

Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee

REPORT TO NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE 10 DECEMBER 2021

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

1 Recommendations

The Joint Committee is recommended to:

1.1 Appoint a new Chair and Vice Chair from its membership; or

1.2 Consider the re-appointment of the current Chair and Vice Chair for the period up to the Scottish Local Government Elections on 5 May 2022, after which the Joint Committee will be asked to appoint a new Chair and Vice Chair.

2 Background/Discussion

2.1 Standing Order 4.1 confirms that the Joint Committee must appoint a Chair and Vice Chair from within its membership. The term of office for the Chair and Vice Chair is twelve months.

2.2 Standing Order 4.2 confirms that the Chair and Vice Chair shall hold office for a period of twelve months from the date of appointment.

2.3 The offices of Chair and Vice Chair cannot be held by Members from the same Member Authority.

2.4 At the meeting of the Joint Committee on 21 June, 2019 a variation to the Minute of Agreement was agreed to allow any appointed Chair or Vice Chair of the Joint Committee to hold office for a second, or subsequent, time in any five-year period.

2.5 At its meeting on 28 August, 2020, the Joint Committee appointed Councillor Brenda Durno from Angus Council as Chair and at the subsequent meeting on 27 November, 2020 Councillor Theresa Coull from Moray Council was appointed as Vice Chair.

2.6 The Scottish Local Government elections are scheduled for 5 May, 2022 and each constituent authority will thereafter be required to make appointments to outside bodies and Partnership Groups, including the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee.

2.7 In the circumstances, the Joint Committee may wish to consider extending the term of office of the current Chair and Vice Chair to cover the last quarter meeting of 2021 and first quarter meeting of 2022. A further report seeking the appointment of a Chair and Vice Chair would be submitted to the next

meeting of the Joint Committee following the May elections, once the new Council nominations have been confirmed by each of the constituent authorities.

- 2.8 The Joint Committee is therefore asked to consider whether to take this approach or whether to proceed to appoint a new Chair and Vice Chair at this meeting, and with immediate effect.
- 2.9 The Joint Committee's Legal Monitoring Officer within Aberdeenshire Council and Financial Monitoring Officer within the Highland Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with relevant legislation.

3 Implications and Risk

- 3.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required because this report relates to the Joint Committee's procedures for appointing a Chair and Vice Chair and does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 3.2 There are no staffing and financial implications arising from this report.
- 3.3 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter: the business of the Joint Committee will not be conducted effectively in the absence of a Chair and Vice Chair and the provision of the Minute of Agreement signed by all Member Councils require the Joint Committee to appoint Members to both offices.

Ewan Wallace
Lead Officer

Report prepared by Alison McLeod, Committee Officer, Aberdeenshire Council
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