

## South Ayrshire Council

### Report by Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services to South Ayrshire Council of 29 June 2022

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**Subject: Appointments to Convention of Scottish Local Authorities Policy Boards**

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#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Council to nominate and appoint Members to COSLA's Policy Boards.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Council nominates and approves one Councillor to be appointed to represent the Council on each of the COSLA Policy Boards, namely:**

2.1.1 **Community Wellbeing;**

2.1.2 **Economy and Environment;**

2.1.3 **Education and Children; and**

2.1.4 **Health and Social Care.**

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Council meeting of 19 May 2022 approved representation on COSLA's Convention, and requested that the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services submit a further report to a future meeting of the Council in relation to appointments to the COSLA Policy Boards

- 3.2 COSLA cannot appoint any Spokespersons until the political balance of the Convention is established which is dependent on receipt of delegations for Convention. Once the political balance on the Convention is clear, the Groups (via Political group Leaders) on COSLA will be advised of any Spokesperson vacancies available to them and invited to agree the division of portfolios and agree nominations for Spokespersons. This also has to be gender balanced.

- 3.3 Each Council is invited to make an appointment to the four Policy Boards, namely: Community Wellbeing; Economy and Environment; Education and Children; and Health and Social Care. It is unlikely that the Boards will start meeting until late August/ early September. COSLA have advised that the vast majority of outside appointments it makes will be dealt with at the Boards although a small number will be handled at the June Convention meeting.

#### **4. Proposals**

4.1 It would be appropriate for the Council to nominate and approve appointment of representatives to the four COSLA Policy Boards.

#### **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 Minimal costs for attending meetings, etc, can be met from existing budget.

#### **7. Human Resources Implications**

7.1 Not applicable.

#### **8. Risk**

##### **8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations***

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

##### **8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations***

8.2.1 Rejecting the recommendations will result in the Council not being fully represented on COSLA.

#### **9. Equalities**

9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as [Appendix 1](#).

#### **10. Sustainable Development Implications**

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

#### **11. Options Appraisal**

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

## 12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Commitment 1 of the Council Plan: Fair and Effective Leadership/ Leadership that promotes fairness.

## 13. Results of Consultation

13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.

13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowey, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

## 14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to ensure full implementation of the decision within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Leadership Panel in the 'Council and Leadership Panel Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Managed by</i>
Notify COSLA of the Council's appointments to the Policy Boards	8 July 2022	Service Lead – Democratic Governance

**Background Papers** [\*\*Report to South Ayrshire Council of 19 May 2022 - Appointments to Convention of Scottish Local Authorities\*\*](#)

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**Date: 21 June 2022**

## South Ayrshire Council Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Template

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: [Equality Impact Assessment including Fairer Scotland Duty](#)

Further guidance is available here: [Assessing impact and the Public Sector Equality Duty: a guide for public authorities \(Scotland\)](#)

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. See information here: [Interim Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018.

### 1. Policy details

Policy Title	Appointments to Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Catriona Caves, Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services – catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

### 2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	-	-
Disability	-	-
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	-	-
Marriage or Civil Partnership	-	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	-	-
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	-	-
Sex – gender identity (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-
Sexual Orientation – person's sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children's Rights	-	-

**3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage? (Fairer Scotland Duty). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.**

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	-	-
Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet Basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future	-	-
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	-	-
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	-	-
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent’s education, employment and income	-	-

**4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:**

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the ‘Three Key Needs’ of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Low
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

**5. Summary Assessment**

<b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b> (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as <b>Medium and/or High</b> )	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>
<b>Rationale for decision:</b>	
<p><b>This report seeks the Council’s approval re appointments to COSLA’s Policy Boards. Their decision on this has no specific equality implications</b></p>	
<b>Signed :</b> Catriona Caves	<b>Head of Service</b>
<b>Date:</b> 19 May 2022	