



**Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group meeting
Monday 16 December 2013
Glasgow**

Attendance

Cllr Barney Crockett	Leader, Aberdeen City Council
Valerie Watts	Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council
Cllr Ken Guild	Leader, Dundee City Council
David Dorward	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council
Cllr Andrew Burns	Leader, City of Edinburgh Council
Sue Bruce	Chief Executive, Edinburgh City Council
Cllr Gordon Matheson	Leader, Glasgow City Council
George Black	Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council
Cllr Drew Hendry	Leader, Highland Council
Dr Stuart Black	Director of Planning & Development, Highland Council
Cllr Ian Miller	Leader, Perth and Kinross Council
Bernadette Malone	Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
Cllr Johanna Boyd	Leader, Stirling Council
Bob Jack	Chief Executive, Stirling Council
Nicola Sturgeon MSP	Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities
Oonagh Gil	Head of Enterprise and Cities Division, Scottish Government
Prof Lesley Sawers	Chair, Scottish Cities Alliance

Also in attendance

Greg Ward	Director of Economic Development, City of Edinburgh Council
Alison Muckersie	Senior Manager, Economic Development, City of Edinburgh Council
David Coyne	Head of Business and Economic Development, Glasgow City Council
Dr Morag Watt	Cities Team Leader, Scottish Government
Beth Elliot	Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Cities, Scottish Government
Andrew Unsworth	Smart Cities and Communities Project Manager, Scottish Government
Prof Iain Docherty	Scottish Cities Knowledge Centre, University of Glasgow
Ross Martin	Chief Executive, SCDI
Geoff Duke	Director, Scottish Cities Alliance, SCDI
Iain McCreaddie	Policy Executive, SCDI
Paul Brewer	Partner, PwC
Stuart Howie	Director, PwC
Adam Turner	Manager, PwC

Apologies

Steve Barron	Chief Executive, Highland Council
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Note of meeting

1. Preliminary Discussion

Following a discussion about the COSLA Commission on “Strengthening Local Democracy”, it was agreed that Cllr. Boyd would represent the Scottish Cities Alliance on the Commission.

The Leaders also acknowledged pace and scale of work underway within the Investment Workstream and emphasised the need for momentum to be maintained.

2. Note of previous meeting and matters arising

The note of the previous meeting (11 September 2013) was agreed and will now be published.

3. Strategic Implementation Plan

3.a City Investment Plans

Greg Ward provided an update on the investment workstream. PwC then made a presentation on their work to date and the emerging findings. The following points were highlighted:

- Scottish city regions had a strong starting point for growth, with diverse and complementary economies accounting for 67% of national GVA;
- While there is scope for displacement, competition is good and a coordinated approach to investment planning could bring increased sustainable economic growth;
- Leadership is important, as is a vision for each city; cities have a key role in investing in enabling infrastructure and in supporting economic and social infrastructure;
- Overall, the city investment plans have good alignment with national priority sectors;
- Investment requirements identified as common to all cities include transport, digital, housing and place;
- The next stage of the work will identify the investment priorities and a framework for funding sources.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that an interim stage, around mid-February, would be useful for Leaders to get an update on progress with the investment workstream and the deliverables anticipated in April.

City Powers: The Chair referred to the paper on City Powers. Following discussion, it was agreed to produce a list of examples of how the Power to Advance Well-Being had been used.

3.b Smart Future Cities

Andrew Unsworth provided an update on the work on Smart Future Cities. It was agreed that, to facilitate progress with the Strategic Outline Programme, each city should nominate a senior officer at corporate management team level as a sponsor and an additional officer to coordinate the city's activities and inputs.

3.c Overview of progress

Geoff Duke noted that good progress had been made and that momentum was being maintained across the three strands of the SIP. He highlighted the following:

i. **Attracting Investment:**

City Deal: This study will align with the work on the City Investment Plans, in particular, the associated funding frameworks. The procurement process was under way and technical assistance will be appointed early in 2014. The work is scheduled to report in time for the April 2014 meeting.

Investment promotion: A strategy and action plan has been agreed by the cities and approval for the associated budget will be sought in due course. Plans for a presence at MIPIM 2014 are at an advanced stage and preparations are under way for a further Sitematch event in May 2014. A place has been secured at the inaugural MIPIM UK event in October 2014. Good progress is being made in developing the programme for the Sectoral Excellence conferences.

European Structural Funds: the Alliance bids have been developed and form part of the draft operating programme that is currently the subject of an informal consultation by the Scottish Government. If successful, this will provide up to 40% funding and it was noted that match funding would be required over the 7 year programme.

ii. **Creating the Conditions:**

Digital connectivity: technical assistance has been procured and work is proceeding. A report will be presented to the April 2014 meeting.

Smart and Integrated Ticketing: Since the previous meeting, a report had been produced with recommendations and a roadmap for their implementation. In response, an action team has been established and Transport Scotland is preparing a paper on a proposed way forward.

Building the Hydrogen Economy: A report had been produced identifying opportunities for economies of scale and long term benefits. The Delivery Group has approved funding to appoint a project manager to follow up the recommendations in the report. A further meeting has been held with an EU public/private partnership to consider its offer to fund a strategic business case for the deployment of hydrogen buses in Scotland's cities.

Sustainability: Work is continuing with the STEP-UP project and the Mini Stern Reviews will be commissioned early in 2014. A Delivery Group workshop is planned to consider the strategic sustainability focus and priorities. Cllr Hendry outlined the Carbon Clever Highlands initiative as well as Inverness' ideas for becoming a cycle city and welcomed the group's support to take this work forward.

iii. **Research and Best Practice:**

Resources are in place and plans are being developed for the research programme and a series of seminars.

iv. **Budget:**

An update report was tabled and noted.

4. AOB

The Chair and the Leadership Group thanked Geoff Duke for his contribution to the progress of the Alliance over the past 18 months.

The meeting closed at 3:55pm