



GROUP 2 – EXPLANATORY NOTE AND JAMBOARDS

1. Explanatory note on Group 2's topic

EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR GROUP 2

What topic will we discuss?

This group is invited to consider recommendations on the following topic, which relates to part of vision element A:

The Scotland we want to see should actively include people of Scotland in decision making.

What is the task and process we will go through?

Notes 1 and 2 explain how recommendations will be prepared and provide a worked example. You will review the summary of evidence in the explanatory note and the weekend 6 jam boards and identify the 2-3 areas you want to focus on to develop recommendations. You will then prepare the text of draft recommendations and accompanying information to be included in the final report.

Recommendations should be about either:

- Remit Q 2: how we overcome the challenges facing Scotland and the world
- Remit Q 3: what further information citizens need to take informed decisions

And they should also be supported by evidence: And they should also be supported by evidence:

- Given by or discussed with experts
- From the Assembly process and the experience of participation
- From 'lived experience' of members, shared and discussed over the course of the Assembly

Summary of the Assembly evidence on the issue

The following aspects of the Assembly journey may be relevant when considering recommendations in this area.

1. Throughout the Assembly, you learned about where powers lie and how decisions are taken, including what is devolved and reserved, how constitutional change is made and how big decisions are taken like on the Scottish budget.

2. In weekend 2, you learned about different kinds of evidence, including from experts or through the media and things to look out for when assessing it.

4. You met with a politicians panel in weekend 3 and heard about what was important to each of them and how politics is conducted, particularly about working across parties in Parliament.



5. In weekends 3 and 4 you learned about a wide range of policy issues around a sustainable country and tax and finances and worked together to identify priority area for action. Of the 28 priority areas of action, those that may be relevant to this group are listed below and summarised in the annex to this note:

- That every citizen must be better educated and informed about why their actions are essential to maintain our beautiful, green country
- There has been lots of important and useful information shared. Having enough to digest and analyse this as well as we could with more time. Because this is a big responsibility we propose a further assembly on tax and the economy

6. In advance of Weekend 6, members were provided with an online presentation on a range of citizen participation approaches such as Citizens Assemblies (see Note 4 for links)

Throughout the Assembly, you have spoken about how the Assembly process has helped you to understand things better, and how this has challenged you to work together to come to agreement with fellow Assembly members. You will want to consider how that way of working could be important in considering potential recommendations in this area.

Constitutional implications

The Scottish Government and Parliament could take action in this area where any proposed arrangements applied to devolved matters. Should any recommendations cover reserved matters you may wish to consider whether the evidence supports any constitutional change. For further detail on reserved and devolved matters, please see Professor Nicola McEwen's factsheet [here](#).

Action in hand

The Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2020-21 states that:

1. the purpose, values and outcomes in the National Performance Framework are at the heart of the programme – this includes acting in an open and transparent way and having communities that are included and empowered.
2. the Citizens' Assembly has a role to play in ensuring informed, independent and adult conversations about the priorities that are important to people
3. A commitment to a 3rd Open Government Action Plan to be produced next year to bring what it describes as focus to openness, accountability and citizen participation in Scotland.

Local Governance Review (jointly launched in 2017 by the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) aims devolve more power to local levels to ensure Scotland's diverse communities and different places have greater control and influence over decisions that affect them most by.

Annex – Relevant priority areas for action/findings (From Weekend 3 and 4)

Weekend 3

Priority area of action	That every citizen must be better educated and informed about why their actions are
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	essential to maintain our beautiful, green country
Positive impact this would make	<p>We would have a better quality of life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savings could be spent on other priorities/things • We would be more energy efficient • People would be more likely to take action if they understood why it's important and saw the local results and benefits of action
Hard choices and trade-offs	<p>We need to incentivise people to take action but know when to introduce penalties if they don't. For example, we should encourage bigger companies to use recycling materials so it makes it easier for individuals to take action and change what they do. If companies don't, penalties will apply</p>
Weekend 4	
The finding that we agree is important in considering Scotland's finances and tax choices is....	There has been lots of important and useful information shared. Having enough to digest and analyse this as well as we could with more time. Because this is a big responsibility we propose a further assembly on tax and the economy
Reasons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insufficient time and too much input in the time available 2. We would like more access to the experts for longer in the question and answers sessions 3. The decision is too complex and important to rush and this would provide a vehicle to discuss all the great ideas that have been put forward in more detail



2. Jamboards from Weekend 6 on topic being considered by Group 2

What is at the heart of it? What are you really trying to say to Scotland your vision for the country is?

Inclusive access - not everyone will be able to get online

Being socially responsible for ALL citizens, no matter race, gender, etc.

Sharing honest and clear information so that citizens have a good understanding of what is happening

Better devolved powers: Scottish Government taking a leadership role, making changes that other countries follow

Continuing to utilise digital engagement tools (Zoom seems to be working very well)

Involvement of all citizens - all age groups

The formation of an independent body overseeing citizen involvement. You asked, we did...

Scottish Government making bold decisions and taking risks to be at the forefront

Make people want to get involved. Promote positive results and impact: we will listen to you!

Involving young people as much as possible - working with school-aged children and school leavers as the decisions they help make will impact their generation

General citizens are involved in policy making

A House of Citizens (not the House of Lords) overseeing Parliamentary decisions - having a public input - an accountable public body made of citizens representatives (nominated like jury duty for a week or so)

Citizens setting the agenda in a structured and cohesive manner without being too political: a cohesive working committee

Accessibility: considering those who may work in jobs where they are unable to commit to multiple weekends

People who understand their communities will have a voice in decision making

(A) The Scotland we want to see should lead with integrity, honesty, humility and transparency, in a self-sufficient and innovative way, and actively include the people of Scotland in decision making (from area of consensus: A country that others will want to follow)

Q: How will you know it is being enacted?

Q: What could be key actions or recommendations?

Q: Who should be accountable?

Recommendations about how Scotland can include the people in decision making

Public involvement: a public spokesperson should be involved in parliamentary talks. People who understand their communities should have a voice in decision making

Redress the balance so that "big decisions" are not just made by the people with status, money, and academic backgrounds

Having local advocates: route to decision making more accessible

Fairness and citizen empowerment: One vote for citizens to have say in what happens with services, rather than shareholders, regardless of the number of shares held (e.g. like John Lewis)

People's Parliament/ House of Citizens

A House of Citizens (not the House of Lords) overseeing Parliamentary decisions and having a public input, i.e. an accountable public body made of citizens' representatives (nominated like jury duty for a week or so)

There should be more Citizens' Assembly processes in Scotland to ensure citizens play their part

Citizens' Assembly

A Citizens' Assembly once a year or tied to election cycles

A citizens' panel should be created to involve people experiencing 'real life' in decision making

Create a citizens' parliament committee (time limited), to hold government to account, made up of citizens, not MSPs

Create a people's parliament (see e.g. the Children's Parliament) to truly reflect people's lives on the ground.