

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 9 DECEMBER 2009
Author: ACTING DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this Report is to:

- note the political composition of the Council following the recent Ward 1 (Bo'ness and Blackness) by election,
- fill the vacant committee positions held previously by the late Councillor Harry Constable,
- intimate various resignations that have been received,
- note and approve subsequent changes to the SNP Group "slate" of members, of which notice has been received, and
- seek nominations to the positions that remain vacant.

2. POLITICAL COMPOSITION

2.1 Following the election of Ann Ritchie, SNP to serve as local Member for Ward 1 (Bo'ness and Blackness), the political composition of the Council remains unchanged, as follows:-

Labour	14
SNP	13
Conservative	2
Independent	2
Independent not aligned to any group	1

2.2 Consequently, the Council's political proportionality, as agreed at the statutory meeting on 18 May 2007 for the purpose of committee membership, also remains unchanged. It follows that the two positions held previously by the late Councillor Constable (on the Planning and Appeals Committees) fall again to be filled from the SNP Group.

3. VACANCIES/RESIGNATIONS

3.1 Intimation has been received that the vacancies on the two committees noted in the preceding paragraph will be filled, as follows:

- Planning by Councillor Thomson, and
- Appeals by Councillor Alexander

- 3.2 Notice has also been received from the SNP Group of a number of resignations from Committees and the proposed successors thereto, as follows:

Resignation received from:	Committee	To be replaced by:
Councillor Jackson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Resources • Valuation Board 	Councillor Hughes Councillor Ritchie
Councillor Hughes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Community Safety • Economic Strategy and Development • Education 	Councillor Ritchie Councillor Jackson Councillor Ritchie
Councillor Coleman	Housing and Social Care	Councillor Jackson
Councillor Thomson	JCC	Councillor McNally
Councillor McNally	Licensing Board	Councillor Jackson

- 3.3 Members will recall that Council agreed, in May 2007, to introduce compulsory training for Members appointed to the Appeals and Planning Committees. Additionally, it is a specific requirement of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 that members of the Board undergo training with an SQA accredited trainer within three months of being appointed to the Board. Appeals and Planning Committee training has consisted of both in house and externally sourced training. Arrangements will be put in place to arrange such training for newly appointed members as may be required

- 3.4 In addition to the foregoing, resignations have been received from:

- Councillor Goldie from the Housing and Social Care Committee,
- Councillor McLuckie from the Appeals Committee, and
- Councillor Nicol from the position of Depute Convener of the Planning Committee but not from membership thereof.

- 3.5 The first two resignations noted in the preceding paragraph create vacancies on both Committees to be filled from the Labour Group. The vacant Convener positions also require to be filled, as does the position of Depute Convener on the Planning Committee.

4. REMUNERATION

- 4.1 Members are reminded of the remuneration arrangements for senior members agreed by Council on 4 March 2009, as follows:

Senior Councillor (Higher Payment)	Senior Councillor (Lower Payment)
Depute Provost	Convener of Investment Committee
Convener of Education Committee	Convener of Joint Consultative Committee
Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee	Depute Convener of Environment and Community Safety Committee
Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee	Depute Convener of Housing and Social Care Committee
Convener of Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee	Convener of Appeals Committee
Convener of Licensing Board	Depute Convener of Economic Strategy and Development Committee
Convener of Planning Committee	Leader of the main Opposition Group

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Council is invited to:-

- 1) note the political composition of the Council as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the Report,
- 2) note and approve the changes in committee membership set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the Report,
- 3) appoint a Convener for the Housing and Social Care Committee and, if a vacancy remains on the Committee, invite a nomination thereto from the Labour Group,
- 4) appoint a Convener for the Appeals Committee and, if a vacancy remains on the Committee, invite a nomination thereto from the Labour Group, and
- 5) appoint a Depute Convener for the Planning Committee.

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Acting Director of Law and Administration Services

Date: 1 December 2009

Contact Officer: Brian Pirie tel (01324 506110)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL