

**ABERDEEN CITY & SHIRE
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY**

Date: 18 September 2009

Title: SDPA Membership, conformation of Chair and appointment of Vice-Chair

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) of the decision of Aberdeen City Council's Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee of 1 September 2009 to replace Councillor Scott Cassie on the SDPA with Councillor John Stewart. The report also provides advice in terms of the SDPA's Standing Orders regarding the Office of Chair of the SDPA and the appointment of a Vice-Chair.

2. Decision of Aberdeen City Council's Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee

2.1 Aberdeen City Council's Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee at its meeting on 1 September 2009 had before it a report from the Head of Democratic Services which made a number of recommendations regarding the membership of working groups and other organisations which the Council appoints members to. The report outlined that Councillor Scott Cassie had resigned from the City Council's Liberal Democrat Group in August 2009 to become an independent member on the Council.

2.2 Subsequently the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council had made a request that Councillor John Stewart replace Councillor Cassie on the SDPA. This was agreed at the meeting of the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee on 1 September 2009. This adheres to Standing Order 2.2.2 of the SDPA (Appointment of Members and Officers by the Member Councils).

3 Office of Chair of the SDPA

3.1 In terms of the SDPA's Standing Orders (Standing Orders 2.3 and 2.4.2) they state (a) that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority should not be from the same Council and they shall hold office for a period of two years from the date of the first meeting; and at the end of the Chair's term of office, the Vice-Chair will automatically assume the role of Chair and a new Vice-Chair will be elected; and (b) that when a vacancy occurs in the case of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall assume the office of Chair in succession to the previous Chair, shall continue in office until the previously anticipated expiry of the outgoing Chair's term of office and thereafter shall continue as the new Chair for a period of two years in accordance with Standing Order 2.3.

3.2 Therefore Councillor Peter Argyle has assumed the office of Chair in succession to the previous Chair (Councillor Cassie) as of 2 September 2009 and, under the Standing Orders will continue in that position until September 2012.

4 Appointment of Vice-Chair

- 4.1 In terms of the SDPA's Standing Orders (Standing Order 2.4.3) they state that where a vacancy occurs in the case of the Vice-Chair (as is now the case), the SDPA shall appoint a new Vice-Chair at the next or subsequent meeting of the SDPA who shall continue in office until the previously anticipated expiry of the outgoing Vice-Chair's term of office.
- 4.2 Therefore in terms of that Standing Order, the next or subsequent meeting of the SDPA is today's meeting (18 September 2009). Therefore the SDPA should nominate a member (from Aberdeen City Council) to be the Vice-Chair of the SDPA.
- 4.3 Under the Standing Orders, the new Vice-Chair would fill that position until September 2012 and then assume the position of Chair.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that the SDPA:-
 - (a) notes the decision of Aberdeen City Council to replace Councillor Scott Cassie with Councillor John Stewart on the SDPA;
 - (b) note that Councillor Peter Argyle has assumed the office of Chair of the SDPA as of 2 September 2009; and
 - (c) nominate a member (from Aberdeen City Council) to the office of Vice-Chair of the SDPA.

Martin Allan
Clerk to the SDPA

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