

Scotland 2030: A Citizen's Income?

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Structure

- ▶ Context
- ▶ Basic Income - definition
- ▶ CBINS
- ▶ SUII: Basic Income in Scotland
- ▶ Feasibility Studies
- ▶ Exploring Basic Income in Scotland
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**Citizen's Basic
Income Network
Scotland**

RSA

21st century enlightenment

Basic Income Scotland

Creating a Fairer Scotland

Contextual issues

- ▶ Almost highest levels of inequality in OECD
- ▶ Falling living standards and real wages
- ▶ Paradise Papers; Panama Papers: tax revenues lost
- ▶ Lowest levels of out-of-work benefits in northern / western Europe: relative to average incomes & absolutely
- ▶ Lowest aggregate spending on social security in northern / western Europe as proportion of GDP
- ▶ Long run low levels of growth: 'Going South' and Brexit downgrade
- ▶ Impacts on low productivity
- ▶ Towards 1 in 5 in self-employment: over $\frac{3}{4}$ in poverty
- ▶ Prescriptions administration costs > charge
- ▶ Costs of social security reforms > 'savings' (e.g. Universal Credit evaluation)

Time for radical look at alternatives – Citizen's Basic Income?

Basic Income

Basic Income Definition: A periodic cash payment unconditionally delivered to all on an individual basis, without means-test or work requirement. 5 characteristics:

- ▶ **Periodic:** it is paid at regular intervals (for example every month), not as a one-off grant.
- ▶ **Cash payment:** it is paid in an appropriate medium of exchange, allowing those who receive it to decide what they spend it on. It is not, therefore, paid either in kind (such as food or services) or in vouchers dedicated to a specific use.
- ▶ **Individual:** it is paid on an individual basis—and not, for instance, to households.
- ▶ **Universal:** it is paid to all, without means test.
- ▶ **Unconditional:** it is paid without a requirement to work or to demonstrate willingness-to-work.

Source: Basic Income Earth Network

Citizen's Basic Income Network Scotland

Organiser of *Exploring Basic Income in Scotland*

- ▶ We are a charity campaigning for a Basic Income in Scotland. We support a network of Basic Income advocates - providing training and a platform for discussion. We lend our expertise to government and share the stories of people who would benefit from a Basic Income.
- ▶ Citizen's Basic Income Network Scotland is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SCO46356
- ▶ Join us on Facebook and Twitter, or email team@cbin.scot with any enquiries.
- ▶ We also have a mailing list [you can sign up to here](#).
- ▶ If you would like to help us raise the profile of basic income in Scotland please get in touch.



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PROGRAMMES

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SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES INSIGHT INSTITUTE

The Scottish Universities Insight Institute supports programmes of knowledge exchange which address and provide insight on substantial issues that face Scotland and the wider world.

Exploring benefits and challenges of implementing citizen's basic income in Scotland



Citizen's basic income (BI) seeks to reduce poverty and increase people's control over their lives. This programme will bring together researchers, policymakers, practitioners and citizens to critically explore rationales, requirements and consequences of BI in Scotland. [More...](#)

Housing and Ageing



This series will analyse shared policy challenges and priorities across Housing and Ageing contexts, to understand how they are being delivered and experienced by older people, to take forward best practice and to plan for housing and ageing effectively in Scotland for 2030. [More...](#)

Learning from Loss: transformation in the historic environment in the face of climate change



During an intensive field trip and series of workshops, this programme explores the intersection of climate change impacts with historic environments, and will address fundamental questions around the value, preservation and role of heritage in society. [More...](#)

Future transitions in palliative care



The programme explores the future of palliative care for people with life limiting conditions to build a contextual understanding of care needs and aspirations across the lifespan and scope future care models that support the development of person-centred care towards Scotland 2030. [More...](#)



EXPLORING BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTING CITIZEN'S BASIC INCOME IN SCOTLAND

[<< Return to Programmes list](#)

Citizen's basic income (BI) seeks to reduce poverty and increase people's control over their lives – improving their quality of life and wellbeing and strengthening socio-economic inclusion and justice. This will contribute to realising the vision of Scotland 2030 as a better place for all citizens. International BI pilots have shown considerable social, economic, administrative benefits. Analyses of these, and persistent poverty, income and job insecurity are leading to growing global interest in BI, with many pilot schemes across the world and with plans for four local authority pilots in Scotland.

This project aims to facilitate:

- multi-disciplinary and cross-sector learning about BI
- development, implementation and evaluation of BI pilots in Scotland, with toolkits and evaluation guidance co-produced for critical assessment
- new BI-related research
- a multi-disciplinary and cross-sector Scottish BI network to support learning and inform future policy and practice.



Programme Events

Exploring Basic Income in Scotland: Where are we now?

12 Sept. 2018

[Programme Overview](#)

Basic Income, Human Rights and Equality

25 Sept. 2018

[Background Paper](#)

Basic Income, Employment and Entrepreneurship

2 Oct. 2018

[Background Paper](#)

Basic Income and Housing

11 Oct. 2018

[Background Paper](#)

Basic Income and Care

24 Oct. 2018

Implementation, Evaluation and Modelling of Basic Income

5 Nov. 2018

Programme Materials

There are currently no materials listed for this programme.

Programme Links

There are currently no links listed for this programme.

Researchers, policymakers, practitioners and citizens will be brought together to critically explore rationales, requirements and consequences of BI in Scotland, focusing on how BI interacts with key socio-economic issues including:

- human rights and equality, especially gender, age and disability
- caring
- affordable housing
- employment and entrepreneurship.

Project inputs and outputs will be disseminated to wider practice and research communities across Scotland and internationally.

Outputs

[Citizen's Basic Income Final Report](#)

Programme Team

Professor Mike Danson, Heriot-Watt University

Professor Christine Cooper, University of Edinburgh (*previously Strathclyde*)

Maddy Halliday, Citizen's Basic Income Network Scotland (CBINS)

Annie Miller, Citizen's Basic Income Network Scotland (CBINS)

Cleo Goodman, Citizen's Basic Income Network Scotland (CBINS)

Dr Carlo Morelli, University of Dundee

Professor Paul Spicker, Robert Gordon University

Jamie Cooke, Royal Society of the Arts

Peter Kelly, Poverty Alliance

Exploring Basic Income in Scotland SUII project

The Exploring Basic Income in Scotland project set out to generate cross-disciplinary discussions about Basic Income and areas that would be transformed by the policy:

- Employment & Entrepreneurship
- Housing
- Care
- Human Rights & Equality

We also looked at:

- Basic Income Modelling, Implementation & Evaluation

Exploring Basic Income in Scotland SUII project II

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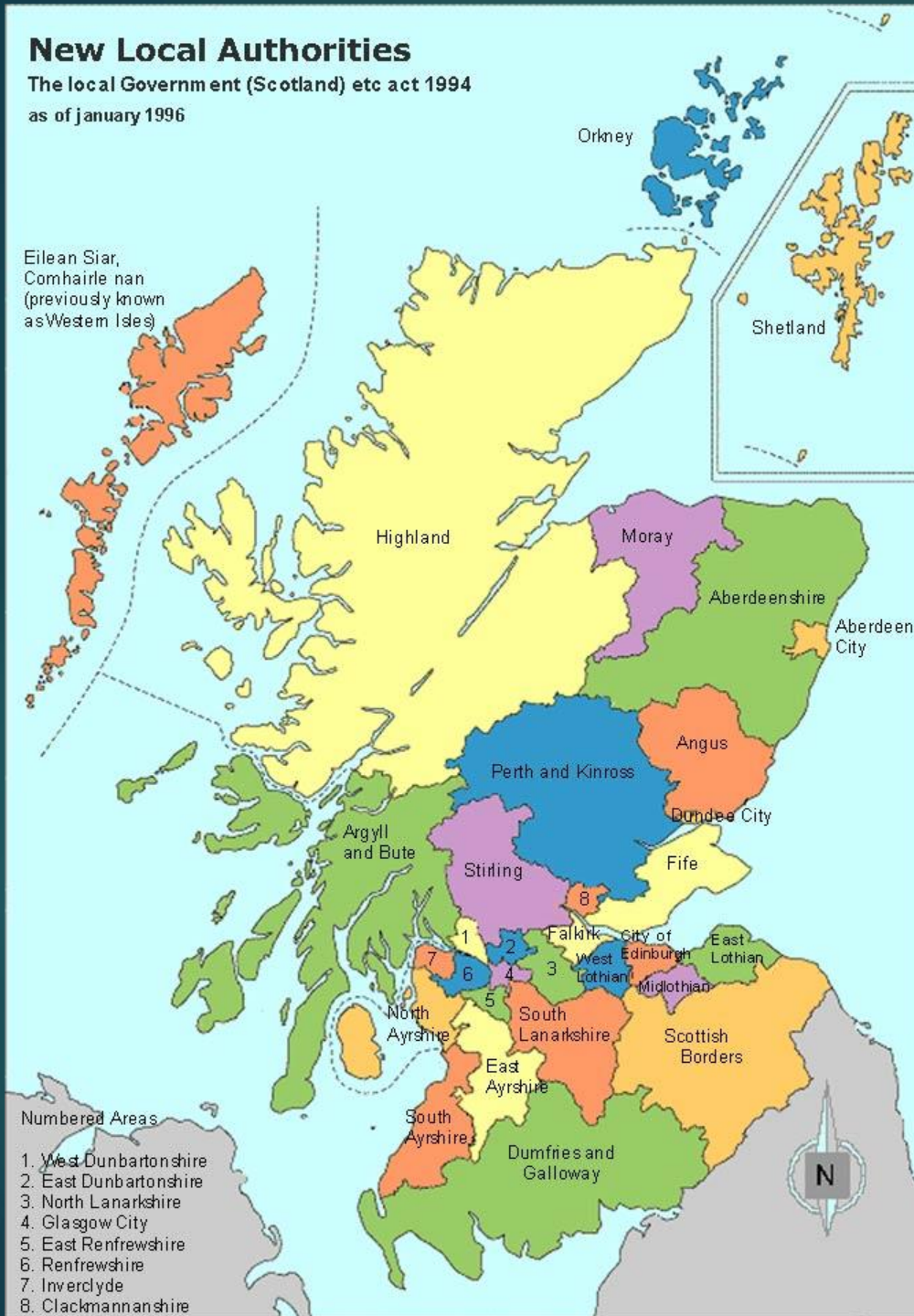
Workshops attended by over 100 individuals representing contributions from 42 different organisations and academics. Inputs from national & international speakers with expertise in variety of areas, diverse range of backgrounds, supplemented by other conversations and reviews.

Report: key insights, including background papers, insights from the workshops and summary of the key potential benefits, concerns and questions. Also a paper by Paul Spicker: *Reservations about Basic Income*, explores issues relating to cost, distribution, adequacy and practical implementation.

New Local Authorities

The local Government (Scotland) etc act 1994

as of January 1996



4 local government areas for pilots:

Glasgow,
Edinburgh,
Fife,
North
Ayrshire

Citizens Basic Income: Feasibility

Study objectives

- ▶ **Political Feasibility** - broad support for proceeding with and implementing a pilot of basic income?
- ▶ **Financial Feasibility** - possible to finance a basic income? Would implementation impose financial losses on households / individuals?
- ▶ **Psychological Feasibility** – idea of a basic income readily understood and seen to be beneficial by the community?
- ▶ **Behavioural Feasibility** - Basic Income work for households and individuals once it's implemented?
- ▶ **Institutional Feasibility** – institutional support for a pilot from a range of organisations? Including the practicalities of how a pilot will be funded / administered, and illustrating / understanding the benefits of a basic income.

Feasibility Intentions

- ▶ Develop **policy and delivery options** for piloting BI in Scotland that can be implemented given current political and economic **constraints**
- ▶ Agree **model(s)** for the pilot across local authorities to recommend to the Scottish Government
- ▶ Develop an **evaluation plan** for the pilot that will answer the priority research and policy questions around the feasibility and impact of the policy and to plan any **baseline** measurement, research **governance** and **ethical** approval

Exploring Basic Income in Scotland

Exploring Basic Income in Scotland

Exploring Basic Income in Scotland is a cross-disciplinary project, funded by Scottish Universities Insight Institute, that looked at the implications of a Basic Income for a variety of intersecting issues. The project was led by academics from the Heriot-Watt University, University of Edinburgh and Citizen's Basic Income Network Scotland (CBINS). It united policy makers, practitioners and academics to look at the intersection of a Basic Income with employment and entrepreneurship, housing, care and human rights and equality and the modelling, implementation and evaluation of the policy.



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All outputs from the project can be found at www.cbinscot/resources/

Exploring Basic Income in Scotland

This project looked at the potential impact of introducing a Basic Income in Scotland. Find out more at www.cbin.scot/resources



Basic Income, Human Rights & Equality

Potential Benefits:

- Payment to the individual gives more autonomy to the recipient
- Reducing economic inequality within a household decreases the incidence of domestic abuse
- Supports personal growth
- People more able to leave undesirable domestic situations

Concerns:

- A more universal approach could leave some disabled people with lower income
- The additional costs incurred by disabled people may be underestimated
- The definition of citizenship is complex and ill-defined
- The impact on the behaviour of each individual is not easily predicted or assessed

Questions:

- How should a Basic Income be allocated to children?
- What would the impact of a Basic Income on domestic situations be?
- How do you assess the additional costs incurred by disabled people and how does this function alongside a Basic Income?
- How do you define Citizen?

Basic Income, Employment & Entrepreneurship

Potential Benefits:

- Increased engagement with flexible, part-time and freelance work
- Increased entrepreneurship
- Alleviating the impact of automation
- Removal of the work disincentives of means tested benefits

Concerns:

- The impact of a Basic Income on engagement with employment is difficult to predict and plan for
- The impacts of automation on employment are difficult to predict
- Basic Income would radically change the labour market and the political implications of this are unknown
- If a Basic Income drives up wages this may put a financial strain on some businesses

Questions:

- What impact would a Basic Income have on jobs?
- What impact would a Basic Income have on entrepreneurship?
- How does engagement with employment compare for people on means tested benefits in comparison to people receiving a Basic Income?
- What impact would a Basic Income have on self-motivated development of skills?

Basic Income & Care

Potential Benefits:

- Improved well-being of Carers due to a more secure financial situation
- More parity between groups of Carers, some do not usually qualify for benefits
- The means-testing of Carer's Allowance causes challenges that an unconditional Basic Income would not
- Increased ability for Carers to engage with employment

Questions:

- What would the impact of a Basic Income be on Carers' well-being?
- What would the impact of a Basic Income be on the financial situation of Carers?
- What would the impact of a Basic Income be on Carers' engagement with paid work?
- Would a Basic Income impact the amount of unpaid care provided?

Concerns:

- Stigmatisation of people who do not leave work to enter caring roles
- Reduced public services
- Inadequate assessment of the additional needs of Carers and the people they care for
- No recognition of care as additional work without an additional benefit for Carers

Basic Income & Housing

The consensus was that a housing benefit element should be kept separate from a Basic Income

Questions:

- How would a Basic Income impact the incidence of rent arrears?
- Would a Basic Income be taken into account for mortgage lending?
- Would a Basic Income impact homelessness?

Concerns:

- High relative rate of inflation of housing costs not addressed by Basic Income
- Lack of housing supply not addressed by a Basic Income
- Rent control not addressed by a Basic Income
- Basic Income does not address the geographic discrepancies in housing costs

Basic Income Modelling, Implementation & Evaluation

- Is it possible to implement a financially feasible Basic Income scheme while still fulfilling the aims of a Basic Income?
- Are there feasible Basic Income schemes that enable means-tested benefits to be abolished?
- How many financially feasible schemes are there to choose from?
- What can pilot projects tell us about the longer-term feasibility of a Basic Income?
- Can pilot projects tell us about the employment market effects of a Basic Income scheme?
- Which outcomes of a Basic Income is it most important to measure in a potential Basic Income pilot?
- Which Basic Income outcomes is it most feasible to measure in the context of a pilot?
- What can be learned from pilots of unconditional payments around the world?
- How helpful are Basic Income trials elsewhere to designing a pilot within the Scottish context?

Conclusions and Future

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- ▶ Poverty and inequality high in Scotland and UK
- ▶ Scottish society (broadly defined) interested in change and in assessing BI through pilots
- ▶ UK Government opposed but crucial to pilots
- ▶ Pilots therefore partial and prolonged until lessons apparent and recommendations made (mid 2020s?)
- ▶ Constitutional change leads to inclusion of full BI in debates, proposals? or wait for UK Government change?
- ▶ Evaluation – health/well-being based? Macroeconomic? Logic and other models?
- ▶ SUII workshop series reports from past autumn now available
- ▶ Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group
- ▶ Dissemination across Scotland, Britain and Ireland, Europe & North America
- ▶ CITIZEN'S BASIC INCOME NETWORK SCOTLAND – SC046356
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