

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**25 October 2017****Report by Deputy Chief Executive****SCOTTISH COUNCILS' COMMITTEE ON RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES – REQUEST FOR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To consider the appointment of an Elected Member to the Scottish Councils' Committee on Radioactive Substances.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Council nominates Councillor Lafferty to be the Council's Elected Member representative on the Scottish Councils' Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS).

REPORT

3. At the meeting of the Council on 24 May 2017, appointments to most of the Council's committees and a number of external organisations were made. However, it was reported that confirmation was still awaited from a number of bodies that they were seeking continued representation from the Council, and that once this confirmation was received, nominations would be sought.

4. A further letter has now been received from SCCORS regarding Elected Member representation on the committee. It highlights that whilst there are a small number of Scottish councils that are represented by an officer only, the majority of councils are presented on the committee by both an officer and an Elected Member. Andrew Corry is the Council's officer representative on the committee. It further acknowledges that many local authorities do not have any nuclear facilities within their area however matters such as the use of radioactive materials, radioactively contaminated land and shipping of radioactive waste materials may still be matters of concern.

5. A paper with details of the remit of the committee is attached.

6. It is proposed that in view of his position as Convener for Environment and associated remit, Councillor Lafferty be appointed as the council's Elected Member representative on the committee.

RECOMMENDATION

7. That the Council nominates Councillor Lafferty to be the Council's Elected Member representative on the Scottish Councils' Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS).

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1985.

Report Author

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Background papers

Letter from SCCORS dated 17 August

Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS)**The Remit is:**

- to provide a mechanism to identify a common, Scottish local authority viewpoint on matters relating to radioactive substances, in particular radioactive waste management
- to act as an interface with the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament and regulatory bodies as they consult on radioactive waste management and clean-up policy and practice; and
- to influence national policy on radioactive waste management in the interests of the communities affected

The Terms of Reference are:

Bearing in mind the renewed emphasis on stronger local government and the recognition by the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament and regulatory bodies of each authority's role as leader of its community, SCCORS will:

- seek to ensure that all radioactive waste management operates to the highest safety, security and environmental standards by contributing to best practice in the development of a policy framework for radioactive waste management;
- provide a forum through which to seek to establish a common local government view about the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament and regulatory bodies' radioactive waste management policy development processes;
- provide a forum through which advice and support can be supplied; and
- having regard to the foregoing, hold meetings as appropriate, seek appropriate local government representation on relevant bodies, provide for the briefing of Scottish local authority members on the issues concerned, publicise the issues within the local government, and seek a mechanism that will ensure appropriate community representation in all relevant decision making

The Aims are:

- to seek to ensure that all radioactive waste management activities operate to the highest safety, security and environmental standards;
- to raise the profile of debate within local government on any issue with very significant implications for any area affected by future proposed radioactive waste development;
- to aid 'capacity building' within local government and enable informed responses to the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament and other relevant agencies from a broader based local government grouping;
- to be an interface with the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament and other relevant agencies on future strategic radioactive waste policy issues;
- to effectively utilise the democratic legitimacy of local government and increase influence over policy and strategy proposals that will be critical to national progress on radioactive waste management issues;
- to provide representatives on consultative, stakeholder and advisory bodies and to report back to local government; and
- to identify means by which to lever resources to enable 'capacity building' within local government so that national policy can develop with broad based democratic consent

The **Secretariat** will be provided by the Council providing the Chair (Currently The City of Edinburgh Council).

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