

The City of Edinburgh Council

10.00am, Thursday, 21 November 2019

Appointments to Committees and Outside Organisations

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider whether to make the following changes to Committee Membership:
 - 1.1.1 Remove one Conservative or SNP member from the Policy and Sustainability Committee and appoint one member from EPIC.
 - 1.1.2 Remove 1 Green member and appoint one member from EPIC to the Culture and Communities, Education, Children and Families, Finance and Resources, Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work, Transport and Environment, Governance Risk and Best Value and Planning committees and the Development Management Sub-Committee
 - 1.1.3 Either maintain the current membership or remove one SNP member and replace with a Conservative member or a member from EPIC to the Regulatory Committee and the Licensing Sub-Committee.
 - 1.1.4 Either maintain the current membership or remove one Conservative member and replace with a SNP member or a member from EPIC to the Personnel Appeals Committee.
- 1.2 To appoint a replacement member to CEC Holdings, Capital City Partnership and the Bio Quarter advisory board

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Report

Appointments to Committees and Outside Organisations

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Council is asked to consider changes to committee membership to ensure political balance is maintained and appoint replacements to a number of outside body positions.

3. Background

- 3.1 In October 2019 Councillors Barrie, Bridgman and Ritchie agreed to form a party-political group called the Edinburgh Party of Independent Councillors (EPIC).
- 3.2 The roles a councillor can undertake are open to all councillors regardless of political affiliation. However, the City of Edinburgh Council determines its committee membership according to the elected representation of political parties. As a result, independent councillors previously had no right to a committee place.
- 3.3 The Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions sets out that committee membership will be proportionate according to the elected representation of political parties unless expressly agreed otherwise at a meeting of Council.
- 3.4 As this was the first independent group formed at the Council in recent years, advice was sought from the Electoral Commission. They confirmed that a group can identify itself as a political party and does not need to formally register this with the Commission. Only a registered political party can use a registered name, descriptions and emblems on a ballot paper but this is not required to fulfil the requirement set out in the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions.
- 3.5 Due to the establishment of EPIC, this group now has an entitlement under the rule set out in paragraph A3 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions and outlined in paragraph 3.3.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The following changes to committees are required to be considered.
 - 4.1.1 Policy and Sustainability Committee – Remove one Conservative or SNP member and appoint one member from EPIC.
 - 4.1.2 Culture and Communities, Education, Children and Families, Finance and Resources, Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work, Transport and Environment, Governance Risk and Best Value, Planning committees and Development Management Sub-Committee – Remove 1 Green member and appoint one member from EPIC.
 - 4.1.3 Regulatory Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee – either maintain the current membership or remove one SNP member and replace with a Conservative member or a member from EPIC.
 - 4.1.4 Personnel Appeals Committee - either maintain the current membership or remove one Conservative member and replace with a SNP member or a member from EPIC.
- 4.2 For clarity, committees consisting of nine members (Regulatory, Licensing Sub-Committee and the Personnel Appeals Committee) do not give a clear allocation as per the political balance of the Council. The SNP group, Conservative Group and EPIC all have an equal right to the final member (SNP and Conservative have also a right to 2 other members each).
- 4.3 The Lord Provost recently resigned from Marketing Edinburgh, CEC Holdings, Capital City Partnership and the Bio Quarter advisory board. The appointment to Marketing Edinburgh is being dealt with by another report on this agenda but a replacement is sought for the other positions. The Lord Provost was the only member on the Bio Quarter advisory board.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There is no financial impact as a result of this report.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Under its governance documentation the Council is required to consider changes to the political balance to the Council and determine its appointments to its committees. It is not required to maintain political balance, but it must expressly agree not to.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 [Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions](#)

9. Appendices

None