

**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Council

**MEETING DATE:** 9 April 2013

**BY:** Executive Director (Support Services)

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of the Leader of the Opposition, Membership of Committees and Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies **1**

---

## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To ask Council to note the appointment of a new Leader of the Opposition and to approve related changes to the membership of Council committees and list of representatives to outside bodies.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Council notes the change of Leader of the Opposition as outlined in Section 3.1 of the report and also the related ex-officio appointments as contained within Section 3.4.
- 2.2 That Council approves the nomination of Councillor McLeod as the Convenor of the Audit and Governance Committee, replacing Councillor Currie and also the nomination of Councillor Williamson as the Depute Convenor of the Audit and Governance Committee.
- 2.3 That Council approves the nomination of Councillor Currie to represent the Council on the CoSLA Convention, replacing Councillor McLennan.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Councillor Paul McLennan has intimated that he wishes to relinquish his position as Leader of the Opposition. The SNP Group have advised that Councillor Stuart Currie has been selected as the new Group Leader. Council is therefore asked to note Councillor Currie's position as Leader of the Opposition with immediate effect.
- 3.2 As a direct consequence of the appointment of Councillor Currie to the position of Leader of the Opposition, further amendments are required both to the membership of Council committees and to the representation of elected members on outside bodies.
- 3.3 **Audit & Governance Committee** – although wishing to remain a member, Councillor Currie has intimated that he wishes to stand down

from the role of Convenor of the Audit and Governance Committee. There is currently no Depute Convenor of the Audit and Governance Committee. It is proposed that Councillor Kenny McLeod is appointed Convenor of the Audit and Governance Committee and that Councillor John Williamson is appointed Depute Convenor.

- 3.4 **Ex-officio Appointments** – the position of Leader of the Opposition carries appointment to a number of other committees on an ex-officio basis. This includes membership of the Education Committee, Planning Committee, Petitions Committee and also the Employee Appeals Sub-Committee. Councillor Currie would automatically become a member of each of these committees, replacing Councillor McLennan.
- 3.5 **CoSLA Convention** – The Council currently has three representatives to the CoSLA Convention, two being proposed from the Administration and one from the Opposition. It is now proposed that Councillor Currie be nominated to CoSLA Convention, replacing Councillor McLennan.
- 3.6 Members are asked to note that the updated lists of committee membership and elected member representation on outside bodies will be published on the Council's website and that CoSLA will be formally advised in writing of the change to representation on the CoSLA Convention.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

#### **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – The appointment of Councillor Currie to the post of Leader of the Opposition (effective from today's meeting) attracts an increase from his existing annual allowance of £16,234 to that of £20,294 as the Leader of the Opposition. Councillor McLennan's annual allowance will reduce from that of Leader of the Opposition to £16,234 as an ordinary councillor. The Head of Council Resources has confirmed that these changes still conform to the requirements of the relevant SLARC (Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee) regulations and can be contained within the existing budget for Democratic Services.
- 6.2 Personnel - None.
- 6.3 Other – None.

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 East Lothian Council Standing Orders
- 7.2 Report to Council on 15 May – Appointment to Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council
- 7.3 Report to Council on 15 May 2012 - Councillors' Salaries and Expenses
- 7.4 Report to Council on 15 May 2012 – Appointment of Appropriate Representatives to Outside Bodies
- 7.5 Report to Council on 15 May 2012 - Councillors' Salaries and Expenses
- 7.6 Report to Council on 23 October 2013 - Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies – Follow-up Report
- 7.7 Report to Council on 18 December 2013 - Membership of Committees and Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies
- 7.8 Report to Council on 26 February 2013 - Amendment to Cabinet Portfolios and Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Jill Totney
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Democratic Services Manager
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	<a href="mailto:jtotney@eastlothian.gov.uk">jtotney@eastlothian.gov.uk</a> x7225
<b>DATE</b>	26 March 2013