

**FOI/18/01314 – RELEASE SCHEDULE**

Ref	Title and Links	Comment
1	<p><b>OFFICIALS MEETING - 24 SEPTEMBER 2015, CEC COUNCIL HQ</b></p> <p>Greg Ward, Director of Economic Development, CEC                      Alison McKersie, City Deal Project Director, CEC                      Steve McGavin, Principal Economic Development Officer, CEC                      [REDACTED] SG Cities                      [REDACTED] SG Cultural Engagement                      [REDACTED] SG Tourism                      [REDACTED] SG Tourism                      [REDACTED] SG Tourism</p>	<p><b>RELEASE</b> Details of meeting</p> <p><b>RELEASE</b> Redacted Note</p>
2	<p><b>MEETING BETWEEN CLLR. ROSS AND MR EWING - 12 NOVEMBER 2015 ROOM TG.22, PARLIAMENT</b></p> <p>Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism                      Cllr. Frank Ross, Convener of the Economy Committee, City of Edinburgh Council                      [REDACTED] Departmental Assistant to the Convener of the Economy                      [REDACTED] SG Tourism Team</p>	<p><b>RELEASE</b> Details of meeting</p> <p><b>RELEASE</b> Redacted Note</p>
3	<p><b>Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities with Cllr. Burns Leader, City of Edinburgh Council</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 09 February 2016</b></p> <p>T4.05 Parliament</p>	<p><b>RELEASE</b> Details of meeting</p>

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	<p>Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities                  Cllr. Burns, City of Edinburgh Council                  [REDACTED] Scottish Government                  Donna McKinnon, Scottish Government</p>	
4	<p><b>Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment and Andrew Kerr, City of Edinburgh Council Headquarters – 09 March 2016</b></p> <p>Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment                  Andrew Kerr, CEC                  Donna McKinnon, Scottish Government</p>	<p><b>RELEASE</b>                  Details of meeting</p>
5	<p><b>DG Enterprise, Environment And Innovation meeting with Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive City of Edinburgh Council – 18 April 2016</b></p>	<p><b>RELEASE</b>                  Details of meeting</p>
6	<p><b>Minister for Local Government and Housing and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution meeting with Councillor Alasdair Rankin, City of Edinburgh Council – 24 August 2016, St Andrews House, Edinburgh</b></p> <p>Cllr Rankin, City of Edinburgh Council                  Kevin Stewart, Minister for Local Government and Housing                  [REDACTED] Scottish Government</p>	<p><b>RELEASE</b>                  Details of meeting</p> <p><b>RELEASE</b>                  Redacted Note                  MACCS                  CASES</p>
	<p><b>EDINBURGH AND SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND CITY REGION DEAL</b></p>	<p><b>RELEASE</b>                  Details of</p>

FOI/18/01314 – RELEASE SCHEDULE

	<p><b>8th August 2016, Scotland Office</b></p> <p>Paul Lawrence (CEC), Alison Muckersie (CEC), Lynne Halfpenny (CEC)</p> <p>[REDACTED] Scottish Government [REDACTED] Scottish Government, [REDACTED] Scottish Government [REDACTED] Government</p> <p>Neil MacLennan (UK Government) Nick Young (UK Government), Charles Jubb – (on phone) UK Government</p> <p>Others: Margaret McNeil (Scottish Enterprise), Phillip Deverill (Creative Scotland), Manuel Calchini (Visit Scotland), Julia Amour (Festivals Edinburgh), John Donnelly (Marketing Edinburgh)</p>	<p>meeting</p> <p><b>RELEASE REDACTED NOTE</b></p>
<p>7</p>	<p><b>MEETING WITH TOURISM OFFICIALS 24 SEPTEMBER 2016, CITY OF EDINBURGH HQ, EDINBURGH</b></p> <p>Greg Ward – CEC Director of Culture, City Strategy and Economy and Place Alison Muckersie, - CEC City Deal Project Manager</p> <p>[REDACTED] Scottish Government [REDACTED] Scottish Government [REDACTED] Scottish Government</p>	<p><b>RELEASE</b></p> <p>Details of meeting</p>

FOI/18/01314 – RELEASE SCHEDULE

<p>8</p>	<p><b>EDINBURGH AND SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND CITY REGION DEAL</b>  <b>13 DECEMBER 2016, MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, 1 MELVILLE CRESCENT, EDINBURGH</b></p> <p>[REDACTED] Scottish Government  [REDACTED] Scottish Government  [REDACTED] Scottish Government  [REDACTED] Scottish Government  [REDACTED] Scottish Government  Diane McLafferty, Scottish Government  [REDACTED] Scottish Government  [REDACTED] Scottish Government</p> <p>Nick Young UK Government,  Rachel Wallace UK Government  Rob Keeling, UK Government (dialling in)</p> <p><u>City Region Partners:</u>  Alison Muckersie,  Julie Amour,  John Donnelly,  Paul Lawrence,  Lynne Halfpenny,  Jon Oberlander</p>	<p><b>RELEASE</b>  Details of  meeting</p> <p><b>RELEASE</b>  Redacted Note</p>
<p>8a</p>	<p><b>EDINBURGH AND SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND CITY REGION DEAL</b>  <b>SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING</b>  <b>26 JANUARY 2017, THISTLE HOUSE, EDINBURGH</b></p>	<p><b>RELEASE</b>  Details of  meeting</p> <p><b>RELEASE</b>  Redacted Note</p>

FOI/18/01314 – RELEASE SCHEDULE

<p>[REDACTED] Scottish Government [REDACTED] Scottish Government Oonagh Gil Scottish Government Nick Young UK Government Neil MacLennan, UK Government Tom Tyler, UK Government Mike Wiltshire UK Government Alison Muckersie (CEC), Andrew Kerr (CEC), Steve Grimmond (Fife), Angela Leitch (ELC), Elaine Cook (WLC), Rob Dickson (SBC), Kenneth Lawrie (Midlothian) Sir John Elvidge (Chair Edinburgh Airport), Charlie Jeffery (University of Edinburgh)</p>	
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**NOTE OF MEETING BETWEEN CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (CEC) AND SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Attendees:**

- Greg Ward, Director of Economic Development, CEC
- Alison McKersie, City Deal Project Director, CEC
- Steve McGavin, Principal Economic Development Officer, CEC
- [redacted] SG Cities
- [redacted] SG Cultural Engagement
- [redacted] SG Tourism
- [redacted] SG Tourism
- [redacted] SG Tourism

Apologies – Lynne Halfpenny, Head of Culture and Sport, CEC

**Discussion around Bed Tax proposals**

1. CEC opened discussion by stating that the original Bed Tax proposals had emerged from several years of discussion, at various times, within CEC. The original intention to discuss the issue with SG Officials had been after the call to examine how businesses might contribute to the Edinburgh Festivals (in Thundering Hooves 2.0) but prior to the wider ask from Cities (in the City Deal proposals) to look at “cultural and leisure contributions”. Meeting was therefore very timeous.
2. CEC recognised that SG stance in respect of Bed Tax/Transient Visitor Levy (TVL) was unchanged: however, welcomed the opportunity to discuss what CEC saw as the main issues facing them and the wider potential solutions, without immediately moving to consider mechanisms, such as a Bed Tax.
3. [redacted] CEC cited that the huge leap in numbers, especially during the Festivals, increased the strain on city services, such as public realm, litter, etc., and meant extra costs. In looking at the wider offering of Edinburgh as a destination, there was also the need to look at keeping it refreshed and remaining attractive.
4. [redacted] CEC stressed that TVL was seen as only one suggestion which will go some way to solving this gap in funding for both cultural programme and the public realm maintenance and refresh. CEC felt that a charge of £3 per room per night had the potential to raise £15 million p.a. However CEC consider that a solution needs to be found which can sustain and grow the tourism economy and recognise that TVL one of a range of options.
5. Dealing with these other options, CEC have also been looking at whether a voluntary scheme might work, where guests are invited to contribute. However, likely numbers are low – and it is unclear what the VAT position for hotels would be.
6. In looking at other approaches, [redacted]
7. SG recognised the influx of visitors, especially during the Festival – although other destinations also experience proportionately challenging surges in visitor numbers, especially around major events (e.g. St. Andrew's). Both SG and CEC recognised that demand for rooms during these periods increased prices – but that it

was for the hotel industry to make a better case as to explaining where the additional revenue went in respect of investment and sustaining business during the shoulder months.

8. However SG asked why CEC did not feel that the Business Rates Incentive Scheme delivered adequate additional revenue for CEC: given that any council that exceeds its individual non domestic rate income target retains a 50% share of the additional rates income generated.

9. CEC stated they did not see BRIS as providing much additional revenue and certainly not enough to offset the additional public realm cost or enable grants to cultural programmes to be revenue neutral.

10. CEC recognised that there would be issues in looking solely at hotels: as SG pointed out, Edinburgh during the Festivals featured a substantial increase in bed stock, most of which was sourced through private rentals. In addition, the 2015 season featured AirBNB as the official accommodation provider for the Edinburgh Fringe: such activity whilst boosting the sharing economy also removed revenue from CEC in respect of fees for food hygiene inspections, fire safety etc.

11. The presence of TVL in other major cities (Paris, Barcelona, Berlin etc.) was highlighted by CEC – and cited as proof that the presence of TVL did not necessarily create an unattractive image of a destination. CEC argued that the price sensitivity during the Festival in particular would be blunted by the high rates already charged: any TVL would be extremely marginal in influencing consumer propensity to visit.

12. CEC accepted that devolving powers to individual local authorities could conceivably result in a mosaic approach to TVL rates across Scotland. However CEC felt this reflected the accountability of local government to their individual electorates.

13. Clearly there was much that would need to be considered in any solution addressing the current funding gap. CEC were also keen to explore what other routes could be explored to reflect revenue collection for local authorities commensurate with the economic activity their infrastructure helped fund: [redacted]

#### Next Steps

14. Without prejudice to the SG stated position on TVL proposals as they stand, CEC and SG agreed to meet again. It was agreed to hold a joint workshop to look at the core issues facing CEC (as a City Region) and other Cities in Scotland (plus other local authorities) and what might be feasible to address using, in the first instance, existing mechanisms and levers.

15. As well as relevant SG Officials this might also useful include other players such as the Cabinet Office Behavioural Insights Team ("nudge unit").

Meeting Closed

**MEETING WITH CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL – 12 NOVEMBER 2015**

Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism  
Cllr. Frank Ross, Convener of the Economy Committee, City of Edinburgh Council  
[REDACTED] Departmental Assistant to the Convener of the Economy  
[REDACTED] SG Tourism Team

The meeting opened with agreement of very good occupancy rates across Edinburgh this season – average daily rates for hotel rooms during August were around £207: second only to Geneva across European market. Air connectivity was seen as key: since July, Marketing Edinburgh, City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and Edinburgh Airport were collaborating in employing the China Air Services Project Manager to help secure a direct flight with China.

Action on the first “Edinburgh 12” gaps sites for development across Edinburgh had largely been completed and CEC were now moving on to the second tranche of 12. However, following on from their earlier meeting in February, Cllr. Ross remained sceptical that BRIS was working for Edinburgh: despite adding some £40m of additional Rateable Value to an overall RV stock of £300m, Edinburgh had not seen their overall return increase under the scheme. (This excluded the St James development, operating under a separate Growth Accelerator scheme).

CEC were keen for a City Deal and remained apprehensive about whether this would be confirmed on 25 November during UKG Budget Statement. With aspirations for a £1 billion deal, and expecting a rate of around 70p in the £, CEC recognised the challenge of leveraging £300 million in investment.

Within that context of a City Deal hopefully providing investment in transportation and wider digital connectivity, CEC nevertheless were very concerned about funding reductions and the impact on their 16/17 budget. In particular they were highlighting that the need to maintain their statutory duties was placing disproportionate pressures on their non-statutory services.

CEC recognised that whilst many of their non-statutory services occupied essentially national levels of significance, a reduction in their spend was unavoidable. [redacted]

CEC therefore felt that, within their planned investment in the City and Region, there was a clear case for a “culture and heritage” levy. This recognised two factors affecting Edinburgh, and the wider Lothian region:

- the contribution made to the visitor economy through the 12 Festivals hosted and part-funded by the City, and
- the “gateway to Scotland” role that Edinburgh fulfils, attracting around 60% of visitors.

CEC felt that the current examples of tourist levy used across Europe and the rest of world showed that concerns regarding price sensitivity amongst travellers was not a significant risk. In addition such a move would, CEC felt, be accepted by the wider Edinburgh population and the business sector.



DRAFT – FOR APPROVAL

Minister was clear that other European destinations using such a levy were subject to far lower rates of VAT in the hospitality sector and lower APD rates. In addition, the growth in the “shared economy” was marked in Edinburgh - with around 3,300 active properties shown on sites such as AirBNB. Setting aside issues of consumer safety and regulation which were required of hotels/B&Bs etc. (but not AirBNB) it was unclear how such rentals currently contributed any income to CEC.

Elsewhere in the sector, there was a very significant difference between the investment City of Glasgow continues to make in Business Tourism and what CEC invests. CEC funds Marketing Edinburgh with just under £1m whilst Glasgow City Marketing Bureau has a current budget of just under £10m. CEC admitted that they had not only been slow in recognising the gains to be made from Business Tourism but also the assistance available of match funding from the VisitScotland Conference Bid Fund.

[redacted]

Following on from wider discussion with SG Officials in September and October, CEC had worked up three potential models. CEC said that their earlier thoughts of a levy on hotel rooms (of either £1 or £3) had moved on to consider the advantages of a percentage approach. This was seen as progressive in nature and less liable to cause price sensitivity concerns. However, the need to incentivise the wider visitor economy had resulted in three tourism funding options that CEC wished to discuss with SG, amongst the wider City Deal approach.

[redacted]

Minister thanked CEC for coming into discuss their suggestions. He undertook to provide more detail to Cllr. Ross on the specifics of the BRIS issue and also to circulate these initial CEC proposals amongst Ministerial colleagues.

**MEETING CLOSED**

**EDINBURGH AND SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND CITY REGION DEAL**

Workshop  
Culture and Tourism  
8th August, Scotland Office

Deal partners: Paul Lawrence (CEC), Alison Muckersie (CEC), Lynne Halfpenny (CEC)

Governments: [redacted] (SG), [redacted] (SG), [redacted] (SG), [redacted] (SG), Neil MacLennan (UKG), Nick Young (UKG), Charles Jubb – on phone (UKG)

Others: Margaret McNeil (Scottish Enterprise), Phillip Deverill (Creative Scotland), Manuel Calchini (Visit Scotland), Julia Amour (Festivals Edinburgh), John Donnelly (Marketing Edinburgh)

The partners provided a presentation that outlined Culture and Tourism as investment drivers, positioning sector as key national "gateway" and recognising that the projects and themes are interlinked. In addition there was a case presented for participation in cultural activity having a positive impact on personal and community development and that the Festivals are a clear USP for the city.

The confidential nature of the proposals was discussed and noted

Government reinforced that projects need to be focused on driving economic growth with positive impacts at a national level and **that strong consideration must be given to displacement and what additional benefits these interventions would bring.** The partners stated they have work to do on the **prioritisation of projects.**

[redacted]

There is the possibility of some further proposals coming forward, including from stakeholders such as National Museums and Galleries, and bid partners are working to progress this.

The partners want to establish a "Festivals Endowment Fund" to support cultural events in the city as there are challenges with the financial sustainability of the festivals. Government explained that open-ended funds are harder to deliver than support for bespoke projects and **the partners have agreed to develop additional detail on what exactly such a fund would be supporting and how any payments might be phased.** The potential for Local Authority contributions was also discussed.

As an alternative to the Tourist Bed Tax, the partners have asked about retaining a proportion of VAT generated in the region to support cultural events. **UKG and SG have agreed to explore this with their respective finance depts.**

The next workshop will be arranged to take place in September or early October.

Scotland Office  
August 2016

6b

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 16 June 2016 16:20:25  
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit  
Subject: [REDACTED]  
Attachments: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Scottish Government  
Ministerial Correspondence Unit  
GR  
St Andrews House  
Edinburgh

Tel: [REDACTED]  
e-mail: [REDACTED]

Save Paper - Do you really need to print this e-mail?

RECEIVED

13 JUN 2016

Kevin Stewart MSP

7 June 2016

Minister for Local Government  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Dear Kevin

Firstly, many congratulations on your appointment to the Local Government portfolio.

As Finance Convener of Edinburgh City Council, I would welcome an early meeting with you. I am sure that you will agree that there are a number of local government topics which we could usefully explore.

These could include:

- Local tax reform including Council Tax
- Shared services
- Transient visitor levy
- City Region deal
- Health and Social Care integration and the relationship between Health Boards and local authorities

If you could come back to me with some dates/times I will be happy to provide some points for an agenda.

Sincerely,

Councillor Alasdair Rankin

Convener of Finance and Resources  
City of Edinburgh Council  
alasdair.rankin@edinburgh.gov.uk

6c

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 14 June 2016 13:44:14  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: ED COUNCIL

Attachments: [Untitled].pdf

Derek Mackay MSP

7 June 2016

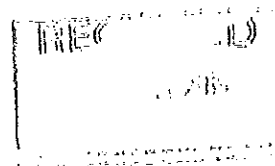
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution

St. Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG



Dear Derek

Firstly, many congratulations on your appointments to both the Finance portfolio and Cabinet.

As Finance Convener of Edinburgh City Council, I would welcome an early meeting with you.

I am sure that you will agree that there are a number of local government topics which we could usefully explore.

These could include:

- Local tax reform
- Transient visitor levy
- Health and Social Care Integration

If you could come back to me with some dates/times I will be happy to provide some points for an agenda.

Sincerely,

Councillor Alasdair Rankin

Convener of Finance and Resources

City of Edinburgh Council

alasdair.rankin@edinburgh.gov.uk

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal  
Culture and Tourism Workshop: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
1 Melville Crescent

Scottish Government: [redacted]

[redacted] Diane McLafferty, [redacted]

UK Government Nick Young (SO), Rachel Wallace (SO) Rob Keeling (dialling in)

City Region Partners: Alison Muckersie, Julie Amour, John Donnelly, Paul Lawrence, Lynne Halfpenny, Jon Oberlander

Alasdair welcomed attendees to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Culture and Tourism Workshop. Partners took government through their responses to the actions from the previous workshop (8<sup>th</sup> Aug). **UKG to provide a response on previous suggestion to retain VAT relating to tourism spend.** Discussion then focused on the detail of the reprioritised propositions.

[redacted]

Proposal 2 (IMPACT music and arts venue) Deal partners reinforced the highly sensitive nature of the proposal which will provide a new home for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and is a partnership between RBS, IMPACT, SCO and the Dunard Fund. The proposed investment via ESESCR will complete the funding package and **Scottish Government asked the council to consider what contribution they can offer**

[redacted] alternative approaches to raising the funding were discussed:

[redacted]

Local partners were keen to address issues around inclusivity at the Festival and improve the geographical and demographic spread of visitors and further iterations of the proposals will articulate these ambitions and the methods in further detail.

Partners asked whether there are any issues around revenue rather than capital funding. The UKG stated that in previous deals the focus has primarily been on capital spend but that they remain open to explore the most appropriate funding mechanisms.

Government thanked the partners for the work they had done in prioritising the range of projects and for the further development of preferred options.

[redacted]



8a

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal  
Senior Officials Meeting  
26 January 2017, Thistle House

Scottish Government: [redacted] Oonagh Gil (Chair)

UK Government: Nick Young, Neil MacLennan, Tom Tyler, Mike Wiltshire

City Region Partners: Alison Muckersie (CEC), Andrew Kerr (CEC), Steve Grimmond (Fife), Angela Leitch (ELC), Elaine Cook (WLC), Rob Dickson (SBC), Kenneth Lawrie (Midlothian) Sir John Elvidge (Chair Edinburgh Airport), Charlie Jeffery (University of Edinburgh)

[redacted]

Themes

**Culture and Tourism** proposals are developing well and the template will help move things further forward. On TVL, Scottish Government Ministers have no plans to introduce any additional taxes to the tourism sector. UKG to clarify position on VAT.

[redacted]

Timing

Regional partners are keen to see a decision in March. Government was clear that completing the template was a key next step to provide the detailed information needed to make progress. Partners are aiming to submit the completed template on 3 February to enable the briefing of Government Ministers in the middle of February. It was agreed to convene a further meeting of this group by the end of Feb, ideally week beginning 20 February 2017.

[redacted]

SG/UKG  
3 Feb 2017