



*Overarching priority:*

**A Vision and 'Rural & Island First' Policy Framework for Scotland**

*structural shift towards place based micro-solutions*

*Specific priorities (UK)*

- Grid infrastructure**  
Futureproof infrastructure and introduce legislation to enable communities become local energy suppliers
- Digital Infrastructure**  
Give clarity on policy aims and invest in futureproofed and place-based engineering solutions
- Post EU exit funds**  
Devolve delivery vehicles and base decisions on accurate economic, social and environmental metrics

*Cross border rural & islands summit*

**Future thematic priorities:** biodiversity, culture, healthcare, crime and welfare (UK reserved)

*Contribute to building a rural movement*

*Specific priorities (Scotland)*

- Co-production with community sector of mainstream policy:**
- Local Governance** Complete governance review, invest in capacity building and connecting Community Councils
  - Volunteering** Include governance volunteers in Volunteering Strategy and initiative on conflict management
  - Community Empowerment** Consolidate participatory budgeting, participation requests and asset transfer processes
  - Land Reform** Progress land reform, strengthen Crown Estate community interface

- 'Rural and island first' (RAI first) frameworks within mainstream policy:**
- Planning** Build RAI first framework into NPF4 and 20 Minute Neighbourhood model
  - Economy** Build RAI first framework into Economic Transformation Strategy and comm. wealth building
  - Housing** Develop Rural & Island Housing Strategy
  - Transport** Build RAI first framework into National Transport Strategy 2 Delivery Plan
  - Social Care** Design National Care Service that supports RAI micro and community care providers
  - Climate Change** Build RAI first framework into Net Zero and Circular Economy policy agendas
  - Digital** Build RAI first framework into Scotland Digital Strategy + implementation of the Logan Review
  - Mental Wellbeing** Strengthen and consolidate existing RAI first framework within Mental Health Strategy
  - Good Food Nation** Progress Good Food Nation agenda and address lack of infrastructure for food & drink sector

- Platforms and capacity building networks:**
- Young people** Deliver a Scottish Youth Parliament and a Rural & Island Youth Taskforce
  - Community led Tourism** Develop support and investment infrastructure for CLT & link CLT network to tourism strategy
  - Equalities** Develop support and investment infrastructure for rural and island equality projects
  - Future LEADER** Manage the transition of LEADER to the CLLD network in consultation with communities
  - SRP curators** Strengthen platform through building on the 2023 Scottish Rural Parliament process

- Consolidation of gains from existing 'rural & island first' policies:**
- Research Strategy** Address significant gaps in rural data, promote community-led research activities
  - National Islands Plan** Put mechanisms in place to ensure learning from NIP benefits wider rural Scotland