Cross-Party Group Registration Form

Please read Section 6 of the Code of Conduct before completing this form.

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on **Towns and Town Centres**
Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics 1. Please state the purpose of the Group. **The purpose of the Cross-Party Group on Towns and Town Centres is to analyse policy, develop ideas and encourage innovation to support Scotland's towns and town centres.** **The Group will provide a forum to discuss how Scotland's towns can achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth, greater vibrancy and vitality, and resilient, thriving town centres.** 2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest. **Scotland's towns and town centres are central to the country's economic, social and community life. They provide places to live, work, do business, access services and come together, but continue to face significant challenges arising from changing economic conditions, consumer behaviour, vacant and underused property, investment pressures and the transition to a more sustainable economy.** **The Group will provide a dedicated forum for MSPs and stakeholders to consider these challenges and opportunities, share evidence and good practice, and explore policy, ideas and innovation that can support stronger and more resilient towns.** **In the public interest, the Group will support discussion and collaboration aimed at helping Scotland's towns and town centres become stronger, smarter, cleaner, healthier, greener and more inclusive, while supporting vibrant local economies and communities.** 3. Please also provide details of any overlaps with the purpose of existing Cross-Party Groups and an explanation of why, regardless of any such overlap, the Group should be established. **The work of the Group may intersect with issues considered by other Cross-Party Groups, particularly those concerned with areas such as Circular Economy, Construction, Culture and**

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Communities, Housing, Independent Convenience Stores and Tourism.

However, the proposed Group has a distinct place-based focus on Scotland's towns and town centres. Rather than considering one particular policy area or sector, it will provide a forum for examining how a range of interconnected policy issues affect towns and town centres collectively.

This place-based approach recognises that the challenges and opportunities facing towns cannot generally be addressed through individual policy areas in isolation. Establishing the Group will therefore provide a dedicated forum for bringing together different perspectives and considering their combined impact on Scotland's towns and town centres, while complementing rather than duplicating the work of other Cross-Party Groups.

4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.

The Group anticipates considering a range of issues affecting Scotland's towns and town centres during its first 12 months. Topics may include:

- **Strengthening Town Centre First – Exploring how the Town Centre First Principle can more effectively influence public-sector investment, policy and decision-making.**
- **Putting Towns at the Heart of National Policy – Considering how the needs and opportunities of Scotland's towns can be better reflected across national strategies, including economic development, housing, planning, transport, infrastructure and climate.**
- **Accelerating Town Centre Living – Exploring opportunities to bring more people into town centres through housing, the reuse and repurposing of buildings, and well-designed, connected places.**
- **Community Wealth Building and Local Economic Resilience – Considering how local businesses, employment, ownership and investment can be supported to retain more economic value within towns and their communities.**
- **Unlocking Investment and Regeneration – Examining the regulatory, funding and delivery barriers that can prevent**

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investment and the productive reuse of land and buildings, and how these can be overcome.

MSP Members of the Group

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group. In doing so please note:

- Section 6 of the Code of Conduct requires there be 5 members from the parties represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. The SPPA Committee agreed a waiver for this session that requires 5 MSP members from 5 parties represented on the Bureau;
- MSPs can be on no more than 10 CPGs of which fulfil no more than 3 office-bearer positions;
- If the group fails to comply with MSP membership requirements, the Convener must ensure this is resolved within 90 days.

MSP	Party
Alan Brown	Scottish National Party
Meghan Gallacher	Scottish Conservatives
Joe Fagan	Scottish Labour Party
Alex Kerr	Scottish National Party
Jamie Langan	Reform Party Scotland
Q Manivannan	Scottish Green Party
Paul McLennan	Scottish National Party

Non-MSP Members of the Group

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals	

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Organisations	Scotland's Towns Partnership - secretary Architecture + Design Scotland Aberdeenshire Council Alliance Boots Alloa Town Centre BID Angus Council Argyll and Bute Council Association of Town and City Management Barrhead BID BT Built Environment Forum Scotland Business in the Community Scotland Can Do Places Carnegie UK Charity Retail Association City of Edinburgh Council CityFibre CGI Colliers Corra Foundation Cupar Development Trust Currie Brown Cycling Scotland Cycling UK Development Trusts Association Scotland

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	Dundee City Council
	East Ayrshire Council
	East Dunbartonshire Council
	East Kilbride Shopping Centre
	East Lothian Council
	East Renfrewshire Council
	Economic Development Association Scotland
	Falkirk Council
	Falkirk Delivers
	Federation of Master Builders
	Fife Council
	FSB Scotland
	Future Hawick
	Fyne Futures
	Glasgow City Council
	Go Forth Stirling BID
	Grampian Housing
	Granton Improvement Society
	Halliday Fraser Munro
	Highland Council
	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
	Historic Environment Scotland
	Institute of Retail Studies, University of Stirling
	Interface
	Keep Scotland Beautiful
	Kingsgate Shopping Centre

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	Lanark Community Council Langbank Community Council Living Streets Miconex Museums Galleries Scotland The National Lottery Community Fund Natural Power North Lanarkshire Council Obesity Action Scotland One Dalkeith Paisley First BID Paths for All Perth and Kinross Council Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) Prestwick Community Council Renfrewshire Council Retailers Against Crime RICS Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland RTPI Scottish Canals Scottish Licensed Trade Association Scotland's Rural College Scottish Borders Council Scottish Chambers of Commerce Scottish Empty Homes Partnership Scottish Futures Trust

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	Scottish Grocers Federation Scottish Power Energy Networks Scottish Retail Consortium South Ayrshire Council South Lanarkshire Council Stirling Council SURF Sustrans Scotland TACTRAN The Democratic Society Scotland Transform Scotland USDAW Vale of Leven Trust VisitScotland Weber Shandwick West Lothian Council William Hill WSP

Group Office Bearers

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Please note:

- No more than 3 named contacts per CPG - the Convener, the Secretary and one other individual who can provide information to the Standards Clerks about

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the activities of the Group. The Convener of a Group must confirm the name of this individual.	
Convener	Meghan Gallacher MSP
Deputy Convener	Alex Kerr MSP
Secretary	Elaine Bone, Scotland's Towns Partnership
Named Contact	Alison Luke-Jones, Scotland's Towns Partnership
Financial Benefits or Other Benefits Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.	
Scotland's Towns Partnership Total value of support - £2,000 **Breakdown: Secretary duties (Scotland's Towns executives) to the value of £2,000 for 10 days work for the managing all communications with office bearers, members, speakers, supporters; planning agendas and related arrangements; attendance and Minute taking and digital communications for three-four CPG meetings/activities, AGM and an Office Bearers meeting; and fulfilling Code of Conduct and Best Practice requirements. Potential financial charged for hospitality for a prospective Parliamentary Reception (TBC).**	
Subscription Charged by the Group Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.	
No subscription will be charged.	
Statement on Compliance with the Code of Conduct. Must be read and signed by the Convener.	

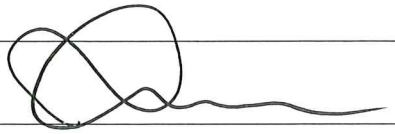
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Please read the following:

- The Convener of a Group is primarily responsible for ensuring that the Group complies with the Code of Conduct;
- The Convener is solely responsible for providing Standards Clerks with:
  - The names of new MSP members of the CPG and changes to office-bearers;
  - Named contact details;
  - The registration form;
  - All minutes of meetings within 30 days of the meeting being held; **(Substantially verbatim minutes will not be accepted and will be returned)**
  - The AGM return (to be submitted within 30 days of the AGM to be held within 11 – 13 months of the initial meeting).
- Groups are required to have five MSPs from five of the parties represented on the Parliamentary Bureau;
- CPGs must hold at least two formal meetings per year (not on the same day), where two MSPs members of the Group are present;
- CPGs must provide Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings;
- If a CPG meeting is cancelled or rearranged, notification must be provided to the Standards clerks by no later than the day after the meeting was originally scheduled to take place;
- If a Group fails to comply fully with the Code for more than one year in a row, the Committee will withdraw recognition from that Group.

I declare that I have read the above and that the Cross-Party Group on TOWNS AND TOWN CENTRES is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed (Convener)	
Date	6th October 2026

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