

Glasgow Democracy Pioneers

Youth-led Climate Themed Policy-Making Event

14th September at the Technology and Innovation Centre, Glasgow



Overview

Over the summer and autumn of 2021, we've been tackling the climate crisis through an intensive legislative theatre project led by young people. These focus on the Glasgow City Council's climate related strategies, in the run up to the COP26 conference taking place in Glasgow in November 2021.

A winner of a NESTA Democracy Pioneers award, this project is a collaboration between Glasgow City Council, Katy Rubin, and Shared Future CIC. The project started in March 2021 with online workshops involving youth focused organisations in Glasgow. The first performance took place in late July 2021. On the 14th September 2021 we held our main event, with young performers from YoMo and Glasgow Disability Alliance.

Three central goals of this project include:

- Training young people and community groups in Legislative Theatre
- Co-producing policy recommendations and priorities for Glasgow City Council
- Develop a presentation and outcomes that can be shared during COP 26.

The process followed at the event

Everyone watched the play based on the actors' lived experiences interacting with public transport, communicating about climate and sustainability, liveable neighbourhoods, cycling, food, and open spaces. Improvisations were re-enacted with the actors to find alternatives to the problems presented. Everyone was then invited to draft policy ideas inspired by the improvisations, the dialogue, and the play. During the break our policy team worked together to sort the ideas, identifying three proposals to consider further. We discussed these proposals and made amendments in real time. Finally, participants voted on their top priorities.

Policy Options in order of audience priority

Policy area: Community Engagement

Use more diverse methods and forums to involve young people and disabled people in ongoing participation around climate policy, such as done through the climate assembly, and/or legislative theatre. In order to be more effective all meetings should be welcoming, inclusive, fun and interactive.

Details / Amendments:

- Co-design meetings with community and youth groups that have expertise in engagement.
- Communicate tangible results of community engagement in a timely and continuous manner.

Policy area: Transport

Increase accessibility features on buses, including launching audio announcements, and make more spaces on buses available for wheelchair users. The Glasgow Bus Partnership (which includes the bus companies and GCC) should prioritise these improvements.

Details / Amendments:

- Regular and continual updates to local community / youth / disability groups via existing networks, to share information on progress with transport, current improvement efforts, upcoming changes to lines or area-specific service, etc.
- Create an EZ read version of transport strategy (already underway)
- GCC is currently launching a Governance review of Glasgow's buses: update community groups (see above) on the progress of that review, and notify the community about how to give input.

Policy area: Parks and Neighbourhood Planning

Part 1: Local food growing supported by encouraging local businesses to buy local.

Part 2: Involve youth, disability and other community groups in the current Open Space Strategy to identify which parks or open spaces have high need and potential for redevelopment, and ensure they are able to then contribute to their design, so those facilities are accessible and multi-functional.

Details / Amendments:

- Create more entry-points to gardening and local growing in open spaces, including raised beds, drop-in days, etc.
- Make all planning applications accessible to the public and mapped in an accessible, engaging digital format so that residents can find current planning applications in their area (to transform or remove open spaces, for example) and give feedback in a timely manner.
- Overhaul communications strategies for Open Space Strategy so that community groups get regular updates about changes in design.

Commitments

Chris Duncan, Public Relations Officer – Sustainability

To share our new communications strategy, and engage more community members at the start to make the strategy more effective. This legislative theatre process has already helped inform the Strategy - identify publicly how it has fed into the Strategy.

Deborah Paton, Transport Directorate

To take these ideas to the Glasgow Bus Partnership (in the upcoming meeting, week of 20/9, or following meeting) and ask what they might do on the issues raised today. Put more pressure on the bus company to prioritise accessibility improvements noted above.

Do more research and push to understand how bus design processes can be more accessible, and what changes are being made.

Liaise with the communications team on how to get this information out into the community regularly (for example, through existing networks).

Alan Duff, Senior Planning Officer

Make planning applications more visible: To work to make them all readable and ideally mapped on the Council website. To find out how quickly this can be rolled out and made visible to more residents.