



**Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group meeting
Wednesday 28th October 2015**

Attendance :

Cllr Willie Young	Aberdeen City Council
Angela Scott	Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council
Cllr Ken Guild	Leader, Dundee City Council
Mike Galloway	Executive Director of City Development, Dundee City Council
Cllr Andrew Burns	Leader, City of Edinburgh Council (Chair)
Greg Ward	Executive Director of City Strategy and Economy, City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Frank McAveety	Leader, Glasgow City Council
Annemarie O'Donnell	Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council
Cllr Alasdair Rhind	Highland Council
Dr. Stuart Black	Director of Development & Infrastructure, Highland Council
Cllr Ian Miller	Leader, Perth and Kinross Council
Jim Valentine	Executive Director (Environment), Perth and Kinross Council
Cllr Johanna Boyd	Leader, Stirling Council
Stewart Carruth	Chief Executive, Stirling Council
Keith Brown MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities
Oonagh Gil	Head of Enterprise, Cities and Tourism, Scottish Government
Aileen Edwards	Programme Director, Scottish Cities Alliance

Also in attendance :

Marco Biagi MSP	Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment (Items 1-3)
Simon Craig	Private Secretary to Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment (Items 1-3)
Donna MacKinnon	Head of Policy Development, Scottish Government
Simon Forrest	Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary
Dr. Morag Watt	Cities Team Leader, Scottish Government
Sharon Miller	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Julie Hoey	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Dr. Georgiana Varna	Scottish Cities Knowledge Centre (items 1-3)
Dr. Mark Robertson	Ryden (item 4)
Kate Leer	Infrastructure Project Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance (items 1-4)
Iain McCreaddie	Policy Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance
Lillian McDowall	Communications Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance
Isabel McDermid	Administrator, Scottish Cities Alliance

Apologies :

Cllr Jennifer Laing	Leader, Aberdeen City Council
David Martin	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council
Andrew Kerr	Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Margaret Davidson	Leader, Highland Council
Steve Barron	Chief Executive, Highland Council
Bernadette Malone	Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council

Note of meeting

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Introductions were made and apologies were tabled as noted above. The Chair thanked Glasgow for hosting the meeting and welcomed Cllr Frank McAveety to his first meeting as Leader of Glasgow City Council. The chair also welcomed Marco Biagi, Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment to the meeting.

2. Note of Previous Meeting

The note of the previous meeting on 24th June 2015 was approved and will now be published on the Alliance website.

It was noted that changes to the Communication and Financial protocols have been made to reflect the changes to the governance arrangements approved at the last Leadership Group meeting. These are now available for download on the Alliance website.

The Cabinet Secretary advised that it had not been possible to submit a letter from the Scottish Government to the Secretary of State for Transport along with other Northern English cities, seeking the acceleration of the extension of High Speed Rail to Scotland. The Scottish Government has however worked with the Alliance Core Team to develop the agenda for the Cross Border Connectivity Conference which will take place on 17th February 2016 in Newcastle. This will present an opportunity to discuss how both Scottish and English cities can collectively support the argument to accelerate the extension of HSR, as well as other connectivity priorities, to secure growth opportunities on both sides of the border.

3. Empowering Scotland's Cities to Grow

The Chair advised that following the previous meeting, SCKC and Highland Council facilitated a workshop with the City Leaders to explore the issues raised in SCKC's research in more detail. A discussion document based on the outcomes of the workshop was tabled for discussion which set out the collective asks of the 7 Scottish cities of both the Scottish and UK Governments.

The Cabinet Secretary welcomed the discussion document and confirmed that the Scottish Government would consider the document in the wider context of all 32 local authorities and the "asks" from other partners including COSLA and the islands. The ministers requested more clarity on the "asks" from the cities. Based on feedback received from the Cabinet Secretary and the Minister for Local Government and Communities, the cities agreed to:-

- Identify examples of where the cities have not had the ability to incentivise growth as a consequence of not having a specific power or responsibility;
- Outline the most important financial and non-financial levers that would enable the cities to be more responsive to opportunities to grow their economy.
- Evidence the important role that city local authorities play in driving growth in city regions to help address concerns relating to ensuring equity across council areas.

A discussion also took place on how to achieve coherent equitable outcomes, for example if cities were to take control of regional transport, where would that leave regional transport partnerships?

It was further agreed that the discussion document would not be made public until the Cities Convention on 13th November 2015.

4. Infrastructure : Housing and Commercial Property Business Cases

Dundee, as the lead on this priority in the Cities Vision, introduced Dr Mark Robertson, Partner, Ryden to give an overview of the work undertaken since the last Leadership Group meeting. Thereafter, Kate Leer, the Alliance's Infrastructure Project Manager outlined the recommendations and next steps for the programme which will focus on the development of collaborative business cases in Private Rented Sector Housing, commercial industrial business space for small and medium sized (SME) companies; new delivery models for private/public sector partnership hotel provision in specific cities; and the acceleration of new assisted living development models.

The group welcomed the report and acknowledged the valuable contribution it gave to the Alliance's collaborative investment offer. As the lead for the Alliance's investment promotion workstream, Stirling is in the process of overseeing the refresh of the Alliance's Investment Promotion Strategy which will ensure the Alliance is best placed to continue to support all partners to promote market ready opportunities. The Cabinet Secretary confirmed that he was keen to continue to support the cities to build on existing investment promotion activity and showcase its dynamic approach to investors.

It was agreed that Alliance's Infrastructure Project Manager should support the Alliance partners to progress the business cases detailed within the timescales outlined in the paper tabled and that the cities would commit resources in principle to take these forward. It was also agreed that the refreshed Investment Promotion Strategy should be brought back to the Leadership Group in early 2016 for approval.

5. Refresh of the Agenda for Cities

The Scottish Government advised that the proposed date of publication of the refresh of the Agenda for Cities is March 2016. There will be ongoing engagement through the Alliance as well as with individual cities to inform the refresh. The refresh will also take into consideration the Cities Vision and ongoing discussions on city deals and the Empowering Scotland's Cities discussion document.

It was agreed that a draft of the refresh of the Agenda for Cities would be discussed at the Leadership Group meeting on 25th February 2016. The cities were invited to contact Julie Hoey, Scottish Government if they wish to engage on the refresh on an individual basis.

6. Cities Convention

The Scottish Government outlined the programme for the Cities Convention on Friday 13th November 2015 and thanked the cities for their support in developing the programme and securing attendance. It was noted that the outputs from the Convention would be used to inform the refresh of the Agenda for Cities.

7. Director's Update

The Programme Director spoke to the Director's Report which updated the Leadership Group on key progress and achievements made on delivering the Operational Plan since the previous Leadership Group meeting.

The budget report detailing approved spend and drawdowns to 30th September 2015 was noted, and discussion took place on the currently unallocated CIF funding. It was agreed that consideration should be given on how the remaining funding should be invested, in the knowledge that it does not necessarily have to be spent before 31st March 2017, as the balance will be available as long as the Alliance is in existence.

It was noted that the high level version of the budget will be published on the Alliance's website.

The Chair acknowledged the very busy schedule over the past few months and thanked the Alliance Core Team and Scottish Government for the good work carried out, especially in terms of increased positive media coverage and raising the profile of the Alliance's activity.

Following a discussion on the Core Team's work with Scotland Europa, the Chair welcomed an offer from the Cabinet Secretary for a representative from the Alliance to be part of a Ministerial group looking at European structural funds.

8. Date of next meeting :

Thursday 25th February 2016, 12.30 – 2.30 pm in Stirling

The meeting closed at 12.25 pm.