

**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Council

**MEETING DATE:** 17 December 2013

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

**SUBJECT:** Appointments to Committees of the Council, East Lothian Licensing Board and Outside Bodies

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek Council approval to make alterations to the membership of Committees of the Council and East Lothian Licensing Board, and to the Council's representation on the Board of Scotland Excel.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Council notes the work undertaken to best achieve political balance on the Planning and Education Committees following the abolition of *ex officio* positions on those committees;
- 2.2 That Council approves the following changes to membership of Committees of the Council and the East Lothian Licensing Board:
- Planning Committee – an increase in membership from 16 to 18, with three Councillors being appointed to the Committee and Councillor Veitch relinquishing his membership
  - Education Committee – an increase in Elected Member membership from 14 to 18, with four Councillors being appointed to the Committee
  - Audit and Governance Committee and the Joint Consultative Committee – a change to membership as detailed at section 3.8 of this report.
  - East Lothian Licensing Board – Councillors Currie and Trotter being appointed to the Board, subject to satisfactory completion of the mandatory training, and Councillor McLennan relinquishing his membership.
- 2.3 That the Council approves the nomination of Councillor McMillan to represent the Council on the Board of Scotland Excel, replacing Councillor Hampshire.

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall that as part of the review of the Council's Standing Orders, it was agreed that *ex officio* positions on the Planning Committee and Education Committee would be abolished and that existing *ex officio* members would become ordinary members of those committees. In addition to this change, a more explicit requirement to achieve political balance has been made and further adjustment to the membership of the committees is now required.
- 3.2 In accordance with Standing Orders, it is for Council to determine the size of committees and, to assist with calculating proportionality and the achievement of political balance, it is proposed that the Planning and Education Committees should each have a membership of 18 Elected Members (with the Education Committee having 4 external members in addition to the Elected Members). This will mean that the membership of the Planning Committee needs to increase by 2 Elected Members and the Education Committee by 4 Elected Members.
- 3.3 In order to best achieve political balance on the Planning Committee, the Conservative Group membership would be reduced by one, the SNP membership would increase by two and Councillor Caldwell, as the Independent Member not currently a member of the Committee, would be offered a place. The Labour Group representation would remain unchanged.
- 3.4 In order to best achieve political balance on the Education Committee, the Labour Group membership would increase by one, the SNP membership would increase by two, and Councillor Berry, as the Independent Nationalist Member not currently a member of the Committee, would be offered a place. The Conservative Group representation would remain unchanged.
- 3.5 Members are asked to note that in the event the Independent Members choose not to take up the additional positions as outlined in Sections 3.3 and 3.4 above, their place on the committee would not be re-allocated.
- 3.6 The Leader of the Labour Group has indicated that the additional member on the Education Committee will be proposed at the Council meeting.
- 3.7 The Leader of the SNP Group has proposed that the two additional Members on the Planning Committee would be Councillors Brown and McLeod and that the two additional Members on the Education Committee would be Councillors McLennan and Williamson.
- 3.8 The Leader of the SNP Group has proposed changes to the SNP membership of other committees, as outlined below:
- Audit and Governance Committee – Councillor McAllister should replace Councillor McLennan
  - Joint Consultative Committee – Councillor MacKenzie should replace Councillor McLennan.

3.9 The Leader of the SNP Group has also proposed changes to the SNP membership of the East Lothian Licensing Board, as outlined below, noting that membership of Licensing Board is subject to satisfactory completion of the mandatory training:

- Councillors Currie and Trotter be appointed as Members of East Lothian Licensing Board with Councillor McLennan relinquishing his membership

3.10 Members are asked to note that the updated list of committee membership will be published on the Council's website.

3.11 The Administration has advised of a proposed change to the Council's representation on the Board of Scotland Excel, in that Councillor McMillan should replace Councillor Hampshire. Members are asked to approve this change.

#### **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 – none

6.2 Personnel – none

6.3 Other – none

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 East Lothian Council Standing Orders

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