



**REPORT TO: MORAY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD ON 31 MARCH 2022**

**SUBJECT: STANDARDS OFFICER AND DEPUTE STANDRDS 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 today.

**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 Governance, Strategy and Performance, Moray Council, as the Standards Officer of the MIJB, for a period of two years until April 2024;**

**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 two years until April 2024;**

**iii) tasks the Chief Officer with writing to the Standards Commission with the relevant information; and**

**iv) notes that the arrangements will be reviewed prior to April 2024**

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 At its meeting on 24 September 2020, the Board agreed to nominate its current Standards Officer and Depute for the approval by the Standards Commission (para 12 of minute refers). Subsequent to this meeting in March 2019, 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 Depute is due to expire at the end of March 2022. The Standards Officer post is a statutory requirement and further nominations are required.

- 4.2 Prior to January 2019 there was a legal representative at MIJB meetings and concerns had been raised that there would be a conflict of interest to continue to have the standards officer as a Member of the board. Since January 2019 there has not been any legal representation at MIJB meetings due to a reduction in the staffing for Moray Council legal team. For assurance discussions are held with legal advisors where necessary and all reports are reviewed by the standards officer (or depute) prior to circulation to members. The standards officers are “on standby” during meetings and should there be a need for legal clarification they would be available. No complaints over the conduct of Board members (in terms of the Code) have been received.
- 4.3 Following discussion with Alasdair McEachan it is recommended that the existing arrangements continue and that the nominations identified in section 2 be approved. There is recognition that update training of members was not conducted last year due to limitations of available staff resource. It is intended that training will be scheduled following the elections in May and the appointment of new members to MIJB.
- 4.4 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.

## **5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- (a) **Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)) and Moray Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan “Moray Partners in Care 2019 – 2029”**  
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 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**

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required because there are no service, policy or organisational changes being proposed.

**(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts**

None arising directly from this report.

**(i) Consultations**

Consultation on this report has taken place with the Interim Chief Officer; the Chief Financial Officer; Alasdair McEachan, Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance, Moray Council, Aileen Scott, Legal Services Manager and Tracey Sutherland, 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 depute are due to expire and further appointments are necessary to meet statutory requirements. This report sets out the proposal for the next 18 months and the need to establish longer term arrangements.**

Author of Report: Jeanette Netherwood, Corporate Manager

Background Papers: with author

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