

## Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee

### REPORT TO NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE – 21 JUNE 2019

#### APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

##### 1 Recommendations

The Joint Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note that following discussion at the previous meeting of the Joint Committee the views of Member Authorities were sought on a variation of the Minute of Agreement to delete Clause 4.3.5 in order to allow the Chair and Vice Chair to hold office for a second/subsequent time in any consecutive five-year period;
- 1.2 Note that there is agreement from the Member Authorities that the Minute of Agreement shall be varied in the terms stated in 1.1;
- 1.3 Agree to amend the Joint Committee's Standing Orders to reflect said variation; and
- 1.4 Appoint a Chair from its membership;

##### 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 At its meeting on 16 May 2018, the Joint Committee appointed Councillor Morton from Argyll and Bute Council as Chair. Councillor Durno from Angus Council was appointed as Vice Chair at a subsequent meeting on 31 August 2018 and the Joint Committee will therefore be asked to consider the appointment of the Vice Chair at its autumn meeting.
- 2.3 Standing Order 4.2 confirms that the Chair and Vice Chair cannot hold office for a second/subsequent time in any consecutive five-year period. This provision arises from Clause 4.3.5 of the Minute of Agreement entered into by the Member Authorities. Following discussion at the last meeting regarding the appointment of Chair, officers canvassed the views of the Member Authorities as to whether this Clause should be removed to promote consistency, given that the current provisions would mean five Chair and Vice Chairs being appointed over the period between local government elections.
- 2.4 The Member Authorities have agreed that the Minute of Agreement should be varied to remove Clause 4.3.5. The Committee is therefore asked to agree the variation and amend Standing Orders to remove the restriction.
- 2.5 The Joint Committee is also asked to appoint a Chair from its membership. It should be noted that the removal of the restriction on appointment would allow for the incumbent Chair to be re-appointed for a further twelve-month term.

2.5 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 relevant legislation.

### **3 Implications and Risk**

3.1 An equality 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 the provision of the Minute of Agreement signed by all Member Councils require the Joint Committee to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair.

**Ewan Wallace**  
**Lead Officer**

Ruth O'Hare, Principal Solicitor, Aberdeenshire Council  
12 June 2019