

Emergency Governance Arrangements (Covid-19 Outbreak)

Friday 26 June 2020

Decision

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive.

In Consultation with

Joe Cullinane (Group Leader: Labour/Cabinet Member for Finance); Marie Burns (Group Leader: SNP), Tom Marshall (Group Leader: Conservative and Unionist); Ian Murdoch (Nominated Independent Member representative) (Items 1, 2).

1. Elected Member Attendance

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on the provisions of section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and the Council's Standing Orders in terms of the non-attendance of Elected Member and to propose action in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of the agreed decision-making process, the Chief Executive consulted with the political Group Leaders and with the nominated representative of the Independent Members. All were supportive of the proposals set out in the report.

Having considered the implications outlined in the report and following consultation with relevant Members, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, agreed:

(a) to note:

- (i) the exceptional circumstances of the current COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to the cancellation of meetings of the Council and its committees since March 2020;
- (ii) that a restricted number of committee meetings with appointed membership will be held between 22nd June and 30th June 2020 on a wholly remote basis;
- (iii) that the next full Council meeting is scheduled for September 2020;
- (iv) the possibility that some Members may not be in a position to attend the first available meeting of the Council (or a committee of which they are a member) within 6 months of the last meeting they attended; and
- (v) the terms of Section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and Standing Orders state that if a Councillor fails throughout a period of six consecutive months to attend any meeting of the authority, that member shall cease to be a member of the authority unless the failure to attend was due to a reason approved by the Council; and

- (b) (agree that, in terms of Standing Orders and section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, a Member's failure to attend in the particular circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic is a reason approved by the Council for non-attendance during the period from 5 March 2020 to 30 September 2020, and that non-attendance during this period does not count in calculation of the 6 month period.

2. Outside Body Appointment: Scotland Excel Executive Sub-Committee

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on a proposed appointment to represent the Council on the Scotland Excel Executive Sub-Committee.

The Chief Executive invited the political Group Leaders and the four Independent Members to submit nominations for the position of main representative and named substitute representation on this outside body. One main representative nomination was received and the political Group Leaders and Independent Member representative advised accordingly.

Having considered the implications outlined in the report and following consultation with relevant Members, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, agreed (a) to appoint Councillor Cullinane as the Council's main representative of the Scotland Excel Executive Sub-Committee; and (b) to note an outstanding vacancy for a named substitute representative on this outside body.