

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	23 August 2017
REPORT TITLE	Co-Leadership
REPORT NUMBER	CG/17/085
CG LEAD OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Roderick MacBeath

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-

- 1.1 To respond to the Notice of Motion moved by Councillors Laing and Lumsden at the Council meeting of 21 June 2017 in the following terms:

“To request that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services brings a report to the next Full Council meeting recommending how the role of Leader of the Council can be carried out by Co-Leaders, without there being a Deputy Leader, in a way that complies with the governance framework of the Council including any provisions in the Standing Orders and adheres to the rules set out in the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007.”

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council –

2.1.1 notes that there is no requirement to change the previously agreed arrangement in respect of remuneration of Members; and

2.1.2 approves the amendment of the Council’s Standing Orders as set out in Appendix 1.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1 The day to day responsibilities of Co-Leaders and how those responsibilities are discharged would be matters for the respective appointees. However, in order to recognise the concept of Co-Leaders in the Council’s Standing Orders, proposed amendments are highlighted in yellow in Appendix 1.

- 3.2 One of the Standing Orders where an amendment is being proposed in order to provide for co-leadership is Standing Order 5.1 (Removal from Office). It is

proposed to amend the current wording further to make it clear that any motion to remove an office bearer from the positions of Lord Provost, Depute Provost, Leader or Co-Leaders, and/or Depute Leader of the Council; Convener or Vice Convener is through a Notice of Motion to Full Council. Currently there is a lack of clarity on whether or not a motion needs to be relevant to an item of business on the Council agenda.

- 3.3 Benchmarking with other local authority Standing Orders was undertaken and the method for removal from office varies between authorities. The majority of other local authorities require either two thirds of the Council to agree to a proposal to remove a member from office or for the proposal to be moved as a Notice of Motion.
- 3.4 The matter was discussed with Members at the Governance Reference Group and the proposed wording was amended to address the comments raised.
- 3.5 If the report recommendation is approved, the role profile for Council Leader will also require to be amended to reflect the Co-Leader role.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Remuneration is regulated and capped by the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 as amended. The Regulations stipulate the amount of remuneration that can be paid out to an individual Councillor which varies depending on their role. Regulation 6 states that 'Each local authority shall pay remuneration to one Leader of the Council of authority of an amount as provided for in paragraph 2 (of Regulation 6)'.
- 4.2 In line with the above, at the Statutory Council meeting on 17 May 2017, Councillor remuneration was agreed, and Councillor Laing was appointed to the position of Council Leader.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has to comply with the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007; however the Co-Leadership model is neither envisaged, nor prohibited, by legislation. The appointment of a Council Leader or Depute Leader is not a statutory requirement.
- 5.2 There are no other legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

6.1 Financial

- 6.1.1 Acceptance of the above recommendations is not considered to pose any financial risk to the Council.

6.2 Employee

6.2.1 Acceptance of the above recommendations is not considered to pose any risk to employees.

6.3 Customer / citizen

6.3.1 Acceptance of the above recommendations is not considered to pose any risk in respect of customers / citizens.

6.4 Environmental

6.4.1 Acceptance of the above recommendations is not considered to pose any environmental risk.

6.5 Technological

6.5.1 Acceptance of the above recommendations is not considered to pose any technological risk.

6.6 Legal

6.6.1 Acceptance of the above recommendations is not considered to pose any legal risk to the Council.

6.7 Reputational

6.7.1 Acceptance of the above recommendations is not considered to pose any risk to the Council.

7. IMPACT SECTION

7.1 Economy

7.1.1 There will be no impact on economy arising from the recommendations.

7.2 People

7.2.1 An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment is not required as the proposal does not disproportionately impact on persons with protected characteristics compared to persons without such characteristics.

7.3 Place

7.3.1 There will be no direct impact on the environment or the community arising from these recommendations.

7.4 Technology

7.4.1 There will be no impact on technology arising from the recommendations.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

9. APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1 – Revised Standing Orders 2017

10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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