

Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee – Appointments

City of Edinburgh Council

25 August 2011

Purpose of report

- 1 This report informs the Council of the outcome of a recruitment exercise to fill vacancies in the membership of the Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee (EPVC) following the Council's delegation of powers to the Head of Legal and Administrative Services in June 2011.
- 2 This report also informs the Council of arrangements to fill two further vacancies.

Details

- 3 Under the Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Amendment Rules 2006, the Council appoints ten members of the EPVC. On 2 June 2011 the Council was advised of three vacancies in the EPVC's membership. The Council delegated authority to the Head of Legal and Administrative Services to consider the recommendations of the interviewing panel and make appointments, reporting back to the Council when the process was complete.
- 4 By the time the interviews were held, the number of vacancies had risen to four. Interviews were carried out on 7 and 9 June 2011 by Rachel Peacock, Vice-Chair of the Visiting Committee and Dot Fraser, the Council's Criminal Justice Practice Team Manager at the Edinburgh Prison. Support was provided by the Committee Services section.
- 5 The interview Panel recommended that G McNie, M Scotney, J Warburton, and F West be appointed as members of the EPVC and that G Sneddon and HM Tuiwaiwai be held as first and second reserves respectively. In the event of further vacancies, the reserves would be appointed and the position reported to Council. A serving member of the Visiting Committee, J Balfour, had asked for a leave of absence and the Interviewing Panel recommended that she be added as a third reserve.
- 6 The Head of Legal and Administrative Services agreed to these recommendations. All appointments needed at that time have now been made following receipt of satisfactory certificates from Disclosure Scotland.

- 7 The Chair of the Visiting Committee has advised of two further resignations. One member, A Evans, has resigned but asked to go on the reserve list. The vacancy can be filled immediately from the two reserves shown above.
- 8 The second resignation was by Councillor Gunn of the Scottish Borders Council. Since local government reorganisation in 1996, the City of Edinburgh Council has invited the Scottish Borders Council to nominate two persons for membership of the Visiting Committee in recognition of the removal of that Council's direct appointment at that time. The Scottish Borders Council will be asked if it wishes to make a nomination when it next meets on 25 August 2011.

Financial Implications

- 9 There are no adverse financial implications arising from this report.

Environmental Impact

- 10 There are no adverse environmental impacts arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 11 There are no adverse equalities impacts arising from this report.

Recommendations

- 12 That the Council: -
 - a) notes the appointment of G McNie, M Scotney J Warburton, and F West as members of the Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee;
 - b) notes that G Sneddon will be appointed to fill a further vacancy and that HM Tuiwaiwai, J Balfour and A Evans will be held as reserves in the event of further vacancies arising; and
 - c) subject to a satisfactory certificate from Disclosure Scotland, appoints the nominee of the Scottish Borders Council to the second vacancy, or, if no nomination is made, fills that vacancy from the reserve list.

David Jack
Acting Director of Corporate Services

Appendices	None.
Contact/tel	Henry Scullion Committee Services. Tel: 0131 529 4283 email: henry.scullion@edinburgh.gov.uk
Single Outcome Agreement	
Wards affected	None.
Background Papers	Emails from the Chair of the Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee, held by H Scullion, Committee Services