

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Chief Executive  
to Cabinet  
of 30 August 2022**

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**Subject: Representation on Convention of Scottish Local Authorities**

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree a policy on representation on Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

**2. Recommendation**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Panel:**

**2.1.1 notes that appointments to COSLA Convention require to take account of the political balance of the Council; and**

**2.1.2 considers whether future appointments to COSLA Convention should also take account of gender balance and appointments to Policy Boards should take account of gender and political balance.**

**3. Background**

3.1 The Council is currently represented on COSLA's Convention and has four places with a named substitute for each member.

3.2 The COSLA Constitution makes provision for the appointments process.

3.3 The COSLA Constitution **requires** that Council delegates on Convention reflect the balance of party political representation within the Council. Council agreed on 19 May 2022 that one representative and substitute be provided from Conservative, Labour, SNP and Independents. Nominations were subsequently advised as follows:

<b>Party</b>	<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
Conservative	Cllr Martin Dowey	Cllr Bob Pollock
Labour	Cllr Brian McGinley	Cllr Philip Saxton
SNP	Cllr Peter Henderson	Cllr Ian Cochrane
Independents	Cllr Brian Connolly	Cllr Bob Shields

- 3.4 The posts of President and Vice President of COSLA must now be gender balanced and the Spokespersons take account of political and gender balance of COSLA.
- 3.5 A report to Council on 29 June 2022 requested nominations for the 4 Policy Boards. Nominations were subsequently advised as follows:

<b>Policy Board</b>	<b>Nomination</b>
Community Wellbeing	Cllr Brian McGinley
Economy and Environment	Cllr Bob Pollock
Education and Children	Cllr Stephen Ferry
Health and Social Care	Cllr Julie Dettbarn

- 3.6 COSLA have confirmed that there is no requirement for the representatives on the Policy Boards to take account of the political and gender balance of the Council. Officers were asked to bring forward a paper seeking approval of a policy on COSLA representation.

#### **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 Members are asked to consider whether Convention delegates from South Ayrshire Council should take account of both political and gender balance of the Council.
- 4.2 Members are asked to consider whether Policy Board representatives should be appointed on the basis of political and gender balance or on basis of portfolio responsibility and/ or experience in a particular area.

#### **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 Rejecting the recommendations may result in the Council's representation on COSLA not taking account of the political and gender balance..

## 9. Equalities

- 9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as [Appendix 1](#).

## 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 Commitment 1 of the Council Plan: Fair and Effective Leadership/ Leadership that promotes fairness.

## 13. Results of Consultation

- 13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.
- 13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowey, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

## 14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

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

<b><i>Implementation</i></b>	<b><i>Due date</i></b>	<b><i>Managed by</i></b>
Decision will be reflected in guidance notes for future appointments	1 September 2022	Service Lead – Democratic Governance

**Background Papers**    None

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**Date:** 23 August 2022

## South Ayrshire Council Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Template

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. [FSD Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

### 1. Policy details

Policy Title	Representation on Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Eileen Howat, Chief Executive – eileen.howat@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

**2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts**

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	Neither negative nor positive-	Neither negative nor positive-
Disability	-	-
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	-	-
Marriage or Civil Partnership	-	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	-	-
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	-	-
Sex – gender identity (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-
Sexual Orientation – person's sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children's Rights	-	-

**3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage? (Fairer Scotland Duty). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.**

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	Neither negative nor positive	Neither negative nor positive
Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet Basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future	-	-
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	-	-
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	-	-
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent's education, employment and income	-	-

**4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:**

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the 'Three Key Needs' of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Low
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

**5. Summary Assessment**

<p><b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b> (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as <b>Medium and/or High</b>)</p>	<p>—— <b>YES</b></p> <p><b>NO</b></p>
<p><b>Rationale for decision:</b></p> <p><b>This report seeks agreement of a policy on representation on Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. Their decision on this has no specific equality implications</b></p>	
<p><b>Signed :</b> Eileen Howat <b>Chief Executive</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1 July 2022</p>	