

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Council : 25 August 2010

Subject: Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park – Nominations To The Park Authority Board

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The Scottish Government have advised that the Park Authority Membership is to be reduced to 17, meaning that the Council will only have one representative on the Park Authority. The change is expected to take place on 2 October and the Scottish Government have requested that the Council nominate one member to serve on the Park Authority from that date.

2. Background

- 2.1** The current members of the Park Authority are Provost Agnew and Councillor Craig McLaughlin who were nominated on 25 March 2009.
- 2.2** On 16 December 2009 and 28 April 2010 the Council considered proposals by the Scottish Government to reduce the membership of the Park Authority to 17. The effect of this reduction in board numbers is that the Council's membership of the Park Authority would reduce from 2 to 1. Representations that the Council's membership should be retained at the existing level were made to the Scottish Government by the Leader.
- 2.3** The Scottish Government have now advised that they intend to proceed with the changes. The draft Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Designation, Transitional and Consequential Provisions (Scotland) Order 2002 Modification (Scotland) Order 2010 has been placed before the Scottish Parliament to give effect to the changes and is expected to come in to effect on 2 October. The Scottish Government have also written to the Council asking that the Council nominates a single member to serve on the new Park Authority.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Annex 1 sets out the role of the Board, the duties of members and the Park Authority's expectations of Local Authority nominees. Members are expected to commit two to three days per month to the Park Authority's work. The work is paid and the remuneration is £199.35 per day, subject to review. Nominees

should have no financial or other interest which is likely to affect prejudicially the members' performance as a member of the National Park.

- 3.2** There are two further requirements being that nominees must appear to the Council to have knowledge or experience relevant to the functions of the National Park Authority or the National Park. This is required by the National Park (Scotland) Act 2000.

4. People Implications

- 4.1** There are no people implications arising from the report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The report has no financial implications for the Council.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** If the Council does not nominate a member to serve on the Board, its existing representation will cease on 2 October. In order to provide a Councillor with a voice on the Park Authority a new nomination requires to be made.

7. Equalities Impact

- 7.1** No significant issues were identified.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 8.1** The Council requires to nominate a member to serve on the Park Authority who has knowledge or experience relevant to the functions of the Park or the Park Authority. It is recommended that the Council nominate a member to serve on the new Board from 2 October 2010. Until the change takes effect Provost Agnew and Councillor Craig McLaughlin would remain as the Councils' members.

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Terms of Appointment as a member of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority and Role Description for National Park Authority Board Members.

Background Papers: None.

Wards Affected: All wards.