

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 7 OCTOBER 2015
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to confirm the appointment of Councillor Garner to the Civic Licensing and Planning Committees; to advise of further vacancies that have arisen on the Appeals, Planning and Joint Consultative Committees, to consider outstanding vacancies on the Civic Licensing Committee and Licensing Board and determine a recommendation on training received from the Executive.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 On 24 June 2015, Council was advised of vacancies that had arisen in consequence of the resignation of John McNally as a member of Council following his election as a Member of Parliament. The vacancies were on the Civic Licensing and Planning Committees and on the Licensing Board. In accordance with the Council's decision on political proportionality taken at the meeting on 18 May 2012, the vacancies fell to be filled by a member of the SNP Group.

2.2 Council also noted the decision taken on 5 May 2004, when considering vacancies occasioned by by-elections, that they could be filled by agreement among the Provost and Group Leaders "taking into account the political proportionality and representations of the member elected until ratified at the next meeting of Council."

3. VACANCIES

3.1 Following the by-election in Ward 3, Denny and Banknock, held on 13 August 2015, at which Councillor Paul Garner, SNP, was elected, Councillor Meiklejohn, Leader of the SNP Group, sought the agreement of the Provost and Group Leaders to appoint Councillor Garner to the vacant positions on the Civic Licensing and Planning Committees. Having secured the necessary agreement, Council is now requested to confirm the appointments.

3.2 As yet, the vacant position on the Licensing Board, which falls to be filled by a member of the SNP Group, remains unfilled.

3.3 Councillor Jackson has also intimated his resignation from the Appeals Committee and Councillor Meiklejohn has intimated her resignation from the Planning and Joint Consultative Committees. In terms of the political make up of Council, each vacancy should be filled by a member of the SNP Group.

3.4 Council may recall that separate vacancies remain on the Civic Licensing Committee and on the Licensing Board, both of which fall to be filled by a member of the Labour Group.

3.5 The outstanding vacancies are summarised below:

Committee/Board	Vacancy to be filled from:
Licensing Board	SNP Group
Licensing Board	Labour Group
Appeals Committee	SNP Group
Civic Licensing Committee	Labour Group
Joint Consultative Committee	SNP Group
Planning Committee	SNP Group

4. TRAINING

- 4.1 It will be recalled also that any member appointed to the Licensing Board must undergo the training prescribed in the Licensing (Training) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 within 3 months of being appointed failing which the appointment falls. Members appointed to the Appeals, Civic Licensing and Planning Committees must also undergo internal training in accordance with the decision of Council taken on 18 May 2012.
- 4.2 At its meeting on 29 September 2015, the Executive considered a recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee that there should be training for all elected members on Treasury Management before they are eligible to serve on the Executive, Scrutiny or Audit Committees. The recommendation was also that the training would be mandatory and that members would require to complete it within the next 6 months.
- 4.3 The Executive agreed to refer this recommendation to Council. The Council is accordingly invited to consider it.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Council is invited to:-

- (i) confirm the appointment of Councillor Garner to the Civic Licensing and Planning Committees;
- (ii) make appointments to the vacancies shown in the table at paragraph 3.5, and
- (iii) consider whether training on Treasury Management should be mandatory for all elected members before they are eligible to serve on the Executive, Scrutiny and Audit Committees and whether the training should be completed within the next six months.

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Director of Corporate & Housing Services
Date: 29 September 2015
Ref: AAC071015 – Appointments to Committees
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Letters of Resignation.