

Consultation on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill

Response Questionnaire

Chapter 6: Assessing Impact

Please read the draft Bill provisions and detailed policy proposals before you answer these questions. You do not need to answer all the questions in this questionnaire, only answer the questions that you have an interest in. Separate questionnaires are provided for each chapter of the consultation paper.

Please make sure you also return the Respondent Information Form with your response, so that we know how to handle it.

Equality

Q72 Please tell us about any potential impacts, either positive or negative, you feel any of the proposals for the Bill may have on particular groups of people, with reference to the “protected characteristics” under the Equality Act 2010.

There does not seem to be any specific provisions that would apply here.

Q73 What differences might there be in the impact of the Bill on communities with different levels of advantage or deprivation? How can we make sure that all communities can access the benefits of these proposals?

There are huge opportunities in the community empowerment policy agenda for every community but particularly for more excluded communities.

The provisions contained in the final Act need to be pro-actively promoted across Scotland to ensure awareness and take-up of new rights and opportunities. This could perhaps, in the spirit of the legislation, be in the form of community roadshows, in full partnership with local community anchor organisations.

Legislation is often inaccessible to many people, so a simplified pamphlet that explains these new opportunities should be produced.

Business and Regulation

Q74 Please tell us about any potential costs or savings that may occur as a result of the proposals for the Bill, and any increase or reduction in the burden of regulation for any sector. Please be as specific as possible.

Environmental

Q75 Please tell us about any potential impacts, either positive or negative, you feel any of the proposals for the Bill may have on the environment.

Virtually all of these proposals have the potential to have a positive impact on our environment. From more sustainable use of land and buildings, to allotments and an improved outcomes regime focused on social and environmental improvement.