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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>6 February 2024</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital &amp; Customer Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>LS/003/24</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Iain Strachan</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712710</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive to vote on Member for the Values &amp; Principles Board of the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The main purpose of this report is to note the use of Emergency Powers in January 2024 to enable the Council to cast its vote to elect one new member to the Values & Principles Board of the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network (the Network).
- 1.3 The use of these powers enabled the Council, as a member of the Network, to cast its vote to elect one new member to the Values & Principles Board. In accordance with the Network's constitution, the vote was to be cast by the Leader of the Council, Cllr McCabe. Each member council had the right to exercise a vote for one candidate.
- 1.4 In the period since the Council joined the Network there has now been a need for Emergency Powers to be used three times, in order for the Council to exercise its vote as a member of the Network. To avoid the need for this going forward, this report also proposes that the Committee grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive to cast votes in respect of the future appointments of members to the Committees and Boards of the Network.

## **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 one new member to the Values & Principles Board 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 grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive to cast votes in respect of the future appointment of members to the Committees and Boards 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.

**Iain Strachan**  
**Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer 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. The Values & Principles Board reports into the Executive Oversight Committee, with the Values & Principles Board being responsible for ensuring that the Network maintains its co-operative values and principles. More information on Values & Principles Board, comprising elected members from different local authority members, can be found on its website, including its terms of reference.
- 3.5 Last month the Network announced one vacancy on its Values & Principles Board. In respect of this there were 3 candidates, none of whom were members of a Scottish local authority. Each member council had the right to exercise a vote for one candidate. The vote had to be exercised by Midday on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February.
- 3.6 In December 2022 a similar use of delegated powers was exercised to enable the Council to exercise its vote, again through Cllr McCabe, to elect a Chair of the Network. This was reported to the January 2023 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee. A similar exercise was also undertaken in September 2023, to elect two members to the Executive Oversight Committee. <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2525>  
<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2608>

### **4.0 PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 As a member of the Network, it was considered important that the Council exercised its right to vote on the election of a new member to the Values & Principles Board of the Network. As such, and in light of the timescales associated with that election, on 24 January 2024, the Chief Executive used their powers under the Scheme of Delegation (Officers) to agree that the Council cast its vote to elect one new member to the Values & Principles Board of the Network. It is a requirement of the constitution of the Network that such a vote is cast by the Leader of member local authorities. <https://www.councils.coop/about-us/governance/our-constitution/>
- 4.2 Since the Council joined the Network there has now been a need for Emergency Powers to be used three times, in order for the Council to exercise its vote as a member of the Network. To avoid the need for this going forward, it is recommended that the Committee agrees to grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive to cast votes in respect of the future appointments of members to the Committees and Boards of the Network, which vote would be cast by the Leader of the Council, Cllr McCabe, in terms of the Network’s constitution. The members of the Committee would be advised where this delegated authority had been used. For the avoidance

of doubt, if the Council was wishing to nominate one of its own Elected Members to such a position, then the approval of Full Council would be required, in the usual way.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

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

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & 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.