



What is Local Government's role in society?



**COSLA Annual Conference
& Exhibition 2024**

Thursday 19 - Friday 20 September 2024

Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire

Foreword



**Councillor
Shona Morrison
President of COSLA**



**Councillor
Steven Heddle
Vice President of
COSLA**

As COSLA's President and Vice President, we are delighted to welcome you back to the Local Government event of the year, COSLA's Annual Conference.

This year's event will be held at Crieff Hydro on the 19 and 20 September, where delegates have the opportunity to network in-person, hear from inspiring leaders and experts, and debate political hot topics.

This year's conference will be looking to answer the question – **What is the role of Local Government in society and in unlocking Scotland's potential?**

This builds on from COSLA's successful "Councils are Key" Budget Lobbying Campaign.

As we see in the media, there has never been such a focus on the importance of local services, how they are funded and the role of Local Government in Scotland. With a UK General Election expected shortly after our Conference, there will be opportunities to focus on what this means for Scottish Local Government, and how Councils and their partners can work to support the best possible outcomes for our communities.

We all know that there is more to do to tackle child poverty, to support a just transition to net zero, and to ensure public services are sustainable into the future.

Scottish Local Government has always been the voice of the people and the champion of communities. It had this role pre-devolution, and it is a role that will never change no matter who forms the Government in Westminster or Holyrood.

Given that the COSLA 2024 Annual Conference will take place close to the upcoming UK General Election, it provides an excellent opportunity to collectively consider and explore how this will impact Local Government.

Key Questions:

- Communities are at the heart of everything we do - how will the result of the General Election affect both councils and communities?
- Will the role of Local Government as community champions be enhanced or weakened depending on the result of the General Election?
- In what ways could Local Government be more agile and transformative in meeting community needs and what would this require of both Westminster and Holyrood?
- Would a change in Government impact on our relationship with Scottish Government and Holyrood? And what impact would it have on the Verity House Agreement?
- How can Local Government improve the way it connects with individuals, businesses and the third sector?
- How can Local Government and partners support increasingly diverse communities as *they* respond to challenges, from climate change to the ongoing cost of living crisis?
- How can Local Government Leaders be at the forefront of the change required to improve outcomes for communities?
- During times of significant challenge and constrained resources, what do communities and businesses expect of local leaders?
- What can we learn from other countries in further improving services for the communities we represent?

Do not miss the opportunity to be part of this essential debate. Book your place now for our Conference at Crieff Hydro Hotel on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 September 2024

Conference Information

The 2024 Fee includes:

As a member Authority, attending as a full residential conference delegate will cost **£475** plus VAT.

Included in the full residential conference delegate fee is one nights' accommodation on Thursday, 19 September, the fee includes attendance at the COSLA Excellence Awards, Pre-Dinner Reception, Dinner and Ceremony on Thursday 20 September. It also includes attendance at all Conference sessions including tea/coffee and lunch on 19 and 20 September.

Plenary Sessions

The conference will start at 9.30a.m. on Thursday, 19 September and concludes at 2.00p.m on Friday, 20 September. This is your chance to contribute to the debate on key issues in Scotland.

The conference is an invaluable opportunity to network in an informal situation.

Accommodation

This year's event will be held at the Crieff Hydro Hotel in Perthshire and it is anticipated that all conference delegates will be accommodated within the Hotel.

All accommodation must be booked through COSLA by Monday 26 August 2024.

We are unable to guarantee places for forms received after this date.

For further information regarding the Hotel or accommodation, please contact Linda Bruce on 0131 474 9228 or email Linda@cosla.gov.uk.

Hotel Information

Set in dramatic Perthshire countryside above the market town of Crieff, our four star estate is just an hour from both Glasgow and Edinburgh and 30 minutes from Perth. It's the perfect venue to get some quality fresh air with breathtaking country views without asking everyone to travel too far.

Delegate Attendance Options

The following flexible attendance options allow you to attend the conference on a basis which best suits your needs. These

changes are in response to customer demand and reflect delegates' increasing workplace commitments. Please read the options and mark your choices on the booking form.

OPTION 1

Full residential conference delegate

Accommodation on 19 September and attendance at all sessions, including tea/coffee and lunch on 19 and 20 September. Pre-Dinner Reception, Awards Ceremony and Dinner on 19 September.

OPTION 2

Day delegate on Thursday 19 September

Attendance at all sessions, tea/coffee and lunch on 19 September. Does NOT include accommodation or attendance at dinner.

OPTION 3

Day delegate on Friday 20 September

Attendance at all sessions, tea/coffee and lunch on 20 September.

OPTION 4

Accommodation on Wednesday 18 September

Bed and breakfast at Crieff Hydro Hotel on the night of 18 September.

OPTION 5

Accommodation on Thursday 19 September

Bed and breakfast at Crieff Hydro Hotel on the night of 19 September.

OPTION 6

Pre-Dinner Reception Excellence Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Thursday 19 September

Attendance at the Pre-Dinner Reception, Excellence Awards Ceremony and Dinner on 19 September.

Exhibiting

The exhibition is an integral part of the Conference, attracting a wide variety of organisations working in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Refreshments will be served in the exhibition areas to ensure that exhibitors have the chance to meet with delegates.

Further information is available from Alex Shirlaw on 0131 474 9215 or email alex@cosla.gov.uk

Advertising

The official conference handbook contains essential programme and speaker information and is distributed to all delegates attending the Conference. There is a limited amount of advertising space available in the handbook which will be A4 size and printed in full colour.

The following rates will apply:

Full page	£450 plus VAT
Half page	£300 plus VAT
Quarter page	£200 plus VAT

For technical specifications, please contact Linda Bruce on 0131 474 9228 or email Linda@cosla.gov.uk.

Sponsorship

Sponsoring one particular aspect of the conference brings its own list of benefits and related costs. Organisations may also contribute to the cost of one of the options shown below with recognition in the Conference Handbook.

For estimated costs or to discuss your contribution, **please contact Linda Bruce on 0131 474 9228 or email Linda@cosla.gov.uk**

OPTIONS

Excellence Awards Ceremony Dinner
Evening Pre-Dinner Reception
Lunch(es)
Refreshment Breaks
Complimentary Gifts
Delegate Writing Pads
Delegate Pens
Delegate Conference Bags
Conference Fringe Sessions

Promotional Literature and/or Complimentary Gifts

An opportunity exists for including promotional literature or small complimentary gifts in the Delegate Bag at a cost of £300 + VAT per item. We would require you to supply approximately 300 copies or gifts.

Please contact Linda Bruce on 0131 474 9228 or email Linda@cosla.gov.uk for further information.

Delegate Booking Form

Please scan this form for each delegate attending and return it to:

Linda Bruce at COSLA, Verity House, 19 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh, EH12 5BH.

T: 0131 474 9228

E: Linda@cosla.gov.uk

by **Monday 26 August 2024**

Delegate Details

First Name	_____	Email	_____
Surname	_____	Address for Correspondence	_____
Job Designation	_____		_____
Organisation	_____		_____
Telephone	_____		_____

Attendance Options and Costs

Delegates are invited to 'pick and choose' the most appropriate options. For a description of all the options, please refer to the notes overleaf. We regret that **NO REFUNDS** can be made, although delegates may substitute, providing reasonable notice is given. It is also important to note that it is **NOT** possible for delegates to 'share' a conference place.

Prices are shown excluding VAT.

Full Conference Option (please tick)	Member*	Non-Member
1. Full residential conference delegate (includes everything listed below EXCEPT accommodation on 18 September)	<input type="checkbox"/> £475	<input type="checkbox"/> £550
2. Day delegate on Thursday 19 September	<input type="checkbox"/> £195	<input type="checkbox"/> £225
3. Day delegate on Friday 20 September	<input type="checkbox"/> £195	<input type="checkbox"/> £225
4. Accommodation on Wednesday 18 September	<input type="checkbox"/> £199	<input type="checkbox"/> £220
5. Accommodation on Thursday 19 September	<input type="checkbox"/> £199	<input type="checkbox"/> £220
6. Pre-Dinner Reception, Excellence Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Thursday 19 September	<input type="checkbox"/> £80	<input type="checkbox"/> £90

***Member** – Denotes Elected Members and Officers from Scotland's 32 Local Authorities

Payment

Please invoice my organisation

Authorised Signatory
(please print name) _____

Amount payable £ _____

Please add VAT at 20% £ _____

Total amount due to COSLA £ _____

A VAT Invoice will be sent separately and a confirmation letter closer to the date of the conference.

Special Requirements

	Comment
Diet?	
Audio?	
Visual?	
Access?	

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