



Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group meeting

Monday 24th October 2016 - Dundee

Attendance :

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| Cllr Andrew Burns | Leader, City of Edinburgh Council (Chair) |
| Cllr Ken Guild | Leader, Dundee City Council |
| Gregor Hamilton | Dundee City Council |
| Cllr Archie Graham | Glasgow City Council |
| Cllr Alasdair Rhind | Highland Council |
| Cllr Ian Miller | Leader, Perth and Kinross Council |
| Bernadette Malone | Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council |
| Cllr Johanna Boyd | Leader, Stirling Council |
| Carol Beattie | Stirling Council |
| Paul Wheelhouse | Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, Scottish Government |
| Oonagh Gil | Head of Enterprise and Cities, Scottish Government |
| Aileen Edwards | Programme Director, Scottish Cities Alliance |

Also in attendance :

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| Zarina Naseem | Scottish Government (Private Secretary to Mr Wheelhouse) |
| Sharon Miller | Region and City Partnerships Team, Scottish Government |
| Fiona Goodenough | Hydrogen Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance (from item 6) |
| Stephen Running | Investment Promotion Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance (from item 6) |
| Lillian McDowall | Comms Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance |
| Isabel McDermid | Administrator, Scottish Cities Alliance |

Apologies :

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| Cllr Jennifer Laing | Leader, Aberdeen City Council |
| Cllr Willie Young | Aberdeen City Council |
| Angela Scott | Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council |
| David Martin | Chief Executive, Dundee City Council |
| Andrew Kerr | Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council |
| Cllr Frank McAveety | Leader, Glasgow City Council |
| Annemarie O'Donnell | Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council |
| Cllr Margaret Davidson | Leader, Highland Council |
| Steve Barron | Chief Executive, Highland Council |
| Stewart Carruth | Chief Executive, Stirling Council |
| Keith Brown MSP | Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work |
| Dr. Morag Watt | Region and City Partnerships Team Leader, Scottish Government |

Note of meeting

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Introductions were made and apologies were tabled as noted above. The Chair thanked Dundee for hosting the meeting.

2. Note of Previous Meeting

The note of the previous meeting on 20th June 2016 was approved and will now be published on the Alliance website.

3. Empowering City Government

3.1 Empowering City Government Engagement Framework

As requested by the Leadership Group on 20th June, the Scottish Government presented a proposed engagement framework setting out key contacts and areas for potential engagement that would help facilitate the cities take forward the “asks” within their Empowering City Government report.

It was agreed that the CEO Group undertake a mapping of all the “asks” contained in the Empowering City Government report against the recently published Scottish Government Programme for Government and to agree a set of priorities and actions on how to progress the “asks”. It was agreed that that proposals on next steps will be presented by the CEO Group to the next Leadership Group on 21st February 2017.

The importance of working with Transport Scotland was noted and it was acknowledged that Mr Yousaf Minister for Transport and the Islands has written to stakeholders including the Alliance to seek engagement on the refreshed National Transport Strategy and SPTR. The cities highlighted their desire to progress from the current position of dialogue to one where cities had the real ability to influence decision making around Transport Scotland priorities. The Minister agreed to feed this back to Ministerial colleagues.

The potential for collaboration and sharing expertise and learning around city deals was discussed. This would help the cities and Scottish Government to identify opportunities to maximise the economic impact from these investments at a regional and national level. As the Cities Team had an overview of all activity it was noted that it could provide a co-ordinating role to help identify these areas of collective opportunity.

It was agreed that the city CEOs meet with senior Scottish Government officials to consider how this collaborative approach could be taken forward. The Chair welcomed this and it was agreed that the CEO Group provide an update on proposed actions for approval at the next Leadership Group meeting on 21st February 2017.

3.2 Scottish Government update on Enterprise and Skills Review

The Chair noted that cities worked closely together on their 15 August submission to Scottish Government on Phase 1 of the Enterprise and Skills Review and welcomed the level of engagement offered to the cities by the Scottish Government. The cities were assured that the same level of engagement would be available in Phase 2.

More details on Phase 1 will be announced on Wednesday 26th October 2016 and it was agreed that there would be continued close engagement on Phase 2 with stakeholders including the cities, CoSLA and other Local Authorities.

It was agreed that further discussion would take place on Phase 2 of the Enterprise and Skills Review at the next Leadership Group meeting on 21st February 2017. It was recognised that whilst transport was not central to the review, it played a vital role in delivering economic growth. The Minister agreed to consider the extent of Transport Scotland’s involvement within Phase 2.

4. **Future of Scottish Cities Alliance**

The Chair confirmed that the cities had agreed to continue to fund the Alliance's operational budget for the period 2017-18.

The Minister welcomed the commitment of the cities and highlighted that the Scottish Government also valued the collaborative partnership and the economic gain that had been achieved from the cities and Scottish Government working together. It was noted that the Alliance has much more to offer in terms of efficiencies and driving economic growth in Scotland and internationally through their twinning arrangements and other networks. This was an area he felt could be further explored in response to Brexit and Scotland's ability to access potential European markets and innovative research.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Alliance should continue with its current structure and funding arrangements until March 2018.

It was also agreed that the funding deficit in the operational budget for the period 2017-18 would be met using investment from the Cities Investment Fund. This will ensure ongoing support for the delivery of key projects and activity within the Operational Programme.

In terms of governance structure, it was agreed that the current processes and structures should remain in place until after the May 2017 local government elections. Following the election, the incoming Leaders of the cities and Scottish Government will have the opportunity to consider the way forward for the Alliance.

5. **EU Action Plan & Cities Fund**

The Alliance Programme Director gave updates on :

Cities Fund – a brief for this work has been approved in consultation with the Alliance partners and wider stakeholders. An update will be given at the Leadership Group meeting on 21st February 2017.

European Housing Partnership – the Alliance continues to play an active role in the partnership and has developed a funding proposal which, if approved, would enable the Scottish cities to work on developing collective solutions with other European cities to support the delivery of increased levels of affordable housing in Scotland.

European Week of Regions and Cities – the Smart Cities workshop took place on 11th October 2016 in Brussels and was well supported, with over 80 delegates attending. The Chair and Programme Director attended high level political meetings with senior civil servants around the EU Urban Agenda. It was agreed that the cities should continue to develop applications to programmes such as the Urban Innovative Action programme and to progress and build on relationships as much as we can to deepen and solidify those connections.

The Minister spoke about the potential for translating cultural links through the cities' existing twinning arrangements into economic links. This was welcomed by the cities and agreed that this was an area that could be further explored through the Alliance.

The Leadership Group noted the progress made in taking forward the EU Action Plan and the change in focus of the Cities Fund commission to take into account the result of the EU Referendum. It was agreed that the Alliance should continue to engage with Europe and pursue future opportunities offered by the Urban Innovative Action programme around the Circular Economy. It was noted that Glasgow is already involved in the development of a potential bid within the programme and they therefore may not be eligible to participate in the proposed circular economy bid.

6. Hydrogen

Fiona Goodenough, the Alliance's Hydrogen Project Manager, gave a presentation on the progress of the Hydrogen Economy work.

The Group thanked Fiona for her presentation and discussion took place. The Minister highlighted the need to align the Alliance's hydrogen activity to the new Scottish Government Energy Strategy which is in development. The group recognised that the hydrogen economy offered real opportunities for Scottish businesses in the future as the supply chain is developed.

In terms of the current JIVE 1 project in Aberdeen and Dundee, it was noted that no final commitment of funding to the project by the Scottish Government could be made until after the UK Government's Autumn Statement.

The group also agreed:

- To continue to take forward future EU initiatives for hydrogen transport and integrated energy projects.
- To support engagement with businesses in the hydrogen supply chain to maximise the opportunities for inward investment, business innovation and job creation.

7. Investment Promotion Strategy

Stephen Running, the Alliance's Investment Promotion Manager, presented an update on the progress of the Alliance's Investment Promotion activity and next steps.

The group welcomed the progress made to date and the vital role cities play in terms of raising awareness of what Scotland can offer businesses and investors. The "One Scotland" approach was seen as particularly effective. The group indicated that they were content with progress and focus of activity.

8. Director's Report

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

The Cities Investment Fund budget report detailing approved spend and drawdowns to 30th September 2016 was noted. The group were informed that a number of applications for funding were approved in principle at the Delivery Group on 7th September 2016 and these will now be progressed, along with other relevant applications as appropriate.

The Chair noted progress and the Leadership Group approved the summarised version of the Budget to be published on the Alliance website.

Dates of Future Meetings

Delivery Group – 12th January 2017 – Glasgow
CEO Group – 27th January 2017 – Edinburgh
City Leaders – 8th February 2017 – Glasgow
Councillor Burns / Cabinet Secretary – 14th February 2017
Leadership Group – 21st February 2017 – Perth

The meeting closed at 1.05 pm