

COSLA Priorities Update – April to June 2018

COSLA PRIORITY: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
Spending Review 2018 <i>Policy Lead: Cllr Macgregor</i>	<p>Leaders are being provided with regular update reports covering Ministerial negotiations on Leaders' behalf.</p> <p>Updates include detail of parliamentary lobbying, including: briefing to MSPs, Evidence to Parliamentary Committees, and bilateral meetings with party spokespeople.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series of Ministerial meetings to take place during summer. • October – Committees to publish pre-budget scrutiny reports. • November - UK budget. • December - Special Leaders and Scottish budget. • January to February Parliament budget debate. 	<p>Ensure that there is Fair Funding for Local Government.</p>	<p>On track.</p> <p>Schedule of ministerial meetings being established.</p>
Local taxation <i>Policy Lead: Cllr Macgregor</i>	<p>Leaders have agreed a lobbying approach on local taxation involving a wider review of local taxation and specifically a lobbying campaign for discretionary taxation including Transient Visitor Tax.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TVT launch on 27th June. • Liaison with sector July/August. • Liaison with Parliament July/August. • Linked to spending review timelines. 	<p>Greater fiscal autonomy and sustainable funding for local government</p>	<p>On track.</p>
Pensions structural review consultation <i>Policy Lead: Cllr Macgregor</i>	<p>The Scottish Local Government Pensions Scheme Advisory Board is conducting a consultation on the future structure of the LGPS in Scotland. COSLA will be responding to the consultation which runs until December. Leaders will be asked to agree the response in the Autumn.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial paper for September Leaders. • Draft response to be agreed November Leaders. 	<p>Ensure COSLA's response reflects local government's collective view on the future structure of LGPS</p>	<p>To commence.</p>
Local Government Collective Pay Bargaining 2018/19 <i>Policy Lead: Cllr Macgregor</i>	<p>Pay offers, consistent with SG pay policy for 2018/19 were made in March to all four local government bargaining groups as 'best and final'. Teachers unions (claim 10%), and Craft unions (claim 8.5%), have rejected the offer. Scottish Joint Council trade unions have chosen to note the Employers offer for now until the conclusion of separate talks they are having with SG is known. Chief Officials await the outcome of these other negotiations. All non-monetary elements of claims are the subject of ongoing talks with the trade unions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 March – Leaders meeting agreed mandate for offer to SJC and Teachers 27 March - COSLA Employers made offer in response to Teachers pay claim. This was immediately rejected. • 16 May – SG proposals on teachers pay made. No substantial consultation with COSLA beforehand and no indication on resources to support the proposal. 	<p>Affordable and sustainable pay outcomes achieved through negotiations without recourse to industrial action.</p>	<p>The ambition of the TUs in relation to their 2018/19 pay claims cannot be met on affordability grounds by the Employers side and the offers made have either been rejected or noted. SG has proposed an intervention in the teachers' pay talks which may offer some potential for progress across the board. Talks with all relevant parties will continue over the summer in pursuit of a positive outcome, consistent with the Leaders mandate to achieve parity across all four of the bargaining groups.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING (continued)				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
Development of forward Pay Strategy <i>Policy Lead: Cllr Macgregor</i>	<p>The Working Group established with COSLA officers, Trade Unions, SPDS, SOLACE, Directors of Finance last met in February 2018, at which time it was clear that Trade Unions remained focussed on restorative pay and were unwilling to discuss this in the context of 'total reward', equality-proofing, re-balancing pay structures to address issues of pay compression – all priorities for COSLA Employers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusion of 2018/19 pay negotiations will set the foundations for renewed pay strategy discussions. The timing of this is unpredictable at present. 	<p>A robust, modern and flexible pay structure that supports councils to be employers of choice.</p>	<p>Discussions have reached a stalemate and there is a tacit understanding with TUs that this year's pay negotiations are best concluded before a decision on the future of the Pay Strategy Working Group is reached.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: UK EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
<p>Creating a strong voice for Local Government in Negotiations</p> <p><i>Lead: Cllr Evison</i></p>	<p>Further Presidential team discussions include meetings with Michael Barnier, David Mundell, Mike Russell, and DExEU Ministers. We are pressing for further meeting with Barnier. Further meeting with DExEU Minister to be arranged later in summer.</p> <p>Regular independent and joint activity with Local Government associations across UK to develop policy positions and build Local Government voice.</p> <p>Looking beyond Brexit, UK Ministers have indicated their willingness to establish a Joint Ministerial/Local Government Committee, and we are seeking ultimately that this be given a statutory footing. Further, given the likelihood that initial activity will soon be underway to revise the Joint Ministerial Committee arrangements (i.e. Prime Minister and First Ministers' regular meeting), we have approached the Scottish Government asking that Local Government be included in issues with a local impact or affecting shared competencies.</p> <p>More formalised officer relationship now established with Scottish Government. Less formal but regular officer relations continue with Scotland Office, DExEU, BEIS, Home Office and other key partners and stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer 2018 - secure dates for follow up meetings with Michel Barnier, David Mundell, Mike Russell, and DExEU Ministers. • Informing these, various meetings with officers from UK Government, Scottish Government, EU Bodies, Local Authority Associations, other Sectors, Civic Society etc • 30 March 2019 - UK scheduled to leave the European Union 	<p>Devolution of appropriate powers to Local Government</p>	<p>Work ongoing to identify opportunities/timing which maximise benefits of meetings with EU and government leads.</p> <p>Ongoing exploration of common and divergent positions with UK associations will provide focus for future Leaders meetings.</p>
<p>Strategic Local Government approach</p> <p><i>Lead: Cllr Evison</i></p>	<p>Strategic workplan developed capturing COSLA's overall strategic activities around Brexit.</p> <p>Strategic Stakeholder Group, chaired by COSLA Chief Executive, met for third time on March 28th 2018. Next meeting planned for August Further council officer reference group meetings continue to underpin this work; e.g. meeting on future funding arranged for 22 June.</p> <p>Regular ongoing engagement with the UK LGA Forum to develop local government voice on key issues.</p> <p>Various evidence sessions and briefings to Parliamentarians where appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver strategic workplan through relevant Boards and Leaders. • Embed roles and responsibilities across organisation during summer/autumn 2018. 	<p>Strategic approach to implications for Local Government and communities, including a strong focus on subsidiarity and localism in new arrangements.</p>	<p>Leaders will continue to receive regular updates.</p> <p>Details around areas like Regional Policy, Immigration and Trade are likely to be discussed first at relevant Policy Boards and referred to Leaders depending on significance.</p> <p>Wider work is ongoing to build on the developed officer links with Scottish Government and UK Government on sharing information around key issues.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: UK EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (continued)				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
Protecting the rights of EU citizens living in the UK <i>Lead: Cllr Parry / Cllr Whitham</i>	<p>Support Scottish Ministers and Council Leaders to host local EU citizens' events, which will ensure EU citizens' concerns are heard and can be amplified in the Brexit negotiations. Ongoing events around country.</p> <p>Work with the UK and Scottish Government to ensure a suitable Settlement Scheme for EU citizens in the UK is implemented and communicated to all relevant parties, e.g. via our work with Home Office Strategic Communications and other UK Local Government associations.</p> <p>Work with the UK Government and key partners to ensure vulnerable groups can access the application system and secure settled status. <u>Initial details were announced on 21 June and further work will proceed with Home Office on this over the summer with the launch proper later in the year.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public announcements around the new Scheme expected around now. Online application form for settled status will go live in late 2018. Scheme will remain open for applications until 2021. 	<p>EU citizens living in Scotland can secure settled status, ensuring that they can live and work in the UK post Brexit and continue to access public funds and services.</p>	<p>Ongoing work via the engagement group with Home Office Strategic Communications and other UK Local Government associations and Safeguarding Group.</p> <p>Regular reports will be provided through Community Wellbeing Board and Leaders meetings.</p>
Post-Brexit Migration Policy <i>Lead: Cllr Parry /Cllr Whitham</i>	<p>We are seeking to ensure that emerging migration policy allows us to address Scotland's demographic challenges, supports our local economies, and meets our needs as employers and commissioners of services.</p> <p>Early meetings with UK Immigration Minister have taken place, and COSLA has provided evidence at UK level via Scottish Affairs Committee and Migration Advisory Committee. We are also seeking to inform the Scottish Government's recent discussion paper on a migration policy that meets Scotland's needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2018 - Migration Advisory Committee to report. End 2018 - Immigration white paper. Spring 2019 - Immigration Bill. 	<p>Post-Brexit immigration policy suits the needs of Local Government and potentially enables a regionalised, flexible system.</p>	<p>Update report approved by Leaders in November 2017.</p> <p>UK Government are taking views and listening to COSLA. COSLA continues to lobby around established positions and to respond to developments. This matter will be subject to ongoing reports to relevant Policy Boards and Leaders meetings.</p>
Replacement of EU Funds after the UK's Exit <i>Lead: Cllr Heddle / Cllr Evison</i>	<p>Negotiating principles agreed by Leaders for forthcoming discussions to replace EU funds with sustainable domestic development funding.</p> <p>Meeting of all local authority EU funding officers 22nd June to discuss issues and options – guided by principles agreed above.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through 2018 - working with councils and Scottish Government to maximise the spend of existing funds and prepare replacement arrangements 30 March 2019 - UK scheduled to leave the European Union 21 December 2020 - end of current programming period/ last date current programmes could get funding. 	<p>Replacement for EU funds which is locally led and retains key features of EU Structural Funds.</p>	<p>COSLA working with UK and Scottish Government departments. Overall uncertainty around Brexit makes assessing when progress might be seen difficult to timescale at this stage.</p> <p>Regular reports will be provided through Environment and Economy Board and Leaders meetings.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: DEMOCRACY and REFORM				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
<p>Review of Local Governance</p> <p><i>Lead: Presidential Team</i></p>	<p>Following work by COSLA, joint 2 phase review launched December 2018.</p> <p>Enabling Group drawing together membership from wide range of organisations was formed in January to oversee the Phase 1 community engagement process. The Group launched its approach in May 2018, and is now developing its engagement programme.</p> <p>Phase 2, focusing on proposals to strengthen local governance from councils and a wide range of public services, was formally initiated in mid-June though joint COSLA/ Scottish Government correspondence.</p> <p>Special Interest Group formed and has met twice to date to steer COSLA's strategic interaction with the review. The group is also supported by Prof James Mitchell, and will focus on key national reform themes in addition to individual local authority submissions to the review.</p> <p>All Policy Boards have also initially considered the Review in the context of their own work and will continue to do so.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec 2017- Review launch. • Jan 2018- Phase 1 Enabling Group Formed. • May 2018 – Phase 1 engagement materials published • June 2018 – Phase 2 initiated • December 2018- Phases 1 and 2 engagement closes • Ongoing: Joint political oversight through bimonthly meetings and COSLA/ Cabinet Sub Committee • Spring 2019- potential consultation on Local Democracy Bill 	<p>Review delivers Local Government objectives in relation to local powers and resources, improves governance of public services locally, and strengthens local democracy.</p> <p>Review process is delivered through strong joint political oversight of process across local and national government.</p>	<p>While the Enabling Group to guide Phase 1 has taken time to find its feet, both review phases are now underway, and will continue until around November. The Review continues to be subject to a joint political process, with the most recent meeting between Group Leaders and the Cabinet Sub Committee in June, with the next meeting in September.</p> <p>Overall timescales are being kept under review, with COSLA continuing to explore the potential to move the legislative timetable back where this would improve engagement and evidence gathering.</p> <p>A number of risks require careful consideration, including work across Local Government to build the case for change at Phase 2, and ensuring that there is active participation from a wide range of public services.</p>
<p>Electoral and Democratic Reform</p> <p><i>Lead: Presidential Team</i></p>	<p>European Charter: Convention and Leaders have supported proposals by Andy Wightman MSP to develop a private member's Bill seeking to incorporate European Charter on the Right of Local Self Government into Scots law. A draft initial consultation is in development and anticipated to launch imminently.</p> <p>Parliamentary Reform: Following evidence by COSLA, the Commission on Parliamentary Reform has recommended a protocol governing the relationship between Scottish Parliament and Local Government. Initial discussions have begun and are focused on the development of a Committee Protocol.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer 2018 - Initial 12-week consultation on Member's Bill • September 2018- draft Bill proposal submitted • Late 2018 – subject to sufficient support, scrutiny of Member's Bill begins. • Autumn 2018 – draft Committee Protocol available for consideration by COSLA Leaders and Parliament's Conveners Group. 	<p>Formal legal recognition of the powers and autonomy of Local Government within the governance of Scotland.</p> <p>Joint protocol clarifying competencies and accountabilities of Scotland's spheres of government.</p>	<p>A Private Members Bill would be a key opportunity to progress long standing COSLA objectives in this area. A draft COSLA response is expected to be considered by Leaders in August 2018. It is also anticipated that COSLA will support this work through appropriate communications and parliamentary work.</p> <p>A protocol has strong potential to secure a range of benefits for local government in relation committee inquiries and provision of written and verbal evidence. Thereafter, there are also a number of subsequent areas for potential reform where progress will be sought.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: DEMOCRACY and REFORM (continued)				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
Public Service Reform <i>Lead: Presidential Team</i>	<p>Five workstreams developed addressing Shifting the Balance of Care, Public Health, Education, Inclusive Growth, and Tackling Inequalities.</p> <p>The Cabinet Sub-Committee intends to pursue action to create more conducive conditions for reform as an integral part of SG's approach to supporting and driving Public Service Reform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work to progress outputs of Workstreams 3-5. • The Scottish Centre for Regional Inclusive Growth (SCRIG) will launch in June. • COSLA leaders and the Cabinet Sub-Committee members received an update on 7th June. 	<p>COSLA, Scottish Government and SOLACE work jointly to scope and progress reform priorities across the 5 workstreams.</p>	<p>SG, COSLA and SOLACE officials have recognised that the Local Governance Review provides an ideal vehicle to develop and test alternative governance models at different levels of place (from the regional to the very local) in order to help empower communities and drive inclusive growth.</p>
Open Government Initiative	<p>Report to today's meeting asking Leaders to consider the opportunity to lead on the development of the next action plan in line with our drive to make a case for positive change and push for communities' 'Right to Local Self Government' in law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around September 2018 – drafting of action plan. • Milestones beyond this will depend on level of COSLA engagement. 	<p>By acting as a co-leader with Scottish Government on the open governance agenda councils can increase the case for formalising and strengthening local self-government and for shaping the detail of the local governance review.</p>	<p>COSLA has already attended an international Open Government Summit, arranged by Scottish Government earlier in the year, scoping out the opportunity for and advantages of Local Government involvement.</p> <p>Further activity will depend on Leaders' decision today.</p>
Partnership Working <i>Lead: Cllr Evison</i>	<p>National Performance Framework co-launched on 11th June. Options to enhance partnership working with Scottish Government are being explored.</p>	<p>Boards decide how best to establish improved partnership working with SG counterparts during the summer.</p>	<p>Local Government have meaningful partnership working arrangements with Scottish Government at official and political levels.</p>	<p>To commence.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: EDUCATION and CHILDREN'S SERVICES				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
<p>Early Learning and Childcare Policy</p> <p><i>Lead: Cllr McCabe</i></p>	<p>Funding agreed with Scottish Government for both revenue and capital with regular reviews by both sides to ensure value for money.</p> <p>The National Standard is currently out for consultation in a joint exercise between COSLA and Scottish Government. This will be the cornerstone of the "Funding Follows the Child" policy.</p> <p>Workforce requirement agreed as approx. 10,500 dedicated staff across all 32 local authority areas. Many local authorities now undertaking local recruitment and redeployment strategies. National recruitment campaigns have already focused on school leavers and career changers.</p> <p>Living Wage: local funding rate negotiations to take place including payment of the Living Wage.</p>	<p>By 2020 - action plans on workforce development and expansion, inclusion, infrastructure, family engagement and nurture.</p> <p>August 2020 - Delivery of the funded entitlement.</p>	<p>Local Authorities, their partners and communities provide a quality, flexible early years provision to children based on local need and circumstances.</p>	<p>Following the agreement of the funding and the establishment of the national standard (following consultation), COSLA will be moving to a position of monitoring and supporting implementation across Scotland.</p>
<p>Education Governance (including Fair Funding)</p> <p><i>Lead: Cllr McCabe</i></p>	<p>Following the COSLA response to the Education Bill consultation in January 2018, an agreement was reached between Leaders and the Scottish Government which addresses our key areas of concern and allows local government to build capacity for improvement activities.</p>	<p>June 2018 - Bill to be announced in Parliament</p> <p>Autumn 2018 – Parliamentary scrutiny and drafting of statutory guidance and financial memorandum in line with legislation</p>	<p>Improved educational and life outcomes for all children and young people.</p> <p>Local democratic accountability remains at the heart of Education Governance.</p>	<p>COSLA officers working under the direction of the Children and Young People Board will focus on the statutory guidance and next steps in ensuring that local democratic accountability remains at the heart of Education Governance and that local government builds capacity for improvement</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: EDUCATION and CHILDREN'S SERVICES (continued)				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
Looked After Children <i>Lead: Cllr McCabe</i>	<p>Care Review: Officers supporting the Care Review provided a bespoke workshop for elected members at the COSLA CYP Board in June 2018</p> <p>Secure Care Strategic Board: a vision has been agreed moving to a future where no child is deprived of their liberty and the commissioning sub group and pathways sub group are now scoping out how that the system reflects this over the short, medium and long-term planning processes.</p> <p>Allowances: Pending wider review, kinship care allowances brought in line with foster care allowances in 2015/16, with Scottish Government and local authorities sharing cost equally.</p>	<p>April 2017–19- Care Review process.</p> <p>Summer 2019 - Secure Care Strategic Board Report.</p> <p>Autumn 2018 - Foster, Kinship and Adoptive allowances report to Scottish Ministers and COSLA Leaders.</p>	<p>Local Authorities fulfil their duties as corporate parents, ensuring the best possible life outcomes for looked after children.</p>	<p>Care Review: The CYP Board and officers will continue to liaise closely with The Care Review team to reflect the importance of corporate parenting.</p> <p>COSLA sits on Secure Care Strategic Board, which will develop a strategic approach to children and young people in and on the edges of secure care in Scotland. COSLA also chairs the commissioning sub group of the Board.</p> <p>COSLA currently sit on National view of Care Allowances, established to consider matters within the overall funding envelope.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: HEALTH and SOCIAL CARE				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
<p>Joint Political Leadership and performance oversight for Health and Social Care integration</p> <p><i>Lead: Cllr Johnston</i></p>	<p>The Ministerial Strategic Group (MSG) continues to provide joint oversight of whole system sustainability and improvement of outcomes through integration. In May the Cabinet Secretary announced a 'review of progress under integration' which will report to Ministers and COSLA via MSG.</p> <p>Issues arising in respect of governance and accountability are being addressed through this review and a programme of work led by senior officers.</p>	<p>October / November 2018 - Audit Scotland report (part 2) to be published on HSC integration.</p> <p>June / July 2018 - Terms of Reference of 'review of progress under integration' to be agreed by MSG and published.</p> <p>Quarterly Ministerial Steering Group meetings.</p>	<p>Jointly supportive environment from which Integration Authorities can make progress.</p> <p>Shared and robust narrative and analysis</p> <p>Early resolution of emerging governance and accountability issues</p> <p>Continued recognition of the Local Government role and locus</p>	<p>This is an area of current tension with significant risk to the full implementation of the Public Bodies Act.</p> <p>COSLA is working alongside Scottish Government to seek practical resolutions to key issues.</p> <p>Scepticism of integration and the Act remains in some parts of the system – strong officer and political relationships are increasingly important in challenging this.</p>
<p>Reform of the National Care Home Contract</p> <p><i>Lead: Cllr Johnston</i></p>	<p>A deal for 2018/19 was agreed based on most of the elements of the Cost of Care Calculator being finalised. Work is ongoing to deliver the new contract including the Calculator, guide to local variation, dependency tool and evidence of innovation in relation to skill mix.</p> <p>It has been agreed by COSLA Leaders that operational management of the NCHC will move to Scotland Excel from April 2019.</p>	<p>August/Sept 2018 - terms of handover to Scotland Excel, future roles and responsibilities etc to be agreed.</p> <p>Outstanding elements of calculator agreed by October 2018 or local negotiation to commence.</p>	<p>Joint agreement with Scottish Care and CCPS to progress with the new national arrangements for a national contract.</p> <p>A set of tools for effective care home place commissioning.</p>	<p>The work is on track but there are risks associated with not completing this in the timescales set, or to the expectations of all partners.</p> <p>Outstanding elements of calculator to be should be complete by October. The risk that the NCHC will not continue if sufficient progress is not being made by October.</p>
<p>Safe Staffing Legislation</p> <p><i>Lead: Cllr Johnston</i></p>	<p>The Scottish Government had introduced a Bill to Parliament despite objections from COSLA and key parts of the health and social care sector. COSLA outlined its concerns at various points over the past six months and received some assurances from the Cabinet Secretary on financial burdens, etc.</p>	<p>August 2018 - Health and Sport Committee to receive evidence on Bill.</p> <p>June - HSC Board meeting provided an opportunity to present our outstanding concerns to Cab Sec.</p>	<p>Ensure that Local Government view of safe staffing influences the legislation and that any risks are managed.</p> <p>Ensure that the legislation does not extend to social care.</p>	<p>COSLA coordinating its lobbying activity with key social care partners.</p> <p>The COSLA HSC Board has been regularly shaping our position on this.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: HEALTH and SOCIAL CARE (continued)				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
Development of National Charging Guidance <i>Lead: Cllr Johnston</i>	COSLA is working with partners to further develop the guidance. The extension of Free Personal Care will be reflected in the 2019/20 guidance.	April 2018 – 2018/19 National Charging Guidance published. April 2019 Amended Guidance to be published.	To deliver national guidance timeously in support of councils' charging arrangements.	On track.
Implementation of the extension of Free Personal Care to under 65s <i>Lead: Cllr Johnston</i>	The Scottish Parliament has approved the regulations to enable the extension of FPC and the Cabinet Secretary will soon be signing the Scottish Statutory Instrument to bring into force by 1 st April 2019. SG is working with COSLA to agree how this is best done through an implementation group and cost sub-group.	Summer 2018 – cost estimates agreed. April 2019 – Implementation	To ensure maximum local flexibility, supportive of ongoing demand monitoring, and with adequate additional local funding.	On track – but presents substantial risks for Local Government.
Development of joint national Public Health priorities and a National Public Health Body <i>Lead: Cllr Johnston</i>	A set of Public Health Priorities for Scotland has now been agreed by COSLA Leaders and Ministers and published in 2018. Significant work is under way to establish the new body by the end of 2019.	June 2018 - Joint public health priorities published. New body to be established in 2019. Decision to be made on legal basis of new body by end of summer 2018.	Increase the priority and visibility given to Public Health in Scotland. Ensure the national body can better support the whole system including CPPs. Ensure that the role and accountability of local government is adequately reflected in new structures.	The new body will be in place by the end of 2019. Otherwise on track.
Joint Digital Health and Social Care Strategy <i>Lead: Cllr Johnston</i>	Focus likely to be on a small number of commitments which provide a strong foundation for ongoing and future digital reform within the NHS and social care.	May 2018 - Final strategy published and governance arrangements being developed.	'Once for Scotland' IT approaches are developed in partnership with Local Government and for the benefit of both health and social care	Joint Scottish Government and COSLA Digital Health and Social Care Strategy now published. Shared approach to governance and clarity around partnership working is being established to mitigate the risk of this strategy not aligning with wider digital agenda.

COSLA PRIORITY: LOCAL ECONOMIES and INCLUSIVE GROWTH				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
<p>Implementation of the Enterprise and Skills Review and developing strategic links to wider policy</p> <p><i>Lead: Cllr Heddle</i></p>	<p>The Strategic Board for Enterprise and Skills has met several times since the start of the year. Cllr Steven Heddle attends to provide expertise and input from Local Government.</p> <p>In broad terms recently the Board has focused upon: developing an outline strategic plan for the Board; setting up four 'missions' or areas of specific work; establishing the work priorities of the new analytical unit; creating a performance framework for the Board, and work to encourage collaboration, alignment and culture change within and between the agencies.</p> <p>Work on regional partnerships continue with the support of SOLACE and SLAED. There was a discussion at the 15 June Environment and Economy Board on establishing a vision for how regional economic working in Scotland should develop, building on the work taking place in a number of Local Authorities and looking ahead to the Local Governance Review.</p> <p>COSLA responded to the consultation on the establishment of the South of Scotland agency to support the positions taken by both Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway Council. We expect legislation to establish the agency after the summer recess.</p> <p>The Business Gateway National Unit and SLAED continue to be heavily involved in the Business Support workstream arising from the Review. The Business Gateway Board met for the first time on 19 April and meets again on 28 June. The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee has launched an inquiry on business support with a particular focus on Business Gateway. The National Unit and local areas will be responding.</p> <p>In other developments related to the Enterprise and Skills Review, the 15-24 Learner Journey report was published on 10 May and is available at this link.</p>	<p>The Strategic Board continues to meet and to develop its work plan.</p> <p>Regional partnerships – work is ongoing.</p> <p>Legislation for South of Scotland Agency expected after the summer recess.</p> <p>Planning Bill has completed stage 1 and will start stage 2 after summer recess.</p> <p>The National Transport Strategy's review of transport governance continues and is being considered by the Board. More detail will be available later in the summer.</p>	<p>A step-change in economic performance and simplification of the system for customers.</p> <p>More effective, customer driven business support services to address clutter and confusion identified in the Review.</p> <p>A more inclusive economy, with opportunities shared more equally geographically and across society.</p>	<p>The Strategic Board has now met several times but its likely impact still seems unclear. Its challenge will be to remain strategic, to build upon and not repeat previous work of the Enterprise and Skills Review and to continue to strongly but constructively challenge the work of the agencies. However, even if it performs this role effectively, its impact on the wider economy may be more limited than desired. The outcomes sought, which we support, are very ambitious and will require more than better joined up working between agencies. It is the impact of the Board on the wider economy which is most uncertain at this stage.</p> <p>Work on Regional Partnerships continues with Scottish Government and Local Authorities. COSLA is taking a supportive role, working with SOLACE and SLAED, on regional working and this work continue to be driven by individual Local Authorities. We continue to ensure this work links as far as possible to allied policy in planning and transport, although this is not a simple task given different timescales and the separate nature of the policy reviews.</p> <p>The creation of the South of Scotland agency seems to be developing positively and we continue to support the work of the two councils.</p> <p>The implications of the various activities ongoing around Business Support will become more apparent later in the year as they report.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: A UNITED VOICE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
<p>Two-way engagement with Members</p> <p><i>Lead: Presidential Team</i></p>	<p>A number of steps have been taken to improve COSLA's engagement and support all councillors to be active COSLA members.</p>	<p>The following milestones have been delivered to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected member media training. • Council liaison officer arrangements. • Regular video updates and increased use of social media. • Review and revision of COSLA annual conference. • Establishment of programme of council visits. • Liaison with local government communication teams network. 	<p>Active and regular engagement with all members to support them undertake their work locally, and enable them to contribute to the local government agenda.</p>	<p>With initial activity undertaken, work is now ongoing to build momentum and to develop and improve further opportunities for engagement.</p> <p>This will include hosting several Convention and Leaders meetings in local councils.</p> <p>Further feedback and opportunities for progress will also be actively sought through steps such as COSLA's membership and communications survey, and through planned improvements to internal communications.</p>
<p>Targeted Campaigns</p> <p><i>Lead: Presidential Team</i></p>	<p>In line with recommendations made in the COSLA Review, work has been undertaken to rebalance activities away from reactive press handling toward more targeted campaigns built around priorities set by Convention in the COSLA Plan.</p> <p>A key focus to date was the #EssentialServices campaign in relation to the Local Government Settlement. This included a coordinated approach to digital, print and social media, alongside parliamentary work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer/Autumn 2018 - #styalittlepayalittle. • TVT Campaign launched. • Ongoing scoping of future campaigns as appropriate through political decision-making structures. 	<p>COSLA builds and delivers effective, targeted campaigns that are focused on key Local Government priorities.</p>	<p>Initial feedback suggests that targeted approach has made positive impact to date, but that ongoing improvement is required.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: EFFECTIVE SHARED SERVICES				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
myjobscotland National Recruitment Portal	The service continues to grow over three tiers of usage. Opportunities to expand across the public sector in Scotland and the UK are ongoing, with current potential developments including SSSC and the Care Commission.	Ongoing activities to expand expertise and support new areas of the public sector.	myjobscotland National Recruitment Portal	The service continues to grow over three tiers of usage. Opportunities to expand across the public sector in Scotland and the UK are ongoing, with current potential developments including SSSC and the Care Commission.
Business Gateway National Unit	<p>Strategic Review of Marketing will enhance and improve uptake of Business Gateway services from growth businesses. This will include further development of online and digital services.</p> <p>Successful DigitalBoost Programme being delivered by local authorities, with funding now extended to March 2019.</p> <p>New data model and data sharing protocols for Customer Relationship Management system in development</p> <p>Board now meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early 2018 – Establishment of Business Gateway Board. • Early 2018 - 2018-19 Marketing Strategy. • Spring 2018 - Contact Strategy Refresh. • Summer 2018 - Enhanced website • Late 2017 - New models for CRM to be introduced. 	<p>Increase growth businesses accessing, and benefitting from, Business Gateway services.</p> <p>Contribute to making Scotland a world class digital economy.</p> <p>Enhanced collaboration and a more effective customer service.</p>	<p>Review to be reported to Business Gateway Board in 2018.</p> <p>Indications suggest good potential to continue funding beyond 2019.</p> <p>Improvements will enable a 360 degree view of customers.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: EFFECTIVE SHARED SERVICES (continued)				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
Trading Standards Scotland	<p>TSS to provide reporting information to Leaders.</p> <p>Scottish Government intend to establish a unified consumer body in Autumn 2018 in response to devolution of advice, advocacy and some competition powers.</p> <p>UK Government green paper on consumer issues published and an initial response is being drafted for approval through TSS Board. Further reports will be submitted to TSS Board and Community Wellbeing Board as appropriate.</p> <p>The Society of Chief Officers for Trading Standards in Scotland and the Improvement Service are developing potential models for regional service delivery.</p>	<p>Reports available quarterly.</p> <p>Policy consultation Spring 2018. Bill autumn 2018.</p> <p>Green Paper published earlier in 2018.</p> <p>Potential model considered by Leaders in November 2017.</p>	<p>Leaders are informed of TSS work and how it links to other policy areas.</p> <p>Ensure any changes support consumer protection in Scotland and the role of local authorities.</p> <p>Develop a resilient and sustainable trading standards service.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Ongoing contact with Scottish Government, and Leaders will be kept informed of progress and any potential impact on advice services and trading standards. As of June 2018 the consultation is still to be published.</p> <p>The Green Paper has now been published with the consultation period due to end on the 4th July. The paper seeks views on strengthening the links between national and local enforcement and on vesting the current national arrangements with their own statutory powers potentially through public body status. A response will be made to the consultation through the TSS Governance Board</p> <p>Work on regional options and workforce strategy is ongoing. The Employers Team are working with the Improvement Service to develop a workforce strategy.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: EQUALITY, REPRESENTATION & DIVERSITY				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
<p>Promoting diversity within local democracy</p> <p><i>Lead: Cllr Evison</i></p>	<p>Lead strategic development of the COSLA President's equality and diversity work by identifying and reducing the barriers to elected office for women. This will be progressed by: compiling a strong evidence base to inform this work; identifying effective priorities and delivery approaches; and overseeing the development of key activities.</p> <p>Submitting a funding proposal to the European Commission to further resource this outcome.</p>	<p>November 2018: COSLA President will host a conference which will contribute to building support for the greater participation of women in politics and public life in Scotland.</p> <p>June 2018: EC funding application deadline.</p>	<p>COSLA Leaders promote diversity within local democracy.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Regular reports to Leaders meetings.</p>

COSLA Priorities Update – April to June 2018

COSLA PRIORITY: STRONG, SAFE & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
Humanitarian protection programmes Lead: Cllr Parry / Cllr Whitham	<p>Continuing to support local authorities with receiving and ongoing integration of refugees resettled through the UK programmes.</p> <p>Work with the UK and Scottish Governments to influence the design of refugee resettlement programmes beyond 2020, to ensure they meet the needs of local authorities and their communities.</p> <p>Supporting local authorities in their negotiations and commitments around Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) dispersal with Home Office and other agencies as required and leading negotiations on behalf of local authorities with the Home Office and Scottish Government to secure the funding required to support UASC appropriately.</p>	<p>Arrivals for Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) to be concluded by end of 2019.</p> <p>Home Office funding re UASCs review concluded by summer 2018.</p>	<p>Local Government and partners continue to play a key role in humanitarian protection programmes which support people seeking sanctuary in the UK.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Regular reports will be provided through Community Wellbeing Board and Leaders meetings.</p>
Cultural Life Lead: Cllr Parry / Cllr Whitham	<p>The Scottish Government is in the process of developing the cultural strategy for Scotland. Councils are by far the biggest actor in the area directly through provision and funding as well as indirectly through the benefits to community identity, stability, the offer in terms of employment and tourism and the identity of place.</p>	<p>Publication of the consultation strategy.</p> <p>Publication of the final strategy in 2019.</p>	<p>Scottish Local Government's role to be recognised and promoted in the emerging strategy as a joint partner with Scottish Government.</p>	<p>Yet to start.</p>
Affordable Housing Supply Lead: Cllr Parry/Cllr Whitham	<p>Working in active partnership with various actors across the housing sector in Scotland to deliver 50,000 new homes before the end of this parliamentary term 35,000 for social rent.</p> <p>Work with Scottish Government to develop a shared understanding of how government interventions required in the housing market beyond 2021 AHSP through a national conversation to be commenced after summer recess.</p>	<p>Housing supply data continues to demonstrate significant progress towards overall target by 2021.</p> <p>National conversation underway by the end of summer this year to ensure widest possible gather of views and information to inform interventions beyond 2021.</p>	<p>Local governments role in delivering good affordable housing locally is maintained to the benefit of communities across Scotland.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Regular reports will be provided through Community Wellbeing Board and Leaders meetings.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: STRONG, SAFE & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
<p>Community Safety and Criminal Justice</p> <p>Lead: Cllr Parry/Cllr Whitham</p>	<p>Continue our local and strategic work on community safety in the areas of Building Safer Communities Programme. CONTEST (counter terrorism strategy) has been revised recently and may create changes in how LAs engage. Continuing work with the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services and other partners.</p> <p>The imminent changes in the governance of the SPA and PSoS will result in a re-alignment of how business is done between Local Government and how we gain greater influence on national and local policy decisions.</p> <p>We continue to support the 'Equally Safe' Strategy through the spokesperson's contribution to the joint Scottish & Local Government group and the maintenance and development of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements.</p> <p>We work with the Community Justice Partnerships arrangements and Community Justice Scotland to safely land the new arrangements intended to improve local CJ arrangements and reduce the number of offender as well as the numbers of people on remand and in prison.</p>	<p>Consideration of any changes in tone and content of Scottish Local Government's work in this area given the revised strategy</p> <p>Establishing a better strategic relationship with the SPA board, and the Executive of Police Scotland.</p> <p>Increase support to our joint inter-governmental arrangements through the recruitment and early work of the Equally safe policy co-ordinator.</p> <p>Convene meetings of the CJ partnership political leads to establish progress being achieved and consensus.</p>	<p>Agreement Local Government's preventative and other roles, making the case for funded interventions.</p> <p>Capacity established to take on a forward looking agenda rather than re-active role.</p> <p>Stabilised multi-agency work in this area, and movement towards a preventative approach.</p> <p>Greater ability to support the presumption against short term sentences and 'smart justice'.</p>	<p>All on-going</p>
<p>Energy Efficient Scotland</p> <p>Lead: Cllr Parry/Cllr Whitham</p>	<p>COSLA Leaders welcomed and agreed to work in constructive partnership with Scottish Government's route map for Energy Efficient Scotland</p> <p>The route map provides the overall framework for various targets and interventions across both the domestic and non-domestic sectors – COSLA is actively working on governance arrangements with Scottish Ministers and influencing policy across the piece in relation to energy prices, fuel efficiency, income standards and energy usage.</p>	<p>Current EESH standards are due to be met by 2020 – consultations on EESH2 are ongoing with new standards due to be finalised in 2019.</p> <p>Consultation on the various component parts that make up Energy Efficient Scotland are ongoing and elements including a fuel poverty bill will be brought forward over this parliamentary term.</p>	<p>Poor energy efficiency removed as a driver of fuel poverty for people in communities across Scotland.</p> <p>Reductions in fuel usage result in reduced carbon and emissions ensuring sustainability across the piece.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Regular reports will be provided through Community Wellbeing Board, Environment and Economy Board and Leaders meetings.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: STRONG, SAFE & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
<p>Homelessness and Rough Sleeping</p> <p>Lead: Cllr Parry/Cllr Whitham</p>	<p>Work is ongoing to deliver the recommendations from the Local Government and Communities Committee report and the four sets of recommendations from the independent Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Actions Group.</p> <p>This work is being done in conjunction with conversations with UK government on the devolution of various elements of funding to support temporary and specialist accommodation – shaped by future delivery models Scotland is seeking to achieve including a transition to ‘rapid rehousing’ and ‘housing first’ for those with multiple and complex needs.</p>	<p>Rapid Rehousing transitional plans need to be scoped by Councils for the end of 2018 with delivery of same over the following five years.</p> <p>Funding for various elements of assistance with housing costs are staggered between now and 2021.</p>	<p>Improved outcomes for those rough sleeping, homeless or at risk of same.</p> <p>Reductions in the homelessness presentations across Scotland.</p> <p>Funding methods are sustainable and able to support different operating model across Scotland.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Regular reports will be provided through Community Wellbeing Board and Leaders meetings.</p>
<p>Tackling Poverty</p> <p>Lead: Cllr Parry / Cllr Whitham</p>	<p>COSLA has worked with Scottish Government and others to shape Child Poverty Act Guidance, that will set expectations for local authorities joint reporting with CPP partners on their child poverty contributions. It is now working to help shape various support arrangements that are being in place by Scottish Government.</p> <p>In-principle agreement has been reached on the removal of local authority charges for children’s burials and cremations and COSLA is now working on the detail of funding and policy detail to enable that to happen. Work is continuing on develop guidance on funeral charges more generally recognising that the cost of funerals is a significant burden on low income households.</p> <p>There is a step up of activity relating to an overview of work towards the piloting of Universal Basic Income, approaches to Fair Work – to recognise that poverty is acutely felt for many who are in work, and in relation to food insecurity.</p>	<p>First child poverty reports from all local authorities by end June 2019.</p> <p>Removal of child burial and cremation costs by end summer 2018.</p>	<p>Provide leadership on local government’s pivotal contribution on tackling poverty and reducing inequality.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Regular reports will be provided through Community Wellbeing Board and Leaders meetings.</p> <p>A meeting is being sought with the responsible Cabinet Secretary to discuss local government concerns on the limited opportunities to inform national strategic planning to tackle child and wider poverty and the allocation of resources to support planning and activity.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: STRONG, SAFE & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
<p>Social Security</p> <p>Lead: Cllr Parry / Cllr Whitham</p>	<p>Welfare reform remains a significant concern, especially the roll out of Universal Credit and its impact on individuals and services. Feedback and data from councils have been vital in our lobbying of the UK Government, particularly during autumn 2017. While this resulted in significant easements to moving on to Universal Credit, many issues remain. COSLA will continue to be active throughout the roll-out for new applicants and the migration of existing claimants.</p> <p>The Social Security Act came into being in June 2018. Taking our lead from the Overarching Partnership Agreement, COSLA continues to contribute to advisory groups and is in direct discussion with the Scottish Government on the development of policy detail and Social Security Agency implementation. The Agency now has interim headquarters in Dundee and Glasgow and plans for its local presence across 32 local areas are evolving.</p> <p>The latter is a particular priority for COSLA's working with Scottish Government to ensure that the local Agency presence fits well with local circumstances and becomes effectively integrated with existing advice and support services.</p> <p>Linked, COSLA is now working closely with Scottish Government and local government and partner networks to plan a benefit uptake programme that will initial be focused on newly devolved social security benefits.</p> <p>COSLA continues to take an oversight of the policy, practice, performance and resourcing of the Scottish Welfare Fund.</p>	<p>Delivery of the first wave of devolved benefits through 2018 and 2019. This begins with Carers Allowance Supplement in Summer 2018, followed by Best Start Grant / Welfare Foods and Funeral Expense Allowances in Summer / Autumn in 2019.</p> <p>A local presence for the new Agency will be in place from later 2019, but not there for the first wave of devolved benefits.</p>	<p>Local Government has a key role in supporting people and communities navigate and access newly devolved benefits and ensure that new arrangements are well integrated into local services.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Regular reports will be provided through Community Wellbeing Board and Leaders meetings as appropriate.</p>

COSLA PRIORITY: STRONG, SAFE & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Sought	Status
Fire Safety Work Lead: Cllr Parry/Cllr Whitham	Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy last year, fire safety in domestic buildings has seen significant work in recent months – this will increase as the various reviews both in Scotland and south of the Border report their findings and recommendations result in consultations and actions.	Ministerial Working Group due to meet again September and consultations over the summer months with recommendations expected following analysis early in 2019 in respect of both fire safety and related changes required in building standards legislation if appropriate.	Fire safety in domestic buildings provides reassurance for residents including preventative measures and building design and completion.	Reports will be provided through Community Wellbeing Board, Environment and Economy Board and Leaders meetings as appropriate.