

Strategic Programme



Place-based policy research

Jane Atterton

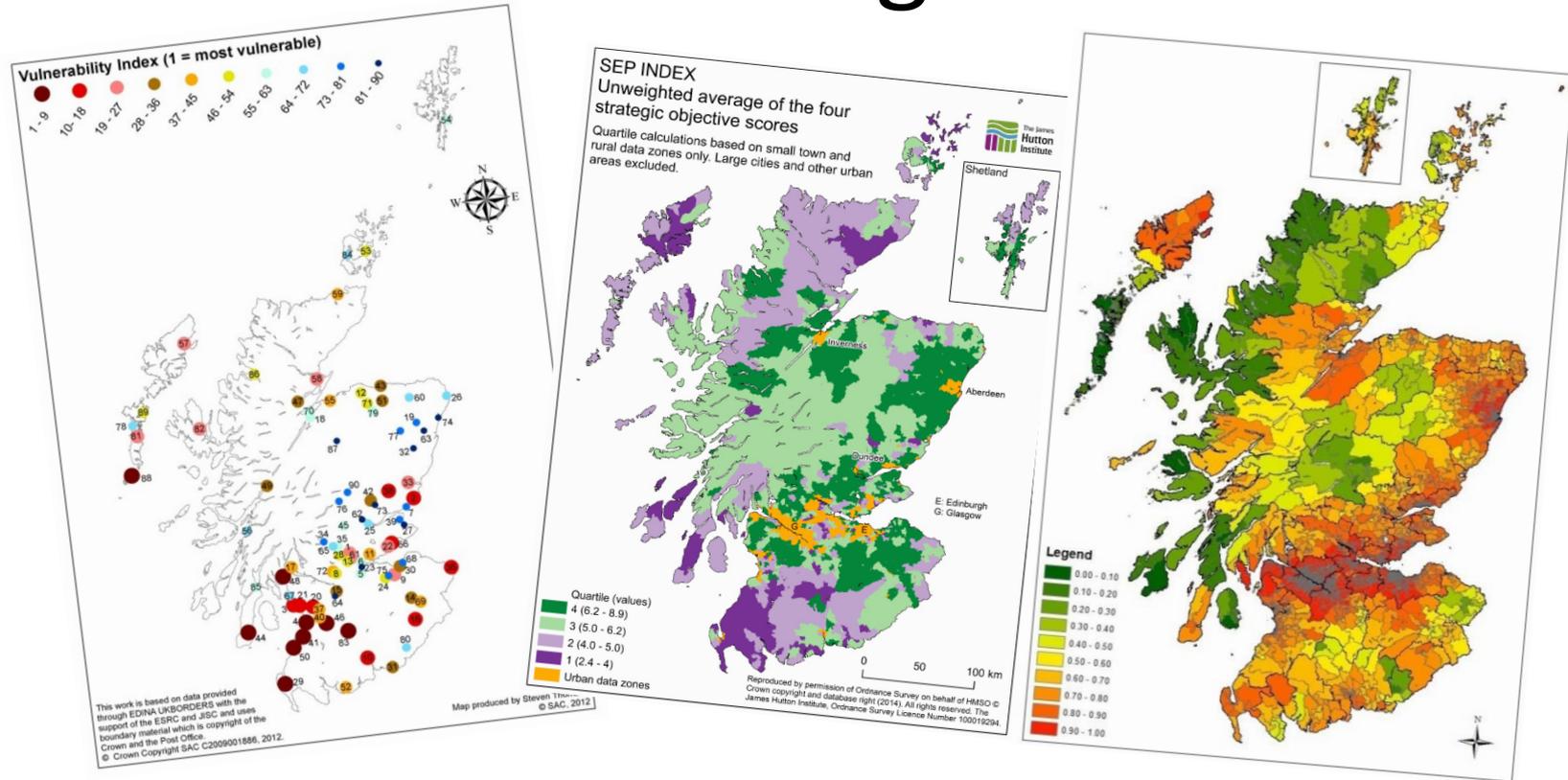
Rural Policy Centre, SRUC



Work Package 3.4: Communities and Wellbeing

- Four Research Deliverables:
 - RD3.4.1: Demographic change in remote areas
 - **RD 3.4.2: Place-based policy and its implications for policy and service delivery**
 - RD 3.4.3: Rural landscape and community wellbeing
 - RD 3.4.4: Local assets, local decisions and community resilience

3.4.2 Background

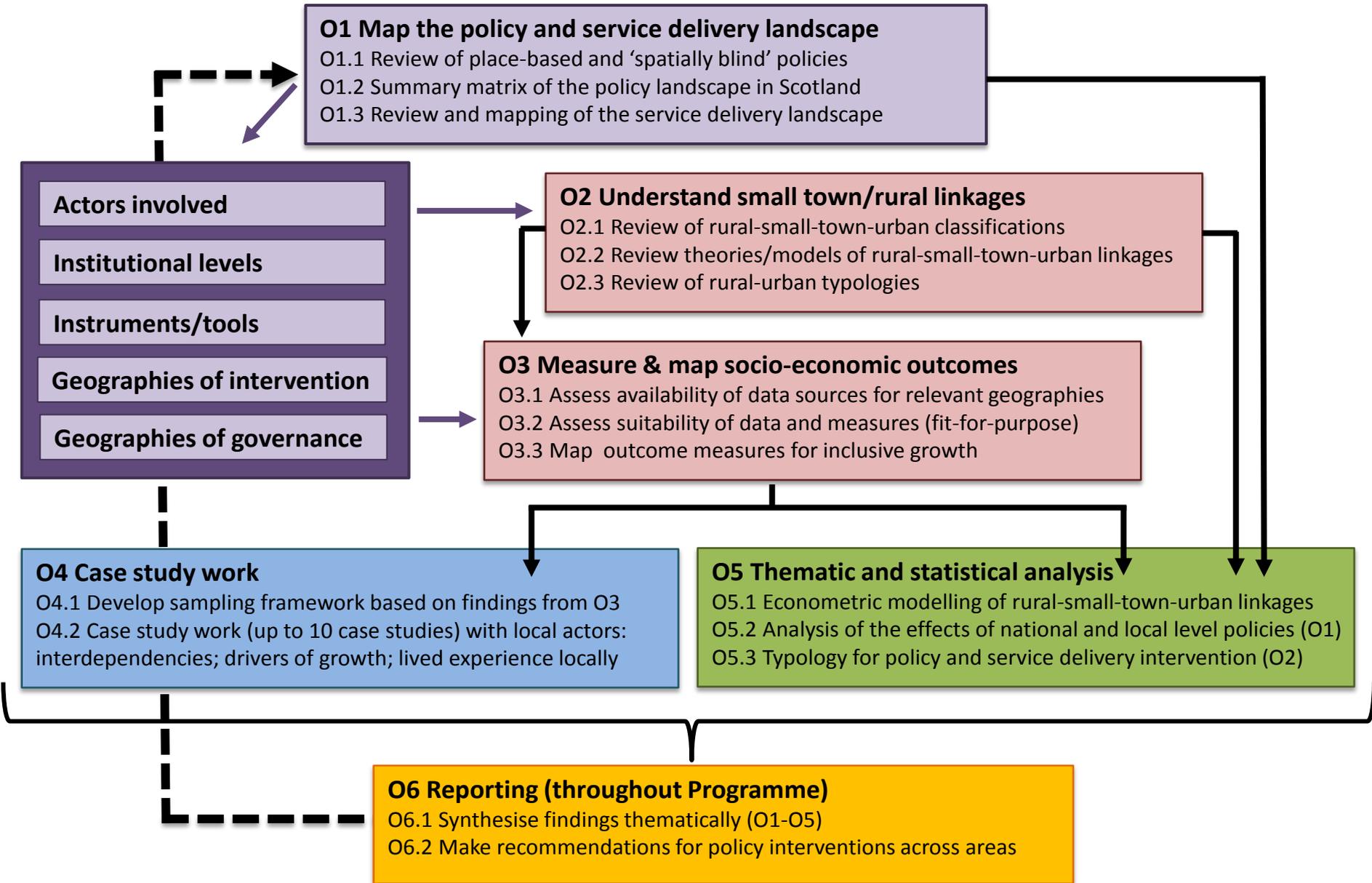


- Scotland's economic strategy: **“Increasing growth and tackling inequality are mutually supportive”**
- Persistent socio-economic disparities between & within rural areas and small towns across Scotland – how can we achieve **inclusive growth**?

3.4.2 Aim and Objectives

- **Key research question:** Can place-based policies address differences in economic performance and social outcomes in Scotland's rural areas and small towns?
- **Aim:** To improve our current understanding of (i) the main reasons for differences in economic performance and social outcomes across rural areas and small towns of Scotland and (ii) how policies can help to deliver positive outcomes and address these disparities.

3.4.2 Structure



What does place-based policy mean to the different actors involved?

Localised service design and delivery?

Transfer of assets/power/resources/responsibilities to communities?

Multi-actor working?

Grant-making limited by geography?

Urban regeneration?

Person-centred and bottom-up?

Partnership-working?

Community control?

Community planning?

Deliberative and participatory decision-making?

Spatial planning?

A balance between local and external control?

Spatial targeting?

Cross-sectoral working?

Defined from top-down or bottom-up?

3.4.2 Project Team

SEGS, James Hutton

Andrew Copus

Deb Roberts

Patricia Melo

Jonathan Hopkins

Margaret Currie



SRUC, Rural Policy Centre

Jane Atterton

Elliot Meador

Marianna Markantoni



Strategic Programme



Evidence into Policy: the RPC's experience of engagement

Jane Atterton

Rural Policy Centre, SRUC

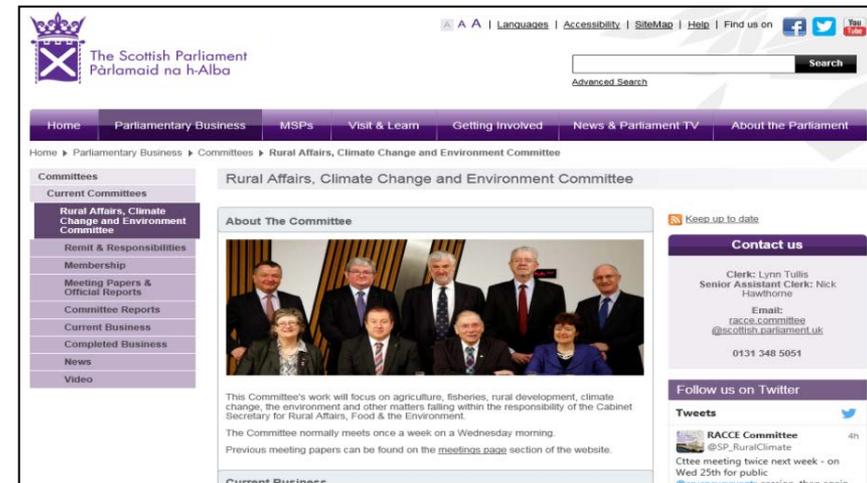
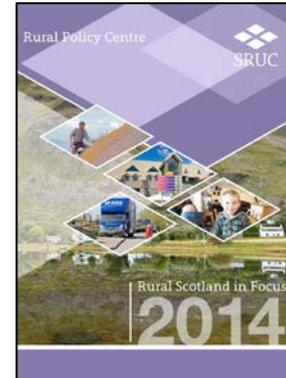
What is the Rural Policy Centre (RPC)?

- Established in 2007
- RPC is unique in the UK, bringing independent evidence into policy debates, influencing their direction and shaping their outcomes.
- Aim is to improve understanding of rural Scotland and raise its profile nationally and internationally.
- Two key objectives:
 1. To provide independent, impartial information and analysis to external stakeholders with respect to current policies, and for informing the development of new policies;
 2. To support SRUC business through providing information and analysis of current policies that affect the organisation and its clients.



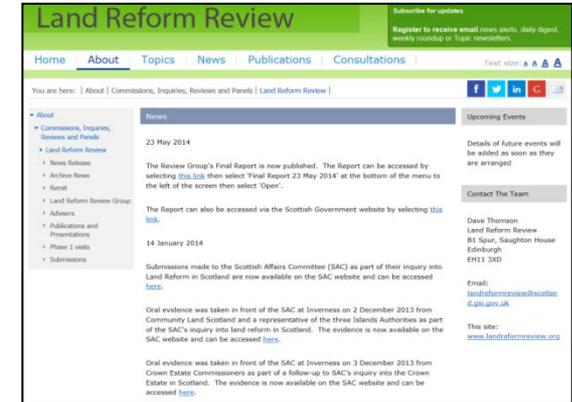
2. Experiences of engagement

- Secretariat to CPG (2011->)
- *Rural Scotland in Focus* publication (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016)
- Witness to Rural Affairs, Environment and Climate Change (RACCE) Committee (2011-2016)



2. Experiences of engagement

- Land Reform Review Group (2012-14)
- Ministerial Adviser (Land Reform) (2014-2015)
- “1M acres by 2020” Group (2015-16)



3.a. What works well?

- Choosing to devote time and resource specifically to:
 - building relationships
 - maintaining strong dialogue with SP, ScotGov, SPICe, etc.
 - **listening and learning.**
- Knowing what's going on, what matters and when:
 - PFG, NPF etc.
 - watching legislation progress through Committee scrutiny
 - watch Committees every week
- Observing boundaries...



| 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 | | | | | |
| WEATHER A CHANGE | SMALLER | HIGHER | BETTER LIFE | GREENER | GREATER |
| We have 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 innovative, renowned for our research and innovation | | | | | |
| Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, who take responsibility and engage in their communities | | | | | |
| 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, disaster and danger | | | | | |
| We live in well-being, 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 prepare 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 public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs | | | | | |

3.b. What needs to change?

a. Us:

- i. Be even more forward-thinking; keep ahead; “imagine”;
- ii. Be more proactive in times of change, e.g.:
 - Approaching new MSPs, making sure we’re absolutely up to speed on new developments e.g. post-Brexit world, New Financial Powers, potential for IndyRef2

b. Scottish Government and Parliament:

- i. Let us know when they might need to know something, i.e. not only at the last minute (e.g. Islands Bill);
- ii. Alert us to significant changes, e.g. in personnel, structure, that will be important for us to know so we can maintain efficiency of communication;
- iii. Create opportunities for regular meetings (e.g. every 2 months) simply to update each other.

4. Final key messages

- a. We are all working towards the **same high-level outcomes** of improvements in society, economy and environment:
 - i. We are helping each other to deliver these.
- b. We therefore need to **create common ground** and really **protect** that because it's precious
 - i. Whilst observing boundaries, roles etc.
- c. Put **mutual respect** at the heart of all that we do:
 - i. Understand what matters and *why* it matters.
- d. **Remain interested**, even in the “ordinary”:
 - i. i.e. not just the “shiny” stuff;
- e. Keep plugging away day-by-day:
 - i. **This is about *relationships*, not tasks.**