

Parliamentary Briefing

A Briefing on COSLA for MSPs

Who We Are

COSLA is the voice of Local Government in Scotland. We provide political leadership on national issues. We work directly with our member councils to support them and their diverse communities every day to deliver essential services, bring about change, to respect human rights and equalities, to embed local democracy and to make the voices of people within communities heard.

We are committed to making Local Government an equal Sphere of Government in Scotland.

Millions of people rely on the services that Local Government in Scotland deliver every day. Together, councils spend almost £19 billion a year on local services and employ over 250,000 people – nearly 10% of all employment in Scotland.

How We Deliver

COSLA is our members. Our job is to stand up for Local Government and represent it effectively. We are a councillor-led, cross party organisation, representing all 32 Local Authorities in Scotland. Our work is on behalf of our members to focus on their priorities, challenges and opportunities. We do so by engaging with Governments and others on policy, powers, funding and legislation.

COSLA has a unique and strong position which puts it in the best position to influence and impact, championing council's vital work and securing the resources and powers they need to do what works locally. COSLA is working for Local Government to enable delivery on the National Performance Framework in partnership across Scotland to achieve the best outcomes for our people, our communities and our nation.

COSLA was established in 1975, but standing up for Scotland's local priorities goes back 800 years. We evolved from the Convention of Royal Burghs, once the oldest representative body in Europe.

The COSLA Blueprint

We are here to help councils build better and more equal local communities. To do that we want to empower local decision making and enable councils to do what works locally.

To achieve this aim we produced the [COSLA Blueprint](#)

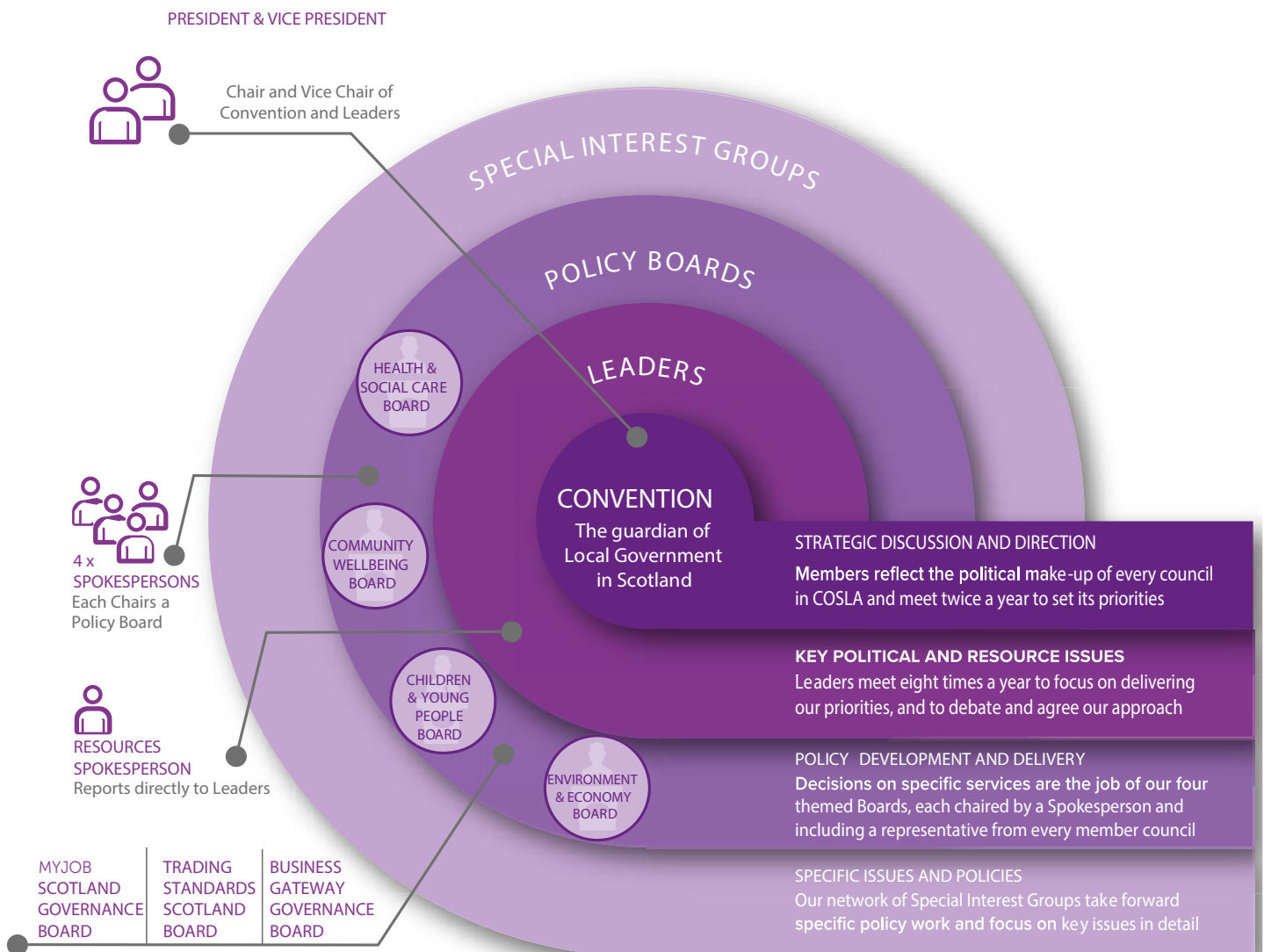
The Blueprint will allow Local Government to build around an ambitious vision for Scotland's future - one based on the empowerment of people and communities.

The document has been framed around 6 themes:

- Strengthening Local Democracy
- Funding Services and Communities
- Wellbeing – including Health and Social Care
- Education and Children and Young People
- Economy and the Environment
- Supporting Vulnerable Communities

How We Operate

What we do, and how we do it, is decided democratically by elected Councillors from across our member councils. Our governance structures are organised in the following way:



National Performance Framework

As co-signatories of the National Performance Framework COSLA and Local Government are leading the way on delivering for our communities with well embedded outcomes based approach to service design and delivery.

Local Government works across all of the national outcomes in the National Performance Framework and directly delivers over 60% of the outcomes.

COSLA's work is critical in supporting Local Government to deliver on these outcomes.



Conclusion

We are keen to improve our interaction with both the Scottish Parliament as a body as well as to brief/meet MSPs individually or as a group.

If there is anything in particular you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact membersupport@cosla.gov.uk and if you do not do so already please give our [Twitter page](#) a follow @COSLA