

## **COSLA Plan 2022-2027: Mid-term Report**

### **Summary and Recommendations**

In June 2022, COSLA Convention agreed that a new COSLA Plan should be developed to guide the work we do for Local Government in Scotland. The new Plan, approved in November 2022, sets COSLA's strategic direction and ambitions for Local Government.

The Mid-term Report presented at Appendix 1 provides Convention with an update on progress being made toward the six COSLA priorities set out in the Plan and importantly, focuses on what is still to be done before the end of the Local Government term in 2027.

This paper invites Convention to:

- i. Note the progress that has been made to date, in the context of the changing political and financial circumstances; and
- ii. Asks Convention to endorse the ongoing work to deliver against the COSLA priorities.

### **References**

Previous reports on COSLA Plan 2022-2027:

- Convention March 2023 – Item 4 COSLA Plan 2022-2027
- Convention October 2022 – Item 5 COSLA Plan 2022 - 2027

**Garrick Smyth**  
Policy Manager – Corporate Policy  
[garrick@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:garrick@cosla.gov.uk)

**Simon Cameron**  
Chief Officer – Corporate Policy  
[simonc@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:simonc@cosla.gov.uk)

**22 March 2024**

**COSLA Plan Mid-term report March 2024**

**Purpose**

1. The Mid-Term Report presented at Appendix 1 provides Convention with a review of the work done to date by COSLA to progress the priorities set out in the COSLA Plan 2022-2027. It notes the challenges that have been faced in making progress due to changing political and ongoing financial challenges and it looks at what is still to be done before the end of the Local Government term in 2027.
2. The COSLA Plan 2022-2027 was written and agreed prior to the signing of the Verity House Agreement (VHA) in June 2023 but aligns with the VHA’s maxim of “local by default, national by agreement”. As set out in the Mid-term Report, COSLA is working to ensure that Scottish Local Government has the powers and resources it needs to deliver the highest quality services that enable everyone to live well locally.


**Current COSLA Position**

3. The priorities in the COSLA Plan 2022-27 reflect the needs of our member councils and drive all our work. The Mid-term Report describes the key work and achievements over the last 2 and a half years under each of the COSLA priorities and importantly, outlines what we need to focus on for the rest of the Local Government term.
4. In order to address our priorities, COSLA will continue to enhance and broaden the scope of our partnership working arrangements, strengthen our existing links with professional associations, and initiate shared programmes of work aimed at enabling transformation and innovation for our member councils across Scotland.
5. The Mid-term Report illustrates clearly how crucial the work of councils is to achieving better outcomes and it is clear that COSLA and our professional associations are working hard in Scotland and Brussels at both political and officer level to ensure that Scottish Local Government is respected and listened to in Scotland, the UK and in Europe.

**Next Steps**

6. If endorsed by Convention, a communications plan will be developed to ensure that the Mid-Term Report is sent to all elected members and our key partners. It will also be the key discussion point at our next parliamentary reception in April to ensure MSPs are engaged in and aware of the needs and focus of Scottish Local Government. Regular reviews of progress will continue to take place and be reported to future meetings of Convention.

**Contribution to agreed COSLA Plan and Verity House Agreement:**

<b>COSLA Plan 22-27</b>	<b>Priority Areas</b>	
	Strengthen Local Democracy	✓
	Secure Sustainable Funding	✓
	Improve the Wellbeing of Individuals, Families and Communities	✓
	Enhance Education and Support for our Children and Young People	✓
	Deliver a Just Transition to a Net Zero Economy	✓
	Support the Most Vulnerable in our Communities	✓

<a href="#">Verity House Agreement</a>	<b>Shared Priorities</b>	√
	Tackling Poverty	√
	Just transition to net zero	√
	Sustainable Public Services	√

22 March 2024