

## **NON-COUNCILLOR MEMBER APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report presents an update on the appointments of Non-Councillor Members to the SEStran Board. It seeks the Partnership's endorsement of the selection panel's recommendations, which have been approved by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport. The proposed term of office for the appointments is from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2030.
- 1.2 The current term of office for Non-Councillor Members will conclude on 31 March 2026. Dr Doreen Steele, who has served as a Board member since 2016, has advised that she will stand down at the end of her term. In addition, Kate Sherry and Geoff Duke tendered their resignations during the previous year, resulting in three vacancies on the Board.

### **2. TIMELINE**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 5 December 2025, the Board approved the recruitment process for the appointment and reappointment of Non-Councillor Members.
- 2.2 Following completion of the formal appraisal exercise, the Chair, in consultation with the Partnership Director, recommended the reappointment of the following six existing Non-Councillor Members, in recognition of their continued contribution and experience:
- Linda Bamford
  - Alastair Couper
  - Callum Hay
  - Simon Hindshaw
  - John Scott
  - Paul White
- 2.3 The resulting three vacancies were publicly advertised through myjobscotland, the SEStran website, LinkedIn and SEStran's social media channels. In addition, the vacancies were highlighted by the Cabinet Secretary at the SEStran Summit, which significantly assisted in raising awareness and encouraging applications.
- 2.4 As a listed public authority with statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010, SEStran is committed to promoting equality of opportunity, diversity, and balanced representation on the Board. Applications were encouraged from groups currently under-represented, including women, disabled people, young people, and people from minority ethnic backgrounds.
- 2.5 The Board is asked to note that due to illness, Cllr Imrie was unable to take part in the recruitment process. As Cllr McMillan and Cllr Dijkstra-Downie were also unavailable due to council business, the Chair agreed that the

selection process should proceed with a two-person panel. The panel comprised Cllr Pattle and Brian Butler.

- 2.6 The selection panel met on 3 February 2026 and shortlisted 6 candidates for interview. Interviews were held on 17 and 18 February 2026.
- 2.7 Following interview, the following candidates met the required criteria and were recommended for appointment:
- Maily's Garden
  - Clara Walker
  - Sally Wyke
- 2.8 In accordance with the provisions of the Regional Transport Partnerships (Establishment, Constitution and Membership) (Scotland) Order 2005, the Chair wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport on the 25 February 2026 to advise of the outcome of the recruitment process and to seek the necessary ministerial approval for the proposed appointments.
- 2.9 Ministerial approval was granted by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport on 3 March 2026.
- 2.10 The Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018 establishes an objective that 50% of non-executive public board members should be women. Section 1(2) of the Act provides that, where a public board has an odd number of non-executive members, the objective applies as if the board had one fewer member. As four women are included among those recommended for appointment, the statutory objective is met.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Board is asked to endorse the appointments of the above candidates as Non-Councillor Members of the SEStran Board for the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2030.

Angela Chambers  
**Business Manager**  
6 March 2026

Policy Implications	None
Financial Implications	None
Equalities Implications	Meeting the objective of the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018 where 50% of non executive members are women.
Climate Change Implications	None