

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 OCTOBER 2001

Report by the Chief Executive

CITIES REVIEW

SUMMARY

This report brings to attention the Cities Review, expresses concern about lack of representation from councils which are contiguous to the cities, and recommends that Angus Council presses for full and meaningful involvement of contiguous councils.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:

1. Notes the present position with regard to the Cities Review.
2. Welcomes the fact that CoSLA is to press for input from contiguous councils.
3. Agrees to press the Minister for Finance and Local Government to ensure that both city councils and contiguous councils are directly involved in the review discussions and are not simply consulted on proposals emanating from a process which has involved city council representatives.

2. PREVIOUS COSLA TASK GROUP

Members may recall that in 1998, CoSLA set up a Cities Task Group. The remit of that Task Group was envisaged as encompassing:

- an analysis of the importance of the cities for the well-being of Scotland, and
- how best to secure an effective relationship between cities and their neighbouring councils.

The arrangements which were made at that time involved equal input from the councils contiguous to the cities, and indeed, with regard to the second part of the remit, CoSLA had agreed that a Network was to be set up comprising representation from both the city councils and the neighbouring councils of each city, as follows:

Aberdeen + 1 neighbouring council
Dundee + 1 neighbouring council
Edinburgh + 2 neighbouring councils
Glasgow + 4 neighbouring councils

CoSLA had agreed that the exercise would not focus on either grant distribution or boundaries issues.

For whatever reason, this exercise ran into the sand.

3. CITIES REVIEW

In December 2000 the First Minister announced that the cities would be the focus of a major review (Press Release – Appendix 1), to be chaired by Peter Peacock, Deputy Minister for Finance. He also announced that a Sounding Board would be set up to take stock of the prospects for Scotland's cities and inform future policy proposals.

The Sounding Board met for the first time on 30 August 2001 under the chairmanship of the Minister for Local Government and Finance. (Press Release – Appendix 2).

It will be noted that there is no representation from non-city councils and this must be a matter of concern to councils which adjoin city councils.

Following an update on the progress of the cities review and subsequent discussion at the CoSLA Leaders meeting on 31 August 2001, it was agreed that the President be asked to write to the Minister for Finance and Local Government seeking a meeting between the Minister and the Leaders and Chief Executives of those councils which surround the five cities.

The composition of the Sounding Board suggests that insufficient cognisance may be given to the mutuality of the relationship between urban and rural, and it is suggested that Angus Council argue for both city councils and contiguous councils to be directly involved in the review discussions in a full and meaningful way, and not simply to be consulted in due course on proposals emanating from a review which has involved input from city council officers.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from the content of this report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising from the content of this report.

6. CONSULTATION

The Directors of Finance and Law and Administration have been consulted in the compilation of this report.

A B Watson
Chief Executive
October 2001

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this Report

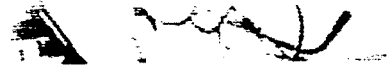
APPENDIX 1

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FIRST MINISTER ANNOUNCES REVIEW OF SCOTLAND'S CITIES

Scotland's four largest cities will be the focus of a major review announced today in Dundee by the First Minister Henry McLeish. He revealed that the Scottish Executive will set up a Sounding Board to take stock of the prospects for Scotland's cities and inform future policy proposals.

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The First Minister said that Scotland's cities "provide most of the challenges and many of the opportunities" for the future of the country.

- One third of Scots live in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen.
- The four cities and their surrounding regions account for 75 per cent of Scotland's GDP.
- The four cities account for 75 per cent of Scotland's energy consumption and pollution.

Announcing the policy review in Dundee, Mr McLeish also revealed that the review would be led by Peter Peacock, Deputy Minister for Finance.

Henry McLeish said:

"To understand Scotland you must understand its cities. We have to look at what makes cities distinctive in terms of their problems and opportunities. It is of fundamental importance to the country as a whole that we examine closely the issues facing our cities. There are a number of critical questions. How are the cities changing? How well places are they to cope with the changes that lie ahead? What opportunities are there to develop new urban policy approaches?"

"At present we have partial answers to some of these questions. What we lack is a modern, coherent synthesis of Scotland's changing cities and related policy successes, failures and requirements. This review I am setting up will fill that gap."

"The Sounding Board will be made up of expert advisers in

a range of disciplines as well as representatives from the four main cities. The review team will start work in January and I will ask them to report back to me by the autumn. I will announce the membership of the board early in the New Year.

"Our cities, and the functional regions that surround them, provide most of the challenges and many of the opportunities that face Scotland. That is why I am determined to get to the heart of the issues confronting Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. It must be recognised that how we organise our cities and towns impacts on our economic competitiveness, social justice and environmental quality."

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18 Dec 2000

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Making it work together

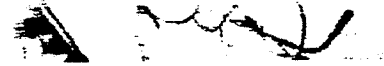


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MACKAY LEADS REVIEW TO UNLOCK CITIES' POTENTIAL

The long-term challenges and opportunities facing Scotland's 5 cities were the focus of the first meeting of the Cities Review Sounding Board which met today.

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Minister for Finance and Local Government, Angus MacKay, chaired the meeting of the group which includes members of the business community, the voluntary sector, local authorities, cultural and other interests from Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness.

Mr MacKay said:

"Scotland's five cities are vital to the health and prosperity of the nation. They contain one third of the population and account for three-quarters of the country's economic activity. It is right that we should develop a joined-up policy for their future success.

"That is why the Executive is sponsoring this review. All of our cities currently face a range of challenges and opportunities. Some of the issues are common to all, but each city is unique and we need to address that fact.

"It is important that key decision makers engage in this review and that we have an open exchange of ideas about future development. Peter Peacock and I will be visiting each of the cities over the next few months to hear local views on the problems and opportunities facing them in trying to maximise the potential of all 5 of Scotland's cities."

In December 2000 the First Minister announced a major review of Scotland's cities to examine the key long-term challenges and opportunities affecting them.

Local views will be fed into the process when Ministers and members of the Review Team visit each city over the coming months.

BACKGROUND

1. The Minister outlined details of the Cities Review in answer to a Parliamentary Question:

Michael McMahon MSP (Hamilton North and Bellshill) (Labour):

To ask the Scottish Executive whether it can supply further details about the arrangements for the Scottish Executive's Review of Scotland's 5 Cities.

ANGUS MACKAY: Since the First Minister announced that a Review of Scotland's Cities would be undertaken, the Executive has carried out preparatory work for the first phase of the work programme. The second phase of external discussion and consultation is now underway. A Sounding Board and Academic Panel have been established to inform and test the Review's emerging thinking.

2. The membership of the Sounding Board and Academic Advisory Panel are as follows:

Sounding Board

Ms Oonagh Aitken, COSLA

Mr Bryan Beattie, Eden Court Theatre

Professor David Begg, Robert Gordon University

Ms Ann Clark, Highland Council

Ms Susan Dalgety, Edinburgh Evening News

Mr Iain Dickson, George Watt & Stewart

Ms Rani Dhir, Drumchapel Housing Co-operative

Mr Matthew Farrow, CBI Scotland

Mr Mike Galloway, Dundee City Council

Mr Vincent Goodstadt, Glasgow & Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee

Professor Stuart Gulliver, University of Glasgow

Mr Stephen Inch, Glasgow City Council

Mr Donald McGougan, City of Edinburgh Council

Mr Mike Scott, Aberdeen City Council

Mr Douglas Smith, Insignia Richard Ellis

Mr Eddie Thompson, Morning Noon and Night

Ms Lesley Thomson, Liddell Thomson

Ms Tracey White, STUC

Sir Alan Langlands, University of Dundee

Raymond Young, University of Glasgow

Mr Alf Young, The Herald

Academic Panel

Professor Brian Ashcroft, Fraser of Allander
Institute/University of Strathclyde

Professor Liz Bondi, University of Edinburgh

Professor Glen Bramley, Edinburgh College of Art/Heriot-
Watt University

Dr Nick Fyfe, University of Dundee

Professor Stephen Graham, University of Newcastle

Professor Stuart Gulliver, University of Glasgow

Professor Cliff Hague, Edinburgh College of Art/Heriot-
Watt University

Mr Gerry Hassan, Demos

Professor George Hazel, MacLean Hazel

Professor Ade Kearns, University of Glasgow

Professor Greg Lloyd, University of Dundee

Mr Colin Mair, University of Strathclyde

Mr James McCormack, Scottish Council Foundation

Professor Alan McGregor, University of Glasgow

Dr John McKendrick, Glasgow Caledonian University

Professor Peter Roberts, University of Dundee

Professor Michael Pacione, University of Strathclyde

Professor Susan Smith, University of Edinburgh

Professor Ivan Turok, University of Glasgow

Dr Nick Williams, University of Aberdeen

Additional members will be invited to join the Sounding Board and the Academic Panel to cover specific issues as the review develops.

The Review is planned to conclude in early 2002. It will be firmly set within the changing urban pattern of Scotland and will involve a fundamental review of the key long-term challenges and opportunities affecting Scotland's cities, with tangible and deliverable measures for progressing the emerging agenda.

3. Membership of the Academic Panel covers a range of disciplines with a view to gathering insights from a wide field. The Panel has met once, so far, on 26 July 2001.

4. Cabinet agreed the following remit for the review: 'to review the current prospects for the economic, environmental and social development of our five cities; and to identify Executive policies which will improve those prospects, taking account of the interactions between the cities, their surrounding areas and the rest of Scotland'

5. The Review will be taken forward by Professor Duncan Maclennan of the Policy Unit. Angus Mackay, the Minister for Finance and Local Government, will have responsibility for leading the review at Ministerial level, with support from Peter Peacock, the Deputy Minister for Finance and Local Government. The review team will be staffed from members of the First Minister's Policy Unit.

6. The Review is due to report in early 2002.

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30 Aug 2001

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