

Item:

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Report to Partnership Meeting 20 April 2018

PARTNERSHIP

Non Council Board Member Vacancy

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for the process of filling the vacancy for a Non Council Board Member that arises from Mr Wilson Metcalfe stepping down from the Board following the Partnership meeting on 20th April 2018.

NON COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

The role of the Non-Council Board Members provides valuable additional perspective, continuity in Board Membership particularly at times of local government elections and each Non Council Board Member over the years (five individuals have been appointed since the establishment of the RTP as a statutory body) has contributed greatly to the work and success of the organisation.

HITRANS Board is supported by three Non-Council Board Members. They are:

Mr Wilson Metcalfe – March 2006
Mr Okain MacLennan – June 2009
Prof David Gray – July 2010

The three Non-Council Board Members of HITRANS terms were extended to September 2018 after consideration of this at the September 2016 Partnership meeting. Mr Wilson Metcalfe has indicated his intention to step down from his role as Non Council Board Member following the Partnership Meeting on 20 April 2018. Mr Metcalfe has been a Board Member of HITRANS since March 2006 and has contributed enormously in that role bringing a great deal of expertise and well informed good judgement. In particular the Partnership has benefitted from this in the field of Aviation where Mr Metcalfe has Chaired the Aviation Stakeholder Group in which role we have drawn on his extensive expertise in the sector from his previous career.

It is proposed to advertise the Non Council Board Member vacancy following the 20 April Partnership meeting with a selection panel of the Chair, Vice Chair, a Board Member and the Partnership Director shortlisting applications prior to interviews being held to which the full Board will be invited to make up the panel.

Members should be aware that whilst we have a duty under the 2016 Scotland Regulations of the Equalities Act we have not been initially included as a relevant public body in the Gender Balance on Public Boards bill. HITRANS is clear that under present legislation the majority of actions on the issue of board diversity can for legal reasons only be applied to non-councillor board members, as no quota or other barrier can at present be placed on nominated councillor members from constituent councils. Therefore consideration should be given to ensuring the advert for a new Non Council Board Member promotes the positive impact that would be realised by increasing representation on the Board to female candidates.

BOARD OBSERVERS

The Regional Transport Partnerships (Establishment, Constitution and Membership) (Scotland) Order 2005 makes provision for the formal appointment of observers. The RTP guidance on membership states that RTPs can appoint observers, who as advisers can make a valuable contribution. This provision would allow HITRANS to involve people on the Board who were not appointed as Non-Councillor Members but who would have useful input to make. These observers would not have a vote on the Board and would not be expected to participate in all discussions or all meetings. The aim of this is to provide wider opportunities to suitable representatives to gain experience of attending meetings with the intention that they can then go on and gain a seat on the Board or other public Boards.

It is proposed that the Board delegates officers with the duty to identify areas where Observers might be appointed to add value to the work of the organisation. A priority area already identified is to seek a way of ensuring young people's views are represented and it is suggested that officers investigate the feasibility of appointing a Young People Observer.

RISK REGISTER

RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Policy

Impact – Positive

Financial

Impact – Neutral

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – The Board Member advert will promote the opportunity to strengthen Board Diversity.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to approve:

1. That the Partnership's personnel adviser arranges to advertise the Non Council Board Member vacancy.
2. That the selection panel for shortlisting of applications be comprised the Chair, Vice Chair, a Board Member and the Partnership Director.
3. Agree the Board Member who will join the selection panel.
4. Agree that the interview panel will be composed of all Board Members able to participate on the preferred interview date. applications prior to interviews being held to which the full Board will be invited to make up the panel.
5. Agree the proposal that officers are delegated to identify a suitable Young People representative to be invited to become a Board Observer. The preferred candidate to be approved by the Board at the first opportunity.

Report by: Ranald Robertson
Designation: Partnership Director
Date: 5 April 2018