



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

5th Meeting, 2015 (Session 4)

Wednesday 4 February 2015

Present:

Clare Adamson

Willie Coffey

Kevin Stewart (Convener)

Cameron Buchanan

Alex Rowley

John Wilson (Deputy Convener)

Apologies were received from Cara Hilton.

The meeting opened at 10.01 am.

1. **EU Priorities:** The Committee considered its EU priorities for 2015, agreeing to keep these under review in the light of developments to the EU Commission's Work Programme throughout the year. The Committee agreed to mainstream consideration of EU issues, when appropriate, into the rest of its work programme. Specifically, the Committee agreed to keep a watching brief, via the European and External Relation Committee's Brussels Bulletin, on both the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) and the Scottish Partnership Agreement 2014-2020, and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

The Committee agreed to write to COSLA's European Unit, seeking further information on—

- the implementation of the 2014-2020 European Structural Funds Programmes in Scotland and any progress on assessing the potential impact on local government;
- the Inter-institutional agreement on better law making;
- the Late Payments Directive review;
- the Mandatory Transparency Register.

Finally, in terms of Public Sector Reform, the Committee agreed to monitor the Scottish Government's plans for implementation of the EU Public Procurement

rules on local government and, when appropriate, seek COSLA's view on their consultation.

2. **Budget Strategy Phase 2016-17 (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the Budget Strategy Phase 2016-17 and agreed to—
  - take evidence on the role of local government pension funds in terms of investment in capital infrastructure projects, and
  - keep a watching brief on the formation and operation of the recently announced Commission on the future of Council Tax.
3. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered and agreed its work programme up to the end of June 2015. As part of this programme, the Committee agreed to undertake its work on the Budget Strategy Phase 2016-17 in late April 2015. The Committee also agreed to review its work programme in private, in June 2015 and to consider any further review of the work programme, in private, at future meetings.
4. **Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1, as well as discussing themes emerging which will form part of its Stage 1 report.

The meeting closed at 11.02 am.

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