

DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF COSLA CONVENTION

Friday 25 February 2022, 12.00pm  
Via Microsoft Teams

**Present**

Aberdeen City Council	Councillor Jenny Laing
Aberdeen City Council	Councillor Ian Yuill
Aberdeen City Council	Councillor M. Tauqeer Malik
Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Alison Evison
Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Gwyneth Petrie
Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Norman Smith
Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Ross Cassie
Aberdeenshire Council	Jim Savege
Angus Council	Councillor Ben Lawrie
Angus Council	Councillor Craig Fotheringham
Argyll and Bute Council	Councillor Alastair Redman
Argyll and Bute Council	Councillor Robin Currie
Argyll and Bute Council	Pippa Milne
City of Edinburgh Council	Andrew Kerr
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Adam McVey
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Cameron Rose
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Iain Whyte
Clackmannanshire Council	Councillor Kenny Earle (Sub)
Clackmannanshire Council	Nikki Bridle
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Councillor Roddie Mackay
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Councillor Gail Macgregor
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Lorna Meahan
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Councillor Jane Maitland
Dundee City Council	Councillor Craig Duncan
Dundee City Council	Councillor John Alexander
Dundee City Council	Councillor Kevin Keenan
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor Douglas Reid
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor Jim McMahon
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor Jon Herd (Sub)
East Ayrshire Council	Eddie Fraser
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Alan Moir
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Susan Murray
East Lothian Council	Councillor Jane Henderson
East Lothian Council	Councillor Stuart Currie
East Lothian Council	Councillor Norman Hampshire
Falkirk Council	Councillor Cecil Meiklejohn
Falkirk Council	Councillor David Alexander
Falkirk Council	Councillor Robert Bissett
Fife Council	Councillor David Ross
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Christina Cannon
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Susan Aitken
Highland Council	Councillor Alastair Christie

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

Councillor Jim Clocherty  
Councillor Stephen McCabe  
Councillor Kelly Parry  
Councillor Graham Leadbitter  
Roderick Burns  
Councillor John Bell  
Councillor Tom Marshall  
Councillor Paul Kelly  
Councillor Claire Barclay (Sub)  
Councillor Tracy Carrager (Sub)  
Des Murray  
Councillor Leslie Manson (Sub)  
Councillor Steven Heddle  
Councillor Gareth Waterson (Sub)  
Councillor Peter Barrett  
Councillor Iain Nicolson  
Councillor Jim Paterson  
Councillor Simon Mountford  
Councillor Stuart Bell  
Councillor Steven Coutts  
Councillor Derek McCabe  
Councillor Alex Allison  
Councillor John Ross  
Councillor Maureen Chalmers  
Councillor Graham Houston  
Councillor Scott Farmer  
Joyce White  
Councillor Frank Anderson  
Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick  
Councillor Peter Johnston  
Graham Hope

### **Apologies**

Aberdeen City Council  
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Aberdeenshire Council  
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Angus Council  
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Argyll and Bute Council  
City of Edinburgh Council  
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Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
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Dumfries and Galloway Council  
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Dumfries and Galloway Council

Angela Scott  
Councillor Alex Nicoll  
Councillor John Reynolds  
Councillor Andy Kille  
Councillor Peter Argyle  
Councillor David Fairweather  
Councillor Lynne Devine  
Margo Williamson  
Councillor Sandy Taylor  
Councillor Cammy Day  
Councillor Melanie Main  
Councillor Lesley Macinnes  
Councillor Dave Clark\*  
Councillor Ellen Forson  
Councillor Martha Benny  
Councillor Alasdair MacLeod  
Councillor Norman A MacDonald  
Malcolm Burr  
Councillor Elaine Murray  
Councillor Ian B Carruthers  
Councillor Rob Davidson  
Derek Crichton\*  
Gavin Stevenson

Dumfries and Galloway Council	Josef Coombey
Dundee City Council	Councillor Ken Lynn
Dundee City Council	Councillor Willie Sawers
Dundee City Council	Gregory Colgan
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor John McGhee
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor Tom Cook*
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Billy Hendry
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Gordan Low
East Dunbartonshire Council	Gerry Cornes
East Lothian Council	Monica Patterson
East Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Paul O'Kane
East Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Stewart Miller
East Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Tony Buchanan
East Renfrewshire Council	Lorraine McMillan
Falkirk Council	Councillor John Patrick
Falkirk Council	Kenneth Lawrie
Fife Council	Councillor David Alexander
Fife Council	Councillor David Dempsey
Fife Council	Councillor Judy Hamilton
Fife Council	Councillor Karen Marjoram
Fife Council	Councillor Timothy Brett
Fife Council	Steve Grimmond
Glasgow City Council	Annemarie O'Donnell
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Allan Casey
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Eva Murray
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Jon Molyneux
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Malcolm Cunning
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Rhiannon Spear
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Thomas Kerr
Highland Council	Councillor Bill Lobban
Highland Council	Councillor Ian Cockburn
Highland Council	Councillor Margaret Davidson
Highland Council	Councillor Maxine Smith
Highland Council	Councillor Struan Mackie
Highland Council	Donna Manson
Inverclyde Council	Louise Long
Inverclyde Council	Councillor Elizabeth Robertson
Midlothian Council	Councillor Derek Milligan
Midlothian Council	Councillor Pauline Winchester
Midlothian Council	Councillor Russell Imrie
Midlothian Council	Dr Grace Vickers
Moray Council	Councillor Shona Morrison
Moray Council	Councillor Tim Eagle
North Ayrshire Council	Councillor Joe Cullinane
North Ayrshire Council	Councillor Marie Burns
North Ayrshire Council	Craig Hatton
	Councillor Heather Brannan-
	McVey
North Lanarkshire Council	Councillor Jim Logue
North Lanarkshire Council	Councillor Fiona Fortheringham*
North Lanarkshire Council	Councillor Jordan Linden*
North Lanarkshire Council	Councillor Sandy Watson
Orkney Islands Council	Councillor James Stockan*
Orkney Islands Council	Councillor Leslie Manson
Orkney Islands Council	John Mundell*
Perth and Kinross Council	Councillor Dave Doogan
Perth and Kinross Council	Councillor John Duff

Perth and Kinross Council  
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Renfrewshire Council  
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Scottish Borders Council  
Scottish Borders Council  
Scottish Borders Council  
Shetland Islands Council  
Shetland Islands Council  
Shetland Islands Council  
SOLACE 2018/19  
South Ayrshire Council  
South Ayrshire Council  
South Ayrshire Council  
South Ayrshire Council  
South Lanarkshire Council  
South Lanarkshire Council  
South Lanarkshire Council  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Stirling Council  
Stirling Council  
Stirling Council  
West Dunbartonshire Council  
West Dunbartonshire Council  
West Dunbartonshire Council  
West Lothian Council  
West Lothian Council

Councillor Murray Lyle  
Councillor Xander McDade  
Thomas Glen  
Councillor Eddie Devine  
Councillor Neil Graham  
Councillor John Shaw  
Alan Russell  
Councillor David Parker  
Councillor Mark Rowley  
Netta Meadows  
Councillor Alastair Cooper  
Councillor Malcolm Bell  
Maggie Sandison  
Catherine Eadie  
Councillor Brian Connolly  
Councillor Brian McGinley  
Councillor Peter Henderson  
Eileen Howat  
Cleland Sneddon  
Councillor Gerry Convery  
Councillor Joe Fagan  
Councillor Margaret Cooper  
Carol Beattie  
Councillor Danny Gibson  
Councillor Neil Benny  
Councillor Caroline McAllister  
Councillor John Mooney  
Councillor Jonathan McColl  
Councillor Damian Timson  
Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan

*\*Denotes substitute provided*

## **Public Session**

### **1. Introduction from COSLA President**

The President welcomed Convention Members to the meeting and provided advice on how to participate through Microsoft Teams. Apologies and substitutes were noted separately for the minute.

#### **Urgent item**

The President advised members that she had agreed that an urgent item regarding the unfolding situation in Ukraine be considered at the end of the agenda.

### **2. Draft Minute of Previous Meeting of Convention on 26 November 2021 (paper)**

The minute of the previous meeting was approved as an accurate record.

### **3. Revised COSLA Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation (paper)**

Convention Members were presented with a draft COSLA Scheme of Delegation and a draft of the COSLA Standing Orders, following agreement at the previous Convention Meeting in November that these would be provided following discussions with COSLA's external legal adviser. These discussions had now taken place, and professional input had been received from colleagues in councils through the Society of Local Authority Lawyers and Administrators in Scotland (SOLAR). It was noted that once approved, both documents would be available on the COSLA website.

Convention agreed the Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation documents, noting that the new COSLA Convention would have the opportunity to review these documents to reflect any changes post-election.

### **4. Update on Incorporation of the European Charter of Local Self Government (paper)**

This paper provided Convention Members with an update on work carried out since the Supreme Court's decision on incorporation of the European Charter of Local Self Government. COSLA had been pressing for the Bill to be brought back before the Parliament with the technical changes needed to ensure that Royal Assent was secured. Scottish Government had indicated their support but the details of proposed adjustments needed to the Bill were yet to be determined. A verbal update was also provided on the President's recent meeting with Mark Ruskell MSP who has been identified as the new Parliamentary lead on the Bill.

Convention:

- i. Noted the situation and the current positions set out in the paper;
- ii. Agreed that COSLA continue to press that the amendments required by the Supreme Court be made to both the European Charter and UNCRC Bills so that they could be formally enacted; and
- iii. Agreed that a further report be provided at the next meeting.

### **5. Scottish Local Government International Framework (paper)**

This paper provided a Framework for Scottish Local Government international engagement, resulting from a scoping study agreed by Convention and carried out by COSLA with input from councils. This exercise found that Scottish Local Government was well connected, within and beyond Europe and regardless of EU exit, and the continuing work in various international fora could be clearly demonstrated.

Convention:

- i. Welcomed the findings of the international scoping exercise carried out by COSLA and councils as mandated by Convention; and
- ii. Agreed the proposed International Framework.

#### **6. COSLA Budget 22/23 (paper)**

Councillor Kevin Keenan introduced this item on behalf of the COSLA Audit Group. The paper sought approval from Convention members for the COSLA operating budget for the financial year ending 31 March 2023. Councillor Keenan expressed his thanks to COSLA officers and to the Audit Group for their dedication in ensuring proper scrutiny of the budget.

It was noted that some amendments had been made to the document approved by Convention in March 2021, to incorporate items like the Pay Award agreed in December 2021, and the expected start of the new Health & Social Care Levy from 1 April 2022.

Convention approved the amended Year 2 Budget, covering the Year Ending 31 March 2023, as recommended by the Audit Group.

#### **7. COSLA 5 year report: *this is our story 2017-2022* (paper)**

This paper provided Convention with a summary of COSLA's key work and achievements over the past five years, including specific policy work, responding to COVID, the development of a 'Blueprint for Local Government,' as well as recent media campaigns such as "We are Local Government" and "Why You?".

It was noted that this report has been shared through COSLA's various social media channels and Convention Members could distribute it within councils to increase its reach.

Convention:

- i. Noted the content of the COSLA 5-year report presented at Appendix A;
- ii. Agreed that the content of this report be used as the basis for continued proactive promotion of the role of Local Government; and
- iii. Agreed that COSLA officers look to produce a report of this kind at the end of each Local Government term.

#### **8. COSLA Strategic Context and priorities post-election (paper)**

This paper provided Convention with a summary of the current strategic context for Local Government and asked members to provide their views on strategic priorities for COSLA moving into the next Local Government term. It was noted that this was complex and would require COSLA to respond to a range of issues, and the report proposed that the Blueprint for Local Government and its themes be used in that response.

Members noted that the priority given to climate change and the environment should be made explicit in the report.

Convention:

- i. Provided comment on the strategic context and key priorities for COSLA post-election; and
- ii. Agreed that a refreshed COSLA Plan, building on the successes within the 5-year report, the Blueprint for Local Government, and COSLA's joint recovery work with Scottish Government, be brought to Convention for agreement in October 2022.

## **9. Urgent Item: Situation in Ukraine**

The President referred to the statement on Ukraine issued by the political leadership of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR). This declaration called for the conflict to scale back into diplomacy and highlighted the role that Local Government in Europe could play in delivering better outcomes for communities.

Members expressed their solidarity with the people of Ukraine and noted the President's comments she had made in her speech to Conference the day before, which mentioned the efforts made by Local Government to support those fleeing from horrific situations worldwide.

Convention agreed the recommendations set out in the paper, and further agreed that Cllr Evison write to the Russian Ambassador on behalf of COSLA calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

### **Close**

The President closed the Convention meeting by thanking all members for their contributions to COSLA's work over the last term and with reflections on the contributions made to Local Government in the past five years.

The meeting closed at 12.40pm.