

POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Council on changes to the political composition of Argyll and Bute Council, following the election of two new Councillors, written notification of changes to the leadership of the Argyll and Bute Scottish National Party Group, and notification of a resignation from the Planning, Protective Services and Licencing Committee and Licensing Board.
- 1.2 The Council is consequently invited to approve changes to a number of Committee memberships and external appointments principally arising from these developments.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Council is invited to:
- a) note the updated Political Composition of Argyll and Bute Council which is attached at Appendix 1;
 - b) note the changes to leadership within the SNP group;
 - c) approve the changes to Committee memberships, external bodies and the Argyll Islands Sounding Board as set out at paras 3.1, 3.6 and 3.7;
 - d) make appointment to the vacancy in the PPSL Committee which forms the Regulatory Cohort and to further make an appointment from the Regulatory Cohort to the Licensing Board;
 - e) make appointment to the vacancy on the Clyde, Kintyre and Islands Ferry Stakeholder Group.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 On 17th March 2021, Councillor Sandy Taylor wrote to the Council's Monitoring Officer to advise that he had stepped down from the role of SNP group leader and that Councillor Jim Lynch would be taking up this

role. This change in Leadership gives rise to a number of vacancies on Committees and External Bodies which are associated with the Leader of the largest Opposition Group and require Council approval in terms of any changes to appointment. These are as follows:

Committee	Role	Comments
Audit & Scrutiny	Member & Vice-Chair	The Committee is comprised of seven members none of which to be policy lead. Historically the leader of the largest Opposition Group has been the Vice-Chair
Policy and Resources Committee	Member	Membership should have regard to geographical and political balance in so far as possible
Asset Transfer: Sub Committee of Policy & Resources	Member	

Organisation	Role	Comment
COSLA Convention	Opposition member appointment	The Council appoints three representatives having regard to the guidance that the delegation should reflect the balance of party political strength within each member council.

3.2 The SNP has further advised of changes in the Depute Leader role and Councillor Audrey Forrest has now taken up this position in place of Councillor Lorna Douglas. Council are therefore invited to approve appointment of Councillor Forrest in this new role to the Policy and Resources Committee in lieu of Councillor Douglas.

3.3 Councillor Lorna Douglas has intimated her resignation from the PPSL Committee, which forms the Regulatory Cohort, and the Licensing Board and Council is therefore invited to make an appointment to PPSL/Regulatory cohort and to further make an appointment from the Regulatory Cohort to the Licensing Board. The Licensing Board is comprised of at least 5 and not more than ten councillors from the Regulatory Cohort and membership is as follows:

1. Councillor Gordon Blair
2. Councillor Rory Colville (Vice Chair)
3. Councillor Kieron Green

4. Councillor Audrey Forrest
5. Councillor David Kinniburgh (Chair)
6. Councillor Roderick McCuish
7. Councillor Jean Moffat
8. Councillor Sandy Taylor
9. Councillor Richard Trail

3.4 The administration and regulation of liquor licensing is the responsibility of a Licensing Board which is a completely separate and distinct entity from the Council. The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Council to appoint Members to a Licensing Board and the Council must have regard to the following when giving consideration to appointment to a Licensing Board:

A Councillor is disqualified from being a member of a Board if the Councillor is:

- (a) The holder of a licence
- (b) An employee of a licence holder and works as such in licensed premises
- (c) Whether alone or in partnership with another person, is engaged in the business of producing or selling alcohol
- (d) A Director or other Officer of a company so engaged, or
- (e) An employee of any person so engaged and works as such in that business.

3.5 The Political Composition of the Council has been updated to reflect the leadership changes as notified and also incorporate the election of Councillor Liz McCabe and Councillor Gemma Penfold following the recent by-elections in Isle of Bute and Helensburgh and Lomond South wards.

3.6 The Leader of the Council has also advised that with regard to the Administration representation on the Community Services Committee Council approval is sought to appoint Councillor Gemma Penfold in place of Councillor Andrew Vennard with immediate effect.

3.7 The Council is further invited to appoint Councillor Liz McCabe to the Argyll Islands Sounding Board, where there is a vacancy arising from the sad passing of the late Provost.

3.8 An outside body vacancy also exists on the Clyde, Kintyre and Islands Ferry Stakeholder Group which was previously held by the late Provost. This group deals with operational and some strategic issues arising from the ferry services operating in these areas and the other Councillor

Members are Councillors Alan Reid, Gordon Blair, Anne Horn and John Armour. Council is therefore invited to make an appointment to the vacancy for a fifth member of the group.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This report notifies the Council of updates to the political composition of the Council. It further invites Council to approve a number of appointments to Committees and outside bodies following notification of changes from the Administration and the Leadership of the largest Opposition Group and consideration of existing vacancies.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 **Policy:** None
- 5.2 **Financial:** None
- 5.3 **Legal:** None
- 5.4 **HR:** None
- 5.5 **Fairer Scotland Duty:** None
- 5.5.1 **Equalities – protected characteristics:** None
- 5.5.2 **Socio-economic Duty:** None
- 5.5.3 **Islands:** None
- 5.6 **Risk:** None
- 5.7 **Customer Service:** None

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director with Responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support

1st April 2021

Policy Lead: Councillor Mary Jean Devon

For further information please contact Patricia O'Neill, Governance Manager, telephone 01546 604384 or email patricia.oneill@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Updated Political Composition of Argyll and Bute Council

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL
POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL
APRIL 2021
ARGYLL AND BUTE FIRST GROUP(3) Cllr George Freeman (Ind) Cllr Donald Kelly (Con) Cllr Douglas Philand (Ind) – Leader, Argyll and Bute First Group
ARGYLL AND BUTE SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY GROUP (11) Cllr John Armour Cllr Gordon Blair Cllr Lorna Douglas Cllr Jim Findlay Cllr Audrey E Forrest - Depute Leader, SNP Group Cllr Anne Horn Cllr Jim Lynch- Leader, SNP Group Cllr Julie McKenzie Cllr Iain Shonny Paterson Cllr Sandy Taylor Cllr Richard Trail
THE ARGYLL, LOMOND AND THE ISLANDS GROUP (19) Cllr Rory Colville (LD) Cllr Robin Currie (LD) – Leader, The Argyll, Lomond and the Islands Group Cllr Mary Jean Devon (Ind) Cllr Bobby Good (Con) Cllr Kieron Green (Ind) Cllr Graham Hardie (LD) Cllr David Kinniburgh (Con) Cllr Roderick McCuish (ISP) Cllr Sir Jamie McGrigor (Con) Cllr Donald MacMillan BEM (Ind) Cllr Yvonne McNeilly (Con) Cllr Aileen Morton (LD) Cllr Barbara Morgan (Con) Cllr Gary Mulvaney (Con) Cllr Gemma Penfold (Con) Cllr Alan Reid (LD) Cllr Alastair Redman (Con) Cllr Elaine Robertson (Ind) Cllr Andrew Vennard (Con)

COUNCILLORS NOT POLITICALLY ALIGNED (3)

Cllr Jim Anderson (Ind)
Cllr Liz McCabe (Ind)
Cllr Jean Murray Moffat (Ind)

NOTE

Con – Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
ISP – Independence for Scotland Party
Ind – Independent
LD – Scottish Liberal Democrat
SNP – Scottish National Party

There are 36 seats on Argyll and Bute Council.