

Meeting:	Joint Committee
Date:	6 March 2019
Report Title:	District Council Representation
Report by:	Katie Nurcombe
Item No:	3
Part:	A

Recommendation

The Joint Committee is asked to **ratify** the Coast to Capital Board decision to introduce an additional District Council Director to the Board.

The Joint Committee is also asked to **approve** the extension of Councillor Wall's term as District Council representative by three months to August 2019 to align the District Council appointment process with the Coast to Capital Articles.

1. Introduction

At the end of 2018 we consulted with Districts and Boroughs on their representation on the Coast to Capital Board. The majority of respondents strongly agreed to introduce an additional District Council Director on the Board.

2. District Council Representation

The Coast to Capital Board at its meeting in January 2019 agreed to introduce this additional District Council Director as follows:

- One District Council Director for the District and Boroughs in the southern part of the area (Adur, Worthing, Arun, Chichester and the South Downs National Park)
- One District Council Director for the Districts and Boroughs surrounding Gatwick (Horsham, Mid Sussex, Crawley, Mole Valley *, Reigate & Banstead, Tandridge, and Epsom & Ewell).
- The role of the Directors is to promote the voice of the Districts and Boroughs and support the delivery of the Coast to Capital mission.
- Both Directors will be appointed by the Coast to Capital Chairman following a nomination by the Districts and Boroughs they represent.
- In line with our approach and commitment to diversity in relation to Board recruitment diversity is a key consideration for this position
- They will serve a term of two-years with the possibility of serving a further one-year term following approval by the Districts and Boroughs they represent and the Chairman.
- The District Council representatives are also the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee, as decided by the Chairman, to ensure continuity and consistency of engagement.
- In advance of Board meetings the representatives will be able to share the Chief Executive Report with their colleagues in full and other public papers and a summary of the key decisions to be taken at that Board meeting if confidential.

- The South Downs National Park would not be able to put themselves forward for a District Council representative position but are part of the group that is represented.

This additional Board seat requires a specific amendment to our Articles to change our maximum Board number from 19 to 20, which is the Government's specified maximum Board size.

3. Board Composition

Ensuring good governance is a priority for Coast to Capital and it is also one of the three areas assessed by Government in our Annual Review. Our governance is currently confirmed as compliant and we are expecting either a good or exceptional rating. We have not had any areas in relation to our Board composition flagged to us as requiring attention by Government. We meet all the requirements included in the LEP Review which include ensuring a 2/3 private sector representation. We are pleased to be able to add an additional District Council Director and still meet this requirement.

4. Next Steps

If ratified, the changes will be reflected in the updated Coast to Capital Assurance Framework which is due to be published before 31 March 2019. The changes will also be reflected in an updated version of the Coast to Capital Articles.

Councillor Wall's term as District Council representative and Joint Committee Chairman comes to an end in May 2019. Given the required alignment with the timing of the Coast to Capital AGM as specified in the Articles we are proposing an appointment timeline as follows:

- District and Borough representative in each area to put themselves forward to nomination to Councillor Wall on behalf of Coast to Capital (June)
- Nominations are agreed in each area – co-ordinated by Councillor Wall and shared with Coast to Capital (June/July)
- Nominated candidate to meet with Coast to Capital Chairman (July)
- Chairman to approve candidates position and agree Chairman and Vice Chairman of Joint Committee (August)
- Positions to be confirmed at Coast to Capital AGM (September)
- New members to attend first Coast to Capital Board meeting (October)

As such, the Joint Committee would need to agree to extend Councillor Wall's term to August 2019 for continuity.

5. Diversity Statement

Diversity has been highlighted by Government as an area we need to make progress on and Government has also confirmed that the expectations of a third female representation on our Board by 2020 and an equal representation by 2023 relates to the entire Board and not just the private sector portion of the Board. There are currently only two female leaders of Districts and Boroughs in the Coast to Capital area. We are not able to influence the nominations for the two District Council Director positions in any way; however, we would encourage female District or Borough Leaders to consider this position.

6. Legal

Government has confirmed that our Governance arrangements and these agreed changes meet the requirements of the LEP review and all published guidance. Croydon, as our Accountable Body, is content with the proposed changes agreed by the Board to be ratified by the Joint Committee.

*addendum: Mole Valley added post Meeting