

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 13 December 2022

BY: Executive Director for Council Resources

SUBJECT: Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise Council of the resignation of Councillor Kenny McLeod from the SNP Group, and of the implications of his resignation for committee and outside body membership.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is asked:
- to note the re-designation of Councillor Kenny McLeod as an Independent Councillor
 - to note that Councillor McLeod does not wish to take up his position on the Education Committee, and to seek nominations to fill this vacancy
 - to seek nominations to replace Councillor Allan on the East Lothian Education Trust from among Members who are members of the Education Committee (and who do not represent the Musselburgh ward)
 - to agree that Councillor McLeod be invited to participate in the two cross-party groups recently constituted by Council, as set out in paragraph 3.7.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Councillor Kenny McLeod intimated to the Chief Executive on 22 November 2022 that he would be resigning from the SNP Group with immediate effect, and that he would continue to serve his ward of Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry as an Independent Councillor.
- 3.2 As a result of Councillor McLeod's resignation from the SNP Group, officers have considered the impact on political proportionality on committees. As a consequence, the SNP Group will lose a seat on

Planning Committee, Audit & Governance Committee and Education Committee.

- 3.3 Councillor McLeod is currently a member of the Planning Committee and, as an Independent Councillor, he will be entitled to a seat on this committee, which he has confirmed he will accept.
- 3.4 Councillor McLeod is entitled to a place on one of the scrutiny committees; Council is advised that he will continue to serve on the Audit & Governance Committee as an Independent Councillor.
- 3.5 As regards Education Committee, the SNP will lose a seat, and Councillor Liz Allan will step down. Although Councillor McLeod is entitled to a place on this committee, he has intimated that he does not wish to take up his place, and there is, therefore, now a vacancy on this committee. The Council is therefore asked to consider nominations to fill the vacancy on the Education Committee.
- 3.6 As Councillor Allan is stepping down from the Education Committee, she will also be required to step down from the East Lothian Education Trust, thereby creating a vacancy on that body. This space must be filled by a Member who is on the Education Committee (but who does not represent the Musselburgh ward). The Council is therefore asked to consider nominations for a place on the East Lothian Education Trust.
- 3.7 Members are asked to agree that Councillor McLeod be invited to participate in the Cross-Party Working Group on Budget Development and the Climate Change and Sustainability Forum, constituted by Council on 28 June 2022 and 23 August 2022 respectively.

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 – None
- 6.2 Personnel – None
- 6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 East Lothian Council's Standing Orders

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