

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Industrial Communities

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 6.00pm in
Committee Room 6 at the Scottish Parliament

Present

MSPs

Colin Beattie MSP, John Mason MSP and Richard Leonard MSP.

Invited Guests – None.

Non-MSP Group Members

Cllr. Altany Craik, Cllr. Russell Imrie, Cllr. Tom Adams, Bob Young, Pauline Grandison, Keith Robson, Ian McCrory, Chris Whitwood (MST link) and Roddy MacDonald.

Apologies

Cllr. Debbi McCall and Professor John Bachtler.

AGM Agenda item 1

Colin Beattie MSP welcomed all present to the meeting.

Agenda item 2

Privacy Notice – Cross-Party Group on Industrial Communities.

This was noted by all present.

Agenda item 3

Minutes of previous meeting approved. Matters arising noted the correspondence and responses with Joe Fitzpatrick MSP and Minister on CRT Scotland Small Grants; Graeme Dey MSP and Minister on the Flexible Development Fund; and Neil Gray MSP and Cabinet Minister on the Case for longer term funding for local and regional development.

Agenda item 4

Funding for local & regional development – Proposals for a labour government (post-election update) – Chris Whitwood, National Secretariat on MST link.

Chris provided a detailed overview of the document focussing on the key aspects of the report. Namely,

- The new government needs to decide what to do with the 'levelling up' funding streams inherited from the previous government.
- Focus was made on the following proposals – Sustain at least the present level of spending; Introduce longer-term funding; retain a separate UK Shared prosperity Fund; And Devolve delivery.
- Following discussion it was agreed to invite Cabinet Secretary, Kate Forbes to the next meeting.

NB – Invitation and response from Kate Forbes MSP and Cabinet Minister enclosed in the papers for the January 2025 meeting.

AGENDA Item 5

Challenges & Opportunities for the Cross-Party Group for the New Session 2024/25 – Open Forum.

The following key points were made.

- The challenges were noted regarding the number of MSPs and Cross-Party Groups in existence at Holyrood.
- A number of ideas were shared about the consideration of a 'drop in' event. It was agreed that Colin Beattie MSP, Richard Leonard MSP and Tom Mason MSP would meet to discuss how to best take this idea forward. This would include the possibility of writing to Party Group Leaders to see how attendance at the Cross-Party Group can be increased.
- This issue will continue to be monitored by the Cross-Party Group going forward in 2025 and beyond.

AGENDA Item 6

A.O.C.B.

Bob Young and Pauline Grandison updated the Group on recent engagement with the Scottish Government regarding their Outline Business Plan. It was agreed that a joint letter from Colin Beattie MSP and Cllr. Altany Craik will be sent to Tom Arthur MSP and Minister for Employment and Investment regarding this important issue.

N.B Letter from Colin Beattie MSP and Cllr. Craik and a response from Tom Arthur MSP and Minister for Employment and Investment has been included in the papers for the January 2025 meeting.

AGENDA Item 7

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 21st January 2025 from 6.00pm at Holyrood.

