



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

32nd Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Wednesday 9 December 2020

Present:

Sarah Boyack (Deputy Convener)	Keith Brown
James Dornan (Convener)	Gordon MacDonald
Alexander Stewart	Andy Wightman

Apologies were received from Annie Wells.

The meeting opened at 9.45 am.

1. **Declaration of interests:** Gordon MacDonald was invited to declare any relevant interests. Gordon MacDonald had no relevant interests to declare, but indicated that his wife is a local government Councillor.
2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 5, 6 and 7 in private.
3. **Community Wellbeing – Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, parts 3 and 5:** The Committee took evidence from—

John Mair, Director of Estate Development, Forestry and Land Scotland;

Lesley Forsyth, Senior Manager, North Ayrshire Council;

Elisabeth Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager, Dumfries and Galloway Council.

4. **European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Andy Wightman, Member in charge of the Bill.

5. **Community Wellbeing – Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, parts 3 and 5 (in private):** The Committee considered the evidence heard earlier in the meeting, and agreed to write to Cosla, Edinburgh City Council and the City of Glasgow Council to seek further information.
6. **European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

In accordance with rule 9.13A of Standing Orders, Andy Wightman (Member in Charge of the Bill) was not in attendance for this agenda item.

7. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed—
 - to take evidence from COSLA and from the Scottish Government on the Scottish budget and local government settlement 2021-22 following publication of the budget in January 2021
 - to issue a targeted call for views on forthcoming subordinate legislation on short-term lets;
 - to take evidence from agreed witnesses on the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan update after it has been laid
 - to hold a one-off evidence session on support for individuals with no recourse to public funds, and to agree witnesses for the session at a future meeting
 - to put in a bid to the Conveners Group for a Chamber Debate on its forthcoming report on post-legislative scrutiny of the the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, parts 3 and 5

In relation to the discussion on witnesses on the Climate Change Plan update, Sarah Boyack declared that she was a former employee of the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations.

The meeting closed at 12.53 pm.

Peter McGrath
Clerk to the Local Government and Communities Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5232
Email: peter.mcgrath@parliament.scot