

MINUTE OF MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY BOARD

COSLA Offices, Edinburgh

4<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Present

Cllr Steven Heddle (in the Chair)	COSLA
Cllr Alan Donnelly	Aberdeen City
Cllr Sandy Wallace	Aberdeenshire
Cllr Aileen Morton	Argyll and Bute
Cllr Donald Balsillie	Clackmannanshire
Cllr Archie Dryburgh	Dumfries and Galloway
Cllr Lynne Short	Dundee City
Cllr Jim Roberts	East Ayrshire
Cllr Angela MacLean* (Tele Conf)	Highland
Robert Gray	HOPS
Cllr Alex Gallagher	North Ayrshire
Cllr Graham Sinclair	Orkney Islands
Cllr Alasdair Bailey	Perth and Kinross
Gerry McCartney	Public Health
Gordon Mackay	SCOTS
Cllr Mark Rowley	Scottish Borders
Catriona McAuley*	SLAED
Cllr John Anderson	South Lanarkshire
Chris Wood-Gee	Sustainable Scotland Network
Cllr Iain McLaren	West Dunbartonshire

Apologies

Cllr Ron Sturrock	Angus
Gareth Waterson	CIPFA – Directors of Finance
Cllr Lewis Ritchie	City of Edinburgh
Cllr Donald Crichton	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Cllr Norman Hampshire	East Lothian
Cllr Alan Lafferty	East Renfrewshire
Cllr John Patrick	Falkirk
Cllr Altany Craik	Fife
Cllr Ronald MacDonald	Highland
Cllr Colin Jackson	Inverclyde
Cllr Michael McCormick	Inverclyde
Cllr Russell Imrie	Midlothian
Cllr John Cowe	Moray
Cllr Frank McNally	North Lanarkshire

Andrew Fraser  
Cllr Ryan Thomson  
Pamela Smith  
Jim Savege  
Steve Barron  
Cllr Brian McGinley  
Cllr Evelyn Tweed  
Cllr Cathy Muldoon

Public Health  
Shetland Islands  
SLAED  
SOLACE  
SOLACE  
South Ayrshire  
Stirling  
West Lothian

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Cllr Heddle welcomed those present to the first meeting of the COSLA Environment and Economy Board with roundtable introductions. Apologies and substitutions were noted.

Cllr Dryburgh queried whether papers could be disseminated two weeks in advance of future meetings. In response, it was noted that officers would explore the feasibility of this including the possibility of sending papers in two tranches.

### **2. Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The Board agreed to approve the minute of the Development, Economy and Sustainability Executive Group meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017 as an accurate record.

### **3. Introduction to COSLA and the Environment and Economy Board**

The Board received a report which provided an overview of what COSLA did, outlined its political and corporate structures, and highlighted the high-level vision and principles adopted by the COSLA Convention within the COSLA Plan.

During discussion, it was clarified that while Business Gateway now had a separate governance structure, reports associated with business support and its implications for wider economic policy would still be brought to this Board for consideration.

Cllr Heddle also emphasised that he would be working on behalf of the Board and would strive to be accessible and inclusive in carrying out his duties. Members were encouraged to contact him and officers if they ever had any issues to discuss.

The Board:

- i. noted the overview of COSLA's approach, structures, principles and vision set out in the report and explained further at the meeting; and
- ii. discussed and noted the role of the Board in this context.

### **4. Board Priorities and Draft Plan**

The Board considered a report which invited them to discuss the priorities of the Environment and Economy Board and to agree the draft Board Plan.

During discussion, it was clarified that whilst there was not a huge resource within COSLA, the priorities outlined in the Plan were deliverable but would have to be kept under review. It was also highlighted that the Board could be flexible in how it operated and it would be possible for future meetings to focus on one specific policy or to act as a forum to share good practice on areas e.g. waste. Members were encouraged to bring forward any ideas to the COSLA officers.

A brief oral update was provided on areas within the Plan that did not feature elsewhere on the agenda.

The Board:

- i. discussed the priorities of the Environment and Economy Board; and
- ii. agreed the draft Board Plan.

## **5. Enterprise and Skills Review**

The Board was provided with a report which invited members to discuss implementation of the Enterprise and Skills Review, the creation of the Strategic Board and the development of regional partnerships.

There was a wide-ranging discussion with a number of points of view expressed which officers agreed to pick up. In particular, there was broad agreement that the new system needed to respond to local needs and not inadvertently distance itself from the day to day economic realities faced by local authorities, communities and businesses. It was also stressed that strong local government representation was required regionally and nationally and this should be incorporated to the letter to the Cabinet Secretary. Finally, the need to ensure there was a role for local authorities in setting performance measures was acknowledged.

The Board:

- i. discussed the creation of the Strategic Board and how COSLA wanted to see it develop a relationship with Local Government;
- ii. discussed the development of regional partnerships and how they related to existing regional collaboration;
- iii. noted the update from the 30 August meeting of the Implementation Board;
- iv. agreed the Environment and Economy Spokesperson should write to the Cabinet Secretary on the Strategic Board and its relationship to Local Government, and
- v. noted the meeting with Cabinet Secretary which had been arranged for 4 October 2017.

## **6. Climate Change**

The Board considered a report which sought agreement to a response to the Scottish Government's proposal for a Climate Change Bill, and for raising the current target for emission reduction from 80% by 2050 to 90% by 2050.

During discussions, reservations were expressed about how achievable the targets were and the need for further detail and funding to be provided was stressed. In addition, it was highlighted that the views of wider bodies needed to be taken into account so a more rounded debate took place. It was discussed that Scotland, by setting high emission targets, should guard against deindustrialisation which could lead to the exporting of greenhouse gas emissions to other parts of the world. The benefits of including all forms of carbon were also highlighted.

It was also suggested that an additional interim target should be introduced for 2025, which the meeting unanimously agreed to.

The Board:

- i. supported the Scottish Government's proposal to raise the target for emission reduction from 80% by 2050 to at least 90% by 2050;
- ii. agreed that an interim target should be introduced for 2025;
- iii. agree that, equally or more importantly, there was an urgent need for the Scottish Government to develop robust, funded policies and proposals, to meet these challenging targets;
- iv. agreed that all future work in this area recognised the principles of the UN Paris Agreement, reflecting both climate change targets and the important role and contribution of local government; and

- v. agreed that the Board delegated authority to the Spokesperson to finalise the COSLA submission in-line with the views of members.

## **7. Crown Estate – Private and Confidential**

The Board received a report which informed members of developments related to the devolution of the Crown Estate.

During discussion, the benefits of more than one pilot taking place were highlighted and members were supportive of this being raised at the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary along with the need for clarity on how the terrestrial arrangements would be managed.

The Board:

- i. noted the update provided on the devolution of the Crown Estate;
- ii. noted that a meeting was to be held with the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform on 7<sup>th</sup> September; and
- iii. agreed that the Environment and Economy Spokesperson write to the Cabinet Secretary and Chair of Crown Estate Scotland to highlight COSLA's support for a pilot taking place in the Island Authorities prior to long term management arrangements being put in place.

## **8. Islands Bill**

The Board considered a report which invited members to agree the COSLA response to the call for evidence for the Islands (Scotland) Bill.

Following discussion, there were a number of specific issues raised at the meeting which officers agreed to reflect in the COSLA response.

The Board agreed, subject to changes discussed at the meeting being incorporated, that the COSLA response to the call for evidence for the Islands Bill be submitted by the closing date of 25 September 2017.

## **9. Socio-Economic Duty**

The Board received a report which informed members of the publication of the consultation on the socio-economic duty and invited comments on COSLA's draft response.

During discussion, it was agreed to more fully recognise the shortcomings of the SIMD in reflecting rural disadvantage/inequality.

The Board:

- i. noted the publication of the consultation on the socio-economic duty; and
- ii. considered and provided comments on the draft COSLA response appended to the report at Annex A.

## **10. National Transport Strategy Event**

The Board received a report which advised members of a Local Government and Transport Scotland event on the National Transport Strategy and active transport.

Members were broadly supportive of a whole day event taking place which included a mixture of members and officer focused workshops. A wide range of relevant issues which could be discussed were also put forward which COSLA officers noted.

The Board:

- i. noted the ongoing work on the National Transport Strategy;

- ii. discussed and noted how members wished the event to take place, and issues which they would like to see discussed; and
- iii. agreed to invite the Minister for Transport and Islands to attend a future Board meeting.

#### **11. AOCB**

It was requested that the schedule of future meetings be sent to members.

It was also clarified that planning would be the subject of a report at the next meeting of the Board. Members were reminded that the Business Plan would also be brought for consideration to every meeting.

#### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

The Board noted the date of the next meeting would be Monday 23 October.