

**Special Meeting of COSLA Leaders
Monday 26 October 2020, 1300hrs**

via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Present

COSLA President	Councillor Alison Evison
COSLA Vice President	Councillor Graham Houston
Aberdeen City Council	Councillor Douglas Lumsden
Aberdeen City Council	Angela Scott
Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Jim Gifford
Aberdeenshire Council	Jim Savege
Angus Council	Councillor David Fairweather
Angus Council	Margo Williamson
Argyll & Bute Council	David Logan (Substitute)
Argyll & Bute Council	Councillor Kieron Green (Substitute)
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Adam McVey
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Claire Miller
City of Edinburgh Council	Andrew Kerr
Clackmannanshire Council	Councillor Ellen Forson
Clackmannanshire Council	Nikki Bridle
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Councillor Norman A. MacDonald (Substitute)
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Robert Emmott (Substitute)
COSLA Spokesperson	Councillor Gail Macgregor
Dumfries & Galloway Council	Councillor Rob Davidson
Dumfries & Galloway Council	Gavin Stevenson
Dundee City Council	Councillor John Alexander
Dundee City Council	David Martin
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor Douglas Reid
East Ayrshire Council	Katie Kelly (Substitute)
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Andrew Polson (Joint)
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Vaughan Moody (Joint)
East Dunbartonshire Council	Gerry Cornes
East Lothian Council	Councillor Norman Hampshire (Substitute)
East Lothian Council	Monica Patterson
COSLA Spokesperson	Councillor Stuart Currie
East Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Tony Buchanan
East Renfrewshire Council	Lorraine McMillan
Falkirk Council	Councillor Cecil Meiklejohn
Falkirk Council	Kenneth Lawrie
Fife Council	Councillor David Alexander (Joint)
Fife Council	Councillor David Ross (Joint)
Fife Council	Steve Grimmond
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Susan Aitken
Glasgow City Council	Martin Booth (Substitute)
Highland Council	Councillor Margaret Davidson

Highland Council
Inverclyde Council
Inverclyde Council
Midlothian Council
Midlothian Council
Moray Council
Moray Council
North Ayrshire Council
North Ayrshire Council
North Lanarkshire Council
North Lanarkshire Council
Orkney Islands Council
Orkney Islands Council
COSLA Spokesperson
Perth & Kinross Council
Perth & Kinross Council
Perth & Kinross Council
Renfrewshire Council
Renfrewshire Council
Scottish Borders Council
Scottish Borders Council
Shetland Islands Council
Shetland Islands Council
South Ayrshire Council
South Ayrshire Council
South Lanarkshire Council
South Lanarkshire Council
Stirling Council
Stirling Council
West Dunbartonshire Council
West Dunbartonshire Council
West Lothian Council
West Lothian Council

Donna Manson
Councillor Jim Clocherty (Substitute)
Aubrey Fawcett
Councillor Derek Milligan
Dr Grace Vickers
Councillor Shona Morrison (Substitute)
Roderick Burns
Councillor Joe Cullinane
Craig Hatton
Councillor Paul Kelly (Substitute)
Des Murray
Councillor James Stockan
James Wylie (Substitute)
Councillor Steven Heddle
Councillor Murray Lyle
Councillor Peter Barrett
Barbara Renton (Substitute)
Councillor Iain Nicholson
Alan Russell (Substitute)
Councillor Shona Haslam
David Robertson (Substitute)
Councillor Steven Coutts
Maggie Sandison
Councillor Peter Henderson
Eileen Howat
Councillor John Ross
Cleland Sneddon
Councillor Scott Farmer
Carol Beattie
Councillor Jonathan McColl
Joyce White
Councillor Lauren Fitzpatrick
Graham Hope

Apologies

Argyll & Bute Council
Argyll & Bute Council
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
COSLA Spokesperson
East Ayrshire Council
East Lothian Council
Glasgow City Council
Inverclyde Council
Moray Council
North Lanarkshire Council
Orkney Islands Council
Perth & Kinross Council
Renfrewshire Council
Scottish Borders Council

Councillor Robin Currie*
Pippa Milne*
Councillor Roddie Mackay*
Malcolm Burr*
Councillor Elena Whitham
Fiona Lees*
Councillor William Innes*
Annemarie O'Donnell*
Councillor Stephen McCabe*
Councillor Graham Leadbitter*
Councillor Jim Logue*
John Mundell*
Karen Reid*
Sandra Black*
Tracey Logan*

Guests

Deputy First Minister	John Swinney
Cabinet Secretary, Communities & Local Government	Aileen Campbell
Deputy Chief Medical Officer	Marion Bain
Director General for Constitution and External Affairs	Ken Thomson

**Denotes substitute provided*

Apologies were recorded where notified in advance or meeting invite not accepted

1. Introduction

The President welcomed those present and provided guidance on how the meeting would be conducted remotely using Microsoft Teams. Apologies and substitutes had been noted as above.

The President welcomed the Deputy First Minister, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer and the Director General for Constitution and External Affairs.

2. Scotland's Strategic Framework for Tackling COVID-19

The President invited the Deputy First Minister to address Leaders about Scotland's Strategic Framework for Tackling COVID-19, which would be presented to the Scottish Parliament on 27 October.

Mr Swinney gave an overview of the content and practical consequences of the Strategic Framework, explaining that it was a means to tactically address different prevalence levels of the virus across different parts of Scotland.

Mr Swinney highlighted the importance of continuous dialogue with Local Government on COVID-19 given the significant role it played in the emergency response, the sustainable delivery of public services and in the enforcement of regulations. COSLA and SOLACE had been involved in discussions over the weekend and over the next two days Scottish Government officials and ministers would be available for discussions with individual councils.

Leaders thanked Mr Swinney for his attendance at the meeting and asked a number of questions and made comments covering a range of issues.

Private Session

Leaders noted the publication of the Strategic Framework for tackling COVID-19, and the initial assessment relating to the Strategic Framework that had been provided in the report. Leaders further noted the decision making process outlined to transition Scotland from the existing restriction arrangements to the levels system set out in the Strategic Framework.

Leaders raised a number of points which were noted by Officers for inclusion in COSLA's response to the Strategic Framework. Leaders agreed that the COSLA Presidential Team should consult Group Leaders on the final response, before responding on behalf of COSLA, to Scottish Government Ministers.

3. COVID-19: Scotland's Strategic Framework – Education and Childcare

Leaders noted the report on Scotland's Strategic Framework on guidance for schools and early learning and childcare (ELC) and provided some comments, before delegating final sign off of COSLA's response to the document to COSLA's presidential team and the Children and Young People's Spokesperson.

There being no other points of business, Cllr Evison thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting.

