

Democratising Governance In Local Authorities

This research project focused on two cities: Glasgow and Sheffield. We have experienced the deep democratic deficit of the local state and its governance, and how our local democracy is being captured or undercut by privatisation. Yet local authorities are also important sites of campaigning and community activism.

We wanted to identify shared demands for democratising local governance, as well as strategies campaigners and community groups use to advance these. We also explored possibilities for more collectivised action. For this, we spoke to grassroots community and campaign groups in Glasgow and Sheffield between November 2022 and January 2023.

This poster series represents four of the core themes that arose in six co-learning conversations. They are based on local groups' experiences and tactics.

This poster represents “Power”. Councils make decisions about people and the environment. This power can be misused and exploited. But people are bigger than institutions, and reclaim power in their lives through a diversity of tactics and strategies, including protest.

The other posters are titled “No Cuts”, “Care” and “Transparency”. You can find them online, alongside a more detailed description of the project: <https://researchforaction.uk/democratising-governance-posters>



Artwork by Reece Thompson

Project participants:

Research for Action

Ruth Hubbard, co-founder of It's Our City! (Sheffield)

Solidarity Against Neoliberal Extremism (SANE, Glasgow)

And many community groups & campaigners in Sheffield and Glasgow