



## **Background note: Recommendations and Conclusions**

As set out in the [background note on final assembly outputs](#), after agreeing the vision, the Assembly will develop a series of conclusions and recommendations on key challenges and priorities for action that are important to achieving that vision in practice. Broadly speaking these recommendations will respond to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> remit questions – how we overcome challenges and the information citizens need to take informed decisions.

Whilst recommendations will flow from the vision members will wish to review earlier outputs on sustainability and finances and taxation and also reflect on whether there are other points relating to COVID or the evidence on constitutional matters that should be covered in recommendations.

### **What will be in the conclusions and recommendations?**

The Assembly remit requires that conclusions and recommendations be relevant to the remit, based on evidence heard by the Assembly and capable of being put into practice.

Recommendations could cover points of learning about the Assembly process as well as areas for specific action. Such action could include delivery of specified outcomes or outputs, or could involve further work to enable informed decision-making in the future. It might describe how action should be taken, for example, through a Citizens' Assembly process.

The form and content of conclusions and recommendations could vary considerably according to what members think is necessary, but it is important to remember that in the time available it has only been possible to take evidence on general constitutional matters, sustainability and finances and taxation. Whilst it will be entirely for members to decide on what is in the final recommendations, in those areas where evidence has not been taken it might be more appropriate to focus on recommending the kind of further work that needs to be done so that citizens can make informed decisions in the future. These kind of recommendations would fit with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly remit question.

To properly distinguish between the long-term nature of the vision and to contribute effectively to the programme of the Government and Parliamentary agenda, the Secretariat suggests that conclusions and recommendations focus on actions that could be taken forward in the next Parliament i.e. within 5 years.

### **How will members develop draft recommendations?**

Members will create a first draft of recommendations and conclusions on the Sunday of weekend 6. The session will start with a short presentation from the



Design Team explaining what a recommendation is and the process that will be undertaken to reach final recommendations. Members will then review the recommendation process which will be followed by a Q&A.

Members will then move to develop a “landing zone” for draft recommendations. To assist members to reflect on the evidence they have heard over the course of the Assembly, facilitators will provide members with an initial brief description of the main evidence previously considered by the Assembly which is relevant to that area of consensus. This description has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Members will then review the notes they produced on their vision canvases on Saturday, and drawing on learning from other materials and discussions to date, members will begin to discuss the recommendations that they want to develop in Weekend 7. Members may also highlight where they do not think recommendations should be made, what information has informed their decisions, and what they are still unsure of.

### **Explanatory Notes**

To help members to prepare their final conclusions and recommendations at weekend 7 the Secretariat will build on the earlier summary of evidence and provide Explanatory Notes on each of or groups of recommendations. These Notes will provide –

- a summary of the work that the Assembly has done on the issue, including the evidence presented.
- relevant information on constitutional matters that has not already been provided i.e. whether the issue is reserved or devolved
- if the recommendation is in a devolved area, a description of any relevant published information on action already being taken by the Scottish Government or where an intention to do so is included in the *Programme for Government*.
- any additional relevant information relating to the Assembly remit and terms

These Notes are of course for information only. It is entirely for the Assembly to decide on its recommendations. A written template of the Notes is provided in **Annex A**.

### **Between weekend workshops**

In advance of weekend 7 there will be a series of workshops to introduce members to the material in the Explanatory Notes and to outline the next steps. Members will also be able to access the materials via the members area of the website.



## Annex A

Draft recommendation/conclusion
Summary of the work that the Assembly has done and evidence it has heard on the issue
Whether the issue is reserved or devolved
On devolved issues, relevant action in hand by Scottish Government or <i>Programme for Government</i> commitments
additional comments relating to Assembly remit and terms of reference