
INTERIM SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION: PROPOSED CHANGES

Report by Acting Chief Executive

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

27 October 2022

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This reports seeks approval for changes to the membership of the Executive Committee.**
- 1.2 The membership of the Executive Committee was specifically considered at two meetings of the Members' Cross Party Working Group: Scheme of Administration. A number of different views were presented but there was agreement that the membership of the Committee should be increased to reflect the whole concept of Members from across the political spectrum working together in a collegiate way. The current two members of the Executive Committee from out-with the Administration have allowed an expression of ideas, challenges and a different political perspective being brought to decision making. It is therefore proposed to increase this and that a further two members from out-with the Administration are added to the membership of the Executive Committee. The membership of the Committee would be reviewed after one year, or should issues arise impacting on the working of the Committee, at an earlier time.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Scottish Borders Council agrees:-**
 - (a) to extend the membership of the Executive Committee to a total of seventeen members, to include a further two members from out-with the Administration, and amend the Interim Scheme of Administration accordingly;**
 - (b) to appoint two members from out-with the Administration to the Executive Committee; and**
 - (c) that the membership of the Executive Committee would be reviewed after a year, or should issues arise impacting on the working of the Committee, at an earlier time.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 25 August 2022, Scottish Borders Council agreed a number of changes to the Interim Scheme of Administration, highlighting the need to keep the Scheme under continual review.
- 3.2 The Members' Cross Party Group: Scheme of Administration has met twice in September to discuss the membership of the Executive Committee.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 17 June 2022, the Sustainable Development Committee members discussed the role of the Committee and requested that the functions delegated be changed to reflect a wider remit not focussed solely on climate change and the name of the Committee be changed to take account of this.

4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 4.1 The membership of the Executive Committee was specifically considered at two meetings of the Members' Cross Party Working Group: Scheme of Administration. A number of different views were presented but there was agreement that the membership of the Committee should be increased to reflect the whole concept of Members from across the political spectrum working together in a collegiate way. However, it was also important that the Executive Committee did not become too large or unwieldy or become a "second" Council. Consideration was given to rotating Portfolio holders so they did not attend every meeting but could prove problematic, given that reports could be brought to any Executive Committee on any subject matter.
- 4.2 The current two members of the Executive Committee from out-with the Administration have allowed an expression of ideas, challenges and a different political perspective being brought to decision making. It is therefore proposed to increase this and that a further two members from out-with the Administration are added to the membership of the Executive Committee. The membership of the Committee would be reviewed after one year, or should issues arise impacting on the working of the Committee, at an earlier time.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

By increasing the number of members of the Executive Committee from out-with the Administration, the Council can demonstrate a willingness to work in a collegiate way, and bring a wider expression of ideas, challenges and a different political perspective to decision making.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

No Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken but it is not thought likely that increasing the membership of the Executive Committee will have

a negative impact on the Council’s statutory obligation to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic (age, disability, gender re-assignment, trans/transgender identity, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race groups, religion or belief, sex-gender identity, and sexual orientation) and those who do not; and foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who do not.

5.4 **Sustainable Development Goals**

The proposals in this report will have no impact on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

5.5 **Climate Change**

By increasing the size of the Executive Committee, there may be a slight impact on climate change due to increased travel should Elected Members choose to travel to meetings in person, rather than attend online.

5.6 **Rural Proofing**

The work of the Executive Committee covers all areas within the Scottish Borders including those living, working and visiting its rural areas.

5.7 **Data Protection Impact Statement**

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.8 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

Changes are required to the Scheme of Administration and these are contained within the recommendations in this report.

7 **CONSULTATION**

7.1 *The Acting Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), and Corporate Communications are being consulted and any comments received will be reported at the meeting.*

Approved by

David Robertson

Acting Chief Executive

Author(s)

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Background Papers: Nil

Previous Minute Reference: Scottish Borders Council, 25 August 2022

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