

To: Council

On: 29 September 2016

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Business Gateway – appointment of member representative to national Management Group

1. Summary

- 1.1 The governance of Business Gateway has been reviewed at the national level. This has led to the agreement of a streamlined Management Group comprising eight member and six officers. The Scottish Local Government Partnership (SLGP) Cabinet has agreed that Renfrewshire should represent SLGP on this national group. This report seeks the approval of that appointment.
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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council:-

- i. Approves the appointment of Cllr Mark Macmillan to represent SGLP authorities on the Business Gateway Management Group at a national level.
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3. Background

- 3.1 In 2008, following the Cabinet Secretary's decision to make Local Government responsible for local economic development, responsibility for the management of the Business Gateway service was transferred from Scottish Enterprise to local authorities. The service was transferred to a set of

lead authorities, supported by a national unit housed within COSLA. Since 2008 Councils have developed this service, aligning its work with other local economic development services and functions of Councils.

- 3.2 Members will recall that Renfrewshire was the lead authority for delivering Business Gateway (BG) services (on behalf of East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde). However, from October 2016 the three authorities will run their BG services on an in-house basis, as agreed by the Council's Economy & Jobs Board in August 2016.
- 3.3 The current governance structures for BG are seen as overly complex with a lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities. Having said that, the need for governance structures for BG which provide a degree of rigour and consistency in the service and provide a forum for the individual operational parts to come together is recognised. The current set up is not the optimum design and the Business Gateway Management Group (BGMG) agreed to review the current approach during 2016.
- 3.4 Following a meeting of the BGMG in May 2016 to consider options for new governance. The BGMG concluded its preferred option to form a Board comprising 14 representatives of the 17 lead local authorities (including Renfrewshire) to provide governance and oversight for the BG. The 14 representatives would comprise eight members and six officers.
- 3.5 The proposals included either member or officer representatives to be appointed from the 12 Scottish Enterprise area lead authorities. To ensure representation from the non COSLA members and as Glasgow and Renfrewshire are Lead Authorities, one member and one officer representative would be nominated between Glasgow and Renfrewshire Councils as members of the SLGP (2 representatives in total).
- 3.6 At the meeting of the SLGP Cabinet in August 2016 it was agreed to nominate an elected member / officer from Renfrewshire and Glasgow to represent SGLP authorities on the Business Gateway Management Group.
- 3.7 It was proposed that due to Renfrewshire having the Enterprise portfolio lead on the Glasgow City Region Cabinet (via Cllr Mark Macmillan) that Renfrewshire should put forward the member representative for the BGMG on behalf of SLGP.
- 3.8 Meetings will be held quarterly and the Chair of the Board will be selected from the eight elected members. It is suggested that the appointment be made until 4 May 2017 (the date of the local government elections) after which representation can be reviewed and at agreed intervals thereafter.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – No financial implications as a result of this report.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** – None
4. **Legal** – None
5. **Property/Assets** – None
6. **Information Technology** – None
7. **Equality & Human Rights**
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** – None
11. **Privacy Impact** - None

List of Background Papers

None

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