

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 26 JUNE 2013
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) advise of (i) the resignation of Councillor Black from the position of Depute Leader of the Council and (ii) vacancies that have arisen on committees and other bodies;
- (b) appoint a Member to the Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, Stirling and West Lothian Area Support Team which will replace the Joint Children's Panel Advisory Committee.

2. APPOINTMENTS

2.1 Councillor Black was appointed a Depute Leader of the Council at the statutory meeting on 18 May 2012. She has now intimated her resignation from the position. It is a remunerated post.

2.2 Resignations have also been received as follows:

- (a) Councillor D Goldie has resigned from the Civic Licensing Committee and from the Licensing Board;
- (b) Baillie Paterson has resigned from the Pensions Committee; and
- (c) Councillor Black has resigned from the Planning Committee.

2.3 Council is invited to fill the vacant positions detailed above. In terms of the political balance of the Council, and as agreed at the statutory meeting and reconfirmed at the meeting on 24 April 2013, the positions referred to in paragraph 2.2 will fall to be filled by members of the Labour Group.

2.4 Any person appointed to the Licensing Board must complete and pass the mandatory training required under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 before he or she can sit on the Board. This has to be done within three months of being appointed otherwise the appointment will fall. The other positions also have a training requirement in accordance with an earlier decision of Council, but the training is provided in house.

2.5 Resignations have also been received in respect of the following organisations:-

- (a) Baillie Paterson from Cornton Vale Over 21s Visiting Committee
- (b) Councillor D Goldie from South East Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran)
- (c) Councillor Bird from the East of Scotland European Consortium (ESEC); and
- (d) Councillor Dr C R Martin from Falkirk and District Community Safety Panel.

3. CORNTON VALE OVER 21s VISITING COMMITTEE

- 3.1 Council will be aware of the Scottish Government's intention to abolish the current Prison Visiting system. The Government commissioned an independent review by Professor Andrew Coyle of the monitoring system and, following the publication of his report in 2013, the Cabinet Secretary indicated that he was minded to establish a monitoring service which will be in place by autumn 2014, run by Her Majesty's Inspector of Prisons and involving four part time Prison Monitors. The Government is keen that the current Prison Visiting Committees continue to operate until then.
- 3.2 There are fifteen members on the currently established Cornton Vale Over 21s Visiting Committee, of which the Council may appoint six. The other nine positions fall to be filled by Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils. Currently, the committee has nine members, two being Falkirk Council appointees. While the government is keen for the current inspection regime to continue to operate at full capacity, it must be recognised that any new member is unlikely to have completed the necessary induction training by spring 2014 and Council may, in light of this, wish to consider whether there is value in appointing to the Visiting Committee.

4. JOINT CHILDRENS PANEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JCPAC)

- 4.1 Council will recall that Area Support Teams (ASTs) are to replace Children's Panel Advisory Committees and will support the national Children's Panels at the local level. An Area Support Team for the Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, Stirling and West Lothian Council areas will be established. Each of the local authorities within an AST may nominate a representative to the AST. Guidance from the Children's Hearings Scotland (CHS), as the governing body, highlights the valuable link role elected members play between the Children's Panel and the local authority and, in light of this, it is recommended that Council appoints an elected member to the local AST. Councillor Black was appointed as the representative on the JCPAC in May 2012. Mindful of the CHS guidance that in the transition to ASTs there should be continuity of existing knowledge and skills, Councillor Black has indicated a willingness to sit on the AST. It is therefore suggested that Councillor Black is appointed as the Council's representative on the AST.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that Council:-

- 1) appoints a Depute Leader of the Council;**
- 2) appoints members to the vacant positions on the Licensing Board and on the Civic Licensing Committee, Pensions and Planning Committees;**
- 3) considers whether to make appointments to the bodies referred to in paragraph 2.5;**
- 4) appoints a member to the Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, Stirling and West Lothian Area Support Team.**

.....
Chief Governance Officer
Date: 18 June 2013

Contact Officer: Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager on extension 6110.