



## Annual Review 2021

Citizens Inquiries, Climate Change,  
Participatory Budgeting, and SFCIC News

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to all of the many inspiring projects and service providers that we have come across in the course of writing this annual review.

In the end there was just too much to fit in but we hope we have given a sense of just how dynamic and innovative the UK's social enterprise sector can be, and provided some new ideas for other organisations to take forward.

This annual review has been produced by Jez Hall and Alex King. An online version is available at:

<https://sharedfuturecic.org.uk/annual-review-2021/>

## About Shared Future

We are a community interest company based in the North West of England, with associates based across the UK.

Our aim is to provide an excellent service that makes a difference to communities and individuals, and works towards a fairer, more equal society.

Through our commitment to creating a fairer and more sustainable world, we decided to set up Shared Future in 2009.

We've since built a team of experienced consultants and practitioners with a diverse range of skills. We work together on worthwhile and stimulating projects that reflect our personal values.



[www.sharedfuturecic.org.uk](http://www.sharedfuturecic.org.uk)

Produced January 2022



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

# Summary

---

**In these times of deepening democratic deficit, with trust in government at an all time low and social inequality spiralling, we believe it is more important than ever to place people at the centre of the big issues facing society — from mitigating climate breakdown, to social housing policy, and improving health and social care.**

Deliberative and participatory processes remain an excellent way of ensuring that everyone achieves greater individual and collective authority and autonomy, and building a democracy where everyone's voice counts.

Shared Future CIC is a leader in the field of deliberative democracy and public participation. Our deliberative processes, using techniques such as [citizens' juries](#), provide people powered responses to the biggest problems we face.

In our inquiries local residents and service users come together to discuss, hear evidence and make informed proposals on often highly contested issues of public policy.

We also lead work in the UK on [Participatory Budgeting](#), as another way to respond to climate change or youth empowerment

During 2021, we focussed our work primarily on climate change, which has led us in many exciting and interesting directions — from running citizens' assemblies, to a groundbreaking social housing tenants citizens' jury, and bringing legislative theatre to the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. In this Annual Review, we present the highlights of our work this year.

## Responding to Covid-19

Despite the pandemic, which forced us to innovate in how we work, 2021 was a fantastic year for Shared Future. We've delivered more projects than ever and we've also added new associates to our diverse pool of expert facilitators.

## Together, we really are stronger.

We couldn't have done all the work we have without the many inspiring local residents who got involved, or the many committed partners and collaborators with whom we connected.

# 1. The North of Tyne Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change

Commissioned by the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA), the [North of Tyne Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change](#) saw 50 people from the north east of England come together to help shape the region's response to the climate crisis.

The Assembly ran between February and March, running for a total of 30 hours over eight sessions. The Assembly answered the following question:

**'What should we do in the region to address climate change and its causes fairly, effectively and quickly?'**

The Assembly's recommendations included retrofitting the region's housing stock to a good standard by 2030, creating a public education strategy, and promoting apprenticeships in renewable energy. Read more about the process [here](#).

We were delighted to receive some glowing feedback from participants:

Read more about this project at:

<https://sharedfuturecic.org.uk/north-of-tyne-climate-citizens-assembly/>

## Assembly Statement Highlights

*"We now see that climate change is a credible, urgent and real threat. It threatens all we value: our families, our communities and our planet. Individuals, communities, businesses and government must all be involved in tackling the climate emergency, putting Climate Change at the forefront and heart of every single decision.*

*"The Assembly urge the North of Tyne Combined Authority and the three local authorities of North of Tyne to direct all their departments and committees to consider the effects on Climate Change in every decision they make.*

*"In deciding our action we must place fairness at the centre ensuring that those of us who are vulnerable and marginalised are not further disadvantaged.*



## 2. Glasgow Youth-Led Climate Crisis Legislative Theatre

The Glasgow Youth-Led Climate Crisis Legislative Theatre project, originally funded by a NESTA Democracy Pioneers award in 2020, has been a creative and powerful way for young Glaswegians to directly influence Glasgow City Council (GCC) climate policies in the run-up to COP26.

A collaboration with Glasgow City Council and Katy Rubin, the project kicked off in March with three online workshops involving youth-focused organisations Young Movers, Glasgow Disability Alliance and Urban Fox.

Glasgow City Council committed to take policy ideas from this process into its new Transport Strategy and upcoming City Development Plans. This commitment enabled the young people to use

*"Thank you and all of Shared Future for facilitating such an enlightening and enjoyable assembly. What a top bunch of people. I've definitely learned a lot too!"*



theatre to explore ways in which public transport could be more accessible and affordable, or how neighbourhoods and open spaces could be safer and meet the whole community's needs.

After a summer of rehearsals, the group gave its main performance to an audience of council policymakers on 14 September. But the project didn't end there. Many of the young democracy pioneers went on to take part in activities during COP26, and Katy also featured in a film created by the Council.

**Read more about this project at:**

<https://sharedfuturecic.org.uk/glasgow-youth-led-climate-crisis-legislative-theatre-2/>



### 3. Copeland People's Panel on Climate Change

The Copeland People's Panel on Climate Change, which ran between July and September, comprised 30 residents from Copeland who met between for 30 hours to discuss how the area should respond to climate change.

#### **What action should we take in our homes, businesses and local area to respond to climate change?**

Besides other things, the Panel's recommendations covered energy, transport, buildings, behaviour change and education.

We were also delighted to facilitate the Copeland Young People project in parallel with the People's Panel, whose report we will publish in 2022.

We'd like to thank the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership for kindly part funding this project through the National Lottery Climate Action Fund.

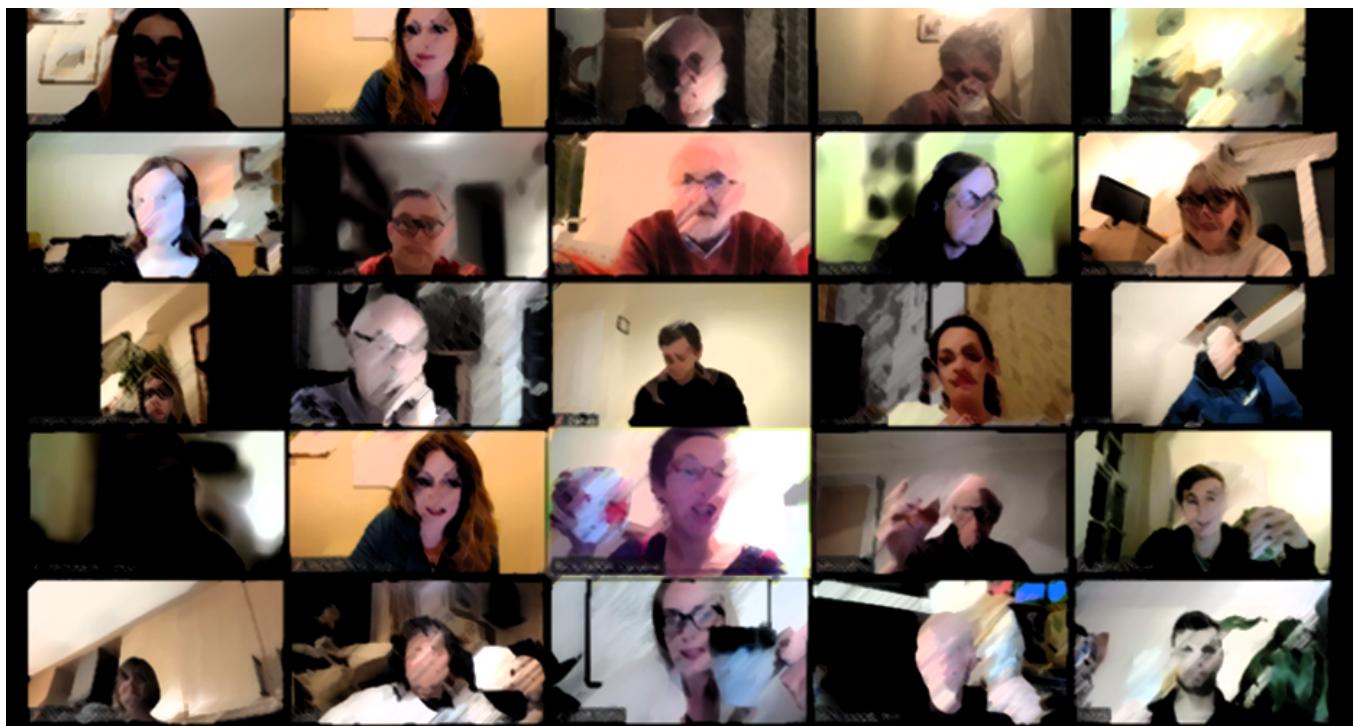
Organisations will be invited twice a year to share progress and best practice and develop partnership approaches to climate challenges.

#### **Panel Statement Highlights**

*"We have felt the power of coming together and ask that Copeland Council harness the power of community involvement at the core of its vision for addressing climate change and initiating the leadership that is so badly needed."*

*"Local leadership must be energetic and heartfelt and build a credible vision to address the climate emergency otherwise our reality is no future. The people of Copeland will be badly let down, if the momentum started by this process is not carried on by the local council, its representatives and others."*

Read more about this project at: <https://sharedfuturecic.org.uk/copeland-council-peoples-panel/>



## 4. The Social Housing Tenants' Climate Jury

30 social housing tenants from across the north of England came together online over 10 weeks between July and September to discuss how best to work together to tackle climate change in their homes and neighbourhoods.

Led by Shared Future Associate Andy Paice, the Jury attempted to answer the following question:

**"How can tenants, social housing providers, and others work together to tackle climate change in our homes and neighbourhoods?"**

The Jury presented its recommendations to the annual summit of the Northern Housing Consortium (NHC), who commissioned the process.

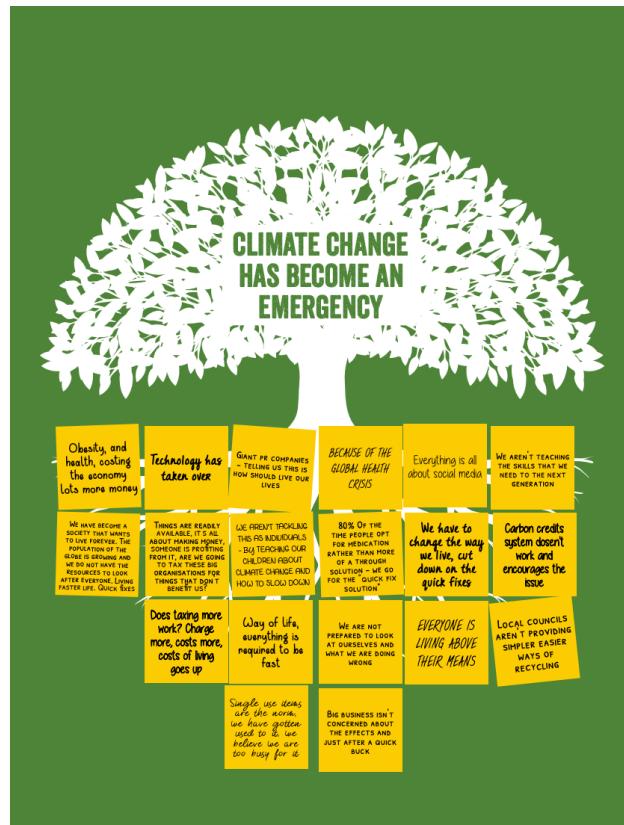
As part of writing recommendations, the jury developed its own statement which included a compelling 'call to action'

### Jury Statement Highlights

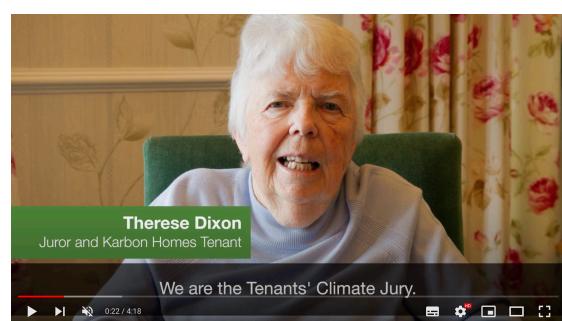
*"It's been an education and it's been eye opening. Climate change needs to be taken seriously, not just for now, but for future generations. We feel there is too much talk and the time has come for action."*

*"When you look at our recommendations, go forward with an open mind, listen to what we have to say and above all — let's take action and act together."*

In the main room tenants also talked through a screen share of the photos they had sent in regarding what was useful and not so useful in tackling climate change in their own neighbourhoods.



Tenants took it in turns to share stories of their local area and lives. Making the Jury something more than the simple consumption of facts and figures and having moments where members can share aspects of their lives helps to create a cohesive atmosphere which in turn reinforces their ability to work together as a group.



**Read more about this project at:**

<https://sharedfuturecic.org.uk/the-social-housing-tenants-climate-jury/>

## 5. Local Climate Engagement

We are delighted to be working on this new programme to support local authorities in England to plan, commission and deliver high quality public engagement in their climate decision-making.

Working alongside Involve, Demsoc, UK100 and Climate Outreach, we will give local authorities selected training and guidance to develop their capability and confidence in planning, commissioning and overseeing public engagement in climate decision-making.

On the programme, funded by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK branch) and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, local authorities will also have the opportunity to work with us to deliver a high quality piece of local public engagement in climate decision-making.



## 6. The Southwark Climate Change Citizens' Jury

Southwark Council approached us to run its Climate Change Citizens' Jury. The jury, which is ongoing, is supporting 25 citizens to consider what needs to change in Southwark to tackle the emergency of climate change effectively and fairly.

*We sent out 4,000 letters to residents in Southwark randomly selected from the Royal Mail's address database by the Sortition Foundation.*

Their starting question is; 'What needs to change in Southwark to tackle the emergency of climate change fairly and effectively for people and nature?' The jury is meeting over eight sessions: six online sessions between November and February. We held one daytime session on 4 December and another on 22 January.

## 7. Furness Climate Change Citizens' Jury

---

The jury, also ongoing, is seeing 20 local citizens come together to shape action taken on climate change across Furness.

***We sent out 4,000 letters to residents in Barrow-in-Furness randomly selected from the Royal Mail's address database by the Sortition Foundation.***

Their starting point will be to consider the question; “What should happen in the Furness area to address the emergency of climate change?”

The jury, launched in October 2021, will hear a range of expert opinions before reaching a series of recommendations for the council, and is meeting for ten sessions over a three-month period between November and February.

We'd like to thank the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership for kindly funding this project through the National Lottery Climate Action Fund.

Read more about this project at:  
<https://sharedfuturecic.org.uk/furness-climate-citizens-jury/>



## 8. Erasmus+ Youth PB Accelerator Project

---

Jointly funded by Erasmus+, and working with colleagues in Poland, Spain and Northern Ireland, this project has been working to develop a ‘toolkit’ to encourage best practice and the inclusion of Young People in local participatory budgeting (PB) processes.

The aim is to encourage schools, communities and public bodies develop new approaches to youth inclusion, harnessing the enthusiasm and passion of young people to shape their future.

So far the project has collated many case studies of youth focussed PB, completed its testing phase, and is now in the final stages of developing its comprehensive youth engagement toolkit. Though delayed by the pandemic, we and our European partners are planning a range of events for early 2022 to share the learning from more than two years of research.

Read more about this project at:  
<https://sharedfuturecic.org.uk/erasmus-youth-pb-accelerator-project/>



## What else we've been up to ...

---

Alongside our public facing engagement work listed above we have continued to undertake work either on behalf of other organisations or as part of our social mission. These include:

### Facilitation of an unpaid carers co-design project

On behalf of a respected charity, which produces nationally important research and campaigns on issues of poverty and inequality, we have been working intensively to facilitate their co-design project in partnership with a diverse group of unpaid carers based in London.

It is looking at finding solutions to the [financial insecurity](#), barriers and exclusions faced by unpaid carers — those looking after family members or dependants — often whilst living in conditions of extreme poverty, and facing isolation and exhaustion.



The project has been running since early this year and due to become public in the middle of 2022, with, we hope, some impactful policy recommendations that will improve the lives of some of the most marginalised and invisible members of our society.

### Greater Manchester Social Enterprise Network (GMSEN)

Shared Future has long been a member of the leadership group of [GMSEN](#). Facilitated by the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO), this network seeks to connect social enterprises across the city region, and push for their support and recognition by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).



In 2021, we led a number of online learning and networking events on behalf of GMSEN, and contributed to the wider work of others in that sector, such as the [GMCA social enterprise advisory group](#).

Alongside this we have continued to offer a listening ear, and provide free advice to a wide range of newly formed social enterprises across Greater Manchester and Lancashire as part of our social mission to grow the social economy.

## Participatory Budgeting (PB) support

We have continued to promote the cause of [participatory budgeting](#) by hosting the [PB Network](#) website, engaging with international practitioner networks, and delivering advice on small scale PB grant-making projects on behalf of local groups and for local authorities (such as [Winsford Town Council](#)).

We've also followed the exciting developments on PB in Northern Ireland and Scotland. We also contributed to the recently updated [PB World Atlas](#), and acted as [PB mentors](#) on behalf of PeoplePowered.



## Networking and conferences

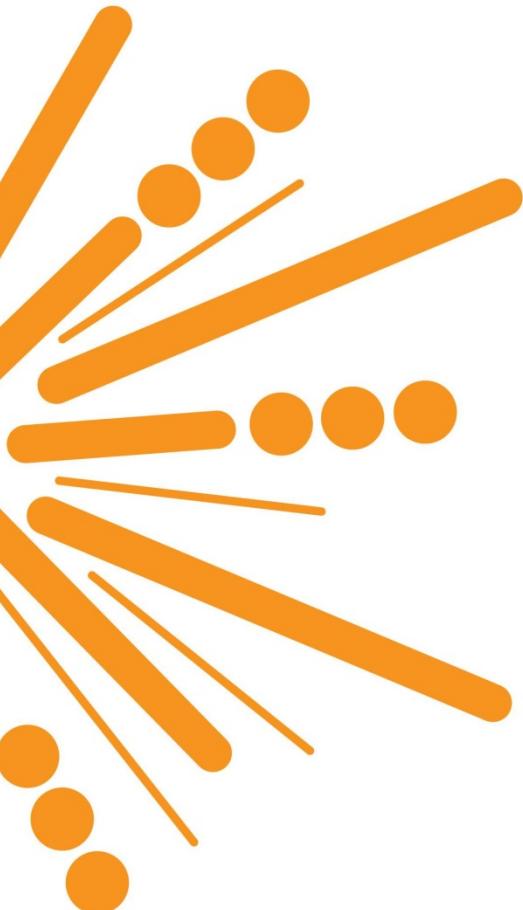
Throughout 2021, we have continued to engage and network widely. Attending and giving presentations at conferences for bodies such as the Northern Housing Consortium, [PeoplePowered](#) or at the Fuel Poverty Research Network's '[Making Decarbonisation Fair](#)' conference.

As part of our membership of the [DemocracyRD](#) network we took part in their week-long virtual conference in March. Also in March, as part of our long involvement with the [CTRLshift](#) network, we were involved in the '[Exchanges for Change](#)' project, based in North Staffordshire and funded by Local Trust, which looked to develop grassroots regeneration projects.

And finally, but certainly not least, we enjoyed being on one of the [Reasons to be Cheerful podcasts](#) with Ed Miliband and Geoff Little.

Overall, alongside all the contracted and free work we've delivered, it's been a busy 2021!

## About this report



In this short report we have looked at some highlights of our work in 2021. We couldn't include everything.

We hope it gives you a flavour of our passion for meaningful citizen engagement on themes that will influence our world for generations to come.