



LD/21/71

MINUTE OF MEETING OF LEADERS (DRAFT)

Wednesday, 10 February 2021 at 1600hrs
Microsoft Teams

Present

COSLA President	Councillor Alison Evison
COSLA Vice President	Councillor Graham Houston
Aberdeen City Council	Angela Scott
Aberdeen City Council	Councillor Ryan Houghton (Substitute)
Aberdeenshire Council	Jim Savege
Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Andy Kille
Angus Council	Margo Williamson
Angus Council	Councillor Bob Myles (Substitute)
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	Gavin Stevenson
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Councillor Elaine Murray (Substitute)
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Councillor Gail Macgregor
COSLA Spokesperson	David Martin
Dundee City Council	Councillor Ken Lynn (Substitute)
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 Dunbartonshire Council	Monica Patterson
East Lothian Council	Councillor Stuart Currie
East Lothian Council	Councillor Norman Hampshire (Substitute)
East Lothian Council	Lorraine McMillan

East Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Tony Buchanan
Falkirk Council	Kenneth Lawrie
Falkirk Council	Councillor Fiona Colle (Substitute)
Fife Council	Steve Grimmond
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	
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	
Orkney Islands Council	
Perth and Kinross Council	Councillor Peter Barrett
Perth and Kinross Council	Councillor Murray Lyle
Perth and Kinross Council	Sandra Black
Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Iain Nicolson
Renfrewshire Council	Tracey Logan
Scottish Borders Council	Councillor Shona Haslam
Scottish Borders Council	Maggie Sandison
Shetland Islands Council	Councillor Emma Macdonald (Substitute)
Shetland Islands Council	Eileen Howat
South Ayrshire Council	Councillor Peter Henderson
South Ayrshire Council	Clealand Sneddon
South Lanarkshire Council	Councillor John Ross
South Lanarkshire Council	Carol Beattie
Stirling Council	Councillor Scott Farmer
Stirling Council	Joyce White
West Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Jonathan McColl
West Dunbartonshire Council	Graham Hope
West Lothian Council	Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick
West Lothian Council	

Apologies

Aberdeen City Council
Angus Council
Dundee City Council
Dumfries and Galloway Council
East Lothian Council
Falkirk Council
North Lanarkshire Council
Shetland Islands Council

Councillor Douglas Lumsden*
Councillor David Fairweather*
Councillor John Alexander
Councillor Rob Davidson*
Councillor William Innes*
Councillor Cecil Meiklejohn*
Councillor Jim Logue*
Councillor Steven Coutts*

**Denotes substitute provided*

Private 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.

The President advised that there was updated information on the Discretionary Fund which Cllr Gail Macgregor would like to share with Leaders and this would be taken as an additional item.

2. Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland (paper LD/21/27 refers)

The special Leaders' meeting had been called to discuss the final report of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care which had recently been published. It was evident that the recommendations included in the Review had substantive implications for Local Government. The paper provided an analysis of the Review's findings for consideration and sought input from Leaders to direct COSLA's initial response.

An amendment to the recommendations was proposed by Cllr Stephen McCabe and seconded by Cllr Douglas Reid and agreed unanimously by Leaders as follows:

Leaders noted the publication of the Feeley Report on the Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland.

Leaders expressed their grave concern at the recommendations on governance and accountability which would see the removal of local democratic accountability and a degree of centralisation that would be detrimental to the local delivery of social care and its integration with other key community services.

Leaders endorsed the principles set out in the report of:

- Empowering people
- Valuing the workforce
- A human rights approach

Leaders strongly agreed that the lived experience of those who rely on social care should be embedded within the system and that social care should move to a more person centred approach, recognising the value of not for profit provision. Social care should be:

- Accessible;
- Personalised;
- Integrated;
- Preventative;
- Respectful; and
- Safe.

However, Leaders expressed particular concern at the recommendation 15 that stated: *“Accountability for social care support should move from Local Government to Scottish Ministers, and a Minister should be appointed with specific responsibility for Social Care.”* This concern mirrors the findings of the report itself when it says: *“We asked what would worry people about a National Care Service, and the most frequently mentioned concern was that it would bring loss of local knowledge and expertise.”* Leaders also endorse the comments from SOLACE and from Directors of Finance in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report.

Leaders therefore restate COSLA's position as expressed in the agreed Blueprint for Local Government that:

“Discussion on the future of social care has centred on the potential creation of a National Care Service. This can mean many different things to different people. Moving towards a National Care Service should not be merely accepted as the necessary means of reform without proper consideration of its scope, resourcing and, vitally, its implications for local decision making. Any National Care Service must be locally empowered, reflect the needs of our communities and recognise the vital role of the third sector. It must be outcome focussed with the principle of addressing health inequalities at its core, ensure that social care is on an even playing field and address the financial challenges facing the sector. This can only be achieved by Local Government that is rooted in the community and employs local people.”

Leaders mandate COSLA officers and spokespeople to undertake appropriate lobbying in relation to this report, based on this position.

3. Discretionary Fund for Businesses

Cllr Macgregor reported to Leaders orally that the Scottish Government had advised COSLA of a further increase in the Local Government Discretionary Grant Fund. She confirmed that the fund which was currently £30m and was due to be increased to £60m, would now be increased to £120m. A recommendation on distribution of the full £120m from the Settlement & Distribution Group would be provided to Leaders for their meeting on 26 February, avoiding unnecessary delays.

She also provided some supplementary detail around discussions with the Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet Secretary had made it clear that she was not keen to create any additional sector specific funds, but rather she wanted to use the local intelligence that councils had. However, she had recognised that ongoing resources through both the Strategic Framework and this discretionary scheme would need to be kept under review.

Leaders noted the position.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 1100hrs on Friday, 26 February 2021 via Microsoft Teams

Close

The President closed the meeting at 1640hrs by thanking Members for their attendance.