

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL24 MAY 2017Report by Deputy Chief ExecutiveAMENDMENTS TO SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION AND CONVENERS' REMITS**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To seek consideration of amendments to the Council's Scheme of Administration to reduce the number of Elected Members on both the Cabinet and the Education Committee; and to consider a reduction in the number of Conveners including the removal of the post of Depute Convener for Education and Equalities, and an associated reconfiguration of responsibilities.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Council:-
- (a) consider a reduction in the number of Elected Members on the Cabinet from 8 to 6;
  - (b) consider a reduction in the number of Conveners from 7 to 5, and the associated reconfiguration of responsibilities as outlined;
  - (c) consider the removal of the post of Vice-Convener for Education and Equalities;
  - (d) consider a reduction in the number of Elected Members on the Education Committee from 12 to 9; and
  - (e) approve the continuation of the current arrangements for the appointment of the Jewish Representative on the Education Committee.

**REPORT**

3. The Council's Scheme of Administration sets out the various committees established by the Council, and the terms of reference of and associated number of Elected Members on each. These membership numbers were based on the former Council which comprised 20 Elected Members.

4. With the reduction in the number of Elected Members from 20 to 18, it was considered prudent to review the number of members on committees to determine whether or not a continuation of existing numbers was appropriate.

**Cabinet**

5. To date, membership of the Cabinet has comprised the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader (also holding a Convener's portfolio), with the remaining membership being made up of 6 other Conveners. In light of the reduction in councillor numbers it is proposed that the membership of the Cabinet continue to be made up of the Leader, Deputy

Leader and Conveners, but that 2 of the posts be deleted. This would result in a Cabinet of 6 members comprising the Leader of Council, the Deputy Leader (again also holding a portfolio) and 4 remaining Conveners.

6. The proposals would see the removal from the establishment of the posts of Convener for Corporate Services and Convener for Infrastructure and Sustainable Growth, with the responsibilities of both being redistributed amongst the remaining Conveners. Full details of the proposed responsibilities of each Cabinet post are contained in Appendix 1 accompanying the report. It is also proposed to delete the post of Vice-Convener for Education and Equalities.

## **Education Committee**

7. Under the former Council, membership of the Education Committee comprised 12 Elected Members, 3 religious representatives and 1 Teachers' representative. The Elected Members on the committee comprised the members of the Cabinet, the Vice-Convener for Education and Equalities, and 3 members of the Conservative Group.

8. With the proposed reduction in the number of Conveners and the deletion of the post of Vice Convener for Education and Equalities this would lead to a corresponding reduction in the number of Elected Members serving on the Education Committee. Membership would comprise the 6 members of the Cabinet and 3 members of the Conservative Group resulting in the total number of Elected Members reducing from 12 to 9. This will still result in a committee of 13 including the Religious and Teachers' representatives.

9. This proposal has the additional benefit of freeing up some Elected Members to act as Chairs of the Education Appeals Committees, as only non-members of the Education Committee can Chair these committees (See Item 9(i) on the agenda for this meeting).

## **Religious representatives on Education Committee**

10. The legislation governing the composition of Education Committees requires the appointment of 3 religious representatives; one representative from the Church of Scotland; one from the Catholic Church, and one further person in the selection of whom the authority shall have regard (taking account of the representation from the Church of Scotland and Catholic Church) to the comparative strength within the area of all churches and denominational bodies having duly constituted charges or other regularly appointed places of worship in the area.

11. Taking account of the above the third place on the Education Committee has been allocated to the Jewish community in the area. The method of seeking the nomination has been through the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council and it is proposed that this continues.

## **Other committee**

12. There are no recommendations in relation to changes to the membership of any of the other committees.

**RECOMMENDATION/...**

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13. That the Council:-

- (a) consider a reduction in the number of Elected Members on the Cabinet from 8 to 6;
- (b) consider a reduction in the number of Conveners from 7 to 5, and the associated reconfiguration of responsibilities as outlined;
- (c) consider the removal of the post of Vice-Convenor for Education and Equalities;
- (d) consider a reduction in the number of Elected Members on the Education Committee from 12 to 9; and
- (e) approve the continuation of the current arrangements for the appointment of the Jewish Representative on the Education Committee.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Report Author: Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager 577 3023

e-mail:- [eamonn.daly@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:eamonn.daly@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

Background Papers

None

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| <p><b><u>Leader of the Council</u></b></p>                                | <p>Chair of the Cabinet;<br/>         Corporate Policy;<br/>         Best Value &amp; Community Planning;<br/>         Relations with COSLA, Scottish Executive &amp; Scottish Parliament;<br/>         City Deal, Major Projects and Tourism Regeneration;<br/>         Economic Development, Inward Investment, Tourism &amp; Employability;<br/>         Major Projects &amp; Infrastructure;<br/>         Asset Management;<br/>         Finance;<br/>         Corporate Services;<br/>         Procurement;<br/>         Customer First;<br/>         Staff Terms &amp; Conditions;<br/>         Industrial relations;</p> |
| <p><b><u>Convener for Education and Equalities</u></b></p>                | <p>Education;<br/>         Equalities</p>   |
| <p><b><u>Convener for Social Work and Health</u></b></p>                  | <p>Leading governance and oversight of Health and Social Care Services<br/>         Primary Care;<br/>         Community Care;<br/>         Social Work Children &amp; Families' Services;<br/>         Early years;<br/>         Criminal Justice;<br/>         Health Improvement;<br/>         Strategic Commissioning;</p>  |
| <p><b><u>Convener for Community Services and Community Safety</u></b></p> | <p>Police &amp; Fire;<br/>         Culture &amp; Sport Services;<br/>         Voluntary Organisations;<br/>         Community Support;<br/>         Community Councils;<br/>         Youth Services;<br/>         Community Safety;<br/>         Active Citizenship<br/>         Civil Contingencies</p>  |

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| <p><b><u>Convener for Housing and Maintenance Services</u></b></p> | <p>Council &amp; Private Sector Housing Policy;<br/> Housing Maintenance Services;<br/> Council Housing Regeneration &amp; Tenancy Management, Rent Setting &amp; Collection;<br/> Housing Estate Regeneration &amp; Mixed Tenure;<br/> Homelessness<br/> Housing Investment Strategy;<br/> Housing Capital Programme;<br/> Tenant Engagement;<br/> Welfare Policy</p>   |
| <p><b><u>Convener for Environment</u></b></p>                      | <p>Local Development Plan;<br/> Sustainability;<br/> Planning &amp; Building Standards;<br/> Transportation Policy &amp; SPT;<br/> Roads &amp; Lighting &amp; Flooding;<br/> Town Centre Regeneration and BIDs<br/> Carbon Management, Energy Efficiency &amp; Fuel Poverty;<br/> Recycling, Waste Management &amp; Reduction;<br/> Fairtrade;<br/> East Renfrewshire Renewables Fund;<br/> Parks &amp; Greenspace;<br/> Vehicle Management &amp; Maintenance;<br/> Street Cleaning &amp; Refuse Collection;<br/> Environmental Health &amp; Trading Standards</p> |