

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Agenda Item | 3.a |
| Report No | HC/7/22 |

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Highland Council

Date: 9 June 2022

Report Title: Governance Arrangements

Report By: Acting Depute Chief Executive & Executive Chief Officer
for Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

This report details a number of relatively minor amendments to the governance arrangements for Highland Council. Whilst it is recommended that the Council Committee structure remains largely unaltered, the following changes are proposed:

- to reflect the significance of the climate change agenda by replacing the Climate Change Working Group with a Climate Change Committee;
- the remit of the Tourism Committee to be reverted to the Economy and Infrastructure Committee; and
- the Recovery Improvement and Transformation (RIT) Board to be disbanded.

No other changes are recommended at this time, with the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Gaelic Committee, Pensions Committee, North & South Planning Applications Committees, Planning Review Board, Highland Licensing Committee, Highland Licensing Board and area committees all continuing.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- I. Note that the governance arrangements remain largely unchanged at this stage, with the potential to review again in the autumn;
- II. Agree to the establishment of the Climate Change Committee, comprising 14 members;
- III. Agree the remit of the Tourism Committee will be reverted to the Economy and Infrastructure Committee, with the committee determining how best to deliver its tourism remit;
- IV. Agree to disband the Recovery Improvement and Transformation

Board.

3. Implications

- 3.1** Resource- the governance arrangements will have no additional resource requirements.
- 3.2** Legal- the proposed structure meets the legislative requirements set out in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and subsequent revisions.
- 3.3** There are no specific Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural), Climate Change / Carbon Clever, Risk or Gaelic implications arising as a direct result of this report.

4. Proposed Changes

- 4.1** It is proposed that the governance arrangements remain largely unchanged at this stage, with the potential to review again in the autumn. The exceptions to this being in relation to Climate Change; Tourism and Recovery Improvement and Transformation.
- 4.2** The strategic significance of the climate and ecological emergency on a Highland, national and international level underscores the proposal to raise the profile of the Climate Change Working Group to become a formal Council Committee. Membership would be set at 14 Members, appointed on political balance. If agreed, the role and remit of the Committee will be brought to the Council for approval and the Scheme of Delegation amended accordingly.
- 4.3** Much of the remit of the Tourism Committee has now either been delegated to area committee; or represents a 'business as usual' activity for Economy Infrastructure and Environment Service. Consequently, it is proposed that the Strategic Committee considers how best to take forward this important remit – potentially by establishing its own working group or sub committee - and the Committee itself is disbanded. If agreed, the Scheme of Delegation will be amended accordingly.
- 4.4** The Recovery Improvement and Transformation (RIT) Board has delivered a critical function as the Council has dealt with the varied impacts of the global pandemic. Now that the Council has largely come through the Covid crisis it is proposed to disband the RIT Board and, if agreed, the Scheme of Delegation will be amended accordingly.

Author: Kate Lackie

Designation: Depute Chief Executive & Executive Chief Officer, Performance & Governance

Date: 2 June 2022

