



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

12th Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Friday 15 May 2020

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in a virtual meeting and be broadcast on [www.scottishparliament.tv](http://www.scottishparliament.tv)

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 3 and 4 in private. The Committee will also decide whether to take its work programme in private at future meetings.
2. **COVID-19:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
  
Aileen Campbell, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Shirley Laing, Director for Housing and Social Justice, and Stephen Gallagher, Director for Local Government and Communities, Scottish Government.
3. **COVID-19:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at today's meeting.
4. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.

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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda item 2**

Note by the Clerk

LGC/S5/20/12/1

PRIVATE PAPER

LGC/S5/20/12/2  
(P)

**Local Government and Communities Committee****12th Meeting (Session 5), Friday 15 May 2020****Covid-19: Note by the Clerk**

1. Whilst social distancing measures remain in place, Local Government and Communities Committee Members have been holding discussions remotely to consider the actions of the Scottish Government on matters relevant to the Committee's remit. Committee Members have agreed that in the short term the Committee will focus on the impact of Covid-19 on the local government, housing planning, licensing and communities sectors and the support being made available to them to enable them to meet the challenges.

The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government [wrote to the Committee on 21 April](#) with a general update on the Scottish Government's response to the crisis. The Convener [wrote back](#) seeking further information on from the Cabinet Secretary to seek some further information on a number of issues. The Committee received a response from the [Cabinet Secretary on 11 May](#).

2. Issues covered in this correspondence included:
  - The overall impact of the crisis on the Scottish Government's main legislative and plans and policy initiatives for coming months, and specifically on:
    - Planning policy, including implementation of the new Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and National Planning Framework 4
    - Possible reform of law and policy on short-term letting (a consultation had been planned);
    - Homelessness policy, including plans to extend unsuitable accommodation orders to everyone;
    - Housebuilding, including the impact on the Scottish Government's plan to delivery 50,000 affordable homes by 2021;
    - Energy Efficiency Policy;
  - What support the Scottish Government are providing to the Third Sector in their front-line role working to alleviate the impact of the crisis, especially on vulnerable people.
3. The Cabinet Secretary has agreed to a request from the Convener to give evidence at the Committee's 15 May meeting. This will be the first formal meeting of the Committee to be conducted remotely since the Parliament agreed changes to its Standing Orders last month.
4. In terms of next steps, the Committee has agreed to hold an evidence session in the near future with COSLA (who recently [wrote to the Committee](#) about the impact of the crisis on local government) to hear how local authorities are dealing with current challenges, and also expects to take evidence from other stakeholders in the near future.