



Environment and Economy Board Item 2

Draft Minute of the COSLA Environment and Economy Board Meeting
Friday 3rd May 2024, 10:30am
Verity House, Edinburgh and via MS Teams

Present:

COSLA Environment and Economy Spokesperson	Cllr Gail Mcgregor
Aberdeen City Council	Cllr Alexander McLellan
Aberdeenshire Council	Cllr Alan Turner
Angus Council	Cllr Bill Duff
Argyll and Bute Council	Cllr Kerion Green
City of Edinburgh Council	Cllr Ben Parker
Clackmannanshire Council	Cllr Fiona Law
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Cllr Donald Crichton
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Cllr Ian Carruthers
Executive Director Economy and Infrastructure	Cllr Derek Crichton
Dundee City Council	Cllr Steven Rome
East Ayrshire Council	Cllr Graham Barton
East Dunbartonshire Council	Cllr Paul Ferretti
East Lothian Council	Cllr John McMillan
East Renfrewshire Council	Cllr Owen O'Donnell
Falkirk Council	Cllr Paul Garner
Fife Council	Cllr Altany Craik
Glasgow City Council	Cllr Angus Millar
Highland Council	Cllr Michael Green*
Inverclyde Council	Cllr Jim Clocherty
Midlothian Council	Cllr Dianne Alexander
Moray Council	Cllr David Gordon*
North Ayrshire Council	Cllr Tony Gurney
North Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Helen Loughran
Orkney Islands Council	Cllr David Dawson
Perth and Kinross Council	Cllr Jack Welch
Renfrewshire Council	Cllr John Shaw
Scottish Borders Council	Cllr Scott Hamilton
Shetland Islands Council	Cllr Moraig Lyall
South Ayrshire Council	Cllr Bob Pollock
South Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Robert Brown
Stirling Council	Cllr Jen Preston
West Dunbartonshire Council	Cllr David McBride
West Lothian Council	Cllr Kirsteen Sullivan
ATCO	Margaret Roy
SLAED	Ishabel Bremner
SOLACE	Rhona Gunn
SOLACE	Monica Paterson
Tactran	Mark Speed

Waste Services Managers Network
Sustainable Scotland Network
SCOTS
Regional Transport Partnership
Improvement Service/ Public Health Scotland
Chief Executive North Ayrshire

Pam Walker
George Tarvit
Ewan Wallace
John Binning, SPT
Irene Beautyman
Craig Hatton

Apologies:

Highland Council
Moray Council
Waste Services Managers Network
Public Health Scotland
HOPS
Scottish Borders Council
Executive Director Economy and Infrastructure

Cllr Ken Gowans
Marc Macrae
David Mackay
Emilia Crichton
Ian Aikman
Michael Cook
Derek Crichton

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were noted for the meeting.

2. Place and the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme

The Board welcomed a presentation from Irene Beautyman (Place and Wellbeing Partnership Lead) from the Improvement Service & Public Health Scotland, on place and place-based approaches for wellbeing.

There was an in-depth discussion after the presentation covering many of the themes raised and focusing on the challenge faced by communities and local authorities. The presentation was circulated after the meeting.

2. Minute of the 1st March 2024 Board Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Environment and Economy Board Plan

The Board was updated on the work of COSLA on its behalf.

4. Climate Change Update

This paper updated the Board on the announcement made by Scottish Government on 18 April to set a new, revised pathway to the 2045 climate change target.

The Board discussed the announcement and raised concerns about the delivery of climate policy. A commitment was made to bring a paper on the climate delivery framework to Leaders at the earliest opportunity and to keep the Board informed on developments.

The Board:

- i. Discussed the announcement made by Scottish Government on 18 April on climate change.
- ii. Noted that there had been preparation to seek Leaders' agreement on the climate delivery framework, but this will now be considered at a future meeting.

5. Persistent Organic Pollutants

UK is a signatory to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). This requires the UK Government to regularly monitor material streams for POPs, known

as 'forever chemicals', that pose a significant risk to the environment and human health if not adequately destroyed. As a result, SEPA introduced new requirements for dealing with waste streams containing Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS), typically collected by councils in bulky uplifts or at Household Waste Recycling Centres. This paper summarised the issues and updated members of the Economy and Environment Board of the issues and recent considerations by COSLA Leaders on the matter.

The Board noted increased costs arising for waste management and capacity for incineration. COSLA advised that work continued with colleagues from Waste Management, Directors of Finance and SOLACE on practical solutions on the costs for Councils.

The Board:

- i. Noted the practical challenges and financial impact on Council resulting from the Stockholm Convention.
- ii. Noted that Leaders may agree to request that:
 - (a) Scottish Government will provide funding to councils for this additional pressure.
 - (b) DEFRA and relevant agencies will put more effective mechanisms and longer lead in times in place when new material streams are identified that require specialist treatment by councils.

6. Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill

The Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill is now in Stage 2 of the Parliamentary process and all Stage 2 amendments are submitted. Section 13 of the Bill would allow Ministers to place local targets for recycling and reuse on Local Authorities and issue financial sanctions where those are not met. Following negotiations with COSLA, the Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy, and Biodiversity agreed to their removal and lodged an amendment to this effect.

The Board highlighted concerns surrounding penalties, and the use of league tables for published local targets. Officers advised members that they remained in robust conversations with the Scottish Government and local government colleagues.

The Board:

- i. Noted the amendment to remove financial sanctions from the proposed Bill by, in lieu of a commitment to an improvement led action programme.
- ii. Agreed the key principles of an improvement led action programme as set out in paragraphs 8-11.
- iii. Noted that the Scottish Government is considering further amendments to the Bill for Stage 3.
- iv. Noted the changes in paragraph 6 as a result of the announcement on the Bute House Agreement.
- v. Agreed the Spokesperson continues discussion with Scottish Government in preparation for Stage 3 of the Bill in line with our position set out in paragraphs 15-20.

7. Investing in Planning Consultation

This report brought to the Board's attention, the recently published Investing in Planning consultation which seeks views on a number of proposals aimed at increasing resources and efficiencies in the planning system.

COSLA welcomed members comments on the use of Hydrogen, retainment of skilled works, and advised that the final report will be presented to Leaders for approval in May.

The Board:

- i. Noted the publishing of the Investing in Planning consultation.
- ii. Agreed COSLA's position on new proposals presented by the consultation set out in paragraphs 7-15.
- iii. Agreed that COSLA Leaders provide final endorsement to our response to the consultation.

Councillor Macgregor concluded the meeting at 13:55, and thanked members for their attendance and contributions.