

FC48. DECISION MAKING STRUCTURES

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive presenting an overview of the operation of the Council's decision making structure since its implementation in 2013.

Council agreed a new decision making structure on 19 March 2013 (ref FC111) together with a Scheme of Delegation on 24 April 2013 (ref FC7) and Standing Orders on 26 June 2013 (ref FC18). The report on 24 April highlighted the benefit of reviewing how well the structure was working after a period of 12-18 months.

The report provided an overview of the implementation of the decision making structure, within the context of the drivers leading to its introduction, highlighting the work thus far of the Executive, Scrutiny Committee, Scrutiny Panels and Policy Development Panels.

As part of the review process the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition and Provost met on several occasions throughout the year to consider how the structure is working and, recognising the absence of Opposition members from most decision making and scrutiny meetings, whether agreement could be reached which would result in greater participation.

The Leaders' meetings had highlighted areas of consensus and areas of concern.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Baillie Paterson, moved that:-

- (1) Council establishes a working group of members to undertake a formal review of the decision making structures;
- (2) the working group will consist of 2 members from the Administration, 2 members from the Opposition and the Provost; and
- (3) the working group will report with its findings to the March meeting of Council.

Council then adjourned for 20 minutes to allow members of the Opposition to consider the terms of the motion, and reconvened at 6.20 pm with all members present as per the sederunt, with the exception of Councillor Dr Martin.

Councillor Jackson proposed that the working group comprise 3 members of the Administration and 3 members of the Opposition (including 1 from the Independent Group) and the Provost, and that substitutes be permitted.

Following discussion and with the consent of the Provost, and Baillie Paterson, as his seconder, Councillor Martin agreed to adjust his motion to accommodate the proposal.

Decision

Council agreed:-

- (1) to establish a working group of members to undertake a formal review of the decision making structures;

- (2) the working group will consist of 3 members from the Opposition, 3 members from the Administration and the Provost with substitutes permitted, and
- (3) the working group will report with its findings to the March meeting of Council.