

Funding the Future

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I don't often do a post like this, but then I don't think that highly of many think tanks and I do of [Common Weal](#), which I think is the most forward-thinking organisation in Scotland.

Common Weal has a new book out this weekend. Entitled 'Sorted', they say of it on the [fundraising page from which it can be purchased](#):

Common Weal is a 'think and do tank'. We create policies across the broad range of what Scotland needs and then we campaign to make our ideas reality. We aren't connected to any political party and are funded through small donations from our supporters. We do this work because we really believe that Scotland could be better - our lives could be better - and that there's a solid plan to achieve that.

We have written a book that contains a vision for Scotland. We would like your help to make it a reality.



They add:

About Sorted

We thought it was time to stop describing problems. Sorted is about what's possible. It's a handbook for a better Scotland. A vision for a shared future in an independent Scotland.

Our goal was to write a book that is both well informed and inspirational. It's based on 10 years of policy work by Common Weal, covering all aspects of public life.

You can read more about the thinking behind this project in [Robin's latest blog](#).

I should add that I am not entirely without hope for the book. In a [separate blog post](#), Robin McAlpine, who has been responsible for drafting the collective thinking that went into the book said:

I realised I had to be much tighter, so I changed how I was writing. I was going to London to talk budgeting with Richard Murphy and shared the draft chapters with him. His accountancy input was invaluable, but not as much as him saying 'you need to break this up and make it easy for people to dip in and out of'. He was right.

I have yet to see the result. My copy will be in the post to me on Monday, I hope.

In [my column for The National yesterday](#) I called on Scotland to tell better stories about why independence was important. I had forgotten when writing that column that this book was coming out so soon. I am hoping it is one of the answers to what I was calling for.