

## REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 12 MARCH 2020

### NOMINATION TO THE NORTH SEA COMMISSION, MARINE RESOURCES WORKING GROUP

#### 1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 Councillor Thomson, the nominated Aberdeenshire Council representative on the North Sea Commission, Marine Resources Group has formally intimated his resignation from this group and the Committee are now requested to consider and nominate his replacement.

#### 2 Recommendations

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 2.1 Note Councillor Thomson’s resignation from the North Sea Commission, Marine Resources Working Group;**
- 2.2 Nominate a replacement substantive member to the North Sea Commission, Marine Resources Working Group; and**
- 2.3 Note that the replacement member will also sit on the European Member/Officer Working Group.**

#### 3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 Nominations to the North Sea Commission, Thematic Groups was considered by the Infrastructure Services Committee on 1 June 2017 (Item 7) and the Committee agreed that the nominated representative on the North Sea Commission, Marine Resources Group should be a partnership representative. The Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Blackett.
- 3.2 Subsequent to that decision, the Infrastructure Services Committee revisited that appointment on 29 November 2018 (Item 13), following the resignation of Councillor Blackett from that group. The Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Thomson.
- 3.3 At the same meeting, the Committee also agreed that any member who is appointed to one of the four North Sea Commission Thematic Groups, should also be appointed to the European Member/Officer Working Group to ensure a consistency of approach.
- 3.3 The current membership of the North Sea Commission Thematic Groups is as follows:
- Attractive and Sustainable Communities – Councillor I Walker
  - Climate Change Working Group – Councillor I Davidson
  - Managing Maritime Space – Councillor R Thomson

- Transport Working Group – Councillor W Howatson

3.4 Councillor Thomson's final attendance at a meeting of this group was at the joint meeting of the Transport Group and the Marine Resources Group which took place on 18 February 2020 in Aberdeen. From that date, Aberdeenshire Council will not be represented on that group until a nominated replacement has been appointed.

#### **4 Discussion**

4.1 The North Sea Commission is a partnership of regional local authorities which aims:

- To promote and create awareness of the North Sea region as a major economic entity within Europe
- To be a platform for developing and obtaining funding for joint development initiatives
- To lobby for a better North Sea region

The organisation operates four thematic working groups covering the themes of Energy and Climate Change; Marine Resources; Smart Regions; and Transport which help to take forward these priorities and also implement the [North Sea Region Strategy](#) adopted by the partnership.

4.2 The Marine Resources Group generally meets three times per year and the meetings are hosted by one of the NSC member regions on rotation (e.g. in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden or the UK). The meetings are attended by Politicians and Officers.

4.3 The most recent meeting of the Marine Resources Group was a Joint meeting of the Transport Group and the Marine Resources Group which took place on 18 February 2020 in Aberdeen.

4.4 The European Member/Officer Working Group meets 4 times a year, in Woodhill House and those meetings should last a maximum of two hours.

#### **5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk**

5.1 This report helps to delivery Council Priority 1 – Support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy.

This report helps deliver Council Priority 11 – Have the right people, in the right place, doing the right thing, at the right time.

5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			x
Staffing			x
Equalities			x
Fairer Scotland Duty			x
Town Centre First			x
Sustainability			x
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			x

- 5.4 An equality impact assessment is not required because the changes proposed are procedural matters and do not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 5.5 There are no staffing / financial / sustainability / children and young people's rights and wellbeing implications arising directly as a result of the report.
- 5.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a [Corporate Level](#).

ACORP006 – Reputation Management

## 6 Scheme of Governance

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider, and take a decision on this item, following a decision by Full Council at their meeting of 18 May 2017, Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance, where Section A.9.2 delegated to the Infrastructure Services Committee, the approval for membership of certain outside bodies as presented in Appendix C to that report.

**Ritchie Johnson**  
**Director of Business Services**

Report prepared by Frances Brown, Committee Officer  
Date: 28 January 2020

