

COSLA

Your local voice, nationally

**LEAD
ENGAGE
NEGOTIATE
DEVELOP
CAMPAIGN
CHAMPION
SUPPORT**



Your local voice, nationally

COSLA is the voice of Local Government in Scotland. We provide political leadership on national issues, and work with councils to improve local services and strengthen local democracy.

What we do

Every day of the year, millions of people rely on the services that Local Government delivers.

From funding to housing, roads to early years and education, and social care to dealing with Brexit, our job is to champion councils' vital work and secure the resources and powers they need.

In particular we:

Engage

ENGAGE in key financial, legislative and policy developments to ensure they have the best possible impact

Lead

LEAD reforms that improve public services and save money effectively

Develop

DEVELOP partnerships with Scottish, UK and international governments, parliaments, and the third and private sectors

Negotiate

NEGOTIATE fair and affordable pay and workforce conditions on behalf of all councils

Campaign

CAMPAIGN on the issues that matter to our members, and promote the image and reputation of local government

Support

SUPPORT councils to work together, and deliver shared services that increase their capacity

Champion

CHAMPION the role of local government in the governance of Scotland, and lobby for stronger local democracy and community empowerment



About COSLA

We're here to help councils build better and more equal local communities through a huge range of networks, negotiations, and forums.

Our approach

We often help find national solutions to local issues - it's one reason we're consistently quoted by governments and parliamentarians, and have a high profile in the media.

However, we also know that Scotland is a diverse place. What works in Dumfries will not be the same as in Inverness. That's why we're always guided by five key principles:

STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Taking decisions as close as possible to the people they affect.

WORKING TOGETHER LOCALLY

Joining up public services to get better results and greater efficiency in the places they serve.

DELIVERING OUTCOMES

Making a long-term difference by focusing on impact not inputs, and by preventing problems before they arise.

FOCUSING ON COMMUNITIES

Building services around local priorities and circumstances, and being accountable to local people.

DEFENDING LOCAL CHOICES

Freeing up councils to reflect local circumstances and have flexibility over local decisions and resources.

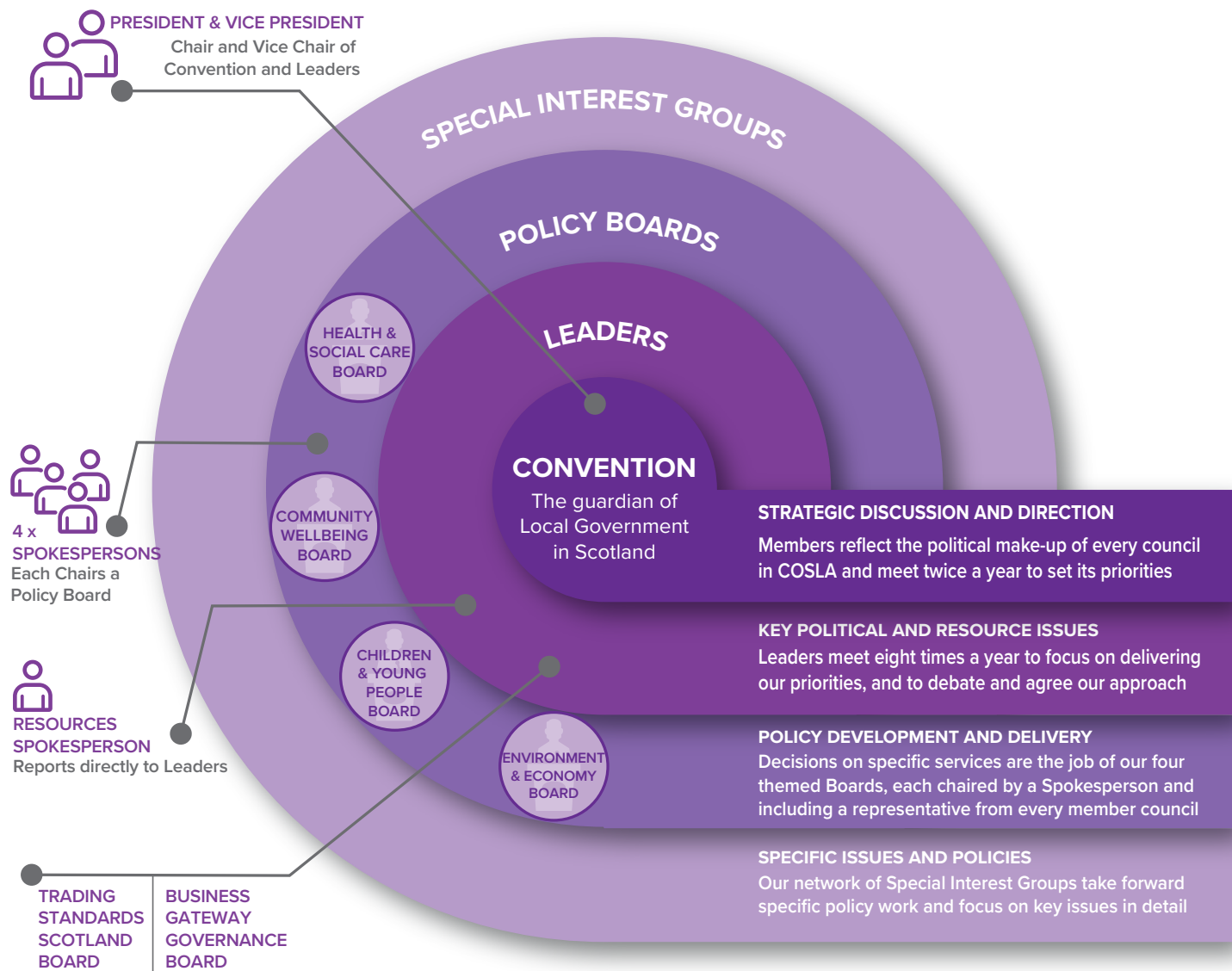
And just as Local Government is changing, so are we. We've completed a major review of how we operate - our goal is to build our relationship with you, Scotland's local elected members, whether you're directly involved in our structures or not.

Many improvements are underway, but we want to hear your ideas and feedback. Let us know at members@cosla.gov.uk.

How we work

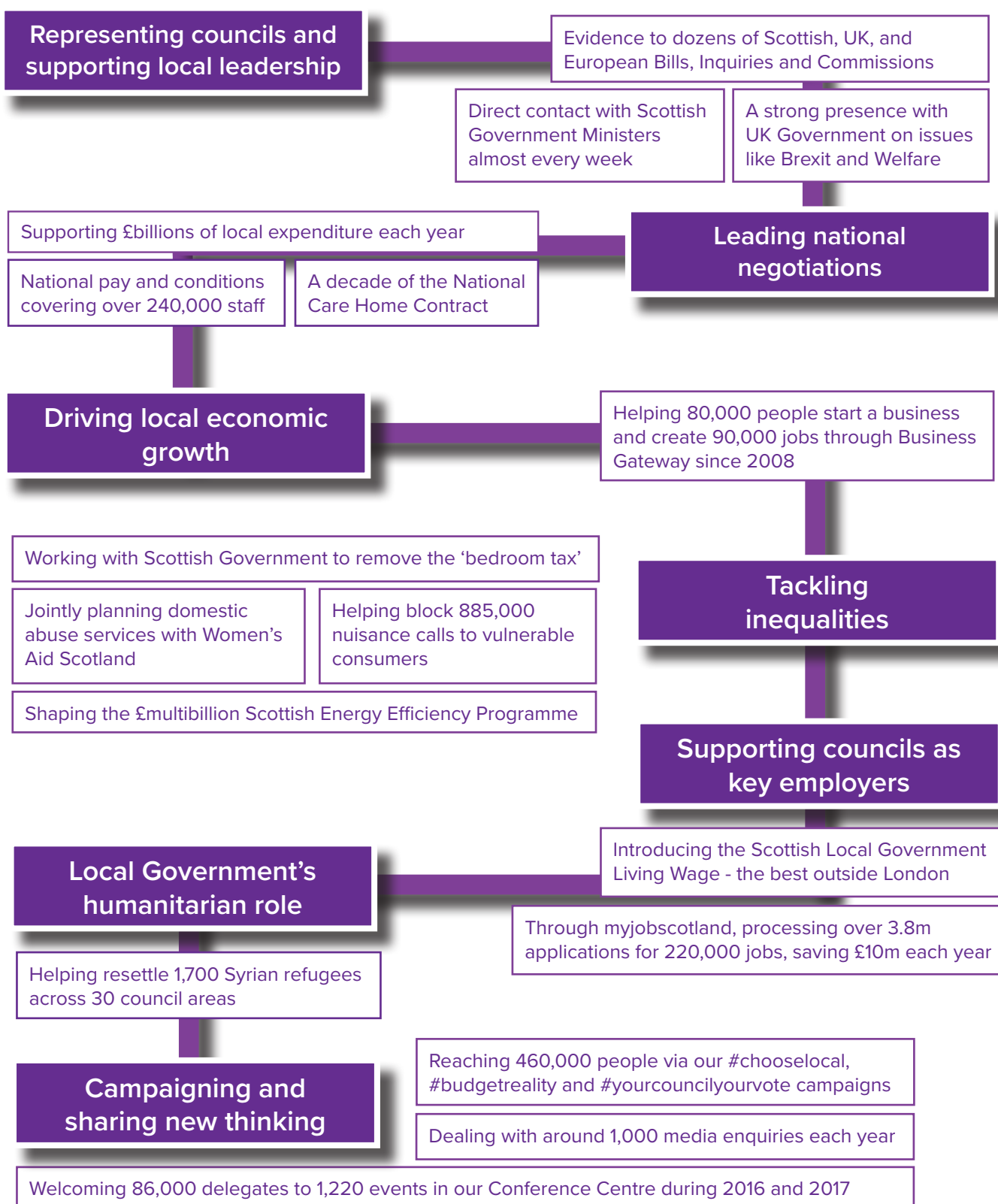
We're a politically led, cross-party organisation. That means that what we do, and how we do it, is decided democratically by elected councillors from across our member councils.

Led by our President, Vice President, and five Spokespersons, our decisions are made in the following ways:



Our Impact

COSLA was established in 1975, but standing up for Scotland's local priorities goes back 800 years. We evolved from the Convention of Royal Burghs, once the oldest representative body in Europe. Today, we're part of what makes Scotland tick. Some of the things we've helped with include:





Find out more

COSLA is your national organisation, and we need your help to succeed.

We'll work hard to keep you informed and ensure that the issues you face are at the top of our agenda. And we want to make it as easy as possible for you to engage with us and actively support our work too. There are lots of ways to keep in touch:



WEBSITE

www.cosla.gov.uk: Our website has much more information about COSLA, and the issues we're working on.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on [Twitter](#) (@COSLA) or [Facebook](#) for the latest news.



BULLETINS

Watch out for our regular bulletins.

FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS

Drop us a line at members@cosla.gov.uk or call 0131 474 9200.



DISCUSS

A liaison officer is assigned to each council and is on hand to discuss the support that COSLA can provide.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Join us in October for the keynote event in the Scottish Local Government calendar.

VISIT

Our political meetings are generally hosted in our Edinburgh headquarters, which also have great conference facilities. We also have offices in Glasgow and Brussels.



COSLA