

Appointments to Performance and Audit Committee

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Board to nominate and appoint a Non-Councillor Member to the Performance and Audit Committee.
- 1.2 Following the resignation of Doreen Steele, and the new appointments of Non-Councillor Members to the Partnership Board there now exists a vacancy for a Non-Councillor Member to join the Performance and Audit Committee.

2. PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The Performance and Audit Committee provides independent scrutiny and assurance over the Partnership's governance arrangements, financial management and organisational performance. It ensures that effective systems of risk management, internal control and audit are in place, and reviews financial and audit reports, monitors delivery against objectives and performance indicators, promotes high standards of conduct and compliance, and supports transparency and continuous improvement in line with recognised public sector governance practice. In doing so, it oversees key risks relating to financial stewardship, governance and regulatory compliance, delivery of strategic objectives, and the effectiveness of internal controls and audit arrangements.
- 2.2 The Committee supports the Board by providing assurance that these arrangements are effective, through detailed scrutiny of risk, audit findings and financial management. It identifies issues early, ensures that improvements are implemented, and strengthens transparency, accountability and informed decision-making, giving the Board confidence that public resources are properly managed, risks are controlled and governance standards are maintained.
- 2.3 The Committee comprises 8 councillor members, one from each authority; and 4 non-councillor members, chosen (in the event of disagreement) by the Partnership. Each councillor member shall be entitled to nominate a substitute from their own authority. The Chairperson of the Partnership shall not be entitled to substitute for any member of the committee. The Committee's quorum shall be 4.
- 2.4 Current membership is as follows:
 - Cllr Russell Imrie (Chair)
 - Cllr John McMillan
 - Cllr Stephen Jenkinson
 - Cllr Jenny Linehan
 - Cllr Tom Conn
 - Cllr Paul Garner

- Cllr Derek Glenn
- Cllr Scott Harrison
- NCM Vacancy
- John Scott NCM
- Callum Hay NCM
- Simon Hindshaw NCM

2.5 The Committee normally meets 2 weeks in advance of each Partnership Board meeting, which run quarterly.

3. DEPUTY CHAIR

3.1 Councillor Sanne Dijkstra Downie has been elected as a Member of the Scottish Parliament and, as a result, is no longer able to continue in her role as Deputy Chair of the Partnership. The Chairs' have considered the current position and agreed that, as the Partnership has discretion over the number of Deputy Chairs appointed, the vacancy will not be filled at this time. This approach reflects the proximity of the scheduled local government elections in May, following which a new Partnership Board will be constituted and leadership positions can be reviewed as part of that process.

3.2 The current serving Deputy Chairs are:

- Cllr Russell Imrie
- Cllr John McMillan

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

4.1 Nominate and appoint a Non-Councillor Member to the Performance and Audit Committee; and

4.2 Note that former Deputy Chair Sanne Dijkstra-Downie has been elected as MSP and the Partnership will continue with 2 serving Deputy Chairs as outlined at para 3.2.

Angela Chambers
Business Manager
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Policy Implications	None
Financial Implications	None
Equalities Implications	None
Climate Change Implications	None