

**Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group meeting**  
**Wednesday 21 March 2012**  
**The George Hotel, Edinburgh**

**Attendance**

Stuart Black	Director of Planning & Development, Highland Council
Lynn Brown	Executive Director of Financial Services, Glasgow City Council
Sue Bruce	Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Jenny Dawe	Leader, City of Edinburgh Council
David Dorward	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council
Cllr Dr Michael Foxley	Leader, Highland Council
Cllr Alan Grant	Convener of Environment Committee, Perth and Kinross Council
Cllr Ken Guild	Leader, Dundee City Council
Cllr Graham Houston	Leader, Stirling Council
Bob Jack	Chief Executive, Stirling Council
Bernadette Malone	Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
John Mason	Director of Business, Scottish Government
Cllr Gordon Matheson	Leader, Glasgow City Council
Cllr Callum McCaig	Leader, Aberdeen City Council
Ciaran Monaghan	Head of Service, Aberdeen City Council
Nicola Sturgeon MSP	Deputy First Minister & Minister for Cities
Dr Lesley Sawers	Chief Executive, SCDI (Chair)
James Alexander	Senior Policy & Communications Manager, SCDI
Dr Morag Watt	Cities Team Leader, Scottish Government
Beth Elliot	Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister & Minister for Cities, Scottish Government

**Note of meeting**

The Leadership Group formally welcomed the City of Perth to the Scottish Cities Alliance.

The Chair welcomed delegates to the meeting and there followed a short introduction from the Deputy First Minister.

The Leadership Group held a positive discussion about the progress made in developing the Scottish Cities Alliance and identified the need to maintain momentum and accelerate the timescales where possible.

The Delivery Group tabled four strategic priority propositions. Stuart Black outlined each proposal which was then discussed by the Leadership Group.

*Green Deal*

The Green Deal proposition was agreed. City of Edinburgh Council is leading this work and it is clear that creating scale will be key to delivering the benefits of the Green Deal. A virtual office approach across the cities was considered as a possible way to progress this.

### *Digital Connectivity*

The Digital Connectivity proposition was agreed, highlighting the following priority areas: a focus on improving digital access on transport corridors between cities; and consideration of a shared bid to the UK Small Cities Broadband Fund. Glasgow City Council is leading this work.

### *Cities Investment and Business Tourism*

The Cities Investment and Business Tourism proposal, including attendance at MIPIM 2013, was agreed, apart from the proposal for a subvention fund as this overlapped with the recently-announced Scottish Government Conference Bid Fund. It was recognised that the Scottish Cities Alliance would need to have projects ready to promote by MIPIM 2013. City of Edinburgh Council is leading this work and Scottish Government Ministers will consider the value of attendance at MIPIM 2013. In parallel, it was noted that exhibitions and events in Scotland, e.g. All Energy Conference in Aberdeen, provided a good platform to showcase Scotland's cities.

### *The Knowledge Challenge*

It was agreed that the Knowledge Challenge proposition needed further work, in particular to involve colleges and universities. The Delivery Group was asked to consider this proposition further.

It was agreed to additionally take forward work on smart ticketing - Dundee City Council has offered to lead this

The Leadership Group agreed that the Delivery Group and Action Teams can bring in specialist resource and/or interns to take forward these actions as necessary.

### **Delivery process and timescales**

Papers on the delivery process, including the formation of Action Teams and timescales were agreed by the Leadership Group.

### **Cities Investment Fund**

The Leadership Group discussed a paper on the principles of operation of the Cities Investment Fund. It was agreed that there needed to be a further level of oversight by the Leadership Group, and the governance roles of the Leadership and Delivery groups needed to be clarified.

It was agreed that this paper would be re-worked and agreed by the Leadership Group by correspondence. Once agreed, the Deputy First Minister will share the operating principles with the Scottish Parliament.

### **Scottish Cities Knowledge Centre**

A paper on progress of the Scottish Cities Knowledge Centre was tabled for information.

### **Any other business**

1. The Deputy First Minister agreed to take concerns over changes to the Bus Services Operators Grant to transport colleagues
2. It was agreed to invite expert input to future meetings, whilst keeping the business part of the meetings private
3. It was agreed to aim to hold quarterly meetings of the Leadership Group and to schedule the dates in the near future.