



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Paul Sweeney MSP, Member of the
Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Region

PAUL SWEENEY MSP

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023/24**

"Paul is a great community focused MSP. He is active in local campaigns across Glasgow and cares deeply for the city. His support in keeping a Dennistoun Housing Association community-owned was unwavering." - Denise, Dennistoun

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Over the last year, I have been all over Glasgow attending galas and local community events as well as hosting my monthly advice surgeries.

Being in the community, visiting community groups and meeting constituents is one of the most fulfilling aspects of representing this great city in Parliament.

With cuts across the board, free access to the city's public spaces is under threat. It is vital that community spaces are spared from cuts to ensure communities across the city can continue to celebrate our rich heritage.



SAVING REIDVALE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

For just shy of two years, I have been standing alongside residents of Reidvale Housing Association to reject a profit-driven takeover by the London-based Places for People, who are intent on asset stripping a debt-free housing association.

After a hard-fought campaign, residents rejected the shabby deal and voted to keep the Dennistoun-based housing association community-owned.

Community spirit and solidarity is alive and well in Glasgow.



GLASGOW OVERDOSE PREVENTION CENTRE PILOT

In 2021, I launched a consultation and subsequently a Bill to bring about Overdose Prevention Centres to help curb entirely preventable drug overdoses that tragically take place each year in Scotland. It is a disgrace that Scotland has the highest number of drug deaths per year in Europe.

Giving people who use drugs access to regulated and safe spaces to consume them with professionals on hand in the event of an overdose will ultimately reduce the number of deaths.

In September last year, Scotland's Lord Advocate said that it would not be in the public interest to prosecute drug users in a pilot drug consumption facility. With that, Glasgow has the green-light to trial an Overdose Prevention Centre which will likely be located in the Hunter Street Health & Care Centre.

This is a positive start, but these centres need to be rolled out across the country to tackle Scotland's overdose epidemic and help to prevent needless deaths.



STANDING WITH WORKERS

Industrial disputes have continued over the last year - as a parliamentarian I see it as my duty to stand alongside striking workers and advocate for their cause.

I have pressed the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council to save the jobs of Glasgow Life employees working in the world-class museums and galleries across the city who face redundancy and the Fire and Rescue Workers faced with cuts to the 24-hour rescue provision on the Clyde.

I also successfully campaigned to avert cuts to the Glasgow's Community Link Worker Programme and to keep the Avanti ticket office open in Glasgow Central Station.



SAVING GLASGOW'S BUILT HERITAGE

Glasgow is home to some of the finest architecture in the world, but many buildings are under threat. In the past year, yet again, the city has seen many of its iconic and historic buildings closed or demolished.

Sauchiehall Street's decline over the last decade means a significant number of units are vacant, I have, since being elected in 2021, pushed the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council to seriously prioritise revitalising the street while preserving its architecture.

It was welcome news that the campaign I led to save the art deco façade of the former Marks and Spencer store on Sauchiehall Street was successful and the new development will incorporate the 1935 frontage.



REBUILD SPRINGBURN WINTER GARDENS

Springburn deserves significant investment - it hasn't had any in the last 20 years. I am involved in the campaign to restore Springburn Winter Gardens, Scotland's largest glasshouse, to repurpose the structure and bring it back into use for the good of the community.

I was disappointed to learn that the UK Government rejected a bid for funding but I will continue to advocate for the capital needed to resurrect one of Glasgow's finest structures.

ON THE BUSES

First Bus announced that it would be cutting all night bus services in Greater Glasgow in July, leaving the city region without any late-night public transport.

Glasgow already has a substandard bus service with the most expensive fares in the UK - removing the night-time services would have only worsened that. I was delighted to play a part in finding a solution that secured the future of many of the night bus routes across Glasgow. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport now has the power to franchise the bus network to ensure transport requirements are not dictated by private bus companies - this should happen as a matter of urgency.

ASYLUM SEEKER BUS TRAVEL

For nearly two years I have been campaigning to extend the concessionary bus travel scheme to people seeking asylum in Scotland. It is a policy that for little money will have a huge impact on those who have fled horrendous situations and, because of their No Recourse to Public Funds status, are blocked from employment and forced to live on as little as £1.36 a day.



The asylum system leaves people choosing between travelling to their various legal appointments or putting food on the table. I am relieved this will no longer be a choice as the Scottish Government heeded the calls to introduce free bus travel for asylum seekers.

RESCUING MORTON'S ROLLS

Morton's Rolls is one of Glasgow's most iconic brands and a staple on breakfast tables across the city and further afield, yet in March last year, the 250 employees working at the Drumchapel manufacturing site were threatened with redundancy after the bakery fell into administration.

For a two-week period, I was intensely involved in the takeover negotiations that led to the jobs being saved and saw production back up and running.





"Representing the city I love and the people I call neighbours is truly an honour and a privilege. I will always put your interests first." -PAUL SWEENEY MSP

**SINCE
MY
ELECTION:**

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH

IF YOU NEED

HELP OR ADVICE

**CONSTITUENT
ENQUIRES
RESPONDED TO:**

6111



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**LOCAL
EVENTS
ATTENDED:**

173



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**WRITTEN
QUESTIONS
ASKED:**

601

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**DEBATES
SPOKEN
IN:**

364

