

# Democracy Matters

Your Community. Your Ideas. Your Future.

# Democracy Matters

What is Democracy Matters?

Local Governance Review

How members can make a difference?

Why is it important for people with a hearing loss to be involved?

How can you support people with a hearing loss to have their say?

What happens after the events take place?

Summary

# What is Democracy Matters?

- “Democracy Matters” is the Scottish Government’s Local Governance Review.
- The Scottish Government wants to make changes to the ways decisions are made in communities.
- The “Democracy Matters” is looking at how power, responsibility and resources are shared with government and with communities.
- The consultation ends on 30 November 2018

# Local Governance Review

- Politicians – MEPs, MPs and MSPs and Councillors – and the public sector make decisions that affect every aspect of people’s lives in Scotland.
- There has been a growing recognition that it is often better for decisions about the issues that affect different communities in Scotland to be taken with more active involvement of those communities – devolved decision making.
- Communities can be local (geographical) or communities of interest.

# Local Governance Review

## Communities:

A local community is where you live or where you work. You might live in East Dunbartonshire and work in Glasgow; or you live in Orkney but work part of the week in Aberdeen. Issues that affect you might be transport between where you live and where you work; access to health appointments when and where you need them; how to deal with household rubbish, including furniture disposal.

# Local Governance Review

## Communities:

A community of interest could be your child's school's Parent Forum or your local cycling group or the site where you have your allotment. It is a group of people who all have the same interest and who come together on a regular basis. It could be your local deaf club or lip reading group. The group does not have to be a formal organisation, but can just be a group of people who meet once a week to go for a walk with coffee and cake at the end of it; or it can be a group that has a constitution and a bank account such as an allotment association.

# Local Governance Review

## Local decision-making processes

- There are a number of organisations where people can get involved in local decision making – for example:
  - Community Councils
  - Community Planning Partnerships
  - NHS Boards
  - Local Authorities
  - Health and Social Care Partnerships
  - Civic societies
  - Parent Forum
  - Tenants Participation
  - Access Panels
  - Third Sector Interfaces
  - Social Enterprises

# How members can make a difference?

The Scottish Government has set up a web page where people can have an online conversation about what matters most to them in local decision-making processes.

<https://www.ideas.gov.scot/local-governance-review>

A person simply registers online and then can add an idea or leave a comment on an existing idea or can vote on an existing idea.

Some existing ideas are: “What does 'local' mean to you?”, “Community Councils - Why are they not working for communities?” and “For the 'local' many - but what about the few?”.



# Why is it important for people with a hearing loss to be involved?

The Scottish Government will look at what needs to change to enable national and local government to deliver the greatest benefit to Scotland's different communities.

The Scottish Government wants people and communities to be supported to take on more power and responsibility.

The Scottish Government wants to hear from local communities and communities of interest as well as individual citizens on what they think about giving more power to people at a local level.

# Why is it important for people with a hearing loss to be involved?

Our questions to you are

How many people with a hearing loss are involved in local decision-making processes?

What are the barriers to people with a hearing loss becoming involved in local decision-making processes?

And

What do people with a hearing loss have to say about local decision-making processes?

It is important that the Scottish Government gets feedback from people with a hearing loss on how they want to be involved in local decision-making processes.

# How can you support people with a hearing loss to have their say?

The Voluntary Action Fund has been given money from the Scottish Government to fund consultation events for small groups of 5 or more people to have their say.

Applications must be in by Wednesday 31st October.

Consultation events must take place by 16 November.

Applications can be made online at

<https://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/democracy-matters-community-engagement-fund/>

# How can you support people with a hearing loss to have their say?

We are asking our members to support small non-constituted groups, deaf clubs, lip reading classes and other classes to access funding so that people with a hearing loss in Scotland can have their say on this consultation.

Grants of up to £500 are available. This includes money for language/communication support so that the group can provide feedback to the Scottish Government.

For example, a lip reading class could have a consultation meeting before or after their class with an Electronic Notetaker to help facilitate the discussion.

# How can you support people with a hearing loss to have their say?

To apply for a grant, groups must have:

- A constitution and an annual income below £100,000 in the last financial year (excluding any income for capital items such as buildings and equipment)
- A bank account in the name of the group with 2 signatories on all payments
- Be able to hold an event by 16th November and provide feedback by 30th November

# How can you support people with a hearing loss to have their say?

Groups without a constitution or bank account can still receive funding, but the application has to be made by another body submitting the application on their behalf. If successful this other body will receive the grant and is responsible to VAF for how it is spent.

Groups that are not charities will be considered for a grant if:

- Their purpose and activities could be considered charitable

- Their constitution or set of rules makes it clear that any assets or funds that belong to the group can only be used for the group's purposes and cannot be distributed amongst members.

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# How can you support people with a hearing loss to have their say?

An organisation or group can apply for more than one grant if the events involve different people.

Costs can include:

- Venue hire

- Catering costs

- Childcare costs

- Travel costs

- Language/Communication Support – for example, an Electronic Notetaker or BSL/English Interpreter.



# How can you support people with a hearing loss to have their say?

Once you have the grant money, you could

- Help the group organise the event
- Offer to facilitate the event
- Offer to write up the feedback AND
  - Submit it to deafscotland for it to be included in the report; and/or
  - Email it to the Scottish Government.

# How can you support people with a hearing loss to have their say?

There are four questions that the Scottish Government would like discussed at the events. These are:

Q1. Tell us about your experiences of getting involved in decision-making processes that affect your local community or community of interest.

Q2. Would you like your local community or community of interest to have more control over some decisions? If yes, what sorts of issues would those decisions cover?

Q3. When thinking about decision-making, 'local' could mean a large town, a village, or a neighbourhood. What does 'local' mean to you and your community?

Q4. Are there existing forms of local level decision-making which could play a part in exercising new local powers? Are there new forms of local decision-making that could work well? What kinds of changes might be needed for this to work in practice?

# How can you support people with a hearing loss to have their say?

deafscotland has put together a feedback form based on the Scottish Government's questions to aid discussion at events for people with a hearing loss. The form also includes some extra information to explain terms and what local decision-making processes may look like.

This form is available here: [\\$%^&%\\$^\\*^\\*^\\*](#)

# What happens after the events take place?

The Scottish Government needs feedback from the events by Friday 30 November 2018.

The group can email their feedback directly to the Scottish Government - [democracymatters@gov.scot](mailto:democracymatters@gov.scot)

But

deafscotland will submit a report on what people with a hearing loss think about local decision-making processes and how they want to be involved.

If the group would like their discussion to inform the deafscotland report, please email the discussion information to Mandy Reid, who is writing our report. Her email address is [director@mjreid.net](mailto:director@mjreid.net) by 16 November 2018.

# Summary

- The Scottish Government will look at what needs to change to enable national and local government to deliver the greatest benefit to Scotland's different communities.
- The Scottish Government wants people and communities to be supported to take on more power and responsibility.
- The Scottish Government wants to know what the citizens who live in Scotland think about local decision-making processes.
- Democracy Matters is the Scottish Government's Local Governance Review.
- There is an online conversation that members can become involved in.  
<https://www.ideas.gov.scot/local-governance-review>

# Summary

- What do people with a hearing loss think about local decision-making processes?
- How do we help them have their say?
  - Offer groups, clubs and classes support to host an event by applying for funding from the Voluntary Action Fund to do so;
  - Help facilitate the event
  - Help write up the feedback.

# Summary

## **What are the deadlines?**

**Wednesday 31 October 2018** for event grant applications

**Friday 16 November 2018** for the event to take place

**Friday 16 November 2018** for feedback to be sent to  
Mandy Reid

**Friday 30 November 2018** for feedback to be sent to the  
Scottish Government.

# You can reach us at...

- Telephone: 0141 248 2474
- Mobile: 07925 417 338
- E-mail: [admin@deafscotland.org](mailto:admin@deafscotland.org)
- Address: C/o The ALLIANCE, The Venlaw Building, 349 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4AA

