



**Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group meeting  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 1.00 – 3.00 pm - Edinburgh**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Jennifer Laing	Co-Leader, Aberdeen City Council (via conference call)
Cllr Adam McVey	Leader, City of Edinburgh Council
Andrew Kerr	Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council
Sharon Thomson	Glasgow City Council (via conference call)
Cllr Margaret Davidson	Leader, Highland Council (via conference call)
Cllr Murray Lyle	Leader, Perth and Kinross Council
David Littlejohn	Perth and Kinross Council
Cllr Scott Farmer	Leader, Stirling Council (Chair)
Carol Beattie	Chief Executive, Stirling Council (via conference call)
Lesley Jackson	Scottish Government
Aileen Edwards	Programme Director, Scottish Cities Alliance

**Also in attendance:**

Mr. Michael Russell MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations (items 1-3)
Karen McAvenue	Scottish Government (items 1-3)
Lucy Fisher	Scottish Government (items 1-3)
John Bendo	Scottish Government (items 1-3)
Irene Keith	Scottish Government
Wendy Robertson	Aberdeen City Council (via conference call)
Nicola McPhee	Scottish Cities Alliance (items 6-7)
Doug Young	Scottish Cities Alliance (items 6-7)
Derek Graham	Scottish Futures Trust (items 6-7)
Iain McCreaddie	Scottish Cities Alliance
Lillian McDowall	Scottish Cities Alliance
Amy Groden	Scottish Cities Alliance
Isabel McDermid	Scottish Cities Alliance

**Apologies**

Angela Scott	Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council
Cllr John Alexander	Leader, Dundee City Council
David Martin	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council
Cllr Susan Aitken	Leader, Glasgow City Council
Annemarie O'Donnell	Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council
Donna Manson	CEO, Highland Council
Karen Reid	Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
Michael Matheson MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity
Jon Pickstone	Deputy Director, Business Engagement and Regional Economic Development, Scottish Government

## **Note of meeting**

### **1. Welcome, Introduction & Apologies**

The Chair welcomed the group and Mr. Russell and thanked Edinburgh for hosting the meeting. Introductions were made and apologies tabled as noted above.

### **2. Note of Previous Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019**

The note of the previous meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 was approved and will now be published on the Alliance website.

Matters arising:

**Item 2 – OECD Inclusive Growth Initiative** – it was noted that Aberdeen is now a member of this network.

**Item 2 – Data Driven Innovation** – an invitation to attend a City Leaders round table to discuss this area of the Alliance programme has been extended to Kate Forbes, Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy. It was noted that the planned discussion under agenda items 6 & 7 would further help inform the priorities for this discussion.

**Item 4 – National Infrastructure Commission for Scotland** – It was noted that the Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission has agreed to explore the opportunity for a city representative to be part of a wider group working on the report with the Minister and to share information on the evolving report with the cities.

**Item 5 - Investment Promotion Update** – Lillian McDowall provided an overview of the Alliance’s presence at MIPIM UK in October 2019. It was noted that the Alliance worked closely with Team Scotland partners to ensure Alliance activity complemented and added value to the Team Scotland programme. Key elements of the programme highlighted were:-

- Successful high-level targeted investor lunch with 10 key investors.
- “Investing in Sustainable Cities Roundtable” with 16 high-level investors and city experts, including a Financial Times journalist.
- Utilising media and investor relations expertise based in London, secured opportunities for the Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation and the Chair of the Alliance to engage with 30 targeted investors interested in Scotland’s smart and sustainable investment offer.
- Secured opportunity for the Chair of the Alliance to attend the Department of International Trade dinner at Lancaster House and host the Team Scotland table at the Gala Dinner.
- Introduced the Minister and the Chair of the Alliance to an investor contact established from the Alliance programme at MIPIM 2017 who is interested in housing investment opportunities in Scotland.
- Secured an interview with the Financial Times for Mr McKee, Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation
- Secured bespoke one-on-one investor and journalist meetings for the Chair of the Alliance and the Perth representative.

It was noted that London investors had welcomed the “one stop shop” approach offered by the Alliance and were keen to explore the potential for cross-city projects of scale. This multi-centre approach to create projects of around £100m is currently being progressed by the Department for International Trade. It was agreed that this collective approach to identify cross city projects of scale is one that the Alliance should explore further in order to attract additional investment.

**Item 7 – National Transport Strategy (NTS)** – it was noted that a Scottish cities submission to the NTS consultation was submitted in October including shared messages agreed with SOLACE, CoSLA, SCOTS and the Regional Transport Partnerships.

### **3. Brexit – Brexit and EU Successor Funding**

***Mr. Michael Russell, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations***

The Chair welcomed the Cabinet Secretary's attendance at the meeting which provided an opportunity to follow up on initial discussions from the roundtable he hosted with City Leaders in May 2019.

Mr. Russell gave an overview of the SG position on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund/EU Successor Funding and advised that he had considered the findings of the report the Scottish Cities had produced in conjunction with the Core Cities with interest.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that the Scottish Government had recently launched a consultation on EU Successor Funding and encouraged the Scottish cities, as key players in the economy, to use the consultation as an opportunity to raise the profile of the key findings of the cities' report. Mr Russell indicated that the Scottish Government would be open to considering detailed proposals from the cities around how greater devolved decision making could be included within a future funding model, as well as proposals for more simplified administrative procedures to ensure greater accessibility.

The group welcomed the Cabinet Secretary's reception of the report and advised that they would take on board his guidance when compiling the Scottish cities response to the consultation. The group noted that there was an opportunity to utilise EU Successor Funding as the vehicle to deliver shared Alliance activity going forward. The Chair advised that the Scottish cities were still awaiting a response to their request to meet with the Secretary of State for Scotland to discuss the report's findings and that this would be revisited following the election.

The Chair thanked Mr. Russell for attending and for his contribution to the meeting.

### **4. Scottish Cities Outlook – Next Steps towards a new Action Plan**

Aileen Edwards, Programme Director, spoke to the paper tabled on behalf of Angela Scott who is taking a strategic lead on this work for the Alliance.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed roundtable discussions with the agencies and specifically the need to have in-depth analysis carried out in advance to enable the attendees to agree where the strength of a collaborative approach adds value. It was agreed that the briefs for each roundtable, which are being developed by the Fraser of Allander Institute, should focus on areas where it believes gaps in activity delivered by cities and national agencies exist, and where greater coordination across the cities and wider public sector would have a significant impact in terms of addressing the 5 core challenges in the Outlook. Once the briefs are finalised, they will assist the CEOs and Scottish Government to ensure the most appropriate senior officers from the agencies and Scottish Government directorates attend the roundtables. As a first step in engaging with the national agencies, Andrew Kerr undertook to speak to key agency CEOs attending the next Scottish Leaders Forum about the value of this work and proposed engagement process on behalf of the Alliance partners.

The Leadership Group:

1. Noted the work undertaken to date to consider the findings of the Scottish Cities Outlook;
2. Discussed and agreed the next steps and timetable for further engagement with national agencies and Scottish Government directorates to identify potential activity the Alliance partners could collaborate on; and
3. Noted that a further update on progress and consideration of the priorities within the proposed action plan will be provided at the Leadership Group meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

It was noted that the launch of the Scottish Cities Outlook would take place following the development of the Action Plan as this would offer an opportunity to relaunch the Alliance and its future operational programme.

## **5. Reflections on City Leaders Lunch with Mr. Matheson**

The Chair advised that positive discussions took place at the lunch on 30<sup>th</sup> October and that there was mutual agreement that the Alliance was a valuable vehicle through which all partners can work collectively on key areas to maximise the delivery of shared economic goals and aspirations at both a city and national level. It was noted that the findings of the Scottish Cities Outlook report would provide a constructive basis on which to take forward future shared priorities.

The group acknowledged that there was high value in the shared learning which the Alliance partnership facilitates and promotes. Reflecting on the discussion with the Cabinet Secretary, it was acknowledged there was a need for closer alignment of economic activity across a range of policy areas including city deals. There was a general recognition that the city region deals and regional economic partnerships offered opportunities for new working relationships, and that there was a clear need for the partners to consider how the Alliance's collective approach could address some of the policy gaps and maximise the economic impact of these investments.

The Scottish Government raised Mr Matheson's offer at the lunch to bring forward proposals on how the Scottish Government can become better embedded in the Alliance for consideration by the group. It was agreed that the SG officials should consider how best to take this forward.

## **6. Scotland's 8<sup>th</sup> City – the Smart City**

Nicola McPhee, Programme Manager for "Scotland's 8<sup>th</sup> City – the Smart City" ERDF programme and the Alliance's Data Cluster Project Manager gave an overview of the 45 smart cities projects being progressed as part of the Programme, outcomes achieved by Phase 1 projects nearing completion and the collaborative approach to open and shared data across the cities the Programme is supporting. The group welcomed the presentation, noting that it illustrates the tangible outcomes and benefits delivered by the Alliance programme for both the cities and their citizens. The group also noted that the presentation would help inform a future Smart Cities roundtable with the Minister. Key points noted in discussion include: -

- The importance of continued investment in assisting the cities to work with a range of stakeholders to publish data to recognised standards as this will ensure there is interoperability between city data and wider data sets which in turn will enable broader system improvements around service delivery.
- It is important that the data cluster focuses its activity on both publishing data openly on their platforms as well as making data anonymous and sharable across key stakeholders to deliver real benefits in service delivery for citizens e.g. health and social care.
- It is important that the activity of the data cluster is focused on addressing the challenges and needs of cities and their citizens. The data cluster's community and capacity building work package is designed to support the cities with this work and it was noted that the cluster have agreed that this is an area they would like to focus 8<sup>th</sup> City Programme funding on going forward.

## **7. 5G: Strategy for Scotland**

Derek Graham, Digital Infrastructure Team Programme Director at the Scottish Futures Trust gave an overview of the range of activity they are supporting cities and wider stakeholders with to deliver the Scottish Government's recently launched 5G Strategy for Scotland. The group welcomed the presentation, noting in particular the importance of Scotland's cities identifying and developing 5G use cases to demonstrate how enhanced connectivity could support the delivery of existing or new services, reducing costs and increasing efficiency and productivity. Key points raised in discussion include: -

- The need to understand the role of the private sector and cities in ensuring the balanced roll out of 5G infrastructure across both wealthy and deprived areas in cities to deliver inclusive growth outcomes.
- The opportunity for cities to work with SFT to make the most of their street furniture/infrastructure to enable the roll out of 5G.
- The need to explore further with Scottish Government difficulties cities have been experiencing in supporting the roll out of 5G on street infrastructure due to the current rates rules making their business cases unviable.

It was agreed that the presentation should be circulated to the group.

## **8. Directors Report**

- **Workplan**

The Programme Director gave an overview of the Workplan paper advising of the intention to invite the Alliance's Hydrogen Project Manager to the next Leadership Group meeting, to give an update on the programme of activity they are working closely with Transport Scotland and cities on.

The group: -

- Approved the new format for the Director's Report
- Noted the update on activity since the last meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019

- **Budget**

The Programme Director spoke to the budget update tabled and advised that the CEO Group had approved reductions to the Operational Budget approved by the Leadership Group to deliver the Operational Plan at their meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

The group:

- Noted the CIF Budget Report to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- Agreed that the sponsorship target for Investment Promotion activity be removed from the CIF budget report in recognition of the wider budget savings achieved.
- Approved the summarised version of the budget report for publication on the Alliance website.

## **9. AOB**

No other business was raised.

## **10. Dates of Future Meetings**

- CEO Group – Fri 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Edinburgh
- Delivery Group – Tues 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Stirling
- CEO Group / National Agencies - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Edinburgh
- Leadership Group – Wed 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – Perth

The meeting finished at 3.10 pm.