

Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee
Tuesday 6 October 2026
7th Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)

Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2027-28

1. The Committee will continue taking evidence in relation to its pre-budget scrutiny 2027-28, which is focussing predominantly on funding for culture and heritage.
2. Firstly, the Committee will take evidence from the author of and project partners to the [Local Culture Scotland report](#)—
 - Matt Baker, Artist and Author of Local Culture Scotland report
 - Pauline Smith, Chief Executive, Development Trusts Association Scotland
 - Kate Wimpess, Director, North Edinburgh Arts
3. The Committee will then undertake an evidence session focussing on local government issues. The Committee will hear from—
 - Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Community Wellbeing Spokesperson, COSLA
 - Matthew Sweeney, Chief Officer - Communities, COSLA
 - Lynda Campbell, Head of Business & Strategy at Glasgow Life, on behalf of Community Leisure UK
4. The Committee received a [written submission from COSLA](#).
5. A SPICe briefing for both sessions is available in **paper 2**.

Clerks to the Committee
October 2026