

ITEM 9 – Appointment of Convener and Vice Convener 2020-2022

Report By: Fiona McBrierty, Development Planning & Environment Manager, West Lothian Council

Purpose

This report sets out a proposal for the appointment of the Convener and Vice Convener of the SESplan Joint Committee over the two-year period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021 for agreement.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the SESplan Joint Committee:

1. Agree the appointment of Councillor Russell Imrie from Midlothian Council as Convener and Vice Convener from East Lothian Council (proposed nomination to be advised at Joint Committee meeting) from East Lothian Council as Vice Convener of the SESplan Joint Committee for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021.

Resource Implications

As set out below.

Legal and Risk Implications

As set out below.

Policy and Impact Assessment

No separate impact assessment is required.

1. The SESplan Joint Committee

- 1.1 Circular 2/2008 sets out the Scottish Government's statutory guidance for Strategic Development Planning Authorities (SDPA). The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 removes requirements to prepare

Strategic Development Plans. Secondary legislation is awaited to address the future role (if any) of SDPAs.

- 1.2 Circular 2/2008 identifies the need to establish a joint committee of members and a dedicated team of officers. The SESplan Joint Committee was formally established in November 2008 following the agreement of the SESplan Constitution, Scheme of Delegation and Financial Rules.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 18 November 2013, the SESplan Joint Committee agreed that the post of Convener and Vice Convener would be rotated every two years (1 January to 31 December). Paragraph 5.1 of the SESplan Constitution sets out that the rotation of Convenership and Vice Convenership. On the 1 January 2018, Fife Council took office as Joint Committee Convener with Midlothian Council taking office as Vice Convener for a two-year period to 31 December 2019.
- 1.4 On this basis Midlothian Council will assume the role of Convener from 1 January 2020 with East Lothian Council to assume the office of Vice Convener. Councillor R Imrie of Midlothian has been nominated for the role of Convener, the East Lothian Council nomination for the role of Vice Convener will be advised at the Joint Committee meeting.
- 1.5 The rotation of the Joint Committee Convener and Vice Convener is set out in Table 1 below.

PERIOD	CONVENER	VICE CONVENER
1 January 2020 – 31 December 2021	Midlothian Council	East Lothian Council
1 January 2022 – 31 December 2023	East Lothian Council	West Lothian Council
1 January 2024 – 31 December 2025	West Lothian Council	To be agreed at future date

- 1.6 It should be noted that the requirements of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 remove requirements to prepare Strategic Development Plans. This will impact on SESplan and other SDPAs moving forward and will influence future operation of the SESplan Joint Committee and rotation of the Joint Committee Convener and Vice Convener. Further reports on this will be brought to the Joint Committee in due course.

2 Conclusion

- 2.1 The operation of the SDPA and the Joint Committee will be kept under review following the provisions of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and the associated secondary legislation as it is published and further details are known.

Report Contact

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