

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: REPRESENTATION OF ELECTED MEMBERS ON THE
COMMUNITY PLANNING LEADERSHIP BOARD**
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 11 December 2013
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council currently contributes to the Community Planning process in a lead facilitation role. This has historically included a number of Elected Members sitting on the Community Planning Leadership Board. Appendix 1 provides details of the current composition of the Community Planning Leadership Board.
- 1.2 The appendix also provides a more detailed remit outlining the role and responsibilities of the Community Planning Leadership Board. In summary, however, the key aspects for which the Board is responsible for include:
- Strategic leadership and management of the partnership;
 - Articulating, promoting and ensuring the implementation of the strategic vision for our area;
 - Linking the priorities of the Strategic Community Plan into the work of each partners agency and organisation; and
 - Scrutinising and challenging the progress and performance of the partnership and its constituent groups, agencies and organisations.

2. NOMINATION PROCESS

- 2.1 The Leader of the Council has always undertaken the role of Chair of the Leadership Board. It proposed that Leader's role is retained within any new nomination process;
- 2.2 Historically, Joint Boards have been approached to nominate a Board Member from the Falkirk Council members to sit on the Leadership Board. This situation changed earlier this year with the abolition of the Central Scotland Joint Police and Fire Boards. Both the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board (SFRSB) have been invited to nominate a Board Member to join the Leadership Board. As a result of Ms Moi Ali, representing the SPA, attended a recent Leadership Board meeting. We are awaiting confirmation from the SFRSB that they will also nominate a member although a Member of their Board has attended the Council's Scrutiny Committee recently. Currently the NHS Forth Valley Board is represented by an independent Board Member and Councillor Linda Gow in her capacity as Board Member.

- 2.3 The abolition of the former joint police and fire boards which has had the effect of reducing the number of Elected Members on the Leadership Board, together with the establishment of the Council's new governance arrangements require that we consider how best our own Elected Members should be represented on the Community Planning Leadership Board. The detail of this and who should sit on the Board is for Members to decide. It is suggested that Members might want to consider nominating 3 additional Members to the Leadership Board and that some consideration is given to ensuring links with appropriate portfolio holders. This would be in addition to the Leader in the capacity of chair. The Leader and three additional Elected Members on the Leadership Board will maintain a reasonable balance with regard to Council and partner representation.
- 2.4 The new governance arrangements the Council has adopted provides Members with an opportunity to consider who may be best to sit on the Community Planning Leadership Board. This could include Members who sit on:
- The Executive and the Education Executive;
 - The Scrutiny Committee;
 - Portfolio holders; or a
 - Combination of all three.
- 2.5 The culture of the current Board has always promoted an environment of consensus and neutrality. These attributes have served the Board well and should be retained in future. It is also important that the work of the Partnership including the Strategic Community Plan, the SOA etc are reported back to individual agencies for approval and monitoring.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The recent changes resulting from Police and Fire Reform together with the establishment of the Council's new governance arrangements requires that the process for nominating Elected Members to sit on the Community Planning Leadership Board be revisited. This report invites Council to nominate three additional Elected Members to the Board and provides some options which it may wish to consider in doing so.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to:

- 4.1 Agree that the Leader of the Council should continue as Chair of the Community Planning Leadership Board;**
- 4.2 Note the representation of the NHS Forth Valley Board on the Leadership Board;**
- 4.3 Welcome the addition of the representation from the Scottish Police Authority on the Leadership Board;**
- 4.4 Nominate 3 additional Elected Members to sit on the Community Planning Leadership Board; and**
- 4.5 Agree that regular updates are given to Members on the work of the Community Planning Partnership and the Board.**

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. None