



Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund 2023 - 2024

Themes and Questions

Democracy Matters – Themes and Questions

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Introduction

Impact Funding Partners is managing this fund on behalf of the Scottish Government and COSLA.

This document should be used alongside the Democracy Phase 2 document, Facilitation Guidance document and the Fund Information document.

This document contains the collated six conversation themes and associated 16 questions to use as a reference tool when planning your conversation event. The themes and questions have been devised by the Scottish Government and COSLA in line with the development of Democracy Matters entering Phase 2.

How long a conversation should last is up to you and your group. It is also dependant on how many of the questions you wish to answer. We want to hear people's views across a wide range of issues.

Theme One: Powers

Question 1

How could your community use these types of powers to achieve its ambitions, now and into the future? (Please refer to the 'Powers' section in the Phase 2 documents)

Question 2

What other powers should be added, and are there some which should be retained by existing decision-makers?

Please use the below space for notetaking if it would help.

Theme Two: Representation

Question 3

When thinking about who might be part of new decision-making bodies, what are the best ways to ensure they truly reflect their communities and enhance equality?

Question 4

Thinking about your own community, what groups would you like to see represented through other selection methods, and what should these methods be?

Question 5

What would the role of local elected representatives be, and what would incentivise other people to take on/be part of decision-making?

Please use the below space for notetaking if it would help.

Theme Three: Accountability and Participation

Question 6

What do you think are the best ways to ensure new decision-making bodies are accountable to their community?

Question 7

Are community events a good way to involve local people in scrutinising progress and setting future direction?

Question 8

What other mechanisms would help achieve high levels of community participation in local decision-making processes?

Please use the below space for notetaking if it would help.

Theme Four: Setting local boundaries and priorities

Question 9

What else should this process include to provide new community decision making bodies with a strong locally agreed mandate?

Question 10

Are there ways to ensure new bodies are still wanted – for example by making them time-bound and subject to renewal ballots?

Please use the below space for notetaking if it would help.

Theme Five: Standards, resources and relationships

Question 11

How do you think community decision-making bodies should be resourced?

Question 12

Are these the right set of standards to provide reassurance that new community decision-making bodies will be effective and treat everyone with dignity and respect?

Question 13

How could a charter be designed to best ensure a positive relationship between community decision-makers and their partners in national and local government and the wider public sector?

Please use the below space for notetaking if it would help.

Theme Six: Nurturing community capacities

Question 14

What types of support might communities need to build capacity, and how could this change the role of councils and public sector organisations?

Question 15

Are there specific additional powers and resources which would help public sector organisations to work effectively in partnership with new community decision making bodies?

Question 16

Thank you for considering these questions. When sending us your views, please also tell us about anything else you think is important for us to know at this stage.

Please use the below space for notetaking if it would help.

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