

FC6. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, ETC. AND APPOINTMENT OF CONVENERS AND DEPUTE CONVENERS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 8 May 2007 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services inviting (a) determination of the basis on which places to Committees etc. will be allocated in terms of the political balance of the Council; (b) nominations to the Standing Committees of the Council, Joint Boards, Fife and Forth Valley Community Justice Authority; (c) determination of the size of the Licensing Board and the membership thereof, and (d) where appropriate, nominations to the positions of Convener and Depute Convener.

There was also submitted supplementary report (circulated) dated 16 May 2007 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services advising that Councillors Buchanan and Waddell had given notice since the agenda was issued that they had formed an Independent Group and that they wished to be considered collectively for the purpose of appointing Members to Committees etc. The report detailed the subsequent changes to the political composition of the Council and the associated impact on the breakdown of membership on Committees etc. and other bodies.

Council agreed to adjourn at 11.30am to enable members to consider the terms of a proposal from Councillor Alexander to amend the Committee structure and the allocation of places on Committees etc. The meeting was re-convened at 12.15pm with all Members and Officers present as per the sederunt.

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that Council agrees that its committee structure is in need of modernisation and reform. Council therefore calls on officers to bring forward a report on an amended structure that will contain:-

1. An unchanged Policy and Resources Committee
2. Four scrutiny committees of:-
 - Education
 - Housing, Health & Social Work
 - Communities
 - Strategic Sustainable Environment.
3. An unchanged Regulatory Committee.
4. A Licensing Board with 10 Members.
5. A Civic Licensing Committee matching the membership of the Licensing Board.
6. Unchanged JCC, Appeals, Appointments and Investment Committees.

Council also affirms that all four scrutiny committees shall include outside representatives from community and stakeholder groups and be structured in a manner to meet the community planning and inclusion agendas of Falkirk Council.

Council therefore agrees to nominate conveners and deposes to these committees today and accepts slates of candidates for membership of these committees as soon as possible from the groups. Where agreement cannot be reached on membership this will be determined on the date officers return to Council with a detailed report.

By way of an amendment Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved that Council:-

- (1) agrees its political composition for the purposes of Committee membership as follows:-

| Number On Committee | Allocation |
|---|--|
| 3 (Fife and Forth Valley Community Justice Authority) | Labour 1 SNP 1 1 Conservative <u>or</u> 1 Independent <u>or</u> the non aligned Independent |
| 6 (Appointments, Investment, Fire Board & Police Board) | Labour 3 SNP 2 1 Conservative <u>or</u> 1 Independent <u>or</u> the non aligned Independent |
| 8 (P&R, Valuation Board & Appeals) | Labour 4 SNP 3 1 Conservative <u>or</u> the non aligned Independent |
| 10 (JCC) | Labour 4 SNP 4 1 Conservative or the non aligned Independent <u>and</u> 1 Independent |
| 12 (Scrutiny Committees, Regulatory and Civic Licensing) | Labour 5 SNP 5 1 conservative <u>or</u> the non aligned Independent <u>and</u> 1 Independent |

- (2) agrees that there be submitted to the Acting Director of Law and Administration appropriate nominations of Members to the various standing Committees of the Council and Joint Boards in terms of the political balance noted above;
- (3) where agreement cannot be reached on the allocation of committee places between the Conservative Group, Independent Group or the non-aligned Independent then these positions will be determined by Council at a future Meeting;
- (4) appoints Members to the positions of Conveners and Deputy Conveners of Committees, as follows:-

Policy and Resources

Convener - Cllr Gow

Deputy Convener - Cllr Nimmo

Community Health and Safety

Convener – Cllr C MacDonald

Deputy Convener – Cllr McLuckie

Economic Development

Convener - Cllr C Martin

Depute Convener - Cllr Lemetti

Education and Leisure

Convener - Cllr Waddell

Depute Convener - Cllr C Martin

Environment and Heritage

Convener - Cllr Mahoney

Depute Convener – Cllr C R Martin

Housing and Social Services

Convener – Cllr Goldie

Depute Convener – Cllr McNeill

Regulatory

Convener - Cllr Buchanan

Depute Convener – Cllr Fry

- (5) agrees to appoint Conveners and Depute Conveners of the Appeals, Appointments, Civic Licensing, Investment and Joint Consultative Committees at the next meeting of Council;
- (6) agrees to introduce compulsory training for members appointed to the Appeals Committee, Appointments Committee, Civic Licensing Committee, Investment Committee and Regulatory Committee, and
- (7) agrees to establish a Licensing Board of 10 Members, with members being appointed in accordance with the political balance noted above.

On a division, 14 members voted for the Motion and 18 voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Amendment.

It was further **AGREED** that the requirement to carry out disclosure checks for members appointed to the Housing and Social Work Committee and the Education and Leisure Committee be extended to all members of the Council.