KEY INDICATORS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED SPATIAL PLANNING

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Long term de-industrialisation: “Linwood no more”

• Heavy metal: Ships, locos & munitions
• De-forestation, clearances & sheep
• Classes of capital: mercantile, indigenous industrial, ‘branch plant’ to financial capital
• Rule Britannia: Loss of Empire, trade and influence
• Changed nature of work: private, public and now voluntary sectors
Spatial planning’s role in that transformation

• Command & control of New Towns and inward investment: Abercrombie’s British, not Mears Scottish ‘burgh’ vision
• Urban focus, not rural but with a Highland aspect
• Continued failure of ‘branch-plant’ economy
• ‘Groundhog Day’ renewal, and amnesia a recurrent feature
• Blurring spatial visions in preference for partnership & outcome working
Figure 1. Dwellings by tenure and percent of total stock in Scotland, 1970 to 2010

- Owner occupied
- Local authority
- Private Rent
- Housing association
Housing changes reflect broader social changes

- Public to private, collective to individual: articulated through tenure changes
- Recent trajectory traced from ‘Big Bang’ to ‘Credit Crunch’
- Expunging of the independent ‘mutual’ financial sector
- Spatial social & cultural polarisation
- Housing’s pole position in exaggerating inequality
TESCO
Centralisation and de-centralisation of shopping & retail

- Cars, loans & road connections
- ‘Big Bang’ and credit cards
- Loss of the local & demise of town centres
- Corporate capture, largely complete
DUNDEE
SAVED
MY
LIFE
GANGHUT 2009
Still burdened by Victorian legacies

- C19th railways and no HS connections
- Drainage and sewers
- Land ownership still tweeds, sporting and stifling
- Cities agenda preserved in aspect: two cities, the rest long gone market toun’s
- Glasgow’s deprivation: Still an economic multiplier?
- Local government losing both the local & regional and capacity
- Whatever happened to the community’s voice?
Teasing out trends for spatial planning

• Core drivers of spatial change
  – energy: coal to oil & gas, now renewables
  – chases after finance capital, reacts to its dramatic consequences

• Gender dynamics still to be fully acknowledged
  – women in part time low paid flexible labour market
  – women and children in poverty

• Issue of focus
  – Highlands a success, Lowland (Glasgow) a failure
  – importance of a community focus

• Political change and the nationalist genie
  – Centralisation and the illusion of localisation
  – Perpetual reaction to its growing presence
  – Powerful notion of identity / community within a globalised neo-liberal world?

• Planning for GDP or well-being?
  – Widening income gaps and stagnation
YES SCOTTISH NOT BRITISH