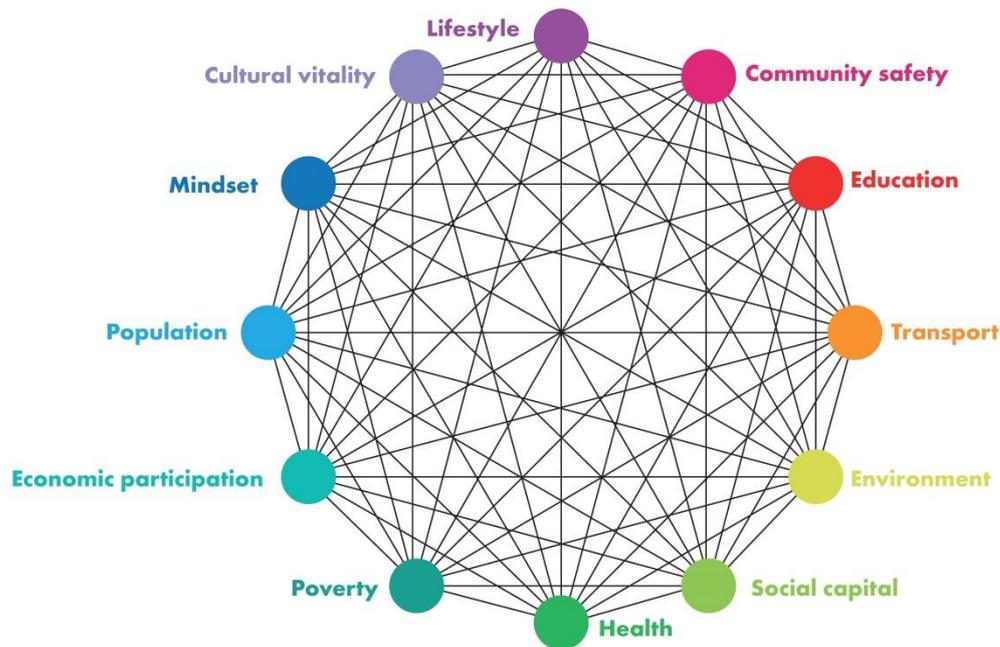


***What can our generation of the Commonwealth do now to  
make our cities more inclusive and safe by 2030?***

**Understanding Glasgow**



[www.understandingglasgow.com](http://www.understandingglasgow.com)

**Common Purpose – Commonwealth Leadership Programme**

**9.30-11.30am, Thursday 24th August 2017**

**Olympia Building, Bridgeton,**

**Glasgow Centre for Population Health**

*A report compiled by Rachel Hewitt, Katharine Timpson and Ida Norberg while interns at GCPH*



Nine participants from the Commonwealth Leadership Program and three PhD students based at the Glasgow Centre for Population Health came together to exchange ideas for Commonwealth cities. They played the Glasgow Game to discuss the various challenges facing cities in the future, and to generate ideas on how to make cities more inclusive and safe.

### **Understanding Glasgow**

Bruce Whyte gave an introduction to the [Understanding Glasgow](#) website, a resource providing information and insights about issues important to Glasgow's population (e.g. health, poverty, education, environment, etc).

### **The Glasgow Game**

The Glasgow Game is an interactive way for a group to engage in a conversation about the important issues facing Glasgow. It is based on the World Game, developed by the International Futures Forum. The game works best when addressing a specific challenge or question. In this case, the question posed was *what can our generation of the Commonwealth do now to make our cities more safe and inclusive by 2030?*

## How the game works

The game is played in three rounds. Twelve participants are each responsible for one theme from the Understanding Glasgow Mandala.

### **Round 1**

Using the Understanding Glasgow information sheets, each group examines the key **trends** in their theme, a possible **shock** relevant to that theme – such as a deep economic recession, civic disorder, public service collapse – and their key **concern** should the shock become a reality.

### **Round 2**

*Connecting the themes:* people working on different themes join together with two other theme groups e.g.:

Social Capital + Poverty + Environment

Community Safety + Education + Lifestyle

Cultural Vitality + Population + Health

Transport + Economic Participation + Mindset

Each group is asked to imagine that each of the shocks they had identified happens simultaneously in Glasgow – for example a deep recession and the collapse of one or more of the public services. Groups are asked to discuss the likely scenarios and what wide anticipatory actions should be taken. Making connections between the themes each group identifies:

*What would the city be like...*

- The impact on life in Glasgow if the key shocks in all three themes occurred simultaneously.
- What the possible media headlines might be.

*Transformative responses:*

- What the group would want to know, and would want to find out.
- What far-sighted actions would need to be taken to address or prevent this outcome.

### **Round 3**

Participants return to their original themes and identify a **declaration**.

The declaration is a recommendation to policy-makers about their theme and how to ensure the city can meet the challenge identified at the beginning of the game.

## Summary of this game session

**Round 1:** The participants identified:

- A key **trend** for their domain
- A **shock** (or disruption) to that trend
- What **concern** would this raise for the domain?

	Trends	Shocks	Concerns
Lifestyle	Drug-related issues and deaths are double the Scottish average, more commonly in deprived areas of the city	An event that leads to increased focus on these areas through media coverage	Increased awareness of issues (positive) increased stigma (negative)
Community Safety	Decline in violent crime	Introduction of harsher sentences and policing practices	Decrease in reporting violent crime to the police
Education	90% of school leavers go to 'positive destinations'... but 12% not in education, employment or training	Automation changing the job market – fewer opportunities for training and working	Reduced options for school leavers; cohort of young people are hit worse and struggle to enter work; divisions between those in work and those out of work
Transport	Increase in motor vehicles	Economic shock— simultaneous boom and bust	(In)adequate road safety
Environment	Vacant or derelict land – not changed in the last decade	Huge building projects put thousands of new (social) houses on unused land	People living on polluted or unsafe land
Social capital	73% trust level, lower compared with other Scottish cities, trust directly related to level of deprivation	Change in migration policy post-Scottish referendum, leading to improvement in affluence and social determinants of health	Improved social cohesion, promotion of diversity, social connections and network, improved public trust
Health	Life expectancy for Glaswegian men at birth is 3.8 years less than Scottish average and 2.3 year less for women	People will have a new disease and will be dying early	What if the hospital do not find a cure or treatment for this disease?

	Trends	Shock	Concern
Poverty	More than 50% of adults defined as living in poverty are working – this is rising	Brexit	May or may not increase job opportunities; suicide rates and depression will increase
Economic participation	Rise in unemployment since 2012, less interest from employees to work	Scottish referendum; Scotland rejoining the EU after Brexit	Need for more workers due to increase in jobs; migration; problems in trade
Population	Increase in population	Epidemic	Containment, sustainability, social disintegration
Mindset	Political allegiance, religious attendance and trust are changing	Economic crisis without people being focused on financial planning	Lay offs
Cultural vitality	86% of Glaswegians took part in some cultural activity... but some vulnerable groups of society are less likely to participate, leading to social exclusion	These groups of society start maxing out cultural events and companies don't know how to cope	Social exclusion likely to lead to health problems in terms of depression resulting from isolation



## **Round 2**

**Summary narrative:** The groups imagined what Glasgow would be like if the combination of each group's **shocks & concerns** came to pass simultaneously. What would be the news headlines?

**Finding solutions:** The groups suggested what would need to be done in order to combat the shocks in the short and the long term (the transformative response).



**Scenario one:** Shocks occur that relate to **poverty, social capital** and the **environment**.

### Glasgow: the Common Wealth

*Summary narrative:* The United Kingdom has left the European Union and subsequently, Scotland has become independent as a result of a second referendum and re-joined the EU. This has allowed Scotland to make trade deals with the EU and Commonwealth countries. There has also been an increase of wages and thus, Glasgow is in this scenario seen in the media as a land of opportunity. New housing developments have been built on derelict land.

*Finding solutions:* The wealth that Scotland would acquire as a result of these shocks, would be distributed among the population in order to combat inequality. There are also new efforts to build high quality housing while keeping housing costs and rents down while increasing access to green spaces. This would result in a new sense of social cohesion.

**Scenario two:** Shocks occur that relate to **lifestyle, community safety** and the **education**.

Crime central: Glasgow's lawless streets

*Summary narrative:* The tougher policing practices and lower levels of employment as a result of automation have created a scenario where Glasgow is increasingly portrayed in the media as a 'crime-infested den'. Despite the higher police presence in 'deprived' areas, fewer crimes are reported and there are increasing levels of distrust among the population. These shocks would increase inequality within the city and between socioeconomic groups. This could in turn lead to increased stigmatisation of areas with high levels of poverty.

*Finding solutions:* The immediate actions would be to focus on underlying causes that result in higher crime rates rather than the symptoms and attempt to repair the image of areas in poverty by fostering positive media portrayals. Promoting inter-school activities to allow children to make friends with people from diverse backgrounds could also be a way of combating increasing stigmatisation and decreasing social cohesion. Another aspect would be to have cheap public transport. Long-term solutions would be to improve housing and create more jobs and increase educational awareness of the socioeconomic factors underlying crime as well as creating a system where making 'healthy' life choices are incentivised.

**Scenario three:** Shocks occur that relate to **population, health** and **cultural vitality**.

Alive or dead Glasgow is living in dread!

*Summary narrative:* A pandemic has affected Glasgow and there is significant turmoil and fear as a result of this situation. There has been a decrease in population size as people are dying as a result of this new disease spreading over Scotland.

*Finding solutions:* In the short term, there would need to be a focus on decreasing contamination from the disease, with the main priority being an improvement in the information about the disease. In the long term, the development of a vaccine and mandatory check-ups, and improved education would be central. There would also be an establishment of community groups to try to redevelop the sense of community that has been lost as a result of this health crisis.

**Scenario four:** Shocks occur that relate to **transport, economic participation** and the **mindset**.

No money, no honey: £50 for a can of Irn Bru?!

*Summary narrative:* There has been another economic crash and rising inflation that has negatively impacted Glasgow. Scotland has re-joined the EU after becoming independent and has to manage financial concerns.

*Finding solutions:* In order to combat the scenario facing Glasgow, there should be, in the short-term, a tightening on regulations regarding credit loans; lowering of importation of

motor vehicles; and assurance of proper preparation for the political changes. Also, in the long term, we must increase the incentives for businesses and heighten awareness about the environmental impact of motor vehicles.

### Round 3: Declarations



Following the group presentations, everyone returned to their original theme and considered what they had learned. The group formed a 'Wisdom Council' and put forward their declarations of how each theme would respond to the question:

*What can our generation of the Commonwealth do now to make our cities more inclusive and safe by 2030?*



The Wisdom Commissioners responded as follows:

**It is our considered view that in order to make our Commonwealth cities more inclusive and safe by 2030 is it essential to...**

In terms of *lifestyle...* to understand that the people in more deprived areas are not the problem but are the victims and to portray them as such.

In terms of *community safety...* to improve deprived areas by providing jobs and educational opportunities for the local population. Also, to have the police work in community projects to build trust so that people will be more willing to report crime and promote knowledge about what causes crime.

In terms of *education...* to educate young people and adults about the underlying causes of crime and of safety, and to better integrate the different areas and educational settings within the cities.

In terms of *transportation...* to have efficient road and safety policies in combination with good environmentally friendly transportation links and routes. This will connect rural and urban areas, contributing towards equality and sustainable development.

In terms of *environment...* to build safe, affordable and high quality housing with access to green space (e.g. gardens). These new houses should have good, low cost transport links, good facilities and, therefore, access to jobs in different areas of the city.

In terms of *social capital...* to improve employment and wages; reduce the gradient of inequality and deprivation; promote upward social mobility; and improve social cohesion, trust and networks through shared access to safe, green public spaces and provision of good housing.

In terms of *health...* to advise people about how they can protect themselves from disease.

In terms of *poverty...* consider how it will affect those on low income and living in poverty and prevent negative impacts of trade deals. Also, job opportunities and rise in wages as a result of Brexit or Scottish independence.

In terms of *economic participation...* to create awareness about the economic decline over the past few years and make people aware of the possible negative consequences; raise awareness about available job opportunities in every social background and make people feel included about the available benefits; personal development training.

In terms of *population...* to promote a diverse population, where minorities and vulnerable groups can feel included within our society.

In terms of *mindset...* to understand the situations and prepare for all the possibilities that may happen in the future. Regarding the Scottish independence referendum, we must consider currency, the impact of economic crises, EU status, passports and intelligence.

In terms of *cultural vitality...* to include groups being set up in and around cities aimed at creating a sense of community. Cultural events also need to be aware of social exclusion and adapt their offerings to suit the needs of these different groups.