

CONCLUSION

Our recommendations in full

To ensure our AGE cities can bounce back from recent shocks to the system and thrive in the century of the city, we make the following seven recommendations:

Devolve meaningful tax raising and other fiscal powers to our cities to allow them to fund investment and deliver programmes that reflects local needs and opportunities.



A major focus on increasing the residential population of our city centres to replace the critical mass lost due to technological advances and other social changes. We need city centre diversification in the post-pandemic era, promoting residential densification in inner urban areas.



That the AGE cities form an alliance to work collectively to accelerate their journey to becoming net zero cities, mirroring the principles of the C40 cities. Aligned to this retrofitting on industrial scale will require taxation incentives to be delivered at pace.



That immigration policy is devolved to ensure our cities and regions have access to the workforce they need to prosper. Aligned to that, Scotland needs a Net Zero Jobs Strategy to ensure that we have the requisite skills and labour force to deliver on our climate pledges.



We need significant investment in growing and upskilling our planning service to embed pace, place and partnership in all it does. It needs to respond quickly to the changing environment in our AGE cities, contain the strategic planning capacity to design better places, and also seek to work in a collegiate rather than combative fashion with those wishing to invest in our cities.



We need a fit for purpose new rates system for the century of the city. A new system should reflect changing property needs locally and incentivise new businesses to emerge and grow in our towns and cities. A new system must also recognise and account for the impact of technology on retail and the changing use of our city centre buildings.



Significant and transformational investment in rail infrastructure and improving journey times between all three AGE cities and their extended regions. AGE city airports also urgently require route development funding to address lost connectivity.

