

REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL – 8 JUNE 2015

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTED MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, STATUTORY BODIES, PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNAL MEETING GROUPS

1 Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Council

- (1) notes the current membership (detailed at Appendix A) of the four Policy Committees, Scrutiny and Audit Committee, Appeals Committee, Appointments Committee, Industrial Cases Committee, Procedures Committee, Future Governance Working Group, the Grampian Valuation Joint Board and the Transitional Leadership Group;
- (2) notes the current appointments (detailed at Appendix B) to statutory bodies, Partnerships and Internal Meeting Groups together with any relevant conditions regarding re-appointments;
- (3) notes the change in political group affiliation, following notification to the Chief Executive, to the effect that: the Aberdeenshire Alliance has 33 members (comprising Conservative -13 members, Liberal Democrats - 11 members, Aligned Independents - 9 members); the SNP group has 28 members; a new coalition called The Progressive Alliance has 4 members (comprising Scottish Labour – 2 members and the Independent Progressive Group – 2 members); the Green/Democratic Independent Group has 2 members; and there remains one unaligned Independent member;
- (4) notes that the political proportionality for the current standard model for a 14 member committee is 7 (Alliance), 6 (SNP), plus one other place allocated amongst the other councillors, and that this has not changed as a result of the notifications outlined at recommendation (3);
- (5) notes that the political proportionality for the current Scrutiny and Audit Committee (12 members) is 6 (Alliance), 5 (SNP), plus one other place allocated amongst the other councillors and that this has not changed as a result of the notifications outlined at recommendation (3);
- (6) notes that the political proportionality for 8 member committees, the Appeals Committee and the Grampian Valuation Joint Board has not changed as a result of the notifications outlined at recommendation (3); and
- (7) notes the options detailed in the tables in paragraph 3.1 of the report with regard to the exact composition of the four Policy Committees

and the Scrutiny and Audit Committee, having regard to the principle of each member being allocated one committee place.

2 Background

- 2.1 **Policy and Area Committees** - In terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Council discharges many of its functions through four Policy Committees (Policy and Resources; Education, Learning and Leisure; Infrastructure Services; and Social Work and Housing) and six Area Committees. The Council also has a Scrutiny and Audit Committee. The Council's Scheme of Delegation defines the powers of each Committee. The Area Committees are composed of all the members whose wards are in the six Council Areas.
- 2.2 **Appeals Committee** - The Council is obliged, in terms of the Scottish Joint Council for Local Government Employees - National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service, to appoint an Appeals Committee to deal with any appeals under the Council's HR&OD policies.
- 2.3 **Appointments Committee** - The Council establishes an Appointments Committee to deal with the appointment of senior staff in terms of the Scheme of Delegation.
- 2.4 **Industrial Cases Committee** - The Council appoints an Industrial Cases Committee to consider and determine cases relating to significant financial support and property issues affecting the economy of Aberdeenshire, with implications for budgets within Aberdeenshire Council, acting with all necessary delegated powers to approve appropriate proposals as projects develop and to reach informed decisions on those projects.
- 2.5 **Procedures Committee** - The Council appoints a Procedures Committee to consider any proposed changes to the Council's Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation and to make recommendations regarding amendments to any other formal procedures of the Council.
- 2.6 **Grampian Valuation Joint Board** - The Council is entitled to appoint six members and six substitute members to the Grampian Valuation Joint Board.
- 2.7 **Future Governance Working Group** – The Council appointed a 14 member working group to make recommendations on the specific issues facing the Council in terms of its Future Governance in light of Health and Social Care Integration and the need to fundamentally review the shape of political decision-making in the Council. It is chaired by the Leader of the Council.
- 2.8 **Transitional Leadership Group** – The Council appoints 5 members to this group in order to work with NHS Grampian in advance of the establishment of an Integrated Joint Board which is to be formed in the coming year.
- 2.9 **Chairs and Vice Chairs** - The Council appoints Chairs and Vice Chairs for the four Policy Committees, the Scrutiny and Audit Committee and the Appointments Committee, and Chairs for the Appeals, Industrial Cases and

Procedures Committees. The appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Area Committees is delegated to the Area Committees.

- 2.10 **Statutory Bodies, Partnerships and Internal Meeting Groups** - There are a number of statutory bodies, partnerships and internal meeting groups to which members are appointed by the Council. Council nominates members to the groups listed in Appendix B. There may be other appointments made by delegation to policy committees etc which are not included in this list.
- 2.11 **Current Committee Composition** - The Council, at its meeting on 22 January, 2015 (Item 8, Page 1225), noted that the standard model required to be amended following the result of the Troup by-election, which caused a change in political group affiliation, and agreed that the standard model would be 7 Alliance members, 6 Scottish National Party group members plus one other place allocated amongst the remaining councillors. However, with each member being allocated one committee place, it was also agreed that there was a requirement to deviate from the standard model so as to achieve proportionality across the Council and abide by the agreed principles upon which the work of the Council is shared across membership. The following allocation of places on committees was therefore agreed:

CURRENT ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE PLACES

	Policy and Resources	Education, Learning and Leisure	Infrastructure Services	Social Work and Housing	Scrutiny and Audit
Alliance	8	8	8	7	6
SNP	5	6	6	6	5
Others	1	0	0	1	1

- 2.12 **Revisals to Committee Composition** - Following the recent changes in political group affiliation in terms of notifications to the Chief Executive, the Aberdeenshire Alliance has 33 members (comprising Conservative - 13 members, Liberal Democrats - 11 members, Aligned Independents - 9 members); the SNP group has 28 members; a new coalition called The Progressive Alliance has 4 members (comprising Scottish Labour – 2 members and the Independent Progressive Group – 2 members); the Green/Democratic Independent Group has 2 members; and there remains one unaligned Independent member.

The revised percentages are:-

Total Members		
SNP	28/68	41.2%
CON	13/68	19.1%
LIB DEM	11/68	16.2%
ALIGNED IND	9/68	13.2%
DEM IND GREEN	2/68	2.9%
IND PROG	2/68	2.9%
SCOTTISH LAB	2/68	2.9%
IND	1/68	1.6%

For the purposes of calculating political proportionality these are expressed as:-

Total Members		
Alliance	33/68	48.5%
SNP	28/68	41.2%
Others	7/68	10.3%

These percentages produce the following revised percentages for Policy Committees and the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:-

Policy Committee Places			S&A Places		
Alliance	48.5% x 14 = 6.79	7	Alliance	48.5% x 12 = 5.82	6
SNP Group	41.2% x 14 = 5.77	6	SNP Group	41.2% x 12 = 4.94	5
Others	10.3% x 14 = 1.44	1	Others	10.3% x 12 = 1.23	1

As a result, the standard model for a 14 member Committee to best reflect current proportionality would remain unchanged being 7 Alliance, 6 Scottish National Party Group and 1 other place allocated amongst the other councillors. The standard model for a 12 member Committee such as Scrutiny and Audit would remain as 6 Alliance, 5 Scottish National Party and 1 other place allocated amongst the other councillors.

3 Options

3.1 There are several possible options which could be adopted so as to achieve proportionality across the Council, depending on which of the policy committees are allocated places for "others", for example:-

Option 1	Policy & Resources	Education, Learning & Leisure	Infrastructure Services	Social Work & Housing	Scrutiny & Audit
Alliance	7	6	7	7	6
SNP	5	6	6	6	5
Others	2	2	1	1	1

Option 2	Policy & Resources	Education, Learning & Leisure	Infrastructure Services	Social Work & Housing	Scrutiny & Audit
Alliance	7	8	6	6	6
SNP	6	5	6	6	5
Others	1	1	2	2	1

Option 3	Policy & Resources	Education, Learning & Leisure	Infrastructure Services	Social Work & Housing	Scrutiny & Audit
Alliance	8	7	6	6	6
SNP	5	6	6	6	5
Others	1	1	2	2	1

Option 4	Policy & Resources	Education, Learning & Leisure	Infrastructure Services	Social Work & Housing	Scrutiny & Audit
Alliance	8	7	7	6	5
SNP	5	6	6	6	5
Others	1	1	1	2	2

Option 5	Policy & Resources	Education, Learning & Leisure	Infrastructure Services	Social Work & Housing	Scrutiny & Audit
Alliance	8	7	6	7	5
SNP	5	6	6	6	5
Others	1	1	2	1	2

- 3.2 **Miscellaneous Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups** – The current model for membership of miscellaneous Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups is 8, comprising 4 Alliance, 3 Scottish National Party group plus one other place to be allocated amongst the other councillors. It does not require any adjustment so as to achieve proportionality across the Council
- 3.3 **Appeals Committee** - Membership of the Appeals Committee is 5, comprising 3 Alliance and 2 Scottish National Party. It does not require any adjustment so as to achieve proportionality across the Council.
- 3.4 **Grampian Valuation Joint Board** - Composition of the Grampian Valuation Joint Board is 3 Alliance and 3 Scottish National Party. It does not require any adjustment so as to achieve proportionality across the Council.
- 3.5 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and any comments have been incorporated.

4 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the changes proposed do not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are no staffing or financial implications arising directly as a result of this report.

Alan Wood

Director of Business Services

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3rd June, 2015
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APPENDIX A

COMMITTEE AND JOINT BOARD MEMBERSHIP AS AT 22 JANUARY, 2015

IS	EL&L	SW&H	P&R	S&A
Agnew	Aitchison	A M Allan	Bews	Cassie
Argyle	A J Allan	Blackett	Cowling	Cullinane
A Buchan	Bellarby	Chapman	Evison	Duncan
G Clark	C Buchan	K Clark	Gifford	Farquhar
Cox	Carr	L Clark	Hood	Ingram
Gardiner	Christie	Ford	Howatson	Owen
Hendry	Davidson	Grant	Johnston	Ross
Lonchay	Dick	Gray	Kitts-Hayes	Shand
Merson	Findlater	Latham	Pratt	D Stewart
Mollison	Ingleby	Norrie	N Smith	Tait
Nelson	Malone	Oddie	Strathdee	Thomson
Partridge	McKail	Robertson	B Stuart	Watt
Roy	McRae	Topping	Vernal	
S Smith	Pirie	Walker	Webster	
Subs	Subs	Subs	Subs	
Aitchison	A M Allan	Bellarby	Agnew	
A J Allan	Blackett	Bews	Argyle	
Farquhar	G Clark	Carr	A Buchan	
Gray	L Clark	Cowling	C Buchan	
Latham	Evison	Cullinane	Chapman	
Malone	Gardiner	Dick	K Clark	
McKail	Grant	Findlater	Cox	
McRae	Lonchay	Hendry	Davidson	
Robertson	Norrie	Howatson	Ford	
Ross	Oddie	Ingleby	Merson	
B Stuart	Roy	Johnston	Nelson	
Topping	Strathdee	Pirie	Partridge	
Webster	Walker	Pratt	S Smith	
		Vernal		

Appeals	Appts	Indust Cases	Procedures	
Ingram	A J Allan	Argyle	Johnston	
Nelson	C Buchan	A Buchan (Ch)	Malone	
Ross (Ch)	Gifford (Ch)	Cox	Owen	
Shand	Johnston	Evison	Pirie	
Tait	Kitts-Hayes	McKail	Pratt	
	N Smith	Merson	Robertson	
	Pol Ctte Chair	Partridge	B Stuart	
	Opposition Spokesperson	Roy	Webster (Ch)	
Subs	Subs	Subs	Subs	
A M Allan	Davidson	Gardiner	Bellarby	
A Buchan	S Duncan	Mollison	Farquhar	
Oddie	Ford	Webster	Nelson	
Robertson	Gardiner	+1	Norrie	
Strathdee	McKail			
	Thomson			
	Chapman			
	Opposition Spokesperson			
Valuation Bd	Transitional Leadership Group	Future Governance Working Group		
C Buchan	A M Allan	Aitchison		
Christie	Chapman	Cox		
Gray	K Clark	Evison		
Lonchay	Grant	Ford		
Owen	Norrie	Gifford		
Pirie		Howatson		
		Owen		
		Pratt		
Substitute				
A J Allan		Robertson		
Evison		N Smith		
Strathdee		Strathdee		
Davidson		Tait		
Duncan		Thomson		
		Vernal		

APPENDIX B

PARTNERSHIPS/JOINT WORKING GROUPS	REPRESENTATIVES TO BE APPOINTED	CURRENT REPRESENTATIVES
Aberdeen City & Shire Economic Future	1 member and 1 named substitute (Scottish Enterprise Board Nominations Committee must approve appointments)	Cllr J Gifford Cllr M Kitts-Hayes (sub)
Aberdeenshire Community Health Partnership	6 members (the position regarding changing appointments to this partnership is still being verified in terms of its constitution and will be confirmed as soon as possible)	AM Allan KL Clark I Davidson J Gifford A Grant R McKail
Aberdeenshire Community Planning Board	4 members and 1 named substitute	Cllr J Gifford Cllr M Kitts-Hayes Cllr N Smith Cllr J Strathdee Cllr R Christie (sub) Cllr J Cox (sub) Cllr H Partridge (sub) Cllr I Tait (sub)
Association for Public Service Excellence	1 member	Cllr P Bellarby
COSLA Convention	5 members	Cllr A Evison Cllr J Gifford Cllr M Kitts-Hayes Cllr N Smith Cllr J Strathdee
NHS Grampian Board	1 member (members are appointed by the Scottish Ministers)	Cllr A Robertson
North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board (NESTRANS)	4 members and 4 named substitutes	Cllr P Argyle Cllr A Buchan Cllr G Clark Cllr J Latham Cllr A Evison (sub) Cllr I Mollison (sub) Cllr L Pirie (sub) Cllr J Strathdee (sub)
Northern Community Justice Authority (NCJA)	1 member and 1 named substitute	Cllr A Robertson Cllr N Cullinane (sub)
Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA)	6 members and 6 named substitutes	Cllr P Argyle Cllr P Bellarby Cllr J Cox Cllr R Merson Cllr N Smith Cllr B Topping

		Cllr G Clark (sub) Cllr A Gardiner (sub) Cllr I Gray (sub) Cllr M Kitts-Hayes (sub) Cllr G Owen (sub) Cllr S Smith (sub)
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INTERNAL MEETING GROUPS / STATUTORY BODIES	REPRESENTATIVES TO BE APPOINTED	CURRENT REPRESENTATIVES
Joint Investment Advisory Committee	4 members	Cllr A Bews Cllr R Cowling Cllr S Lonchay Cllr M Watt
Aberdeen University Court	1 member (Clerk to the Court to be consulted if any change is proposed)	Cllr R McKail
East of Scotland War Pensions Committee	1 member (members are appointed by Westminster)	Cllr A Hendry