



LD/21/75

MINUTE OF MEETING OF SPECIAL LEADERS (DRAFT)

Friday, 16 April 2021 at 1100hrs
Microsoft Teams

Present

COSLA President	Councillor Alison Evison
COSLA Vice President	Councillor Graham Houston
Aberdeen City Council	Rob Polkinghome (Substitute)
Aberdeen City Council	Councillor Douglas Lumsden
Aberdeenshire Council	Ritchie Johnson (Substitute)
Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Andy Kille
Angus Council	Margo Williamson
Angus Council	Councillor David Fairweather
Argyll and Bute Council	Pippa Milne
Argyll and Bute Council	Councillor Robin Currie
City of Edinburgh Council	Andrew Kerr
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Claire Millar
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Adam McVey
Clackmannanshire Council	Nikkie Bridle
Clackmannanshire Council	Councillor Ellen Forson
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Malcolm Burr
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Councillor Roddie Mackay
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Fiona Lees
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Councillor Rob Davidson
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Councillor Gail Macgregor
COSLA Spokesperson	Gregory Colgan
Dundee City Council	Councillor John Alexander
Dundee City Council	Eddie Fraser
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor Douglas Reid
East Ayrshire Council	Gerry Cornes
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Vaughan Moody
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Andrew Polson
East Lothian Council	Monica Patterson
East Lothian Council	Councillor Stuart Currie
COSLA Spokesperson	Councillor Norman Hampshire (Substitute)
East Lothian Council	Lorraine McMillan
East Renfrewshire Council	

East Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Tony Buchanan
Falkirk Council	Kenneth Lawrie
Falkirk Council	Councillor Cecil Meiklejohn
Fife Council	Steve Grimmond
Fife Council	Councillor David Alexander
Fife Council	Councillor David Ross
Glasgow City Council	Annemarie O'Donnell
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Susan Aitken
Highland Council	Donna Manson
Highland Council	Councillor Margaret Davidson
Inverclyde Council	Aubrey Fawcett
Inverclyde Council	Councillor Stephen McCabe
COSLA Spokesperson	Dr Grace Vickers
Midlothian Council	Councillor Derek Milligan
Midlothian Council	Councillor Kelly Parry
COSLA Spokesperson	Roderick Burns
Moray Council	Councillor Graham Leadbitter
Moray Council	Craig Hatton
North Ayrshire Council	Councillor Joe Cullinane
North Ayrshire Council	Des Murray
North Lanarkshire Council	Councillor Paul Kelly (Substitute)
North Lanarkshire Council	John Mundell
Orkney Islands Council	Councillor Steven Heddle
Orkney Islands Council	Councillor James Stockan
COSLA Spokesperson	Barbara Renton
Orkney Islands Council	Councillor Peter Barrett
Perth and Kinross Council	Councillor Murray Lyle
Perth and Kinross Council	Sandra Black
Perth and Kinross Council	Councillor Iain Nicolson
Renfrewshire Council	Netta Medows
Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Shona Haslam
Scottish Borders Council	Maggie Sandison
Scottish Borders Council	Councillor Steven Coutts
Shetland Islands Council	Eileen Howat
Shetland Islands Council	Councillor Peter Henderson
South Ayrshire Council	Clealand Sneddon
South Ayrshire Council	Councillor John Ross
South Lanarkshire Council	Carol Beattie
South Lanarkshire Council	Councillor Scott Farmer
Stirling Council	Stephen West (Substitute)
Stirling Council	Councillor Jonathan McColl
West Dunbartonshire Council	Graham Hope
West Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick
West Lothian Council	
West Lothian Council	

Apologies

Aberdeen City Council
Aberdeenshire Council
East Lothian Council
North Lanarkshire Council
West Dunbartonshire

Angela Scott*
Jim Savege*
Councillor William Innes*
Councillor Jim Logue*
Joyce White*

**Denotes substitute provided*

Public Session

1. Introduction

The President welcomed those present and provided guidance on how the meeting would be conducted remotely using Microsoft Teams. Apologies and substitutes had been noted separately for the Minute.

Private Session

2. Distribution of Additional Administration Funding for Self-Isolation Support Grants (paper **LD/21/65** refers)

Leaders considered and agreed recommendations from the Settlement and Distribution Group in relation to additional administration funding for the Self-Isolation Support Grant (SISG).

The SDG had recommended the following distribution methodology:

- (a) £802k additional funding for the administration of the SISG in 2020/21
 - i. £20,000 per local authority for system costs (based on £10k per change)
 - ii. £161,855 in processing costs – allocated to local authorities on a SIMD (income domain) basis.
- (b) £823k funding for the administration of the SISG in 2021/22 on a SIMD (income domain) basis.

3. Tackling Poverty – Further Consideration of Pandemic Payments (paper **LD/21/66** refers)

Following the continued concerns raised by Leaders at the end of March 2021, the paper provided an update on discussions with the Scottish Government in relation to the Low Income Pandemic Payment (LIPP).

Amendment

An amendment to the recommendations was proposed by Cllr Vaughan Moody and seconded by Cllr Robin Currie.

Remove recommendations (i) and (ii) and insert:

COSLA Leaders consider the Scottish Government's policy position on LIPP payment by Council Tax Credit to be unrealistic given the demands upon council staff dealing with the Covid Recovery.

COSLA Leaders agree to write to the Cabinet Secretary advising that unless local authorities are given full discretion over the option of delivering the £130 LIPP through a Council Tax credit, they will be unable to process the payments.

Cllr Douglas Reid, seconded by Cllr Jonathan McColl then moved the recommendations in the paper.

Vote

Motion – 30

Amendment – 2

Accordingly, Leaders agreed:

- (i) to make the £130 LIPP payment by the end of October 2021, in line with final guidance; and
- (ii) the distribution recommended by the SDG.

4. National Care Home Contract (paper LD/21/67 refers)

The National Care Home Contract (NCHC) Model benchmarked the pay for nurses in care homes to Agenda for Change. The recent announcement of the offer from the Scottish Government to the Unions of a 4% increase, if accepted by the Unions, would result in an increase to the offer made to the sector. There was currently a vote to determine if the offer would be accepted.

Leaders:

- (i) agreed that if the Agenda for Change pay negotiations were accepted in line with the current 4% increase, a revised offer could be made for NCHC. This would be:
 - The nursing rate to be increased from £740 to £763.68, representing an uplift of 3.2% on the 2020/21 rate.
 - The offer for the residential rate would remain as outlined i.e. to be increased from £635.79 to £653.79, representing an uplift of 2.8% on the 2020/21 rate.
- (ii) noted that the offer would only be made when the Agenda for Change rate had been formally agreed; and
- (iii) noted that if there were any changes to the offer, this would be brought back to Leaders.

5. COVID-19 Strategic Framework – Local Authority Engagement Protocol (paper LD/21/68 refers)

The paper asked Leaders to consider and agree a draft engagement protocol for the COVID-19 Strategic Framework (Framework published by Scottish Government on 23 February 2021) to ensure that local Leaders and senior officers were able to influence and shape lockdown “level” decisions.

Amendment

An amendment to the recommendations was proposed by Cllr Andy Kille and seconded by Cllr Shona Haslam, which was unanimously agreed, subject to a slight change.

Accordingly, Leaders:

- (i) noted the Draft Engagement Protocol (Appendix 1) as devised by COSLA, SOLACE and Scottish Government officials;
- (ii) agreed that this protocol (with the following amendment) should be enacted for the next

stage of the Strategic Framework becoming operational on 26 April 2021; and

- (iii) further discussion was required whether Scotland should not automatically be in “lockstep” as the base position – experience had shown that the rates of infection could vary hugely across the country.

6. Date of Next Ordinary Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 1100hrs on Friday, 30 April 2021 via Microsoft Teams

Close

The President closed the meeting at 1140hrs by thanking Members for their attendance.