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Scottish Parliament
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Dear Daniel,

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING (SCOTLAND) BILL

I write to reflect on the Stage 1 debate for this Bill on 20 November, and to emphasise the Scottish Government's ambitions with regard to Community Wealth Building (CWB) as a transformative policy.

The debate reflected general support for CWB as an approach. While the provisions in the Bill received support, a range of Members were keen that legislative change in contributory policy areas be taken forward through amendment of the Bill.

Informed by the Committee's Stage 1 report, SG is considering where amendments might improve the Bill. However, I view this Bill as creating a platform for a joined-up, place focused dialogue on local and regional economic development across Scotland, in the next session and beyond.

Community wealth building activity to create and protect jobs, grow all forms of business, and empower communities to enjoy greater economic agency is happening right now. What we have not had before is a statutory obligation for government at national and local level to lead work to ensure combined public investment can demonstrate greater economic impact. If added value from this focused reform can be realised, communities and all forms of business can thrive.

My door is open for dialogue with colleagues on any ideas they have for amendment of the Bill. However, I would like the strategic intention of this focused Bill to remain clear. The Scottish Government forming after next year's Scottish Parliamentary elections will, if the Bill passes, be required to publish a clear statement on how it will drive CWB policy and progress. This will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to influence the content of that

statement. That dialogue can include consideration of further legislative requirements across CWB's five pillars.

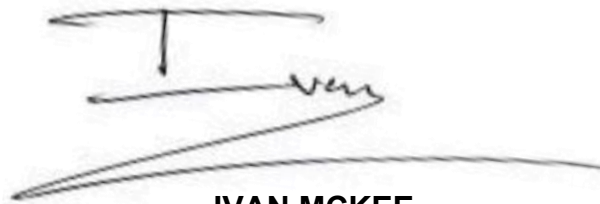
I think an approach that creates a clear, strategic platform and forum for change is preferable to taking forward a wide range of amendments now that may require further, detailed consideration and tailored consultation.

One specific area I would like to highlight is the pivotal role of CWB guidance. There is a lot of inspiring and effective practice to capture already. That is why the first meeting of an initial guidance development group will be held on 18 December. Representatives from the public, private, third and community sectors will be involved. In time, eventual full draft guidance will be subject to wider consultation. An outline of content, viewed from this early stage of development, features in the Annex to this letter.

The guidance for CWB must be as practical as possible, while offering flexibility to fit local circumstances. I know that the Committee's Stage 1 report made a number of recommendations linked to the development of guidance. These are, and will continue to, influence development of the guidance.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on this legislation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ivan McKee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

IVAN MCKEE

CWB (Scotland) Bill - Guidance Development

Community Wealth Building Guidance: Outline Structure

1. Introduction
 - Purpose of Guidance
 - Policy context and linkages
2. Community Wealth Building Model
 - Overview of the CWB model
3. Legislative Requirements
 - Legislative reference and requirements as set out in the CWB (Scotland) Bill
4. Community Wealth Building Partnerships
 - Governance including guidance on working within existing statutory obligations.
 - Roles and responsibilities of partners
 - Good practice and minimum standards expected in local engagement and consultation process.
5. CWB Action Plans - Step by Step Development process
 - Action and goal setting, including guidance on setting local targets.
 - Support to develop baseline understanding of the opportunities and challenges locally.
6. Practical guidance relating to the 5 pillars of CWB.
 - Workforce
 - Land and Property
 - Finance
 - Inclusive Ownership
 - Spending
7. Reporting and metrics
 - Menu of metrics to show impact of CWB actions on the local or regional economy
 - Reporting mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability
8. Best Practice examples and Templates
 - Share identified good practice from across Scotland.
 - Templates to support partnerships and specified bodies.

