



Convention Item 05

Appointments to Outside Bodies

Introduction

Convention has responsibility for agreeing formal COSLA appointments to outside bodies. There are currently two councillor vacancies on the Improvement Service Board and an officer vacancy on the General Teaching Council Scotland. This report provides some brief background and seeks Convention's agreement to fill those vacancies.

Recommendations

The Convention is asked to agree that:

- i. the two vacant COSLA positions on the Improvement Service Board be filled;
and
- ii. the vacant COSLA seat on the General Teaching Council Scotland (GTCS) be filled in line with the advice of the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES), as set out at paragraph 11.

References

Various

March 2024

Appointments to Outside, Employer and Other Bodies

Introduction

1. This report concerns appointments required to be made by COSLA.

Improvement Service Board

2. The Improvement Service (IS) is a partnership between SOLACE and COSLA, and the IS Board is made up of four representatives from each of these organisations and the IS Chief Executive. The expected commitment for Board members is to attend 4 half day Board meetings per year, plus an annual strategic Away Day, approximately 3 Deep Dive workshops per year and the Annual General Meeting. The combination of set date engagements together with preparation and travel time ahead of meetings is estimated at between 10-15 days per year.
3. The IS Board sets strategy, approves the annual business plan and budgets, monitors quarterly financial statements and performance reports and provides advice and support on a variety of other matters. The IS has recently undertaken a Skills Audit for the Board and more detailed papers are available on request for the specific type of Board member they are seeking and the roles that will be required.
4. Of COSLA's four members, one has always been the President and chaired the Board. There is no requirement on the other three places to come from a particular Group or be COSLA office bearers.
5. Currently, members of the Board are Cllr Shona Morrison, COSLA President as Chair and Cllr Sandra Macdonald, Aberdeen City Council. Cllr Ellen Forson and Cllr Neil Benny have recently resigned from the Board leaving two vacancies for COSLA representation.
6. COSLA Political Group Leaders have been advised of the vacancies and sent details of the role and responsibilities expected, and will provide nominations at today's meeting. The next IS Board meeting is scheduled to take place on 12 June 2024.
7. Convention is asked to nominate two new representatives to the Improvement Service Board.

General Teaching Council Scotland (GTCS)

8. The General Teaching Council Scotland (GTCS) carries out a wide range of statutory functions to promote, support, and develop the professional learning of teachers, including maintaining the Register of Teachers; setting professional standards; accrediting courses; supporting teachers' professional learning and development; and advising partners.
9. The GTCS is governed by a Council of 37 members, with three seats on the Council allocated to individuals nominated by COSLA, following consultation with the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES). Two of these seats are currently filled by Members of the COSLA Children and Young People Board, Cllr Finlayson (Highland Council) and Cllr Finnegan (Western Isles Council), whose term on the Council runs until 1 April 2026.
10. In line with an agreement between COSLA and the GTCS about the role of the ADES on the Council, the third seat is taken up by a representative of ADES. The seat is currently

filled by Laurence Findlay (Director of Education and Children's Services, Aberdeenshire Council), whose four-year term is coming to an end, with the seat becoming vacant from 1 April 2024.

11. COSLA has been asked by the GTCS to supply, in consultation with ADES, a nomination to fill this seat on the Council from 1 April 2024 for a four-year term.
12. Convention is asked to confirm the nomination of Greg Bremner (Chief Education Officer, East Dunbartonshire Council) to fill the vacant COSLA seat on the GTCS from 1 April 2024, in line with the advice of ADES.

March 2024