

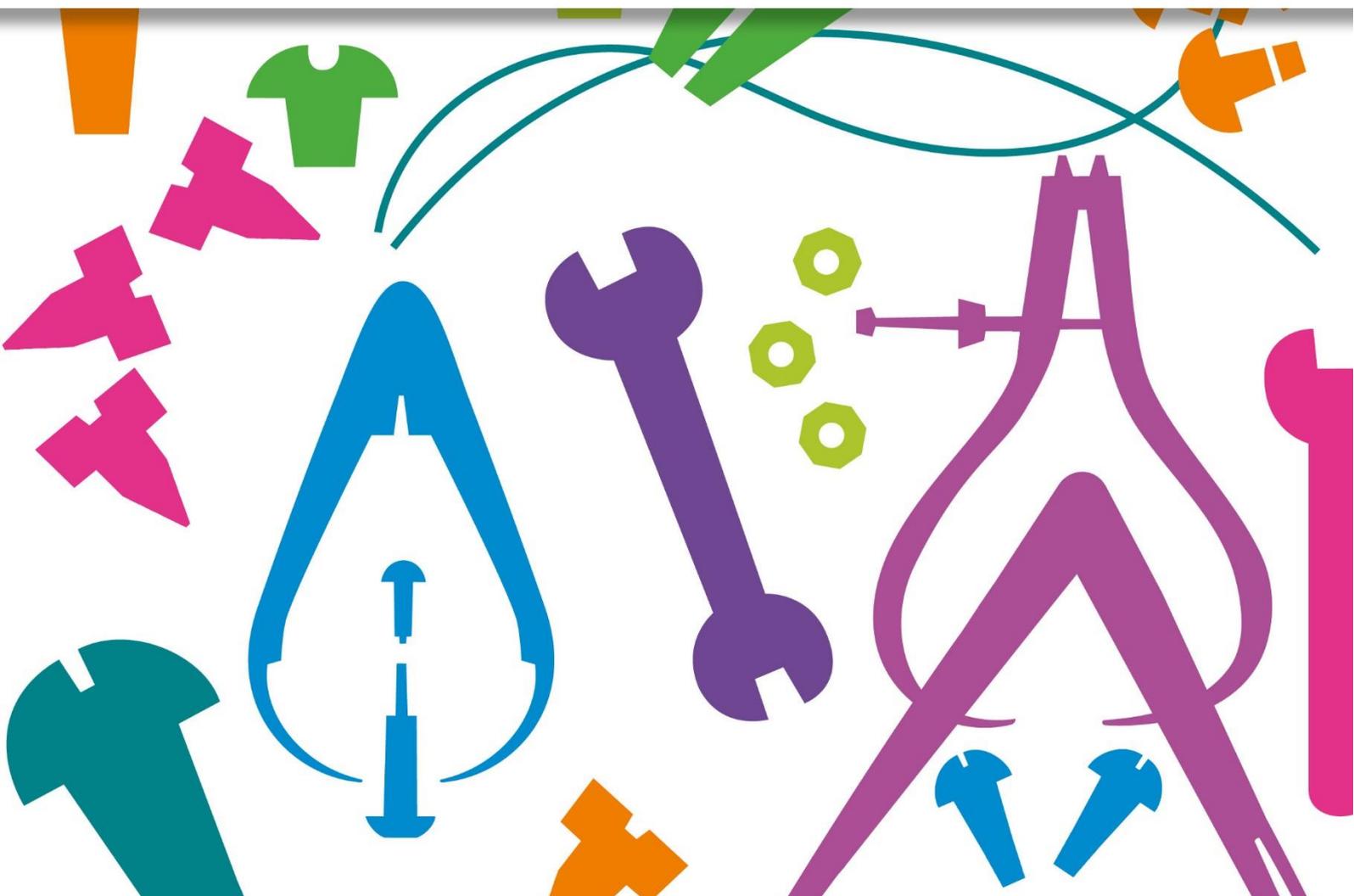


General Election 2017: Equality Hustings

31/05/2017

Evaluation Report

Fife Centre *for*
Equalities



General Election 2017: Equality Hustings 31/05/2017

Evaluation Report (updated)

FCE hosted a [General Election Equality Hustings](#) with the aim of giving members of the community the opportunity to question Fife candidates on a range of themes and topics. Hustings, or Q&A sessions, are public meetings organised to give voters a better understanding of how different political parties would tackle equality issues that matter to them.

Key topics discussed

- Brexit and immigration; disability rights, LGBT discrimination, gender bias

Impact

- **Contribution to Strategic Outcome 2:** Individuals and groups feel better connected and are able to contribute to public policy and the planning and delivery of local services.
- **Contribution to Strategic Outcome 3:** Groups, whether already established or just getting started, have the tools they need to engage with their local community in a positive and inclusive way.
- **Contribution to Strategic Outcome 4:** Third, public and private sector organisations demonstrate best practice in equality, diversity and inclusion.
- **Contribution to Strategic Outcome 5:** FCE is recognised as a centre of excellence for championing equality, diversity and social justice.

Programme

18.00	Registration and Refreshments
18.30	Welcome and Quick Poll
18.43	Introduction of Panel Members James Calder (Scottish Liberal Democrats Party) Dave Dempsey (Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party) Lesley Laird (Scottish Labor Party) Roger Mullin (Scottish National Party)
19.05	Question and Answer session
20.05	Summary
20.30	Quick Exit Poll/Debate end

Participants



Our panel (From L-R): James Calder, Dave Dempsey, Lesley Laird and Roger Mullin
On our panel were four representatives: [James Calder](#) (Scottish Liberal Democrats), [Dave Dempsey](#) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), [Lesley Laird](#) (Scottish Labour) and [Roger Mullin](#) (Scottish National Party) and the session was chaired by Leah Ganley, our Information and Communications Officer.

21 people attended this session, with representatives from the following organisations.

Solidarity SSM

Orchid International

Pink Saltire

Fife Women of Business

Fife Council

The participants' age range spanned from 27 to 66. 21 of the participants are female and 9 male.

2 participant stated that they have a disability.

7 of the participants stated they have no religion, 1 Church of Scotland, and 2 stated other.

6 are married and 2 are single, the remaining participants stated other.

4 of the participants are employed full-time, 0 in part-time employment, 0 in further/higher education and 2 retired.

Discussion

Opening introductions dived straight into equality topics, with candidates highlighting that the event was a welcome occasion to not only focus on #IndyRef2 or party-bashing but to discuss the equality implications of Brexit, changes in UK immigration, erosion of disability rights, global LGBT discrimination, gender bias, the rape clause and the issue of lack of diversity in politics.



FCE Equality Volunteer Mary starts off the Hustings with a question on diversity in politics

The Q&A session was covered online on Twitter (see the full breakdown via [#fcehustings](#) hashtag) and [Facebook](#) – see some quotes below:

- *All candidates' introductory statements: Brexit, Independence, EU, history but only one addressing equalities @LesleyLaird #fcehustings*
 - Judy Hamilton @judyinlife
- *Our volunteer Mary kicked off Q&A with her question about inclusive politicalrepresentation. #fcehustings #GE2017*
 - Nina Munday @FCE_Nina
- *@jCalderLibDem "I am ashamed of our country on the way we are dealing with the Refugee crisis. I think we can way more" #fcehustings*
 - Dunfermline Lib Dems @DunfLibDems
- *#fcehustings #GE2017 Dave Dempsey Conservatives – Tories must be the party of the many, as Tories are the party in power.*
 - Bill Mair @Filosofo1961

Please note that we have a full video recording of the session – with a note thanks to [Craig Duncan](#) who took part in our previous [Fife Council Local Election Equality Hustings](#) and volunteered to film the event.

The video is available online at: <https://youtu.be/eHIWUyHAufc>



Also, thanks to Colin Johnston, the whole session was also recorded and broadcasted on K107 Thursday 1 June at 8pm.

Feedback

Comments from participants were varied, a few examples were:

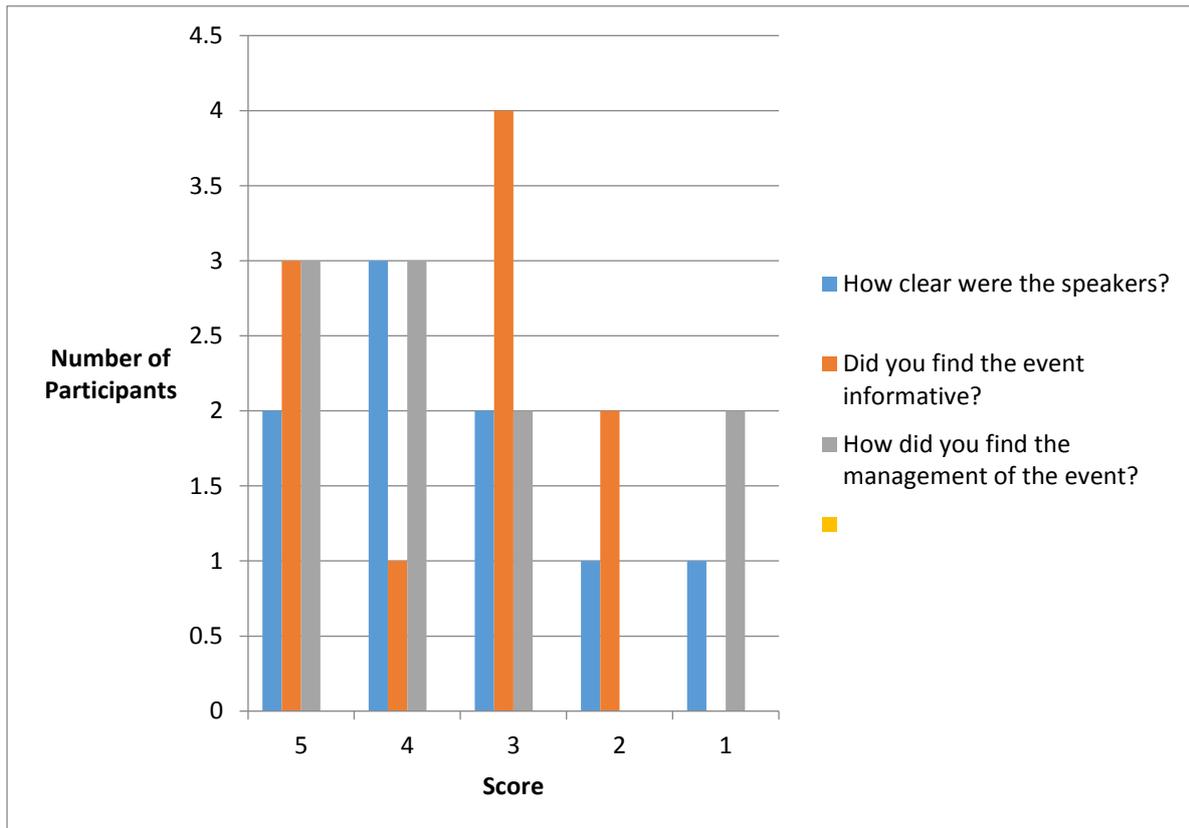
“A good opportunity to get the measure of the candidates”.

“Pity the Conservatives did not have a representative with their eye on Westminster”.

“All very good but required better discipline of long-winded audience and candidates”. (This improved towards the end)

“Excellent and enjoyed it”

“Appreciate the respectful way this was handled”



Other Comments:

- *Good to talk about equalities. Thanks to everyone who came along and asked questions. Democracy in action. – Roger Mullin*

Keywords

Equality Diversity Hustings General Election 2017

Fife Centre for Equalities aims to build a collective voice to champion equality, diversity, inclusion and social justice across Fife and beyond.

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