

# The Changing Context for Crofting

Some initial thoughts to start a round-table discussion

# Big Changes in the World

This list is from Anthony Giddens:

- Globalisation and deregulation
- From Government to Governance
- Emergence of the Knowledge Economy
- Rise of individualism and 'postmaterialist' concerns
- Dysfunctions of the welfare state
- Emergence of new risks, eg. climate change
- CAP Reform and WTO (not on Giddens' list!)

# Economic

- Global revolution of finance, competition, skill and technology.
- Flexible specialisation and innovation
- Global capital and local capital
  - *How to respond to globalisation?*
    - EU Lisbon Strategy: global competitiveness
    - City Regions v balanced development
    - OECD's "New Rural Paradigm": places not sectors; investments not subsidies.
    - Arkleton's Dynamics of Rural Areas project identified success factors in rural economic development.
    - Smart, Successful Highlands and Islands strategy.

# Social

- Rapid social and demographic changes
    - Revolution of women's life-chances
    - Decline of stable, nuclear family
    - Ageing society, and growing multi-culturalism
    - Risks of social exclusion
  - Changing social welfare regimes
    - Public sector reforms and welfare to work
    - Britain and the 'Third Way'.
- *How can a strong welfare state reach and support remote communities?*
- *How will social and demographic change affectcrofting? And vice versa?*

# Political

- From Government to Governance
    - Public-private-voluntary partnerships
    - New role for the state as coordinator and enabler
    - Tangled hierarchies, flexible alliances and networks
  - Double-shift of power, down to communities and up to supra-national levels?
  - More participatory democracy alongside representative institutions?
    - Neo-endogenous structures: bottom-up supported by top
    - 'Generative' capacity-building: creating 'power to'...
    - Community land ownership
- *How will political changes affect crofting?*

# Agricultural Policy

- 2007-2013: support decoupled from production. Voluntary modulation? WTO agreement?
- 2008 CAP Health-check: fine-tuning only.
- Major reforms expected from 2013
  - Declining levels of support, especially Pillar 1, and dismantling of protectionism (tariffs, export subsidies)
  - Phasing out of single farm payments?
  - More funding for agri-environmental schemes
  - Perhaps more funding for territorial rural development?
  - Possible national co-financing? (Pillar 2 already co-financed)
  - Opportunities for local food, organic food, renewable energy etc.

# Discussion

- This set of bullet-points is intended merely to start a discussion, and to set us thinking from the outset about the future.
  - Reflections on these?
  - What other important changes have been left out?
  - Lateral thoughts.....?
- We can return to the issues in detail later