



a positive view of our future

key messages



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Scotland's
Futures Forum
Fòram Alba air Thoiseach

Encouraging everyone to take a positive view of our shared future.

Introduction

The Scotland 2030 Programme has been an investigation into the kind of country we want Scotland to be in 2030 and beyond.

Through it, Scotland's Futures Forum has explored how Scottish culture and society is changing and will change. We have looked at the issues through different themes and from different perspectives, with the overall aim to take a positive view of what lies ahead.

Since our launch in March 2017, we have hosted events to look at different aspects of the overall question: what kind of country do we want Scotland to be in 2030 and beyond?

We have brought together subject experts with artists, academics with politicians, and young people and those not so young. We have asked them to outline the current trends, to challenge each other's thinking, and to offer their visions for the road ahead.

Throughout the programme, we've brought people into the Scottish Parliament to share their views and bring their own expertise to bear. Where possible, we have held events elsewhere in Scotland.

We have looked at the technological changes we can expect to see, how we can manage our environment in the context of climate change, and how we can build an economy that marries the two trends and works for people throughout Scotland.

We considered innovative ideas like a citizen's income, as well as aspects of our life central to our culture – our relationship with food and the way we care for vulnerable older people.

With our partners the Goodison Group in Scotland, we looked in-depth at what this all means for the education system – our main way of preparing society for the future.

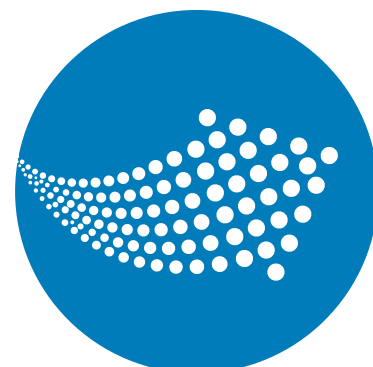
We also explored the stages of life in the future, from birth to death, in a series that informs this report.

Over the years of the programme, we have 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 have supported a variety of voices to reflect on the future in the way that works for them.

Everything we have done is available on our website: www.scotlandfutureforum.org.

This report aims to capture the key issues that emerged from our work and some important questions for the next 10 years.

Most of all, we hope that it encourages everyone – Members of the Scottish Parliament and the people they serve – to take a positive view of our shared future.



Growing up in 2030

The early years of someone's life set the direction for the rest of their life, and Scotland has the admirable ambition to be the best place to grow up in for children and young people. However, long-standing economic difficulties stunt the chances for thousands of young people each year, and the continually evolving digital world brings the good and evil in the world directly into everyone's homes.

Around half a million babies will be born in Scotland in the 2020s. How can we help them and all of Scotland's young people prepare for, and bring about, a brighter tomorrow? Are we brave enough to take the big decisions as part of those changes to tackle the deep-rooted inequality in Scotland and really get it right for every child?

How can we challenge the unthinking adoption of technology in our children's lives? How can we build in the values that we want to that technology? And how can we do that when the tools and the world they give access to are changing almost daily?

Finally, in this ever-changing world, what do we teach our kids? To cope with the challenges of 2030 and beyond, we need young people and their teachers to be able to adapt to changing circumstances. They need to be given the freedom to be creative, to take risks and, on occasion, to fail safely. Is Scotland – its society and its Parliament – prepared to give teachers and young people the freedom and support to do that?

Working lives in 2030

For many people, the time they spend at work forms the largest part of their lives. This will be increasingly the case into the 2020s as the retirement age increases and as the division between work and home life becomes more blurred.

It is also the time when we make our largest contribution to greenhouse gases emissions. In the economic transition ahead, how can Scotland turn the current economic success stories into the sustainable economy of the future?

Technology has been used to build better lives throughout history. The same can be true over the coming decade, but the pace of change far exceeds anything experienced in the past. What are we doing to support those already in the workforce to prepare for the change ahead?

The future of work, and our working lives, is uncertain. Some benefits can be predicted: a fairer split of work and domestic duties, a broader set of opportunities for women and men, and a better balance between work and home life. But they are only achievable with brave decision making and risk taking – and an acceptance that, for Scotland's long-term future to be sustainable, we have to change what we are currently doing.

Growing older in 2030

In 2030, there will be more older people – both in real terms and as a proportion of the population. This is a positive story in many respects, but as we age, our physical capability starts to decline, and our mental capability can be impaired by long-term conditions.

With more knowledge and positive role models, we can build a healthier future for ourselves. If we are living into our 80s, 90s and beyond, we need to take the steps in our 30s, 40s and 50s to prepare.

With more people needing ever more complex care, we need to consider who will look after them and where. A well-supported carer will produce better outcomes for the individuals involved and society as a whole. We all need to consider what that means for ourselves, our families and our communities.

The places we live, both our homes and our communities, have a massive impact on our wellbeing and health. As our population ages, public authorities including the Scottish Parliament must take account of the changing needs of older people. If we do that, we can build healthier, more sustainable and more connected communities for us all.

Death and dying in 2030

There will be more death in 2030. With an increase in population, there will be more deaths as a whole. But more importantly, death as a process will be with us for longer. As people live with degenerative conditions towards the end of their life, we will mourn the passing of their physical and mental capacity, including their personality. Anticipatory grief, as well as mourning after death, will affect us all.

As with ageing, there is a great value in making dying well an explicit public health goal. Encouraging people to think ahead to the end of their life and helping them to prepare will make hard decisions easier to take and tough times pass more smoothly.

When the time comes to turn off life support, to switch to palliative care medicine or simply to say goodbye, it can only help for those involved to know what the person dying wanted.



A positive view of 2030

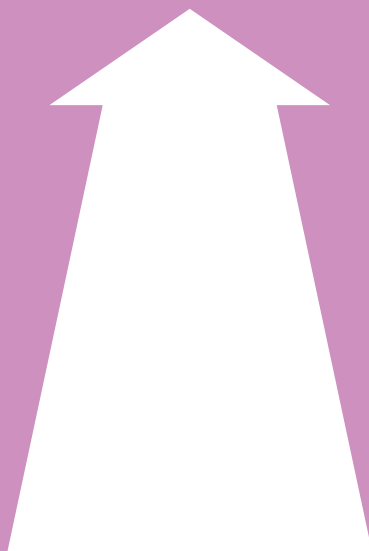
Throughout the Scotland 2030 Programme, the key message has been one of change. The environment in which we live will change. The tools we can use will change. And people's views, reactions and lives will all change. The pace of change has never been as fast as it is at the moment, and it will never be this slow again.

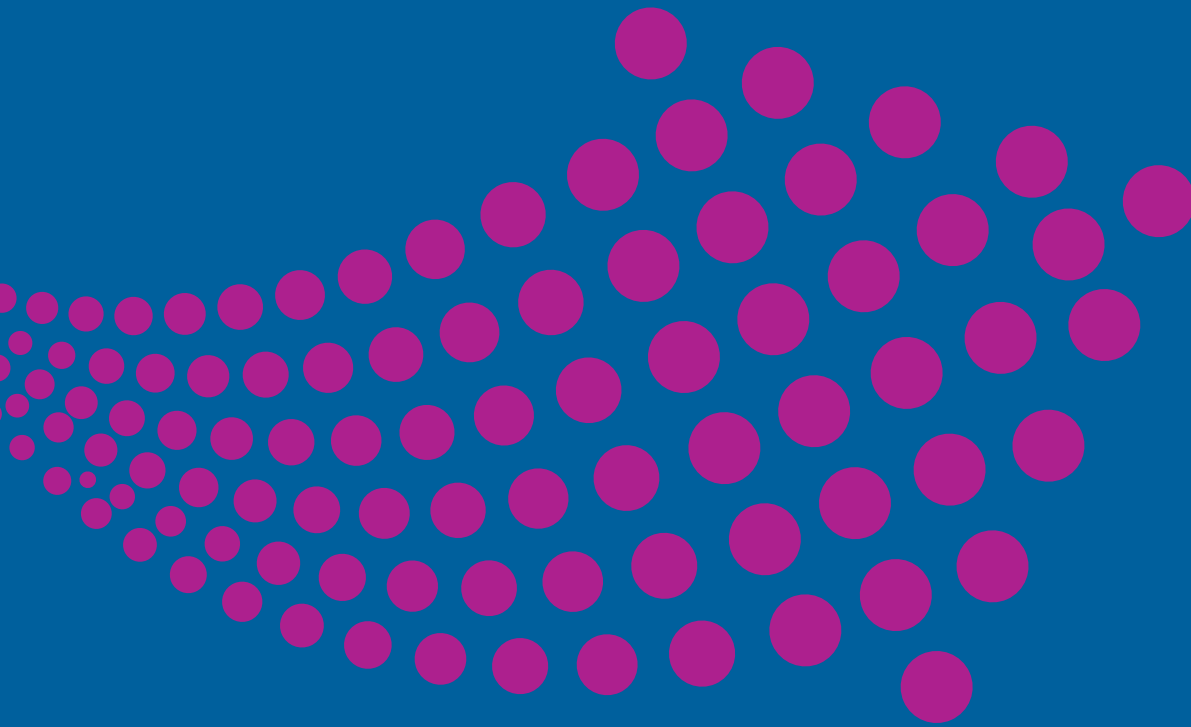
Change, whether welcome or not, is never straightforward. To cope with it – to enable as many people in Scotland to thrive through it – we have to be honest about what is happening and about the options that we have. That is the case both for individuals and for the organisations and institutions whose decisions affect their lives, particularly the Scottish Parliament as a centre-point of our democratic system.

The best response, identified throughout by presenters and participants on a variety of topics, will be to make sure that people have a voice and a role in their own destiny. Whether it is what is taught in their school, the future of their community, or what happens at the end of their life, the people whose future is at stake should be at the heart of any decisions that are taken

The Scottish Parliament obviously plays a central part in that. In debating the issues of most importance to the people of Scotland, passing laws that set the framework for our society, and holding the Government to account for its decisions, it gives the people of Scotland a role and a voice in the key decisions that affect their lives.

And in doing that, the Parliament and the people involved in its work have to look beyond tomorrow, next month or the next election. A clear-eyed and positive view of the future can help us build the positive future we all want.





Website www.scotlandfutureforum.org

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