

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Agenda Item	23
Report No	HC/68/19

Date: 9 December 2019

Report Title: Scheme Of Delegation And Administration To Committees and Sub Committees And To Officers

Report By: Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report contains a revised Scheme of Delegation and Administration to Committees and Sub Committees and to Officers. The Scheme reflects the following changes:

- Under Part II the reorganisation of functions under the 6 new Strategic Committee headings following agreement of the new Committee structure at the last Council meeting on 31 October 2019;
- Under Part III additional powers for Local Committees;
- Under Part IV the revision of Powers Delegated to Officers in response to the move to the 8 Executive Chief Officer-led Service structure;
- General updating across all area to reflect changes in the regulatory and legislative landscape.

In this regard, an electronic link to the current version of the Scheme is highlighted below:-

https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/16903/scheme_of_delegation

1.2 The Scheme of Delegation does not provide a section on the operation of sub-groups unless they have decision making authority delegated by the parent committee. However, following on from the Governance Review, the Council is asked to formally approve a number of changes to current reporting arrangements for Boards, Working Groups and sub groups, as set out in the report recommendations below.

1.3 There will be opportunities to review the Scheme of Delegation at the Council in March and again June 2020.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Council is invited to agree:

1. The revised Scheme of Delegation which has been circulated separately;
2. The Climate Panel to be re-named the Climate Working Group and to report to Council;
3. The Tourism Working Group/Sub Committee to report to Council;
4. The Gaelic Implementation and Strategy Group to be re-named the Gaelic Committee and report to the Economy and Infrastructure Committee;
5. A Joint Wellbeing Sub-Committee comprising members of the following Committees: Education; Health, Social Care & Wellbeing; Housing; and Communities and Place - to be formally established by Council in March 2020, once the new committees have met for the first time to discuss and agree membership, a remit and terms of reference.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource Implications: Doubling the number of strategic committees and changes to the area committee structure will have resource implications and these have been detailed on the Governance review report, earlier on the Council agenda.
- 3.2 Legal: The revised Scheme will support the Council to meet its legal duties and enhance the Council's governance arrangements.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural): The additional functions identified for area committees and the focus on developing a place-based strategy will have a positive impact on communities.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever: There are no implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- 3.5 Risk: the recommendations arising from the Review should have a positive impact on risk because of the focus on improved scrutiny, oversight, control and assurance.
- 3.6 Gaelic: Gaelic has been given a higher priority by changing from the Gaelic Strategy and Implementation Group to the Gaelic Committee. Moving oversight of Gaelic to the Economy & Infrastructure Committee will highlight the wider benefits and opportunities of Gaelic language and culture for the Highlands.

Designation: Kate Lackie, Executive Chief Officer, Performance & Governance

Date: 3 December 2019