**Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group meeting
Thursday 22ⁿᵈ March 2018 - Edinburgh**

Attendees :

Cllr Douglas Lumsden	Co-Leader, Aberdeen City Council
Richard Sweetnam	Aberdeen City Council
Cllr John Alexander	Leader, Dundee City Council
David Martin	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council
Cllr Adam McVey	Leader, City of Edinburgh Council
Andrew Kerr	Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council
Sharon Thomson	Glasgow City Council
Cllr Margaret Davidson	Leader, Highland Council
Stuart Black	Highland Council
Cllr Murray Lyle	Leader, Perth and Kinross Council
Jim Valentine	Depute Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
Paul Wheelhouse MSP	Minister for Business, Innovation & Energy
Oonagh Gil	Deputy Director Enterprise and Cities, Scottish Government
Aileen Edwards	Programme Director, Scottish Cities Alliance

Also in attendance :

Lord Duncan	Scotland Office (items 1-5)
Lara Hampshire	Scotland Office (items 1-5)
Rebecca Hackett	Scotland Officer (item 1-5)
Karen McAvenue	Scottish Government (items 1-6)
Matt Lancashire	SCDI (items 1-6)
Morag Watt	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Irene Keith	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Iain McCreaddie	Policy Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance
Lillian McDowall	Communications Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance
Isabel McDermid	Administrator, Scottish Cities Alliance

Apologies :

Angela Scott	Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council
Annemarie O'Donnell	Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council
Cllr Susan Aitken	Leader, Glasgow City Council
Steve Barron	Chief Executive, Highland Council
Bernadette Malone	Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
Cllr Scott Farmer	Leader, Stirling Council
Stewart Carruth	Chief Executive, Stirling Council
Keith Brown MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work

Note of meeting

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

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

2. Note of Previous Meeting

Item 3 – Strategic Board Enterprise and Skills - It was noted that the Chair of the Strategic Board, Nora Senior, has been invited to attend the next meeting of the Leadership Group on 20th June 2018 to provide an update on the work of the Strategic Board.

Item 4 – Levers and Collaborative Working Arrangements – It was noted that an update would be provided on the following key areas:- Local Governance Review, Transitional Visitor Levy and work underway to inform the National Transport Strategy, in the Directors Report tabled under Item 8.

Item 9 – OECD Inclusive Growth Initiative – It was noted that Highland Council has progressed with signing up to the Champion of Mayors Initiative to date. In light of the Alliance's' commitment to inclusive growth, the Chair encouraged the remaining cities progress signing up to the Initiative.

The note of the previous meeting on 5th December 2017 was approved and will now be published on the Alliance website.

3. UK Industrial Strategy

The Chair welcomed Lord Duncan who provided an overview of the UK Industrial Strategy. It was highlighted that the opportunities for economic growth would only be fully realised through the collaborative efforts of the UK and Scottish Governments to ensure that the Industrial Strategy and Scottish Government's growth strategies, City and Growth Deals dovetail, and that there was complementarity of investment. Lord Duncan stated that the UK Government is open to having ongoing discussion with the cities on the Industrial Strategy and its programmes, and would welcome the SCA in helping share best practice on activity across the cities.

Mr Wheelhouse reaffirmed the Scottish Government's commitment to this collaborative approach and suggested that the next step would be for the Scottish Government to consider how the regional partnerships now being created can maximise the opportunities offered by the Industrial Strategy. This discussion could be facilitated through the Alliance.

Inverness noted that there may be opportunities through the Industrial Strategy to grow particular industries around the decommissioning of the North Sea. This is being progressed collaboratively by the UK and Scottish Governments in consultation with the oil and gas sector.

SG agreed to meet with Inverness to progress key issues around business growth.

4. Innovation in Scotland: Performance and Policy, Scottish Government

The Chair welcomed Karen McAvenue who provided an overview of how Scotland performs both nationally, internationally and regionally on innovation, giving an outline of the policies that support Scotland's approach to this agenda and an overview of the activities and programmes the Scottish Government are working on to improve performance.

The group welcomed the presentation and recognised opportunities to work collaboratively with cities and regional partners to build on success and address the challenges to improve Scotland's performance. Mr Wheelhouse highlighted that the Scottish Government were keen to engage with the cities to discuss how they could help drive this agenda and learning from other areas such as Bavaria.

Edinburgh noted that city governance will be key to supporting the growth of innovative businesses and it will be essential that local authorities have a coherent approach to ensure success. Highland raised the need for greater support to enable businesses to adopt more innovative approaches and have greater ambitions to grow in scale, building on current activity.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the cities to help inform the Scottish Government's work around the Industrial Strategy and how it translates into City and Growth Deals. The Scottish Government extended an invitation for the Alliance to participate in the Industrial Strategy Co-ordination Group. The Core Team will follow up with the Scottish Government to identify an appropriate individual.

5.   **Key Messages from SCDI Event on UK Industrial Strategy**

The Chair Invited Matt Lancashire to give an overview of the key messages from SCDI's recent event on the UK Industrial Strategy and provide an insight from the private sector on the industrial strategy and the opportunities it offers.

SCDI highlighted that collaboration of all partners regionally and nationally were key to maximising the opportunities from the Industrial Strategy. Two key areas were identified as having particular opportunities for growth for the Scottish economy, the Blue Economy and Data Analytics / AI. There was also a need to work together. SCDI has created a UK IS working Group to support the identification of collaborative opportunities across business academia and public sector. The group will run for 12 months and is comprised of key business leaders, Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Government and Universities Scotland. SCDI would welcome the participation of the Alliance on this group to provide input from a city / city region perspective and extended an invitation to the Alliance for a representative. The Core Team will follow up with the Alliance partners to identify an appropriate individual.

6.   **Plenary discussion and actions**

Key actions agreed:

- Scottish Government to consider how the regional partnerships can maximise the opportunities offered by the Industrial Strategy. This to be progressed in discussion with Core Team.

- The Scottish Government extended an invitation for the Alliance to participate in the Industrial Strategy Coordination Group. The Core Team will follow up with the Scottish Government to identify an appropriate individual.

- The Scottish Government agreed to circulate updated data on innovation to the cities once it becomes available over the coming weeks.

- SCDI extended an invitation to the Alliance for a representative to their UKIS Working Group. The Core Team will follow up with the SCDI to identify an appropriate individual.

7.   **Alliance Governance 2018-2022**

The Alliance protocols were approved. It was agreed that the supporting Annex A: Communications; Annex B: Financial Management of the Cities Investment Fund and Annex C: Investment Promotion in the protocols will be revised to reflect the changes to the main governance arrangements. These will be tabled for approval by the Delivery Group on 18th April 2018.

The group noted that under the current protocols there were no working arrangements to undertake work around skills and talent attraction. The Scottish Government highlighted that work was under way in this area around specific sectors such as Fintech and Life Sciences. Work on this agenda was also being progressed through SDS, Talent Scotland and the HE and FE sectors, all of which have a wide range of networks across Europe and internationally. It

was agreed that presentations on existing and proposed activity around skill and talent attraction in key sectors be an item on the next Leadership Group agenda on 20th June 2018.

8.   Directors Report

The Programme Director gave an overview of the key highlights since the last meeting.

The group agreed that the Alliance should have an ongoing role in progressing the work on Transient Visitor Levy (TVL) and that CoSLA be invited to the next meeting to provide an update on their current work in this and the wider call for devolved powers and local discretionary taxes. Edinburgh agreed to circulate their work on TVL with other cities to enable sharing of learning and best practice.

It was also agreed that there was an opportunity for the cities to work more collaboratively with partners in terms of having a more strategic approach Team Scotland approach to MIPIM to achieve a greater impact. It was agreed that a discussion as to how this could be progressed would be led by the Chair of CEO Group at the next meeting of the CEO Group on 23rd March.

9.   AOB

It was agreed that the Core Team work with the Scottish Government to identify a date for the Leadership Group meeting in October to allow the Cabinet Secretary to attend.

10.   Dates of Future Meetings :

- CEO Group – Friday 23rd March 2018 – Paisley Town Hall
- Delivery Group – Wednesday 18th April 2018 – Aberdeen
- CEO Group – Friday 25th May 2018 – Edinburgh
- Leadership Group – Wednesday 20th June 2018 – Scottish Government Victoria Quay Edinburgh

Meeting finished at 3.30 pm