Landscape for Scotland

Working together to help shape quality in landscape and place
We want Scotland to be the best place in the world to bring up children, the best place to grow up and be educated, the best place to live, work, visit, invest and do business, the best place to be cared for in times of sickness, need or vulnerability, and the best place to grow old.

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland, The Government’s Programme for Scotland 2017-18
OUR VISION.......  
... to promote and create great places – places that are beautiful, multi-functional, sustainable and embedded in Scotland’s communities.
SCOTLAND’S INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT

- To recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;
- To establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning;
- To establish procedures for greater participation of the public, authorities and other parties in decisions that affect landscape;
- To further integrate landscape into its planning policies, and cultural, social, environmental, agricultural and economic policies, as well as in any others with possible direct or indirect impacts on landscape.

Our vision supports effective delivery on Scotland's International commitments
Growth and investment ... rely on the continuing environmental quality of our countryside, infrastructure and the sustainable use of our natural resources.

Quality places are often central to community life. A successful place is accessible to all and encourages people to connect with one another. These are communities which are safe, socially stable and resilient.

Creating Places - A policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland: The Scottish Government 2013

This is what we have ...

- Stunning natural landscapes and vibrant, historic towns and cities that support a tourism industry bringing £11 billion to our economy per year.
  - Outset Scotland, 2016

- Healthy environments to live and work in, leading to our top spot in the UK’s index of quality of life.
  - Social Progress Index, 2016

- 59% of people living in the most deprived decile are estimated to live within 500m of derelict land, compared to 13% of people in the least deprived decile.
  - Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey, 2016

- The lowest life expectancy in the UK, with a worrying number of people dying before the age of 65.
  - Social Progress Index, 2016
The places we spend our time have an important impact on our lives. The way a place looks, feels and functions can influence our health and wellbeing, and the quality of life in communities. Improving the quality of places can help to tackle inequalities.

Iain Gilbey, Scottish Government chief architect and chair of the Place Standard project board
The art of listening

Helping communities to plan their environment, such as here in Annbank, is a vital skill in building sustainable places.

If we are going to make strides in Scotland in transforming our environment, then we need to begin by involving people. This will result in better planning outcomes and the people involved will have a better sense of their own self-worth and feel more in control of their lives. The outcome will be an improved sense of wellbeing in Scotland.

Professor Sir Harry Burns, former chief medical officer for Scotland
All the evidence points to very significant uplifts in both mental and physical health from enabling people to spend more time in the natural world ... We should concentrate on creating an environment that reinforces and underpins better health.

Jonathon Porritt CBE
Plan for prosperity

OPPORTUNITIES

11% of Scotland’s total economic output depends on sustainable use of the environment. This accounts for:

£17.2bn a year, supporting 1 in 7 of all full-time jobs

We need to create compact, biodiverse, walkable, public transport-orientated, water-smart, mixed-use places ... (to) create sustainable, vibrant and creative local economies that are the kind of places where people want to live.

Jonathan Hughes, CEO, Scottish Wildlife Trust
The best projects act as catalysts: they create a strong identity and have the capacity to stimulate further beneficial change. The best projects are those that encourage the talented to come and stay. These projects create points of attraction that can make a difference: they are impressive, and amazing attractiveness creates identity, pride and jobs.

Evert Verhagen, senior project manager for Creative Cities and REUSE
Stewards of the landscape

Cities and regions require a network of natural and semi-natural landscapes and water (green infrastructure) that is the equal of their networks of transport and utilities (engineering infrastructure). This will ensure that the benefits of natural and semi-natural environments work well for natural and human habitats (ecosystem services).

Professor Brian Mark Evans
People want to reconnect with nature and they want to transform underused land to produce clean air clean water, good microclimates and good food. They recognise the urgent need to capture carbon and to create landscapes teeming with wildlife. They want to be protected from flooding and they want access to land for health and wellbeing. The landscape profession is best placed to deliver these aspirations.

Merrick Denton-Thomson OBE, President of the Landscape Institute
We need to redouble our efforts!
The next steps

FIVE ACTION POINTS

The role landscape professionals play in shaping world-class places is vital, yet often overlooked. We at Landscape Institute Scotland propose five key areas for shared action:

1. Promote a holistic approach to the planning, design and management of place, in order to integrate and balance community, land-use, economic, environmental, cultural and ecological values.

2. Engage with willing and supportive organisations with a shared interest in Scotland’s landscape and place, forming a Scottish landscape coalition to support the Programme for Government with skills and energy to help drive this vision.

3. Monitor and document the importance and significance of Scotland’s landscape and natural capital, providing robust evidence to guide future investment, management decisions and conservation measures.

4. Ensure appropriate awareness and training exist across all relevant sectors of the economy and society, such that appropriate skills and expertise in landscape are made available to decision makers across the public, private and third sectors.

5. Uphold Scotland’s leadership and commitment to international best practice to safeguard the importance of landscape for the quality of life and the quality of place for all of Scotland’s people.
‘Landscape for Scotland’
Launch at Scottish Parliament
‘Landscape for Scotland’ : Follow Up Exhibition at Scottish Parliament & LLTNP
Cross Party Group Presentation and Debate at Scottish Parliament
5th June 2018: Facilitated by Lesley Riddoch
Landscape for Scotland- Debate Outcomes

Working together to help shape quality in landscape and place

1. Formation of a **Landscape coalition** to present a strong and informative voice to Government to ensure recognition of **Scotland’s landscapes as a national asset**.

2. Environmental poverty is significant. **Engaging with communities** about the landscapes in which they live is key to unlocking potential.

3. **Investment in stewardship** is ‘value retention’, A long term view is vital to successful landscape and placemaking.

4. Assemble and share **robust data and evidence** to guide future investment, management decisions and conservation measures.

5. **Investment in expertise and judgement** in landscape, necessary to drive successful landscapes at a local Government level.

6. A re-imagined **Scottish Landscape Charter supported by the Scottish Government**

7. The appointment of a **policy adviser in landscape, place and environment** to the Scottish Government.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?
We would love to hear from you and continue the discussion so please get in touch with us