

Minute of Special Meeting Scotland Excel Joint Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 22 October 2021	10:15	Remotely by MS teams,

Present

Councillor David Cameron (Aberdeen City Council); Councillor Charles Buchan (substitute for Provost Bill Howatson) (Aberdeenshire Council); Councillor Rory Colville (Argyll and Bute Council); Provost Norman Macdonald (Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar); Councillor John Jamieson (East Dunbartonshire Council); Councillor John McMillan (East Lothian Council); Councillor Tony Buchanan (East Renfrewshire Council); Councillor Gary Bouse (Falkirk Council); Councillor Altany Craik and Councillor Ross Vettraino (both Fife Council); Councillor Ruairi Kelly (Glasgow City Council); Councillor Jim Clocherty (Inverclyde Council); Councillor Aaron McLean (Moray Council); Councillor Paul Di Mascio and Councillor Allan Graham (both North Lanarkshire Council); Councillor John Shaw (Renfrewshire Council); Councillor Simon Mountford (Scottish Borders Council); Councillor Amanda Hawick (Shetland Islands Council); Councillor Peter Henderson (South Ayrshire Council); Councillor Josh Wilson (South Lanarkshire Council); Councillor Ian Dickson (West Dunbartonshire Council); and Councillor John McGinty (West Lothian Council).

Chair

Councillor Shaw, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

J Welsh, Chief Executive, H Carr, Head of Strategic Procurement, L Campbell, Corporate Services Manager, J McKerrall, Strategic Procurement Manager, K Forrest, Office Manager, J Reid, Corporate Services Assistant, M Robertson, Marketing & Communications Manager, JJ Turner and J Campbell, both Category Managers (all Scotland Excel); and M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer and K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic Services Officer (all Renfrewshire Council).

Apologies

Provost Bill Howatson (Aberdeenshire Council); Councillor Angus Macmillan Douglas (Angus Council); Councillor Andrew Johnston (City of Edinburgh Council); Councillor Stephen Thompson (Dumfries and Galloway Council); Councillor Gordon Jenkins (East Ayrshire Council); Councillor Martin McElroy (both Glasgow City Council); Councillor Matthew Reiss (Highland Council); Councillor Derek Milligan (Midlothian Council); Councillor Joe Cullinane (North Ayrshire Council).

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 Response to National Care Service Consultation

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive of Scotland Excel seeking approval for Scotland Excel's proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation on the National Care Service (NCS).

The report intimated that in February 2021 the report on the findings of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care had been published and that this report found issues with implementation of social care policy and was critical of current commissioning and procurement activity. Amongst the recommendations, to help drive improvement in the sector, was the establishment of a NCS in Scotland to take over responsibility for the strategic aspects of social care planning and commissioning from local government. Local government would become a care provider alongside the private and voluntary sectors and would be commissioned to deliver services on behalf of the NCS.

The report advised that in August 2021, the Scottish Government published their consultation on the creation of the NCS in Scotland and the proposals within this document were significant and would result in a fundamental change to the role of local government in Scotland if implemented. The scope of services proposed for inclusion in the NCS was far broader than was initially anticipated and included services relating to adult social care, children's services, community health, addiction, justice and social care in prison.

The report noted that the potential impact on Scotland Excel's role was significant as the proposed plans included the creation of a new team within the NCS to undertake national commissioning of complex care services including residential services and the National Care Home Contract. This new team would also undertake national market research and analysis activity in relation to social care and would lead on the creation of a new 'Structures of Standards and Processes'.

At a meeting held on 17 September 2021, the Executive Sub-committee considered the approach to the consultation response and the governance plans relating to the response and decided that a special meeting of the Joint Committee be held to consider the proposed response given the significance of the proposals for local government. Scotland Excel met with the Chief Executive Officers Management Group (CEOMG) to discuss the response and the draft response, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, had been produced for submission to the Scottish Government.

Following discussion, it was proposed (i) that the consultation response be amended to contain further detail in relation to VAT, the last resort provider to strengthen the wording around costs, to emphasise the importance of local commissioning and understanding regional variations, and to highlight that different authorities use Scotland Excel contracts to varying degrees as a result of this local variance and (ii) that it be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Convener, to approve and submit the amended consultation response to the Scottish Government. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED:

(a) That the consultation response be amended to contain further detail in relation to VAT, the last resort provider to strengthen the wording around costs to emphasise the importance of local commissioning and understanding regional variations, and to highlight that different authorities use Scotland Excel contracts to varying degrees as a result of this local variance; and

(b) That it be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Convener, to approve and submit the amended consultation response to the Scottish Government.