

Private and Confidential

DRAFT MINUTE OF SPECIAL LEADERS MEETING

Wednesday 27 October 2021, 4.45pm  
Via Microsoft Teams

**Present**

Aberdeen City Council	Councillor Jenny Laing
Aberdeen City Council	Angela Scott
Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Andy Kille
Aberdeenshire Council	Jim Savege
Angus Council	Councillor David Fairweather
Angus Council	Margo Williamson
Argyll and Bute Council	Councillor Gary Mulvaney (Substitute)
Argyll and Bute Council	Pippa Milne
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Adam McVey
Clackmannanshire Council	Councillor Ellen Forson
Clackmannanshire Council	Nikki Bridle
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Councillor Roddie Mackay
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Tim Langley (Substitute)
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Councillor Gail Macgregor
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Councillor Rob Davidson
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Lorna Meahan (Substitute)
Dundee City Council	Councillor John Alexander
Dundee City Council	Robert Emmott (Substitute)
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor Douglas Reid
East Ayrshire Council	Eddie Fraser
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Andrew Polson
East Dunbartonshire Council	Gerry Cornes
East Lothian Council	Councillor Stuart Currie
East Lothian Council	Councillor Norman Hampshire
East Lothian Council	Monica Patterson
East Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Tony Buchanan
East Renfrewshire Council	Caroline Innes (Substitute)
Falkirk Council	Councillor Cecil Meiklejohn
Falkirk Council	Kenneth Lawrie

Fife Council	Councillor David Alexander
Fife Council	Councillor David Ross
Fife Council	Steve Grimmond
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Richard Bell (Substitute)
Glasgow City Council	Anne-Marie O'Donnell
Highland Council	Councillor Margaret Davidson
Inverclyde Council	Councillor Stephen McCabe
Inverclyde Council	Louise Long
Midlothian Council	Councillor Russell Imrie (Substitute)
Midlothian Council	Councillor Kelly Parry
Midlothian Council	Grace Vickers
Moray Council	Councillor Graham Leadbitter
North Ayrshire Council	Councillor Joe Cullinane
North Ayrshire Council	Craig Hatton
North Lanarkshire Council	Councillor Paul Kelly (Substitute)
North Lanarkshire Council	Des Murray
Orkney Islands Council	Councillor James Stockan
Orkney Islands Council	John Mundell
Perth and Kinross Council	Councillor Murray Lyle
Perth and Kinross Council	Barbara Renton
Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Iain Nicolson
Scottish Borders Council	Councillor Simon Mountford (Substitute)
Scottish Borders Council	Clair Hepburn (Substitute)
Shetland Islands Council	Councillor Steven Coutts
South Ayrshire Council	Councillor Peter Henderson
South Ayrshire Council	Eileen Howat
South Lanarkshire Council	Councillor John Ross
South Lanarkshire Council	Cleland Sneddon
Stirling Council	Councillor Scott Farmer
Stirling Council	Carol Beattie
West Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Jonathan McColl
West Dunbartonshire Council	Joyce White
West Lothian Council	Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick
West Lothian Council	Graham Hope

### **Apologies**

Argyll & Bute Council	Councillor Robin Currie*
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Melanie Main
City of Edinburgh Council	Andrew Kerr
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Malcolm Burr*
Dumfries & Galloway Council	Gavin Stevenson*

Dundee City Council	Gregory Colgan*
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Vaughan Moody
East Renfrewshire Council	Lorraine McMillan*
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Susan Aitken*
Highland Council	Donna Manson
Highland Council	Councillor Alastair Christie
Midlothian Council	Councillor Kelly Parry
Midlothian Council	Councillor Derek Milligan*
North Lanarkshire Council	Councillor Jim Logue*
Orkney Islands Council	Councillor Steven Heddle
Renfrewshire Council	Sandra Black*
Scottish Borders Council	Councillor Shona Haslam*
Scottish Borders Council	Netta Meadows*

*\* denotes substitute provided*

## **Private Session – Private and Confidential**

### **1. Introduction**

Cllr Alison Evison welcomed Leaders to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance at short notice. Apologies and substitutes were noted separately.

She noted the sad news of the passing of Cllr Willie Innes and indicated that she would say more at the next meeting on Friday.

### **2. Local Government Pay Negotiation update (verbal item)**

Leaders were reminded that this item should be considered in absolute confidence to avoid undermining the ongoing negotiations with trade unions.

Councillor Gail Macgregor and COSLA officers provided an update on discussions that had taken place between COSLA and Scottish Government in the context of the current pay negotiations. Scottish Government had indicated that extra funding was likely to be made available for Covid recovery and that there would not be constraints on its use. Officers had also met with professional advisors to discuss the options available and obtain further information on expected costs.

Four potential options to resolve the pay dispute were presented, and discussion was invited with a view to reaching a decision. During that discussion, Leaders indicated a preference to take the information back to discuss within their councils and at Group meetings in advance of Friday's Leaders Meeting, where a final decision could be made.

Leaders noted that an announcement would take place in Parliament tomorrow, following which revised recommendations would be prepared and presented to Leaders for a final decision.

### **3. Date of Next Meeting – Friday, 29 October 2021**

The date of the next ordinary meeting was noted.

Cllr Evison thanked Leaders again for their attendance at short notice, and the meeting was closed at 5.35pm.

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