



**REPORT TO: MORAY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD ON 28 MARCH 2019**

**SUBJECT: STANDARDS OFFICER AND DEPUTE OFFICER  
REAPPOINTMENT**

**BY: CHIEF OFFICER**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To ask the Board to consider the reappointment of its Standards Officer and one Depute, whose current terms of appointment are due to expire in April 2019 and note the resignation of one of the previous Deputes.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Moray Integration Joint Board (MIJB) :**

- i) formally nominates for approval by the Standards Commission, Alasdair McEachan, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Moray Council, as the Standards Officer of the MIJB, for a further period of 18 months until October 2020;**
- ii) formally nominates for approval by the Standards Commission, Aileen Scott, Legal Services Manager Moray Council, as Depute Standards Officer of the MIJB, for a further period of 18 months until October 2020;**
- iii) note the resignation of Margaret Forrest, Depute Standards Officer for the MIJB, on 29 January 2019; and**
- iv) tasks the Chief Officer with writing to the Standards Commission with the relevant information.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 26 October 2017, the Board agreed to nominate its current Standards Officer and two deputies for the approval by the Standards Commission (para 9 of minute refers). Again this was for a period of 18 months. At the time it was noted that the Board would require to consider the longer term arrangements for this post and it was envisaged that a report would come to a future meeting outlining various options in this regard. The

Board agreed that having the Standards Officer as a Member could lead to possible conflicts of interest. Subsequent to the meeting in October 2017, approval from the Standards Commission was obtained for the appointments.

#### **4. KEY MATTERS RELEVANT TO RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The 18 month appointment period for the Standards Officer and deputies is due to expire at the end of April 2019. The Standards Officer post is a statutory requirement and further nominations are required.
- 4.2 As for the original appointments, the Standards Commission has to approve the appointments. Following the Board's decision on this matter, the Chief Officer will write to the Standards Commission with the appropriate information.
- 4.3 It is proposed that the interim arrangements continue for a further 18 months to enable the Board to consider its longer term arrangements for this post.

#### **5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)) and Moray Integration Joint Board Strategic Commissioning Plan 2016 – 2019**

Good governance arrangements will support the Board to fulfil its objectives. An appointment of a Standards Officer is one aspect of good governance.

##### **(b) Policy and Legal**

The Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 (Register of Interests) Regulations 2003 (Scottish Statutory Instrument 2003/135) requires the Board to appoint a Standards Officer. The Standards Commission has to approve the appointment of the Standards Officer. Any individual appointed requires to be suitably qualified and experienced.

##### **(c) Financial implications**

None arising directly from this report.

##### **(d) Risk Implications and Mitigation**

Elements of the work of the Standards Officer are requirements of the 2003 Regulations. The Board is required to comply with these Regulations and make an appointment. An appointment of a Standards Officer will help assist members with compliance with the Code of Conduct.

##### **(e) Staffing Implications**

Alasdair McEachan and Aileen Scott are employed by the Moray Council. Once reappointed, they will continue to be employed by the

Moray Council. Duties for the Board will continue to be added to what are already full remits. This arrangement will need to be reviewed to determine whether it will be a reasonable long term proposition.

**(f) Property**

None arising from this report.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

The individual appointed requires to be an existing Monitoring or Standards Officer. As referred to previously within this report, the proposed arrangement will be for an 18 month period and the Board will require to consider future long term arrangements.

**(h) Consultations**

Consultation on this report has taken place with the Chief Officer; the Chief Financial Officer; Alasdair McEachan, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Moray Council; Aileen Scott, Legal Services Manager, Moray Council; and Caroline Howie, Committee Services Officer, Moray Council; who are in agreement with the contents of this report as regards their respective responsibilities.

**6. CONCLUSION**

**6.1 The previous appointments of Standards Officer and deputies are due to expire and further appointments are necessary to meet statutory requirements.**

Author of Report: Pam Gowans, Chief Officer  
Background Papers:  
Ref: