



**Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group meeting
Wednesday 17 April 2013
Edinburgh**

Attendance

Prof Lesley Sawers	Chief Executive, SCDI (Chair)
Cllr William Young	Councillor, 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, City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Gordon Matheson	Leader, Glasgow City Council
George Black	Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council
Cllr Drew Hendry	Leader, Highland Council
Alistair Dodds	Chief Executive, Highland Council
Cllr Jack Coburn	Councillor, Perth and Kinross Council
David Littlejohn	Head of Planning and Regeneration, Perth and Kinross Council
Cllr Johanna Boyd	Leader, Stirling Council
Bob Jack	Chief Executive, Stirling Council
Nicola Sturgeon MSP	Deputy First Minister and Minister for Cities
Oonagh Gil	Head of Enterprise and Cities, Scottish Government

Strategic Discussion Speakers

Sir Jim McDonald	Principal of Strathclyde University and Chair of Glasgow Economic Leadership
David Chalmers	Chief Technologist, Hewlett Packard

Also in attendance

Geoff Duke	Director, Scottish Cities Alliance, SCDI
Dr Morag Watt	Cities Team Leader, Scottish Government
James Alexander	Senior Policy & Communications Manager, SCDI
Greg Ward	Head of Economic Development, City of Edinburgh Council
Alison Muckersie	Senior Manager, City Development, City of Edinburgh Council
Andrew Unsworth	Managing Consultant, Scottish Cities Alliance, SCDI
Sharon Miller	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Beth Elliot	Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Cities, Scottish Government
Mike Neilson	Digital Director, Scottish Government
Dr Donald Houston	Scottish Cities Knowledge Centre, University of St Andrews
Kevin Kane	Executive Director, Glasgow Economic Leadership
David Cameron	Business Development Executive, Hewlett Packard

Shaun Collings
Maggie Morrison

Strategic Business Development Director, Hewlett Packard
AGM HP Scotland, Enterprise Group, Hewlett Packard

Apologies

Cllr Barney Crockett
Cllr Ian Miller
Bernadette Malone

Leader, Aberdeen City Council
Leader, Perth and Kinross Council
Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council

Note of meeting

1. Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting, welcoming Cllr Boyd to her first meeting and Cllrs Young and Coburn as deputies. Apologies were noted. The chair introduced the guest speakers and others in attendance.

2. Strategic Discussion

Presentations were made by Prof McDonald on "Investment in Smart City Infrastructure and Opportunities for Collaboration" and David Chalmers on "Opportunities from the Digital Economy".

Following the presentations and discussion there was general agreement that there are economic opportunities for the cities in developing smart city strategies and scope to share learning. In particular, there is an opportunity for cities to benefit in parallel from Glasgow's TSB Future Cities Demonstrator project.

Prof McDonald highlighted the opportunities presented by the EU's Horizon 2020 and associated funding.

3. Note of previous meeting and matters arising

The note of the previous meeting (5 December 2012) was agreed and will now be published.

4. Annual Report

The SCA Director gave a brief overview of the Annual Report 2012-13. Cllr Burns welcomed the report. Cllr Matheson asked that the Report be amended in Section 7 to note that, having made progress in the first year, we now need to focus our efforts on delivery.

It was agreed that, once the amendment has been made, the Report will be circulated and approved by email.

The Report and the Strategic Implementation Plan have since been published on the SCA website.

5. Strategic Implementation Plan

The SCA Director outlined the purpose and structure of the Strategic Implementation Plan in giving a strategic focus for the work of the Alliance for the next three years, noting that it has three main strands:

- Attracting investment;
- Creating the conditions for economic growth; and
- Research and best practice.

The plan was discussed and it was agreed:

- Not to let the £7m Cities Investment Fund constrain ambition; this is catalytic/seedcorn funding
- The Leaders agreed to a programme of sectoral excellence conferences to build on the business legacy of the Commonwealth Games next year. It was decided that a date should be agreed with each individual city and not constrained to take place in 2014; and

- the programme budget in Annex 1 should be amended to show an indicative budget for the three strands, with the specific project details removed and a narrative to this effect inserted on page 5.

The plan was agreed, subject to these amendments, and has since been published.

6. Update report

6a City Investment Programme

Greg Ward introduced a paper describing progress with the Investment workstream. The Leadership Group noted the positive progress. In discussion, Cllr Burns noted that the wider city regions should be included in the investment activities where appropriate.

Cllr Matheson noted the City Deals being progressed by some English cities and suggested that similar schemes could be considered here. Cllr Hendry is putting in place an initiative to make Inverness a zero carbon city. Cllr Matheson offered the support and cooperation of his city in helping Inverness achieve its goal.

Following discussion, some minor amendments were suggested for clarification and the paper was approved.

6b Budget

Morag Watt spoke to the Budget paper that had been issued, noting the previously approved expenditure and the amounts to date drawn down against those. The paper was noted.

7. Future Meetings

The Chair requested feedback about the format of the meetings, including the strategic discussion. The group agreed that the current meeting format was fine and would welcome a programme for future strategic discussions and visits.

Cllr Matheson suggested a city deals presentation for a future meeting, possibly from the team in Manchester.

8. AOB

The Chair noted that Alistair Dodds will be retiring soon and that this may be his final Leadership Group meeting. The Chair thanked Alistair for his input since the inception of the Alliance and wished him well in his retirement.

The Chair also noted that she was moving on from SCDI and that she will speak to Leadership Group members individually about future arrangements for chairing the meetings. The Deputy First Minister thanked the Chair for all her work in establishing and developing the Alliance.

The meeting closed at 12:00pm