

From COSLA President, Councillor Shona Morrison



8th July 2024

**Ms Arianne Burgess MSP
Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee**

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email: localgov.committee@parliament.scot

Dear Arianne,

Thank you for your letter and we would very much welcome an opportunity to provide a written progress update on the Verity House Agreement. I can confirm Officers have been working alongside Scottish Government colleagues on a stocktake which will provide an open and honest reflection on the first year of implementation. This is due to be completed by the end of August, with a report being published in September.

Fiscal Framework

COSLA has been working closely with Scottish Government and our professional associations to ensure the framework addresses the key concerns that currently limit the opportunities Local Government has to more effectively improve the outcomes for communities in Scotland. Our hope and aim is that a fiscal framework can empower Local Government and enhance our working relationship with Scottish Government to better deliver for both national and local priorities.

Officers will continue to engage in regular discussions over summer to progress the Fiscal Framework in advance of the 25-26 Budget and we will welcome the opportunity to discuss this with the Committee in due course.

Accountability and Assurance

As Steven mentioned in your recent discussion, officers continue to engage with Scottish Government Officials on how best to work together to demonstrate visible progress and make use of existing mechanisms, to minimise and reduce the burden of monitoring and reporting and provide the assurance to Leaders and Ministers that we are effectively progressing our work on our three shared priorities. Work will continue over Summer to reach an agreement on what form this will take and yet again we are happy to commit with Ministers to attend committee to provide an update on this work as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Shona Morrison
COSLA President