



Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group meeting
Tuesday 5th December 2017 - Perth

Attendees :

Cllr Douglas Lumsden	Co-Leader, Aberdeen City Council
Martin Murchie	Aberdeen City Council
Cllr John Alexander	Chair & Leader, Dundee City Council
David Martin	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council
Cllr Susan Aitken	Leader, Glasgow City Council
Mike McNally	Glasgow City Council
Cllr Margaret Davidson	Leader, Highland Council (<i>via conference call</i>)
Cllr Ian Campbell	Leader, Perth and Kinross Council
Jim Valentine	Depute Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
Cllr Scott Farmer	Leader, Stirling Council
Stewart Carruth	Chief Executive, Stirling 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 :

Simon Coote	Head of Implementation for the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board, SG
Morag Watt	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Diane Milne	Dundee City Council
Mr Joaquim Oliveira Martins	Head of the OECD Regional Policy Division (item 9)
Marissa Plouin	Urban Policy Analyst Consultant in Regional Development Policy, OECD (item 9)
Iain McCreadie	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
Cllr Adam McVey	Leader, City of Edinburgh Council
Andrew Kerr	Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council
Annemarie O'Donnell	Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council
Steve Barron	Chief Executive, Highland Council
Bernadette Malone	Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council

Note of meeting

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Councillor Campbell welcomed the group to Perth and the Chair thanked Perth for hosting the meeting. Introductions were made, and apologies were tabled as noted above.

2. Note of Previous Meeting

Item 8 – Innovation Hubs. SG advised that discussions are ongoing through the CEO group to ensure collaborative and collective efforts are realised. The Chair welcomed this and looks forward to being informed on progress, in due course.

The note of the previous meeting on 6th September 2017 was approved and will now be published on the Alliance website.

3. Strategic Board Enterprise and Skills

Simon Coote Scottish Government's Head of Implementation - Enterprise and Skills SG gave an overview of the new Strategic Board's role, structure, and progress to date. The first meeting of the Strategic Board is due to take place 13th December 2017.

It was noted that the Strategic Plan to be developed by the Board is still at an early stage and that there will be opportunities for the Alliance to contribute to the Plan and the work of the Strategic Board through the 9 Enterprise and Skills workstreams that have been proposed, especially those focusing on Governance, Data, Performance and Evaluation and Regional Partnerships.

The group welcomed the opportunity to actively engage with the Strategic Board to support and inform the delivery of flexible integrated regional models building on existing good practice, the creation and sharing of robust real-time data and performance information to ensure effective decision making and the potential for the autonomous nature of the Board to consider greater devolution of powers to regional and local levels.

The Alliance will continue to have an open dialogue with Simon to ensure that the cities can contribute to the evolving work of the Strategic Board

4. Levers and Collaborative Working Arrangements

The Chair presented a paper from the City Leaders highlighting the levers and collaborative working arrangements that the Scottish cities would like to explore through the Alliance partnership, to allow them to compete, innovate and support inclusive economic growth.

The Minister welcomed the approach taken which would build on the existing engagement framework established through the Empowering City Government work with Scottish Government. He advised that the Scottish Government is working with COSLA to take forward a Local Governance Review which would touch on many of the areas identified in the City Leaders paper. It was noted that the proposal for the establishment of a Devolution Commission by the cities would be a useful mechanism to highlight the suite of fiscal and non-fiscal devolved powers that cities would like to explore with the Scottish Government and other partners. The Chair agreed that further consideration would be given on how to progress the Devolution Commission concept in light of the proposed Local Governance Review.

It was recognised that the cities would continue to work on the development of the business case for the Transitional Visitor Levy, contribute to the refresh of the National Transport Strategy including new governance models, and that Glasgow's work with Scottish Government colleagues on how to address the issue of land banking would be shared with other cities to provide potential solutions to bringing more land forward for development. Broadband connectivity remains a key issue and it was highlighted that there may be opportunities to take advantage of UK Government programmes to complement that of the Scottish Government to accelerate activity. Mr Wheelhouse agreed that there were additional economic impacts to be achieved from cross city deal activity and was supportive on further work in this area to identify these, particularly around key sectors such as Life Sciences, Energy, and Financial Technology.

5. Operational Plan and Budget 2018-2022

The Operational Plan and Budget 2018-2022 was formally approved, and thanks given to the Core Team for their work on this document.

6. Directors Report

The Programme Director updated the Leadership Group on key progress and achievements made since the previous Leadership Group meeting.

The group thanked the Core Team for the report as it provides a single reference point for capturing the breadth of activity and outcomes delivered collaboratively by the Alliance partnership.

7. AOB

7.1 Consider Canada – Scottish Government update

Mr. Wheelhouse advised that Mr. Brown, Cabinet Secretary, had a successful meeting with Consider Canada Cities Alliance (CCCA) and was interested in their approach to collaboration which he felt would be useful to share with Alliance partners. The Alliance Core Team is now exploring a potential visit to Scotland by the CCCA.

7.2 Proposed discussion on the UK Industrial Strategy at Leadership Group meeting 21st March 2018

Following the publication of the UK Government's Industrial Strategy on 22nd November 2017 it was agreed that the Alliance should invite Lord Duncan to the next meeting of the Leadership Group to discuss how Scotland's cities can maximise the economic opportunities offered by the strategy and associated programmes.

The Minister suggested that it would also be useful to use the session to highlight the range of investment activity in innovation and skills also being undertaken by the Scottish Government and through agencies such as the Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Enterprise and Skills Development Scotland, which complements the UK offering and generates greater benefit for Scotland. This will be progressed by the Core Team in discussion with Scottish Government.

8. Date of Future Meetings

- Delivery Group – Wednesday 10th January 2018 – Stirling
- CEO group Friday 26th January 2018 – Edinburgh
- Leadership Group – Wednesday 21st March 2018 – Inverness (TBC)

9. OECD, Inclusive Growth Initiative

The Chair and the Minister welcomed Joaquim Oliveira Martins and Marissa Plouin, representatives from OECD highlighting the commitment the Alliance partners have to achieving inclusive growth.

Mr. Martins provided an overview of the OECD Inclusive Growth Initiative and the opportunities for the cities to work with OECD, and cities across the globe, to share learning and identify new ways of working that would help the cities address the inequalities faced by communities.

The cities were very supportive of joining the Initiative and it was agreed that following the meeting the Alliance Core Team would contact the cities to confirm whether they wish to participate. The OECD agreed that they would forward details of how those cities wishing to join could confirm their commitment to the Initiative to the Alliance Core Team. This information would be circulated to the cities to progress.

Meeting finished at 1.10 pm.