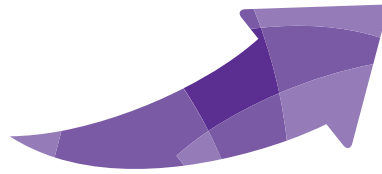


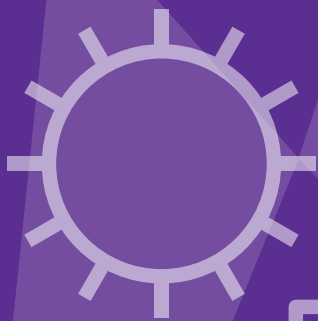


The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Scotland's Futures Forum
Fòram Alba air Thoiseach

Looking positively at our shared future.



ANNUAL REPORT
2020 | 21



Introduction

Scotland's Futures Forum is the Scottish Parliament's futures think-tank. We work across the political parties and beyond to promote research and to stimulate debate on Scotland's long-term future.

Our aim is to inform MSPs and others and to enable them to look beyond the electoral horizons. Our work is based on bringing together diverse groups of people to consider the effect of policy decisions and potential policy decisions on Scotland's long-term future.

The year covered by this annual report was a year like no other. As the Covid-19 pandemic hit Scotland, it became hard for many of us to look beyond the end of the week, let alone into the long-term future.

At Scotland's Futures Forum, like many other places, our work was curtailed as we adapted to changing circumstances. As a body owned by the Scottish Parliament, we redirected resources to supporting parliamentary business. Through the year, however, we still tried to find space to look positively at our shared future.

For further information on our work:

- > visit our website
www.scotlandfutureforum.org
- > follow us on Twitter
[@ScotFutures](https://twitter.com/ScotFutures)
- > get in contact
ScotlandsFuturesForum@parliament.scot





Scotland 2030 Programme

The Scotland 2030 Programme was the Futures Forum's major project for the most recent session of Parliament.

The programme was an investigation into the kind of country we want Scotland to be in 2030 and beyond. We looked at the issues through different themes and from different perspectives, with the overall aim to take a positive view of what lies ahead.

Over the years of the programme, we built up a reference bank of materials. As well as capturing the wide range of topics covered, it provides food for thought on the future that Scotland faces. With videos, podcasts, event reports, guest blogposts, stories and pictures, we supported a variety of voices to reflect on the future in the way that works for them.



Report: A Positive View of Our Future

In November 2020, we published the programme report, looking at what life will be like in Scotland in 2030 and beyond. The report **Scotland 2030: A Positive View of Our Future** covered the major issues for our future lives, from birth to death, that had come out of our programme. These included some important questions for us all to consider for the next 10 years.

10 ideas for 2030

Throughout the programme, our event participants shared their thoughts and ideas on how to approach the future. As part of our report, we also outlined 10 ideas for the Scottish Parliament to consider – with some background information to support them.



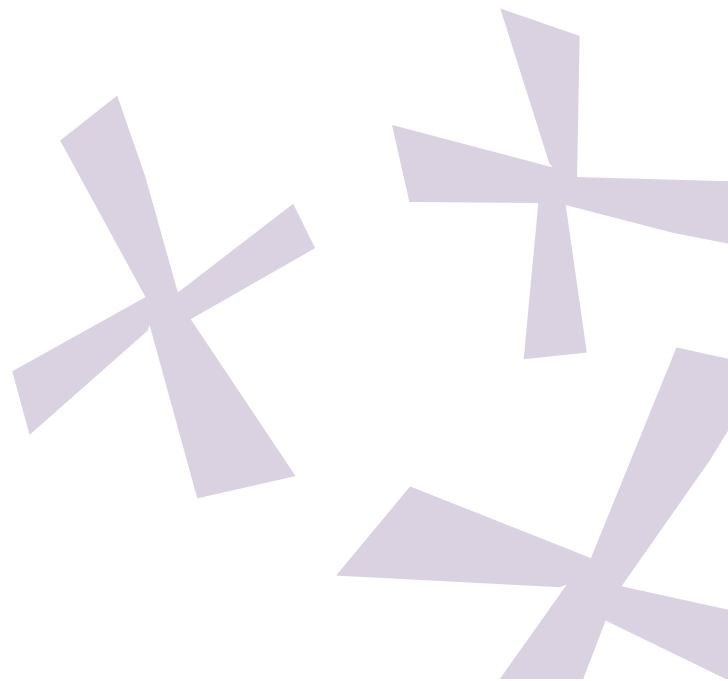
A Museum of Failure

If we don't fail, we don't learn. Using the legend of Robert the Bruce and the spider, and more recent versions such as scientific innovations like Dolly the Sheep and sporting achievements like Andy Murray's, a national museum of failure could show the role of failure in the path to achievement and encourage people to embrace risk.

One of our 10 ideas for 2030.

Ranging from a Museum of Failure to an Autonomous Vehicles testing site on a Scottish island, these creative ideas are designed to get us thinking about our particular Scottish response to some global challenges.

Read more about our 10 ideas for 2030.



The future can be hard to imagine, and stories and art can help us envisage the kind of future we want and discuss our aspirations with others.

Creative Reflections

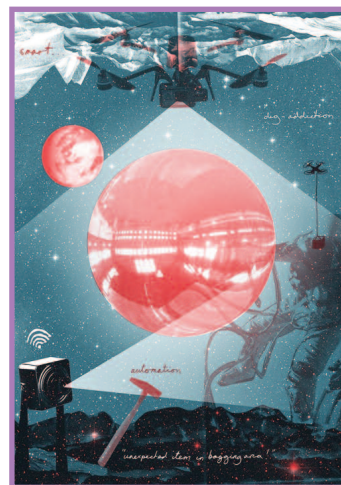
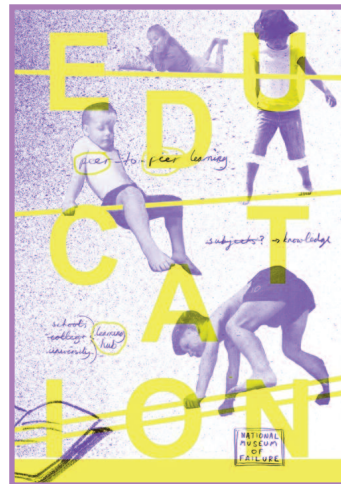
A key theme of the Scotland 2030 Programme was creativity. To reflect this and to support our discussions, we asked writers and others to share their thoughts on the issues at hand and their creative reflections on our shared future.

The future can be hard to imagine, and stories and art can help us envisage the kind of future we want and discuss our aspirations with others.

From our first event, where the writer and singer Karine Polwart read and discussed three imagined news stories from 2030, to our work with Cymera and Shoreline of Infinity to support a storytelling competition in summer 2020, we supported this work where possible.

These ideas, reflections and provocations complement the work in our report.

View the creative reflections on Scotland in 2030.



Artwork on the themes of education, environment, technology and wellbeing, produced by Fiona J MacLellan as part of a Scotland 2030 internship with the Futures Forum.

An t-àm ri teachd ann an Gàidhlig

Mar phàirt de dhealas Pàrlamaid na h-Alba a bhith a' cumail taic ris a' Ghàidhlig, dh'fhoillsich sinn geàrr-chunntas den aithisg aig a' phrògram fharsaing againn Alba 2030 agus de na deich beachdan againn airson 2030, sa Ghàidhlig.

Leugh an geàrr-chunntas den aithisg Prògram Alba 2030.

The future in Gaelic

As part of the Scottish Parliament's commitment to support the Gaelic language, we published a summary of our wide-ranging Scotland 2030 Programme report, along with our 10 ideas for 2030, in Gaelic.

Read the Scotland 2030 Programme report summary in Gaelic.



The Presiding Officer Ken Macintosh MSP hosts the Scotland 2030 event at the Festival of Politics.

Festival of Politics

In November 2020, as we brought the Scotland 2030 Programme to a conclusion, we were delighted to partner with the Scottish Parliament on its first virtual Festival of Politics.

The Festival programme put the spotlight on the key issues facing society over the next 10 years. It opened with a session hosted by the Parliament's Presiding Officer on Scotland in 2030.

The discussion featured the Professor Anne Glover, president of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the author and philosopher Roman Krznaric, the Commissioner for Children and Young People Scotland Bruce Adamson, and the writer and broadcaster Tomiwa Folorunso.

Stealing our cities: land-use analysis in Glasgow and Dundee

In summer 2020, in partnership with SAGES (the Scottish Alliance for Geoscience, Environment and Society), and the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, we published a research report by PhD student Marli de Jongh on the amount of space private cars take up in Scotland's cities.

The aim of the project was to look creatively at the role of transport in climate change by assessing how much space is dedicated to private vehicles in comparison to other modes of transport in Scottish cities.

Among the findings, Marli discovered that at the Scottish Exhibition Campus in Glasgow – the venue for the UN COP26 conference – there is more space dedicated to smoking than bike parking.

Read the land-use report.



Who's involved?

The work of the Futures Forum is guided by a Board of Directors drawn from within and outwith Parliament. The following directors served during 2020 – 21:

- > **Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP, Presiding Officer (Chair)**
- > **Claudia Beamish MSP**
- > **Maurice Corry MSP**
- > **Sir Andrew Cubie CBE**
- > **Professor Sir Ian Diamond**
- > **Louise Macdonald OBE**
- > **Stuart McMillan MSP**
- > **Sarah Munro**

Michelle Hegarty, Scottish Parliament Assistant Chief Executive, handed over to **Susan Duffy**, Group Head of Engagement and Communications, as Company Secretary.

Rob Littlejohn, the Head of Business, and **Nafees Iqbal**, who provides administrative and events support, continued to be employed on secondment from the Parliamentary Service.

What's next?

In 2021–22, the Futures Forum will make the transition to a new session of the Scottish Parliament. Our board membership refreshes after the elections in May 2021, and we will seek new partnerships with parliamentary committees and other partners as the new political context establishes itself.

Throughout our work, we will look for opportunities to collaborate and stimulate debate on Scotland's long-term future in Scotland's parliament.

Website www.scotlandfutureforum.org

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