



REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 6 OCTOBER 2016

APPOINTMENT TO NORTH SEA COMMISSION THEMATIC GROUP

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the revision to the North Sea Commission Thematic Group structure;**
- 1.2 Appoint one Elected Member to represent the Council in the North Sea Commission Attractive and Sustainable Communities Group; and**
- 1.3 Approve associated travel and subsistence costs to participate in the above group.**

2. Discussion

- 2.1 Aberdeenshire Council has been a member of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and its North Sea Commission (NSC) sub-organisation since the Council was established. Elected Members regularly participate in meetings of the partnerships, which aim to develop joint projects, influence European policies and share best practice between different European countries. The NSC has established a number of thematic sub groups which also have Elected Member and Officer representation.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 17 June 2016, the NSC General Assembly decided to restructure its Thematic Groups. The Culture and Tourism and Economic Development Groups will cease operating from 2017. A new Attractive and Sustainable Communities Group will be established and operate from 2017.
- 2.3 Committee is requested to appoint one elected member to the new Attractive and Sustainable Communities Group and note that the agreed roles of Cllr I Walker in the Culture & Tourism Group and Cllr B H Stuart in the Economic Development Group will cease from 1 January 2017.
- 2.4 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.

3. Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 3.1 An equalities impact assessment has not been carried out as there are no direct equalities or staffing implications arising from this report.
- 3.2 The Attractive and Sustainable Communities Thematic Group is set to meet 2-3 times per year. The estimated cost of an Elected Member attending a meeting would be £750. The annual cost for a Member to attend would therefore be around £2,250. This cost would be met from the Elected Member Travel and Subsistence budget, Page 107, Line 10 of the Council's revenue budget. An officer would accompany the nominated elected member to meetings.

Stephen Archer

Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Martin Brebner, Team Manager - European Policy & Programmes, 1/9/16