

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Head of Legal and Regulatory Services
to South Ayrshire Council
of 7 December 2023**

Subject: Appointments to Panels

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to make alterations to the membership of Panels.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Council:

2.1.1 approves Councillor George Weir as the SNP member (as Vice-Chair) of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel;

2.1.2 notes the changes in Party representation identified at 4.2 and 4.3;

2.1.3 requests that officers make the required amendments to the list of Panels to reflect these changes; and

2.1.4 considers any other amendments which might be required to membership of Panels.

3. Background

3.1 In terms of para 11.1 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, amendment of the membership of the Cabinet and other Panels, Committees and Sub-Committees is reserved to Council.

3.2 As detailed in para 28.3 of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Meetings, the duration of the term of office of all Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Panels shall extend until the next ordinary election of the Council. The Vice-Chair of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel was agreed by Council to be a member of the SNP Group.

3.3 The resignation of Councillors Chris Cullen and Mark Dixon from the SNP Party has altered the proportion of Members that are independent and therefore, to reflect this, Party Leaders have agreed that both Members remain on their existing Panels as detailed in the proposals.

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4. Proposals

- 4.1 The SNP is seeking Council approval that Councillor George Weir is appointed as the SNP member (as Vice-Chair) of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel.
- 4.2 Councillor Chris Cullen has recently resigned from the SNP Group, but will remain a member of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel and the Audit and Governance Panel as representative of the Alba Party for independence.
- 4.3 Councillor Mark Dixon has recently resigned from the SNP Group, but will remain a member of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel, the Regulatory Panel and the Local Review Body as an Independent member.

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 Not applicable.

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 There are no risks associated with rejecting the recommendations.

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 Priority 4 of the Council Plan: Efficient and effective enabling services.

13. Results of Consultation

13.1 There has been no 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 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 Cabinet in the 'Council and Cabinet 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>
Publish details of membership of Panels	15 December 2023	Service Lead – Democratic Governance

Background Papers [Scheme of Delegation](#)

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Date: 1 December 2023

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: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

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. [FSD Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

1. Policy details

Policy Title	Appointments to Panels
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Catriona Caves, Head of Legal 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 – (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-
Sexual Orientation – person's sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children's Rights	-	-

3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage i.e. The Fairer Scotland Duty (This section to be completed for any Strategic Decisions). 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

Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as Medium and/or High)	YES NO
Rationale for decision: This report seeks approval to make alterations to the list of Panels. Members' decision on this has no specific equality implications	
Signed : Catriona Caves	Head of Service
Date: 30 November 2023	