

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE - 31 JULY 2001

NOMINATION TO THE NHS BOARD

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek a nomination for a member of the Council to become a member on the NHS Board.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A letter has been received from the Scottish Executive Health Department to advise of the steps which are being taken to implement the governance changes for NHS Scotland announced in "Our National Health: A Plan for Action, A Plan for Change" and in particular the appointment of Local Authority members to the new NHS Boards.
- 2.2 The governance changes announced in the Scottish Health Plan in December 2000 and developed in the publication "Rebuilding Our National Health Service" are intended to achieve greater integration in the strategic planning and delivery of health improvement and services in each of the 15 NHS Board areas in Scotland.
- 2.3 These governance changes mean that there will be Local Authority members on the NHS Boards. The Scottish Executive has announced that George Irving has been appointed as Chair of the Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board. The Scottish Executive has asked the new Chairs to speak to the Leaders of the Local Authorities in their area about who will be the Local Authority member on their Board. Following notification by the Council of the nominated member, the Chairs will submit a recommendation for the nominated member in each Local Authority to the Minister for Health and Community Care to enable a formal appointment to be made.

3. LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS OF THE NHS BOARD

- 3.1 Local Authority members will have full corporate membership of the Board in the same way as all other members appointed to the NHS Board by the Minister.
- 3.2 Neither Local Authority members nor any other members of the Board are appointed on a representative basis: they are not there to represent either the Local Authority or any other body or group.
- 3.3 The presence of elected representatives on NHS Boards is intended to:-
- Improve communications between NHS and Local Authorities;

- Support closer partnership working, consistent with the principles of community planning;
- Play a vital role in helping to strengthen collaboration between NHS Scotland and Local Authorities - not just in planning but across a range of activities including service delivery and community care; and
- Help ensure that the local health plan for each NHS Board area is consistent with the components of the community planning process in each Local Authority area.

3.4 As it is vital that Local Authority members of NHS Boards enjoy the full confidence of their authorities and are able to commit to decisions on health and health service matters which could affect their local communities, the Scottish Executive propose to invite Local Authorities to nominate either their Leader, Depute Leader or a senior member of the Local Authority with designated responsibility for public health related issues to be appointed, by the Minister, as members of their principal NHS Board.

4. NHS BOARD AREAS

4.1 Appointments will be straight forward where for example, boundaries of the new NHS Board and of the Local Authority are co-terminous. In circumstances where the NHS Board area covers a number of Council areas and/or where a Local Authority covers more than one NHS Board area the situation becomes more complicated. The Scottish Executive have therefore stated their preference for each Local Authority to have one seat on its principle NHS Board. Accordingly, in Ayrshire all three Councils have been asked to nominate a member.

5. LEGAL/POLICY/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS - NIL

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee nominate either the Leader, Depute Leader or a Senior member of the Local Authority with designated responsibility for public health related issues to be appointed, by the Minister as a member of the principal NHS Board.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/
Director of Corporate Resources

JA/LR
30 July 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter dated 18 June 2001 from the Scottish Executive Health Department.

Any person wishing to inspect the background paper relative to this report should contact Julie Armstrong, Principal Administrative Officer, on telephone number (01563) 576147. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources on telephone number (01563) 576019.

Implementation Officer: Julie Armstrong, Principal Administrative Officer.

AGENDA