

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	4 March 2015
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Aberdeen Sports Village and Sport Aberdeen – Recruitment of Board Members
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/15/015
CHECKLIST:	YES

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

There are currently vacant Council director positions on the Aberdeen Sports Village (ASV) Board and Sport Aberdeen (SA) Board. In line with the Articles of Association, Aberdeen City Council is required to appoint any new council director to the board. This report brings to the attention the proposed recruitment timeline and asks that the Council confirms the selection panel for the vacant director positions.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Council:

- Notes the content of the report;
- Expresses its thanks to Nick Dalgarno and Paul McDonald for their time as board members on the ASV and Sport Aberdeen boards respectively;
- Agree the timeline for the recruitment process that will be followed for the Aberdeen Sports Village;
- Agree the establishment of a selection panel made up of 9 elected members consisting of 3 Labour, 3 SNP, 1 Independent, 1 Conservative, and 1 Liberal Democrat member with support from an appropriate officer;
- Delegate authority to the selection panel to select their preferred candidates with a bulletin report to come to the next Council meeting on the 13 May 2015;
- Note the process to be followed by Sport Aberdeen for appointment of the new Board member; and
- Otherwise note the contents of this report.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Legal Implications

The Articles of Association of Aberdeen Sports Village and Sport Aberdeen each sets out how Directors will be appointed to and removed from the Board.

### **5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

#### **5.1 Aberdeen Sports Village**

Aberdeen Sports Village was set up in 2009 and is a partnership between Aberdeen City Council and the University of Aberdeen (the major share-holders) and **sportscotland**. The facilities are run by ASV Limited, with activity overseen by a Board of Directors. The ASV Board consists of representatives of the two major shareholders.

With the opening of the ASV's Aquatics Centre in 2014, the facility now includes a 50m pool and a diving pool alongside a full size indoor football pitch, indoor and outdoor athletics facilities, and a large games hall. These extensive facilities provide high-quality venues across a wide-range of sporting activity, serving a customer base that includes the general public, sports clubs, students and elite athletes.

##### **5.1.1 Aberdeen Sports Village Board of Directors**

Under the terms of the Articles of Association the number of Directors shall not be less than two and there shall be no maximum number provided that there are always an equal number of Aberdeen City Council and The University of Aberdeen representatives.

There are currently four Directors appointed to represent each of the shareholders. The current Council vacancy has arisen due to the recent resignation of Nick Dalgarno from the ASV board.

The other current council nominated Directors are Cllr David Cameron, Cllr Willie Young and Dave MacDermid.

Aberdeen Sports Village has completed a skills matrix for the existing Directors in order to assist with the recruitment process.

## 5.2 Sport Aberdeen

5.2.1 Sport Aberdeen was set up in 2010, to deliver some of the council sports facilities and sports development services. Sport Aberdeen is wholly owned by the Council and is run by a Board of Directors.

### 5.2.2 Sport Aberdeen Board of Directors

Under the terms of the Articles of Association, Sport Aberdeen can have up to 11 directors. Sport Aberdeen currently has 10 directors:

Fred Dalgarno (Chair)  
Colin Taylor (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Graeme Lawrence  
Cllr Graham Dickson  
Cllr Marie Boulton  
Anthony Dawson  
Gordon Edwards  
Moyra Cowie  
Stephen Wilson  
Alistair Robertson (Chief Executive)

## 6.0 FILLING OF VACANT DIRECTOR POSITIONS

### 6.1 Process to be undertaken for Aberdeen Sports Village

The proposed timeline for these positions is detailed below:

Date	Task
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Aberdeen City Council Committee approval – Full Council
w/c 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Board Vacancy advertised
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Closing date for expressions of interest
w/c 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2015	Selection Panel meet to shortlist
Early April 2015	Interviews to take place
13 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	Bulletin report to Full Council to update Council Director representatives

6.1.2 The University of Aberdeen has also had a recent resignation from the ASV board. During a joint partnership meeting it was suggested that in order to recruit to the ASV board vacancies that the shareholders advertise these positions jointly with a separate selection process taking place.

### 6.2 Process to be undertaken by Sport Aberdeen

6.2.1 Under the Articles of Association, the Board of Sport Aberdeen undertakes its own recruitment and selection process and has done this on the last two occasions when vacancies have arisen. Following

interview and selection, the preferred candidate is then presented to the for Council approval.

6.2.2 The last time Sport Aberdeen had a need to fill vacancies in September 2013, there was a very good response to the advert and in addition to the candidates selected, three highly capable individuals who were unable to be accommodated agreed instead to be co-opted to support the Board's Committee work. Each has made a very strong contribution during the last 18 months and it is the Sport Aberdeen Boards intention that the vacancy would be filled, subject to Council approval, by one of the co-optees.

## **7. IMPACT**

Corporate – This report relates to Aberdeen – the Smarter City“

- We will work with our partners to seek to reduce the levels of inequality in the city.
- We will enhance the physical and emotional wellbeing of all our citizens by offering support and activities which promote independence, resilience, confidence and self-esteem.
- Working with our third, public and private sector partners, we will provide opportunities for lifelong learning which will develop knowledge, skills and attributes of our citizens to enable them to meet the changing demands of the 21st century.
- We will embrace the distinctive pride the people of Aberdeen take in their city and work with them to enhance the sense of well-being here, building strong communities which look out for, and look after one another.

This report also relates to the Combined Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement as follows:

- Children and young people access positive learning environments and develop their skills, confidence and self esteem to the fullest potential
- Children, young people and their families/carers are involved in decisions that affect them. Their voices heard and they play an active and responsible role in their communities
- Children and young people actively participate in their communities and have optimum involvement in decision making
- All children, young people and their families have access to high quality services when required and services provide timely, proportionate and appropriate response that meeting the needs of children and young people within Getting it Right for Every Child, (GIRFEC) requirements
- Improve the quality of life in our most deprived areas
- Citizens are increasingly more active in their communities regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, where they live, disability or faith/religion/belief and contribute to active citizenship.

- Develop pathways to participation which enhance the diversity of local representation at and engagement with regional, national and international arts, heritage and sporting events
- Our public services are consistently high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

## **8. MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

An appropriately skilled mix of Directors on the Aberdeen Sports Village and Sport Aberdeen boards will improve governance practices in each organisation.

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## **10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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