

**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;

- 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.