



## **Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group Meeting**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 : 11.15 am – 1.00 pm – Aberdeen**

### **Attendees:**

Cllr Jennifer Laing	Co-Leader, Aberdeen City Council
Angela Scott	Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council
Cllr John Alexander	Leader, Dundee City Council
Chris Adams	Corporate Strategy Manager, The City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr David McDonald	Depute Leader, Glasgow City Council ( <i>via conference call</i> )
Sharon Thomson	Assistant Head of Economic Development, Glasgow City Council ( <i>via conference call</i> )
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 ( <i>via conference call</i> )
Michael Matheson MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity
Morag Watt	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Aileen Edwards	Programme Director, Scottish Cities Alliance

### **Also in attendance:**

Prof. Graeme Roy	Fraser of Allander Institute (Item 3)
Iain McCreddie	Policy & Stakeholder Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance
Lillian McDowall	Communications and International Marketing Manager
Amy Groden	Marketing and Events Officer, Scottish Cities Alliance
Irene Keith	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Kat Feldinger	Head of Investment, Scottish Government [for Agenda item 5 only via conference call]

### **Apologies:**

Cllr Adam McVey	Leader, City of Edinburgh Council
Andrew Kerr	Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Susan Aitken	Leader, Glasgow City Council
Annemarie O'Donnell	Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council
Donna Manson	Chief Executive, Highland Council
Karen Reid	Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
Carol Beattie	Chief Executive, Stirling Council
Jon Pickstone	Deputy Director Business Engagement & Regional Economic Development, Scottish Government
David Martin	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council

1. **Welcome, Introduction & Apologies**

The Chair welcomed the group and thanked Aberdeen for hosting the meeting, and everyone for making the journey to Aberdeen.

2. **Note of Previous Meeting:**

The note of the previous meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 was approved and will now be published on the Alliance website.

**Matters arising:**

- **Item 2 – OECD Inclusive Growth Initiative** - A copy of the Athens Multi-stakeholder Pledge on the OECD Principles on Urban Policy will be shared with the Leadership Group for information following the meeting. Glasgow, in its own name, signed the call to European citizens ahead of the European Election in May 2019.
- **Item 4 - Deploying EU Successor Funding to Support our Cities and City Regions** - Following an initial meeting with Mr Russell on the proposed UKSPF at the Brexit roundtable on 21<sup>st</sup> May it was agreed that a further discussion with Mr Russell and Mr Matheson would take place at the next Leadership Group on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The research undertaken by the Scottish Cities, in conjunction with the Core Cities, to identify the Scottish cities' priorities for the future focus of the proposed UKSPF should be ready to share with the City Leaders shortly. Meanwhile, Glasgow is exploring opportunities for the Scottish cities to jointly promote the shared messages in the research with the Core Cities. It was noted that the Chair has written to the Secretary of State for Scotland seeking an opportunity to discuss the Scottish cities' priorities from the UKSPF with the UK Government. It was agreed that the Scottish cities should contribute collectively to the Scottish Government consultation on EU Successor funding due to be announced in October.
- **Item 5 – Data Driven Innovation** – A response was received by the Chair from Ms Forbes, Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy, following a request by the City Leaders to meet with her to discuss how the work of the Alliance's 8<sup>th</sup> City Programme could be better aligned to support the delivery of Scottish Government digital and data priorities. Ms Forbes welcomed the approach and indicated a willingness to meet following a review of the 8<sup>th</sup> City Programme. However, the group agreed that there would be merit in inviting Ms Forbes to a future roundtable discussion with the Leaders to discuss the wider strategic issues relating to this agenda. The Alliance Core Team were asked to progress this.
- **Item 9 – A.O.B** - Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity formally extended an invitation to the City Leaders to a lunch hosted by him in Bute House on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

3. **Scottish Cities Outlook – Prof. Graeme Roy, Fraser of Allander Institute**

Prof. Graeme Roy presented the findings of the research commissioned by the Alliance to strengthen the evidence base around the economic performance of cities as drivers of the Scottish economy and to identify the future opportunities and challenges facing the cities. He noted that economic change over the previous 20 years had been driven by globalisation whereas change over the next 20 years is expected to be driven by technology, artificial intelligence and automation. He further noted that cities are already lagging in terms of productivity.

The report highlighted that Scotland's cities continue to make a crucial contribution to Scotland's economy and that their diversity offers opportunities for greater inclusive growth through collaborative working by building on each other's strengths. It was noted that all the cities remain positive about the future but recognise there is more to be done if they are to continue to thrive economically. The research identified five key intertwined issues: The growth challenge, technological change, the transition to a net zero carbon economy, population change and tackling inequalities. These will require greater collaborative working not only between the cities but also with all tiers of government, enterprise agencies, higher and further education and the private sector in order for the cities to remain economically competitive.

The group welcomed the report as it provided a comprehensive overview of the performance of cities and provided a strong narrative on the vital role they play in terms of driving local, regional and national economic success. The group recognised that the five issues and ten themes identified by the research would provide a solid basis to inform the future focus of Alliance activity as well as city regional and national policy.

There was a group discussion around the need to map out where the cities can take action forward particularly with an Alliance focus. It was felt that the proposed launch of the Outlook, proposed for 3 October, should be postponed to allow time to develop a considered response to the challenges and opportunities posed by the report.

It was agreed it would be delegated to the Alliance's Delivery Group to consider how best to take this work forward and to prepare an initial action plan which includes a review of the "asks" in the Empowering City Government report. The aim should be to table this at the next Leadership Group meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Arrangements for launching the Outlook will be confirmed in due course.

#### **4. National Infrastructure Commission for Scotland, Jim Valentine, Depute CEO, Perth and Kinross Council**

Jim Valentine provided a short overview of the cities' submission to the National Infrastructure Commission for Scotland's Call for Evidence and confirmed the cities' ongoing commitment to contribute to the work of the Commission. It was noted that the cities have offered to share expertise and experience to support the work of the Commission as it works to finalise their report.

Mr Matheson welcomed the cities engagement and gave a brief summary of the process the Commission was undertaking and highlighted that Mary Pitcaithly OBE is one of the Commissioners and ex CEO of a local authority which should help ensure that the interests of local government are considered during the writing-up phase. The group noted that a further meeting with Jim Valentine and the Chair of the Commission would be arranged to further discuss the cities' priorities in relation to this work during the writing up phase.

#### **5. Investment Promotion update, Lillian McDowall, Communications and International Marketing Manager**

An overview of the Alliance's Investment Promotion programme achievements to date and proposed future activity was delivered. The group welcomed the breadth of the work and opportunity offered by the Alliance promotion activity, including the strong trusted relationships it had developed with the private sector and the complementary contribution it made to Team Scotland activity.

#### **6. Directors Report**

Aileen Edwards gave an overview on progress with the priorities agreed as part of the Alliance's workplan last year. The breadth of the report was noted and she agreed to submit an executive summary for future meetings.

An update on anticipated expenditure against the approved budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 was noted and will be published on the Alliance's website.

#### **7. AOB**

##### **National Transport Strategy**

Jim Valentine gave an overview of priorities for the cities from the national transport strategy and it was agreed that he would work with officers across the cities to develop key messages for inclusion in a Scottish cities' response to the consultation due by end October.

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

- CEO Group – Key Agencies - Fri 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019 – Glasgow
- City Leaders – LGR Discussion – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019 – Glasgow
- Delivery Group – Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Glasgow
- CEO Group – Fri 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Edinburgh
- Delivery Group - Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 – Glasgow
- Leadership Group – Wed 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Edinburgh

The meeting finished at 1.00 pm