



WEEKEND 5 – PAPER 1

FINAL OUTPUTS FROM THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

Purpose

This paper provides information on the outputs to be produced by the Assembly. Members will begin to prepare these outputs in weekend 5 and continue working on them until weekend 8 when final decisions will be taken.

What are the outputs?

The outputs from the Assembly will be –

- a statement describing the Assembly's vision for Scotland
- conclusions and recommendations on key challenges and priorities for action that are important to achieving that vision in practice.

These outputs will be the Assembly's response to the 3 remit questions –

- what kind of country we are seeking to build
- how best we can overcome the challenges Scotland and the world face in the 21st century, including those arising from Brexit
- what further work should be carried out to give us the information we need to make informed choices about the future of the country

What will be in the vision statement?

The vision statement will reflect the extraordinary journey of the Assembly. Members are broadly representative of the diversity of the adult population of Scotland in terms of our age, gender, disabilities, educational backgrounds, where we live, and our political views. Over the Assembly journey you have heard from renowned experts, discussed important and complex issues vital to our future, forged new bonds, developed skills and made deep friendships. You've listened to and learned from experts and from each other.

The vision statement brings this journey together to enable the Assembly to hold up a mirror and confidently say to Scotland – 'this is who we are, this is what matters to us, and this is how we should work together as a country in the future'.

The statement will be entirely members' own words and will be agreed by consensus. It will reflect the passion that members have for the Assembly and our inclusive processes; every member will be able to say afterwards that they played a full part in creating this vision and are proud of doing so.

A vision statement which meets these standards will be a powerful and inspiring voice and a compelling starting point for further thoughtful and respectful discussion about the kind of country we are and aspire to be.

The proposed working title for the vision statement is –

The kind of country we are seeking to build: the vision of the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland

The suggested structure is that the statement have a short introduction and conclusion explaining what the document is and how it has been prepared. The main material could be drawn together in 3 sections which set out a series of statements in a consistent format covering –

- The values and principles that are important to the Assembly
- The outcomes which flow from these values and principles
- Considerations on how decisions for and about Scotland should be taken in the future

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. It is most likely that recommendations will cover action to implement the vision, but members will also want to:

- review earlier work on building a sustainable country and Scotland's finances and taxation
- decide whether specific action is required as a result of COVID
- consider if there are any other points on constitutional matters that should be considered

The form and content of conclusions and recommendations could cover points of learning about the process as well as areas for specific action. Action could include delivery of specified outcomes or outputs and 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.

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.

The conclusions and recommendations will be drafted by members. They will be accompanied by Explanatory Notes which the Secretariat will help to prepare. The process for preparing these Notes is described below.

How will we prepare the vision and recommendations?

The Assembly has already done a lot of work in considering a vision for the country and areas for action around the themes of sustainability and Scotland's finances and taxation. Constitutional issues, including how decisions are taken, have been

discussed throughout. All of this work, together with the discussion in weekend 5 on the impact of COVID, is the starting point for preparing final outputs.

Facilitators will explain the detailed process for preparing the Assembly outputs at each stage. Most Assembly time will be spent in small groups developing ideas, drafting new text and reviewing materials prepared by other groups. At regular points you'll come together in plenary to take stock of progress and to take decisions.

The approximate running order is as follows -

- **By the end of weekend 5** – in small groups members will review previous work and identify areas of consensus to include in the vision statement
- **By the end of weekend 6** - the Assembly will prepare a complete vision and in small groups members identify areas where conclusions and recommendations might be made.
- **Between weekends 6 and 7** - the Secretariat and volunteer members will prepare Explanatory Notes on these areas.
- **In weekend 7** - the Assembly will draft conclusions and recommendations.
- **IN weekend 8** - final decisions will taken

What additional information will be provided to help us to prepare these outputs?

There will be time to review the materials prepared by the Secretariat over the summer. These materials are part of the range of resources titled *the Journey so Far* and *the Journey to come* which are now on the website. Members are encouraged to look at those resources before the Assembly starts and to dip into them again between weekends. In advance of each weekend the Secretariat will point to key materials to be reviewed in preparation for the weekend.

As set out above, the Secretariat with volunteer members will prepare a set of Explanatory Notes on the areas where members want to make conclusions and recommendations. These Notes will provide –

- a description of the topic and how it relates to the Assembly vision
- a summary of the work that the Assembly has done on the issue, including the evidence taken on it
- relevant additional information, including on any relevant constitutional considerations, practical issues, such as financial or feasibility points and what action might have to be taken
- relevant information on existing work being done by the Scottish Government or others
- an assessment of whether the proposed conclusion or recommendation meets the requirements of the Assembly remit and terms

What will happen to the Assembly outputs?

The Scottish Government has asked that the Assembly outputs be completed before the end of the year. The outputs will be set to the Scottish Government and Scottish

Parliament and will be debated in Parliament. Within 3 months of receiving the report the Scottish Government will publish a plan setting out how those recommendations which have been agreed by Parliament and for which the Scottish Government has responsibility will be implemented. Where the Scottish Parliament agrees a recommendation for which the Scottish Government does not have responsibility, the report will set out the steps which the Scottish Government intends to take in relation to that recommendation.

Are there any other Assembly outputs?

The experience of each and every Assembly member is absolutely central to the Assembly process. It is really important to capture what that has been like and what it means to each member and to share it with the wider public, for many of whom hearing about that experience will be what matters most.

For these reasons each member who wishes to do so will be supported by the Secretariat to prepare a short individual commentary describing in their own words why they participated, what they've learned through their participation and what personally matters to them most as a result of the Assembly.

A fourth and final output will be an overarching report from the Convener providing information and commentary on the establishment, functioning and operations of the Assembly and any related conclusions or recommendations relating to those matters agreed by the Convener.

**Citizens' Assembly of Scotland Secretariat
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