

**DRAFT COSLA Plan 2022-2027**

**Summary and Recommendations**

In June 2022 COSLA Convention agreed that a new COSLA Plan be drafted to guide the work we do for Local Government in Scotland for the next five years. The Plan presents a high-level framework setting out the strategic direction and ambitions for COSLA for the current Local Government term (Appendix I) and is based on the Blueprint for Local Government, as agreed previously by Convention.

Convention is invited to consider and approve the new COSLA Plan 2022-2027.

**References**

Previous reports to Convention:

- 22-06-17 Item 10 - COSLA's strategic context and priorities for the new COSLA Plan
- 22-02-25 Item 6 - COSLA's strategic context and priorities post-election
- 21-03-26 Item 3 - Local Government Blueprint
- 17-06-30 Item 9 - COSLA Plan 2017/18 – 2021/22

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## DRAFT COSLA Plan 2022-2027

### **Purpose**

1. To allow COSLA Convention to consider the draft COSLA Plan 2022-2027, presented at Appendix I, for approval,.

### **Background**

2. In June 2022 COSLA Convention agreed that a new COSLA Plan be based on the priorities set out in the Blueprint for Local Government, but updated to reflect the current context. The Plan was to be drafted to guide the work we do for Local Government in Scotland during the next five years.

### **Current Position**

3. The previous Plan covered the period 2017 to 2022 during which a number of significant changes to the strategic context took place. This led to a reconsideration and review of our focus as councils responded to austerity, the impacts of UK Withdrawal from the EU, and Covid-19. This was then set out in the 'Blueprint for Local Government', which was published in September 2020 and, whilst grounded around the response to and recovery from Covid-19, its content remains relevant for our work going forward in relation to the new challenges arising from the war in Ukraine and resultant cost crisis that now require to be taken into account.

### **Proposed Position**

4. The new Plan, focussing on the issues important to Local Government in Scotland, has been refreshed to accommodate the range of recent significant changes to the strategic context including the Scottish Government's Resources Spending Review and Programme for Government, National Care Service, National Strategy for Economic Transformation, Resource Spending Review, Cost of Living Crisis, and the UK Government Levelling Up agenda and implications of as yet unquantified cuts to UK public sector budgets.
5. The details of the actions required to achieve these ambitions and support the refreshed priorities (set out below) are detailed in COSLA's individual board plans:
  - Strengthen Local Democracy
  - Improve the Wellbeing of Families and Communities
  - Secure Sustainable Funding
  - Deliver a Just Transition to a Net Zero Economy
  - Enhance Education and Support for Our Children and Young People
  - Support the Most Vulnerable in Our Communities
6. The new COSLA Plan is intended to be a high level framework to guide COSLA's work over the next 5 years. Development of the draft has been informed through engagement across all COSLA teams and Spokespersons as the new Board Plans have been developed and comments on the draft from Leadership Sounding Board have also been accommodated.

### **Next Steps**

7. If approved by Convention, the plan will be published and accompanied by a communication campaign. Periodic reviews of progress will take place and be reported to Convention.