



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**22nd Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)**

**Wednesday 20 August 2014**

Present:

Cameron Buchanan

Stuart McMillan

Alex Rowley

John Wilson (Deputy Convener)

Mark McDonald

Anne McTaggart

Kevin Stewart (Convener)

The meeting opened at 9.30 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private** The Committee agreed to take item 4 in private.
2. **Local government benchmarking system:** The Committee took evidence from—

David Martin, SOLACE Scotland;

Mark McAteer, Director of Governance and Performance Management, Improvement Service;

Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive, Fife Council;

Elma Murray, Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council;

Councillor Stephen Curran, Executive Member for Education and Young People, and Maureen McKenna, Executive Director of Education Services, Glasgow City Council;

Councillor Elaine Green, Chair of the Education Committee, and Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education, East Renfrewshire Council.

3. **Public Petition PE1469:** The Committee considered PE1469 by Aileen Jackson, on Neighbour notification distances for wind turbine applications. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government acknowledging the

actions it has taken on this petition and requesting that the Government ensures that the Petitioner is specifically consulted on the proposed draft guidance to be issued by the Government, and that any views she expresses are taken into account by the Government before it finalises such guidance. The Committee also agreed that a copy of the finalised guidance should be provided directly to the Petitioner, and that the Committee should be notified of this by the Government, when the guidance is published in spring 2015. Furthermore, the Committee requested that the Government ensures that the finalised guidance is properly publicised and brought to the attention of all planning authorities in Scotland, as well as all those making applications for the development of onshore wind farms, and any other relevant persons or organisations whom the Scottish Government considers it appropriate to notify. The Committee agreed to close PE1469 with immediate effect.

4. **Local government benchmarking system (in private):** The Committee considered the evidence received.
5. **Draft Budget Scrutiny 2015-16 (in private):** The Committee considered and agreed its approach to the scrutiny of the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2015-16. As part of this approach, the Committee agreed to provide a report to the Finance Committee on the mainstreamed budget scrutiny it has undertaken to date. The Committee also agreed to seek written and oral evidence in late November on the draft Local Government Finance Circular 2015/16 from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth, COSLA and selected local authorities.
6. **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee agreed its approach to the scrutiny of written and oral evidence on the Bill at Stage 1. As part of this approach, the Committee noted the written response received from the Minister for Local Government and Planning to various questions it had raised on the Policy Memorandum which accompanies the Bill.

The meeting closed at 12.51 pm.

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