

**COSLA Community Justice Sub Group****Report by John Blair, Director, Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

This report invites the Council to endorse the action of the Chief Executive, taken in consultation with the Leader of the Council, in putting forward the names of Councillor Johnstone to serve on the new Sub Group on Community Justice which COSLA's Community Well-Being Executive Group has recently agreed to establish.

**2 Background**

- 2.1** COSLA's Community Well-Being Executive Group has agreed to establish a Sub Group on Community Justice given the recent proposals to disestablish Community Justice Authorities and transfer their roles and responsibilities to Community Planning Partnerships. Further information is shown in the **Annex** hereto. The role of Community Justice Authorities is to reduce reoffending.
- 2.2** In order for the Sub Group's meetings to be productive and manageable, COSLA is limiting places at each meeting to one per local authority, in line with its Executive Group procedures. It is up to each local authority to decide on its membership. COSLA however is aware that some authorities may wish to nominate two members and, based on the focus of the agenda, for the appropriate elected member to attend.
- 2.3** The Sub-Group will not be a decision-making body but will provide a sounding board to inform the deliberations of the COSLA Executive Group and other meetings given the timescales associated with the Community Justice proposals.
- 2.4** COSLA is keen to establish the Sub Group as quickly as possible. This is to allow the first meeting to take place in November or December, in advance of the next Community Well-Being Executive Group, to facilitate a regular meeting cycle and to clarify its remit. Chief Executives were therefore asked to submit the names of their Council's nominees(s) by Monday 27th October 2014 or if this timescale wouldn't allow sufficient time for firm nominations to be made, the names of any provisional representatives until they could be confirmed.
- 2.5** In view of the timescale involved, and following consultation with the Leader of the Council, COSLA has been advised that pending ratification at this meeting, the Council wishes meantime to put forward the name of Councillor Catherine Johnstone, Cabinet Portfolio-holder for Children's Services with Adult and Social Care. Councillor Johnstone is also the Convenor of the Lothian and Borders Community Justice Authority.

- 2.6** COSLA has also been advised that the position regarding any second Council nominee will be decided at today's meeting.

### **3 Report Implications**

#### **3.1 Resource**

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

#### **3.2 Risk**

The risk for the Council in not participating in the Sub Group is that it will lose the opportunity to influence decision-making in this area.

#### **3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☒ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

#### **3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

By having the ability to influence developing thinking on the transfer of Community Justice to Community Planning Partnerships, the appointments referred to in this report will both directly and indirectly support the achievement of the key priorities of the Single Midlothian Plan, namely:-

- Economic Growth and Business Support
- Positive Destinations
- Early Years

#### **3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

Failure to make the appointments will adversely affect the performance and outcomes referred to at paragraph 3.4 above.

#### **3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

Not applicable.

#### **3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

This report has been prepared in consultation with the Chief Executive and Directors.

#### **3.8 Ensuring Equalities**

An EqIA is not required.

#### **3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development**

Not applicable.

#### **3.10 IT Issues**

Not applicable.

#### **4 Recommendation**

The Council is asked to:-

- (a) endorse the action of the Chief Executive, taken in consultation with the Leader of the Council, in putting forward the name of Councillor Johnstone to serve on the new Sub Group on Community Justice which COSLA's Community Well-Being Executive Group has agreed to establish; and
- (b) consider the position regarding the appointment of a second nominee.

**28 October 2014**

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