

Minister for Local Government Empowerment and
Planning
Ministear airson Cumhachdachadh is Dealbhachadh
Riaghaltas Ionadail
Joe FitzPatrick MSP
Joe Mac Giolla Phádraig BPA



Ariane Burgess, Convenor,
Local Government, Housing and Planning
Committee
Email: localgov.committee@parliament.scot

18 July 2023

Dear Ariane,

I am writing to highlight to you that, local and national government signed a landmark agreement, to be known as the Verity House Agreement, on Friday 30 June. The Verity House Agreement forms part of a [new deal with local government](#), and can be accessed in full on our website.

The Agreement, setting out the way the two spheres of government will work together going forward, was signed by the COSLA Presidential Team, COSLA Political Group Leaders and the First Minister, Deputy First Minister, and myself.

It forms part of the New Deal with Local Government, which will in due course include a new Fiscal Framework and a shared programme of work up to 2027. The new deal as a whole will better enable us to achieve our shared priorities of tackling poverty, transforming our economy through a just transition to deliver net zero and, delivering sustainable, person-centred public services.

We are committed to building a stronger relationship with local government, with mutual trust and respect at its core. The Agreement is based on the idea that councils know best how to serve the people in their communities and, by giving them greater flexibility over how they use their budgets and regularly reviewing their powers and funding, we can empower them to put that knowledge into practice. The Agreement is just the start of the process and we look forward to working with COSLA and our local authority partners to achieve better outcomes for people and communities across Scotland.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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I hope this letter provides a useful update about the Scottish Government's progress on the New Deal with Local Government and that Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee is supportive of the work to reset the relationship between national and local government to better meet our shared ambitions.

JOE FITZPATRICK

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