

POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Council on vacancies which have arisen on the Councils Committees and on appointments which require to be made to outside bodies/organisations in addition to those made at the Council meeting on 18 May 2017, as well as consider appointments in relation to an Armed Forces Champion, World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group representatives and Children's Champions.
- 1.2 The Council is being invited to make:
- a) one appointment to the Community Services Committee.
 - b) one appointment to the Argyll and Bute Area Support Team.
 - c) one nomination to COSLA for a Trustee to the Scottish National War Memorial
 - d) one appointment to the role of Armed Forces Champion
 - e) four appointments, representative of each area, to the World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group
 - f) four appointments, representative of each area, to the role of Children's Champion

POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Council on vacancies which have arisen on the Councils Committees and on appointments which require to be made to outside bodies/organisations in addition to those made at the Council meeting on 18 May 2017, as well as consider appointments in relation to an Armed Forces Champion, World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group representatives and Children's Champions.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council is being invited to consider making the following appointments/nominations -
- a) one appointment to the Community Services Committee.
 - b) one appointment to the Argyll and Bute Area Support Team.
 - c) one nomination to COSLA for a Trustee to the Scottish National War Memorial
 - d) one appointment to the role of Armed Forces Champion
 - e) four appointments, representative of each area, to the World War 1 Commemoration Steering group
 - f) four appointments, representative of each area, to the role of Children's Champion
- 3.2 The Council is being asked to note that appointments to Locality Groups have been progressed by the June Area Committees and that there is no requirement for the Council to make any appointments in respect of these.

4. DETAIL

4.1 Vacancies on Committees

4.1.1 *Community Services Committee*

The Community Services Committee has 16 Elected Members. It has 1 vacancy as Councillor Len Scoullar declined his appointment made at the Council meeting on 18 May 2017. The current membership is –

Councillor Jim Anderson
Councillor Rory Colville
Councillor Robin Currie
Councillor Mary-Jean Devon
Councillor Lorna Douglas
Councillor Audrey Forrest

Councillor Kieron Green (Vice Chair)
Councillor Graham Archibald Hardie
Councillor Anne Horn
Councillor Julie McKenzie
Councillor Yvonne McNeilly (Chair)
Councillor Barbara Morgan
Councillor Elaine Robertson
Councillor Richard Trail
Councillor Andrew Vennard
Vacancy

Margaret Anderson (Roman Catholic Representative)
Vacancy (Scottish Episcopal Representative)
William Stewart Shaw (Church of Scotland Representative)
(Teacher Representative) TBC
(Teacher Representative) TBC

4.2 **Appointments to Outside Bodies/Organisations**

4.2.1 *Argyll and Bute Area Support Team (AST)*

Each local authority can nominate at least one member to the AST of which they are a part. The current practice is that these nominees will ordinarily be elected members but this is not a requirement under the Act.

Local authority nominees have an overview of the Children's Hearings System and the Children's Panel in their area. They are aware of local issues and act as an important link between the Children's Panel and the local authority elected members and relevant local recruitment, selection, recommendation for appointment or reappointment, or practice observation and review processes undertaken by the AST panel practice advisors. The Council should consider making an appointment of one elected Member to this outside body.

4.2.2 *Trustee of the Scottish National War Memorial*

The Royal Charter allocates six trustees to COSLA in addition to the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen who are ex-officio trustees. The trustees meet twice per year. The Council has been invited by COSLA to make one nomination of an elected Member to be a trustee. The Council should consider if they wish to make a nomination of an Elected Member and who they wish to nominate. Nominations received by COSLA will be collated and sent to the Scottish National War Memorial Trust for consideration.

4.3 **Additional Appointments**

4.3.1 *Armed Forces Champion*

In 2012 the Council agreed to appoint an Armed Forces Champion, with the specific remit of ensuring that local service provision is mindful of the needs of Service Veterans.

The Council has a number of Champions, whose responsibilities for their client groups are:

- i. To highlight where a potential council decision may impact positively or

- negatively on relevant client group
- ii. To keep abreast of legislation and initiatives
- iii. To liaise with recognised organisations and representatives
- iv. To respond to invitations to attend relevant meetings in respect of their portfolio
- v. To provide an additional point of contact for the public/client group
- vi. To provide necessary input to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee
- vii. To provide an annual report to the Council in respect of their activities.

Also in 2012, the Council noted the signing of the Community Covenant, which complements, at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant, and outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces. The signing of the covenant provided an opportunity for the Council and partner organisations to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to consider positive measures to provide support to the Armed Forces Community, and committed them to ensuring that health, education, housing, transport and social needs of current and ex personnel and their families are met. Since the appointment of an Armed Forces Champion a significant amount of work has been undertaken, particularly in regards the development of work around recognition of the World War 1 centenary, but also more generally in relation to building and developing positive relationships with the Armed Forces communities of Argyll and Bute and further afield.

The Council is invited to note the detail provided in respect of the role of an Armed Forces Champion and to consider making an appointment to the role.

4.3.2 *World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group Representatives*

The World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group is led by the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute and has a wide range of representation including representatives from across the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army, RAF and cadet forces, the Royal British Legion and local elected members. The Steering Group has focused on commemorative events and community engagement and activities to investigate the impact of the Great War on Argyll and Bute. At the Council Meeting in April 2017 the previous council considered a detailed report on a national World War 1 commemorative event and associated activities planned for Islay in 2018. The Council is therefore invited to continue area wide participation in the World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group and to appoint one elected member from each area to join the Steering Group.

4.3.3 *Children's Champions*

Argyll and Bute Council continuously seeks to improve outcomes for our Looked After Children and Young People. Central to this approach has been the appointment of four Children's Champions from across each of the four geographical areas of the Council. The role of Children's Champion was first developed in 2010 when Argyll and Bute had a single champion to enhance the lives of our Looked After Children and Young People through improved opportunities and the removal of any barriers to progress. The role has since evolved having received further impetus through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 which defined and strengthened the statutory duties of a Corporate Parent.

Corporate Parenting is essentially the same as being a good parent and wanting to achieve the same good outcomes for our Looked After Children and Young People that we would want for our own children. To improve and make Corporate

Parenting a reality depends upon drive, ownership and leadership at the very highest level of the organisation. Children's Champion's play an important role in promoting the rights of our Looked After Children and Young People and in challenging us all to do better in improving their outcomes.

The Children's Champions are by virtue of their role members of the Argyll and Bute Corporate Parenting Board which provides a forum within which the Corporate Parents can come together and formally address the task of improving outcomes for our Looked After Children and Young People. In accordance with the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 a Corporate Parenting Plan is presently being drawn up to give a focus to the experience of being Looked After and to draw upon the combined resources of all those agencies (Corporate Parents) who come into contact with our Looked After Children and Young People in empowering them to overcome the many challenges they face. Central to the Plan are the four Children's Champions. The Board has successfully bid to the Life Chances Trust in collaboration with Who Cares Scotland to further improve the quality and effectiveness of our Corporate Parenting and funding worth £212,000 has been awarded to support the implementation of a 3 year plan. The plan is to create an infrastructure giving our Looked After Children and Young People (including care leavers) a forum to effect change and influence policy over the processes and the procedures that affect their lives. In particular it is proposed to establish a "Champions Board" by merging core elements of the Corporate Parenting Board, the SUPPORT Forum and the Young People's Participation Group.

Being a Children's Champion offers an elected member a unique and exceptional opportunity to improve services for and change the lives of our Looked After Children and Young People. The Corporate Parenting Board is a strategic body that cannot readily be adapted to directly engage with our Looked After Children and Young People. The "Champions Board", however, will and there are now resources to develop and support the active participation of our Looked After Children and Young People in this forum. The Children and Families service aim to be sector leading and have a national reputation for supporting the participation of our Looked After Children and Young People in the planning and delivery of their care and support. The Children's Champions are a crucial part of this approach and the Council is invited to make 4 nominations, one from each geographical area, in this regard. Nominees will require to join the Protecting Vulnerable Group (PVG) Scheme.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Council is being asked to make one appointment to the Community Services Committee as Councillor Len Scoullar had declined his appointment which was made at the Council meeting on 18 May 2017.

The Council has received a request from the Argyll and Bute Area Support Team to consider the appointment of one Elected Member to this outside body.

The Council has also received an invitation from COSLA to consider the nomination of one elected Member to be a Trustee of the Scottish National War Memorial.

The Council is further requested to consider making the following appointments/nominations:

- one appointment to the role of Armed Forces Champion
- four appointments, representative of each area, to the World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group
- four appointments, representative of each area, to the role of Children's Champion

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy – Appointments to the positions outlined will support focus on policy.

6.2 Financial – Travel and Subsistence costs of Members attending meetings.

6.3 Legal - None

6.4 HR - None

6.5 Equalities - None

6.6 Risk – On-going vacancies pose a risk to effective elected member engagement in decision making processes.

6.7 Customer Service - None

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director of Customer Services
1 June 2017

For further information contact:
Charles Reppke, Head of Governance & Law 01546 604192