

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 10 October 2024

Lothian Buses Board Appointments

Executive/routine
Wards

Routine
All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Transport and Environment Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Consent to the appointment of Loraine Strachan, Stephanie Rivet and Peter Strachan as non executive directors of Lothian Buses for a period of three years; and
 - 1.1.2 Note that George Lowder has resigned from the boards of Transport for Edinburgh and Edinburgh Trams, and that Jim McFarlane and Steve Cassidy intend to resign from the board of Lothian Buses Limited following the appointment of the new non executive directors.

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Lothian Buses Board Appointments

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report seeks approval of the appointment of three non-executive directors to the Board of Lothian Buses following a recruitment process designed to attract a multi modal board.

3. Background

Governance of Transport Arms Length External Organisations

- 3.1 The appointment of Directors to the Council's Transport Arms Length Organisations (ALEOs) is a Reserved Matter, which requires the written consent of the Council.

Transport ALEO Reform

- 3.2 In July 2020, the Council approved an [approach to reform](#) of the Council's Transport ALEOs. Since then, further updates have been provided to Committee in [November 2020](#) and [August 2021](#). On 12 October 2023, Committee [approved](#) a further [report](#) that recommended Transport for Edinburgh be closed in its current form but retained as a shareholding shell company only.

Transport for Edinburgh and Edinburgh Trams Boards

- 3.3 George Lowder resigned from the boards of Transport for Edinburgh and Edinburgh Trams at the end of August 2024.

4. Main report

Lothian Buses Board Appointments

- 4.1 On 15 August 2024, Committee [consented](#) to the recommendation of the Nominations Committee of Lothian Buses to reappoint Mark Yexley, Anthony Rose and Iain Reid to the board of Lothian Buses for a period of 18 months and to appoint Susan Deacon as the Chair of Lothian Buses for a period of two years.
- 4.2 Since then, recruitment to appoint three further non-executive directors to the Board of Lothian Buses has been completed.

- 4.3 After a process of competitive interviews, the Nominations Committee of Lothian Buses now seek consent to the appointment of:
- 4.3.1 Loraine Strachan;
 - 4.3.2 Stephanie Rivet; and
 - 4.3.3 Peter Strachan.
- 4.4 Each appointment would be for a period of three years. The difference in appointment period is to provide for the refresh of the board on an ongoing basis. The recruitment process was designed to introduce a blend of experience across modes in order to reflect Lothian Buses purpose as a multi modal company.
- 4.5 The Council has been advised that Jim McFarlane and Steve Cassidy intend to resign from the board on the appointment of the new non executive directors.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If Committee consent to these appointments requested by Lothian Buses, the company will make the necessary arrangements to confirm these appointments.
- 5.2 A further report will be provided to Committee once the due diligence for ALEO reform has been completed. This is anticipated before the end of this calendar year.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial impacts for the Council arising from these appointments.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 There are no equality or poverty impacts arising from the appointment of non-executive directors to the Board of Lothian Buses.
- 7.2 There are no equality or poverty impacts arising from the amendments to the corporate documentation for each company.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 There are no climate or nature emergency implications arising from this report.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 The appointment of Directors to the Council's Transport ALEOs is a Reserved Matter, which requires the written consent of the Council.

9.2 A Council officer Observer is also nominated to attend the Board meetings of Lothian Buses.

10. Background reading/external references

10.1 None.

11. Appendices

None.