
Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	31 January 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Report No:	LS/002/23/IS
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01475 712710
Subject:	Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive to vote on new Chair for Cooperative Councils Innovation Network		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to note the use of emergency powers in December 2022 to enable the Council to cast its vote to elect a new Chair of the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network (the Network).
- 1.3 The use of these powers enabled the Council, as a recently joined member of the Network, to cast its vote to elect a new Chair. In accordance with the Network's constitution, the vote was to be cast by the Leader of the Council, Cllr McCabe.
- 1.4 In addition, and further to the report to the 1 December 2022 meeting of the Inverclyde Council, this report also updates the Committee that Cllr Cassidy's appointment to the Executive Oversight Committee of the Network has now been confirmed.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note that the Chief Executive used their powers under the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) to agree that the Council cast its vote to elect a new Chair of the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network, which vote was to be cast by the Leader of the Council, Cllr McCabe, in terms of the Network's constitution.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee also note that Cllr Cassidy's appointment to the Executive Oversight Committee of the Network has now been confirmed.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 At the 20 September 2022 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee it was agreed that the Council should apply to become a member of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (the Network). This application was approved in October, and all councillors advised on 2 November. <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2487>.
- 3.2 The Network, established in 2012, describes itself as “the fastest-growing network in local government”, having over 100 councils, organisations and supporters from across the UK. The Network states that member councils are committed to reforming the way they work by building an equal partnership with local people based on the values and principles of the International Co-operative Alliance. In particular, the Network promotes the transformation of communities through community action, community engagement and civic empowerment.
- 3.3 More information on the Network can be found on its website: <https://www.councils.coop/about-us/>.
- 3.4 The most senior tier of the Network’s governance structure is its Executive Oversight Committee. More information on this Committee, comprising elected members from different local authority members, can be found on its website, including its terms of reference. The Executive Oversight Committee meets quarterly, in person or remotely.
- 3.5 In November 2022, the Network announced vacancies on its Executive Oversight Committee. In respect of this, at its meeting on 1 December 2022, the Council approved Cllr Cassidy appointment to the Executive Oversight Committee, subject to the approval of the Chair of the Network, whose approval is necessary given that Cllr Cassidy is not a Council Leader or Portfolio Holder/Cabinet Member, as those positions are understood in English local authorities. The position of the Chair of the Network was also vacant, there being 3 candidates, which meant the election of the Chair had to go to a ballot of members. None of the candidates were members of a Scottish local authority.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 As a new member of the Network, it was considered important that the Council exercised its right to vote in the election of a new Chair. As such, and in light of the timescales associated with the election of the new Chair, on 8 December 2022 the Chief Executive used their powers under the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) to agree that the Council cast its vote to elect a new Chair of the Network. This vote was to be cast by the Leader of the Council, Cllr McCabe, as it is a requirement of the constitution of the Network that such a vote is cast by the Leader of member local authorities. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, Cllrs McCluskey and Robertson were also consulted on the proposed use of emergency powers. This report is being submitted to the Committee for transparency, as required under the Scheme of Delegation. For the Committee’s information, the new Chair is Cllr Louise Gittins from Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- 4.2 Linked to the above, and further to the above-mentioned report to the 1 December 2022 meeting of the Council, this report also updates the Committee that Cllr Cassidy’s appointment to the Executive Oversight Committee of the Network has now been confirmed. All members of the Council were advised of this by email on 15 December 2022.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk		X	
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		X	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 Finance

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.3 Legal/Risk

There are no legal risks/implications arising from this report.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no human resources implications arising directly from this report.

5.5 Strategic

There are no strategic implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 None.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.