

# A Gathering for Change in Scotland's Parliament, 21st January, 2025



## **Two Recommendations emerged:**

1. A Scottish Framework for Cohousing, along with
2. Funding for the pathfinder project Hope Cohousing in Orkney.

Hosted by Ariane Burgess MSP and chaired by Dr Gareth James of the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence, the [event](#) provided an opportunity to share insights from both Scottish Cohousing initiatives and International successes.

Online and in person, it was attended by over 100 citizens and 6 MSPs, including the Housing Minister Paul McLennan MSP.



Paul Chatterton, Gareth James, Ariane Burgess MSP and Craig White

## Learning from Global Success

The event showcased success stories from other countries.

- Craig White of Agile Homes ([SLIDES](#)) shared innovative financial models that value social impact and carbon captured in bio-construction materials.
- Professor Paul Chatterton co-founder of LILAC in Leeds ([SLIDES](#)) illustrated the tangible benefits of Cohousing communities in England: improved wellbeing and economic impact.
- Camilla Nielsen-Englyst ([SLIDES](#)) described Denmark's thriving Cohousing sector, fostered

with state support and highly valued for reducing isolation among older people.

Two local groups, [Hope Cohousing](#), Orkney and [Lenzie Community Development Trust](#), shared their experiences.



Jenny Rambridge, Hope Cohousing and Housing Minister Paul McLennan MSP

### **The Minister's Listening Response**

In responding to the presentations, Paul McLennan MSP was clear that Cohousing is not something he needs to be convinced of. It's what we do practically to bring it to fruition, he said. "How do we develop

the policy framework?” he asked ... “because at the moment it's not embedded in Scotland and not embedded in local authorities.”

Points that came through for him included:

- getting the role of Cohousing recognised in each Local Housing Strategy is really important.
  - he understood what Camilla from Denmark talked about around the support that government can give in planning.
  - he knows that finance and the funding is really important. ...”We need to make this as easy as possible”, he said
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## **Our Call to Action**

To unlock Scotland’s Cohousing potential, two actions are needed:

### **1. Develop a Scottish Cohousing Model**

- Define a model of Cohousing tailored to Scottish law, administration and culture
- Define measurable public benefits and public interest safeguards
- Create templates for organisational structure, development process, finance and design
- Create pathways to site acquisition, funding and guidance.

### **2. Fund the Hope Cohousing Project**

This is a shovel-ready pathfinder project needing just £500,000 to proceed. Supporting this project for six homes for rent on South Ronaldsay would serve as a proof of concept for future developments and inspire broader uptake.

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Read Tom’s full blog [HERE](#)



