

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 24 February 2015

Conference Invitation – ‘Local Governance: Setting the Agenda’ – COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference & Exhibition 2015 (12-13 March)

Item number	7.5
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	

Executive summary

The Council has been invited to nominate delegate(s) to attend the COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference & Exhibition to be held at Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire on 12-13 March 2015.

It should be noted that there is a meeting of The City of Edinburgh Council on 12 March 2015.

Links

Coalition pledges	P33
Council outcomes	CO23
Single Outcome Agreement	

Conference Invitation – ‘Local Governance: Setting the Agenda’ – COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference & Exhibition 2015 (12-13 March)

Recommendations

- 1.1 The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee is asked:
 - 1.1.1 To consider appointing delegate(s) to attend the COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference & Exhibition 2015.

Background

- 2.1 City of Edinburgh Council is a member of COSLA and is invited to send delegates to this Annual Conference.

Main report

- 3.1 This year’s Annual Conference is entitled “Local Governance: Setting the Agenda” and will explore the key challenges facing Local Government. It will specifically consider how best to achieve social justice and how to build upon the recommendations contained within the Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy and the Smith Commission.

Measures of success

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

Financial impact

- 5.1 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.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 There are no risks or governance concerns associated with the Council having delegates attend the Conference. The future governance and strategic role of COSLA will however be discussed during the conference.

Equalities impact

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

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Travel arrangements will be made in accordance with the Council's Sustainable Travel Plan.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 There are no consultation or engagement requirements. In line with the Conference and Civic Visit Procedure delegates should, following the event, complete a Feedback Form for inclusion in the Committee Business Bulletin.

Background reading/external references

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

Alastair D Maclean

Director of Corporate Governance

Contact: Andy Nichol, Strategic Business Manager: Chief Executive & Member Services

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Links

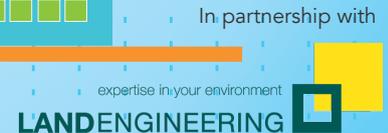
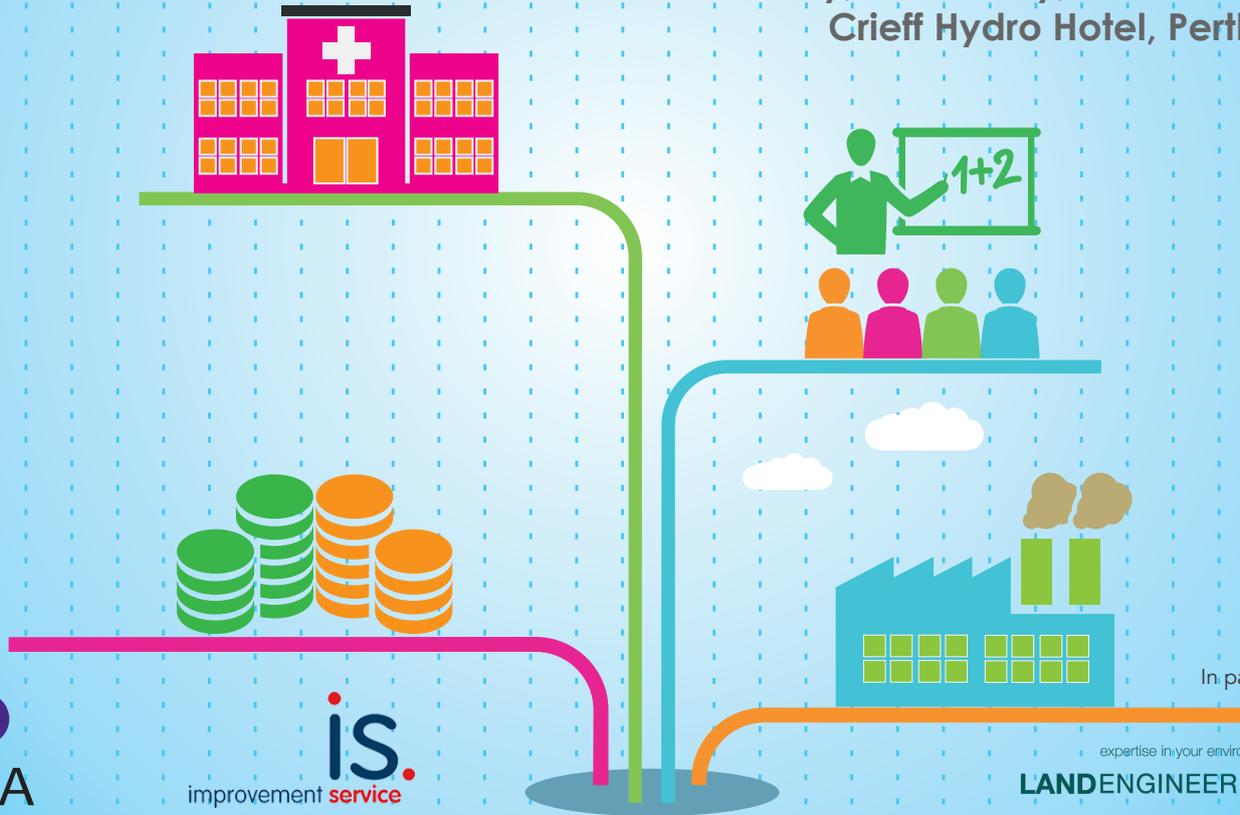
Coalition pledges	P33 – Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used.
Council outcomes	CO23 - Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community
Single Outcome	

Local Governance: Setting the Agenda

COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference & Exhibition 2015

Thursday, 12 – Friday, 13 March 2015

Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire





Councillor David O'Neill

President
COSLA



Rory Mair CBE

Chief Executive
COSLA



Colin Mair

Chief Executive
Improvement Service

Entitled “Local Governance: Setting the Agenda” the 2015 COSLA and Improvement Service Conference will explore the key challenges facing Local Government and how we can best meet these challenges by setting the agenda as opposed to reacting to the agenda of others.

It will explore how our political aspirations to reconnect with, and improve people’s lives across the different communities of Scotland is best achieved and how we tackle head on some of the key political questions that remain unanswered such as achieving social justice.

The 2015 event, which moves to a new venue in the Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire, will examine in some detail how we make best use of and build on the work of the Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy and the Smith Commission.

Councils, and their local partners, face budget constraints like never before together with a significant rise in demand for services and a population that has never been more keen to have its political voice heard. In facing the challenges this brings for Local Government, we need to be clear about our future governance and strategic role; be clear about what our priorities are in driving the outcome approach forward.

We aim to ensure that the COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference continues to be the keynote event not only in the Scottish Local Government calendar but also in the Scottish political context.

Some of the key issues that 'Local Governance: Setting the Agenda' will explore:

- How do we build on the recommendations contained within the Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy and the Smith Commission ?
- A stock take – where are we now, how well are we doing? What the evidence shows?
- What is our vision for improving local governance into the future?
- What must Local Government do to be more in control of its own destiny rather than reacting to the agendas set by National Governments ?
- How can we use all of this to deliver better outcomes in the strategic areas of Education, Health and the Economy ?
- How best can National Government support Localism in Scotland?

In a bid to answer these and other relevant questions and turn rhetoric into reality, the 2015 COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference will mix political perspectives with those of external stakeholders from across the Scottish and European spectrum.

The Conference will also be a celebration of excellence within Local Government in the shape of the Annual Awards Ceremony which once again this year has been incorporated within the Annual Conference on the Thursday evening.

The 2015 event will also see COSLA's Convention, which has been tasked with leading and overseeing COSLA's Strategic Agenda, being incorporated back into the Annual Conference Agenda.

Once again the conference format will take place over a two day period on Thursday, 12 and Friday, 13 March and will move from the Fairmont St Andrews Hotel, St Andrews, Fife to the Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire.

The 2015 fee includes:

As a member Authority, attending as a full residential Conference delegate will cost **£375** plus VAT.

Included in the full residential Conference delegate fee is one nights' accommodation on Thursday, 12 March. The fee includes attendance at the COSLA Excellence Awards, Pre-Dinner Reception, Dinner and Ceremony on Thursday 12 March. It also includes attendance at the Conference and Convention sessions including tea/coffee and lunch on 12 and 13 March.

Plenary Sessions

The conference will start at 9.30a.m. on Thursday, 12 March and concludes at 2.00p.m on Friday, 13 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 Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire and it is anticipated that all conference delegates will be accommodated within the Hotel and surrounding grounds. **All accommodation must be booked through COSLA by Monday, 16 February 2015.** 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

Crieff Hydro Hotel is Scotland's leading leisure resort. Situated in the picturesque Starthearn Valley within Perthshire, Gateway to the Highlands, the resort is an hour's drive from both Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee and only 17 miles from Perth.

Hotel Information

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 12 March and attendance at all sessions, including tea/coffee and lunch on 12 and 13 March. Pre-Dinner Reception, Awards Ceremony and Dinner, on 12 March.

OPTION 2

Day delegate on Thursday, 12 March

Attendance at all sessions, tea/coffee and lunch on 12 March. Does NOT include accommodation or attendance at dinner.

OPTION 3

Day Delegate on Thursday, 12 and Friday, 13 March

Attendance at all sessions, tea/coffee and lunch on 12 and 13 March.

OPTION 4

Accommodation on Wednesday, 11 March

Bed and breakfast on the night of 11 March.

OPTION 5

Accommodation on Thursday, 12 March

Bed and breakfast on the night of 12 March.

OPTION 6

Pre-Dinner Reception Excellence Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Thursday, 12 March

Attendance at the Pre-Dinner Reception, Excellence Awards Ceremony and Dinner on 12 March.

Exhibiting

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 e.mail Tessa@cosla.gov.uk

Advertising

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 e.mail Linda@cosla.gov.uk**

OPTIONS

Excellence Awards Ceremony Dinner

Evening Pre-Dinner Reception

Lunch(es)

Refreshment Breaks

Complimentary Gifts

Delegate Writing Pads

Delegate Pens

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 + VAT per item. We would require you to supply approximately 300 copies or gifts.

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

Partner's 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 Crieff Hydro is also available to partners.

Delegate Booking

Please photocopy this form for each delegate attending and return it to **Linda Bruce** at the address below by **Monday, 16 February 2015.**

COSLA,
Verity House,
19 Haymarket Yards,
Edinburgh, EH12 5BH

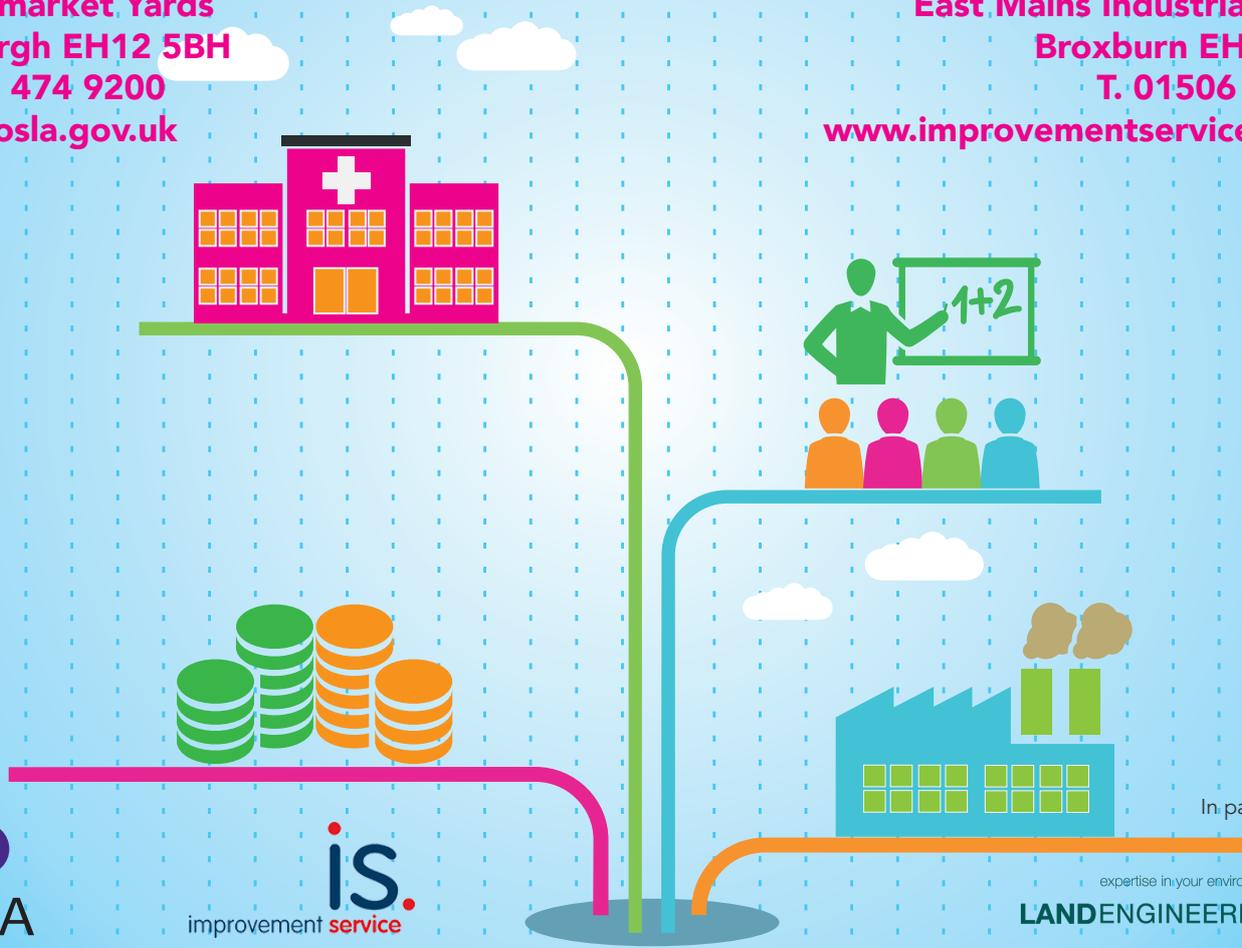
T: 0131 474 9228

F: 0131 474 9378

E: linda@cosla.gov.uk

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, 11 March)	<input type="checkbox"/> £375	<input type="checkbox"/> £475
2. Day delegate on Thursday, 12 March	<input type="checkbox"/> £160	<input type="checkbox"/> £200
3. Day delegate on Thursday, 12 and Friday 13 March	<input type="checkbox"/> £210	<input type="checkbox"/> £250
4. Accommodation on Wednesday, 11 March	<input type="checkbox"/> £99	<input type="checkbox"/> £99
5. Accommodation on Thursday, 12 March	<input type="checkbox"/> £99	<input type="checkbox"/> £99
6. Pre-Dinner Reception, Excellence Awards Ceremony & Dinner on Thursday, 12 March	<input type="checkbox"/> £77	<input type="checkbox"/> £77

* 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'S BOOKING DETAILS

Name _____

Address for Correspondence _____

Telephone _____

Partner's attendance schedule

Accommodation on Wednesday, 11 March (double/twin occupancy)

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

Refreshments and lunch on Thursday, 12 March

Refreshments and lunch on Friday, 13 March

Pre-Dinner Reception, Excellence Awards Dinner and Ceremony on Thursday, 12 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**