Local Government and Regeneration Committee: Call for Evidence on the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill

1. COSLA would like to offer the following observations in response to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee’s call for evidence on the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill.

2. The Bill was considered by the Community Well-Being Executive Group which generally welcomed the intent and content. Several aspects of the Bill are discussed in detail below.

COSLA Vision
3. The single focus of COSLA and local authorities is to improve outcomes for communities. Local government is at the heart of the government’s focus on prevention, service integration and “place”, effective reform and strong local services are more important now than ever. National governance should enhance the ability of local government to achieve this as effectively as possible and deliver those benefits to communities thorough:
   - Empowering local democracy
   - Integration not centralisation led by community planning
   - Focus on outcomes not inputs
   - Local democracy needs to be at the heart of improvement and accountability

Air Weapons
4. COSLA have no concern over the proposal to require licenses for air weapons, provided that sufficient time is given to individuals to apply for licenses and the charge is proportionate. There is however a question as to whether licensing air weapons will deliver the outcome desired, as the main misuse of air weapons is generally from those under 18 this misuse may not be prevented as it is the parents who will hold the license and those under 18 may continue to have access.