



**Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group meeting
Monday 20th June 2016 - Inverness**

Attendance :

Cllr Andrew Burns	Leader, City of Edinburgh Council (Chair)
Cllr Willie Young	Aberdeen City Council
Martin Murchie	Aberdeen City Council
Cllr Ken Guild	Leader, Dundee City Council
Gregor Hamilton	Dundee City Council
Cllr Margaret Davidson	Leader, Highland Council
Steve Barron	Chief Executive, Highland Council
Cllr Ian Miller	Leader, Perth and Kinross Council
Jim Valentine	Perth and Kinross Council
Stewart Carruth	Chief Executive, Stirling Council (items 1-5)
Paul Wheelhouse	Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, Scottish Government
Oonagh Gil	Head of Enterprise and Cities, Scottish Government
Aileen Edwards	Programme Director, Scottish Cities Alliance

Also in attendance :

Dominic Dowling	Glasgow City Council (items 1-5 via telecon)
Gary Walker	Glasgow City Council (item 7 via telecon)
Zarina Naseem	Scottish Government (Private Secretary to Mr Wheelhouse)
Sharon Miller	Region and City Partnerships Team, Scottish Government
Iain McCreddie	Policy Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance
Lucille Brown	National Future Cities Development Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance
Isabel McDermid	Administrator, Scottish Cities Alliance
Dr. David Beeton	Managing Director, Urban Foresight (item 6)

Apologies :

Cllr Jennifer Laing	Leader, Aberdeen City Council
Angela Scott	Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council
David Martin	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council
Andrew Kerr	Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Frank McAveety	Leader, Glasgow City Council
Annemarie O'Donnell	Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council
Bernadette Malone	Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
Cllr Johanna Boyd	Leader, Stirling Council
Keith Brown MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work
Dr. Morag Watt	Region and City Partnerships Team Leader, Scottish Government

Note of meeting

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Introductions were made and apologies were tabled as noted above.

2. Note of Previous Meeting

The note of the previous meeting on 25th February 2016 was approved and will now be published on the Alliance website.

3. Empowering City Government

On behalf of the 7 cities, the Chair introduced the report which had been sent to the Minister previously and a discussion took place.

The cities confirmed their collective request to use the report as a basis for exploring new working relationships with both the Scottish and UK Governments which will enable them to compete more effectively with cities elsewhere in the UK, Europe and internationally and play their part in driving economic growth for the benefit of Scotland. In the first instance, the cities confirmed they were keen to focus their discussions around the review of the enterprise networks, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) as well as the review of the National Transport strategy (NTS) and that the cities collectively had a specific seat at the table or role within both of these reviews. The cities also highlighted their desire for discussions with the government around potential opportunities to progress local taxes such as tourism tax to enable them to invest in key local services. Glasgow highlighted that it was currently contributing to some work on tourism taxes as part of its membership of the Core Cities group and that it intended to report back to this group in due course on the outcome of this work.

The Chair advised that, as agreed at the City Leaders workshop on 31st May 2016, Highland Council have developed a draft Communications Strategy to support the Empowering City Government report and provide the cities with consistent communication approaches to the “asks” detailed in the document. Thanks were given to Highland Council for preparing the draft strategy and it was agreed that cities would feedback directly to Highland Council on the document before it is formally approved and adopted by the cities.

The Minister advised that the Scottish Government remains open to dialogue and discussion and welcomes the shared ambitions for growth of Scotland’s cities as well as their commitment to compete with cities elsewhere. The Scottish Government is in agreement with City Leaders on the importance of Scotland’s cities to driving the growth of the whole country and is committed to delivering more powers for Councils and communities including the potential sharing of income tax to ensure cities are appropriately equipped to compete internationally. The Minister highlighted the Scottish Government’s intention to engage and consult with the cities on a proposed Decentralisation Bill, the review of the enterprise agencies, SDS and the SFC as well as the NTS as appropriate, but noted that formal negotiations would continue to be routed through COSLA.

The cities advised that to assist with progressing the “asks” in the report they were in the process of identifying co-city leads to lead the collective responses on particular “asks”. It was agreed that details of the co-leads would be issued along with the note of the Leadership Group meeting to allow discussions to progress over the summer period between the relevant city leads and Scottish Government officers. It is hoped that meetings can be set up between the Chair and the Cabinet Secretary, Keith Brown MSP, in August and September to ensure there is a mechanism in place for the cities to feed back their collective view on the review of the enterprise networks, SDS and the SFC before the review is scheduled to complete. These meetings would also enable discussions to take place on the process for the cities collectively to progress future engagements around the other “asks” in the report.

It was noted that the timetable for the Decentralisation Bill will be made clear through Parliamentary processes. It was agreed that the cities and the Scottish Government would give consideration as to what would be an appropriate set of cities-based performance indicators that could be monitored bi-annually to allow all parties to have regular sight of their collective economic performance.

NOTE: The EU version of the Empowering City Government report was published on the Alliance website immediately following the EU Referendum on 24th June 2016.

4. **Future of Scottish Cities Alliance**

The Chair advised that following the Leadership Group meeting on 25th February 2016, discussions had taken place between officers in the cities and the Scottish Government on the future of the Alliance beyond its current funding period to March 2017. The Alliance Programme Director advised the group that they had prepared and supplied the Scottish Government with both financial information and projected plans for project activity from March 2017 to March 2018, outlining what the Alliance might deliver were funding extended beyond March 2017.

The cities confirmed that they were collectively in favour of extending funding to March 2018 and beyond, citing both the Annual Report and the Empowering City Government report as evidence of the value to be had in terms of strengthening the Scottish economy from the cities working together and in partnership with the Scottish Government. The Minister also confirmed the Scottish Government's support for the Alliance's operational programme, and agreed to discuss the future funding and structure with the Cabinet Secretary and respond to the Leadership Group.

5. **EU Action Plan**

The Alliance's Policy Manager spoke to a paper tabled outlining steps taken to progress the Alliance's EU Action Plan agreed at the last Leadership Group meeting. Actions included opportunities to attract funding, influence policy and raise the profile of the Alliance. In terms of raising the profile of the Alliance within EU, the Alliance's Core Team has been successful in securing the opportunity to host an event as part of the European Week of Regions and Cities in October 2016 that will promote its innovative work around Smart Cities activity. The Leadership Group were supportive of the direction of travel with progressing the EU Action Plan. It was noted that the City Leaders when they met on 8th June 2016 had confirmed their support for the work to carry out an *ex ante* assessment on the identified market failures held across the Scottish cities which may form the basis of an EU Cities fund as well as to explore opportunities to access EIB funding. The Minister confirmed the Scottish Government would consider the outputs of the *ex ante* assessment as part of the planned mid-term review of European Structural Funds.

The Chair thanked all partners for their continued support in taking this work forward.

6. **Smart Cities Scotland Blueprint**

Glasgow confirmed their support for this work and Lucille Brown gave an introduction to the work of the Alliance's Smart Cities programme and provided the context to the development of the Alliance's Smart Cities Blueprint. David Beeton from Urban Foresight, who worked with the cities to develop the Blueprint, presented the key findings and recommendations of the report.

The Leadership Group welcomed the report, noting that there were real business opportunities to be secured from wider data sharing across the public sector and to build on the successes of existing global businesses based in Scotland.

Following discussion, the actions contained in the paper were approved and it was agreed that these be progressed in consultation with the cities and the Scottish Government. The group acknowledged and thanked Glasgow for its work on behalf of the Alliance to drive forward this important agenda.

7. **Smart Cities 8th City Programme Office - PAA**

Glasgow outlined the request for further funding from the Cities Investment Fund to support the Programme Management Office (PMO) for the ERDF strategic intervention "The 8th City – the Smart City." Discussion took place and the Leadership Group approved the funding request. It was noted that the £320,360 funding approved should secure match funding from ERDF to further support the PMO through to the conclusion of the programme in 2019.

8. **Investment Promotion Strategy**

The Alliance's Programme Director spoke to a paper updating the group on progress with taking forward the strategic priorities contained in the Investment Promotion strategy which was approved at the last Leadership Group meeting. The Group welcomed the progress which had been made and approved the Investment Promotion Protocol tabled for insertion as part of the Alliance's governance arrangements.

9. **Director's Report**

The Programme Director reported on significant achievements, as detailed in the 2015-2016 Annual Report which was published in May 2016 and extended an offer to individual Alliance partners to provide more specific detail on activity, which was welcomed by the group.

The Minister acknowledged the achievements of the Alliance over the last year and asked that the Scottish Government's appreciation for the work of city partners and the Alliance core team in driving forward this agenda be noted.

10. **A.O.B.**

None.

11. **Dates of Future Meetings**

Delivery Group – 7th September 2016 – Dundee
CEO Group – 30th September 2016 – Edinburgh
City Leaders – 5th October 2016 – Dundee
Leadership Group – 24th October 2016 – Dundee

The meeting closed at 1.05 pm.