Key Themes Workshop Programme

Friday Morning

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

All workshops will run twice on Friday morning. They all follow a similar format in order to ensure that we get clear recommendations for action, which will be compiled into our report at the end of the Rural Parliament. Each workshop will start with an overview of the topic and some of the recommendations put forward by working groups on the topic. There will be an opportunity for small group discussion before recommendations for action are chosen by each group.

We will endeavour to allocate everyone their first and second choice of workshops but we will ask you to indicate your top five choices.

Theme	Title	Details
Communities leading with confidence	Strengthening communities	An introduction from HIE or DTAS on the Strengthening Communities programme followed by presentations from one or two organisations about their experiences of accessing the programme. Discussion about how communities can be supported to lead with confidence.
Communities leading with confidence	Local democracy	A conversation with Andy Wightman and Lesley Riddoch about local democracy. Discussion about how Scotland could address issues of local democracy. A warm-up for the following day's presentation from Cllr David O'Neill, Chair of the Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy.
Health and social care	"But I want to stay at home doctor."	The challenges of providing health and social care to an aging population in a rural setting - Dewar 2014. An overview of the topic and recommendations for action.
Land use, planning and land reform	Land use and land reform	How do we develop an integrated set of policies and measures on land use and land reform? Can the priorities of different communities of interest be reconciled through partnership working and collaboration? An overview of the land reform review and an insight into alternative viewpoints. A discussion about the best way forward and opportunities for consensus. Recommendations for action.
Land use, planning and land reform	Land use and planning	An overview of the issues around land use and planning. Group discussion about actions for change.

Transport infrastructure	Maximising accessibility for the people of rural Scotland	Improving the integration, accessibility, availability, affordability and awareness of transport services. An overview of recommendations from our working group
Transport & business	Infrastructure to facilitate sustainable economic growth	Identifying essential infrastructure development needed for economic growth including freight connectivity and reliability.
Broadband & digital connectivity	Broadband & mobile phone coverage: next steps	An outline of the current programmes addressing these issues and how far reaching they are, plus recommendations on key improvements that could be made. Discussion around these recommendations and opportunity to contribute additional recommendations.
Protecting our natural assets	What can communities do and what can decision-makers do to help?	A short overview, followed by questions on: How can local communities help? What can local or national government do to support, facilitate or encourage the protection of our natural assets?
Adapting to environmental change	Climate Change: What action can our communities take? What do we need support with?	A 10 minute film about climate change and a discussion about the climate change impacts that are affecting the community/ communities/ individuals represented. What do these changes mean for you and the communities where you live/ work/ study? What can you do and what do you need support with?
Governance of the Rural Parliament	The future of the Scottish Rural Parliament and it's governance	A focused workshop exploring and developing options for the future governance and development of the Scottish Rural Parliament and the potential for a rural movement. The conclusions will be presented the following day for consideration by the plenary.
Rural businesses and employment	Removing the barriers to growth and development	What would make it easier to start, develop and grow our rural businesses? This workshop focuses on red tape and bureaucracy. What actions can be taken and by whom?