

Beyond 2021: What's Next? Who's Next?

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Key Points



- Two future timelines – the next Parliament and looking out to 2040
- Distinguishing vision from strategy and tactics
- The scope for sustaining political consensus (or sufficiently so)
- Trends, uncertainties and forecasting
- Shaping Futures Research

Different Timelines

- Can there be Agreement/consensus over priorities for the next parliament?
- Can we agree the challenges and likely relevant trends?
- Do we understand the Government's vision from Scotland Performs and the NPF?
- Agreement (?) over existing policies and longer term targets.



SG Consultation Top Ten Challenges

- An ageing population
- The current spending profile could be hard to sustain
- Brexit
- UK welfare reform
- Mitigating the effects of climate change
- 25% of households in fuel poverty in 2016
- Tackling and preventing homelessness
- More than 1 in 4 children live in poverty
- Fire safety and building standards
- Islands-proofed policies

Housing's Vision in the NPF Scotland Peforms

A WELL-FUNCTIONING HOUSING SYSTEM		H
1.	The housing market should supply high-quality homes for living in, not promote the use of houses as a store of wealth.	5.
2.	Government policy (e.g. taxes and subsidies) should promote house price stability, to help underpin Scotland's standard of living and productivity.	6.
3.	Everybody should be able to save for the future (as well as be secure in their home and make significant changes to it) whether they rent or own.	7.
4.	Housing provision should be informed by whole life economic costs and benefits in the round and help to address inequalities in wealth, health, and education.	8.
		9.
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES		S

Consensus?

- The nature of housing is fundamentally long term
- Are there areas where agreement is possible and could readily extend between different governments?
- Big tent housing policy commissions but can the Nordic be transplanted here?
- Commitment to evidence and evaluation.



Forecasting, Uncertainty and Shifting Facts

- The view of things on Jan 1 2007 or on May 1 2015
- Lessons from the policy failure literature
- Evidence and analytical capacity
- Scenarios and upper and lower bound forecasts remain useful
- Recognise housing system complexity as a starting point.



Shaping Futures

- Three year knowledge exchange and policy analysis programme [Gibb, MacLennan, Pawson, Hulchanski]
- ABC nations and their housing policies and systems
- Common pressures and challenges
- New housing story required
- New economic story required
- Some Reform principles
- Main & summary reports out next month



Final Reflections



Tension between consensus, long term plans and flexibility/credibility



When it works, why does it work?



There are things that have to be done
– a new needs study, council tax reform, rethinking housing market policy, investment in analysis