
Appointment of the Senior Council Member

Executive Summary

A vacancy has arisen for the role of Senior Council Member following the departure from the Council of the previous Senior Council Member, Maureen Drake, on 31 December 2023 at the end of her final term of office.

The Senior Council Member is appointed by the Council. The term of office for the Senior Council Member is two years with the possibility of renewal for a further two years subject to Council approval. The maximum term of office is four years. A copy of the responsibilities of the role is attached.

Previous consideration	Maureen Drake was appointed as Senior Council Member at the Council meeting in December 2022, taking office from 1 January 2023. The role was created and appointed to in September 2018.
Decision	To appoint David Stirling as the Senior Council Member with effect from the date of the meeting for a term of two years ending on 14 February 2026 or the end of his term of office as a Council member, if earlier.
Next steps	Not applicable
Strategic priority	Priority 5 - Build a resilient, healthy, capable and sustainable organisation.
Financial and resource implications	None.
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Senior Council Member

The Senior Council Member has the following functions in respect of Council governance:

- acting as a sounding board for the Chair and Chief Executive on governance matters;
- being the contact point for Members who have concerns which:
 - they have been unable to resolve via the Chair or Chief Executive; or
 - would be inappropriate to raise with the Chair or Chief Executive;
- being the contact point for Members or Executive Directors to raise issues which they feel have not been or cannot be resolved through normal channels;
- being a conduit for Members' views on the performance of the Chair, overseeing the annual performance appraisal of the Chair;
- overseeing the appointment and reappointment process for Chair;
- being the contact point for Members who have concerns about the Chair, the Chief Executive or the relationship between the Chair and the Chief Executive;
- being the contact point for Members who have concerns about the relationship between the Chair and a Council Member; and
- initiating dialogue with the Chair or other Members if it appears that the Council is not functioning effectively.

For the purpose of discharging these functions, the Senior Council Member may require the Council Secretary to include a relevant item of business on the agenda for any Council meeting.

Term of Office

The term of office for the Senior Council member will be two years with the possibility of renewal for a further two years subject to Council approval. The maximum term of office will be four years. Appointment or removal from office is a decision reserved for Council.