



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PAUL SWEENEY MSP

Member of the
Scottish Parliament
for Glasgow Region

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2021/22**

"In a very urgent and desperate housing matter, Paul was quick to respond and arranged for a face to face discussion. His calm, non-judgemental manner made me feel at ease. He has a vast knowledge of matters that affect people in day-to-day life."

CHERYL, BARMULLOCH

FIGHTING FOR COMMUNITIES

GAMBLING ARCADE

Following the closure of the TSB bank on Duke Street last year, a planning application was submitted to replace it with a gambling arcade. Following discussions with the local community, it became increasingly clear that this was unwanted.

I objected to the planning application and encouraged others to do the same. I am incredibly passionate about Glasgow's high streets and communities, and we don't need these businesses syphoning money from people's pockets and preying on the vulnerable.

I am delighted to say we successfully managed to ensure that the application was rejected.

FIGHTING FOR INDUSTRY

COP26 TRAVEL CARD

During the COP26 conference, it was clear that Glaswegians were being treated poorly while delegates to the conference were offered free travel cards allowing them to access any mode of public transport in the city, an option not available to Glasgow's residents.

I took this up with the First Minister at First Minister's Questions, but sadly I did not receive commitments that the people of Glasgow would be given access to the scheme. I will continue to fight for everyone to have access to affordable, reliable public transport.

I'm an ex-MP who is now on Universal Credit – most people are just a few wage slips away from hardship

I get a pang of anxiety every time I open my banking app on my phone to see how much my balance has dwindled by



Paul Sweeney was an MP for two years before he lost his seat

UNIVERSAL CREDIT

I know what it is like to claim Universal Credit, I did so less than a year ago. The system is broken with claimants forced to jump through humiliating loopholes in order to qualify for social security payments that they are entitled to.

We are facing a cost of living crisis, and the decision to cut Universal Credit by £20 per week will push more people into poverty and will rip over £86 million from Glasgow's economy. With rising living costs adding to the pressure, I will continue to campaign against the UK Government's callous cut to this vital financial lifeline for over 83,000 people across Glasgow.



#LIGHTTHEWAY

November 2020 saw world leaders in Glasgow for the COP26 Conference. Sadly, Glaswegians were frozen out of the conference – reduced to dealing with road closures and limited access to their homes.

The result was residents living around Kelvingrove Park being forced to walk through the park in complete darkness at night due to road closures. As a result of the #LightTheWay campaign, a campaign to see Glasgow's parks provided with street lighting, was born. I was delighted to be at their rally in Kelvingrove Park last November and to submit a motion of support to the Scottish Parliament.

MCVITIES CLOSURE

In August, McVitie's announced that they were closing their factory at Tollcross making almost 500 workers redundant in the process. With an unemployment rate of almost twice the UK average in the East End of Glasgow, it will afford to add almost 500 more working men and women to the total.

Determined to save these jobs, I wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance urging her to do everything in her power to save the site. Throughout the months that followed, I worked closely with the trade unions representing the workers and met with the Finance Secretary to make the case for these workers.

HAGHILL SCHOOL

The historic red sandstone Haghill School first opened in 1904 but was closed a century later, slowly becoming derelict and dangerous to the surrounding residential properties. After plans were submitted to demolish the building in June, I intervened to make sure the main building facades and janitor's house were saved.

Following meetings with Glasgow City Council, Milnbank Housing Association and heritage architects, it was agreed that the building would be transferred to Milnbank with a view to saving some significant sections of the façade and building new social housing units for the people of the East End.

PEOPLE'S PALACE

It was recently announced by Glasgow Life that the People's Palace would be closed as it required significant investment and repairs. Recent images illustrated the extent of the decay with the glasshouse completely unrecognisable and overgrown.

I have written to the leader of Glasgow City Council and asked the First Minister directly to intervene. I will be unrelenting in my quest for the People's Palace to be repaired and reopened so it can once again be enjoyed by the people of Glasgow.



FIGHTING AGAINST CUTS

LIBRARY CLOSURES

The budget of Glasgow City Council has been cut drastically over the past decade meaning there is less money for vital public services and communities. When it was announced that libraries across the city were to close, there was uproar and communities sprung into action.

I was delighted to speak at a rally outside the Scottish Parliament to make the case for these loved assets. Afterwards, I raised it with the First Minister at First Minister's Questions. To many, these assets are a lifeline, and it is shameful that they were earmarked for closure. Thankfully, they have been given a temporary reprieve but I will keep fighting for them to reopen permanently, allowing Glaswegians to enjoy and utilise them.



FIGHTING FOR GLASGOW'S HERITAGE



REFUSE WORKER DISPUTE

Glasgow's public realm has been badly let down in recent years with refuse and waste piling high due to budget cuts. I raised this directly with the First Minister in the Scottish Parliament when it was clear that refuse workers in Glasgow would strike if they were not given a pay increase.

I stood on picket lines throughout that dispute; a dispute I tried to prevent. These key workers are the very best of our city who put themselves in danger to continue working throughout the pandemic. I was pleased that they did receive a pay increase, but it should not take workers striking to bring their bosses to the negotiating table.



"Glasgow is my home and representing our city in the Scottish Parliament is a privilege. I will always put you first." - PAUL SWEENEY MSP

MY FIRST YEAR IN NUMBERS

CONSTITUENT
ENQUIRIES
RESPONDED TO:



1249

LOCAL EVENTS
ATTENDED:

37



WRITTEN
QUESTIONS
ASKED:

96



DEBATES
SPOKEN IN:

68



PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF YOU NEED HELP OR ADVICE



Paul Sweeney MSP
Brunswick House
51 Wilson Street
Glasgow
G1 1UZ



0131 348 6388



PaulJSweeney.com



paul.sweeney.msp@parliament.scot

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