

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 25 February 2014

Conference Invitation – ‘Going Local... Scotland’s Future’ – COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference – 13-14 March 2014

Item number	7.10
Report number	
Wards:	All

Links

Coalition pledges	P33
Council outcomes	
Single Outcome Agreement	

Alastair Maclean

Director of Corporate Governance

Contact: Andy Nichol, Strategic Business Manager: Chief Executive and Members Services

E-mail: andy.nichol@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4461

Executive summary

Conference Invitation – ‘Going Local... Scotland’s Future’ – COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference – 13-14 March 2014

Summary

The Council has been invited to nominate delegate(s) to attend the COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference to be held in St Andrews on 13-14 March 2014.

It should be noted that there is a meeting of The City of Edinburgh Council on 13 March 2014.

Recommendations

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee is asked:

- To consider appointing delegate(s) to attend the COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference 2014.

Measures of success

There are no immediate measures of success applicable to this report.

Financial impact

The attendance options and costs are set out in the conference flyer attached to this report (Appendix 1). Costs will be met by Members Services.

Equalities impact

There are no equalities impacts arising from attendance at this conference.

Sustainability impact

Travel arrangements will be made in accordance with the Council’s Sustainable Travel Plan.

Consultation and engagement

There are no consultation or engagement requirements.

Background reading / external references

Background to the Conference can be found at
<http://www.cosla.gov.uk/conference2014>

Alastair Maclean

Director of Corporate Governance

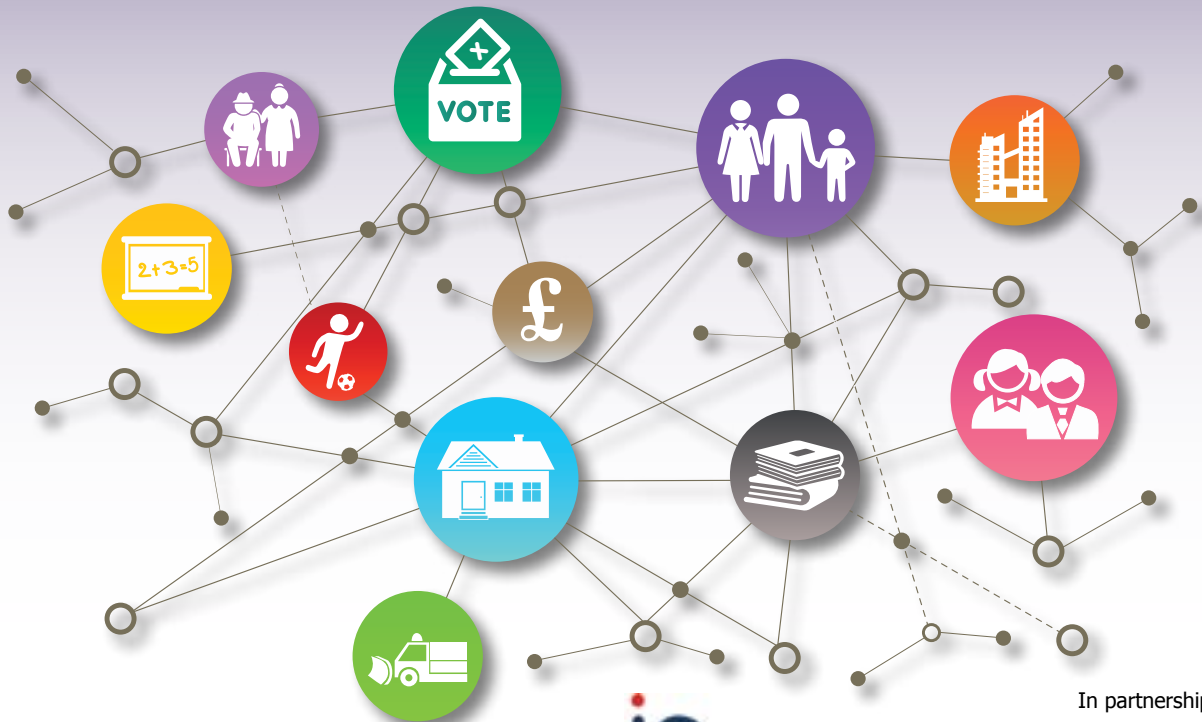
Links

Coalition pledges	P33 – Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used.
Council outcomes	The Conference enhances the ability of participants to scrutinise the effectiveness of performance across all outcomes but most particularly in relation to: CO23 - Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community
Single Outcome Agreement	
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Conference flyer and programme

Going Local... Scotland's Future

Annual Conference & Exhibition 2014

13 - 14 March, Fairmont, St Andrews





Councillor David O'Neill
President
COSLA



Rory Mair CBE
Chief Executive
COSLA



Colin Mair
Chief Executive
Improvement Service

The 2014 COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference takes place on Thursday, 13 and Friday, 14 March 2014 within St. Andrews.


It is no secret that this is a crucial time for democracy in Scotland. Talking about the powers that Scotland should have is one thing, but so far we have heard little about what that actually means for people's real lives.

When you speak to people in local communities, the real story is not about the internal working of Holyrood or Westminster. It is about the local services that communities need and about giving people a real say about what matters locally to them.

The challenges and opportunities we face in Scotland need local solutions. That focus on improving lives locally is at the heart of everything that Councils do. That is why we have a duty to ensure that the debate about Scotland's future focusses on the questions that local people, not politicians are asking.

That is why, in the run up to the Referendum vote, Scotland's Councils have taken the unprecedented move of setting up Scotland's first Commission on Local Democracy.

The Commission will listen to the views of people and communities across Scotland and what is needed to put stronger local democracy on the map in Scotland's future.



We have already set a proactive agenda:-

- Agreed a Vision for Stronger Local Democracy called 'Local Matters'.
- Set up the Commission.
- Conference, which is the third element of this agenda, will discuss key elements of the Commission.

At the heart of all our work, we are testing all proposals from Government and Parliament against the four principles contained within our Vision. These four principles are:-

1. Scotland needs to empower local democracy.
2. Scotland needs integration not centralisation.
3. Scotland needs to focus on outcomes not inputs.
4. Scotland needs local democracy at the heart of improvement and accountability.

But we want to expose that thinking to other people and we want to develop it further. That is where the Conference comes in.

The 2014 event, following the success of the 2013 conference format, will take place over a two day period on Thursday, 13 and Friday, 14 March and will once again be held at the Fairmont St. Andrews Hotel, Fife.



The 2014 fee includes:

As a member Authority, attending as a full residential conference delegate will cost **£399** plus VAT.

Included in the full residential conference delegate fee is one nights' accommodation on Thursday, 13 March, attendance at the COSLA Excellence Awards, Pre-Dinner Reception, Dinner and Ceremony on Thursday 13 March. It also includes attendance at all Conference sessions including tea/coffee and lunch on 13 and 14 March.

Plenary Sessions

The conference will start at 10.00am on Thursday, 13 March and concludes at 3.00pm on Friday, 14 March. This is your chance to contribute to the debate on key issues in Scotland.

The conference is an invaluable opportunity to network in an informal situation.

Accommodation

This year's event will be held at the Fairmont St Andrews Hotel and it is anticipated that all conference delegates will be accommodated within the Hotel. **All accommodation must be booked through COSLA by Monday, 3 February 2014.** We are unable to guarantee places for forms received after this date.

For further information regarding the Hotel or accommodation, please contact Linda Bruce on 0131 474 9228 or email linda@cosla.gov.uk

Hotel Information

Fairmont St Andrews, Scotland sits proudly amidst the rugged coastal landscape of East Scotland. It is 50 minutes from Edinburgh and 90 minutes from both Aberdeen and Glasgow. The resort offers an international standard of service and meticulous attention to detail in the comfort and convenience of a modern world class resort. Fairmont St Andrews, Scotland is approximately 2 miles from St Andrews town centre and 20 minutes from Leuchars Railway Station. Information on Fairmont St Andrews, Scotland can be obtained from its website - **www.fairmont.com**

Delegate Attendance Options

The following flexible attendance options allow you to attend the conference on a basis which best suits your needs. These changes are in response to customer demand and reflect delegates' increasing workplace commitments. Please read the options and mark your choices on the booking form.



Option 1

Full residential conference delegate

Accommodation on 13 March and attendance at all sessions, including tea/coffee and lunch on 13 and 14 March. Pre-Dinner Reception, Awards Ceremony and Dinner, on 13 March.

Option 2

Day delegate on Thursday, 13 March

Attendance at all sessions, tea/coffee and lunch on 13 March. Does NOT include accommodation or attendance at dinner.

Option 3

Day delegate on Friday, 14 March

Attendance at all sessions, tea/coffee and lunch on 14 March.

Option 4

Accommodation on Wednesday, 12 March

Bed and breakfast at the Fairmont St Andrews on the night of 12 March.

Option 5

Accommodation on Thursday, 13 March

Bed and breakfast at the Fairmont St Andrews on the night of 13 March.

Option 6

Pre-Dinner Reception, Excellence Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Thursday, 13 March

Attendance at the Pre-Dinner Reception, Excellence Awards Ceremony and Dinner on 13 March.

Exhibiting and Advertising

The exhibition is an integral part of the Conference, attracting a wide variety of organisations working in both the public and private sectors. Refreshments will be served in the exhibition areas to ensure that exhibitors have the chance to meet with delegates.

Further information is available from Tessa Malcolm on 0131 474 9224 or email tessa@cosla.gov.uk

The official conference handbook contains essential programme and speaker information and is distributed to all delegates attending the Conference. There is a limited amount of advertising space available in the handbook which will be A4 size and printed in full colour.

The following rates will apply :

Full page	-	£450 plus VAT
Half page	-	£280 plus VAT
Quarter page	-	£200 plus VAT

For technical specifications please contact Linda Bruce on 0131 474 9228 or email linda@cosla.gov.uk

Sponsorship

Sponsoring one particular aspect of the Conference brings its own list of benefits and related costs. Organisations may also contribute to the cost of one of the options shown below with recognition in the Conference Handbook.

For estimated costs or to discuss your contribution, please contact **Linda Bruce on 0131 474 9228 or email linda@cosla.gov.uk**

Options

Excellence Awards Ceremony Dinner
Evening Pre-Dinner Reception
Lunch(es)
Refreshment Breaks
Complimentary Gifts
Delegate Writing Pads
Delegate Pens
Delegate Conference Bags



Promotional Literature and/or Complimentary Gifts

An opportunity exists for including promotional literature or small complimentary gifts in the Delegate Briefcase at a cost of £300 plus VAT per item. We would require you to supply approximately 300 copies or gifts.

Please contact Linda Bruce on 0131 474 9228 or email linda@cosla.gov.uk for further information.

Partner Attendance

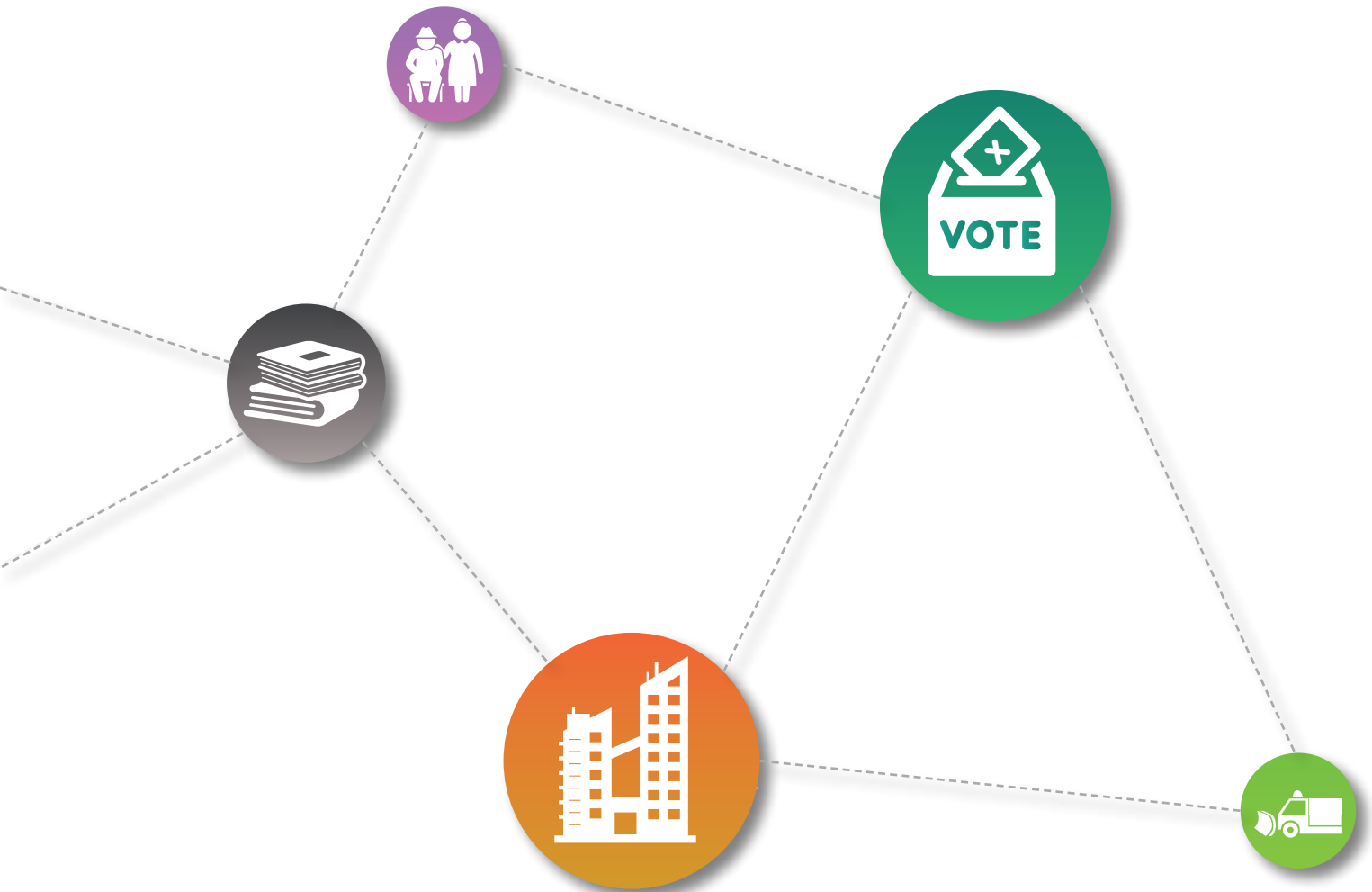
Partners of all delegates are welcome to attend the conference at an additional cost of £280 plus VAT.

For catering and administrative purposes, please provide details of your planned attendance at the event. All accommodation will be in either a twin or double room with your partner. Access to the leisure facilities at Fairmont St Andrews is also available to Partners.

Booking

To book a place at the Conference, please photocopy the tear-off form for each delegate attending and return it to Linda Bruce at COSLA, Verity House, 19 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh, EH12 5BH by **Monday, 3 February 2014.**

Please contact Linda Bruce on 0131 474 9228 or email linda@cosla.gov.uk for further information.



COSLA
Verity House
19 Haymarket Yards
Edinburgh EH12 5BH
T. 0131 474 9200
www.cosla.gov.uk

Improvement Service
Westerton House
East Mains Industrial Estate
Broxburn EH52 5AU
T. 01506 775558
www.improvementservice.org.uk



Delegate Booking Form

First Name _____	Surname _____
Job Designation _____	Organisation _____
Address for Correspondence _____	Telephone _____
_____	Email _____
_____	_____

Attendance Options and Costs

Delegates are invited to 'pick and choose' the most appropriate options. For a description of all the options, please refer to the notes overleaf. We regret that **NO REFUNDS** can be made, although delegates may substitute, providing reasonable notice is given. It is also important to note that it is **NOT** possible for delegates to 'share' a conference place. Prices are shown excluding VAT.

Full Conference Option (please tick)	*Member	Non-Member
1. Full residential conference delegate (includes everything listed below EXCEPT accommodation on Wednesday, 12 March)	<input type="checkbox"/> £399	<input type="checkbox"/> £499
2. Day delegate on Thursday, 13 March	<input type="checkbox"/> £180	<input type="checkbox"/> £230
3. Day delegate on Friday, 14 March	<input type="checkbox"/> £180	<input type="checkbox"/> £230
4. Accommodation on Wednesday, 12 March	<input type="checkbox"/> £145	<input type="checkbox"/> £145
5. Accommodation on Thursday, 13 March	<input type="checkbox"/> £145	<input type="checkbox"/> £145
6. Pre-Dinner Reception, Excellence Awards Ceremony & Dinner on Thursday, 13 March	<input type="checkbox"/> £95	<input type="checkbox"/> £95

* Member – Denotes Elected Members and Officers from Scotland's 32 Local Authorities

Payment

Please choose one of the following payment schemes (A or B)

A. I enclose a cheque for the amount shown below made payable to COSLA

Amount payable £ _____

Please add VAT at 20% £ _____

Total amount due to COSLA £ _____

A VAT Invoice will be sent separately and a confirmation letter closer to the date of the conference.

B. Please invoice my organisation

Authorised signature _____

Please print name _____

Special Requirements

	Delegate	Partner
Diet?		
Audio?		
Visual?		
Access?		

Partner Booking Details

Name _____

Address for Correspondence _____

Telephone _____

Partner's attendance schedule

Accommodation on Wednesday, 12 March (double/twin occupancy)

Accommodation on Thursday, 13 March (double/twin occupancy)

Refreshments and lunch on Thursday, 13 March

Refreshments and lunch on Friday, 14 March

Pre-Dinner Reception, Excellence Awards Dinner and Ceremony on Thursday, 13 March

Amount payable - £280.00

Please add VAT at 20% - £56.00

Total amount due to COSLA - £336.00

I enclose a cheque for the amount shown above

**Further information is available from Linda Bruce on
T: 0131 474 9228 E: linda@cosla.gov.uk**

Going Local... Scotland's Future

In Partnership With

The President of COSLA set up a Commission to look at the question of local democracy in the light of a general feeling that genuine local decision making and democracy was under pressure in the light of a shift towards more centralised decision making. The Commission has now been working for five months and though not yet ready to make a final report, has developed five key propositions which it believes need to be examined if the issue of local democracy is to be fully understood. The COSLA Conference this year can play a major part in the Commissions ongoing consideration of these propositions. We have designed the first day of the Conference around the five propositions with ample time being given to each to allow our membership and others attending the Conference to fully discuss these important matters. A member of the Commission on Local Democracy will be involved in each of the sessions to ensure that the Commission deliberations so far can be fully explained and debated. The Conference therefore becomes an important part of the Commissions work and is another opportunity for the Commission to expose its ideas and thinking to broader scrutiny and thinking. This is a real opportunity for the Commission and those attending the Conference, so lets make the most of it.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME 2014

Thursday, 13 March

Time	Session	Speaker	Room
9.00am	Registration, Coffee and Exhibition Viewing		Business Centre/ Ballroom Foyer
9.30am	Brief outline of the day Chaired by	Graham Stewart BBC Broadcaster	Ballroom
9.45am	Presidential Address	Councillor David O'Neill President COSLA	Ballroom
10.05am	Introduction to Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy	Professor Richard Kerley Chair Centre for Scottish Public Policy	Ballroom

The intention of this session is to allow delegates to examine the key issues surrounding decentralisation and aggregation of service. The session will look at when fundamental decentralisation is important, how common standards can be protected in a fully decentralised system and the extent to which genuine local decision making can still take place within a national service. The session will also examine the extent to which “intelligent aggregation” can be a requirement of fundamental decentralisation.

10.15am Decentralisation/Aggregation Colin Mair Ballroom

Chief Executive
Improvement Service

Sir Stephen House (inv)
Chief Constable
Police Scotland

Pam Duncan (inv)
Policy Officer
Independent Living in Scotland Project

11.00am Tea/Coffee and Exhibition Viewing Ballroom Foyer

The Commission has been looking at the value of local decision making and how such decision making can actually happen with regard to major public services. This session will examine where Scotland sits now with regard to local decision making in a European context and in the context of our own recent history. We can examine how in a very local situation major public services are managed and delivered and we can discuss with the Minister his plans for extending local decision making and community empowerment in Scotland.

11.30am Local Decision Making Jeremy Smith (inv) Ballroom

Director
Advocacy International Ltd

Joannes Hansen (inv)
Head of Representation for the Faroe Islands

Derek Mackay MSP (inv)
Minister for Local Government and Planning
Scottish Government

Throughout the Commissions discussions thus far, there has been a recognition of the need for a real link between local democracy and local fiscal accountability. At the moment, local government is only directly responsible for raising between 12-15% of the money it spends. This panel session will allow Conference to engage with a variety of points of view regarding whether this is satisfactory or not and the various methods that are being discussed to address the balance of funding.

12.15pm	Local Fiscal Empowerment Panel Session	Councillor Kevin Keenan (inv) Resources and Capacity Spokesperson COSLA Geoff Mawdsley Director Reform Scotland Iain McMillan (inv) Director CBI Scotland Don Peebles (inv) Head of CIPFA Scotland Cameron Buchanan MSP (inv) Scottish Conservative Party	Ballroom
1.00pm	Lunch and Exhibition Viewing		Squire
1.45pm	Fringe Event Theme to be confirmed		John Barbour Auditorium
1.45pm	Fringe Event Theme to be confirmed	Viridor	Robert Louis Stevenson B

There is a growing recognition that if local democracy is to be enhanced the idea that all Councils in all areas should have exactly the same powers needs to be challenged. Indeed the work of 'Our Islands Our Future' and the 'Scottish Cities Alliance' already works on this premise. Managing differential devolutions does however present a number of challenges and whilst this may be the direction of travel Scotland will choose exactly how it will work still needs considerable consideration. This session will allow Conference delegates to engage in this debate.

2.30pm	Differential Devolution	Councillor Michael Cook Vice President COSLA	Ballroom
		Councillor Gordon Matheson (inv) Leader Glasgow City Council	
		Councillor Steven Heddle (inv) Leader Orkney Islands Council	
		Councillor Jim Fletcher (inv) Leader East Renfrewshire Council	

The Commissions work recognises that at a genuinely local level participation in decision making and service delivery by local people is a crucial element of local democracy. How should the representative elected democratic process interact with a greater degree of participation? How does participation actually deliver democracy and what processes have we got at our disposal in order to make participative democracy work?

3.15pm	Participative/Democracy/ Accountability	Louise Macdonald (inv) Chief Executive Young Scot	Ballroom
		Councillor Drew Hendry (inv) Leader Highland Council	
		Angus Hardie (inv) Director Scottish Community Alliance	

4.00pm	Tea/Coffee and Exhibition Viewing		Ballroom Foyer
4.30pm	Theme to be confirmed	Ken Livingstone First Mayor of London	Ballroom
5.15pm	Close Day One		
6.45pm	Pre-Dinner Reception		Foyer
7.15pm	Excellence Awards Dinner and Ceremony	Hosted by Jackie Bird Broadcaster BBC Scotland	Ballroom

Friday, 14 March

Time	Session	Speaker	Room
9.00am	Registration, Coffee and Exhibition Viewing		Business Centre/ Ballroom Foyer
9.50am	Brief outline of the day Chaired by	Gordon Brewer Broadcaster BBC	Ballroom
10.00am	Question Time	Willie Rennie MSP Leader Scottish Liberal Democrats Johann Lamont MSP Leader Scottish Labour Party Nicola Sturgeon MSP Depute Leader Scottish National Party Professor John Curtice (inv) Professor of Politics University of Strathclyde	
12.00Noon	Lunch and Exhibition Viewing		Ballroom Foyer
1.00pm	Theme to be confirmed	The Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP (inv) Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	Ballroom
2.00pm	Closing Remarks	Councillor David O'Neill President	Ballroom

2.15pm Close of Conference

(inv) Invited