

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 “Transparency”. Local authorities guard information closely about their actions and the increasingly commercial motivations behind them. People feel like outsiders trying to see what is going on, not participants who have influence and can demand accountability.

The other posters are titled “No Cuts”, “Power” and “Care”.

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

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Solidarity Against Neoliberal Extremism (SANE, Glasgow)

And many community groups & campaigners in Sheffield and Glasgow