



PREPARING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY FLOWCHART AND WORKED EXAMPLE

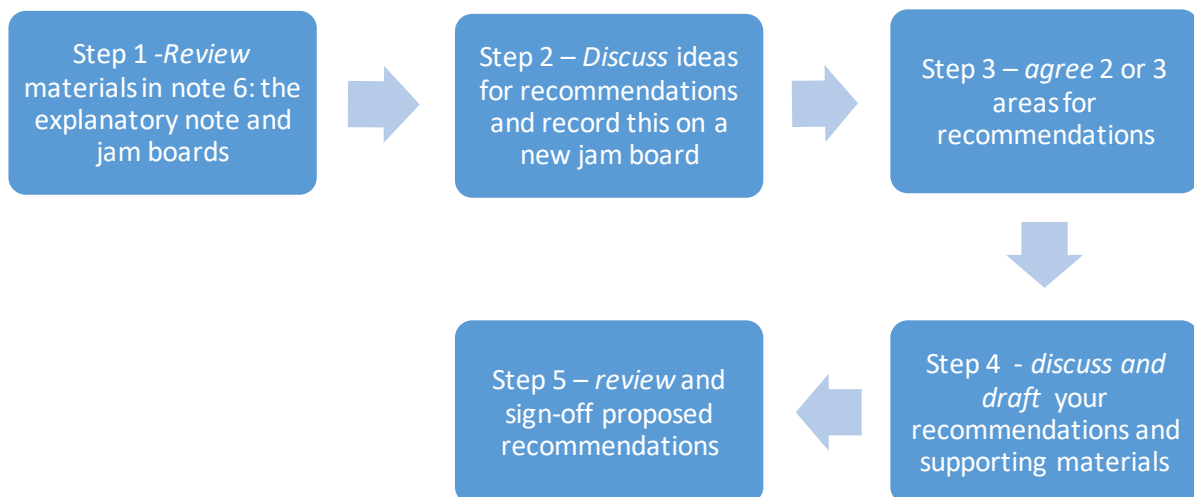
Introduction

This note provides an overview of the process for preparing recommendations in weekend 7 and a worked example *for illustrative purposes only*.

Note 2 in your packs provides more detailed guidance on the process to be followed.

Overview of process to be followed

This diagram shows the flow of work to prepare recommendations. The timetable below is an indication of what is expected but you will work in the same group all weekend and can work at your own pace. It will be important to be able to share your thinking by the end of Saturday so that every member can see what is being covered. Session 3 on Sunday can be used to review and complete work and if you have time left to prepare further recommendations.



Expected timetable

- *Session 1, Saturday morning* - steps 1 to 3
- *Session 2, Saturday afternoon* - step 4
- *Session 3, Sunday morning*: complete steps 4 and 5



Worked example on the theme of - *involving the people of Scotland in decision-taking*

Step 1 - Review materials in note 6: the explanatory note and jam boards

This stage is about reminding you about the main evidence considered by the Assembly relevant to the area and ideas discussed in weekend 6. The facilitator will take you through the explanatory note and jam boards, reading out key points. You will have time to talk about the material before then moving on to step 2 and sharing your own ideas about potential areas for recommendations.

The draft explanatory note for this area is as follows –

EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR GROUP 2

Recommendations to enable Scotland to actively include the people of Scotland in decision making.

What topic will we discuss?

In weekend 6 the Assembly agreed the following vision element:

The Scotland we want to see should lead with integrity, honesty, humility and transparency, in a self-sufficient and innovative way and actively includes the people of Scotland in decision making.

Given the breadth of this statement the Secretariat has asked 2 groups to consider potential recommendations on different aspects of it. Your group is asked to look at the following area:

how to actively include people of Scotland in decision making.

Summary of Assembly evidence of relevance on the issue

The Assembly has not directly taken evidence on this topic. However, there is much in the learning journey that is relevant and will be important to recall in considering recommendations. Relevant material, largely around processes of decision-making and the Assembly experience, are described below:

1. Throughout the Assembly, you learned about the constitutional position, including where powers are reserved and devolved and about how decisions about the constitution and on certain policy issues, such as, on the Scottish budget, are taken.



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.
3. In weekend 3 you heard about well-being, including the Scottish approach through the National Performance Framework and about values and how these influence decision making.
4. You met with a politicians panel in weekend 3 and heard about what was important to each of them and about 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 priorities, difficult choices and potential areas for action.
6. 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.

Constitutional implications

The Scottish Government and Parliament could take action in this area where any proposed arrangements applied to devolved matters, so there should not be any particular constitutional implications to consider in that respect. Of course should any recommendations under this theme be on reserved matters then it will be important to consider what constitutional action, if any, should be considered. For further detail on reserved and devolved matters, please see Professor Nicola McEwen's factsheet on the powers – available [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 3rd Open Government Action Plan is to be produced next year to bring what it describes as focus to openness, accountability and citizen participation in Scotland.

In addition, the Local Governance Review (jointly launched in 2017 by the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) includes an aim to devolve more power to local levels to ensure Scotland's diverse communities and different places have greater control and influence over decisions.

The jam boards for the area are –



Jam board 1 – the 'heart of the matter' on area of consensus: *a country others will want to follow*

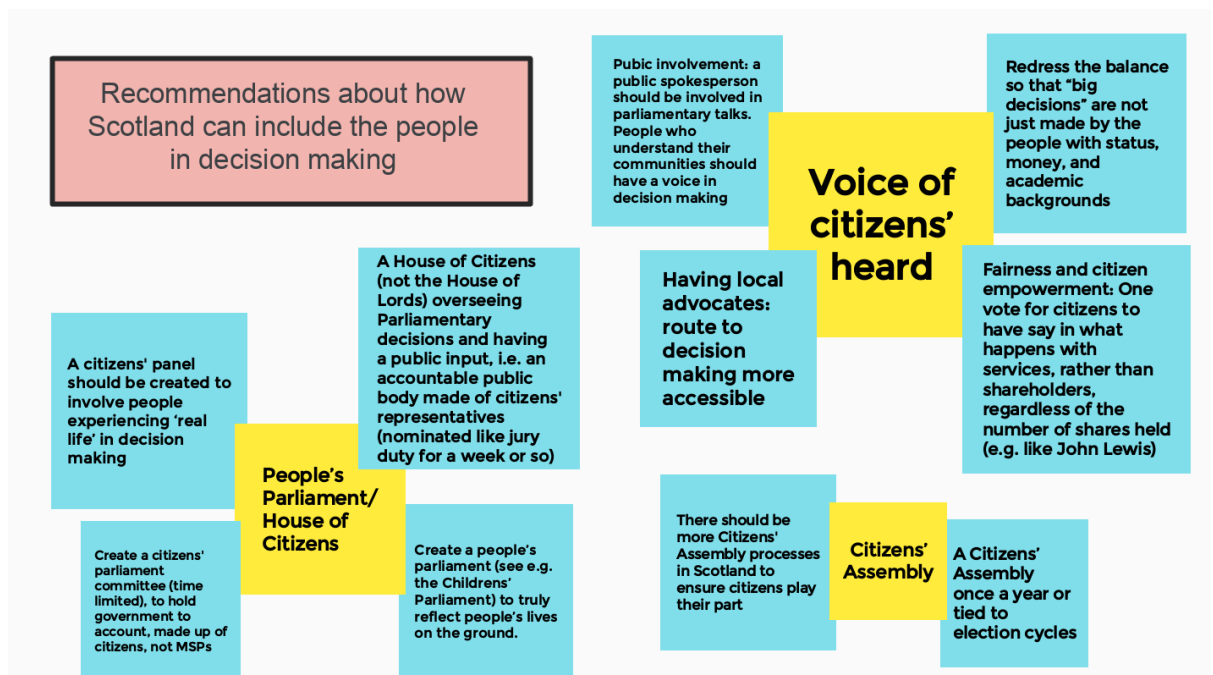


(A) The Scotland we want to see should lead with integrity, honesty, humility and transparency, in a self-sufficient and innovative way, and actively include the people of Scotland in decision making (from area of consensus: A country that others will want to follow)

- Q: How will you know it is being enacted?
- Q: What could be key actions or recommendations?
- Q: Who should be accountable?

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Jam board 2 – potential scope of recommendations on: *include the people of Scotland in decision-making*





Step 2 – *Discuss* ideas for recommendations and record this on a new jam board

At this stage you will put aside the material and begin to talk about your own ideas for recommendations. Once you have completed a round of discussion you will then move to step 3.

Step 3 – *agree* up to 2 or 3 areas for recommendations

At this point you will work together to narrow down to those 2 or 3 key areas where you will focus on making recommendations.

For the purpose of this example, we have chosen an idea included in jam board 2 – *there should be more citizens assemblies in Scotland*

Step 4 - *draft* your recommendations and supporting materials



You will now work on a Jam board – one for each draft recommendation - where your facilitator will work with you to prepare a draft recommendation and supporting material.

First of all, you need to agree what kind of recommendation you are making. Is it about overcoming challenges or providing further information? The guidance explains how to decide this and your facilitator will take you through the process.

In this example members agree that the purpose and effect of the recommendation are clear, that there is evidence to support it and it could be implemented over the next Parliament. They therefore decide that it is a remit Q 2 recommendation and prepare the following draft recommendation using the template provided -

The Citizens' Assembly recommends that **in order to overcome the challenges of involving citizens in decision-making** the Scottish Government and Parliament should **establish Citizens' Assemblies to deliberate upon and make recommendations on key policy questions for the future of the country. The number of Assemblies and their remits should be decided each year in a debate and vote in the Scottish Parliament.**



Recommendations should be accompanied by supporting information to explain why the recommendation is being made and the evidence to support it. In this worked example members agree the following –

Why this recommendation is important

- 1. People are turned off by politics. All they see is politicians arguing with each other and they don't know who to believe. People need to have confidence that decisions are being taken for the right reasons and are not just down to party politics.**
- 2. Citizens are on the receiving end of decisions that have a real impact on their lives, but don't have a voice at the table except through elections every few years. People need to be better informed about issues and to have genuine involvement in decision-making.**
- 3. Citizens have a lot of real world experience and bring an essential perspective to understanding problems and solutions. Giving them a voice in decision-making will ensure that decisions take into account important evidence that will otherwise be missing and ensure that better decisions are taken.**

Evidence supporting this recommendation

- 1. Through this Assembly process we have all learned a lot about the country and about the issues that are important. We have demonstrated that given the chance to engage with proper evidence that we can come up with sensible and practical ideas.**
- 2. The Assembly process has brought very different people together to build a strong sense of community together of ordinary people who are really committed to taking responsibility for decision-taking. Getting people involved in this way can really change negative views of politics and genuinely help to bring the country together.**
- 3. Citizens Assemblies work. Even when given a really broad remit and only meeting for a few sessions we have shown that this can be a successful way to build consensus and find ways forward on really difficult issues.**