

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 11 September 2018

BY: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Appointment of Leader of the Opposition

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Council of the resignation of Councillor Brian Small as Leader of the Opposition, and to appoint a new Leader of the Opposition.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council:
- approves the appointment of Councillor Jane Henderson as Leader of the Opposition, with immediate effect;
 - notes that, in accordance with the Scheme of Administration, Councillor Henderson will replace Councillor Small on the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee and the Employee Appeals Sub-Committee; and
 - approves the appointment of Councillor Henderson to CoSLA Convention, replacing Councillor Small.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Councillor Brian Small has intimated that he wishes to relinquish his position as Leader of the Conservative Group and Leader of the Opposition with immediate effect. The Group has appointed Councillor Jane Henderson to replace Councillor Small as their Leader and, as the largest minority group, have nominated her as Leader of the Opposition.
- 3.2 In accordance with the Scheme of Administration, Councillor Henderson will replace Councillor Small on the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee and Employee Appeals Sub-Committee.

- 3.2 Members are also asked to approve the appointment of Councillor Henderson to the CoSLA Convention, replacing Councillor Small.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – the new Leader of the Opposition will be designated Senior Councillor status, and will therefore see an increase in the annual allowance to £21,245. Councillor Small’s annual allowance will reduce accordingly to that of Ordinary Councillor, from £21,245 to £16,994. The Head of Council Resources has confirmed that this change can be accommodated within the existing budget.
- 6.2 Personnel – none.
- 6.3 Other – none.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Minute of Meeting of East Lothian Council, 23 May 2017 – Item 4: Notification of Leaders of the Political Groups
- 7.2 Report to East Lothian Council, 23 May 2017 – Councillors’ Remuneration and Expenses
- 7.3 East Lothian Council Standing Orders

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