Our ref: 2017/0023629
j2 July 2017

I would like to congratulate you again on your appointment as the leader of Glasgow City Council. I look forward to working with you and your team to deliver your ambitions for Glasgow; ambitions that resonate with my own.

Cities and their regions are the engines of our economy and the Scottish Government is committed to working with Scotland’s seven cities to optimise growth for the benefit of the whole of Scotland. Collaboration is key to achieving our vision for Scotland: a society where the benefits of economic growth are shared more equally and where future economic growth is stronger and more sustainable as a result. I very much welcome your offer to work closely with Scottish Government on this, and to find ways to deal with the poverty and inequality that persists in Glasgow, despite its many successes. Only with real partnership working across the wider public sector in Scotland, the third sector, trade unions, businesses and communities will we be able to create a Scotland that will deliver social justice for all.

I would be delighted to meet with you to hear more about your ambitions and plans for the city of Glasgow and to explore how we can support how you deliver these. Please contact my office at FirstMinister@gov.scot to make the necessary arrangements.

NICOLA STURGEON
Thank you for writing to me with a copy of Glasgow City Council’s new Strategic Plan. It is, quite rightly, an ambitious document which I believe will create many opportunities for the people of Glasgow. I welcome the focus on social justice, reducing inequalities and inclusive economic growth, which are also key priorities for the Scottish Government as we develop our vision for a fairer and more prosperous Scotland.

I was encouraged to hear about your work to engage people from local communities, different sectors and across the political spectrum in developing the Strategic Plan. Achieving consensus can be extremely challenging and you should be commended for your determination to create a joint and inclusive vision for the future of Glasgow.

When we last met in August, we identified a number of areas of mutual interest where the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council could work together. I think that the new Strategic Plan will enhance this partnership and I look forward to continuing to work with you on achieving our shared priorities.

NICOLA STURGEON
Dear Nicola,

As the new leader of Glasgow's City Government I wanted to write to you to outline some of the key goals of the City Government and how I see the election of the first ever SNP City Government as an opportunity to refresh the ways that the Council and Scottish Government work with each other for the benefit of our citizens.

The City Government that I lead has a number of long-term goals that I know marry with the on-going work of the Scottish Government. This includes inclusive, sustainable economic growth, lifting people out of poverty, reducing health and income inequalities, empowering neighbourhoods, investing in affordable housing, and giving each child and young person an equal chance to fulfil their potential. We want to do this so that every citizen and every community feels that they have a say, and a stake, in this city and can benefit from Glasgow's future success.

I know that the Scottish Government are key partners and allies in delivering these social justice outcomes which are central to our work - the doors to Glasgow City Chambers are always open to you and your colleagues in the Scottish Government so that all citizens can benefit from this expertise and advice.

I would be delighted to meet with you over the coming months to discuss some of our ambitions for the city in more detail and I look forward to working closely with you and your colleagues over the coming years, for Glasgow.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Aitken
Councillor Susan Aitken
Dear Nicola / First Minister

Following last week’s meeting of the full Council, I am pleased to forward to you a copy of the first ever Strategic Plan for Glasgow City Council approved under an SNP City Government.

This is the first Strategic Plan by a new party of government in Glasgow in almost four decades. It is also the first where an invitation has gone to all parties inviting them to contribute to a plan that will govern the council’s direction for a full term.

The City Government promised to bring transparency, openness and accessibility to the council, and we are doing so.

This plan identifies the council’s priorities for the city for the years ahead. It reflects many of the same ambitions that were set out in your Programme for Government for Scotland. In passing the plan unanimously, the council united in its commitment to work with the Scottish Government to deliver our joint ambitions for a better future for Glasgow, the Glasgow city region and for Scotland.

The council does not underestimate the challenges ahead. The financial pressures we face were set out in the financial framework presented by officers in June.

The City Government will work with the Scottish Government and our colleagues in COSLA to address these challenges, and to minimise as far as possible the impact on citizens, communities and businesses. Any flexibility that can be contributed to this financial framework in the forthcoming Local Government Settlement and Scottish Government Budget would be welcome.

In forwarding this Strategic Plan, I would like to highlight some key areas in which our ambitions overlap, and some areas of concern. These are outlined in the attached table.

I look forward to having the opportunity to discuss them with you in the near future, and to consider the details further with members of your government.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Susan Aitken
### Programme for Scotland 2017-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme for Scotland 2017-18</th>
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<tr>
<td>Commits Scottish Government to establish a National Investment Bank and a National Manufacturing Institute.</td>
<td>We welcome this demonstration of the Scottish Government’s commitment to modern manufacturing and seek clarity on their impact on the city and city region economies, including possible HQ location, and how businesses will access support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Scottish Government will develop its Innovation Action Plan, building on the successes of ‘Scotland CAN DO’ to provide the best possible support to entrepreneurs.</td>
<td>Consider how best to build on the work of the Centre for Civic Innovation based, and other innovation hubs in the city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ‘Reaching 100%’ project aims to deliver superfast broadband to all residential and business premises by 2021.</td>
<td>Superfast broadband and digital skills are critical to growing the city’s economy and the international reach of its companies. The Council looks forward to receiving further details on the forward programme for the city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will use devolved powers to deliver Fair Start Scotland, and develop a proposal for an extension of the Flexible Workforce Development Fund.</td>
<td>Our priority is inclusive growth that creates jobs, helps us to tackle poverty and the city’s health, and to engage those furthest from the labour market. The Council seeks early engagement with service providers to ensure maximum awareness of changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding research into the feasibility of a citizen’s basic income scheme; helping Local Authorities develop and test their proposals.</td>
<td>The Council is already working with Scottish Government and other authorities to examine the feasibility of a citizen’s basic income, and looks forward to further engagement on how this will be taken forward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a new Screen Unit within Creative Scotland and increase public funding for our film and screen sector to £20 million a year.</td>
<td>We are developing a 25-Year cultural strategy and plan and will continue to promote Glasgow as a centre for excellence for broadcast and media. We will continue to make the case for new services to be based in the city, including a film studio for Scotland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introducing a Planning Bill to streamline the planning process.</td>
<td>We will contribute to the review of planning to ensure we deliver the best outcomes for Glasgow, including consideration of the resource implications, and impact on the capital programme for the city.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Scottish Government is the principal funder of the Glasgow 2018 European Championships, a key legacy of the Commonwealth Games.</td>
<td>Glasgow is a world-class destination for sport events and competes internationally to maintain and grow its reputation as a city that can deliver. We welcome the support for the 2018 Games and are committed to ensuring our citizens can benefit from the sporting life of the city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defend our social, economic, democratic and human rights, with more action on race and a new drive on gender recognition</td>
<td>We will support equality and diversity in our education provision, developing the nurturing city approach and better meeting the needs of those who identify as LGBT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will use the Scottish Parliament’s new social security powers to transform the service people receive through a system based on dignity and respect. Establish a new £50 million fund to tackle child poverty, challenging the austerity-driven rise of child poverty, investing in tackling its root causes and mitigating its worse effects where we can</td>
<td>We will consider how best to respond to the ‘cost of a school day’ report, identify opportunities to integrate benefits, welfare and other advice to maximise support for people affected by welfare reform, or long term conditions, and will review our financial inclusion strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing to increase the number of modern apprenticeships, to meet our commitment of 30,000 by 2020, and drive forward the recommendations of the Commission on Widening Access, to meet our commitment to equal access to university by 2030</td>
<td>We will work to improve the current performance on positive destinations for Glasgow pupils, particularly those living in the city’s 20% most deprived data zones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure that the growth of Gaelic medium education remains a priority in Scottish education, including publication of a National Plan 2017, which aims to promote the growth of Gaelic in Scotland, and increase the number of Gaelic schools.</td>
<td>We will support the development and delivery of the Gaelic Language Plan including Gaelic medium education, working with parents and others to explore options for a further Gaelic medium school in the City.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working with teachers, schools, local authorities, business and third sector partners to design and implement the Regional Improvement Collaboratives</td>
<td>We will work collaboratively at a city region level to enhance our support for schools and nurseries; we will ensure that the service remains accountable to the Council.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take the next steps towards the near doubling of funded early learning and childcare, including setting out minimum levels of multi-year funding to deliver the expansion and provide certainty to our councils and providers</td>
<td>We aim to meet the national commitment to deliver 1140hrs of free childcare by 2020. We will do this in partnership with local providers, including third sector and community groups, and, with the support of the Scottish Government, by investing in our school estate and early years facilities in the city.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Continuing the Pupil Equity Fund, as part of the broader Scottish Attainment Challenge – putting more resources directly into the hands of head teachers.</td>
<td>We aim to improve attainment in all Glasgow schools, working with parents, pupils and partners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a ‘Ending Homelessness Together’ Fund of £50 million over a five year period to support anti-homelessness initiatives and pilot solutions, and establish a homelessness and rough sleeping action group with a clear national objective to eradicate rough sleeping.</td>
<td>We will deliver the city’s homelessness strategy in partnership with providers, strengthening the Rough Sleepers’ Initiative approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifting the 1% pay cap for NHS and other public sector workers to raise living standards and aid recruitment. Ensuring at least a real terms increase in the frontline NHS budget, as part of our commitment to increase health resource funding by £2 billion over the life of this Parliament.</td>
<td>We will continue to work with NHS and other partners on the service redesign and transformation needed to ensure Glaswegians have support when they need it. While removal of the 1% pay cap does not directly affect the council, we recognise the financial pressures it may place on Glasgow HSCP.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Focus on diverting people from crime, reducing reoffending and supporting communities. During 2017-18, we will continue ring-fenced funding of around £100 million for criminal justice social work services, including the delivery of community sentences.</td>
<td>We will work with partners to introduce a new community justice model focussed on prevention of offending and reducing reoffending.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continue to break down the barriers between health and care services, particularly for our older people. More support must be provided in people’s homes and communities, enriching their lives and extending healthy life-expectancy</td>
<td>Glasgow City HSCP is reviewing the Audit Scotland Report on Self Directed Support, considering areas for improvement. We will implement the outcome of the City’s Independent Living Strategy and build on our Age Friendly strategy and action plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish a ‘Climate Change Plan’ in early 2018 reflecting the Government’s determination to create a world-leading low carbon economy. Publish a final Energy Strategy, including recommendations on a Government owned energy company.</td>
<td>We want Glasgow to become a sustainable low carbon city, towards which aim we will review our energy carbon master plan in 2019, with a view to achieving carbon neutrality by 2037.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Promote the use of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs); collaborating with industry and academia to find solutions to city-specific challenges. Establish an Innovation Fund to invest a further £60 million to deliver wider low carbon energy infrastructure solutions across Scotland, such as electricity battery storage and sustainable heating systems and electric vehicles charging. Investing more than £1 billion annually to encourage people to use an alternative to their cars while delivering the largest transport investment programme that Scotland has ever seen. Extending the Green Bus Fund. Creating a Low Emissions Zone (LEZ) in one of our cities by the end of next year.</td>
<td>The Council’s vehicle fleet currently contains 18 electric vehicles. Subject to being able to access suitable vehicles and an expansion in the number of charging points, when funding becomes available, additional vehicles may be added to the fleet. We will develop and consult on options for the introduction of Scotland’s first low emission zone and work with partners on the introduction of a cleaner fleet of buses and cars - including electric. We will explore ways of accelerating our work on green energy initiatives, including promotion of District Energy systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making towns and cities safer spaces for pedestrians and cyclists by increasing investment that supports active travel from £40m to £80m a year from 2018-2019. Our actions will include: appoint an Active Nation Commissioner to ensure delivery of world class active travel infrastructure across Scotland; step up promotion of the use of electric bicycles to ensure as many people as possible can benefit from active travel; and deliver projects which help older people benefit from our network of walking and cycling routes.</td>
<td>We aim to invest 10% of our transport budget on walking and cycling, promoting active travel and Glasgow as a walkable city, investing in roads and pavement maintenance and improving conditions, contributing to active travel networks. We are committed to reducing the speed limits on suitable residential roads and to better management of traffic across the city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introducing a Transport Bill in 2017/18 which will: contain provisions on smart ticketing on public transport in Scotland; tackle obstructive and inconsiderate parking; enhance and improve the role of the Scottish Road Works Commissioner and the wider regulation of road works; and provide local transport authorities with a viable and flexible set of options to influence the provision of bus services in their area to better meet local users’ needs.</td>
<td>We will explore, with transport providers, how to accelerate an integrated ticketing system for Glasgow and explore the feasibility of a local bus-franchising framework to deliver a more connected service across the city, improving and refining the Statutory Quality Bus Partnership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introducing new energy efficiency standards for the private rented sector, introducing a Warm Homes Bill to set a statutory fuel poverty target.</td>
<td>Glasgow’s Housing Strategy has identified a strategic housing outcome to ‘improve the energy efficiency of all properties in Glasgow’, including energy efficiency standards for the private rented sector. We will review the affordable warmth scheme, assessing how it could support more elderly households.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Programme for Scotland 2017-18

- Continuing to support Community Choices to encourage the spread of participatory budgeting across Scotland – investing £2m in the Community Choices Fund, working with Local Government on having at least 1% of council budgets subject to community choices budgeting.

- Making further progress towards our target of 50,000 affordable homes by the end of the Parliament, 35,000 of which will be for social rent. More than £1.75bn is being allocated to councils over the next three years to deliver our ambitious target.

- Publishing a refreshed version of the New Scots Strategy for Integrating Refugees and continue to support unaccompanied child refugees and others through the Syrian Resettlement Programme and our New Scots strategy.

- The third sector plays a vital role in Scotland’s communities – we will seek to extend three-year rolling funding where possible across Scottish Government to give the third sector a significant level of stability of funding and the ability to plan ahead.

- Paying for Public Services – it is time for a fresh debate about how we continue to maintain appropriate investment in our public services. To inform that debate ahead of setting the budget for 2018-19, we will publish a discussion paper on income tax and possible options for using our powers to ensure the sustainability of our public services and give long-term certainty to taxpayers.

- We will work with civic Scotland to deliver our Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy. Trafficking and Exploitation Risk Orders will come into force in October 2017, allowing the police to take preventative action in response to risk and in order to protect potential victims from harm.

### Council Strategic Plan

- We will extend participatory budgeting, giving local people a say in how local budgets are spent and services delivered. We will support local neighbourhoods to take part in budgeting and make best use of the services on offer.

- We will deliver the Glasgow Housing Strategy, including development of a programme to deliver 15,000 new homes, with half of them affordable new homes. We will promote the reuse of brownfield sites, and improved vacant and derelict land, bring empty homes back into use and encourage city centre living and self-build.

- We will work to deliver a fairer and more equal Glasgow through all that we do, including our engagement with asylum seekers arriving in Glasgow under the Home Office dispersal programme.

- We will review how we fund third sector and community groups to reflect a partnership approach and simplifying procedures.

- Recognising the pressures outlined in our financial framework, the Council will wish to contribute to any discussions on how to pay for public services to highlight any opportunities or risks to our funding.

- Glasgow’s TARA service works to identify and support women who may have been trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. We welcome the commitment to work with civic Scotland on this issue, and recognise the role the Glasgow HSCP may play in dealing with additional cases.
A Nation with Ambition, the Government’s Programme for Scotland 2017
Glasgow City Council Strategic Plan 2017 -2022
Some key Issues

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<td>Urgently responding to the recommendations of the Barclay Review of business rates – and ensure that 100,000 businesses pay no rates at all through the Small Business Bonus Scheme</td>
<td>A number of the Barclay Review recommendations if implemented would have a negative financial impact for the Council. These are not reflected in the Council’s, already challenging, current Financial Framework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirming the configuration of the new social security agency and continuing to recruit at least 1,500 members of staff to work as part of it</td>
<td>We welcome the new agency and the plans to have local delivery, and would welcome engagement on how that can best align to existing Council service delivery for revenues and benefits.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1.0 Introduction

1.1 This plan sets out the priority themes and commitments that will be delivered over the next five years by the Council, its services and arm’s length organisations. It will deliver a step change in how we:

- Promote human rights and reduce inequalities across Glasgow,
- improve the life chances and choices for all our citizens,
- embed social justice in our policy making, and
- empower our citizens, giving them a stake, and a say, in what happens in their local communities and communities of interest.

1.2 These outcomes underpin all of the actions in the plan and we are accountable for how we deliver them. We will report on the plan annually and undertake a mid-term review to ensure the Council can respond to emerging issues, such as the impact of Brexit. We will set out separately how we will measure and report our progress.

1.3 Our plan has been informed by consultation with the people of Glasgow and reflects the key priorities raised. We know that it is only by working with our partners across the third, public, academic and business sectors, can we achieve our central task of reducing inequalities.

1.4 The plan is an essential part of how the Council plans its business and provides the basis for future budget and service planning, informs governance, service operational plans, performance management and reporting and the work of ALEOs. It sets out how we support the work of the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership and its Community Plan for Glasgow.

2.0 Our City

2.1 Glasgow is Scotland’s largest city, with just over 600,000 citizens. It is a city with a great history and heritage built around the River Clyde and on the strength of its people, their pride in the city, spirit and diversity. We are the centre of the only metropolitan area in Scotland and are the most ethnically diverse city in the country.

2.2 We are the economic powerhouse of Scotland and the fastest growing major city economy in the UK, outside London. We are the academic heart of the country and home to over 130,000 further and higher education students from 135 countries. Almost 50% of the workforce in the city is educated to degree level, significantly above most cities in the UK. Educational attainment is improving year on year, employment is rising, the business base is increasing and the city is the current European Entrepreneurial Region of the year.

2.3 Glasgow is one of the world’s top five sporting cities with a reputation for hosting major events, next year we will co-host, with Berlin, the European Sports Championships. Hampden is one of the venues for the 2020 European Championships. We have a vibrant arts scene and we are the UK’s first
UNESCO City of Music, hosting major events such as the MTV Europe Awards, Celtic Connections and the MOBOs.

2.4 We remain; however, a city of contrasts. Parts of the city still suffer from unacceptable levels of poverty and inequality and not all the prosperity and success in the city has been shared. Research by one of the city’s universities in 2012 highlighted that almost half of our citizens live in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. One in three of our children live in poverty. We have significant long term health challenges which stop our citizens from reaching their full potential. We have a highly skilled workforce, yet many people living in Glasgow do not have the required skills to help them access work. All of this holds our city back and this plan outlines some of the ways that the Council will support those furthest from the jobs market back in to work.

3.0 Our Vision

3.1 Our vision is to have a world class city with a thriving, inclusive, economy where everyone can flourish and benefit from the city’s success.

3.2 Our priority is to reduce inequality across Glasgow by creating inclusive growth - a thriving economy that we can demonstrate benefits the city, its citizens and businesses. This means a growing economy that creates jobs and investment, builds on Glasgow’s position as a world class city, helps us to tackle poverty, tackles poor health in the city and improves our neighbourhoods.

3.3 In delivering this vision we also want to improve our ways of working including:

- Creating more opportunities for our citizens to become involved in local decisions that affect their neighbourhoods, on how money is spent and how services are developed.
- Focussing on early intervention and prevention approaches.
- Partnership working with all those who can help us build a better Glasgow including:
  - Citizens
  - Third sector organisations and community groups
  - Our community planning partners
  - City businesses, universities and colleges
  - Our neighbouring local authorities in the Glasgow City Region
  - The Scottish and UK Governments.

3.4 This vision, priorities, and ways of working underpin all of the approaches in the plan.
4.0 Values

4.1 We have set out our values in our City Charter. They have been developed in consultation with citizens and staff. They are:

- Be an open, transparent and easily accessible organisation which communicates freely with city residents and involves them in decision making.
- Be fairer and more equal giving everyone in Glasgow the chance to flourish and improve their life chances and choices. Work to uphold and protect people’s basic human rights including treating them with dignity, fairness, equality, and respect, regardless of their background.
- Promote pride in what the city has achieved, its people, its heritage, its facilities and appearance and be proud to live and work in Glasgow.
- Work in partnership allowing people to contribute and for progressive ideas from any source to be heard and considered.

5.0 Our Themes

5.1 We will deliver this plan on a thematic basis across seven cross cutting themes:

- A Thriving Economy
- A Vibrant City
- A Healthier City
- Excellent and Inclusive Education
- A Sustainable and Low Carbon City
- Resilient and Empowered Neighbourhoods
- A Well Governed City that Listens and Responds

6.0 Risks and Challenges

6.1 Our priorities for Glasgow remain ambitious. We are aware that they will be challenging to deliver given the pace and scale of the further financial challenges ahead in 2017-2022. Our key challenges and risks are:

- We continue to face financial challenges and pressures. These were set out in the Council’s Financial Framework 2017-2023. It confirmed that it is a reasonable assumption that the level of spending gap experienced by the Council over the last five years is likely to continue to at least the scale experienced, £220 million. The Council Plan has to reflect the Financial Framework and recently issued Financial Forecast when setting out any commitments.
The economic outlook is uncertain and we must plan for the longer term. We will be undertaking regular reviews of the impact of Brexit on Glasgow including on the impact to those from the EU who have made Glasgow their home. We also have plans in place to try to mitigate any impact on the economy, in particular, any decline in inward investment in the city. This will require support from the Scottish and UK Governments.

The public sector across Scotland is subject to more change in the years ahead. There are plans for regional governance of aspects of the education service, regional health planning and proposals for Local Democracy, Planning and Transport Bills in the Programme for Government. We will want to ensure that these arrangements enhance the delivery of services and maintain accountability and governance at a local level and to this Council.

As a result of this uncertainty and pressures, we need more service reform and to be open to looking further at partnership working and service integration with our community planning, third and public sector providers, the private sector and city region partners.

We need to get the best out of the services we provide for residents. Key to this is early intervention and prevention work and focussing on outcomes.
OUR KEY THEMES AND PRIORITIES

7.0 A THRIVING ECONOMY

7.1 Without inclusive growth the city cannot flourish or tackle the challenges it faces. Our priority is inclusive growth that creates jobs, helps us to tackle poverty and improve the city’s health. We need to demonstrate that our thriving economy benefits the city, its citizens and businesses. Our work to support inclusive growth helps to deliver a key Community Plan priority.

Outcomes

- A resilient, growing and diverse city economy where businesses thrive;
- The city and its citizens benefit from inclusive economic growth and are involved in economic decision making through participatory budgeting;
- More Glaswegians are in work or training;
- Glasgow is rated highly for its business innovation and digital skills.

Priorities

1. Deliver the Glasgow Economic Strategy 2016-2023 and ensure it is supported by expert external advice from the Glasgow Partnership for Economic Growth.

2. Deliver the Glasgow City Region City Deal, supported by the Regional Economic Strategy 2017-2035 and its Action Plan.

3. Ensure the outcomes of these strategies and the City Deal benefit the city and the people of Glasgow by:

   - Employing those furthest from the labour market (through Working Matters, Youth Gateway and In Work Progression programmes);
   - Regenerating key areas of the city such as Canal and North East (Sighthill), Collegelands and Barras, the West End Innovation Quarter and Govan/City Centre and looking at other areas for development.
   - Creating the conditions to improve the manufacturing sector in the city and opportunities for small indigenous Glasgow businesses to thrive;
   - Supporting future plans for the SEC, linked to the West End Innovation Quarter and Govan Plan.
   - Increasing the number of employers who pay the Living Wage.
   - Reporting on economic performance to the Glasgow Partnership for Economic Growth.
   - Increasing support for business start-ups, particularly in the most disadvantaged areas of the city by looking at changes to business rates and around concessionary rents guidance.
4. Maximise what the Council can do through its community benefit clauses to secure jobs and training opportunities for Glaswegians and small businesses and look at ways that these clauses can be strengthened.

5. Use our initiatives and procurement to ensure that fair employment practices and the living wage are built in to all work the Council does across Glasgow.

6. Support small businesses and encourage business diversity in local high streets across the City, and continue to support Business Improvement Districts.

7. Explore the feasibility of introducing a universal citizens’ income and local currencies for Glasgow.

8. Support the hospitality, events and conference market, maximising business and employment opportunities through the Economic Strategy and Glasgow Tourism and Visitor Plan.

9. Appoint a digital champion and become the number one digital city in Scotland by increasing the number of people with digital skills, growing the business base and greater marketing of our digital success.

10. Ensure Glasgow has full superfast broadband by 2021, supported by the Scottish Government’s national plan for broadband roll out.

11. Develop the international strand of the Glasgow Economic Strategy to promote Glasgow’s economy, commerce, world class heritage and events globally and learn from other international cities.

12. Promote Glasgow as a centre of excellence for broadcast and media and make the case for new services to be based here, including a film studio for Scotland.

These outcomes and priorities will be primarily developed and progressed with by the City Administration Committee and the Neighbourhood, Housing and Public Realm City Policy Committee.

The other Committee relevant to implementation is:
• Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee.
8.0 A VIBRANT CITY

8.1 We have a proven track record as a world class destination for sport, events, tourism, heritage and culture. We need to compete internationally to maintain and grow the city’s reputation as one that can deliver. We also need to ensure that our own citizens can benefit from the sporting, heritage and cultural life in the city. This includes preserving our unique identity and our history. Our approach will recognise and support the strength of the city, its people, their pride in the city, spirit and diversity.

Outcomes

- Glasgow is world class destination for tourism, culture, sport, events and heritage
- Glaswegians are active and healthier
- All citizens have access to the city’s cultural life and its heritage
- Glasgow acknowledges and promotes its history, heritage and culture.

Priorities

13. Maintain Glasgow’s reputation as a world class city for heritage and events building on the legacy of 2014 and support Glasgow to become more active and meet the outcomes set for an Active Scotland.

14. Refurbish and re-launch the Burrell Collection.

15. Deliver the Glasgow Tourism and Visitor strategy.


17. Use the City’s strong cultural network to identify and support artists in residence in local areas.

18. Develop an events strategy including how we measure the success and impact of events.

19. Develop a Historic Glasgow strategy and work with city region partners and others on the continued transformation of the River Clyde and waterfront.

20. Develop the City Design Quarter and introduce a Glasgow Made Award.

21. Support communities develop play opportunities and street play spaces.

These outcomes and priorities will be primarily developed and progressed by the Neighbourhoods, Housing and Public Realm City Policy Committee.

Other Committees relevant to implementation are:
GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2022
TEXT ONLY

- Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee.
- City Administration Committee.
9.0 EXCELLENT AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

9.1 Our plan is focussed on ensuring every child and young person reaches their full potential, whatever their ability or background, in schools that are fit for purpose, and delivering excellent and inclusive education.

9.2 The city has delivered a sustained programme of investment in our education estate and can demonstrate year on year improvement in attainment in our schools. We want to continue to close the gap with the rest of Scotland. Our actions on education and childcare support the Community Plan priorities.

Outcomes

- Our attainment levels improve across all of our schools so that all our children and young people can fulfil their potential.
- All our children and young people go on to a job, or a training opportunity or higher or further education.
- Children and young people benefit from early intervention and prevention approaches.
- Equality and diversity is recognised and supported and human rights promoted.

Priorities

22. Improve attainment in all Glasgow schools, working with parents, pupils and partners.

23. Work collaboratively at city region level to enhance our support to schools and nurseries, ensuring the service remains accountable at a local level and to this Council.

24. Consider how we maintain the number of teachers working in Glasgow establishments to continue to raise attainment and achievement.

25. Meet the national commitment to deliver 1140 hours of free childcare by 2020 and do this in partnership with local providers, including third sector and community groups.

26. Invest in our school estate and early years facilities in the city.

27. Review and consider options to address the recommendations of the Cost of the School Day report including summer activities and extending free school meals.

28. Improve the percentage of pupils going to a positive destination when they leave school, particularly those living in the 20% most deprived data zones by:

- Building employer and school connections and opportunities;
• Increasing the opportunities for vocational training;
• Aligning learning and youth employment programmes;
• Enabling senior pupils to have access to school and college based learning; and
• Pursuing strategies for the growth in STEM subjects and languages.

29. Refresh and deliver Glasgow’s Community Learning and Development Plan.

30. Support the development and delivery of the Gaelic Language Plan including Gaelic medium education, exploring options for a further school in the City.

31. Extend the use of walking buses to schools and safe cycle routes to encourage cycling.

32. Review the current secondary school PPP contract and look for opportunities to improve value for money and greater use of the school estate for communities.

33. Ensure the school estate has world class Wi-Fi provision to support learning and the city’s commitment to be the number one digital city in Scotland.

34. Support the introduction of the national Named Person scheme and related good practice.

35. Review the catchment areas for Glasgow schools.

36. Review current Additional Support Needs provision and make recommendation on how to improve the use of current resources.

37. Support equality and diversity in all our education approaches, through:
• The nurturing city approach;
• Reviewing the feasibility of changing places toilets in our schools and plans for how this could be introduced;
• Working with LGBT groups, including the Time for Inclusive Education programme, to better meet the needs of young people who identify as LGBT.

These outcomes and priorities will be primarily developed and progressed by the Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee.

Other Committees relevant to implementation are:
• Neighbourhood, Housing and Public Realm City Policy Committee.
• Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee.
10.0 A HEALTHIER CITY

10.1 Glasgow continues to face challenges in addressing the impact of poverty, deprivation, inequality and the impact that it has on our citizens' health. There is a specific focus in this plan to address health to ensure that everyone can reach their full potential and take part in all the city has to offer in terms of job opportunities and good quality neighbourhoods.

10.2 Glasgow has a new Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) to transform and improve health and social care in the city. We will work with the HSCP to deliver our priorities.

Outcomes

- Glasgow is healthier.
- Our services are focussed on prevention and early intervention.
- Citizens and communities are more self-reliant for their health and wellbeing.
- We have integrated services with health that support Glaswegians when they need it.

Priorities

38. Support service redesign that will result in Glasgow becoming a healthier, empowered city, with early intervention and prevention approaches at the heart of what we do.

39. Conduct an independent review of Self Directed Support and its implementation in Glasgow and consider its recommendations and areas for improvement.

40. Work with partners in the third sector to review the City's Independent Living Strategy and implement its recommendations.

41. Review community care charges, in partnership with the HSCP Integrated Joint Board and those who are impacted by them.

42. Continue our work on the People Make Glasgow Fairer Strategy to tackle poverty, considering how we can address emerging issues such child hunger and period poverty.

43. Review the current provision of changing places toilets across Glasgow and work in partnership with businesses and developers of new build properties to expand provision.

44. Work to implement the Health Commission recommendations on mental health and wellbeing, ensuring mental health is embedded into policy considerations and employment programmes.
45. Expand our support for carers through the carers’ card, a strengthened role for the Carers’ Champion and a new Carers’ Forum.

46. Deliver the homelessness strategy in partnership with providers, building on the recommendations of the homelessness summit and strengthening the Rough Sleepers’ Initiative approach.

47. Review the provision of benefits, welfare and other advice to continue to identify opportunities to integrate and maximise support for people affected by welfare reform, or long term conditions.

48. Develop a corporate parenting plan and expand our support to kinship carers.

49. Build on our Age Friendly City strategy and action plan.

50. Build on the Child Rights/Child Friendly practice developed with UNICEF and provide options on how it can be embedded within Council services.

51. Implement our Dementia Strategy.

52. Introduce a new community justice model focussed on the prevention of offending and reducing reoffending.

These outcomes and priorities will be primarily developed and progressed by the Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee.

The other Committee relevant to implementation is:
- Neighbourhood, Housing and Public Realm City Policy Committee.
11.0 A SUSTAINABLE AND LOW CARBON CITY

11.1 We want Glasgow to become a sustainable low carbon city. This is a long term goal; however there are actions and strategies that we can put in place now to deliver this ambition. Litter, the environment and transport remain high on the list of priorities for our citizens and businesses and this plan focuses on delivering improvement in these areas. Our work on transport supports the city’s Community Plan priorities.

Outcomes

- The city is clean and public spaces are well maintained.
- We have a low carbon footprint as a council and as a city.
- We have more sustainable, integrated transport networks across the city, and less congestion.
- Citizens use active travel, including walking and cycling.

Priorities

53. Review the options and feasibility for a new transport body for Glasgow, working in partnership across Glasgow City Region, to provide a more connected service for all our citizens and visitors.

54. Invest in roads and pavement maintenance, improving conditions, residents’ satisfaction and contributing to active travel networks. Ensure community involvement in local decision making about this investment.

55. Prioritise sustainable transport across the city.

56. Improve and refine the Statutory Quality Bus Partnership and explore, with transport providers, how to implement an integrated ticketing system.

57. Explore the feasibility of a local bus franchising framework to deliver a more connected service across the city.

58. Explore the feasibility of bringing the subway under the governance of the city and options for extending its coverage.

59. Progress reducing the speed limit on all suitable residential roads to 20mph and consider how we manage traffic speeds throughout the city. Support communities to implement traffic free zones around schools and traffic calming measures.

60. Work with Scotrail and Network Rail to ensure stations deliver economic benefit, and that assets, such as arches, can be brought back to productive use.
61. Develop options for the city to introduce Scotland’s first low emission zone and work with partners on the introduction of a cleaner fleet of buses and cars – including electric.

62. Review the affordable warmth scheme and consider how to make best use of current resources to support as many older peoples’ households as possible.

63. Give all children better access to outdoor play by upgrading school playgrounds and play areas.

64. Improve the city’s cleanliness and recycling rates and residents’ satisfaction with these issues.

65. Build high quality, inclusive active travel infrastructure, investing a minimum of 10% of our transport infrastructure budgets in cycling and walking to make Glasgow an excellent cycling and walking city.

66. Improve the efficiency of our services through the development of smart technology, including for refuse collection and street lighting.

67. Become a carbon neutral city by 2037, reviewing our energy carbon masterplan in 2019, and investigating membership of international networks, the Carbon Neutral Alliance and C40.

68. Meet our commitments to the national target of ensuring heat, transport and electricity needs are met by renewables by 2030.

69. Explore ways of accelerating our work on green energy initiatives, and review the possibility of doing so through an ESCO.

70. Review the River Clyde Flood Management Strategy and continue to invest in the drainage infrastructure across the city to support climate resilience.

71. To promote and enhance our city’s natural resources including nature reserves and public parks.

72. Support the development of Glasgow as a Sustainable Food City.

These outcomes and priorities will be primarily developed and progressed by the Environment, Sustainable and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee.

Other Committees relevant to implementation are:

- Neighbourhood, Housing and Public Realm City Policy Committee.
- Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee.
12.0 RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED NEIGHBOURHOODS

12.1 Our actions on community empowerment, neighbourhoods and tackling inequality are closely linked. Having clean, sociable, accessible and safe neighbourhoods for people to live and work in is a key driver for the delivery of our commitment to reduce inequalities. Living in quality neighbourhoods, where you feel a sense of ownership over the decisions made in it, improves the health and wellbeing of Glasgow’s people. Our work on resilient and empowered neighbourhoods support the city’s Community Plan priorities.

Outcomes

- Citizens and neighbourhoods can influence how services are developed and budgets spent.
- Citizens can access good facilities, jobs and services locally.
- Citizens’ satisfaction with services is maintained or improved.
- Glasgow’s housing meets the needs of its growing and diverse population.

Priorities

73. Develop a neighbourhood empowerment policy.

74. Develop a more integrated approach to how we use our policies, assets and resources to improve community empowerment, neighbourhoods and delivering equality.

75. Extend participatory budgeting, giving local people a say in how local budgets are spent and services delivered and examine options to establish a new community and equalities unit to support communities in this process.

76. Review and provide options for how we can develop a liveable communities policy, linking up our approach to Thriving Places, the use of the Place Standard and the City Development Plan.

77. Support and enhance Glasgow’s conservation areas working with residents to preserve the character of these areas and ensure appropriate action is taken where conservation area rules are not followed.

78. Deliver a programme of investment in new or refurbished community facilities.

79. Encourage the development of trusts, social and community enterprises to support community ownership and management of assets.

80. Deliver the Glasgow Housing Strategy, including utilising funding from the Scottish Government and development partners to step up progress.
on the city’s priority Transformational Regeneration Areas and Development Framework Areas.

81. Support registered social landlords and the private sector to provide 15,000 new homes across the city, maximising delivery of homes for social rent, promoting use of the city’s vacant and derelict land, bringing empty homes back into use, encouraging city centre living and creating opportunities for self-build. Bringing the city’s vacant and derelict land back in to productive use is a key opportunity for inclusive growth that the Council wants to encourage.

82. Implement the City Development Plan and review planning regulations with the Scottish Government to ensure we deliver the best outcomes for Glasgow. Investigate ways to devolve planning and licensing decisions to a local level.

83. Ensure that Glasgow’s developments, both residential and public realm, are of a high international standard and deliver clean, sociable, accessible and safe neighbourhoods and public spaces. We will work with partners to develop proposals for the appointment of a City Architect.

84. Extend our approach to Enhanced Enforcement Areas to tackle problems in the private rented sector and take action against rogue landlords.

85. Develop a repair and maintenance strategy with registered social landlords and private owners for pre 1919 properties in the city.

86. Extend the number of volunteers in Glasgow and record what skills they can offer the city

87. Review plans for the refurbishment of George Square, our key civic space, following the completion of city centre developments in and around George Square.

88. Create a civic space for festivals, and support pop up spaces for events.

89. Introduce a fund to support local festivals.

90. Consider the potential options coming from the on-going study that the Council has commissioned around implementing either a city-wide, or localised, Rent Pressure Zones.

These outcomes and priorities will be primarily developed and progressed with the Neighbourhoods, Housing and Public Realm City Policy Committee.
Other Committees relevant to implementation are:

- Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee.
- Environment, Sustainable and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee.
13.0 A WELL GOVERNED CITY THAT LISTENS AND RESPONDS

13.1 Our citizens have told us that they want to know more about the council, to become more involved in decisions that affect them and to hear more about our performance. The focus in this plan is to be more accountable, open and transparent and to demonstrate that we are responding to citizens' views. A well-governed city is also one that is innovative, plans for the future and lives within its means. We need to plan for the financial challenge ahead and ensure we develop services with citizens and partners fit for the 21st century.

Outcomes

- The council has open and transparent decision making.
- Citizens are more involved in local, and city wide decision making.
- We listen to citizens and respond.
- We take account of equality issues and the impact of poverty in our decision making.

Priorities

91. Introduce a City Charter setting out our vision and citizens' rights.

92. Reform our decision-making arrangements to improve transparency and accountability and opportunities for citizens to take part in decisions, particularly local ones.

93. Review our public performance reporting framework, seeking citizens' views, and provide options for an accountable scheme that meets stakeholders' needs.

94. Consult with our citizens at the earliest stage on policy and service design, demonstrating how we have addressed their views.

95. Work in partnership with others to deliver the city’s ambitions and improve its services and outcomes through:

   o Citizens
   o Third sector organisations and community groups
   o Our community planning partners
   o City businesses, universities and colleges
   o Our neighbouring local authorities in the Glasgow City Region
   o The Scottish and UK government

96. Value our staff and support their development, meet our equality duties and consider options for how we increase trade union and staff representation on boards and meetings.

97. Ensure that we deliver our transformation programme to support our financial framework and forecast, encouraging staff ideas on how to reform and improve our services.
98. Ensure council reports take account of equality issues, through rigorous impact assessments and screening for poverty impacts and taking account of citizens' views.

99. Work to deliver a fairer, more equal Glasgow through all that we do, including:

- Exploring the LGBT community's interest in re-opening Pride House;
- Establishing a Refugee Forum and considering what more the city can do to support and welcome asylum seekers and refugees.
- Ensuring the black and ethnic minority community are involved actively in community consultations and their views are listened to.
- Having robust arrangements for reporting and tackling hate crime;
- Ensuring young people and groups such as the Youth Parliament and Forum have access to councillors and decision making in the Council; and
- Working to protect the rights of EU citizens as part of our approach to Brexit.

100. Establish a Veterans' Champion liaising with veterans on services and supporting their needs.

101. Review how we fund third sector and community groups to reflect a partnership approach and simplifying procedures.

102. Promote the role of the third sector to our staff and explore the feasibility of a Third Sector Embassy – providing a single point of contact in the council.

103. Support local businesses by paying our bills on time.

104. Review our financial inclusion strategy.

105. Improve Council's communication with residents, including through updating our website, facilitating engagement on social media and by webcasting Council committee meetings.

These outcomes and priorities will be primarily developed and progressed by the General Purposes Committee and the Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee.

Other Committees relevant to implementation are:
- Neighbourhood, Housing and Public Realm City Policy Committee.
- City Administration Committee.
ASYLUM ACCOMMODATION EVICTIONS

TELEPHONE CALL WITH CLLR SUSAN AITKEN, LEADER OF GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL – 31 JULY 2018

NOTE OF KEY POINTS

- The Cabinet Secretary noted the cross-party support for Cllr Aitken’s letter of 30 July to the Home Secretary and asked for an update on the situation.

- Cllr Aitken advised that she and the Chief Executive of GCC (Annemarie O’Donnell) were writing again to the Home Secretary (letter attached) to ask for an immediate suspension of the evictions, with instructions from the Home Office to Serco to stop lock changes. This would give the Council time to set up a response.

- Cllr Aitken said she had received assurances that Serco would engage with the Council, but this had not happened. She also thought that some people, who were threatened with eviction, might not have exhausted the appeals process, but may not realise that they still had rights of appeal.

- Cllr Aitken was keen to have time to do an evaluation to enable advocacy and support to be provided and said that she was setting up a Taskforce with partners.

- Cllr Aitken said that Glasgow wanted to continue to be an active partner in asylum dispersal, but the scale of the evictions would have a disproportionate impact on the city. She was also concerned that local authorities in England were receiving funding from the Home Office to support asylum dispersal, but Glasgow was not. It was also noted that Liverpool had negotiated different funding arrangements for asylum dispersal, and that a joint visit might be helpful to find out more.

[Post meeting note: Funding was for Local Authority Asylum Liaison Officers, via the Controlling Migration Fund, rather than general asylum dispersal.]

- Cllr Aitken noted that the Council is providing services to families with children and people with social care needs, who have no recourse to public funds. Legal advice had been that it was not possible to provide services to other people without these particular needs. It was agreed that it would be worth a broader examination of legislation to see if support might be extended to other groups.
The Cabinet Secretary and Cllr Aitken discussed the meeting with the Home Office on 7 August. Cllr Aitken said that the Council would issue a statement after the meeting.

The Cabinet Secretary said that funding of the Council for asylum was not a Scottish Government responsibility. Cllr Aitken agreed, as asylum was not a devolved matter.

Cllr Aitken outlined the Council’s 'asks' of the Home Office. The Council needed to be allowed to carry out assessments of all 330 people facing eviction.

Cllr Aitken noted that there had been positive engagement between the Council and Serco, but not on this issue. She advised that the move on protocol covered people with a positive decision, not a negative one, as the Council couldn't support those people.

The Cabinet Secretary and Cllr Aitken agreed on the need to look to the longer term and how a lasting solution could be put in place that avoided the disconnects in the system, which cause people to fall into destitution.
Equal Pay – Meeting 28.08.2018

In Attendance

Scottish Government
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work
Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy

Supported by [Redacted]

Glasgow City Council (GCC)
Cllr Susan Aitken
Cllr Allan Gow

Support by [Redacted] (DoF)

Key points

- GCC reiterated their intention to resolve outstanding claims as soon as possible.

- Now have a team of people in place within GCC as they work to identify available options to settle the claims and how that can be accommodated from within their Budget.

- Confirmed that Scottish Government would work with the council to provide what assistance/advice we can but made clear that the financial impact was the responsibility of GCC and the Scottish Government is not in a position to offer direct financial support.
1. The discussions focussed on the regulation of public processions under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

Interpretation of “disruption to the life of the Community” considerations

2. It was agreed that further legal clarity could be useful on what can reasonably be taken into account by a local authority in relation to “disruption to the life of the Community” and the need for this to be understood in light of European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Therefore, it was felt that further clarity and guidance in relation to this could helpfully assist local authorities in making decisions on procession notifications and addressing the concerns of communities impacted.

3. While recognising that Police Scotland was the only statutory consultee, and was best placed to comment on the likely impact of a procession on public safety, it was noted that at times the public perception has been that this approach does not always recognise legitimate concerns that may exist within local communities on the impact of possessions on their ability to go about their business. It was explained that this was the issue that residents in communities raise most often, particularly in relation to the cumulative impact caused by repeated disruption.

4. A 2018 report by Dr Michael Rosie recommended that councils and police should give further thought as to how meaningful and proactive engagement involving the community could take place. There was a discussion as to what mechanisms might help with this local consultation process.

Action: Scottish Government officials will seek further advice.

Statutory Guidance

Review

5. It was agreed that Dr Michael Rosie’s upcoming independent review of the implementation of the recommendations made in the 2016 ‘Independent Report on Marches, Parades and Static Demonstrations in Scotland’ would be helpful in measuring progress made so far and identifying what further actions require to be
taken. This could include considering the need to refresh guidance previously issued to local authorities on marches and parades.

6. It was noted that Dr Rosie’s work would involve reviewing progress made against each of the 21 recommendations contained in the 2016 report by engaging with key stakeholder and interest groups, including march organisers and community representatives who it was hoped would fully engage in the review to ensure their perspectives were understood and considered.

Timescales

7. It was recognised that that the 28-day notification period allowed time for meaningful engagement and consultation with both organisers and communities, but that this can be challenging in relation to setting conditions on the event.

8. While there was no expectation that the notification period timescales would increase, there was discussion about the importance of constructive community engagement and how education and awareness raising might help that process.

9. There was agreement that these issues could be considered as part of Dr Rosie’s work.

**Actions:** Scottish Government officials to consider Dr Rosie’s remit in light of these discussions.

**Temporary Traffic Regulation Traffic Orders (TTROs)**

10. In his 2016 review, Dr Rosie had urged clarity on Police Scotland’s proposed policy on TTROs (Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders) requiring a TTRO be obtained for every pre-planned event (including parades and processions).

11. There was a discussion about the constructive engagement between local authorities, Police Scotland, Transport Scotland and Scottish Government on this issue. Progress had been made but a conclusion had not been reached.

**Actions:** When the position has been clarified, following further work by Police Scotland and COSLA, Scottish Government officials will give consideration to any impact on parades and processions.

Scottish Government
April 2019
Note of Meeting with City Council Leaders

Scottish Parliament, 21 May 2019

Attendees

- Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations, Michael Russell
- Cllr John Alexander, Leader of Dundee City Council and Chairman of Scottish Cities Alliance
- Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader Glasgow City Council
- Cllr Adam McVey, Leader of Edinburgh City Council
- Cllr Murray Lyle, Leader Perth & Kinross Council
- Cllr Scott Farmer, Leader of Stirling Council *
- Cllr Margaret Davidson, Leader of Highland Council *
- Cllr Ryan Houghton, Aberdeen City Council *
- Jon Pickstone, Scottish Government, Deputy Director BEaRED
- Scottish Government, Cities Policy Officer
- Aileen Edwards, Scottish Cities Alliance, Programme Director

* On conference call

Note of the meeting

Brexit

1. Mr Russell outlined his understanding of the current position on Brexit. He made it clear he did not feel ‘a no deal Brexit’ was off the table and therefore all possibilities are still there. This included the possibility of a referendum or a general election.

2. Mr Russell advised, given the required legislative timetable, that even if a decision was to be made to deliver Brexit, implementation would be 1st August at the earliest.

3. Mr Russell advised he would be making a fuller statement shortly on the dialogue and cross party talks that would take place in Scotland. Minister stated he did not feel anyone had any answers at the moment.
UK Shared Prosperity Fund

4. Mr Russell advised the Scottish and Welsh Governments had indicated they wished the UK Prosperity Fund to be devolved to a devolved government level but was open to discussions to consider further devolution. He felt the consultation on the fund by the UK Government was delayed mainly because the fund was reliant on understanding the outcome of Brexit and the monies available. The City Leaders indicated their desire for aspects of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to be devolved to regional level.

5. There was a discussion around the need for the new fund to be less bureaucratic; for the issue not to become a political football; and about concerns the approach the UK Government might take. For example imposing a ‘value for money’ criteria where there is a disagreement on the definition and how that definition could affect the cities’ ability to choose the type of projects they may wish to target.

6. The cities also pressed Mr Russell to do more to reassure immigrants to come to Scotland as Brexit was already having a significant impact particularly in the Highlands where businesses in tourist/hospitality industry had to close.

7. Mr Russell advised the Scottish Government had expended considerably effort in do so and would continue to do so.

8. The cities asked about timeframes and how long it might take from a decision on Brexit and the implementation of the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Mr Russell advised his experience, from elsewhere, in which details were clear it took 12 to 18 months to transition over from one fund to another. He suggested during this time it may be possible that reduced funding would be made available.

**Action:** Mr Russell advised he would like to keep a dialogue open on the topic of timeframes. SG officials to discuss with Alliance how best to manage this dialogue.

9. Mr Russell suggested to the cities they should prepare for all scenarios as well as identify their priority projects so that the cities could avoid any unnecessary delays once a decision was made on the fund.

10. Mr Russell offered a longer meeting with the cities and others to explore options at which time the picture might be clearer on Brexit and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

**Action:** SG officials to set up a further meeting when there are new or evolved matters to discuss.

11. The cities raised the discussions with Mr Macpherson on Migration and their joint statement.

**Action:** Mr Russell said he would look at opportunities where himself and Mr Macpherson were at an event where the joint statement on migration could be launched. SG officials and Alliance team to liaise to make appropriate arrangements.

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Cities Policy Officer