

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 7TH MARCH 2002

SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider nominating a Member of the Council to serve on the West Board of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The Scottish Environment Protection Agency is a non departmental public body under the sponsorship of the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department. The relationships with local authorities are of vital importance given shared responsibilities for the environment. In recognition of this, statutory guidance issued under Schedule 6 of the Environment Act 1995 provides for the appointment of around one third of the membership of each of the Agency's Regional Boards from Members of relevant councils.
- 2.2 Despite restructuring in 2001 into a single corporate body the Scottish Environment Protection Agency still operate three Regional Boards, the North, the East and the West. East Ayrshire falls within the West Board.
- 2.3 The Scottish Environment Protection Agency have now embarked upon a recruiting exercise for Board members since the term of membership is normally four years with a possibility of renewal. Due to resignations and vacancies arising from the end of term appointments, the current number of vacancies on the West Board is four but it is likely that only two of these will be filled from the local authority sector. Further vacancies will arise in 2003 and 2004.
- 2.4 Whilst it is open to all members to apply individually, the Council may wish to consider nominating a Member to serve on the West Board of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. This would effectively endorse the individual Member's application and exhibit a commitment by the authority to close partnership working as highlighted in paragraph 2.1 above.

2.5 It should be stressed that the selection process is open and transparent and the final decision on Board membership rests with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

2.6 The time commitment expected of Board members is one day per month and the current rate of remuneration is £1,596 per annum plus expenses.

3. FINANCIAL/POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Nil.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The Scottish Environment Protection Agency are currently recruiting two Elected Members to serve on the West Regional Board and the Council may wish to consider nominating a Member for this role.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Council:-

- i) Consider nominating a Member to serve on the West Regional Board of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- ii) Remit to the Director of Community Services to advise the Scottish Environment Protection Agency accordingly; and
- iii) Otherwise note the content of the report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JS

26th February 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter dated 14th February to Chief Executive from Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

Any person wishing to inspect the background paper above should telephone 01563 576023 and ask for William Stafford.

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AGENDA