



**Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group meeting  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 1.00 – 3.00 pm - Stirling**

**Attendees :**

Cllr Jennifer Laing	Co-Leader, Aberdeen City Council ( <i>via conference call</i> )
Richard Sweetnam	Chief Officer, City Growth, Aberdeen City Council ( <i>via conference call</i> )
Cllr John Alexander	Leader, Dundee City Council (Chair)
David Martin	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council
Cllr Adam McVey	Leader, City of Edinburgh Council ( <i>via conference call</i> )
Cllr Susan Aitken	Leader, Glasgow City Council
Michael McNally	Glasgow City Council
Cllr Margaret Davidson	Leader, Highland Council ( <i>via conference call</i> )
Cllr Murray Lyle	Leader, Perth and Kinross Council
Jim Valentine	Depute Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
Cllr Scott Farmer	Leader, Stirling Council
Stuart Oliver	Senior Manager Economic Development Culture and Tourism, Stirling Council
Jon Pickstone	Deputy Director - Business Engagement and Regional Economic Development, Scottish Government
Chris Murray	Director, Core Cities (items 1-4)
Jarmo Eskelinen	Executive Director, Data Driven Innovation, The University of Edinburgh
Morag Watt	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Irene Keith	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Aileen Edwards	Programme Director, Scottish Cities Alliance
Iain McCreaddie	Policy & Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance
Lillian McDowall	Communications and International Marketing Manager
Amy Groden	Investment Promotion – Marketing and Events Officer

**Apologies :**

Mr. Michael Russell MSP Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations  
Michael Matheson MSP Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity

**Note of meeting**

**1. Welcome, Introduction & Apologies**

The Chair welcomed the group and apologies were noted. The Chair welcomed Jon Pickstone the Scottish Government's new Deputy Director for Business Engagement and Regional Economic Development to his first meeting and thanked Stirling for hosting the meeting.

**2. Note of Previous Meeting**

Matters arising:

• Migration

A draft Alliance position statement on the £30,000 cap is being developed by the Scottish Government in discussion with the Alliance Core Team. This will be circulated to Leaders w/b 1<sup>st</sup> April for consideration. All partners will be invited to insert a short quote highlighting the impacts of the proposed £30,000 cap on their

cities' ambitions for growth. The intention is for this to be signed off formally at the roundtable with the Minister Mr MacPherson on 25<sup>th</sup> April, where next steps will also be agreed for promoting key messages.

- **TVL**  
The Scottish Government have committed to consult in 2019 on the principles of a locally determined tourist tax prior to introducing legislation. COSLA will work to progress this commitment in partnership with the Scottish Government and update the Alliance Core Team accordingly.
- **OECD – Inclusive Growth Initiative**  
Cllr Aitken updated the group on her attendance at the Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers in Athens on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Cllr Aitken also updated the group on the discussions at Eurocities 2<sup>nd</sup> Mayor Summit 20-21<sup>st</sup> March where its political manifesto was launched. Glasgow highlighted that there was an opportunity for the Alliance to support the declaration and agreed to share further information with the cities to allow Cllr Aitken to confirm their support.
- **Strategic Board Update**  
It was noted that the Enterprise and Skills Board's Analytical Unit has developed a draft performance framework which will compare Scotland with its OECD peers on productivity, equality, wellbeing and sustainability. This will be used to measure the agencies' contribution to Scotland's performance. It was also noted that the Scottish Funding Council and Skills Development Scotland have developed a shared future vision for skills in Scotland through to 2035. This will involve inter-agency teams sharing the skills of the different agencies including shared services to maximise their strength and joint communication and engagement strategies. It was agreed that further information on this approach would be of interest to the cities and that the Core Team would follow up with the agencies for further information. The Strategic Board is now considering the scope for a potential additional "mission" focusing on innovation.
- **Local Governance Review**  
Further to the submission of the Scottish Cities response to Phase 2 of the review in December 2018, the Core Team circulated a paper to the City Leaders updating them on next steps. The Alliance's Delivery Group will meet on 10 April to take forward the agreed action to discuss and agree pilot projects which the cities' would ask to be progressed through the next phase of the Local Governance Review process. The City Leaders asked that the Core Team request a meeting for them with the Joint LGR Steering Group to consider how these projects could be taken forward as part of the next phase of the Local Governance Review.

The note of the previous meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018 was approved and will now be published on the Alliance website.

### **3. Brexit – Future Regional Policy**

Due to urgent business, Mr Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations was unable to attend the meeting and tabled his apologies. An offer was extended by Mr Russell to meet with the City Leaders in May 2019. The Scottish Government will circulate potential dates for the meeting and confirm arrangements in due course.

The cities highlighted that a significant amount of resources, both in terms of financial and officer time, is required by the cities to prepare for Brexit and the implications for budgets and service delivery was of great concern.

Glasgow has undertaken financial modelling to identify the costs of officer time and the need for additional services. Edinburgh has written to the Home Office to ask that they cover the costs of the EU registration service and agreed to share this with the other cities. The group felt that it would be helpful to quantify the level of resources currently being invested into Brexit preparation activity across the cities to help understand the impact on city local authorities where the impact is likely to be greatest due to their scale and concentration of EU nationals.

It was agreed that the Core Team ask CoSLA to share the information they have received from the cities regarding the financial, workforce and service implications of their Brexit activity. This would form the basis of a paper which would articulate the quantitative costs of Brexit across the cities and allow the City Leaders to agree next steps.

#### **4. Deploying EU Successor Funding to Support our Cities and City Regions**

The Chair welcomed Chris Murray, Director of Core Cities. Chris provided overview of the initial key findings of the joint research commissioned by the Scottish cities and the Core Cities to consider how EU Successor Funding should be used to best drive the economies of cities across the UK. This work would provide the cities with the evidence to help them influence the development of future Scottish regional policy and how the allocation of the future UK Shared Prosperity Fund could be structured to benefit cities.

The group welcomed the principles and findings of the research as this would help them articulate clearly the need for continued and growing investment in cities as drivers of inclusive economic growth at local, regional and Scottish levels. The cities also agreed that there was an opportunity to build a case for cities to seek the devolution of UKSPF funding decisions to the city/city region but that this would have to fit with cities' priorities for inclusive growth.

The group noted that the Alliance will be co-ordinating a cities' response to the Scottish Parliament's Finance and Constitution Committee's call for views on Funding of EU Structural Fund Priorities in April as well as the UK Government's anticipated public consultation on the UKSPF later this year.

The group agreed that the Chair of the Alliance write to the Scottish and UK Governments to formally request a role in helping shape the allocation and delivery arrangements of any future EU replacements funds. The group agreed that this request could also be progressed through the Local Governance Review process.

#### **5. Jarmo Eskelinen, Executive Director, Data Driven Innovation, The University of Edinburgh**

The Chair welcomed Jarmo Eskelinen who spoke to a presentation outlining the role of cities and central government in driving the data agenda, reflecting on his experience of working with the 6Aika as well as the approach of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal on Data Driven Innovation led by the University of Edinburgh.

The group welcomed the presentation and noted the opportunities and challenges they should consider to maximise the economic potential for Scotland. Following discussion the cities noted the opportunity to bring the core strengths across their academic institutions in this sector together and explore networked activities across the cities and their Universities.

Based on the Finnish cities collaborative approach, the group recognised the need for greater alignment between national and local government activity to develop the market place and support increased levels of innovation.

The Chair agreed to meet with the Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy Kate Forbes to discuss the key messages from the presentation in more detail including how the Alliance's 8<sup>th</sup> City Programme can be better aligned to Scottish Government policy and contribute to the delivery of national outcomes.

#### **6. MIPIM 2019 – Reflections from the Chair and other cities**

Following attendance at MIPIM Cannes, the Chair and City Leaders from Glasgow and Edinburgh noted the value to be gained from participation in the event, noting the number of positive investment leads established which their cities are following up on. The cities welcomed the Team Scotland approach, however Glasgow and Edinburgh felt that a more co-ordinated programme of activity both within the Scottish Pavilion and at fringe events, together with stronger propositions which promoted a Scotland-wide offer to investors should be developed for attendance in future years. The Scottish Government noted that feedback from the private sector was positive. The Chair also highlighted the need for a more inclusive and sustainable approach to allow all cities to participate in MIPIM going forward.

It was noted that Kat Feldinger, Head of Investment at the Scottish Government will provide a more detailed review of the approach to MIPIM 2019 at the CEO Group meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April with a view to informing the collaborative approach 2020-2022. The feedback from the Leadership Group will be highlighted as part of these discussions.

## **7. Update - Workplan Alliance Priorities 2018**

The Programme Director spoke to the paper tabled giving an update on progress made with the strategic priorities agreed by the Leadership Group on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018. A further programme of stakeholder engagement with the partners will take place over the summer to allow the Alliance partners to feedback on the Alliance's programme of activity and identify any future priorities for 2020.

## **8. Directors Report**

The Programme Director gave an update on key programme developments since the last Leadership Group meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

The budget to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was approved and will be published on the Alliance website.

## **9. AOB**

The Chair formally extended an invite from the Cabinet Secretary Mr Matheson for the leaders to attend a private lunch or dinner hosted by him to follow up on discussions from 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The Scottish Government will be in touch to confirm the arrangements in due course.

The Scottish Government highlighted the opportunity for a city to host the proposed UK China Regional Leaders Summit which Scotland is bidding to host late 2019/early 2020. Information will be shared by the Scottish Government in due course.

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

- CEO Group meeting with Steve Dunlop, SE – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Musselburgh
- Delivery Group – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – Dundee
- City Leaders – Migration Roundtable – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019 - Edinburgh
- CEO Group – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – Edinburgh
- Delivery Group – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Inverness
- Leadership Group – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019 – Aberdeen

The meeting finished at 3.00pm