

The Future for Crofting

The Shucksmith Report—Your View

The report envisages a new role for Grazings Committees with a wider community membership than at present, allowing local people who are not crofters to be members when decisions are being made about the township as a whole. This role will be important in developing powerful Crofting Development Plans for land, including the development of housing and other purposes. Crofting grazings shareholders would continue to decide on common grazings management.

1. Please circle your preferred option.

Would your Grazings Committee want to make decisions on wider community development issues?	Yes 56	No 65
Would your Grazings Committee welcome new members who are not crofters for carrying out this purpose?	Yes 21	No 102
Do you believe the Grazings Committees have the resources currently to fulfil the functions envisaged?	Yes 42	No 75
Do you believe the Assessors Network should continue to exist?	Yes	No
Any other comments:-	107	19

The report envisages that:

New local crofting boards are to be established to take regulatory decisions and that part of the membership of those boards should be elected. These boards would operate more locally, probably at the level of the whole of Shetland or Orkney or Western Isles, or for the likes of Caithness and Sutherland, or Ross-shire, and so on.

Shucksmith envisages there may be four crofters elected to each of these boards. The boards will take the regulatory decisions the Crofters Commission currently takes. They would have the power to suspend the right to buy in certain cases, to impose or remove 'real burdens' on crofts and houses on crofting land, as well as take decisions on decrofting, assignments, apportionments, absentees and the like. They would also have to deal with appeals against their decisions.

The boards would not have development functions, these would be carried out by Highlands and Islands Enterprise in support of the new grazings committees, called Crofting Township Development Committees.

The 7 to 10 local Boards in the Crofting Counties will send representatives to a Crofting Federation of Boards which would offer guidance to local boards on regulatory matters.

2. Which option do you think would be best?

I believe it would best if all regulatory decisions are taken by:- **(Tick preferred option)**

the new local boards	12
the new Federation of Local Boards	8
Crofters Commission	104

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