PRESENT
Refer to appendix 1.

APOLOGIES
Refer to appendix 1.

WELCOME & AGM BUSINESS
AGM host, Peter Duncan of Message Matters, welcomed everyone to the AGM of Scotland’s Towns Partnership.

1. To consider and approve Financial Accounts for Year to end 31 March 2021
A copy of the accounts has been made available on our website and offered to members on request.

Note that our reporting year and AGM do not align. We report on the previous FY. We aim to realign this.

Statement based on information from Accountants, Soroban:

“Income for the year to 31 March 2021 of £449,525 includes Membership Fees of £24,025, Sponsorship of £40,500, Scottish Government funding of £385,000. In addition, the company received net other income of £343,066 as grant awards, mainly spent on marketing and advertising for the Scotland Loves Local programme. Expenditure was £765,628 which resulted in a surplus after tax of £35,752. Balance sheet reserves were £133,966 at the end of the year”

There were no questions and the accounts were approved.

2. To consider and appoint accountants – Soroban – for the next year.
Scotland’s Towns Chair sought approval from members to review the appointment our accountants for the purposes of good practice. This proposal was approved.

3. Election of Directors
There have been no new elections to the Board of Directors since the last AGM.
Elected Directors required to retire by rotation under articles 69 – 74 and agreed to stand again are:

- Carol Anderson
- Adrian Watson

The following Directors have retired since the last AGM:

- Graham Campbell
- John Giblin
- Barry McCulloch
- Jennifer Wallace

We thank the above for their support and contribution to the organisation in their term of office.

All present accepted the proposals for election of new Board members.

4. To review the Company’s progress and discuss future plans

**STP Chair’s Report**

This is based on activity since our AGM in June of last year.

COVID19 presented us with the greatest global challenge in living memory. However, STP has shown strong and determined leadership throughout the crisis and I believe that this will continue through the recovery and renewal ahead of us.

Key achievements to note include:

- Developing and leading the implementation of Scotland Loves Local as the national recovery brand and now a £10m Programme for Government commitment. This includes annual funding of up to £2m, national awards, national campaign and the town and city gift card.

- Supporting and facilitating the publication of A New Future for Scotland’s Towns which is now TCAP2 Policy and supporting both Scottish Government and Local Government with the £325m Place Based Investment Fund and £80m Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery Fund.

- Ongoing support for SID’s which saw the UK’s first Island and Community BIDs being established.

- Pivoting quickly to an online platform, we continued with an extremely successful events and CPD programme and Cross Party Group, as well as assisting the Scottish Government and CoSLA with national webinars, including the launch of the £325m Place Based Investment Fund.
- Covid and Climate will make STP increasingly relevant as we move into a sustained recovery, and collectively we should strive to play a leading role in the implementation of a New Future for Scotland’s Towns.

This concluded the AGM formalities.

At this point in the agenda, Minister Tom Arthur gave a short speech and announced the launch of Scotland Loves Local Awards.

Followed by Phil Prentice, Chief Officer, on future steps –

We are entering into the post pandemic phase, dealing immediately with the climate emergency and the cost of living crisis. This is a time for strong leadership. It is also a time for optimism and opportunity.

The Scottish and UK Governments have provided substantial multi-year resource via the Place Based Investment Fund and Levelling Up.

National Planning Policy, Housing to 2040, A Retail Strategy, A National Strategy for Economic Transformation and The New Future for Scotland’s Towns / TCAP2 are better aligned and give us a clear sense of direction. We have the resource to match the rhetoric and we need to move at pace.

So, what will be our next steps? At STP we will continue to support the work of our members and Government and Local Government through Recovery, in particular:

- We will continue to support towns, BIDs and Place Projects with Government funding to support a mix of hyperlocal capital and revenue investments.

- The roll out of the Scotland Loves Local Programme supported by LACER which will include funding, a national marketing campaign and the town and city gift card programme.

- Support and facilitation to take forward the recommendations within the “New Future for Scotland’s Towns”

- Continued facilitation of the Parliamentary Cross Party Group and delivering all the support and projects related to the Towns, BIDs and SLL platforms.

- Support both Government and Local Government with delivery of the Place Based Investment Programme and the national demonstrator projects.

Finally, I’d like to offer a sincere thank you to the Minister and also the team at STP, both Scottish and Local Government for their continued support, the support of our members, sponsors and stakeholders and for positively engaging with STP. The opportunity to reset and renew is here, let’s work together and continue to build a new future for Scotland’s Towns.
APPENDIX 1

Registered to Attend –

Jacqueline Bell
Elaine Bone, Scotland’s Towns Partnership
Emma Bouglet, East Lothian Food and Drink BID
Diane Brown, Alloa First BID
Rhona Brown, Scotland’s Towns Partnership
Hollie Bruce, Scotland’s Towns Partnership
Peter Duncan, Message Matters
Lisa Edwards, ShopAppy
Colin Gilmour, East Lothian Council
Eva Groeneveld, Levelling Up, UK Government
Alison Jones, Scotland’s Towns Partnership
Kirsty McIntosh, Scottish Tech Army
Jo McNamara, Sustaining Dunbar
Elizabeth Miller-McEntee, EDAS
Caroline Mitchell, Scotland’s Towns Partnership
Nairn Pearson, West Lothian Council
Phil Prentice, Scotland’s Towns Partnership
Derek Robertson, Green Action Trust
Pat Scrutton, Outside the Box
Victoria Simpson, Levelling Up, UK Government
Roddy Smith, Essential Edinburgh BID
Tom Sneddon, DTAS
Leigh Sparks, University of Stirling & STP
Chris Story, Message Matters
Jo Waddell, DTA (Dunbar Traders Assocn)
Adrian Watson, Aberdeen Inspired
Paul Zochowski, East Lothian Council

Apologies –

Claire Carpenter, The Melting Pot
Michael Golding Visit Inverness Loch Ness BID
Deborah Murray, Visit West End BID
James Trolland, Sustaining Dunbar
Caroline Warburton, Visit Scotland