

Cross-Party Group on Social Enterprise

Tuesday 3rd of December 2024, 18:00 – 20:00, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh

MSPs

Ariane Burgess MSP

Emma Roddick MSP

Paul McLennan MSP

Non-MSP Members

Booked Delegates:

Ailsa Ramage, member of the public

Aimee Logan, Universities Scotland

Alan Whiteside, Stonnivation Ltd

Andy Paterson, Social Enterprise Scotland

Andy Rockall, Community Woodlands Association

Anisha Yaseen, Thrive East Lothian CIC

Anthea Coulter, Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface

Armand Ngadou, WOW Global Solutions, Ltd.

Barbara Kerr, Vibrantly Revive

Bridie Ashrowan, Social Enterprise Academy

Carmel Swan, ACE

Catriona Macleod CVS Inverclyde

Chinyere Adeniyi-Alade, Grampian Credit Union

Claudia Albrecht, Social Investment Scotland

Craig McEwen, Inspired Community Enterprise Trust Ltd.

Dean Reilly, JSL Services

Dominic Lo, Community Enterprise

Douglas Westwater, Community Enterprise

Dr Charmaine Blaize, Women of Colour Scotland

Dughall Laing, Braveheart Industries

Edward Fittsell, tsiMoray

Elaine Rae, National Health Service Credit Union

Emma Liddell, MOJO
Fiona Begg, Lochalsh & Skye Swimming Pool Association
Jane Masters, Play Works
Jo Slater, Inspiralba
John Nugent, Nugent
Joseph Drugan, AtkinRealis
Juli Huang, University of Edinburgh
June Grindley, Creatovators CIC
Karen Maclean-Yuille, Maclean-Yuille Consultancy
Ken Greenshields, Link Group Ltd.
Kenny Alexander, Polmont Community Hub
Kirsty Tait, LLNPA
Liudmyla Shurkovska, member of the public
Lorna Edwards, NHS Tayside Charitable Foundation
Luv Sayal, Vibe VB
Maddi Cassell, Lex Scotland CIC
Malcolm McArdle, Govan Community Project
Margaret McSporran, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Margaret Simpson, Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber CIC
Mia Duncan, Improvement Service
Micaela Mazzel, Glasgow Caledonian University
Olena Bovdyr, End Poverty Edinburgh
Orla Kelly, University of the West of Scotland
Owen Fielding, Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway
Pam Maxwell, Learning Link Scotland
Paula Leca, Renfrewshire Council
Rachel Pidgeon, Impact on Urban Health
Rahab Shimuli, University of Glasgow
Robyn Lochrie-Brown, Thistle Credit Union
Sharon McLeod, Ayrshire Independent Living Network
Shona Rogerson, NHS Credit Union
Shuggy Hughes, Kirkcaldy YMCA
Sophie Cheney, BAM
Stephen Mooney, NHS Credit Union
Steve Lawrence, Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network

Apologies

N/a

Agenda

Ariane Burgess MSP:

Welcome everyone to the Social Enterprise CPG, and thank you to Social Enterprise Scotland, Andy and Duncan, for providing the secretariat for the CPG and making sure that we're all organised and making sure that you all know it's happening when, where and also the fact that we've had to move it twice and we're finally actually getting to meet together after quite some months.

So, this evening, CPG is on community wealth building and social enterprise, and that's very exciting. We've got the Community Wealth Building bill coming through parliament at the moment. It started out its life in my committee, Local Government Housing and Planning committee and it was very heartbreaking when the Minister for Parliamentary Business said that it was going to go to the Economy and Fair Work Committee because of the the schedule. But it's been in very good hands with them. So, I don't begrudge them.

So, I'm going to hand over to Duncan in a moment, from Social Enterprise Scotland. He's going to recap the Community Wealth Building bill because at this point my brain has completely forgotten most of what we took in terms of evidence, so it'd be great to have that refresher, and then we're going to hear from a number of speakers; Jane Churchill and Aiden Shields from the Oban Collective who I think are joining us online. Margaret Douglas, who's from Public Health Scotland, who is with us in person and also we had a bit of a change in speakers, we've got Angela Lamont, from East Lothian Council and is the community building wealth building officer and she is also joining us online. Then after that we're going to go to questions and discussion on various parts of the bill.

I say that now so that you can all be, as you're hearing things, you can be getting your curious minds on and generating some questions and thoughts for our discussion at the end. So, we're going to have about well, who knows, half an hour, maybe a bit longer, maybe a bit less depending on how our speakers do.

For the Q&A we're going to aim to wrap up at about 19:55 with any other business regarding the Cross-Party Group and then we'll stop at 20:00. I just want to say we have been joined by Emma Roddick MSP who is my Co-Chair on the Cross Party

group and she's joining us for part of the evening. She's very, very busy person and has some other things to do, but she will be chairing another meeting sometime in the future if we don't get bumped around too much.

Now, hopefully we'll get at least one more meeting before the end of the session. So over it's Duncan.

Duncan Thorp, Social Enterprise Scotland:

Let's wait for a slide to pop up. There we go. Brilliant.

So yeah, I suppose just a bit of just brief context to start with. There's been quite a long lead in time, I guess to the Community Wealth Building bill being published. So, we've taken part in a couple of consultation responses as well as the Scottish Government steering group. We also convened a Social Enterprise Scotland led steering group. So, there's been a long leading process before the bill was published.

But the bill is now published, which we're very, very pleased about, and I thought I'd start with just saying a bit about what Community Wealth Building is. It's good to start with the basics, I think as well to kind of get it clear in our minds what it is. So, the definition that's often used is the CLES definitions of some of you may know the Centre for Local Economic Strategies is a think tank. Their definition is it's a progressive approach to economics and economic development. It seeks to change the way that our economies have come to function by aiming to retain more wealth and opportunity for the benefit of local people.

It's quite a short, fairly straightforward definition, and that's kind of what we're referring to when we're talking about this bill broadly speaking.

So let's go to the next slide.

So, in terms of the objective of the bill, so the Scottish Government is going to adopt Community Wealth Building as a framework as it says, to deliver a society that thrives across economic, social and environmental dimensions with the various pillars which will come to later and it will be a framework that applies to local communities and regions as well. It also kind of aligns with some of the Scottish Government's national outcomes as well. You can see those on the slide just there. That's Communities, Economy, Fair Work, Human Rights and Poverty.

I suppose, as we discussed, the Bill will realise that Community Wealth Building

does impact on and has lots of relationships with lots of different policy areas.
Let's go to the next slide.

So as part of this, the Scottish Government does have a duty in terms this Bill to publish a Community Wealth Building statement and periodic basis and the required to consult with people as they consider appropriate around that.

And that statement will connect directly with the five pillars, which we'll come to in a minute.

I won't go into all this detail here, but yeah, it's basically the Scottish Government and ministers will commit long term to Community Wealth Building.

Let's go to the next slide.

So, a report on the work done by ministers must also be published and local authorities, again, a key player in this agenda as well across Scotland, will have to create Community Wealth Building action plans. Alongside relevant to public bodies. each local authority must publish the Community Wealth Building action plan prepared in accordance with the duty as soon as reasonably practicable.

Following its preparation and one of the key points here as well as so, this will make economic development a statutory duty for local authorities and others as well, for the first time, which is quite a big deal in a sense as well. So the way it's same way the schools and roads, that kind of thing are statutory duties for local authorities. This will give that kind of status to economic development for the first time, which is really as radical as it sounds, I think.

Next slide if that's all right.

In terms of those five pillars, yeah, it's about it is about tackling structural inequality, supporting business growth, creating and retaining employment opportunities within local communities and giving people just a general stake in the economy, which is really, really important. So, in terms of those five pillars, I'll come to those just now.

So, the first pillar.

Is about spending, and that's maximising benefits to communities through commissioning and procurement, with higher levels of spend on SMEs, and obviously that includes social enterprises and other inclusive democratic business models like cooperatives. Which will ideally result in local and regional economies having economic growth.

The second pillar is about workforce. That's effectively the Fair Work programme, which a lot of you will be familiar with. I was at the Fair Work Convention annual conference today, which was really good. I'm talking about progress on the Fair Work agenda and really developing local labour markets and that will obviously a lot

of that you'll be familiar with in terms of the real living wage for example and payment the real living wage. Again, social enterprises are kind of leading the way in a lot of this agenda as well as skills development.

The third is Land and property. Again, lots of other bits of legislation. Policy areas do feed into this, as I mentioned. So, there is a land reform now act. I think it is, isn't it? It's just gone through the Scottish Parliament. Yeah. Yeah, it's now act. I shouldn't say Bill anymore. So, it's about using land for the common good effectively and to benefit local communities and going social, ecological, financial and economic value for those communities.

The Fourth pillar is kind of kind of our pillar really in a way, it's about inclusive ownership. It's about social enterprise, business models and those other IDBMS to generate community wealth and really just boosting that and I suppose the fit into that is the IDBM report which a lot of you will be familiar with the inclusive democratic business models report, which is very much about that pillar and about growing the number of social enterprises and IDBMs across Scotland.

Ariane Burgess MSP:

I forgot to say at the beginning. So, Duncan just kind of said what IDBM stands for but, yeah If you don't want to assume that everybody knows everything, so if there are any technical things or we use acronyms.

Please do let us know I'm really interested in jargon busting and make sure everybody can follow along in the conversation.

Duncan Thorp, Social Enterprise Scotland:

Yeah, absolutely. And again, at the end of my bit, you can ask questions as well about any of the any of these points as well. Feel free. And really the point of that is obviously as we know, we know the impact of social enterprises, a social, economic, economic.

An environmental impact and it's about really making that wealth stays local as well, circulating the wealth around which is obviously a key part of all this. And coming to that, the fifth pillar is finance and that is that circular economy type thing as well, making sure that the wealth is retained in local areas to support businesses and communities and working for local people and it's going to be familiar with the slides here.

So, in terms of anchor institutions, these are some of the really key players in this legislation as well. So, some of them you obviously understand why? Local authorities, for example, other public sector bodies, health boards, universities, enterprise agencies, et cetera, are all anchor institutions within this agenda, and they're all very, very much a key part of it and that's in a variety of ways. A lot of them do have, you know, relatively big resources compared to social enterprise in the third sector. So, a lot of it is about their commissioning, what they're buying, where they're buying products and services from and also using their facilities and land assets as well.

So, the university, for example. University of Edinburgh of Edinburgh. Just a random example. There has a lot of land and assets and could be used better for community wealth building.

Yet to really stimulate growth, build resilience and retain wealth locally.

So anchor organisations, as it says here, don't have to be public sector, but they often are. I would say that's probably something to bear in mind. Are universities to clarify, not class, as public sector as well, they're they are unique institutions. Next slide.

In terms of the legislation, there are two lists of public bodies mentioned in the bill and these are basically ones which have to do community wealth building, they have to have that statement. They have to do that activity and others which are kind of have to take into consideration. So, there is a bit of debate around these two lists and where organisations appear effectively as well. So, you can see that list there. Could leave it up for for a second, but that gives you a bit of a flavour of those specified and relevant public sector organisations.

So, so again it would be worth getting your views at some point, whether in the meeting today or after around that list as well. And what you think is appropriate in terms of where those organisations sit. And next.

Just briefly, a quick overview of the bill process is. So, there are different types of bills. As some of you will know, this is a government bill. So, this is for originating from the Scottish Government. It's basically where it originates from.

And I won't go through all of this, but there's basically different stages as some of you will know. So, stage 1-2 and 3 to a bill before it becomes an act of Parliament and receives Royal Assent.

And it's currently at. We're currently at Stage 1, won't we? We haven't missed anything. How about Mr sage? Yeah, we're currently at Stage 1 of this bill as well, so there's plenty of opportunity, I suppose, at this stage to influence the shape of the legislation as well. There are still opportunities still opportunities here to shape that and obviously we are well beyond that consultation phase. It is a bill now.

And it's obviously going through the committee, as has been mentioned already, and the Economy and Fair Work committee and yeah, so there's there's opportunity for amendments, it's called amendments where we can amend the bill in various ways. So, we'll obviously be speaking to lots of politicians from all different parties to try and get some of those key amendments through.

I won't go into the amendments just now. We have had a few conversations around this, but yeah, I think the the plan is to really get this legislation passed before the election, which I'm assuming is going to still happen.

Think that seems to be the plan, which should be fairly straightforward. It is a fairly simple bill in terms of its contents. It's a fairly short bill, I would say in terms of, you know, in comparison to other bits of legislation.

So I think you know it's it's it's fairly doable in that sense as well and it gets really I feel like it's a framework, it gives a framework and a kind of platform to this. It's not just about this, this legislation, it's about other bits of policy that feed into it. And as I mentioned, there's different different bits of legislation as well like the Land Reform Act.

And I think that's it. There's a bit here on one of the slides. Sorry. The next one just around the timeline and that just gives you a bit of flavour of the potential timeline because timelines do change a bit. So that gives you a bit of a bit of a feel for where we're at kind of thing at the moment.

As I say, it's stage 1 of the moment. So, there's plenty of plenty of opportunity to influence it. And yeah, this is.

About really is what we're hearing from you again, not just today, but in future meetings as well or just emails etcetera with your views about the bill and what it looks like and what it should look like. So, I'm happy to take any questions. That's a very quick, very detailed, maybe not detailed, I don't know.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

I was good. It was it was. It was perfectly pitched. Nice, broad brush. Stroke. Not getting too much into the weeds. I just want to mention that we've been joined online by Paul McClellan MSP, who looks like he's having his tea. Lucky, lucky person. He made it home in time to have something a snack about it. Does anyone have any

questions in the room or online I?

So obviously the questions might emerge, you know, later down the line, but yeah. Is there anything that you want to go over again, just in case we went, that was quite quick. No. All right. OK, great. OK. Well, thank you very much for setting the giving us the framework.

For what we need to go through, so can I just check with you, Andy or Jane and Aiden online?

Yeah. OK, great. OK. So, I'm going to welcome our first pair of presenters from the Open collective. And that's Jane Churchill and Aideen Shields. And I don't have anything more than that. You're from the Oban Collective, so maybe you can say a little bit about.

What you're up to there, and I assume it's in Oban. Over to you, OK.

Aideen Shields, Oban Collective:

Hello everyone. Just checking. Is Jane here as well?

Jane Churchill, Oban Collective:

Yep, I'm here too. Aiden, I'm in Oban, and Aiden is on the Isle of Kerrera this evening. So, we're across the water from each other. Has Andy got our slides?

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

I just wanted to let folks know, so if it's hard to see the slides, what I've done is I've put it on my mobile phone and turn the audio off. So, I'm watching on my phone. So, if you've got the link to the Teams meeting link from the invitation that Andy sent. That's a way that you can see things more easily. OK, back to you.

Jane Churchill, Oban Collective:

Great. Thanks so much. So, hi everybody. Yeah, apologies, we can't be with you in the room this evening. It was just a bit of a, a bit of a trek to get over there. My name is Jane Churchill, and I've been working in the third sector in Scotland for about 25 years now. I've been involved with probably hundreds of charity social enterprises. And the organisations in the sector in that time, like many people that work in this sector, I wear multiple hats and one of those is a strategic lead for the Connecting Communities Collective, which we're going to talk to you a bit about and the restore shop, which is the example we're going to tell, tell you a bit more about.

Aideen Shields, Oban Collective:

I am Aideen Shields. I'm the development officer for the Connecting Communities Collective, and I am employed by Hope Kitchen, who is the lead charity partner for the Restore shop. So, if we can change the slide there, please, Andy.

So yeah, that's our the the collective name is the Connecting Communities Collective. And if you go on to the next slide, you'll see the charity partners.

Jane Churchill, Oban Collective:

Yep. So, as you can see, we've got five, this is five local charities in urban the founding partners were actually four of these. Atlantis Leisure joined us later, but I brought these charities together, actively brought these charities together back in 2023 with the kind of prime motivation being a prime.

Driver being being able to attract some funding that Oban just wasn't getting because we didn't have organisations that were oversized to be able to apply. I'm also a keen advocate of collaboration, not competition, and could see in a community the size of Oban all these charities, although working on quite different focuses, we're all working with the same community. So, it brought together Ali Energy, who focus on affordable warmth, open youth cafe, looking at young people and healthy options, health and well-being, and Hope Kitchen, which is the lead partner for restore, who provide food, shelter and companionship.

Particularly to vulnerable and marginalised people, and they already ran a community cafe and green shoots community garden. So collectively these charities have been operating for more than 80 years in urban and so they were brought together. So, they're just to give you a bit of a sense of size of the community of urban is around 8000 in the winter. That goes up to 24,000 in the summer, so if we go to the next slide, please, Andy,

I facilitated some sessions with the partners to help them define these kind of shared purpose and values and the partnership kind of grew, grew from that and with the real understanding that working together would be greater than the the individual organisations and that we really wanted, everybody was signed up to wanting to use resources better to share learning and to to work, to provide better services to the Community. If we can go on to the next slide, please.

Aideen Shields, Oban Collective:

So today we want to share with you a real practical and real time example of Community wealth building in action, which is our community shop restore. So Yep,

Jane, if you wanted to talk about the background to restore, I'll give an introduction to the operation.

Jane Churchhill, Oban Collective:

Yes, so very quickly, I told we told you a bit there about the collective because without the those collective of the charity partners coming together, restore would never have been born. So, we'd built a solid foundation of trust between these core partners, and we managed to secure a three-year funding package via investing in communities.

That and that brought some core funding into each of those four really vital local charities, and we'd built in some new some new money as well to be able to employ a development worker, which is the role that Aideen is in and the closure of a really popular local charity shop called Mary's Meals.

Sparked the idea of a community shop, which I really strongly felt could be a successful unrestricted income generation stream, and that's obviously what many charities and social enterprises are looking for. Looking at this, having some unrestricted income.

So, others agreed this was a good idea. We got some funding to put a business plan and the financials together and we were lucky that Hope Kitchen is one of the partners the board were willing to take the risk to be the lead because obviously it's in the charity partnership, the collective doesn't have a legal personality.

It's a grouping. It's an informal kind of grouping of those four legal personalities that are the charities and Hope Kitchen we're willing to take the lead and be the leaseholder.

Aideen Shields, Oban Collective:

So if you move on to the next slide, please, Andy, you'll see that we opened up the community shop in March 2024 and it was a really exciting time because it's an amazing shop. Honestly, it's it's busy, it's full of.

People, there's great volunteers that come in and great customers that come in every day. It's a vibrant shop. It's yeah, the first year of operations has been incredible. It's a community LED social enterprise which sells second hand clothing, homeware, books and toys. It extends the life of everyday items and reduces landfill.

All goods are donated by the community, which is creating a closed looped system rooted in generosity and environmental responsibility. It was set up with the intention to meet identified needs, provide a dignified solution for affordable foods and to create, as Jane said, an unrestricted income stream for the partner charities. We also run workshops in Restore. If you go to the next slide, please, Andy.

So, these workshops teach skills, teach sewing and repair skills, which helps people to save money but also develop skills and to develop friendship. If you go on to the next slide, we we can move quite quickly through these slides.

I'll give examples of people at work. That's our shop manager, Louise and the the fact speak for themselves in the first year of operating, we turned over £156,000. With a surplus of £85,000 in year one so that enabled a decent reserve to be built up by the collective as well as some surplus to be reinvested, we keep going through the slides there please Andy.

Alongside the homewares enclosed we also have a rescued food project. If you keep going through the slides, the rescued food takes the the short life food from the supermarket brings it into our shop for a last chance to get sold. We invite a donation of £2 a bag.

And so far, we have saved 25 tonnes of food at 25 tonnes diverted from landfill, which also provides a dignified way for people to access food. That has also seen a 58% reduction in the use of the local food bank. Go to the next slide.

I think you can agree with us that this has been a great first year of operating and thankfully Social Enterprise Scotland also agrees, and we last Thursday won the award of one to watch at the the awards ceremony which is fantastic.

And last year, we were also the private winners of the Scottish Power Foundation Innovation Board. So, the things that particularly impressed the judges is going to the next slide with the strength of that first year, but also the business model.

That's been in a bit of partnership between the five local charities and that it addresses social and environmental outcomes with strong stories. We've got great volunteers and great friendships that have been developed. If you go on the Slide, please.

So, the events that we run and the workshops that we run, the people that we've met through that has been absolutely fantastic. It operates as a community hub. We have

had lots of people come through. I'm just looking for my figures. I think it's over 500 people coming through our workshops in the first year. Next slide please.

They develop skills like repairing and lending and upcycling and just keep going through the slides. These are just examples of the lovely people that come through the space, whether it's putting button on their trousers or turning something up or fixing a hole, next slide please.

Aye. It's been a fantastic way to engage the community and get people to pop in. Even Mr. John Swinney came and helped us to make an upcycled fabric bag in our workshop. Very good next slide, please.

A very exciting part of our events is the fashion show. We have a sustainable fashion show which last year saw 200 people take part. Next slide, we invited people to come along for a community dinner that was cooked up using the rescued food. And we had lots of people take part, either volunteering as models, helping to make the pose, or to help backstage. Next slide please and we run event in reuse.

So, this was our young people from open high school, they have a Christmas event every year where they buy an outfit or a suit and they wear it once and it never gets worn again. Next slide please.

So, this was incredible that they all came along to a reuse event and we had over 100 young people coming on to that next slide please.

There you go. It was a great buzz about the space and we've recently held another similar event called the Re-Love Hub where we invited people to donate younger children's clothes and we had a full day of activities, including upcycling workshops and next slide, please and you'll see, I think hopefully coming up. You'll see some. Oh, this this is an upcycling project to change duvet covers into costumes for the local samba bands. Next slide, slide. You'll see the lovely dancers wearing their costumes. They'll be coming out again on Friday for another festival. Next slide. Thanks Andy.

So, keep rattling through. These are all the fashion show team that helped create a wonderful event. So, we're doing it bigger and better in 2026. We're going to have it for up to 400 people. Next slide, please. So alongside that, we invited partners to come along and have a partner event.

Which is great. We're encouraging local people and group to work more together. As being said, it's better to collaborate rather than duplicate. Next slide please.

That is, some of our lovely volunteers looking fabulous for the fashion show. These

were all donated clothes or upcycles clothes. You'll see there. The suit had hand drawn sketches of Oban on the suit. One of our showstoppers, next slide, please.

That is one of our community meals. Even the rescued food and and hope kitchen cooked up a storm. It was fantastic. We did it for £2 a-head. We served 180 people. Next slide please.

All along with our community garden as well. So, the real love Hub was their most recent event a few weeks ago and it was just brilliant to brought together a whole new bunch of charities that hadn't worked together before, and lots of young families. That maybe hadn't met other organisations, so it was a great celebration. I think making things fun and making families have good opportunities to get involved really helps to keep the excitement and energy about next slide please.

Thank you. And that's the re love hub in action. It was just lovely on the day, lots of different age groups coming along and and we moved a lot of stuff which was fantastic and lots of people got great bargains, which they're always very happy with.

So, moving on onwards and upwards, we're always looking to the next thing. So, I'll let Jane talk about the the future. We've been having a great first year. We've had I think over 100 volunteers for the events and working in the shop. So, we're continuing.

To think to the future, let them take over there.

Jane Chruchill, Oban Collective:

Thanks Aideen. Yeah. I mean, as you can see, there's just been some incredible activity and the shop is really, really has an incredible community support. But as and that you know, there's examples like this across Scotland of where communities are doing these incredible, amazing things. But because we were signed up, you know, it was a private landlord we could have been, we were at the mercy of the private landlord putting the rent up, deciding to sell at the end of the lease. And, you know all of this, as we've seen happen time and time again, could have been just ended at any point just, you know, completely out with our control.

So, what we were doing, the background was also looking at could we apply to the Scottish Land Fund to buy the building? None of the charity partners were actually eligible, so that meant actually setting up a brand-new organisation, which we've now set up Oban and District development trust. And we applied to the Scottish Land

Fund, and we were successful in securing the funding to buy the shop.

So on top of the success of the shop, we're now going through the process of buying it in partnership with the new development trust in Oban. So, if you go on to the next slide, Andy, please.

So, this is kind of what should we went from the original slide with the kind of four charities on it is fine. We do work with other partners and Atlantis is kind of there, but it just wasn't one of the four founding organisations. So you'll see now it's all the pictures already really grown and we've got the collaborative working of those charities that still continues as the Connecting Community's Collective, and because of that partnership, we were able to get restore, set up, the collective is likely to look at other future projects and then you see 113 George Street, which is the building that hosts Re-Store.

ODT, which is open and district development trust, has now now owns that, but we will, we will own it so we haven't bought it yet. And once that purchase goes through, there will be the landlord. So we'll have a friendly local community landlord to work in partnership and the development trust is also it's been set up on community wealth building principles and we the trust is aiming to look at potential future assets as well and trying to get more more land and property into Community hands, which is obviously a really key part, a key pillar of of community wealth building.

Aideen, I'm going to suggest I'm just going to talk through and wrap up because I think we probably almost we're kind of, I don't think we'll need to go through those benefits and challenges because I think we're probably close to time. Is that, OK?

So yeah, the buyout means that we've got community ownership of a prime shop front building and community control over assets is one of the key pillars of community wealth building that's prevented loss of the shop due to external market pressures or the landlord just deciding to sell out from under us and it enables long term planning and stability.

It's doubled the reinvestments and not only is the surplus from the shop being reinvested through those local charities, the rental income will now stay in the local economy and the development trust will be investing that rental income locally as well. We've got the circular economy reducing waste and sharing resources and we're creating resilience. We're going to tell you a bit about the benefits and challenges, but you've probably had the of partnership working, but there's probably nothing, nothing hugely new in there. So what I'd like to talk actually about is the, the key learning in terms of the Community wealth building bill and what we'd be keen to kind of share with others is that it absolutely couldn't have happened without first the three-year funding award that brought some capacity to those four charities to be

able to really think about partnership working because everyone's working so hard running their own organisation, stopping and have, you know, having some space to think about partnership. Actually, it really needs to be resourced.

It wouldn't have happened without Scottish Land Fund award to give us the £220,000 so that access to wealth to buy the property is absolutely the key. So, you know, that's the Scottish Land Fund. It has been a vital element to this and also we've had we are lucky to have some key individuals locally who understood the opportunities were out there and made the time to pursue them because without that this Community we wouldn't now have this happening in the Community.

So I think to summarise the Community initiatives and partnerships like the collective, like the, the work, the Development Trust and Restore Community shop are really powerful examples, yet they operate with limited support from mainstream economic policy and strategy.

What we're doing building local wealth, fostering inclusion and creating real impact, shouldn't be the exception. It should be the norm everywhere and if there was more support, it would be so. Right now, success feels like it's happening in spite of the economic system and not because of it and we believe that disconnect needs to change.

That's why the community wealth building bill is so important. It represents a vital pivot in economic development and strategy, one that recognises, supports and scales the kind of work we're already doing and with the right policy backing, we can move from isolated success like this to systemic transformation in neighbourhoods, towns and cities across Scotland, I also just wanted to stress that we need to ensure that Community wealth building is not just perceived as new words for Community development. It's economic and social change.

Two things I just wanted to mention while I'm here and in response to the OR not in response, but just to kind of tag on to Duncan raising the IDBMS kind of thing.

There's the new IDBM Alliance Scotland, which is a new alliance formed to promote these inclusive and democratic business models.

That's chaired by Neil Mcenroy and potential to be a real force for a systemic sector shift. So, for anyone that doesn't again, IDBMS, it seems to be the the jargon of the moment. So that includes social enterprises, community led enterprises, development trusts, Cooperatives and employee owned businesses and the other thing to mention is the Aaron statement which has come together from organisations who are championing the IDBMS from a rural perspective, and the statement calls for an urgent, radical leap forward.

Putting IDBMS at the heart of Scotland's economic policy to drive community wealth, building so on that note. Thank you very much for listening.

Ariane Burgess MSP:

Well, massive. Thanks, Jane and Aideen. What, Inspiration. That's really incredible. I represent Oban. I've been to hope Kitchen and Atlanta's leisure centre before you all got going. But did was I right in hearing you say that in the first year you made a was it £156,000. Is that right?

Jane Churchill, Oban Collective:

Yeah.

Aideen Sheilds, Oban Collective:

That was the turnover, yes.

Jane Chruchill, Oban Collective:

Yeah, that's the turnover. Not just without the grant income. We had some set up funding as well.

Ariane Burgess MSP:

Right. Well, the massive congratulations and just an incredible amount of energy actually coming through the slides of vibrancy and seeing all the people engaging, we're going to keep questions until after everyone's spoken. So, store up your questions. I'm going to now open the space. To Margaret Douglas, who's from Public Health Scotland. If you want to do a little preamble and intro yourself a little bit, that would be wonderful. Margaret over to you.

Margaret Douglas, Public Health Scotland:

Thank you very much. Can you hear me alright?

All right, great. Thanks, and thank you so much for inviting me to be here this evening. I'm Margaret Douglas. I'm a public health consultant.

I work in Public Health Scotland and I work on what we call the wider determinants of health or the building blocks of health, which includes economy and health and economy, of course, is one of the the main determinants of health of people in Scotland, both health and health inequality. So it's a really important thing, I think, for us to engage with in public health.

So what I'm going to talk about is a health impact assessment that we we carried out in order to understand how community wealth building was likely to impact on health. So, if I could have the next slide, please.

So, I'm going to say a little bit about the process that we went through to carry out this health impact assessment, and I'll have got one slide just summarising the economic inequalities in Scotland. Some of the quotes that we got from the key informants, the people that we spoke to during the health impact assessment and then I'll summarise it very briefly, the overall impacts on health of Community wealth building and the recommendations that we made. So, if I could have the next slide, please.

Which is about the the methods health impact assessment is a flexible, systematic process that we normally apply to a plan or a policy to understand what it means for health, what it means for health inequalities, and how we might want to amend that plan or policy to get the best overall health outcomes. In in this case, we did the health impact assessment quite a while before the the bill was available to look at. So, what we did was we did a health impact assessment of the concept of Community Wealth Building. There haven't been very many health impact assessments, at least in Scotland of Economic Policies or plans which I think is a real gap because economic policies and plans are so important for health.

But we felt community wealth building in particular saw the five pillars. It was obvious that it was likely to have quite significant effects on health, and we felt it was a really good opportunity to start unpicking what those might be. So the process that we went through for our health impact assessment was we, we held a workshop with stakeholders and the way that we carry out these workshops is we work through a checklist of different populations and different health determinants, and it's quite a quick way of surfacing what are the potential impacts of any plan or policy, and it's also quite a good way of getting a number of different stakeholders around the table with different perspectives and and sort of finding out what those different perspectives might be.

So, we carried out our stakeholder workshop, and we then gathered evidence to try and understand the impacts that we'd identified through that workshop. So, the evidence included routine data profile looking at health wealth and the sort of pillars within Scotland, we'll kind of interviews with 12 key informants. All of whom are people who were working in Scotland in anchor institutions trying to implement either a whole community wealth building strategy or different pillars of community wealth building. And then we looked at the research literature. There are not that many studies that have looked at the health impacts of community wealth building as a whole. There's there's one study that has looked at Preston and looked at mental health impacts, but we because we use the health impact assessment approach, we were able to kind of draw up a logic model and we looked at evidence of the health

impacts of anchor institutions and of the sort of hypothesis pathways that we had identified. And so, we put all of that together in a report and we made some deliberately, quite high-level recommendations.

So if I could have the next slide, please.

This is just summarising economic inequalities in Scotland and it's probably not really a surprise to anybody in this room, but there are very significant economic inequalities, so 2% of households in Scotland hold 18% of all the wealth.

And of about 360,000 private sector businesses, only 195 of them are employee owned. That might have gone up a little bit since we did our data profile. I hope it has, but it kind of shows the scale of the change. I haven't written down the number of social enterprises, but I'm sure you'll be able to tell me a ballpark figure.

If we look at private businesses, again, businesses owned outside of Scotland account for 3.3% of the businesses. So, it's a small number of businesses, but 35.6% of employment. So, a lot of employment and just over half 55.1% of turnover, so.

Was the scale of the change that we're trying to make in Community Wealth Building, I think. It's also, I think, important to know that SMEs are, but are sort of again more than half, almost 56% of private sector employment. So really important employers in Scotland. At the time you did our profile, 10% of employees were on less than the real living wage and 4% were on 0 hours contracts. So again, it just shows the scale of the challenge. But all of these are things that that community wealth building is trying to influence through the pillars.

So if I could have the next slide please.

During our health impact assessment, we spoke to these key informants, all of whom are people who were in really pivotal positions implementing different aspects of Community wealth building and I think they brought some really useful insights. And so, I'm, I don't think you'll be able to read this, but I'll I'll read out the the quote. So, this is this is from one of our informants saying;

"The value of community wealth building is about bringing together all these different elements, [all of these five pillars] to be greater than the sum of the parts".

So, some of these things we were trying to do before, you know, we were, we were, we were definitely trying to work on Fair Work. We were trying to do lots of these things. But what community wealth building does that is new is bringing all of that together. But then, having said that, if I could have the next slide, hopefully the next quote will pop up and hear somebody saying;

“But what I haven't actually seen in Scotland is anywhere where somebody's actually managed to do all of those 5 pillars at once and look at the collective power.”

So again, we're making a start at the time we did this, but there is quite a way to go to really put it all together. If I could have the next slide.

Our key key informants also talked about supporting how community wealth building was supporting some of the work that they were already doing in some of those pillars. So, there's a quote here saying;

“Lots of that work was taking place previously around looking at working practises and getting people into employment. But community wealth building has allowed a bit more of a comprehensive approach to that.”

And there's another quote here talking about procurement, saying:

“The procurement service and the business development team now work more closely together and that has resulted in a tangible increase in our local spend.”

So these community wealth building strategies that local authorities were starting to work on were starting to get people working together on this and having some tangible outcomes, if I could have the next slide which is about widening benefits, so this so this is a quote in talking about some of the wider benefits that key informants perceived through community health building. So here is somebody saying;

“a high percentage of businesses who responded to our survey. This was our survey of local SMEs, [sorry, small and medium enterprises] Saying that their relationship with the community, for example, is as important as the profit that they make”.

That's really important because it that suggests that if we're trying to support local businesses many of which are smaller as well as Inclusive and Democratic Business Models, they're likely to care more about their staff, and they're likely to support their staff more. And there's another quote here saying;

“We've got an action to use investment opportunities from the pension fund to support community wealth building, and this is one of the things that I think could make a real and material difference to people in the long term.”

When we talk to people, the finance pillar was one that some several people said they thought that was the the pillar that people were finding most tricky and this is

one of the real opportunities is to work with pension funds on that.

And then I think this is the last lot of quotes. If I could have the next slide, please, on Community Ownership.

So, this is another wider aspect of Community wealth building, saying;

“Community Wealth Building is also about that community cohesion and having a stake in your economy [and I think that's really fundamental to what community wealth building is about.] all of the health benefits that sit around having that sense of control, I think that is a really important aspect of this.”

I completely agree with that. That is a really important aspect of this.

But there's another side to this if I could have the next slide saying;

“There's a double-edged sword there, the benefit of having community ownership versus all the pressures that that brings”.

There is this risk that some individuals maybe. So, it's a fantastic example, wasn't it? We just saw from Oban. But, a small number of individuals will have made that happen and there is a risk that we put very high expectations and pressure on a small number of people to deliver and it's really important that we don't see it as an alternative to public services.

So if I could have the next slide, I'm going to just summarise quite briefly that the health impacts of Community Wealth Building that we identified and they came out partly from the the those interviews with key informants, partly from the literature that we looked at as well. A lot of the health impacts were through economic pathways, so improved access to secure employment and improved working conditions, loads and loads of of evidence about the health impacts of working conditions and about having good, secure employment.

That is one of the key pillars of community wealth building and actually set really all of the pillars contribute to that and also reduced poverty, reduced income inequality and reduced wealth inequality. I showed you how significant wealth inequality is in Scotland. That is one of the main drivers of health inequalities, so if, to the extent to which Community Wealth Building is successful in its own terms and reducing poverty, income inequality and wealth inequality, that will definitely have a really significant positive impact on health and on health inequality.

But on top of those economic benefits, if I could have the next slide, we also identified wider health impacts and some of the quotes I showed you hinted at those.

So particularly through the land and property pillar, but also some of the others. A reduction in adverse environmental externalities and so supporting local businesses, they're more likely to support local environments and to have an interest in the local community and local environments, and that means we're likely to see fewer environmental and other externalities. Adverse externalities and positive impacts for local environments, access to spaces and facilities and amenities. And we've just seen a really good example of that, I think. And the benefits to the community through that and anchor institutions can play a really strong role in that as well, I think.

This sense of giving many more people an economic stake in their community and the sense of control that comes with that. There's lots of evidence about the benefits to health, the psychosocial benefits of having that sense of control.

So I think that could be a really, really strong health benefit of Community Wealth Building and linked to that greater community cohesion and resilience and the only adverse impact that we identified was this potential risk of demands on communities if we if there isn't the support in place to support them, to pick up some of the new roles we will be expecting potentially of some.

So if I could have the next slide this is just summarising the recommendations that we made in our health impact assessment and the top one was that actually we should recognise that Community Wealth Building is actually a public health approach as well as an economic development approach because it has all of these benefits for health. So, our top recommendation was that we really want to expand the scale and reach of Community Wealth Building. It has lots of potential, but in order to reach that potential, it really needs to be done at scale across Scotland and that's why having the bill is so important.

That but we also recognise, particularly given the extent of those economic inequalities that I showed you, Community Wealth Building can do a lot, but it's not going to overturn that all by itself. We also need other policies to reduce those large inequalities in income and wealth. I actually think the statement that Scottish Government is required to produce as part of that's currently in the wording of the bill that could be part of that, I think that is a real opportunity to look at what other policies could we implement that would work towards reducing those inequality.

I may need some further recommendations relating to each pillar that we're a bit more detailed that I won't go into in detail here, so that's a very quick.

Sorry, that yes, that's a very quick whiz through the health impact assessment. I'm very happy to share these slides afterwards and I've put a link to all of the health impact assessment documents in which are on public health Scotland's website and I'm very happy to take questions at the end as well. Thank you.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Great. Thanks so much, Margaret. I mean that, that's just that's kind of like what you've gone through is just really important to me that the Public Health Scotland has weighed in and said this is actually a health issue and taken a whole other part of the the story of their perspective. And I think that's so powerful and and just walking us through what you're thinking, and I've made a note. Yes. OK, so what are the other policies that we need to get. That shopping list of other policies to to tackle the inequalities and kind of like be the kind of sister elements that go with community wealth building. But that's really very inspirational. So, I hope you've got questions I've got a few. I made a note of a few so we are going to move on. I think back online and we're going to welcome Angela Lamont, who's from East Lothian Council, and Angela is the Community wealth building officer.

Can I see you? Yes, I can see you. Hello, Angela. Come on in. Over to you. Lovely background by the way.

Angela Lamont, East Lothian Council:

Oh, hi. Thank you. Thank you. It's East Lothian buckthorn. So yeah, it's not very seasonal, but it does cheer people up, so that's nice. And I'd just like to say I've been drafted in quite late in the day this afternoon actually. So, I have some notes. I don't have slides and I'm going to be pretty succinct and straight talk, and you might be glad to hear that actually. But yeah, I just want to agree, first of all with a couple of things. Well, with a lot of what the previous speakers have said, yes, Community Wealth Building is not frilly community development, it is economic change and transformation that we badly need.

And yes, it is more than a sum of its parts, or that's what it's meant to be. And it's definitely, definitely a public health approach if you think affordable housing, good quality jobs with good conditions, these things are huge determinants on health. In fact, they're the main determinants in health. So yes, if we get it right, then we can actually ease and, you know, solve a lot of a lot of our issues. So yeah.

So, we started out in community wealth building in East Lothian before my time. So, it's probably 2022/23 when we were revising our local economy strategy and a working group was set up etcetera. Then which stands to today.

I'm really pleased to say that Community Wealth Building sits at the heart of that

local economy strategy strategy and at the heart of several of the the the real key strategies for some of our anchors too and I took the reins last April.

Since then, yeah, we've been making some inroads and when it comes to plural ownership and your inclusive democratic business models, we're doing, yeah, pretty well. We've got a strong social enterprise network in East Lothian. It is growing. So, end of 23/24, we had 25 and end of 24/25 we had 36 and you know, it's a real diverse range, really, really good stuff that that people are doing. Yeah. And I just want to big up the social enterprise awards because one of our guys won the first port award-winning the £50,000 prize, Thrive East Lothian CIC. Who do flexible and affordable childcare.

Which is also key to getting parents back into the workforce and good quality jobs for them and cracking child poverty as well. What I would say though, I'm going to be quite candid because for me, the key pillars, progressive procurement, right, it's getting local businesses and alternative business models involved in anchor, public sector procurement and really that buoying everything that enabling them to grow that creating this good quality employment etcetera, etcetera that is so badly needed.

We're making relatively slow progress with this and really, we need more local spend and more local SMEs and social enterprises, etcetera in much, much, much more. Our progress is a little slow and I sat down with the procurement manager recently and she was presenting at committee today and I think some councillors have commented on it too, but yeah. One of the things we are planning to do is to go down the Quick Quote route and these are smaller procurement and get anchor. So, the Council and other anchor staff trained in these and to say look, it's really, really necessary that we're thinking local because this thing is going to be coming into legislation soon, it's mandatory. You know this you, you know, selecting at least one at least new in your selection process make it more than one you know and we can provide the local database etcetera. This is not difficult, and I can do searches and all sorts of things.

Also want to get around suppliers and say what kind of capacity could you deal with and then do training with them and awareness raising on the new procurement thresholds that are coming in, which should hopefully make things better and easier and hopefully a simplification of those procurement rules as well. When it comes to talking about pure legislation.

We do have some spend on social enterprises just now and it's quite a high spend,

but it seems to be with one or two social enterprises, and it's really not diversified. And I know that this really is not ideal and it's not what's going to be sought by the Buy Social Scotland pledge, so we have to change it.

I'm also very aware that in Buy Social school with Jamie today actually coincidentally come along and present to us, and there are a number of tier ones in this and that's something that we're looking to do is like a build East Lothian programme along with Hub South East and really try and get local firms in and social enterprises and whatnot too.

What I find though is that when I'm trying to deal with tier ones individually that they have a threshold themselves on the suppliers that they will deal with in their supply chain and often our guys don't fit that because they've got to be a risk averse and whatnot. So I'd actually like to see a relaxation of procurement for public sector, but also with these guys too, in these thresholds come down really hoping that it's not tick box and in theory and you know not in practise that's kind of what I'm finding with this procurement thing just now.

But I'm really, really enthused to hear about the Oban collective's work and that you know, consortium approach and we are not a legal entity, but we're going to start to promote that. We're going to be doing a drive in social care and getting down Granite Care from Aberdeen, who quite famously, perhaps it's a group of sort of care based social enterprises, small businesses and whatnot in Aberdeen, have come together and are winning, you know the local authority procurement contracts year on year. So, they're doing really well. They're a really good model of best practise.

So, I just end with saying yes, we need to make the Community Wealth Building strong and needs to come with sticks as well as carrots because it really needs to be forced to be implemented in my view. And yes, change to that sister policy procurement regulations. You know, community asset transfer, all that type of thing really needs to come in as well. So therein that lies the end of my speech.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

OK, brilliant. Oh, that that's fantastic. I'm really appreciate you being, as you said candid because I think that's good. We want to kind of drill down and hear what do we want to make sure needs to show up in this bill to make the to have the biggest impact. That we can possibly have so sticks as well as carrots. We will. We'll make it. I've made a note of that. I'm good to just hear what what you're working on. I like the idea that your kind of picking up the whole on my committee. Local Government housing and planning. We've just done pre-budget scrutiny on the Scottish Government's budget and the big thing that was kind of highlighted to us was the

problem with this, the challenges that Local Authorities Councils have with the social care that that's taking up a lot of their budget, so it's great that you're looking at that as a potential kind of how can you do community wealth building within that context. OK.

So, I have a I've got loads of questions, but I think I'm going to stick to a bill related question. Because I could ask all kinds of juicy kind of curiosity questions about all your amazing things you're doing, but and then I'll go and then I'll open the floor. So, I'm doing this to kind of like warm the room kind of thing, and then we'll bring in your questions.

So, Duncan talked about the Bills objectives. And one of the things was that it was going to make, Community Wealth Building is going to kind of bring it into a kind of statutory duty and I would you don't all have to answer this, but that seems to me that's a good thing, but I'd love to hear your thoughts on that.

Make making a statutory duty and how you think that that could really help us. Margaret, do you want to try that?

Margaret Douglas, Public Health Scotland:

Do I think it's a good thing? Yes. Is the short answer. I think probably everybody here will say yes, it is a good thing and partly because as you well, as you said, local authorities have got lots of other things that are statutory duties. And if this were acts sort of nice to do is much more likely to slip down the list and not happen particularly. When given the fiscal constraints and the pressures that everybody's under, so for that reason alone, but also, I think it gives them a bit more, although it's a duty on there. On top wouldn't just be local authorities, I hope. I hope it would be part. It would be partners. I mean that is that is the intention that is the intention, isn't it, Duncan? I haven't misunderstood that. Yes. It means that the partners have to come together and we've already got community planning, we've got, you know.

Our our organisations already know how to work together, but it would give them something else really strong to work together on and I think it's a lot of it is in the partnership work it's it's it's not, you know, it's not just in the anchor organisations, it's in how they work with with across the whole partnership really.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Right. OK. Can I just? I just clarify, so it's probably statutory duty on public bodies that that would be. So, it's all the people have to show up for the community planning partnerships. So, it might actually give them more purpose in a way to actually pool resources and yeah, OK.

Angela or Aideen or Jane. Any comments on that statutory piece? You don't have to anything to add to what Margaret said.

Angela Lamont, East Lothian Council:

Yeah, I would. I would like to come in and say, yeah, probably from what you heard me say, I absolutely think that it's great that it's mandatory. I would be a bit candid again actually and say that the bill is quite light. So, it's not giving a lot of detail, which is it's not meant to because it's meant there's meant to be flexibility there. The other thing is that from a late person's point of view, it seems that the Scottish Parliament Scottish Government are very good at passing legislation, but perhaps less good at monitoring and seeing it implemented. And I'm thinking the climate change bill and the 2030 targets that were were scrapped, which I didn't know was even kind of lawful, nevermind anything else. So, what I want, to see is how it's going to be monitored to make sure that it is implemented and that's done. It's it's not let slip, you know, as maybe the climate change bill stuff has it's done in a timely fashion.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

OK, thanks for that. Even though the bill has gone away from the local government housing and planning committee, maybe that's something that needs to go into our legacy report, given that we did a bit of work on it around that monitoring and it could be something that the next Sessions committee, whatever name it gets. Could take a look at that. Anything else on the statutory piece?

Happy not for there not to be and can move into other questions. Yeah, Duncan.

Duncan Thorp, Social Enterprise Scotland:

Yeah, just mention briefly, I suppose the point that Angela just made around policy implementation. So, I guess it's something we've all discussed in various meetings around you know what actually happens when legislation leaves the doors of the Scottish Parliament, what happens in local communities is it actually implemented? Is it actioned? Do you know, does it, does it become reality? I think, you know, that's it's a challenge across all policy areas to be honest as well.

It is a process within Parliament to kind of, you know, look at the scrutiny of legislation, the practical implementation, but that's maybe not as in-depth as it could be. It's not, as you know, not as good as it could be, maybe as well. So, it's just that it's an ongoing issue, I think in general.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Absolutely. I mean that's what I mean by the next committee. Local Government, Housing and Planning committee could put it in what's called our legacy reports. So, all committees tend to write a report on what they've done and what they when they make suggestions for the next re-iteration of that committee. So we could put in something around keeping an eye on the monitoring and implementation, certainly in relation to local government and Economy and Fair Work Committee, I could imagine they would put something in as well so that you know, we definitely need to be looking at that. I had exactly the same conversation with somebody this weekend. Scotland actually has world class legislation, frameworks, you know, legal frameworks. But the implementation, enforcement, compliance actually delivery on the ground does need quite a bit of help.

Yeah. OK, Andy, you've got, have you got an online question or a question? Yourself.

Andy Paterson, Social Enterprise Scotland:

I have both. OK, so it's to double down on the statutory thing for local authorities. So, they definitely have that when it comes to our public bodies, that's where the two lists in the bill come up.

.
So, it's worth examining, do those public bodies need to be in each list? Does there need to be two lists is a question, I think, and what public bodies are maybe not in that list. I'm not sure if the Scottish Parliament are in that list. So, it's something to include. But going online;

What counts as community wealth building and how will we count it? Slash track meaningful success. The process for developing measurement and indicator framework is not yet specified. How can we clarify how the indicator framework will be created? Who will be involved in shaping it? How do communities, social enterprises, local embedded organisations participate in this process from the outset?

So for each of the panellists, what would you want to see measured that would represent meaningful community wealth building for you?

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

I'm glad you simplified that question too. Down down to what do you want to? What is it? What do you want to?

See.

Measured, implemented and measured. Yes. OK, super. Who wants to pick that up

first? I'm not. I'm not always going to pick on Margaret. I know from convening that often the person in the room gets picked on going first. But. Also, if you want to go first, you can.

Margaret Douglas, Public Health Scotland:

I know that there is work ongoing developing indicators. I'm and I think we need indicators for each of the pillars, but I also think we need indicators for some of the outcomes about income and wealth inequality, for example, and the things that were in our data profiles. So I won't go through all of them.

But you saw the scale of the challenge and I think I would like to see indicators or targets to improve all of those to to improve income and wealth inequality.

To increase the number of inclusive and democratic businesses of all of all of those types. To increase definitely to increase the spend within Scotland from procurement to and to increase the proportion of employment and turnover, that is businesses within Scotland. So, all of those things I think are things that we would hope Community Wealth Building would improve.

And so, I think we should be monitoring them. So, there's kinds of, I guess, sort of almost input targets which are around the pillars and the activity around the pillars and then there's outcomes which are those things that I've just mentioned.

Angela Lamont, East Lothian Council:

I'll come in there as well, if you don't mind. Yeah, I would just like to say yes, we are working on some national indicators, and I would like to see them simple and yeah, aligned to the pillars and using existing indicators where possible, but absolutely what Margaret just said. Yeah, definitely linked to outcomes to what comes going as far as you know, decrease in substance, use that type of thing, decrease in homelessness, that type of type of thing, because these are real indicators of a country's economic health. So yeah, absolutely.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Great. OK, thanks. I mean, what pops into my head also is the national performance framework, maybe they need to be linked to that, right, because we start to create all these models that all kind of do different things or all trying to do the same thing but separately, maybe we need to link it to that. See nodding heads, we're going to bring in Jane, come on in, Jane.

Jane Churchill, Oban Collective:

Oh, muted and unmuted. Thank you. Yeah. Just to really add, I guess to what people have said but and reiterate the, you know, there are some real clear indicators that

can be shown around increased local and national spend from the anchor organisations and within procurement teams, local supply chains and more employee owned businesses, we saw the figures were really low there and I think for having seen several local businesses close have been going for 30 odd years and Oban. I don't think the people working there had no clue that that was an option for them and wouldn't have had any support or anybody even telling them that might have been something they could. They were all you know, businesses that were going well, they were sustainable, they were working. And then when the owners sold them, you know, they they closed so more employee-owned businesses and much more land and property in, in community ownership. But absolutely picking up on Margaret's point about the fact that at the moment. Community owned asset. It falls on a very few people. Generally, volunteers giving up an awful lot of their own time and having to give increasing and taking on increasing amounts of responsibility to try it to to make this happen. So, community owned assets, but in a much more supported in much more supported infrastructure yeah, that's what I would like to see.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Yeah, I 100% agree with you with you on that. I mean, even before I was elected, I really I worked in Community development and I got to a point where I feel like we need more support and more kind of facilitation from local authorities, that's in part, but I also, my sense is that actually we need maybe more training starting in high school. Skills for thinking about project development about how to run a meeting, how to set an agenda that has a beginning and an end time, and what's going to be the right things to put on that agenda and so that people feel like they want to come to those meetings and be part of whatever is being created, all kinds of things that could be being taught at school that are fantastic, transferable skills. When you go into a job anyway, so.

What not? What's not to like about that? I see that Andy Rockholt's got his hand up. Is he next in line to come in?

All right. OK, so let's go with Angela. And then and Andy.

Angela Lamont, East Lothian Council:

Just one minute. I didn't know if Jamie's question. Sorry Andy's question was addressed to yourself or to us guys, but there was something I wanted to say on it. So, you've got the is it the relevant public bodies that are it's supposed to be that they work with the local authorities to deliver this.

So kind of mandatory for them. And there's also the specified public bodies, and they're the ones that have got to show that they're taking community wealth, building

into account when they're setting their strategic plans. If I'm questioning, you know, the implementation from those from whom to whom it's mandatory.

Then I'm thinking there's not an awful lot of hope for that specified public bodies list, so I think that needs to be strengthened as well, and actually I'll represent Paul Morris from Clackmannanshire, who was supposed to be here and I'm standing in for he was always calling for pension funds.

To actually be named in the specified public body list. Because actually when you look at the investment across Scotland, most of the North Sea oil and gas and renewables is owned by half of the world. You know we've got Australian and Canadian pension funds that own all this stuff and that we don't we won't touch it. So, we need to have an awful lot more local investment and our local projects and stuff going on. It seems madness that we that we don't. So yeah, that's just a quick answer to that question.

Andy Paterson, Social Enterprise Scotland:

Andy did you want to come in?

Andy Rockall, Community Woodlands Association:

Yeah. Sorry. Yeah. I just wanted to make a wee comment about metrics and benefits. I'm the director of the Community Woodlands Association work with communities that own and manage land and assets across Scotland. The real benefits I say, and there's lots of good stuff being mentioned around jobs and economics.

And so on. But the real benefits I see that communities get from being involved in managing land and assets, more intangible things like confidence, assertiveness, self-determination, willingness to do things for themselves, and those are the outcomes I'd like to see this legislation work towards.

They're difficult to measure and that's an ongoing conversation I have in my own work, but, and I think all the things mentioned are good steps, but they are steps along the way to communities leading things for themselves and doing things for themselves. Thank you.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Margaret, would you come in?

Margaret Douglas, Public Health Scotland:

Yeah, absolutely. I think that our health impact assessment showed that it's a lot of those wider, sort of horrible, public health jargon, but the psychosocial benefits are potentially really strong positive outcomes of community wealth building, and I completely agree with you. It might seem intangible, but they are really, really important outcomes and finding a way. I know whether it's exactly measuring or whether it's monitoring or I don't know exactly how you would do that, but I think finding a way of capturing that and showing that as a benefit. Would be would be really helpful, I agree.

Andy Rockall, Community Woodlands Association:

I have an ongoing conversation with an Edinburgh University academic about how we may measure this in the world I work in, and there may be some read across potentially.

Andy Paterson, Social Enterprise Scotland:

There's a question in the chat which I think is probably direct to yourself, Ariane and Paul, do we have enough time in this parliamentary term to pass the bill?

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Yes, I think so. I think so. I mean, we've got some other bills that are in a very different state. The Heating Buildings, bill is supposed to get through in this parliamentary term and that hasn't even come to the local government housing and planning committee. So, we haven't even done the stage 1, whereas this is this is clearing stage 1. I think the stage 1 debates next week, so.

Yeah. No, I think I think it should be fine. Yeah. Other side of the room.

Douglas Westwater, Community Enterprise:

Yeah. Thank you. A wee bit of information, 'cause. I'll get murdered if I don't mention it. And a wee question. I work from Community Enterprise and we've been working for about a year and a half with Creative Scotland and we've done a which piece of work and all over the country, but it's ended up one of the outputs is our community wealth building toolkit, which is now you can have a look at it on our website, on Community Enterprises website and it's quite a practical toolkits for in this case creative industries.

And to work out how well they're doing and how an action plan for benefiting even more from so. So just. Yeah, as I say, I was asked to point.

So, the question I've got is is about. I'll leave it back to the implementation question. I think that your point Ariana is very well made. We're a brilliant country for policy and

strategy, and I suppose this is anecdotal and I hope I don't get into trouble for saying this, but the Community Wealth Building and IDBs and well-being economy, the people in this room and online probably in social enterprise world, have lived and breathed that for decades. It just feels well, obviously we're doing of course that's that.

We've already been doing it, but this is great that it's now in the public domain and I've seen quite a lot over the last few months coming out, particularly the economy division, both from officers and politicians trying not to name anybody but with lots of speeches and LinkedIn posts and so on about the economy and the big waxing lyrical about new starts and innovation, internationalisation and growth. All of which I love, and we all love, but not a single mention of well-being economy or community, wealth building or even just it's just all about GVA and I just wonder.

How do we get this thinking embedded into that mainstream economy? Thinking it just feels like there's a little bit on the fringes, and when it comes to that mainstream economy?

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Yeah, certainly. I think we were the first half of this session. There was more of that well-being conversation, but then maybe Duncan, do you want to come in on this because you're kind of you're in conversation with the economy division maybe more than I am.

Duncan Thorp, Social Enterprise Scotland:

Yeah, I guess, I mean I suppose John Sweeney himself has said he's definitely still committed to the world being economy and that kind of approach. But I think it's a very fair point to be honest. Yeah, it's trying to, it's trying to mainstream that. I don't think there's any easy answers in terms of how we mainstream that because we've been trying it for, I don't know, 20 years or something like that. I think in terms of mainstreaming. But I think, yeah, mainstreaming those business models of what we call alternative business models needs to be the norm. I think as well. So that's the point we need to get to where social enterprises are the default business model. But yes, good question. How do we get there?

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Is it something maybe about helping people understand, right? So, we tend to talk about economic growth and we use GDP.

I've got another one in my mind these days and maybe we need to really be thinking about the other indicators and I think that's why I was really kind of chuffed about

what you've been doing at Public Health Scotland because it has is really kind of pushing on.

What are the other things we can measure and we know about, you know, Bhutan and the the National Happiness Index, but it's kind of like looking at that kind of thing. I remember when I used to teach social enterprise and well-being economy stuff, we talk about getting people to brainstorm. What are the indicators that you would love to see if you had a well-being community? If your community was thriving in that way. What what would the indicators be? And I think it's great to get people thinking about that kind of thing and get away from the growth bit. It's quite it's a kind of easy it's an easy thing to pick up and an easy thing to get into newspaper headlines because we've just kind of gotten really connected with the idea that growth equals prosperity, which I don't think is true. So, it may be good to kind of help people think about other ways we can indicate it. I see my colleague Paul has been indicating he wants to come in, so I'll bring him in.

Paul McLennan, MSP:

Thanks. And a couple of points, about the bill that is certainly in the programme to go through before a closing session, so that I think confident that will happen. There's a couple of points I wanted to make in terms of that one was around about Angela will know this and Angela and I have met in this and a couple of times.

I recently held an energy conference and one of the things we were talking about was community benefits and you're literally talking millions of pounds and community benefits that will come into East Lothian over a number of years. I think what's really important as a community wealth building part of that to make sure that, you know, the money that's going to be spent on that and the Community benefits and the money that's been spent by the developers.

It is spent as locally as we possibly can, so we've been working that a period of time. So I would say to people who are open or receive community benefits, please speak to developers, speak to your community councils, the Community Councils in our areas have set up a SCIO to try and spend that money and we're speaking to the local community. So, I think that's important.

Coming back to the well-being economy, I used to chair the Cross-Party group and started the Cross-Party group on the well-being economy, I spoke to government officials probably about two, two or three months ago around about performance indicators, which are really important and they'll be picking up the well-being economy. But you're right. I mean part of the issue and about the well-being economy was nobody could define what it was, everybody thinks it's a good idea, but

what it's actually defining, and I think it's not just defining what well-being economy is, what we've got to get to. I think in terms of that is also in terms of well-being budget and we're behind Wales, we're behind New Zealand and that's we've got to move beyond the concept and to actually budgeting for well-being, well-being economy as well, that's where we've got to get to in the next session of the Parliament, one's establishing the principle that which I think we all believe in. It's got to be performance that caters. But to go really into real depth of it, it has to be part of a government budget, and we have to move away from GDP as this indicator, we can't go on. Just be GDP. We need a much broader measure of a of of a well-being. Economy, GDP and its own doesn't do that. So quick comments from me at the end.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Super, thanks very much and thanks for your confidence on the bill.

Yeah, just on the the indicators piece, I think that's a potentially a piece of work that needs to be done. And I'm just thinking about the local government and housing and planning committee and now I've lost my train of thought, so I'm going to bring in Margaret, and my train of thought might come back. Come on in, Margaret.

Margaret Douglas, Public Health Scotland:

I was going to just come in on the well-being economy. I mean from a health point of view, a well-being economy would be very, very good for health and and a well-being economy. It's partly A mindset shift about what the economy is for. Is it for growth? For its own sake? Or is it for the well-being of our population and our planet? So, there's that need for a kind of mindset shift. I think in in all of us, in the medias you've just said as well as in politicians and in policymakers. So, I think there's that. But then there's the practical mechanisms to achieve a well-being economy, and I think indicators are one of them measuring other things besides GDP, but we actually do do that in our national performance framework. We just don't seem to give it as much sort of weight as we give the GDP. It still seems to get the headline even though it's not supposed to be the headline one anymore. So, indicators are part of that.

I think Community Wealth Building is a practical approach. I think it's possibly the only real economic development approach that I've seen that is implementing a well-being economy. I think so. I think it is really important and I'm also going to fly the flag for health impact assessment. So, I showed you the HIA that we did of Community health building.

There, as I said, there's not very many economic policies I'm aware of that have been subjected to health impact assessment, but that is a very structured way of thinking about, you know, very broad impacts on people's health and well-being and I would really like to see routine use of health impact assessment on.

Other economic policies not, not just community wealth building. So, I think that would be another mechanism that would by definition.

That we would have to think about. You know what? What is this economic policy mean for the people, people's health and well-being. And that would be that is one way I think that we could start to move towards a well-being economy.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Yeah, it definitely seems like that's an important tool.

Yeah. OK, come on and Duncan, then. I've got Angela and then somebody else online. And then in the room as well, and all the hands are coming up. This is very light.

Duncan Throp, Social Enterprise Scotland:

I'll be very I'll be very, very brief. It's just to mention yet another policy area. There is the well-being and sustainable development bill as well, which is going through potentially going through Parliament at some point and that's about establishing a future generations Commissioner for Scotland, which again feeds into Community wealth, building feeds into the well-being and the national performance framework and all this kind of stuff. So, it's all in the same ballpark. It's just to flag that bill as well, just to add to the massive amounts of information you already have. Yes, brilliant. And I now have remembered my thing. And I will. Then I will go to the and if you can tell me who that person is who's indicating online? I'll bring them in next. But my thing was going to be around the Christie Commission.

Sorry, jargon folks, but right that talked about prevention, and I think that the well that's where we could pull a thread saying the well-being economy is the preventative agenda in the Christie report.

So, I think there's like, how do we kind of like weave all of those things together. So, who's that person?

Andy Paterson, Social Enterprise Scotland:

We have Angela, online and we have Steven Mooney as well.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

OK. So, we're going to go to Angela 1st and then Steven Mooney, and then we're going to come to yourself.

Angela Lamont, MSP:

Yeah, I'll be one minute as well. Well-being economy is pre-distribution as opposed to redistribution, which goes on just now and I really liked Douglas's comment because actually that's what I'm noticing as well. When NSET came out, there was a lot about the well-being economy, but it was hardly mentioned.

And neither was community wealth building. I was thinking no, no, we can't miss this opportunity. And I'm noticing it locally too. I wonder if it's a bit about language because well-being economy sounds fluffy and nice and touchy feely. And when I first learned about it, it was quite hard for me to put it across apart from to say it's not just lovely and nice and touchy feely touchy feely. It's about the economy and that's all I could do. But now we've got community wealth building. It's actually easier to articulate for me. It needs to be embedded in structures that are there that are recognised like Scottish Enterprise business Gateway just needs to be put slap bang in the middle of there and made the norm, you know, Scottish Enterprise they froze the funding for Cooperative Development Scotland, I think allocated it elsewhere and there's no assurance that it's going to come back. So, it's much needed much needed.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Brilliant. Great. Thank you. And then I can't remember the name, but I think I can see your picture now. You've come online. Come on.

Stephen Mooney, NHS Credit Union:

Yeah, I've bravely come and put the picture up. So yeah, it's just really a quick question about collaboration within the different cross-party groups that are in place. I'm also a member of the credit Union Cross party group and you know the credit union sector is fundamentally built on community wealth building. So, I'm keen to understand what conversations have taken place across some of the other cross-party groups that can, you know, fundamentally influence some of the the outcomes that we're looking for.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Yeah, certainly. I'm going to what we were just talking about this just before we went online about how there could be more collaboration. Maybe Duncan, have you?

Yeah. Gone. Yeah.

Duncan Thorp, Social Enterprise Scotland:

Absolutely. So, we've had conversations with that CPG and other CPGS as well. So, try to get always remember the list, but there's a cooperative CPG. Credit Unions, fair trade and the well-being economy as well as this social enterprise one. So, we're aware there is overlap and certainly shared values and shared aims and objectives. So, we are in conversation with these other CPGS as well. So, we're talking about I guess post election planning in terms of where we take all that. I think we've had joint CPGs with those groups in the past as well.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

And I just thought another one which I don't know if it ever got back up and running, but town centres. Because you know, there's lots of shops in that that I was inspired by that one by the Oban Collective. And you know what you can do with the town centre and the whole land, right, the the land and buildings pillar of all the well-being economy. OK, great.

June Grindley, Creatovators CIC

Thank you. I'm finding this really inspiring and helpful particularly well. All of it actually, but the open collective, you know and and the partnerships there because we so I'm June Grindley from Creatovators CIC. In East Dunbartonshire, we work with autistic people. On their parents, carers, families, we're all. We're all either parents, carers, families or, you know, have some association as well. We do a number of activities and projects and I'm just thinking about the bill and when we're working with them, we have to work intensively with small numbers.

And what we look like a small step to a new typical person is a massive step for a neurodivergent person, particularly, you know, autistic people.

And I just wonder how those outcomes and indicators might take account of, you know, we're working with small numbers, but we're having a huge impact.

There's only 29% of autistic people in employment, and we know that there's a huge potential within those people, they have amazing abilities to think outside the box and I believe Scotland needs those people now we need to be thinking outside the box, you know, in terms of climate change and various other things. So yeah, that's

that's really my question. How can we look at those indicators and outcomes so that we're we're not having to go, we're just not going to get there.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

That's a really good point, so that we're not having to always think about the big and the, the, the kind of like numbers of like, oh, we've got to reach X number of people or do X number of steps and that's a really good point. Anybody want to pick that up? Anybody online? I know the speakers online trying to avoid going to Margaret first. Margaret.

Margaret Douglas, Public Health Scotland:

I was going to ask what you'd like to see is there, is there, you know, have you got any ideas about how we might reflect the value of what you're doing without making it all about numbers?

June Grindley, Creatovators CIC:

I guess stories is our way of doing it. We we already, you know, do a story and it's a progression of this person has got to there, but these are the steps.

That they've taken to get to there and you know, I think of one of our current directors who is 19, just turned 19. I was going to say 18, but he I worked with him on a one-to-one basis.

When I worked with him, he he couldn't attend school. You know, he was really struggling at school and had a lot of distress behaviour, a lot of anxiety and his parents had to take him out. I worked with him and his family. They accessed all of our services and activities and projects and were other things as well. Wasn't just us, but we were, you know, his mum always says, you know, we were a huge impact in his life and he's just gone on to Glasgow University, into the space. I can't remember what it's called. There's the space. I don't know if it's a degree. I can't remember exactly, but anyway, he's just he's just started there doing that and he speaks fluently and confidently. And if you meet him, you wouldn't realise you know that he has issues and and and he has to manage his lifestyle, you know? So that's just one success story. But it's one person you know, and there's a lot of work that's going in to doing that. So, things like stories and you know, what have they actually? What progression is in their life?

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

We could have a we could have a think about the way we work on bills and bringing what we called amendments, changes to the bill to kind of bring that in, we have a fantastic legislation team and so MSPs can go to legislation and team and say.

This is the policy intent. This is what we'd like to see this. Can you help us figure out

where in the bill it needs to go? So, I've made a note of that and my colleague Lorna Slater. But maybe Paul might want to pick it up to you, but my colleague Lorna Slater is, you know, publicly known as autistic. So, she might be very interested in putting an amendment in that way, but someone else might pick it up. Did you want to come back in directly on this point? OK, come on in.

X with Douglas, X:

Just a thought, maybe on monitoring the capacity building or monitoring for specific group, maybe like gender budgeting, we can do a tagging exercise as different point of intervention, not look not only looking at outcome but on the budgetary cycle earlier.

Once the budget is done, we can take like this expense. How? What is the impact to this group? Group so that we have an earlier sense instead of justice only looking at the outcome and then they give us keyarar data as well. The taking exercise so that we can be confident to say, oh, this part of the budget is related to this group of people that might help to start the data collection process.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

OK, really good practical. Response there an idea there that's kind of related to what we're talking about, the implementation part, the monitoring part, you had a question or a comment?

Steve Lawrence, Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network:

I didn't think I did, but actually I'm so just just on this. Actually, I think it's a really good reminder and this has come oh, sorry, I'm Steve from the Edinburgh Social Enterprise network. It's just a reminder that in Community Wealth Building, the communities aren't just geographic, that they are communities of interest too and I think around a lot of this conversation that is that can be forgotten.

That's just a really good question and reminder that it's it. There is a kind of diversity, and this can go even even further where we're such big supporters of community wealth building and in Edinburgh there's great stuff happening. On a regional level, there's amazing stuff happening through the city region deal. But yeah, I think I think the challenge probably is on the national level, how how does it work? These national organisations, how do they interact with their communities? Yeah. Super. OK. One last comment or question or actually no, you had a question, sorry. So, let's go to Bryony first and then we'll come to you.

Bridie Ashrowan, Social Enterprise Academy:

Thank you so much. I just want to acknowledge that the well-being framework in

Wales, building on your point is not just a duty to promote but a duty to act and to measure. And I think pointing to your statement that there is a team who can help with the accountability for the legislation afterwards, which is what I started implementation deficit that matters in Scotland.

Because one of the things about the evidence around that CLES had about Preston was it was the most improved city top five in Britain and there were real numbers that came out of that. And secondly, the procurement stars, the people who actually made the decisions that actually shifted the spend and I suppose just to say, I'm from the Social Enterprise Academy. One of the things that the ADBM report talks about is leadership, because I think that's what we'll really need to actually really shift the statistics have that ability to be accountable for the act in public bodies. Because I saw some procurements stars in Edinburgh here who worked on creating 5-to-8-year contracts for some of the procurement.

Absolutely incredible. But the different public body had to be accountable for its reporting on just its numbers, so therefore it undid the work of the procurement stars to create 5 to 8 years. So, you actually have to get those public bodies working together and I think that that ability of those bodies to work together could be measured as part as one of your indicators. I think the well-being economy in Wales, how it's been implemented with those measures is actually really powerful as a way forward. But I'm really curious about the leadership. Because when you look at the SRUC, you see the Scottish Rural College report and community wealth building it particularly points to the social enterprise ecosystem and the Highlands and Islands is one of the six pilots. But nearly everybody had to programme with the Academy, and I just want to acknowledge that leadership piece which is the space to be safe enough to go. You know what this is really hard. This is these are my challenges. You need space as a leader to grow. So, I just want to acknowledge that. I'm curious about people's feedback on that for the future because I think we'll need that to implement the bill.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Yeah, I think that's I think that is a really important thing to have that that space is good. I have made a note of that. I've made a note of the SRUC report as well.

Joanna Slater, Inspiralba:

Hi, it's Jo from Inspiralba. I think I probably just wanted to emphasise a point about our community's ready for this and people have touched on it. Jane mentioned it and I think your point also kind of relates to it as well. I think it's been met. I really just wanted to highlight that.

Communities and social enterprises anywhere are already really stretched, and it does tend to rely on individuals within an organisation that want to get involved but also have got not just a leadership at the technical skills to do it, the professional skills to and it's not easy.

I mean, it's not everybody even wants to do that. You know, it's not a case of sending somebody from the board on half day workshop to learn, you know, these are serious skills that are needed to do some of these really meaty projects.

I'm a little bit nervous. It's great, but I'm a little bit nervous that if the bills coming in is it getting thrown over the wall, into the communities without the support needed and the resources needed for it to be successful. So, I think we just really need to highlight that, I mean, I don't know. I don't know what resources and what investment is planned for this in terms of to secure a successful implementation.

I've got another little point to make and then we can let's see if anybody wants to add to that comment, but it was just I think it was as it Angela, you mentioned about dropping what are talked about thresholds. I'm not quite sure what thresholds you meant, but I mean I'm quite keen on rather than dropping thresholds is trying to raise the bar in communities to meet those thresholds and how do we do that and thresholds that make sense anyway, I mean, understand the box ticking comment for sure, but thresholds that make sense and what standards and things like that can we can we raise the bar to within community organisations?

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Thank you very much. Come on in.

Duncan Thorp, Social Enterprise Scotland:

Very briefly, come back at that point in terms of financial resource, absolutely. So, we'll be pushing for, you know, financial resource alongside this legislation because it won't happen in the real world without money behind it. So absolutely agree with that.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Great. Andy?

Andy Paterson, Social Enterprise Scotland:

It's just to say that the CPG that we have today in a meeting today isn't just about us talking and agreeing with each other. We've raised some really interesting and important parts about this Bill and so as an action for the CPG, I'm going to put my e-mail address in the chat. When we come to talk about amendments and the amendments, we'd like to see that's something we'd like to push forward as a CPG, if that's OK with you Ariane. But I think action is really keen for.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

Yeah, absolutely. This definitely great. OK. And and I think the way that tends to work is that the CPG, I've never actually experienced it from the CPG, but a stakeholder.

Will get amendments and then they'll go to different parties and say your different MSPs in different parts and say will you take this amendment forward or will you take this, there's a bit of a kind of divvying out of amendments to different parties to bring in the changes.

OK, I think I need to draw a, draw it to a close, but this has been a really invigorating session and I I think it was fantastic to start with Oban Collective and Jane and Aideen. The work that you're doing because because I've been to Hope Kitchen and I've had a fantastic meal there but that was before this collective started. So I clearly need to come back.

But it's just fantastic to see what you've achieved in in a year. It's just amazing. So, I think the power, Jane used that word right, collective or collaboration, rather than competition. I think we absolutely need to lean more into that, and that is a big part of that. That is a big part of the ethos of Community Wealth Building.

I would also say I think that you might have, you might have gotten, we might be able to tick you off for every single pillar. I think you achieved every single pillar, so congratulations on that. But also, really a massive thanks to Margaret for coming in and getting me really excited about public health.

A perspective on that, I think that's really important and also Angela, thank you so much for jumping at last minute and talking about what's going on from East Lothian perspective and bringing us some wonderful seabuckthorne which could be turned into a community wealth building. High vitamin high vitamin C local product. So, on that note, do we have any kind of other things we need to say to people? Date for the next meeting?

Duncan Thorp, Social Enterprise Scotland:

Yeah. I don't think we've got a date for the next meeting yet, but be sometime in the New Year and we'll keep you informed about it? Yeah. Good. All right. Well, thanks so much, Andy.

Andy Paterson, Social Enterprise Scotland:

I was just going to say the next meeting is in the last week of January.

Ariane Burgess, MSP:

OK, we do know that. All right, so keep an eye out for an e-mail. Please do let other people know that they are welcome to come and be part of these meetings. I do think this one has been a particularly inspirational, they all are. But I'm feel very energised by this one. I'm thinking I wish there was so many other people that I could think of that would have really enjoyed this but thanks a lot. See you at the end of January. Cheers.