

DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF COSLA ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY BOARD

Friday 15th December 2023

At Verity House, Edinburgh, and via MS Teams

Present:

COSLA Environment and Economy Spokesperson	Cllr Gail Macgregor
Aberdeen City Council	Cllr Alexander McLellan
Aberdeenshire Council	Cllr Alan Turner
Angus Council	Cllr Bill Duff
Argyll and Bute Council	Cllr Ross Moreland
City of Edinburgh Council	Cllr Chas Booth*
Clackmannanshire Council	Cllr Fiona Law
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Cllr Donald Crichton
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Cllr Ian Carruthers
Dundee City Council	Cllr Heather Anderson*
East Ayrshire Council	Cllr Steven Canning*
East Lothian Council	Cllr John McMillan
East Renfrewshire Council	Cllr Katie Pragnell*
Falkirk Council	Cllr Paul Garner
Fife Council	Cllr Altany Craik
Glasgow City Council	Cllr Angus Millar
Highland Council	Cllr Karl Rosie*
Inverclyde Council	Cllr Paul Cassidy*
Midlothian Council	Cllr Dianne Alexander
Moray Council	Cllr Marc Macrae
North Ayrshire Council	Cllr Tony Gurney
North Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Helen Loughran
Orkney Islands Council	Cllr David Dawson
Perth and Kinross Council	Cllr Andrew Parrott
Renfrewshire Council	Cllr John Shaw
Scottish Borders Council	Cllr Scott Hamilton
Shetland Islands Council	Cllr Moraig Lyall
South Ayrshire Council	Cllr Bob Pollock
South Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Robert Brown
Stirling Council	Cllr Jen Preston
West Dunbartonshire Council	Cllr David McBride
West Lothian Council	Cllr Kristeen Sullivan
ATCO	Margaret Roy
SOLACE	Rhona Gunn
Sustainable Scotland Network	George Tarvit
Regional Transport Partnership	John Binning, SPT
HOPS	Ian Aikman
Improvement Service	Irene Beautyman

Apologies:

City of Edinburgh Council	Cllr Ben Parker
Dundee City Council	Cllr Steven Rome
East Ayrshire Council	Cllr Graham Barton
East Dunbartonshire Council	Cllr Paul Ferretti
East Renfrewshire Council	Cllr Owen O'Donnell
Highland Council	Cllr Ken Gowans
Inverclyde Council	Cllr Jim Clocherty
SLAED	Ishabel Bremner
SOLACE	Monica Paterson
SCOTS	Ewan Wallace
Public Health Scotland	Emilia Crichton

**Denotes substitute provided*

Introduction

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Macgregor opened the meeting and welcomed Members.

Apologies were noted for the minute.

Minute and Board Plan

2. Minute of the 3 November 2023 Board meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Environment and Economy Board Plan

The Board was updated on the work of COSLA on its behalf.

Items for Discussion and Decision

4. Climate Change

a. Climate Intelligence Service Presentation

The Board received a presentation from Judi Kilgallon and Clare Wharmby from the Climate Intelligence Service. The presentation updated members on steps that had been taken to set up the service, the engagement which had been held with local authorities and their plans for the future of the service. In the discussion that followed members received the update positively and indicated that they would welcome future updates in 2024.

b. Net Zero Delivery Framework and Environmental Standards Scotland Report

This report provided further information on the developing net zero delivery framework and the recommendations from the Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) report into climate reporting and monitoring. It sought the views of members on the framework and asked the Board to agree a position on the ESS report, which COSLA will relay to Parliament.

There was a good discussion at the Board on scope 3 emissions, which will be factored into the COSLA response to the ESS report.

The Board:

- i. Agreed the ongoing development of the net zero delivery framework, and that further reports should be brought back in due course.
- ii. Agreed our response to the improvement report by Environment Standards Scotland in paragraphs 22-28.

5. Heat and Buildings Consultation

This report updated the Board on the Heat in Buildings Bill and Social Housing Net Zero Standard consultations that were published together on 28 November 2023. The Board also welcomed James Hemphill and Madeline Platter from Scottish Government to the meeting. This paper sought the initial views of the Board on the published documents which will be used to inform COSLA's response. In the discussion that followed members discussed the funding of and practical delivery of the measure set out in the consultation.

The Board:

- i. Noted the publication of the consultations on the Heat in Buildings Bill and Social Housing Net Zero Standard.
- ii. Provided their views on the content of the consultations to inform COSLA's position and how Local Government should respond.
- iii. Raised awareness of the consultations to support broad participation.

6. Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Consultation

This report provided the Board with the draft COSLA response to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy consultation, which is currently open until December 2023. The paper sought the approval of the draft response from the Board.

The Board:

- i. Provided views or comments on the response prior to its submission.
- ii. Agreed the proposed COSLA response.

7. Waste – verbal update

The Board received a received a short presentation the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill, the Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) scheme and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). A good discussion followed with a focus on challenge presented by POPs for Local Authorities. COSLA said they were working with SEPA and waste managers to find a way forward.

8. Levelling Up and UK Towns Fun

This report updated the Board on the recent UK Government announcements on Long Term Plan for Towns and Levelling Up Fund. The paper offered the Board an opportunity to discuss these announcements, and what they meant for Local Government in Scotland. The Board heard of some of the challenges faced by Councils in developing bids for past rounds of the Levelling Up Fund, which COSLA said they would take into account in their representations to the UK Government.

The Board:

- i. Noted the announcements for Long Term Plan for Towns and Levelling Up Fund Round 3.
- ii. Discussed the implications of the announcements for Local Government in Scotland.

Cllr Macgregor closed the meeting and thanked members for their attendance and contributions.