

# APSE Annual Conference, Belfast

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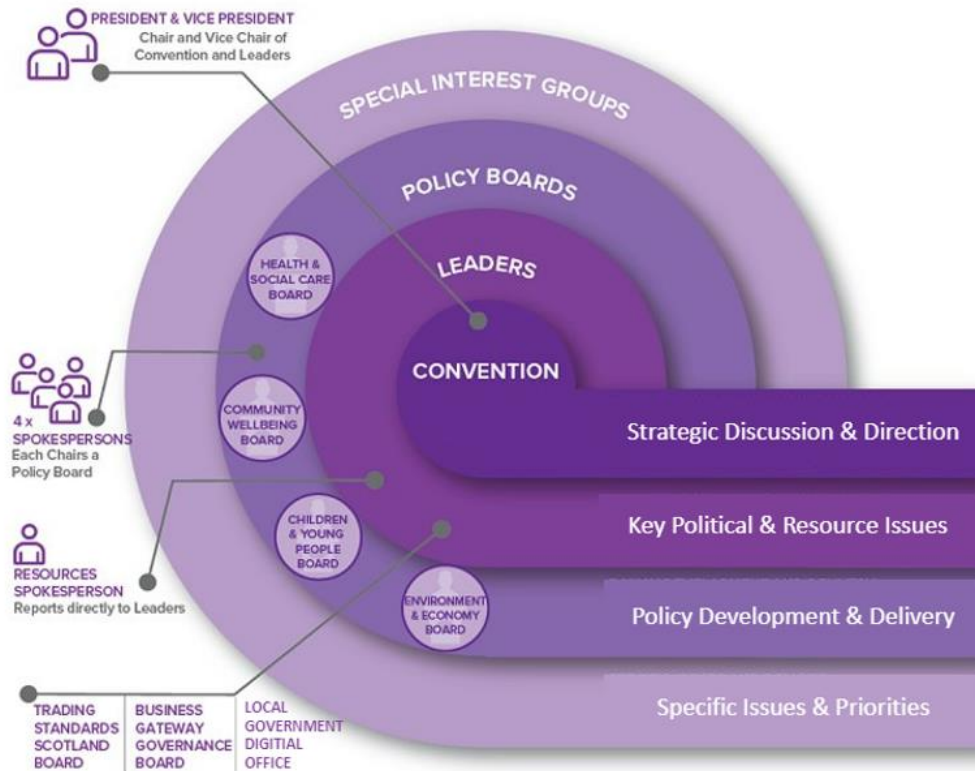
13TH SEPTEMBER 2023



# COSLA's role

- ▶ **Voice of local government** in Scotland
- ▶ **Political leadership** on national issues
- ▶ **Engage with Scottish, UK and international governments** to secure resources and powers for councils
- ▶ **Work with councils** to improve local services and strengthen local democracy
- ▶ **Specialist shared services** for councils and their partners- Business Gateway, myjobscotland, Digital Office and Trading Standards Scotland

# COSLA's Governance



# Our Principles



## How we work:

- **Cross party- focus on Local Government**
- **Local Government family**
- **Partnership**
- **Communicate**

# How Local Authorities in Scotland are delivering on priorities

## **A just transition into a Net Zero Economy and Supporting Fair Growth**

- There is no possible route to a fairer economy without deep decarbonisation. We view fairer growth and the Just Transition as being one and the same. If we do not decarbonise economic and social outcomes will be worse.

# Supporting our Communities

- Local welfare benefits (Council Tax Reductions, Scottish Welfare Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments)
- Support of Social Security Scotland's rollout of devolved Disability Benefits
- Councils' role in driving the preventative, person-centred and public health approach needed to address the socio-economic drivers of crime and violence, to help reduce the expense and disruption of prisons



COSLA

# COSLA Plan 2022-2027



*Our vision and priorities for  
Local Government across  
Scotland*



## **6 priority areas:**

- Strengthen Local Democracy
- Secure Sustainable Funding
- Improve Wellbeing of Individuals, Families & Communities
- Deliver a Just Transition to a Net Zero Economy
- Enhance Education and Support for Children and Young People
- Support the most vulnerable in our community

# Verity House Agreement 2023

- ▶ **‘Verity House Agreement’** signed officially on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- ▶ **‘New Deal for Local Government’** – commitment made by SG as part of the Resource Spending Review in May 2022
- ▶ Agreed that we should have a public statement around the **way in which we would work together** – or a “partnership agreement” – to underpin the New Deal





# What is the Verity House Agreement?

A clear commitment to working towards **3 shared priorities**:

- ▶ tackling poverty (esp child poverty)
- ▶ transforming our economy through a just transition to deliver net zero;
- ▶ delivering sustainable, person-centred public services.

# Questions?

## Useful links:

- ▶ [www.cosla.gov.uk](http://www.cosla.gov.uk)
- ▶ [COSLA Plan 2022 – 2027](#)
- ▶ [This Is Local Government YouTube playlist](#)

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