



**Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group meeting
Monday 15th December 2014
Glasgow**

Attendance

Cllr Ken Guild	Leader, Dundee City Council
David Martin	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council
Cllr Andrew Burns	Leader, City of Edinburgh Council
Alison Muckersie	Senior Manager, Economic Development, City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Gordon Matheson	Leader, Glasgow City Council
Richard Brown	Executive Director of DRS, Glasgow City Council
Cllr Drew Hendry	Leader, Highland Council
Dr Stuart Black	Director of Development & Infrastructure, Highland Council
Cllr Ian Miller	Leader, Perth and Kinross Council
Bernadette Malone	Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
Cllr Johanna Boyd	Leader, Stirling Council
Stewart Carruth	Chief Executive, Stirling Council/SCA Strategic Director
Keith Brown MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities
Oonagh Gil	Head of Enterprise and Cities Division, Scottish Government
Ross Martin	Chief Executive SCDI, Chair

Also in attendance

Mike Galloway	Director of City Development, Dundee City Council
Dr Morag Watt	Cities Team Leader, Scottish Government
Sharon Miller	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Alexander Anderson	Special Advisor to the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities, Scottish Government
Simon Forrest	Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities, Scottish Government
Iain McCreaddie	Policy Executive, Scottish Cities Alliance

BMW

Graeme Grieve	Chief Executive Officer, BMW (UK) Limited (Items 1-2)
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Apologies

Cllr Jennifer Laing	Leader, Aberdeen City Council
Angela Scott	Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council
Sue Bruce	Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council
Anne-Marie O'Donnell	Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council
Steve Barron	Chief Executive, Highland Council

Note of meeting

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

The Chair welcomed Keith Brown MSP and David Martin to their first meeting and tabled apologies as noted above. The Chair also thanked Prof. Lesley Sawers for her contribution in taking the Alliance partnership forward to its current stage and wished her well for the future following her recent resignation as Chair of the Leadership Group.

2. Innovation and Productivity in Cities

Graeme Grieve delivered a presentation on “How Innovation Drives Sustainable Growth.” Graeme spoke about global trends driving the future of sustainable mobility, BMW’s response to the agenda and the role of government in creating the right environment for industry to deliver the desired step-change towards cities and their citizens embracing low carbon technologies.

Following the presentation, there was a discussion in which the opportunities to reduce peak traffic congestion and carbon emissions using the current technologies available to administer sustainable vehicle car clubs in cities were acknowledged. The challenge for the roll out of the technology is for industry to seek agreement with city authorities on provision of charging infrastructure where demand is known to be greatest as well as agreement on parking provision. Cities should consider making investment in charging infrastructure perhaps in partnership with an energy provider in order that the full scale of benefits are realised.

3. Note of previous meeting

The note of the previous meeting (17 June 2014) was agreed and will now be published.

4. Discussion

The Chair invited Keith Brown MSP to address the group following his recent appointment as Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities. The Cabinet Secretary advised that he saw the Alliance as an important space for discussion that allows city local authorities and government to work together to achieve their mutual economic ambitions. He was keen to see the Alliance succeed and to demonstrate how it added value.

With a view to capitalising on the launch of the £10 billion investment prospectus, the Alliance should now look to develop its communication strategy to promote its successes to a wider audience. The Scottish Government is looking to host a visit of leading international investors to Scotland in 2015 and would very much welcome working with the Alliance partners to promote their investment opportunities at this event. This offer was welcomed and more information will be provided in due course.

The Cabinet Secretary also advised that he felt the Alliance was the right space to have strategic discussions. He is keen to work on a joint approach with cities that are interested in city deals to take a strong case to the UK Government.

Cllr Hendry advised that Inverness was currently looking at a City Deal for the Inverness city region and that he would welcome the support offered by the Scottish Government, as well as the other Scottish Cities, in taking this forward. Cllr Matheson offered Glasgow’s support and guidance on city deals to Inverness and to the Alliance, given Glasgow’s experience in securing its own deal.

The Chair advised that the Alliance was exploring opportunities to promote its investment opportunities at the BT Tower in London next year. The group was keen to receive details of the event to allow it to be considered.

5. Director's Update

Stewart Carruth, the Strategic Director highlighted key progress on delivering the Operational Plan since it was approved in June 2014. He also noted that his role would change given the appointment in Jan 2015 of a new Programme Director for the Alliance, Aileen Edwards.

Cllr Hendry noted Inverness's Carbon Clever initiative and invited all present to offer ideas to help Inverness deliver its ambitions.

Cllr Burns said that he felt there was a need for increased proactive communications about the Alliance and its work. Stewart Carruth agreed and noted that he had recently appointed a communications officer who would be developing a comms strategy as an early priority.

6. Review of Governance Arrangements

Stewart Carruth spoke about developing a revised governance framework for the Alliance in light of: the current political and legislative landscape; the strengthening consensus across all levels of government that cities have a significant role to play in driving economic growth; and that the Alliance's proposition has developed to a stage that it is moving into delivery and is consequently attracting an enhanced profile.

Following a suggestion from the chair, there was general consensus that the Leadership Group should consider changes to the way it operates. The Alliance was considered to be a good place for robust political discussion and a more informal approach to meetings might be worth considering. There was a view that with new powers coming to Scotland as a result of the Smith Commission, there was an opportunity to use the Alliance as a forum to consider what might devolve further to cities. The Cabinet Secretary was open to this, noting that there were many opportunities open to cities for discussions but that the Alliance provided a unique opportunity given the partnership between the cities and the Scottish Government.

The City Leaders felt that it would be helpful for them to have an informal meeting themselves to discuss collectively the issues before bringing the consensus of that discussion back to the Leadership Group for further discussion and agreement. Cllr Boyd's offer for Stirling to host this meeting in early 2015 was welcomed, and it was agreed that a note detailing the outcome of the discussion would be circulated to all the Alliance partners following the meeting. It was further agreed that the Alliance should prepare a paper detailing how groups of cities elsewhere in the world have structured themselves to attract investment and economic growth to help inform the discussion.

There was a general view amongst the Leaders that it would be appropriate for future Leadership Group meetings to be chaired by a Leader of a city but the City Leaders intend to reflect on whether it would be preferable to rotate the chair round the Leaders on the basis that the City Leader chairing would also host the meeting in their city. There was agreement that irrespective of a decision being made on the chairing responsibilities that efforts should be made to host future Leadership Group meetings out with Edinburgh and Glasgow where appropriate.

5. AOB

Cllr Guild advised that in recognition of Dundee being recognised as the first UNESCO City of Design in the UK, he would like to invite the Leaders and Cabinet Secretary to the awards ceremony being held in Dundee on 30th January 2015. Formal invitations will be issued shortly.

Cllr Matheson congratulated Dundee and thanked Cllr Guild for extending the invitation to the award ceremony.

The meeting closed at 15.30pm