



What is Local Government's role in society?



COSLA Annual Conference & Exhibition 2024

Thursday 19 - Friday 20 September
Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire



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We achieve a lot when we work together.

TRUE PARTNERS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACROSS SCOTLAND.

The work we do together makes a difference. It makes a difference to people. It makes a difference to communities and services. **It makes a difference to Scotland.**

We are trusted advisers to two thirds of Scotland's local authorities; and we've been doing it for decades.

We are embedded within national and local government in Scotland. We understand the challenges and the opportunities.

GET IN TOUCH



JENNIFER JACK

PARTNER

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Harper Macleod's **multi-disciplinary local government team** advises on a wide range of legal issues, including:

- Large-scale development + infrastructure projects
- Social housing + homelessness
- Child/ adult social care
- Education services
- Procurement + outsourcing
- Subsidy control
- Creation + governance of arms' length vehicles
- Revenue generation + other fundraising initiatives
- Strategic service reviews + Investigations
- Employment + HR issues
- Litigation + dispute resolution
- Immigration + Asylum

Have Your Say



What do you think of the Conference so far?

Have your say on the topics being discussed using the Conference hashtag #COSLA24

Speakers

Shona Morrison
@morayshona

Steven Heddle
@stevenheddle

Karyn McCluskey
@ComJusScot

Maureen McKenna
@maureen0207

John Curtice
@whatscotsthink

John Swinney MSP
@ScotGovFM or
@JohnSwinney

George Tarvit
@SSNScotland

Paul Johnston
@PaulJ-PHS

Tessa Younger
@TessaYounger

Michael Marra MSP
@michaeljmarra

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@g_armstrong21

Katrine Bussey
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Linda Bauld
@LindaBauld

Jonathan Carr-West
@joncarrwest

Councillor Cammy Day
@cllrcammyday

Fiona Drouet
@emilytest12

Alex Cole-Hamilton
@agcolemilton

Patrick Harvey
@patrickharvie

Shona Robison
@ShonaRobisonMSP

Brian Whittle
@BrianWhittle

Exhibitors

Alliance Leisure
@allianceleisure

Food for Life Scotland
@SoilAssocScot

CLD Standards Council Scotland
@cldstandards

Trading Standards Scotland
@tsscot

British Red Cross
@RedCrossScot

**The Digital Office for Scottish
Local Government**
@DigitalOfficeLG

Lextox Drug and Alcohol Testing
@lextox

APSE
@apseevents

KubeNet
@kube_net

Prosper
@prosperscot

Cycling UK
@cyclingukscot

Crown Estate Scotland
@CrownEstateScot

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Partnership**
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Advice Direct Scotland
@advisedotscot

Corra Foundation
@corrascot

Cornerstone
@CornerstoneInc

myjobscotland
@myjobscotland

**Scottish and Southern Electricity
Networks**
@ssencommunity

**Scottish Library and Information
Council**
@SLIC1991

Welcome



Councillor Shona Morrison
President
COSLA



Councillor Steven Heddle
Vice President
COSLA



Jane O'Donnell
Chief Executive
COSLA

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2024 COSLA Annual Conference.

The theme of our two-day event, a key date on the Scottish Local Government calendar, is: **What is Local Government's Role in Society?** An incredible line-up of speakers and panellists will facilitate thought-provoking talks, spirited debate and expert-level analysis from across the public sector and beyond.

In the face of significant global challenges, we believe this isn't the time to shy away from examining difficult topics and questions. Of course, at COSLA we strongly advocate for the vital role Local Government plays, and must continue to play, in a healthy, safe and productive society. But, the two days' discussions will certainly bring up uncomfortable questions and truths.

Highlighted by the theme from last year's conference, ensuring everyone across Scotland can Live Well Locally is our guiding ambition, our purpose, and what Councils strive to achieve every day.

This means we need to hear and address those difficult truths and questions, and ensure that voices which truly represent the vast range of people, circumstances and experiences within our communities can be amplified through events like this one.

Over the course of the two days, we'll hear from the COSLA President and Vice President, First Minister John Swinney, a number of fantastic organisations representing different sectors and political viewpoints; covering diverse but deeply inter-connected topics, from healthcare to data; from local democracy to the global task of achieving net zero economies; from prevention of life-limiting local issues to ensuring everyone has a fair shot at participating in democracy, Local Government's role and that of our partners will be considered from all angles.

We are delighted that you are joining us for this unique event. We hope you will take this opportunity to openly and committedly engage with the key issues we are discussing.

We appreciate there's a busy programme and you may well be looking, as we are, to attend as many events as possible - but we hope you'll find time to visit our exhibition area, where you can speak directly with a range of representatives of COSLA and Local Government as well as a range of organisations we partner with, or who deliver or support delivery of vital services.

Partnership is key in these challenging times, and we hope this event will deliver you the opportunity to build and develop key relationships to help us ensure that Local Government's role in people's lives continues to be a positive one, helping people in our communities to live healthy, safe lives and to engage with key issues locally and beyond.

Conference and Hotel Information

Conference Staff

Linda Bruce, Alex Shirlaw, Hannah Siedl and Kirsteen Scott will be in attendance for the duration of the Conference to assist with any enquiries. The COSLA Team will be located at the registration desk.

Contact Information

Crieff Hydro Hotel
Ferntower Road
Crieff
Perthshire PH7 3LQ

Refreshments

Tea and coffee will be served in the Exhibition areas at the times indicated in the programme. Breakfast and lunch will be held in the Meikle Restaurant. A Pre-Dinner Reception, in advance of the Excellence Awards Ceremony and dinner, will take place in the Ferntower Suite at 6.45pm with dinner being served in the Melville at 7.15pm. Attendance at the Pre-Dinner Reception and Awards Dinner and Ceremony are by **advance booking only**.

Transport

The conference staff will be pleased to organise taxis or assist with other transport requirements on request.

Special Requirements

Vegetarian options are available at every meal. Please contact the Events Team if you have any further requests.

Leisure Facilities

Residential delegates are welcome to use the leisure facilities at the Crieff Hydro Hotel.

Arrival and Departure

Rooms will be available from 3.00p.m. on the day you arrive. Delegates are asked to check out by 11.00am on the day of departure. Luggage storage facilities are available at the Hotel, please contact the Concierge for further details. Please note that portage is not offered and guests are asked to take their own luggage to and from their rooms. Personal expenses incurred at the Hotel must be settled before departure.

Speaker Profiles



SALLY MAGNUSSON

Sally Magnusson is a broadcaster and author who has presented a wide range of programmes for the BBC from current affairs and politics to news and religion. She currently anchors the daily news programme Reporting Scotland and is the author of several books, most recently the novels *The Sealwoman's Gift*, *The Ninth Child* and *Music in the Dark*.

Her bestselling memoir about her mother, *Where Memories Go: Why Dementia Changes Everything*, has been credited with improving knowledge and understanding of this widespread brain condition. She is the founder and honorary president of the music and dementia charity Playlist for Life.



COUNCILLOR SHONA MORRISON

Councillor Shona Morrison is the President of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

Shona is currently serving her second term as a Moray Councillor for Fochabers Lhanbryde. In the previous term and as part of the Council Administration Shona sat on the board of NHS Grampian and Chaired the Moray Integration Board. Having worked as a mental health nurse before moving into politics, the appointment onto both boards was a huge honour and the years spent working with both teams provided constant challenge and learning.

From 2018, Shona served as Convener of Moray Council and as civic head, thoroughly enjoyed representing the council both locally and nationally.

As well as the above roles, Shona sat on several of the Council service committees including Economic Development and Infrastructure, community planning and Education. Councillor Morrison was elected as the 16th President of COSLA in June 2022, and is the fourth female President of the organisation.



KARYN MCCLUSKEY

Karyn McCluskey is Chief Executive of Community Justice Scotland, whose aim is to drive progress in the field of community justice. Community Justice Scotland works hard to create better outcomes for those who have broken the law, their families and victims of crime. She provides leadership in a highly complex sector that covers multiple professionals and organisations.

Karyn trained as a nurse, and then in psychology. She spent 21 years working with Police and helped establish the Violence Reduction

Unit in 2003 with a Public Health approach to preventing violence. She is a member of the WHO Violence Prevention Alliance and helped set up the Medics Against Violence charity in Scotland, which speak to school children about violence reduction, injury and keeping safe.

In addition, Karyn is a Non-Executive Director at Scottish Professional Football League, a board member of Simon Community Scotland, a trustee of Medics Against Violence and Chair of the Centre for Justice Innovation.



GRAEME ARMSTRONG

Graeme is a multi-award winning and bestselling author from Airdrie. His teenage years were spent within Scotland's 'young team' gang culture. His debut novel, *The Young Team*, was published by Picador in 2020. He wrote and presented factual series on Scottish rave culture, BAFTA and RTS Scotland nominated SCOTLAND THE RAVE (BBC, 2022), and on the evolution of Scottish gang culture,

STREET GANGS (BBC, 2023) available on iPlayer. In 2023, he was named one of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists, a once-in-a-decade literary honour. He is an ambassador for The Hope Collective, Damilola Taylor's legacy charity and an honorary lecturer at New College Lanarkshire. He is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Strathclyde.



MAUREEN MCKENNA OBE

Maureen was a mathematics teacher and senior leader in a range of secondary schools in the north east and west of Scotland. In 2000, she joined Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education, where she inspected a wide range of schools as well as education authorities and child protection. She joined Glasgow City Council in December 2007 as Director of Education and retired in January 2022. Under her leadership in Glasgow, exclusions dropped by 93% and

attainment of young people increased significantly. Since retiring, she has been working with Hertfordshire Council on inclusion and most recently with London VRU on the development of London's Inclusion Charter. Maureen received an OBE in 2015 for services to education in Glasgow and Malawi. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from Heriot Watt University in October 2021 for services to education and raising attainment of those in the most deprived areas.



COUNCILLOR EMILIA KOIKKALAINEN

Emilia Koikkalainen serves as the 1st vice-chair in the city board in Keuruu. Keuruu is located in Central Finland region, nearest cities over 100,000 inhabitants are Jyväskylä (65 km) and Tampere (120 km).

She has been in the city council and board since 2017 having experience from various divisions and working groups within the organisation. She also has position in Keurusselkä environmental protection division as well as Southern Central Finland Employment board.

In her political work cross-party and cross-municipality collaboration is emphasized. Local development for growing community vitality is close to her heart. As an entrepreneur and active also in entrepreneurial organisation she believes that all communities thrive through entrepreneurs - vital businesses are

the heart of cities - big and small.

Emilia has been a member of the National Coalition Party since 2016, holding various leadership roles.

Emilia is a council member of Association of Finnish Cities & Municipalities and a member the CEMR Policy Council, CEMR Vice-President (non-member of the Executive Bureau), Member of UCLG World Council, Executive Bureau and Financial Management Committee.

Emilia is also a councillor in the Wellbeing Services County of Central Finland. As of 1st of January 2023, the wellbeing services county of Central Finland has been responsible for organising social, health and rescue services concerning about 273 000 persons from Central Finland.

Above all Emilia is a proud mom for her son.



ROB DICKSON

Rob Dickson joined VisitScotland in August 2021 and is the Director of Industry and Events.

Rob has over thirty years' experience in senior public sector and corporate leadership roles and has experience at a National and local level of a wide range of services and projects that involve economic development, tourism and environmental issues.

Prior to joining VisitScotland Rob was at Scottish Borders Council for ten years latterly as Executive Director for Corporate Improvement

& Economy. He led the Council's work on re-opening the Borders Railway and on agreeing two growth deals including the cross-border Borderlands Growth Deal.

From 2018 to 2020 Rob was seconded to the Scottish Government and led the group of officials who worked on the South of Scotland Economic Partnership in advance of the Government launching South of Scotland Enterprise in April 2020.

COUNCILLOR CAMMY DAY



Cammy Day is leader of Edinburgh City Council. He was elected as a Councillor in 2008 to Forth Ward in the north of the city and served as a front bench councillor under the then-Labour administration. He went on to become the Deputy leader of the Council in coalition with the SNP before becoming leader in May 2022. He has also had previous portfolios on housing and education. Councillor Day is Chair of the Policy and Sustainability Committee (former Vice Chair) – and was key in the approval and passing of Edinburgh’s 2030 Climate Strategy, which outlines the steps and actions

required for the city to deliver a net zero, climate ready city by the end of the decade. He has also helped secure the publication of the Council’s Emission Reduction Plan, Council’s Food Growing Strategy and City’s Mobility Plan 2030.

Councillor Day also works closely with the key visitor economy stakeholders in his capacity as the Chair of the Edinburgh Tourism Strategy Implementation Group, known as the SIG.

Outside of work he enjoys cycling, running, going to the gym and spending time with friends and family.

COUNCILLOR RICARDO VALENTE



Ricardo Valente is City Councillor for Economy, Employment and Entrepreneurship and City Councillor for Finance, Economic Activities and Inspectorate. He is Board Member of Porto Vivo – Porto Urban Rehabilitation Society.

Mr. Valente is also a professor at the School of Economics and Management of the University of Porto and at PBS - Porto Business School.

Ricardo Valente was City Councillor for Economy, Tourism and Commerce and City Councillor for European Funds (2017 - 2021), City Councillor for Economic and Social

Development (2016 - 2017), and Non-executive City Councillor (2013 - 2016). He was also the President of Porto Convention & Visitors Bureau (2018 - 2020).

From 1992 to 2016, Mr. Valente worked in risk management consulting, capital markets, asset management, investment banking, and was also an investment consultant.

Mr. Valente has a Master’s degree in finance and a MBA in finance from the Catholic University of Lisbon, and a degree in Economics from the University of Porto.



FIONA DROUET MBE

Fiona Drouet MBE is the founder and CEO of the Scottish charity, EMILYTEST. At 18 years of age, her daughter Emily took her own life after being subjected to a relentless campaign of physical, psychological and sexual abuse by a fellow student while living and studying at University. Emily's tragic death was the result of a series of preventable failures.

Since, EMILYTEST has been successfully campaigning to raise awareness of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and stimulate change in policy, professional practice, intervention and support in Scottish education. Working closely with the Scottish

Government, Universities, Colleges, Police Scotland, UCU and the third sector, Fiona continues to guide the sector towards safer campuses for all students to live, work and study.

Funded by the Scottish Government, EMILYTEST has developed the world's first evidence-based GBV Charter for Colleges and Universities. The first Charter of its kind, it is intended to serve as a key driver in encouraging institutions to continually strive for excellence in the field of GBV prevention and intervention. Ensuring equal opportunity for every student, regardless of the university they study in.



GEORGE TARVIT

George joined the University of Edinburgh Climate Change Institute in 2018 to lead the Institute's work on the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN).

Before joining ECCI George managed SSN and a range of sustainability and climate change initiatives at the charity Keep Scotland Beautiful.

He has experience of climate change and sustainability policy and practice relating to local government and the wider public sector.

Prior to leading SSN George worked for Oxfam as Trade Campaign Manager and Scottish Parliamentary Liaison Officer.



GEMMA HICKEY

Gemma is a highly valued, passionate and dedicated YSHive volunteer with Young Scot and has been volunteering since April 2023. YSHive is Young Scot's co-design service which allows young people and decision-makers to work together to create positive change to services that impact young people. Gemma has volunteered 43.5 hours participating in two YSHive co-design projects: YouthVIP Panel and Scotland's Young Peoples Forest.

Gemma is a brilliant young woman; willing to work collaboratively with her peers to observe, listen and understand the opinions and ideas of others while also being confident to voice her own opinions and ideas. She has developed her skills in team working, public speaking, problem solving and time management during her time as a YSHive volunteer but more importantly built up her confidence in herself and her abilities.



TESSA YOUNGER

Tessa is Stewardship Lead: Environment for CCLA Investment Management. CCLA is the UK's largest charity fund manager, managing investments for charities, religious organisations and the public sector. Tessa leads CCLA's 'Better Environment' work, steering engagement with listed corporates and overseeing all stewardship on environmental issues, including climate change and nature.

She is a member of PRI 'Spring' advisory committee for nature, the Institutional Investor Group on Climate Change (IIGCC) UK policy

working group and the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) policy work stream. She has drafted consultation responses for CCLA to the UK government's Call for Evidence on 'Scope 3 Emissions disclosure and the Department for Transport's 'draft national networks national policy statement'.

Previously, Tessa was Head of Engagement at PIRC Ltd - Europe's largest independent corporate governance and shareholder advisory consultancy, running the engagement programme for the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF).



KATRINE BUSSEY

Katrine has been part of the PA team covering Scottish politics since 2005, and was promoted to Scottish political editor in 2010. As well as covering scores of pieces of legislation that have passed through

the Scottish Parliament, she has covered five Westminster Elections, four Local Government Elections, three Holyrood Elections and two Referendums.



JOHN SWINNEY MSP

John Swinney was appointed First Minister in May 2024.

Born in 1964, he joined the Scottish National Party in 1979 and went on to graduate from Edinburgh University with an MA (Hons) in Politics. He has worked for the Scottish Coal Project, Development Options and Scottish Amicable.

Prior to his election as Westminster MP for North Tayside in 1997, he held a number of posts in the SNP at local and national level. In 1999, he became the MSP for Tayside North, remaining as the constituency's MP until standing down from Westminster at the 2001 General Election.

From 1998 to 2000, he served as deputy leader of the SNP, and then as party leader between 2000 and 2004. He was re-elected as an MSP at the 2011 Scottish Parliament election and appointed Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth. He was appointed as Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy in November 2014. In 2016 he was appointed Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. In 2021 he was appointed Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery.



IAN HAMILTON

Ian Hamilton is a blind BBC presenter and very well-known Scottish documentary maker, who joined [BBC Scotland](#) News in 2000 working in both radio and television. Blind since birth and a guide dog owner, his talks have been described as inspirational, thought provoking, entertaining and motivational.

Ian talks about being a disabled reporter and its challenges, working both in the UK and abroad.

Ian works as a reporter for BBC Scotland and Radio 4, regularly covering a variety of programmes for news, sport, and features, including Sports Weekly, Reporting Scotland and Newsnight Scotland. He was also a regular on Radio 4s programme 'In Touch', 'You and Yours' and the award winning 'Home Truths' with the late John Peel. Ian branched into web casting for BBC Scotland where he hosted an Election Special at the last Scottish parliamentary election. In 2020, Ian was filming a new documentary series in Scotland

called "[My Kind of Town](#)". Here Ian was looking at the past, present and the future of Scottish towns.

He became a columnist for The Herald newspaper with an irreverent and amusing look at the trials and tribulations of life as a blind person. His talks reflect a thought-provoking insight into the human side of being blind. Topics like The Blind Spy, Walking Holidays, How to Avoid the Public when Blind, Sailing without a Compass are a few of the entertaining articles already published. Ian uses his life experience to motivate others and encourage them to look at the positive when dealing with every day life.

In 2017 Ian was introduced to his current guide dog, a cross black retriever called Major.

Ian sees his guide dogs as a key to his independence. His film uncovered the startling fact that across Britain 180,000 visually impaired people never leave their home alone.



PROFESSOR SIR JOHN CURTICE

Professor Sir John Curtice is Professor of Politics at Strathclyde University, and Senior Research Fellow, National/Scottish Centre for Social Research and the ESRC's 'The UK in a Changing Europe' initiative. He has written extensively about voting behaviour in elections and referendums in the UK, as well as on British political and social attitudes more generally. He has been a co-editor of the National Centre's annual British Social Attitudes reports series

for nearly thirty years, a co-director of the Scottish Social Attitudes series, and is a regular contributor to Scottish, British and international media coverage of politics in the UK. Curtice is Chief Commentator at two websites, [whatscotlandthinks.org](#) and [whatukthinks.org/eu](#), that provide a comprehensive collection of materials on public attitudes towards (i) how Scotland should be governed, and (ii) the UK's relationship with the EU.



DR. JONATHAN CARR-WEST

Dr Jonathan Carr-West has been Chief Executive of the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) since February 2013 where he leads on all aspects of the think tank's policy, membership and influencing work.

Prior to being appointed as Chief Executive, Jonathan was Director of Policy at the LGIU where he led on research and consultancy, policy

development and piloting, best practice dissemination, learning and development.

With over 15 years' experience, Jonathan is a leading national expert on local government transformation, local democracy and public services. Some of his particular interests are in participative democracy, the evolving nature of public services and devolution.



COUNCILLOR ALISON BENNINGTON

Councillor Alison Bennington has worked in Local Government for 38 years and has a long standing record of delivery in Leisure Arts and Parks. She was appointed as Vice President of NILGA in 2023 and then elected President for the 2024/25 term.

Within Council Alison sits on various

committees, is Veterans Champion and is Chair on several school Governors Boards. Alison has a keen interest on waste management, strategy development, and investing in infrastructure to deliver services of value to the ratepayers.



PAUL JOHNSTON

Paul was appointed Chief Executive of Public Health Scotland in March 2023. Prior to this role, Paul spent eight years as a member of the Executive Team and Corporate Board in the Scottish Government. His responsibilities covered many areas of social policy that impact on health. He was Director General for Education and Justice between 2015 and 2021.

Paul became Director General for Communities in 2021 with responsibility for social security, housing, equality, human rights, local government and public service reform.

Paul is a qualified lawyer and joined the Scottish Government in 2000, holding a range of legal and policy roles including a secondment as a Director in the UK Government.



PROFESSOR LINDA BAULD

Professor Linda Bauld OBE FMedSci FRSE FRCPE FFPH FAcSS is the Bruce and John Usher Chair in Public Health in the Usher Institute, College of Medicine, University of Edinburgh and Chief Social Policy Adviser to the Scottish Government. Her research focuses on the prevention and treatment of the main modifiable risk factors for Non-Communicable Diseases including cancer, diabetes and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases with a particular focus on tobacco, alcohol, diet and inequalities in health. She leads two research

consortia: SPECTRUM - focusing on the commercial determinants of health; and Behavioural Research UK (BR-UK) - a leadership hub for behavioural science across the UK. In her Scottish Government role she is based in DG Communities and works across government on a range of issues where social and behavioural science expertise can add value to policy development, implementation or evaluation. Linda is a former Scientific Adviser to the UK Department of Health and Cancer Research UK on public health.



LORNA PIMLOTT

Lorna has over 30 years' experience in developing and delivering major infrastructure projects. An architect by profession, she has worked in both the private and public sector throughout her career, engaging with central and local government to solve challenges in infrastructure. She has led schemes when in a multinational contractor, central government grant organisations to big four consultancy and government Arm's Length Bodies. Her most recent roles were at the Great British Rail Transition

Team and as Sponsorship Director for Phase 2 at HS2. Lorna started her new role as Managing Director of the Local Authority function in the UK Infrastructure Bank (UKIB) in July 2023 and is continuing to develop offerings for advisory and lending services across the UK's four nations, working directly with local authorities, devolved governments, the private sector and government departments to accelerate the impact UKIB can make to Net Zero and regional economic growth.



ALEX COLE-HAMILTON MSP

Before Parliament, Alex worked in the children's voluntary sector, including being Director of Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights) and worked on the campaign to raise the age of leaving care in Scotland to 21. He has prioritised campaigning

on children's mental health, first aid awareness, long covid and supporting Ukrainian refugees.

Alex was first elected as the MSP for Edinburgh Western in 2016, and was re-elected in 2021. He lives in Edinburgh with his wife and 3 children.



SHONA ROBISON MSP

Shona was born in Redcar in 1966. Educated at Alva Academy, she went on to graduate from Glasgow University with a Social Sciences MA and Jordanhill College with a Postgraduate Certificate in Community Education. Previously she worked for Glasgow City Council's Social Work Department.

Shona was MSP for the North East from 1999 to 2003 and elected MSP for Dundee East in 2003. Latterly, she was Shadow Minister for Health and Social Justice and a member of the Parliament's Health Committee before

being appointed Minister for Public Health in the Scottish Government after the May 2007 election.

She was re-elected in May 2011 and appointed Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport, and was made Cabinet Secretary for Health in November 2014. She was appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport in May 2016, and Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government in May 2021. In March 2023, she was appointed as Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance.



MICHAEL MARRA MSP

Michael Marra MSP was elected to the Scottish Parliament representing the North-East Scotland region in May 2021.

In April 2023, Michael was appointed Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Finance, having previously served as Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills 2021-2023.

Prior to his election as an MSP, Michael worked at the University of Dundee where, for a decade, he led major national and international research projects. Michael is a graduate of the LSE and the University of Glasgow. He previously served as Head of Policy for Oxfam.



PATRICK HARVIE MSP

Patrick is Co-Leader of the Scottish Greens and has been an MSP for Glasgow since 2003. A prominent campaigner for Scottish Independence, he has led campaigns on a range of topics and issues, from asylum, civil liberties and sexual health to influencing major changes with income tax reform.

Patrick and his Co-Leader Lorna Slater became the first Green politicians to enter Government anywhere in the UK

following the cooperation agreement between the Scottish Greens and the Scottish Government. Patrick served as Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights from August 2021 until April 2024, delivering record funding for walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure and emergency rent controls during the cost of living crisis.

Away from work Patrick is a keen cyclist, sci-fi fan and lover of real ale.



BRIAN WHITTLE MSP

Brian Whittle is a Scottish Conservative MSP for South Scotland and Deputy Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Business, Economic Growth and Tourism. He is a former Olympic-level professional athlete, best known for running his leg of the 1986 European Championships with only one shoe – still achieving a personal best time. Brian trained as an industrial chemist prior to his

career in athletics and spent several years in business as a director of various companies working across several sectors before becoming an MSP in 2016. He is a Member of the Economy and Fair Work Committee at Holyrood and sits on Cross Party Groups for various subjects including renewable energy, sustainable transport, and improving Scotland’s health.



COUNCILLOR STEVEN HEDDLE

Councillor Steven Heddle is the Vice-President of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

Steven Heddle is from Kirkwall and studied at Aberdeen and Edinburgh Universities, gaining a BSc and PhD in Physics. After working for both the public and private sector in research and development, he returned to Orkney in 1999 where he ran a business and technical consultancy and worked for HIE.

First elected in 2007, he was Orkney Islands Council political and civic leader from 2012-2017, during which time he shared the 2013 Herald Local Politician of the Year Award and 2014

Scottish Public Service Award for Leadership. He served as President of the CPMR Islands Commission from 2014-16, as a board member of NHS Orkney from 2015-17 and 2022-24, and as a member of the COSLA Commission for Strengthening Local Democracy. He was COSLA Spokesperson for the Environment and Economy from 2017-2022 and is a visiting professor at the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Away from the Council his main interests are cycling and music, including playing in and helping to organise the annual Orkney Rock Festival.

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We also have an advisory service for local authorities.



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HEAR FROM YOU.**

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Conference Programme: What is

Day 1: Thursday 19 September

Time	Session	Speaker	Venue
8:00am	Registration, Coffee and Exhibition Viewing <i>Refreshments Sponsored by Cornerstone</i>		Exhibition Area
9:30am	Welcome from the Chair	Sally Magnusson Broadcaster and Journalist	Melville
9:35am	Presidential Address	Councillor Shona Morrison President of COSLA	Melville
9:50am	How Can We Invest in Prevention and Early Intervention to Save Lives?	PANEL SESSION Karyn McCluskey Chief Executive Community Justice Scotland Graeme Armstrong Author/Broadcaster Maureen McKenna OBE Former Executive Director of Education Glasgow City Council	Melville
10:30am	Refreshment and Exhibition Viewing <i>Refreshments Sponsored by Cornerstone</i>		Exhibition Area
11:00am	What is Local Government's Role in Society - Perspective from Finland	Councillor Emilia Koikkalainen Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities and Vice President of CEMR	Melville
11:30am	Unlocking the Potential of a Visitor Levy in Scotland	Rob Dickson Director of Industry and Events Visit Scotland Councillor Cammy Day Council Leader City of Edinburgh Council Councillor Ricardo Valente Councillor for Finance, Economic Activities and Inspection Porto City Hall	Melville

Local Government's Role in Society?

12:15pm	How can Councils Make Best Use of Lived Experience in Service Design?	Fiona Drouet MBE Founder and CEO EMILYTEST	Melville
12:45pm	Lunch and Exhibition Viewing		Meikle and Exhibition Area
1:30pm	Fringe Event 1 Discharge/Home to Assess: Tayside and Fife Test of Change Case Studies and Findings	British Red Cross	Loggia
1:30pm	Fringe Event 2 Data-Driven Leadership: Elevating Customer Service in Local Government	Scottish Local Authorities Customer Services Managers Group	Ferntower
1:30pm	Fringe Event 3 Scotland's Population Health Framework – A Scottish Government / COSLA / Scotland's Public Health System Co-production	COSLA, Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland	Tasting Room
2:15pm	How can Councils support the just transition to net zero?	In Conversation with George Tarvit Director Sustainable Scotland Network/Edinburgh Climate Change Institute Gemma Hickey Young People's Forest Project Young Scot Tessa Younger Stewardship Lead Environment CCLA Investment Management	Melville



2.55pm	What is the Media's Role in Setting a More Positive Tone for Politics and in Promoting the Role of Local Government?	Katrine Bussey Press Association	Melville
3.30pm	Refreshment and Exhibition Viewing <i>Refreshments Sponsored by Cornerstone</i>		Exhibition Area
4.00pm	Address by First Minister	John Swinney MSP First Minister of Scotland	Melville
4.30pm	My Kind of Town: Experiences Across the Country	Ian Hamilton Broadcast Journalist BBC	Melville
5.15pm	Fringe Event 4 Energising Scottish Communities	UK Infrastructure Bank	Tasting Room
5.15pm	Close of Conference Day One		

EVENING PROGRAMME

6.45pm	Pre-Dinner Reception <i>Sponsored by CCLA</i>	Ferntower
7.15pm	Dinner	Melville
9.30pm	COSLA Excellence Awards Ceremony Presented by Sanjeev Kohli Writer, Presenter and Actor	Melville

Day 2: Friday 20 September

Time	Session	Speaker	Venue
8:30am	Registration, Coffee and Exhibition Viewing <i>Refreshments Sponsored by Cornerstone</i>		Exhibition Area
9:10am	Welcome from the Chair	Sally Magnusson Broadcaster and Journalist	Melville
9:15am	Implications of the 2024 Election	Professor Sir John Curtice Professor of Politics University of Strathclyde/ScotCen Social Research	Melville
9:45am	Empowering Local Democracy – International Insights	In Conversation with Dr Jonathan Carr-West Chief Executive Local Government Information Unit Councillor Alison Bennington President Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)	Melville
10:15am	Transforming Health: Local Government's Leadership Role	In Conversation with Paul Johnston Chief Executive Public Health Scotland Professor Linda Bauld Bruce and John Usher Chair in Public Health University of Edinburgh	Melville
10:35am	How can UKIB Support Scottish Local Government to Deliver the Infrastructure a Low Carbon Society Needs	In Conversation with Lorna Pimlott Managing Director, Local Authority Advisory and Lending UK Infrastructure Bank	Melville
10:55am	Refreshment and Exhibition Viewing <i>Refreshments Sponsored by Cornerstone</i>		Exhibition Area

.....			
11:30am	The View of the Party Leaders	<p>Political Party Session Introduced by Councillor Steven Heddle Vice President COSLA</p> <p>Shona Robison MSP Scottish National Party</p> <p>Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP Scottish Liberal Democrats</p> <p>Michael Marra MSP Scottish Labour Party</p> <p>Patrick Harvie MSP Scottish Green Party</p> <p>Brian Whittle MSP Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party</p>	Melville
12:20pm	Round Up of Conference and Closing Remarks	<p>Councillor Steven Heddle Vice President COSLA</p>	Melville
12:30pm	Lunch		Meikle
1.15pm	Convention Pre-Meetings	SNP Pre-Meeting	Loggia
		Labour Pre-Meeting	Ferntower
		Conservative Pre-Meeting	Tasting Room
		Independent Pre-Meeting	Earn
		Greens Pre-Meeting	Ferntower Upper
		Liberal Democrats Pre-Meeting	Barvick
		Chief Executives Pre-Meeting	Melville
1.45pm	Convention		Melville
3.15pm	Close of Conference		Meikle

Fringe Programme

Thursday 19 September

FRINGE

1

Discharge/Home to Assess: Tayside and Fife Test of Change Case Studies and Findings

Venue: Loggia

Time: Thursday 19 September @ 1.30pm

Led By: British Red Cross

Facilitator: Rob Murray, Director for Scotland, British Red Cross

The NHS is facing major system challenges around more patients experiencing delayed discharge. Delayed discharge places a significant strain on the healthcare system; increasing waiting lists, overstressing A&E services and increasing the unnecessary risks long stays in hospital have for patients. Responding and reducing the number of delayed patients in an acute hospital has been listed by the First Minister in his programme for government as top priority.

The British Red Cross have worked in collaboration with Dundee HSCP and Fife HSCP on addressing delayed discharge, implementing a Discharge/Home to Assess service as a test of change which is seeing positive outcomes for patients and the systems. In a recent test of change evaluation, by the service facilitating faster discharges, there was a 62.5% average cost saving per patient relative to an equivalent stay in hospital.

After a person is admitted to hospital, they should be discharged home to continue their recovery at the earliest possible opportunity when they are medically fit to do so. The best place to complete the assessment of need of the patient for any ongoing service provision is within their own home environment following a period of enablement.

This short term (21 days) Discharge/Home to Assess model of support enables a person to be assessed at home, to identify whether the person can be supported to live at home and avoid long term care. The service centres around assessing the person's ability to carry out daily living activities and identifying what level of ongoing support is required.

The Dundee HSCP Discharge to Assess test of change ran in Ninewells Hospital's Discharge Team between April 2023 and June 2024. Resulting in a significant impact of reducing delayed discharges, maintaining more people at home rather than other settings through empowering enablement and reducing the level of care required once home.

The Fife Home to Assess service is based on the successful outcomes of the Discharge to Assess model in Dundee. Fife's test of change began in May 2024. The hope is to expand the service Fife wide post the six months.

This fringe event will discuss the Discharge/Home to Assess test of change in Dundee and Fife; how the service is delivered, challenges, impact and reviewing the outcomes/findings. The panel for the event will be British Red Cross representatives and sectoral partners involved in the test of change models.

For more information on our Discharge/Home to Assess service, please contact us:

Louise Sinclair - Senior Business Development Manager (Scotland)

Mobile: 07858302899

Email: louisesinclair@redcross.org.uk



**FRINGE
2**

Data-Driven Leadership: Elevating Customer Service in Local Government

Venue: Ferntower

Time: Thursday 19 September @ 1.30pm

Led By: Scottish Local Authorities Customer Services Managers Group

Facilitator: Esther Stewart, Scottish Local Authorities Customer Services Managers Improvement Group

This Fringe event will open dialogue to find out customer services teams can interpret and present the wealth of citizen driven data they hold about their local residents, in order to support leaders and senior managers to make data driven decisions for their communities. The Scottish Local Authorities Customer Services Managers Group is an improvement forum comprising managers and heads of services from all 32 Scottish local authorities. At their recent annual conference 84% of the group did not feel that the voice of the customer was heard at senior/board level within their organisation. The group would welcome this opportunity to find out how best to share the knowledge and insight about customers that each local authority already has available. The group collaborate on shared initiatives to help drive innovation and transformation to deliver excellent customer services.



**FRINGE
3**

Scotland’s Population Health Framework – a Scottish Government / COSLA / Scotland’s Public Health System Co-production

Venue: Tasting Room

Time: Thursday 19 September @ 1.30pm

Led By: COSLA/Scottish Government/Public Health Scotland

Facilitators: Nicola Dickie, Director of People Policy, COSLA; Richard Foggo, Co-Director Population Health, Scottish Government

This session will outline joint work underway between Scottish Government; COSLA; and Scotland’s Public Health System to co-create a long term Population Health Framework for Scotland that sets out priority actions to improve Scotland’s health and reduce inequalities. It will be an opportunity to engage on and consider local implementation of the ten year Framework, which aims to bring coherence to the actions necessary to turn around Scotland’s current worsening state of health following a decade of cumulative impacts from austerity to the pandemic and the cost crisis. This includes actions under the four primary drivers of health and health inequalities: social and economic factors; places and communities; healthy living; and equitable health and care.



FRINGE

4

Energising Scottish Communities

Venue: Tasting Room

Time: Thursday 19 September @ 5.15pm

Led By: UK Infrastructure Bank

Facilitator: Lorna Pimlott, Managing Director, Local Authority Advisory and Lending

Economic growth is top of the agenda for government and Councils. This needs to be kick-started after a period of stagnation; to create the jobs, income, and high-quality modern housing and buildings required to improve everyone's quality of life; creating wealth to invest in better education, social care and healthcare, delivering vibrant places and protecting wild spaces.

Energy is also fundamental to our society – for business and industry to flourish, and for mobility and warmth, we need access to affordable energy. Yet the costs of energy are rapidly escalating, and the environmental and social costs of fossil fuels are becoming increasingly obvious.

Both these challenges, share a common solution: enhanced investment in the right infrastructure, in the right places, delivered with community backing.

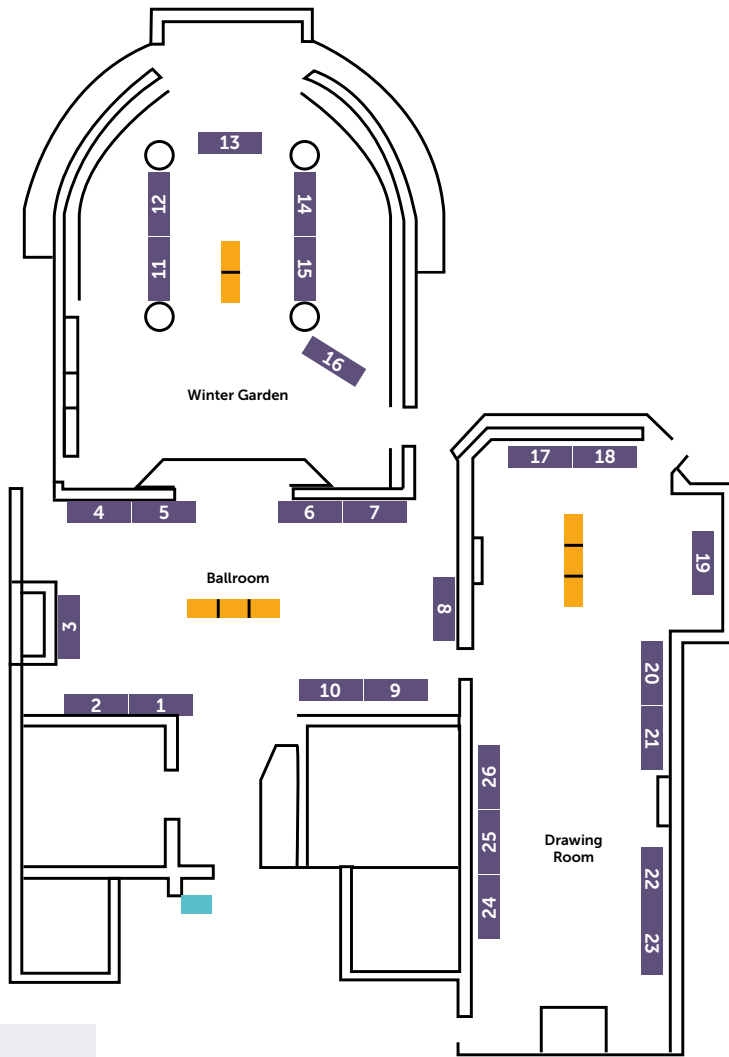
The UK Infrastructure Bank can help. UKIB is a government-owned bank providing £22bn of infrastructure finance, with a mission to support projects that help the UK's transition to net zero and drive growth across the country.

Local authorities have a critical role in delivering this infrastructure in a way that maximises benefits to their communities. Developing and building place-based infrastructure and facilitating private sector investment; low carbon vehicle fleets that improve connectivity; heat networks providing affordable low carbon heat to deprived housing estates; nature-based solutions that protect our towns and cities from the effects of a changing climate. All of this and more is best delivered by local authorities.

In an informal setting, Lorna Pimlott, the Managing Director of UKIB's Local Authority Advisory and Lending team, will explore with a guest speaker the real-world challenges and opportunities of delivering infrastructure to energise our societies.

Then we'll invite you to raise a glass and continue the discussions with the UKIB team and COSLA attendees.

Exhibition



Stand No.	Exhibitor
1	Alliance Leisure
2	Food for Life Scotland
3	CLD Standards Council Scotland
4	Trading Standards Scotland
5	Adips Ltd. 'Your Ride Checker'
6	CCLA Investment Management
7	British Red Cross
8	Digital Office for Scottish Local Government
9	Lextox Drug and Alcohol Testing
10	APSE
11	KubeNet
12	Barriers to Elected Office
13	Prosper

Key

- Refreshments
- Registration

Stand No.	Exhibitor	Stand No.	Exhibitor
14	COSLA Brussels Office	21	Sword Group
15	Cycling UK	22	Corra Foundation
16	Crown Estate Scotland	23	Cornerstone
17 + 18	UK Infrastructure Bank	24	myjobscotland
19	Scottish Empty Homes Partnership	25	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks
20	Advice Direct Scotland	26	Scottish Library and Information Council



STAND
1

Alliance Leisure

Celebrating its 25th year in business, Alliance Leisure is the UK's leading leisure development specialist. Alliance Leisure work in partnership with local authorities and leisure operators to develop engaging place-based active environments that cater for everyone.

Alliance Leisure has delivered more than 250 projects, ranging from multi-site regeneration projects, involving new build or significant remodelling of leisure sites, through to outdoor spaces, 3G pitches and leisure centre modernisations. These projects represent an investment value over £370m.

For more information please visit our website at www.allianceleisure.co.uk

STAND
2

Food for Life Scotland

Soil Association Scotland works closely with local authorities and the wider public sector through our Scottish Government-funded **Food for Life Scotland** programme. We support caterers to serve meals that are good for health, the environment and the local economy through the Food for Life Served Here award. With policy developments such as national and local food plans in development as part of the Good Food Nation Act, the Community Wealth Building Bill, and the Local Food Strategy, our work has never been more relevant to local government stakeholders. Visit our stand to find out more!

STAND
3

CLD Standards Council Scotland

The CLD Standards Council is the professional body for those working and/or volunteering in the Community Learning & Development sector in Scotland. We are charged with driving high standards of professional practice across the adult education, community development and youth work fields of practice.

Our core responsibilities are:

- Deliver and maintain a professional Approvals structure for qualifications, courses and development opportunities for everyone practicing CLD.
- Maintain and develop the Registration system for practitioners delivering CLD.
- Maintain and develop models of Profession Learning and training opportunities for CLD practitioners.
- Provide a voice for the profession, enhancing its confidence, influence and identity.

STAND
4

Trading Standards Scotland

TSS is a team delivered by COSLA and funded by UK government to add capacity to local authority trading

standards services in Scotland. The team is funded to:

- tackle consumer detriment occurring across local authority boundaries;
- provide expertise in cybercrime investigations;
- provide national intelligence capability;
- undertake investigations into illegal money lending and prevent individuals from turning to this source of lending

Our Vision: To create an environment where consumers can safely make choices

Our Mission: Change the behaviours of businesses and individuals who damage consumer and business interests.

Our Outcomes:

- Empowering consumers
- Tackling detriment & preventing harm
- Supporting the economy

STAND
5

ADIPS Ltd. 'Your ride checker'

ADIPS (Amusement Device Inspection Procedures Scheme) is the theme park

and fairground industry's own adopted standard for the inspection and certification of fairground rides and devices which are enjoyed by people of all ages at all fairgrounds, outdoor events and theme parks.

ADIPS was created more than 20 years ago by the major amusement industry trade associations, in consultation with the Health and Safety Executive. Since then, ADIPS has worked hard in Scotland with our key partners to drive up safety standards in an industry that plays such an important role in society.

Land owners when checking the paperwork of a ride through the ADIPS website easy-to-use 'Your ride checker' search system can get assurance that a valid 'MOT' is in place to meet your statutory obligations!
www.adips.co.uk

STAND
6

CCLA Investment Management

HEADLINE SPONSOR

CCLA is one of the leading investment managers for local authorities in the UK, as well as being the largest manager of charity funds* and has recently entered the retail investment market for the first time.

CCLA has a long history of following a sustainable investment approach. Our current focus is pushing for change on climate, biodiversity and the environment, good work and human rights, good health and corporate governance (see www.ccla.co.uk)

* The Charity Finance surveys 2021, 2022 & 2023 named CCLA as the number one asset manager for charities in the UK.

CCLA Investment Management Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

STAND 7 British Red Cross

The British Red Cross has been supporting health and social care systems since the NHS was established. We have a strong

track record of delivery and national infrastructure, combined with our local flexibility to ensure the highest quality delivery of health and care services across Scotland which include: Discharge to Assess, Care at Home, Hospital at Home, Assisted Discharge, Patient Transport and Community Support.

We are committed to tackling health inequalities, supporting early intervention and enablement, improving outcomes in population health and enhancing productivity and value for money. Working in partnership to co-design and test innovative services to meet local need.

Contact Details:

Louise Sinclair - Senior Business Development Manager (Scotland)

Mobile: 07858302899

Email: louisesinclair@redcross.org.uk

STAND 8 Digital Office for Scottish Local Government

We are the Digital Office. Leaders of digital transformation and delivery across

Scottish Local Government. Founded in 2016, we support Scottish local authorities with their digital transformation journeys. We translate and align the actions within the National Digital Strategy into collective and scalable initiatives. Adopting a 'Once for Scotland' approach to digital transformation, our Digital Partnership helps local authorities to harness the full potential of technology, driving service delivery, enhancing outcomes, and efficiencies.

Our dedicated team works closely with local authorities across Scotland, understanding their priorities whilst providing the leadership, guidance, resources, and expertise needed to navigate the complexities of the ever-changing digital landscape. Our digital delivery is always human by default, technology and data by design. Find out more about what we do on our website: www.digitaloffice.scot

STAND 9 Lextox Drug and Alcohol Testing

At Lextox, we provide hair drug and alcohol testing, blood alcohol testing, DNA testing and SCRAM Continuous Alcohol Monitoring® for family law cases and childcare proceedings.

Since Lextox's inception, we have and continue to set the bar for quality service and have built a client base of over 17,000 family law professionals and local authorities across the UK.

STAND 10 APSE

The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) is a networking community that assists local authorities

who are striving to improve their frontline services.

Working on a not-for-profit basis, APSE is dedicated to promoting excellence in the delivery of frontline services to local communities around the UK.

Through the extensive APSE network, more than 300 local authorities and organisations are able to share information and expertise on vital frontline services, ask for advice and innovative solutions, and develop new, viable ways forward in an effort to help one another.

Members of APSE have access to many excellent benefits that help local authorities to grow. These include regular briefings on the latest policy developments and operational issues, access to groups and forums that allow authorities to come together to share information and collaborate, opportunity for local authority service providers to have their views voiced and represented at a national level, and the ability to anonymously ask for - and give - advice on a range of service issues.

STAND 11 KubeNet

KubeNet are a multi-award winning Technology Solutions Provider, delivering best-in-class services to companies and

the public sector, throughout the UK and globally. Our mission is to make life easier for our customers by providing them with the tools and solutions they need to allow them to thrive. Our broad portfolio of Cyber, Connectivity, Infrastructure, Outsourced IT, Cloud and Voice solutions ensures our clients have secure, reliable access to their applications and Data anytime, anywhere. As a Cisco & Microsoft Partner we are right at the forefront of technology and all fully supported through our ISO, ITIL and Cyber Essentials accreditations.



STAND 12 Barriers to Elected Office

Team COSLA are looking forward to meeting delegates at this year's COSLA Conference and Exhibition. We will host an exhibition stand this year focusing on the work we are doing with partners in to tackle the Barriers to Elected Office, what we are doing to support the full implementation of the SLARC (Scottish Local Authority Councillor Remuneration) report recommendations, and COSLA's broader work supporting Scotland's Councils.

We will also be gathering content for an upcoming 'Day In The Life of a Councillor' campaign, which aims to help raise public awareness of the vital and challenging role of local elected officials, and we would like to encourage Councillors to join us and share your experience of being a local elected member – and help people in our communities and find out more about your role..

STAND 13 Prosper

Prosper is a unique membership organisation, with a proud history of bringing people together from government, business and civil society to effect change. Our purpose is to create a prosperous Scotland which benefits all its people and places. With over 500 members from across Scottish society - from charities to local authorities and micro businesses to multi-nationals - our shared ambition is to support economic growth and prosperity for all of Scotland. Find out more www.prosper.scot

STAND 14 COSLA Brussels Office

COSLA Brussels Office is based in the House of Municipalities and Regions together with many of our country equivalent associations and European umbrella body CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions). To mark 30 years of the COSLA Brussels Office, a delegation of councillors travelled to the city in January, with the purpose to assess facilities and networks and participate in events to promote Scottish Local Government. This stand will showcase 30 years of COSLA European engagement and the extensive network COSLA has built over many years.

STAND 15 Cycling UK

Cycling UK is the national charity for cycling, inspiring and helping people to live healthier, happier and greener lives.

With over a century's experience, the charity believes cycling is more than a useful mode of transport; it makes you feel good, gives you a sense of freedom and creates a better environment for everyone. Cycling UK speaks up and supports people from all backgrounds and abilities so they can experience the joys of cycling and works hard to improve perceptions of cycling so that more people recognise the benefits. www.cyclinguk.org

STAND 16 Crown Estate Scotland

Crown Estate Scotland is a public corporation, which invests in property, natural resources, and people to create lasting value for Scotland. Our team manages seabed, coastline, rural estates and more, helping ensure families, businesses and communities can live, work, and thrive on the assets which make up the Scottish Crown Estate.

STAND 17 & 18 UK Infrastructure Bank

We are a government-owned infrastructure bank providing £22bn of finance and partnering with the private sector and local government to support projects which help the UK's transition to net zero and drive growth across the country. We are wholly owned and backed by HM Treasury. Our investments must meet our triple bottom line: tackling climate change and driving regional and local economic growth; generating a positive financial return to create an enduring institution; being additional in the market, mobilising private finance. Our local authority team has the skills and capacity to offer impartial advisory services, and the lowest cost finance for local authority infrastructure projects.

STAND 19 Scottish Empty Homes Partnership

The Scottish Empty Homes Partnership support owners, local authorities and third sector organisations to bring Scotland's 46,000+ privately-owned empty homes back into use. At a time when the Scottish Government, and several local authorities, have declared housing emergencies, the contribution empty homes can make to delivering the housing Scotland needs cannot be underestimated. The partnership was established in 2010. Since then, the network of empty homes officers supported by the partnership have helped turn almost 11,000 long term empty houses into lived in homes, including 1,875 in 2023/24. We are funded by the Scottish Government and hosted by Shelter Scotland.



STAND 20 **Advice Direct Scotland**

We are Scotland's largest national digital advice service and official delivery partner for the Scottish Government.

Engaging with over one million people per year, we provide free, practical, and impartial advice to anyone in Scotland on a range of issues including debt, energy, benefits, and consumer rights.

Through our training academy, we draw on our extensive skillset to deliver SQA-accredited training courses, including the first money and debt training to be recognised by SQA.

Accredited courses are also available in Customer Service, Management, Energy, Employability, Business and Administration and Advice and Guidance.

Website: www.advisedirect.scot
X: @advisedotscot

STAND 21 **Sword Group**

At Sword, we are proud of our strong reputation as a trusted technology partner to the Scottish public sector, working with local and central government

organisations, Health and emergency services. We use our deep domain knowledge to support and guide our customers as they deliver services against a backdrop of mounting pressures. Sword's team of experts work with our customers to solve a range of complex problems. Through co-design we develop, implement and support solutions that deliver transformational, tangible improvements. For an informal discussion about how we can help, please come and see us on stand 23, or contact colleen.henderson@sword-group.com

STAND 22 **Corra Foundation**

Corra is a Scottish grant-making charity that is about strengthening and amplifying people's voices and their power to make

change. Often people are trying to support each other, or tackle challenges, or make their communities better places to live. We try and help in lots of different ways:

Funding – increasingly through participatory approaches, ie. via lived experience panels. Corra also manages grants on behalf of others.

Influencing decision making using learning and evidence and creating opportunities for people who hold power, and those furthest from it, to come together.

Place-based work supporting communities to connect with each other and to use their voice and power to influence wider system change.

www.corra.scot

STAND 23 **Cornerstone**

Cornerstone powers the potential of organisations and their people to thrive in a changing world. Cornerstone Galaxy, the complete AI-powered workforce

agility platform, meets organisations where they are. With Galaxy, organisations can identify skills gaps and development opportunities, retain and engage top talent, and provide multimodal learning experiences to meet the diverse needs of the modern workforce. More than 7,000 organisations and 125 million users in 186 countries use Cornerstone Galaxy to build high-performing, future-ready organisations and people today.

STAND 24 **myjobscotland**

myjobscotland is local government's self-owned recruitment website and application tracking platform and now a hub for job

advertisements that also carries opportunities from universities, charities, and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

This year, we proudly celebrate a remarkable milestone—our 15th Anniversary—a testament to our enduring dedication to unlocking Scotland's workforce costing on average £17 per hire for our council members.

With over 1.3 million registered users myjobscotland processing in excess of 55,000 vacancies and 500,000 applications in 2022, it is now recognised as the UK's top public sector job site, and overall 2nd in Scotland for a general recruitment website.

With a roster boasting more than 800 registered Public and 3rd Sector organisations on our advertising service, advertisers can enjoy access to around 500k visitors per month with a budget as low as £100 per advert.

To find out more or start your advertising journey by visiting us at www.myjobscotland.gov.uk

STAND 25 **Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks**

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is the electricity Distribution

Network Operator responsible for delivering power to 3.9 million homes and businesses across the north of Scotland and central southern England.

As the UK increases its uptake of low carbon transport and heating, communities find themselves in the driving seat to help plan the infrastructure that will facilitate Net Zero at a local level. This is why, as part of SSEN Distribution's current five-year business plan, we have committed to supporting local authorities and communities to understand their local electricity grid and develop their plans for decarbonising and reaching Net Zero.



**STAND
26**

The Scottish Library and Information Council

The Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) is the independent advisory

body to the Scottish Government on library and information related matters.

SLIC was formed in 1991 and provides a leadership focus for Scottish library and information services. It leads development in the library sector, monitors standards of provision and promotes development. It also regularly undertakes research, promotes innovation and a greater understanding of the library and information sector in Scotland.

Members are drawn from the public sector, school libraries, higher education institutions, further education colleges, health libraries and special interest libraries. Every member brings expertise, knowledge and innovation to the library sector. By working together, that expertise is shared through SLIC.

Headline Sponsor

CCLA

GOOD INVESTMENT

CCLA is one of the leading investment managers for local authorities in the UK, as well as being the largest manager of charity funds* and has recently entered the retail investment market for the first time. CCLA has a long history of following a sustainable investment approach. Our current focus is pushing for change on climate, biodiversity and the environment, good work and human rights, good health and corporate governance (see www.ccla.co.uk)

* The Charity Finance surveys 2021, 2022 & 2023 named CCLA as the number one asset manager for charities in the UK.

CCLA Investment Management Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Acknowledgements

COSLA would like to extend its warmest thanks and appreciation to those individuals and organisations that have so generously contributed time, expertise and financial assistance to help ensure the success of the Conference.

Thanks also to:

All Conference Speakers for their contribution to the programme

Exhibitors for their continued support

Fringe Facilitators for their participation

Vision Events for the stage set and audio/visual production

All staff at the Crieff Hydro Hotel for their helpful co-operation and assistance

SWORD

UPGRADE YOUR BUSINESS

TRUSTED DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PARTNER TO THE SCOTTISH PUBLIC SECTOR



DATA
& AI



CYBER
RESILIENCE



DIGITAL
SERVICES

DRIVING MEANINGFUL CHANGE

Sword works in partnership with Scottish public sector organisations to deliver sustainable technology solutions that improve service delivery for our communities. Together we can overcome complex challenges and achieve valuable outcomes.

Sword are proud to be a COSLA Excellence Awards 2024 finalist delivery partner



TALK WITH US TODAY:

Visit stand 21 or contact our
Public Sector Industry Lead:

colleen.henderson@sword-group.com

