

Appointment of Spokespersons

Strategic Conclusion

The Convention is invited to note the apportionment of Spokespersons', as demanded by COSLA's Constitution, based on the proportionate strengths of political groups within the Convention, and to agree the appointment of candidates put forward by political groups on that basis.

Summary and Recommendations

This paper invites Convention to:

- i. Note the apportionment of Spokespersons' roles as outlined at paragraph 6; and
- ii. Agree the appointment of Spokespersons as proposed by COSLA Political Group Leaders at the meeting.

References

Previous reports:

- Not applicable

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1. The Governance structure of COSLA provides for a number of COSLA Spokespersons each of whom has responsibility for a major area of COSLA's work. At this time the themed areas are as outlined below:
 - Health and Social Care
 - Children and Young People
 - Resources
 - Environment and Economy
 - Community Wellbeing

Background

2. It is the responsibility of Convention to appoint COSLA's Spokespersons. Each Spokesperson plays a pivotal role within COSLA. The role includes acting as COSLA's primary point of contact with Government Ministers and others on relevant issues, developing relationships with partner organisations, engaging with the media, and enabling and supporting councils to contribute to the work of COSLA.
3. Four of COSLA's Spokespersons also chair a Policy Board, working to progress the mandate they provide. The Resources Spokesperson reports directly to Leaders, recognising the cross-cutting nature of their work. The specific responsibilities and job description for a Spokesperson is detailed in a separate report on the Convention agenda.
4. Under the terms of our Constitution, the Convention is responsible for formally appointing Spokespersons such that the political affiliations of the Spokespersons, taken as a whole, are proportionate to the strengths of the Political Groups within the Convention, whilst ensuring that there is gender balance in the appointment of Spokespersons.

Detail

5. The political make-up of the Convention is as follows: -

SNP	53
Labour	29
Conservatives	25
Independents	13
Lib Dems	10
Greens	3
Total	133

6. Reflecting political balance across the proportion of the membership of Convention as a whole, this gives a Spokespersons' distribution of 3 SNP; 1 Labour; and 1 Conservative. Gender balance must also be reflected in the appointments as a whole.
7. On this basis, COSLA Political Group Leaders will discuss the allocation of Spokesperson portfolios and identification of individuals to be nominated to fill these roles. Members of Convention will be updated at the meeting.

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