

**Argyll and Bute Council**  
Comhairle Earra Ghaidheal agus Bhoid

Customer Services  
Executive Director: Douglas Hendry



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5 August 2013

## NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP ON POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD** on **MONDAY, 12 AUGUST 2013 at 1:00 PM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry  
Executive Director - Customer Services

## BUSINESS

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)**
- 3. MINUTES**  
Short Life Working Group on Political Management Arrangements – 29 July 2013  
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- 4. POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS - SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED FROM ELECTED MEMBERS**  
Report by Executive Director – Customer Services (to follow)

## SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP ON POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Gordon Blair  
Councillor Vivien Dance  
Councillor Iain MacDonald  
Councillor Ellen Morton  
Councillor Douglas Philand  
Councillor John Semple

Councillor Michael Breslin  
Councillor Anne Horn  
Councillor Roderick McCuish  
Councillor Gary Mulvaney  
Councillor Elaine Robertson  
Councillor Dick Walsh

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**MINUTES of MEETING of SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP ON POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD on MONDAY, 29 JULY 2013**

**Present:**

Councillor Roddy McCuish(Chair)

Councillor Gordon Blair	Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Michael Breslin	Councillor Douglas Philand
Councillor Vivien Dance	Councillor Elaine Robertson
Councillor Anne Horn	Councillor Sandy Taylor - Substitute
Councillor Iain MacDonald	Councillor Dick Walsh
Councillor Ellen Morton	

**Attending:**

Sally Loudon, Chief Executive  
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director of Customer Services  
Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**3. POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Short Life Working Group considered a report which outlined the context in which the Council was working and the challenges that Argyll and Bute was facing.

**Decision**

1. Noted the terms of the report and agreed that the current arrangement of the Council making all decisions was not sustainable
2. Agreed to endorse the principles set out in paragraph 3.4 i-viii subject to adding the following additional principles, namely;
  - ix – leadership
  - x – effective political scrutiny
  - xi – effective decision making
  - xii – increased focus on all our customers
3. Agreed to circulate the agreed Minute to all 36 Councillors to invite them to submit to the Executive Director of Customer Services by Wednesday 7 August 2013;

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- issues that need to be addressed to make their participation in the Council business more effective;
  - possible Political Management Arrangements decision making models; and
  - comments on any of the content of the initial views of the Short Life Working Group as set out in this Minute
4. Agreed that all of the information received as arising from 3 above be considered by the Short Life Working Group (SLWG) at its next meeting, with a view to prioritising those models that should then be looked at in more detail by officers, with the intention that a report would then be submitted to a further meeting(s) of the Group
  5. Agreed that the report to the August Council in terms of the SLWG terms of reference would be an interim report given the decisions taken above; and
  6. Noted that it would be beneficial, if possible, that the Audit Scotland findings were available for consideration prior to the Council reaching a final decision.