

Dunfermline New
City
Assembly

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Scotland



Rescue but
improve



Left Behind / Left Out  Unrepresented 

and  Fear  Populist Nationalism

Exploited  No Trust

Democracy in Crisis  

Dying Community and Human Connection  Misinformation

Exploited  Rushed 

No Shared High Cortisol  Tech Bros Loneliness 

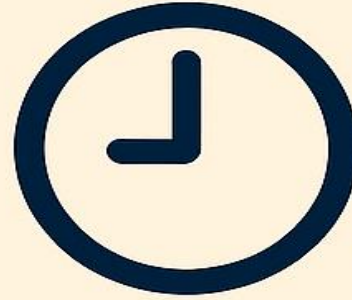


Connections



Citizens' Assemblies

Creative conflict



Build trust

Hothouse community



Friendship



Shared physical spaces

Time to think

Listening

Activated Citizens



Community cohesion



Evidence

Resilience

School of democracy

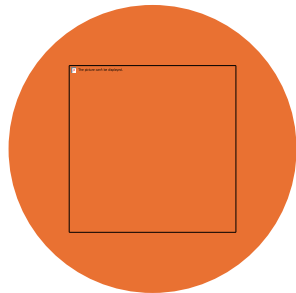


Deliberation

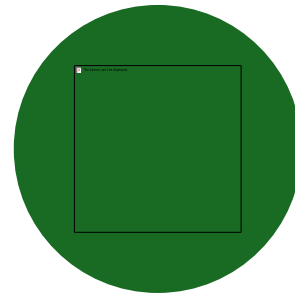
Understood

Public confidence

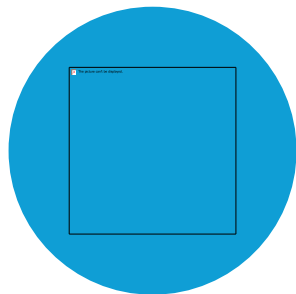
Intentions



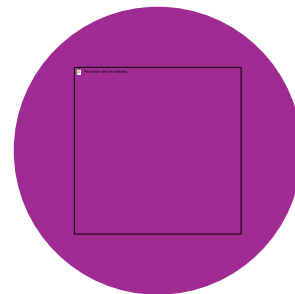
The assembly process
as an investment in
the city / non
extractive



To show not tell as
many policy makers /
deciders as possible



To create a cadre of
informed and activated
citizens



To more widely use the
learning from the
pilot to make the case
for
institutionalisation
in Scottish Local /
Community Governance

Embedding the
assembly in the
Dunfermline
community -

A two-year process



www.dunfermlinepress.com

Ad feature

Dunfermline welcomes its New City Assembly

DUNFERMLINE is leading an experiment in how ordinary people might be involved in making recommendations about how their home city can be run. We enter the New Year with an assembly of citizens selected, welcomed and ready to start work.

This assembly isn't just another committee, it's a fair and representative cross-section of our city.

Members were randomly selected from local households to reflect Dunfermline's diversity in age, gender, background and views - you can find out more at dunfermline-assembly.org/participants.

Some of them most likely will be like you.

The process was managed independently by the Sortition Foundation, ensuring fairness and transparency every step of the way.

Over the coming months, the assembly will explore one big question: "We all want Dunfermline to be a great place to call home. As our city grows and develops, how

do we continue to improve our community for today and tomorrow?"

The assembly will meet across three weekends in early 2023.

The project is endorsed by the Scottish Government and is being piloted by the Electoral Reform Society Scotland in partnership with Fife Council.

How were members chosen?

9,000 invitations were sent to households across Dunfermline.

Residents who responded were entered into a random selection process.

The process was managed by the Sortition Foundation to ensure independence and fairness.

The final 35 members reflect the mix of people who live in Dunfermline - different ages, backgrounds and experiences (see graphics below).

For more information go to www.dunfermlineassembly.org



Dunfermline is leading an experiment. Image: Newsquest

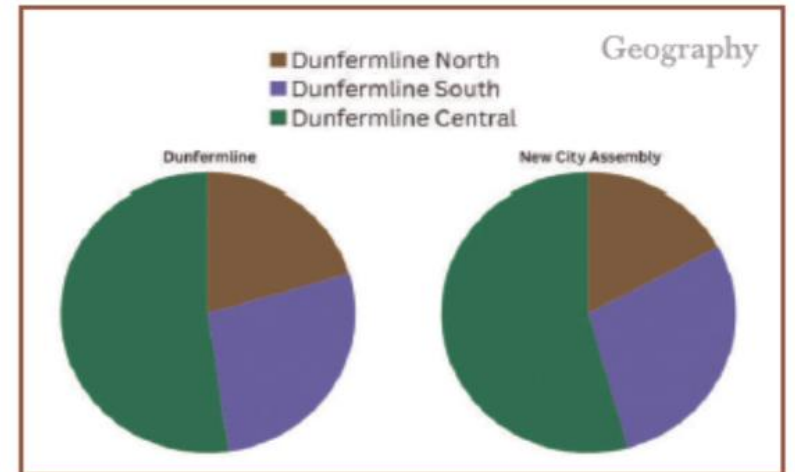
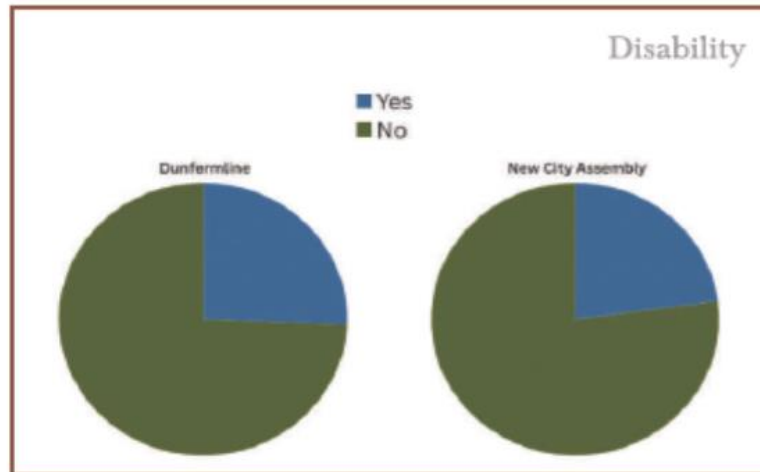
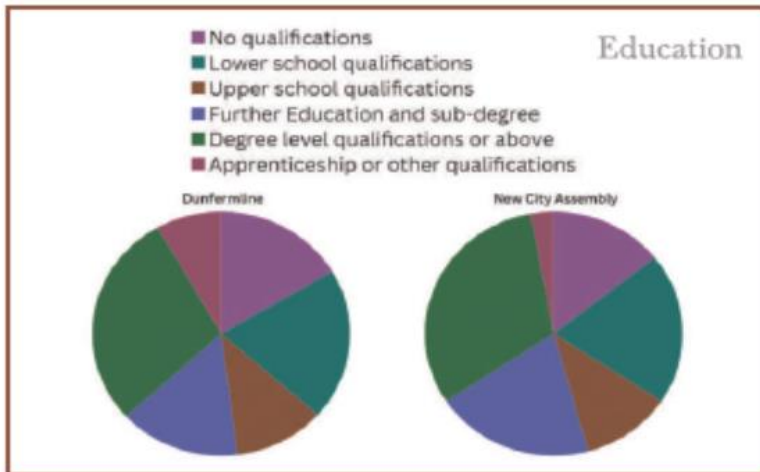
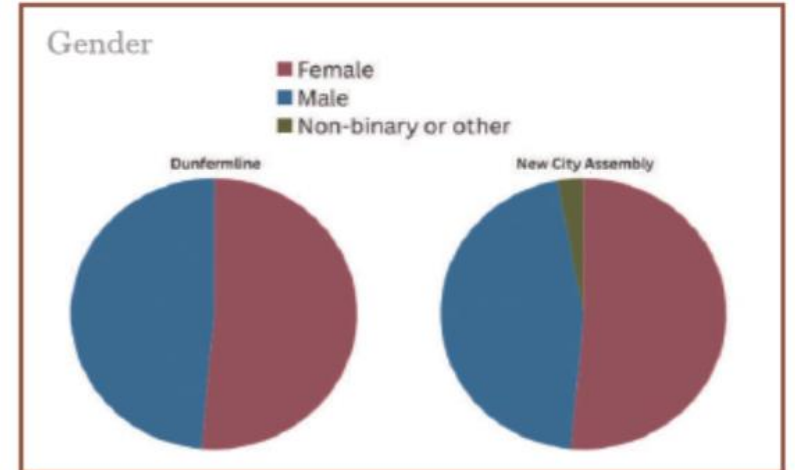
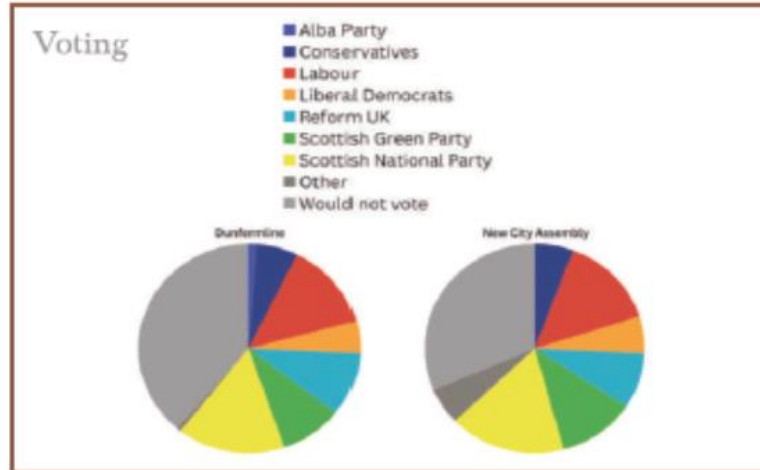
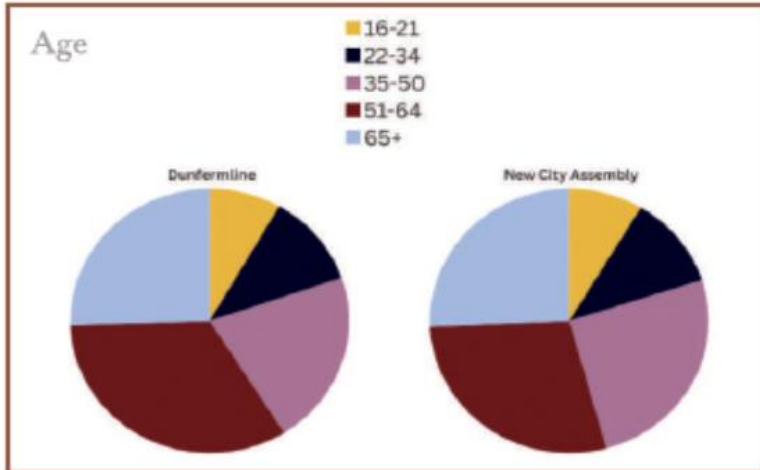
Dunfermline to be a great place to call home. As our city grows and develops, how do we continue to improve our community for today and tomorrow?'





Dunfermline New City Assembly

Below you can see the demographics of Dunfermline and the Assembly. Whoever you are, there is someone like you taking part.



Join us in creating a vibrant future for Dunfermline together.



Highly/ Facilitated & Designed Process

- Met over 3 weekends
- Topics arrived at led by community
- Investigated in detail
- lots of expert and experienced input
- Time and space to think / challenge and ask for more information



The Three Stage Process

- Learning Phase: Members hear balanced evidence from experts, stakeholders, and advocates.
- Deliberation Phase: Participants discuss trade-offs in small facilitated groups to understand multiple perspectives.
- Decision-Making Phase: Members reach a consensus or vote on





**Dunfermline
New City
Assembly**

Summary Report

*Assembly Recommendations
March 2026*

<https://youtube.com/shorts/8X7EBvJuz6I?si=yFihYtY5bt1bId6B>

<https://dunfermlineassembly.org/summary-report/>

Fife Council budget - £5m to enhance Dunfermline city status

26th February

"Not only will our funding allow some of the projects identified previously to go forward but it will allow account to be taken of the recommendations that will come from the Citizens Assembly exercise that is currently underway in Dunfermline."

David Ross Fife Council Leader

What the pilot showed

Getting ordinary people together over time in a shared physical space, giving them respect and authority and facilitating structured dialogue will create a strong community.

It will make conflict and disagreement creative and increases trust in each other and in collective decision making - people come for the money but stay because they enjoy it !

What
next ?

