

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (SPECIAL)

Minutes of a remote webcast meeting
on 15 November 2021 at 2.00 p.m.

Present Councillors Helen Moonie (Provost), Laura Brennan-Whitefield, Andy Campbell, Douglas Campbell, Iain Campbell, Ian Cavana, Alec Clark, Brian Connolly, Peter Convery, Chris Cullen, Ian Davis, Martin Dowey, Ian Fitzsimmons, William Grant, Peter Henderson, Hugh Hunter, Mary Kilpatrick, Craig Mackay, Derek McCabe, Brian McGinley, Philip Saxton, Arthur Spurling and Margaret Toner.

Apologies: Councillors Siobhian Brown, Ian Cochrane, Julie Dettbarn (due to connectivity issues), Lee Lyons and Bob Pollock.

Attending: E. Howat, Chief Executive; C. Caves, Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services; W. Wesson, Service Lead – HR, Payroll and Employee Services; and J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer.

1. Provost.

The Provost

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting;
- (2) intimated that apologies had been received from Councillors Siobhian Brown, Ian Cochrane, Lee Lyons and Bob Pollock;
- (3) outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that part of this meeting would be broadcast live; and
- (4) advised that, with the agreement of the Council, the electronic voting system would be utilised. The Council so concurred.

2. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.

The Chief Executive called the Sederunt for the meeting and, having called the roll, confirmed that there were no declarations of interest by Members of the Council in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

3. Formal Question.

The Council noted that no formal questions had been submitted.

4. Exclusion of Press and Public.

The Council resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded from the remaining item of business on the agenda, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Review of Management Structure.

There was submitted a report (issued – members only) of 10 November 2021 by the Chief Executive outlining proposals for a revised Chief Officer structure for the Council.

Councillor Henderson, seconded by Councillor McGinley, moved, contrary to the recommendations in the report, that Council:-

- (1) create a new post of Director of Education at grade CO44; and agree that, in the interim, the two Assistant Directors – People, report to the Chief Executive; and
- (2) request the Chief Executive to submit a further report to Council in due course.

Having heard the Provost request that Councillor Henderson reduce his Motion to writing, the Council agreed, having undertaken the electronic vote, to adjourn for five minutes to allow Councillor Henderson to do this.

Adjournment

The time being 2.20 p.m., the Council adjourned for five minutes to allow Councillor Henderson's Motion to be reduced to writing.

Resumption of Meeting

The time being 2.25 p.m. the Council resumed and Councillor Henderson's Motion was circulated to all Members.

By way of Amendment, Councillor Hunter, seconded by Councillor Spurling moved the recommendations as outlined in the report, namely:-

- (a) to approve the revised staffing and structural arrangements in respect of Chief Officers (as outlined in para 4.1 of the report); and
- (b) to approve the draft job descriptions (as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report).

Point of Order

Councillor McGinley raised a Point of Order that Councillor Dettbarn had attempted to join the meeting, however, due to connectivity issues, had been unable to join, therefore, should not be permitted to take part in the vote; and the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services confirmed that, in terms of Standing Order No. 23.11, Councillor Dettbarn had not been in attendance during the whole or main part of the discussion and would therefore be unable to take part in the vote.

On a vote being undertaken by electronic means, 9 Members voted for the Amendment and 13 for the Motion which was accordingly declared carried and the Council, having thanked the Depute Chief Executive and Director- People for his service and having wished him well in his new post,

Decided:

- (1) to create a new post of Director of Education at grade CO44; and agree that, in the interim, the two Assistant Directors – People, report to the Chief Executive; and
- (2) to request the Chief Executive to submit a further report to Council in due course.

Councillor McCabe lost connectivity during consideration of the above item and did not participate in the vote.

5. Consideration of Disclosure of the above Confidential Report.

The Council, by means of an electronic vote,

Decided: to authorise the disclosure under Standing Order 32.4 of the following report:-

- Review of Management Structure.

6. Closing Remarks.

The Provost thanked all in attendance for their contribution.

The meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.