

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Chief Governance Officer
to South Ayrshire Council
of 6 November 2025**

Subject: Political Composition and Appointments to Panel

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise on changes to the political composition of the Council notified to officers and to seek the Council's approval to make alterations to the composition of Panels and representatives thereon.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- 2.1.1 notes the resignation of Councillors Alan Lamont and Mary Kilpatrick from the Audit and Governance Panel;**
- 2.1.2 notes the changes to the political composition of the Council notified to officers as at 22 October 2025;**
- 2.1.3 considers the current membership of Panels and the 22 October 2025 composition based on proportionality (outlined in [Appendix 1](#)), approves any required changes to membership of Panels and nominates and appoints members to vacant positions;**
- 2.1.4 delegates to the Chief Executive to seek nominations for the appointment of substitute members of the Chief Officers' Appointments/ Appraisal Panel, one from the Administration and one from the Opposition Groups; and**
- 2.1.5 requests that officers make the required amendments to the composition of Panels to reflect these changes.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In terms of para 11.2 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, the selection and de-selection of Councillors and officers to serve on and/ or to represent the Council on Joint Committees, Joint Boards and other external bodies and organisations is reserved to Council.

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4. Detail

Resignations from Panels

- 4.1 Councillors Alan Lamont and Mary Kilpatrick have intimated their resignation as members of the Audit and Governance Panel.

Changes to Council Political Composition

- 4.2 Councillor Gavin Scott has notified officers of his intention to join Reform UK.
- 4.3 Councillor Ian Davis has notified officers that he has left the Conservative Group and will now sit as an Independent Councillor.
- 4.4 As notified in a separate report to Council at this meeting, Councillor Wullie Hogg was elected as an Independent Councillor following the Ward 3 By-Election on 16 October 2025.
- 4.5 As a result of the above changes notified to officers, as at 22 October 2025, the revised political composition of the Council is stated as:

Alba	1
Conservative and Unionist Party	5
Independent	11
Labour Party	5
Reform UK (confirmation awaited)	1
SNP	5
Total	28

- 4.6 The table in [Appendix 1](#) outlines the current membership of each Panel, the composition as at 22 October 2025 based on proportionality and changes intimated or required.

Chief Officers' Appointments/ Appraisal Panel

- 4.7 Recent recruitment arrangements for the appointment of Chief Officers have highlighted issues regarding availability of members of the Chief Officers' Appointments/ Appraisal Panel. It is, therefore, recommended that the Council nominates and appoints two substitute members of the Panel, one from the Administration and one from the Opposition Groups, who could attend meetings where the substantive member(s) were not available.
- 4.8 Members may wish to consider any other amendments which might be required to membership of Panels.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk

8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations*

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations*

8.2.1 There are no risks associated with rejecting the recommendations.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment (incorporating Equalities)

9.1 The proposals in this report do not require to be assessed through an Integrated Impact Assessment as they relate to governance matters.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priority 4 of the Council Plan: Efficient and effective enabling services.

13. Link to Shaping Our Future Council Yes No

13.1 Not applicable.

14. Results of Consultation

14.1 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Brian Connolly, Leader of the Council and Policy Lead for Economy and Strategy, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

15. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

15.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Chief Governance Officer will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to ensure full implementation of the decisions within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Leadership Panel in the 'Council and Leadership Panel Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Managed by</i>
Publish updated details of membership of Panels	14 November 2025	Service Lead – Democratic Governance

Background Papers [Scheme of Delegation](#)

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Date: 30 October 2025

Panel Membership and Proportionality

Panel	Current Membership	2025 Membership based on Proportionality <i>(0.18 parties/ 0.48 independent)</i>	Changes Intimated or Required
Audit and Governance <i>(non-Cabinet members only)</i>	Membership: 8 2 Conservative 2 Independent 2 Labour 2 SNP	Membership: 8 1 Conservative 4 Independent 1 Labour 1 SNP 1 to be confirmed between parties	1 Conservative and 1 Independent member resigning Replace with 2 additional Independent members not on Cabinet and leave 2 Labour and 2 SNP members given they have no members on Cabinet .
Regulatory Panel	Membership: 9 3 Conservative 2 Independent 2 Labour 1 SNP 1 Vacancy	Membership: 8 2 Conservative 2 Independent 2 Labour 2 SNP	Option 1: Revert back to the original membership of 8; remove 1 Conservative member; and add 1 SNP member based on proportionality.
		Membership: 9 2 Conservative 3 Independent 2 Labour 2 SNP	Option 2: Retain membership as 9; Remove 1 Conservative member; and add 1 Independent member and 1 SNP member based on proportionality.
Local Review Body	As Regulatory Panel	As Regulatory Panel	As Regulatory Panel

Panel	Current Membership	2025 Membership based on Proportionality <i>(0.18 parties/ 0.48 independent)</i>	Changes Intimated or Required
Licensing	Membership: 7 2 Conservative 3 Independent 1 Labour 1 SNP	Membership: 7 Status quo remains if SNP, Labour and Conservative happy extra member remains Conservative.	No Change.
Service and Partnerships Performance Panel	Membership: 8 2 Conservative 2 Independents 2 Labour 2 SNP	Membership: 8 1 Conservative 4 Independent 1 Labour 1 SNP 1 to be confirmed between parties	No Change. Status quo to remain since adding 2 additional Independent members is difficult when only 2 Independent members are not part of the Administration.
Appeals Panel	Membership: 6 3 Independents 2 Labour 1 SNP	Membership: 6 1 Conservative 3 Independents 1 Labour 1 SNP	Option: Remove 1 Labour member and appoint 1 Conservative member based on proportionality.
Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee	Membership: 4 1 Conservative 1 Independent 1 Labour 1 SNP	Membership: 4 No Change	No Change.