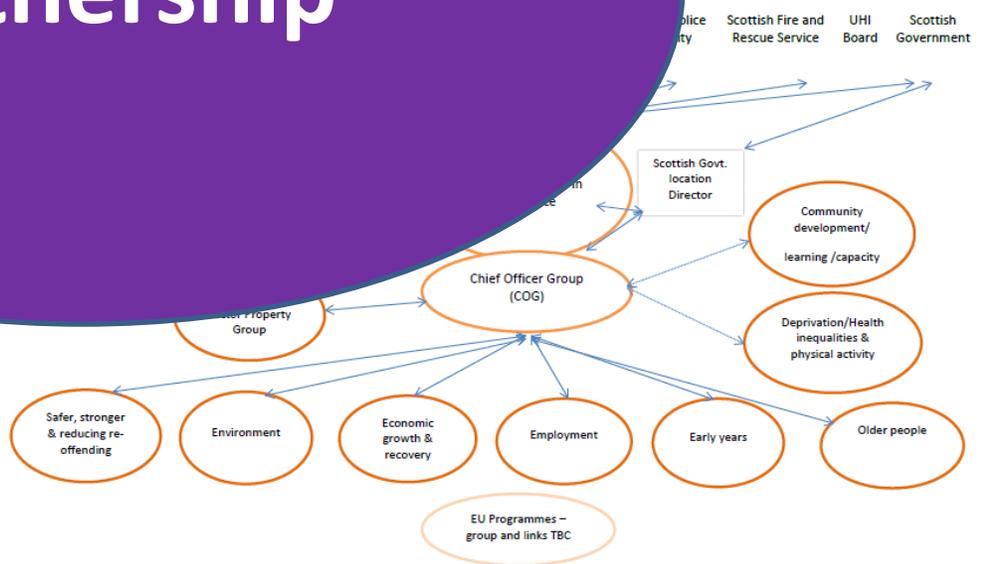
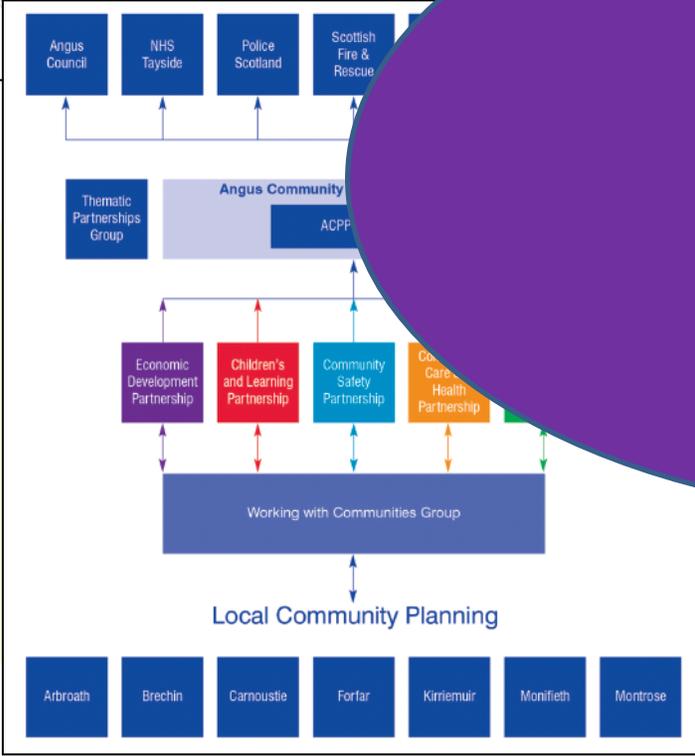


Figure 1: Structure and Roles





Partnership



Implications of the wider
'community empowerment'
agenda...

or "So what?"

Empowering the empowered?

- Two-speed or “**Darwinian**” development:
 - “project-literate” communities who know how to engage with the system and know the language
 - Does this matter?
 - How much effort should go into building capacity for empowerment? (is that a contradiction?)
- Investment or spend?



Addressing everything through community empowerment? [1/2]



- Poverty and disadvantage (especially long term):

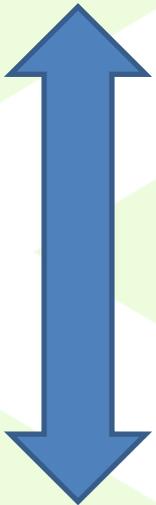


- Costs of empowerment, particularly in times of straitened public finance:
 - Is community empowerment a “cheaper” model?

Addressing everything through community empowerment? [2/2]



- **Systemic challenges** require multi-level and multi-sectoral action and/or interventions:
 - Local/micro/community
 - Cross-community
 - Regional
 - Cross-regional (e.g. CNPA)
 - National
 - International
- Cairngorms National Park has a head-start to:
 - lead innovative practice
 - inform on-going research



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