



Leaders Item 02s

## MINUTE OF MEETING OF LEADERS (DRAFT)

Friday, 20 November 2020 at 1500hrs  
Microsoft Teams

**Present**

COSLA President	Councillor Alison Evison
COSLA Vice President	Councillor Graham Houston
Aberdeen City Council	Angela Scott
Aberdeen City Council	Councillor Douglas Lumsden
Aberdeenshire Council	Jim Savege
Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Andy Kille
Angus Council	Margo Williamson
Angus Council	Councillor David Fairweather
Argyll and Bute Council	Kirsty Flanagan (Substitute)
Argyll and Bute Council	Councillor Robin Currie
City of Edinburgh Council	Andrew Kerr
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Claire Miller
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 Rob Davidson
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Councillor Gail Macgregor
COSLA Spokesperson	Roger Mennie (Substitute)
Dundee City Council	Councillor Will Dawson (Substitute)
Dundee City Council	Fiona Lees
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor Douglas Reid
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor Elena Whitham
East Ayrshire Council	Gerry Cornes
COSLA Spokesperson	Councillor Vaughan Moody
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Andrew Polson
East Dunbartonshire Council	Monica Patterson
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Stuart Currie
East Lothian Council	Councillor Norman Hampshire (Substitute)
East Lothian Council	
East Lothian Council	
COSLA Spokesperson	
East Lothian Council	

East Renfrewshire Council	Lorraine McMillan
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	Kevin Anderson (Substitute)
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	Karen Reid
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	Tracey Logan
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	Joyce White
Stirling Council	Councillor Jonathan McColl
West Dunbartonshire Council	Graham Hope
West Dunbartonshire Council	
West Lothian Council	

West Lothian Council

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

**Apologies**

Argyll and Bute Council

Pippa Milne\*

Dundee City Council

David Martin\*

Dundee City Council

Cllr John Alexander\*

East Lothian Council

Councillor William Innes\*

Midlothian Council

Dr Grace Vickers\*

North Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Jim Logue\*

*\*Denotes substitute provided*

*Apologies were recorded where notified in advance*

## **Private Session**

### **1. Introduction**

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

The President thanked Leaders' for joining at short notice and advised that a 30 minute recess would be held following the presentation of the two main items to allow for further debate on the amendments submitted.

### **2. Additional Business Support and Welfare Funding (paper)**

Leaders' attention was drawn to the announcement by the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, on 17 November 2020 about a range of additional business support, to be delivered via local authorities. In addition, she announced funding of £15m for welfare and social support for Level 4 councils only. The paper presented the proposition as developed by Scottish Government.

Two amendments to the recommendations were proposed.

#### **Amendment One**

Proposed by Councillor Jonathan McColl  
Seconded by Councillor Cecil Meiklejohn

Replace recommendations with:

Leaders agree that Local Government administers the grants outlined in the paper.

COSLA welcomes the additional support for businesses from the Scottish Government, over and above existing financial support, such as furlough top up and strategic framework grants. We also welcome that £30m of this is discretionary funding for Local Government to use to support businesses to suit local needs.

We recognise that this is an extremely difficult time for all businesses in all of our communities and as some areas move into Level 4 today, it is a particular and immediate challenge for those businesses. We also acknowledge that any of our Council areas may be escalated to level 4 in the future.

In recognition of this current context, COSLA calls on the Scottish Government to continue to support businesses by agreeing additional discretionary funding for all businesses in all levels. COSLA also agrees that at this juncture officers develop appropriate distribution options for the currently available £30m, for consideration by the SDG, based on the following principles;

Number and size of businesses affected & requiring support will vary by area.

Impact on business will be greater in Level 4 areas and immediate priority needs to be given to those areas.

Method of distribution requires to take account of the differential impact but ensuring that all councils benefit in some way.

Distribution should be calculated in relation to the business base, rather than by population or GAE.

Leaders agree that proposed recommendations on distribution from SDG will be considered at the Leaders meeting next week.

#### Amendment Two

Proposed by Councillor Norman Hampshire  
Seconded by Councillor Stephen McCabe

Leaders note that at the meeting held on 30 October 2020 Leaders agreed to:

- (b) *express their concerns that many businesses and individuals would be adversely affected by the restrictions introduced under the new strategic framework of tiers without adequate financial support that would help keep people in employment and businesses viable; and*
- (c) *agree to request that the Scottish Government, as a matter of urgency, reviews the financial support framework in the context of the new strategic framework of tiers and engages with Local Government, to ensure as many businesses and individuals as possible are adequately supported.*

Leaders welcome the additional Business Support and Welfare Funding announced by the Scottish Government this week but believe that this is inadequate to meet the needs of businesses and families in communities across Scotland.

Leaders agree:

1. that Local Government should administer these support package schemes as outlined in this report;
2. that the joint Scottish/Local Government project group will prepare to implement the business grant schemes without delay, including agreeing the high level guidance for the discretionary scheme;
3. that officers will also seek views from the Settlement and Distribution Group in relation to distribution of all 4 funds, with a view to agreeing this formally at Leaders on 27th November, noting that the £30m Local Authority Discretionary Support for Business should be distributed across all 32 local authorities; and
4. that Cosla should seek substantial additional funding from Scottish Government to more adequately meet the needs of businesses and families affected by the strategic framework of tiers across Scotland, in particular for those areas in Tier 4.

#### Vote

Amendment One – 15

Amendment Two – 17

### **3. Local Government Support for COVID-19 Vaccinations (paper)**

Leaders welcomed the recent positive news from the various vaccine trials taking place around the world. Details continued to emerge around the requirements to vaccinate the population safely and the paper outlined early thinking on priority groups. The specific asks of Local Government would become clear as more certainty about the vaccines became available.

COSLA officers provided clarification on several points and reported on representations already made to Scottish Government around Local Government involvement and specific local arrangements to be considered when implementing the delivery of a vaccination programme e.g. rural and island communities, logistics and transport requirements. Leaders emphasised the need to ensure information was issued as soon as possible.

### Amendment

An amendment to the recommendations was proposed by Cllr Susan Aitken and seconded by Cllr Scott Farmer

Delete recommendation (iii) and replace with:

Agree that Local Government will support the delivery of the vaccination programme and will work with the Scottish & UK Governments, Community Planning Partners and others to identify and secure the necessary resources to support this.

Cllr Shona Haslam, seconded by Cllr Andrew Polson then moved the recommendations in the report.

### Vote

Motion – 6

Amendment – 26

Accordingly, Leaders:

- (i) noted the recent announcements around the vaccinations;
- (ii) noted the letter from the Cabinet Secretary seeking Local Government support; and
- (iii) agreed, that Local Government would support the delivery of the vaccination programme and would work with the Scottish and UK Governments, Community Planning Partners and others to identify and secure the necessary resources to support this.

### **4. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held at 1100hrs on Friday, 27 November 2020 via Microsoft Teams.

### Close

The President closed the meeting at 1620hrs by thanking Members for their attendance.

