

Scottish Borders Council Training Programme

Session 2 – Systems & Structure

What we'll cover today

- Introductions and background
- Local structures & Policy
- What is community empowerment?
- What are the opportunities and barriers?



On a scale of Cat, how are you feeling today?



fb.com/hashtagIAmCat

SCDC

SCDC is the lead body for community development in Scotland. We work to our vision of an active, inclusive and just Scotland where our communities are strong, equitable and sustainable.

We work directly with:

- Community groups and organisations
- Community development practitioners
- Government and other policy makers
- Local partnerships and agencies across Scotland who want to involve communities in their work



Formed in 1994, we are a charity and Company Limited by Guarantee based in Glasgow. With staff with a wealth of experience and backgrounds, we bring our firm commitment to the values and principles of community development to all aspects of our work.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, 2015

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 will help to empower community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services.

There are 11 topics covered by the Act.

The Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 17 June 2015. It received Royal Assent and became an Act on 24 July 2015. Each part of the Act came into effect at different times.

Part 1: National Outcomes

Part 2: Community planning

Part 3: Participation requests

Part 4: Community rights to buy land

Part 5: Asset transfer requests

Part 6: Delegation of Forestry Commissioners' functions

Part 7: Football clubs

Part 8: Common Good property

Part 9: Allotments

Part 10: Participation in public decision-making

Part 11: Non-domestic rates

What is Community Empowerment?

Principles for community empowerment



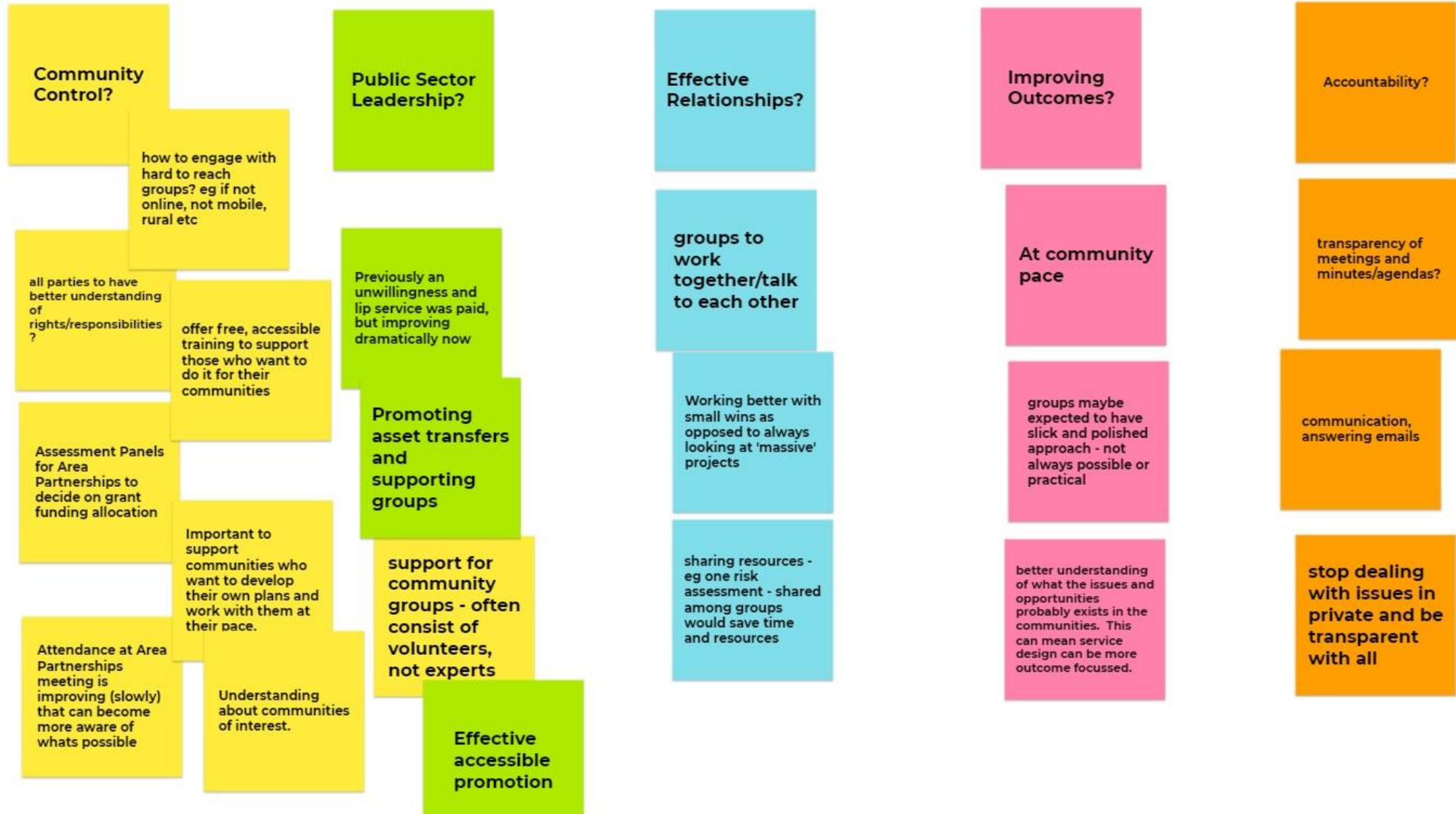
Prepared on behalf of the Strategic Scrutiny Group
July 2019



**What does Community
Empowerment look like
locally?**



What does Community Empowerment look like locally?



What does Community Empowerment look like locally?

Community Control?

Public Sector Leadership?

Effective Relationships?

Improving Outcomes?

Accountability?

ability to use technology affects people's ability to participate as there is an emphasis on using online tools

significant difference across the Borders as to who receives support to participate and who doesn't

too much red tape

sharing information across areas and communities can be an effective way of supporting one another and supporting ideas to progress

some examples of community groups bringing about change in their area.

people would be more inclined to participate if they felt it would make a difference

need consistent support

approach to equality and accessibility needs to improve

some people need to be supported to participate

What does Community Empowerment look like locally?

Community Control?

Public Sector Leadership?

Effective Relationships?

Improving Outcomes?

Accountability?

Area partnership - is a forum or platform - to enable people to engage. It is under review at the mo. Something we want rather than any other things. Something work before why we have to reinvent the wheel.

Forestry and flooding - talked about issues and able to hear about it. Public bodies to give presentation about issues.

Heard about it but no delivery! The platform is there, but it is not working. Give people a chance to engage.

Geographical diversity - 5 localities is good to address local issues. However, all the issues have to be brought together.

A lot of talking but not a lot of actions. Well, nothing really changed after all.

How do you find things - the website of SBC isn't that good to find things. Communication is vital. Getting information out. No platform to link in. Speaking in plain English for community to

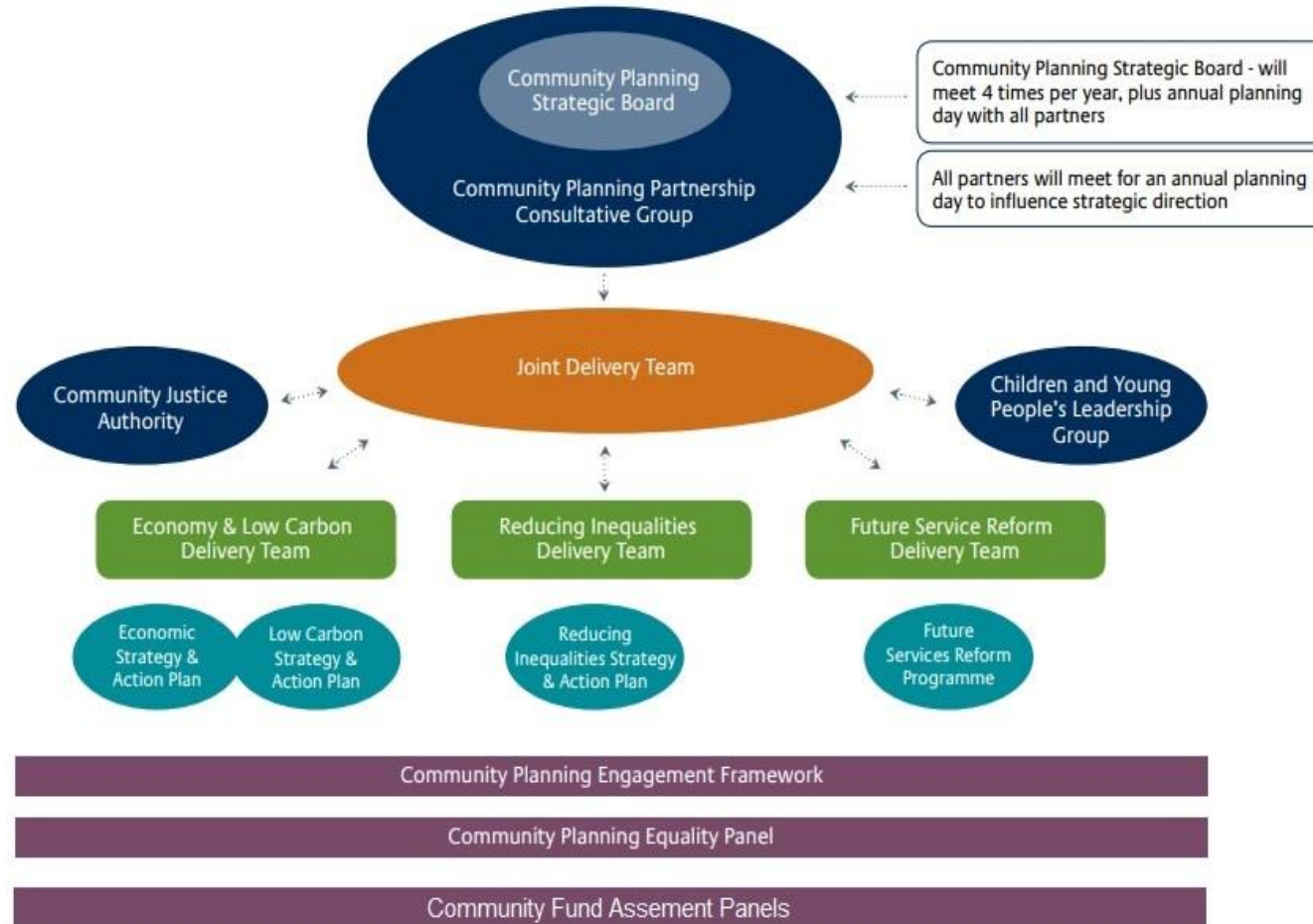
Area partnership meeting to talk about place making.

Culture of the Council - wary about what the community is going to suggest. The council needs to try to let go and trust the community.

SBC takes control of the Empowerment Act, not just pay lip service. Things need to be relevant - talking shop and lack of empowerment.

Where do Community Fund Assessment Panels (CFAPs) fit?

Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Governance Model



Comfort Break

5 minutes

Reality?



Equity vs. Equality



Same Treatment



Equitable Treatment



The systemic barrier has been removed. This is Equality.



www.canadianequality.ca

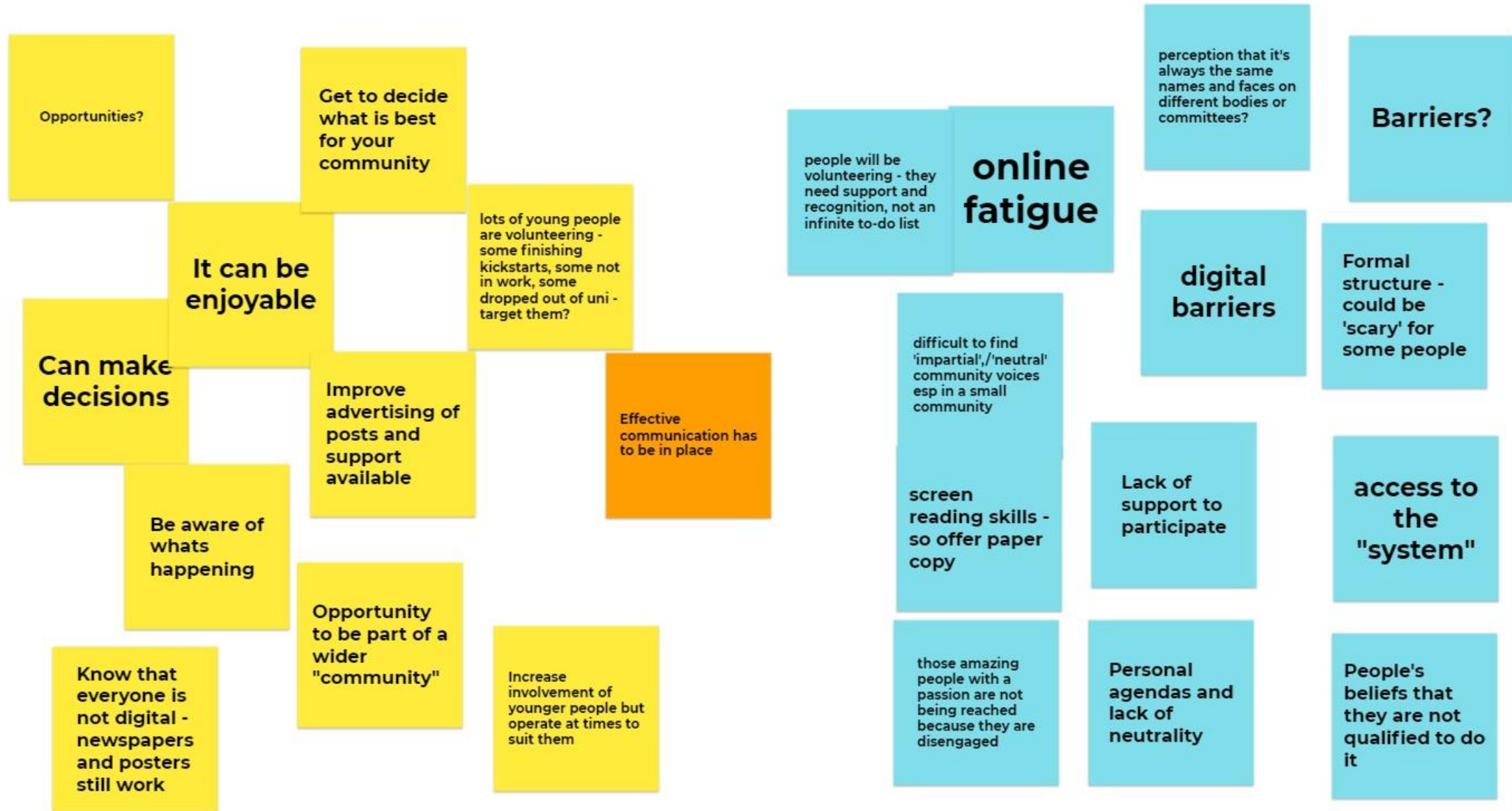
How can the
CFAPs get
more people
involved?

OPPORTUNITIES?

BARRIERS?



What are the opportunities and barriers for CFAPs?



What are the opportunities and barriers for CFAPs?

Opportunities?

establish meetings so that people can attend either in person or through digital technology

need several approaches to sharing information and ideas and use networks already available

make allowances for what people need to have in place to be able to participate - i.e. help with transport, help with technology

better communication of local services would help people to plan their participation i.e. bus times, changes to bus services etc

information needs to be accessible and easy to find

every area should have a display board in their village/town to promote information and make information more accessible

Barriers?

people can be pre-judged and not allowed to participate in the same way as others

What are the opportunities and barriers for CFAPs?

Opportunities?

Engagement is there - social media is a way forward.

Pot A and Pot B - Teviot area. Pot A to give rural area a say, rather than just go to Hawick. Smaller communities have a chance to get resources/money. Take a long time for SBC to agree.

Decision on a local level. Able to influence is the key of engagement. No power coming to the community.

Opportunities for people to engage.

Get everyone together and identify opportunities.

Leaflet to explain about community participation. Community Councils to get more people involved.

How to get involved????? Where to get the information. SBC needs to figure out how to communicate with the community. A route of communication.....

List our challenges and get people involved. Use technology is good, but put info at local shops could attract attentions. Facebook - broadband could be a challenge.

Barriers?

Hard to get people involved.

Due to time constraints, this will carry forward to session 3

**What are the aspirations
for community
empowerment, local
decision making and
community control?**

**What do we want to keep and
what do we want to change?**



Feedback

Where are we going?

How will we get there together?



Feedback - Opportunities and Barriers (group discussion)

OPPORTUNITIES

Rural areas can have more say. CFAPs support the rural voice to be heard

better promotion of services - tie together with information needed - e.g. bus timetables and community events

Young voices can come through

The amount of funders and funding locally and nationally

BARRIERS

Capacity & Skills to fill in application forms - may mean newer, less able groups miss out

Communication - how can information be shared better and more easily across the communities?

Accessibility - its not just about having the device - its building up skills and confidence to use it

It can be difficult to participate - how to reach people who don't know about CFAPs?

Where are we currently?

- Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, 2015
- Review of Part 3 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, 2015
- Public Service Reform
- 1% Mainstream commitment to Participatory Budgeting
- Covid-19 recovery

Next Session

- **National Standards for Community Engagement**
- **Using VOiCE**
- **Widening engagement**
- **Co-Production approaches**
- **Involvement in decision making**

