

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 25 August 2020

BY: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Appointment of Leader of the Opposition

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Council of the resignation of Councillor Jane Henderson as Leader of the Opposition, to appoint a new Leader of the Opposition, and to appoint a new Convener of the Policy & Performance Review Committee.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council:
- approves the appointment of Councillor Lachlan Bruce as Leader of the Opposition, with immediate effect;
 - notes that, in accordance with the Scheme of Administration, Councillor Bruce will replace Councillor Henderson on the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee and the Employee Appeals Sub-Committee; and
 - approves the appointment of Councillor Bruce to CoSLA Convention, replacing Councillor Henderson;
 - appoints a new Convener of the Policy & Performance Review Committee from among its existing members, replacing Councillor Bruce.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Councillor Jane Henderson has intimated that she wishes to relinquish her position as Leader of the Conservative Group and Leader of the Opposition with immediate effect. The Group has appointed Councillor Lachlan Bruce to replace Councillor Henderson as their Leader and, as the largest minority group, have nominated him as Leader of the Opposition.

- 3.2 In accordance with the Scheme of Administration, Councillor Bruce will replace Councillor Henderson on the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee and Employee Appeals Sub-Committee.
- 3.3 Members are also asked to approve the appointment of Councillor Bruce to the CoSLA Convention, replacing Councillor Henderson.
- 3.4 Councillor Bruce has indicated that he wishes to step down as Convener of the Policy & Performance Review Committee. The Council is therefore asked to appoint a new Convener from among the existing members of that Committee.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – the new Leader of the Opposition will be designated Senior Councillor status, and will therefore see an increase in the annual allowance to £21,245. Councillor Henderson’s annual allowance will reduce accordingly to that of Ordinary Councillor, from £21,245 to £16,994. The Head of Council Resources has confirmed that this change can be accommodated within the existing budget.
- 6.2 Personnel – none.
- 6.3 Other – none.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Minute of Meeting of East Lothian Council, 23 May 2017 – Item 4: Notification of Leaders of the Political Groups
- 7.2 Report to East Lothian Council, 23 May 2017 – Councillors’ Remuneration and Expenses
- 7.3 Report to East Lothian Council, 11 September 2018 – Appointment of the Leader of the Opposition
- 7.3 East Lothian Council Standing Orders

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