

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 15 August 2024

Appointments to the Boards of Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams

Executive/routine
Wards

Routine
All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Transport and Environment Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Consent to the appointment of Susan Deacon as the Chair of Lothian Buses for a period of two years;
 - 1.1.2 Consent to the reappointment of Mark Yexley, Anthony Rose and Iain Reid as non-executive directors of Lothian Buses for a further period of 18 months;
 - 1.1.3 Consent to the appointment of Colin Kerr as a non-executive director of Edinburgh Trams for a period of six months; and
 - 1.1.4 Note that a further report will be presented to Committee in September on the appointment of additional non-executive directors to the Board of Lothian Buses.

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2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report seeks approval of:

2.1.1 The reappointment of three non-executive directors to the Board of Lothian Buses and the appointment of Susan Deacon as chair of the Board; and

2.1.2 The appointment of a non-executive director to the Board of Edinburgh Trams.

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.

4. Main report

Lothian Buses Board Appointments

4.1 The Nominations Committee of Lothian Buses has requested the consent of the Council for the reappointment of the following non-executive directors for a further period of 18 months:

4.1.1 Mark Yexley;

4.1.2 Anthony Rose; and

4.1.3 Iain Reid.

- 4.2 After a process of competitive interviews, the Nominations Committee also seek the consent of the Council for the appointment of Susan Deacon as the Chair of the Board for a period of two years with scope for further reappointment (subject to the consent of the Council).
- 4.3 Recruitment is underway to appoint three further non-executive directors to the Board of Lothian Buses. This process is expected to be complete by the end of August, with a report to Committee in September seeking consent to the appointments.

Edinburgh Trams Board appointment

- 4.4 The board of Edinburgh Trams has requested the consent of the Council to the appointment of Colin Kerr as a non-executive director for a period of six months.

Transport ALEO Reform

- 4.5 The process of reform of the Council's Transport ALEOs is continuing.
- 4.6 As outlined in the report to Committee in October 2023 and noted above, recruitment is progressing for the appointment of non-executive directors for the Board of Lothian Buses.
- 4.7 The reappointment of three existing non-executive directors will provide continuity while the new Board is established, and the recruitment of new non-executive directors will support the intention to expand the experience within the Board to include light rail and/or multi-modal public transport delivery.
- 4.8 The appointment of Colin Kerr to the Board of Edinburgh Trams will strengthen the Board during the completion of the ALEO reform process and provide continuity.
- 4.9 The Due Diligence to support Lothian Buses to be responsible for multi-modal public transport delivery in the city is expected to be completed by the end of September 2024. Committee will be updated when this process is complete on the next steps.

Transport for Edinburgh

- 4.10 George Lowder MBE will be stepping down from his role as Chief Executive of Transport for Edinburgh on 31 August 2024. George became Chief Executive of the company in January 2016 and has played a key role in the delivery and development of an integrated, sustainable and affordable transport network for the city.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If Committee consent to the appointments requested by the Boards of Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams, the company will make the necessary arrangements to confirm these appointments.
- 5.2 A further report will be presented when the Recruitment Committee of Lothian Buses recommends further non-executive director appointments to the Board.

- 5.3 Committee will be updated on progress with the Due Diligence and next steps for the reform of the Council's Transport ALEOs.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial impacts for the Council arising from the appointment of non-executive directors to the Boards of Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 There are no equality or poverty impacts arising from the appointment of non-executive directors to the Boards of Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 There are no climate or nature emergency implications arising from the appointment of non-executive directors to the Boards of Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams.

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 and Edinburgh Trams.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 None.

11. Appendices

None.