

From COSLA President, Councillor Shona Morrison



18 February 2025

Ariane Burgess

Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

By email: localgov.committee@parliament.scot

Dear Ariane,

Thank you for your letter of 28 January 2025 inviting COSLA to give oral evidence on the Committee's Inquiry into potential changes to the current Council Tax system. We very much look forward to this opportunity to set out our ambitions for Council Tax reform.

In your letter you asked us to provide a progress update from the Joint Working Group on Sources of Local Government Funding and Council Tax Reform. I am aware that you also asked for a similar update from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance. As we have very much undertaken progress jointly with the Ministers through the Joint Working Group, I am more than happy to concur with the Cabinet Secretary's update.

You also asked about COSLA's Resources Spokesperson's intentions to create cross party agreement on principles and create a safe landing space for reforms. All COSLA Leaders understand the importance of cross party support and it is COSLA's intention to work with Scottish Government jointly to achieve this. The programme of engagement provides the space for building cross party relationships, using our already well established relationships with MSPs and local elected Members. Indeed we look forward to building this engagement over the coming months and welcome that the opportunity to give our evidence to the Committee is a start to this.

We look forward to speaking with the Committee at the evidence session on 4 March.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Shona Morrison
COSLA President