

SPECIAL MEETING OF PERTH AND KINROSS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Members were previously advised of the requirement to hold a special meeting of the Perth and Kinross Integration Joint Board on Tuesday 21 April 2020 at 2.00pm. Due to the restrictions in place as part of Coronavirus (COVID-19), it was not possible to hold a physical meeting. Following discussions with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Chief Officer, all voting members were invited in terms of Standing Order 4.4 to confirm by written response their agreement or otherwise to the proposals contained within Item 1 on the agenda by Tuesday 21 April 2020.

Voting Members:

Councillor Eric Drysdale, Perth and Kinross Council (Chair)
Councillor John Duff, Perth and Kinross Council
Councillor Xander McDade, Perth and Kinross Council
Councillor Callum Purves, Perth and Kinross Council
Bob Benson, Tayside NHS Board (Vice-Chair)
Peter Drury, Tayside NHS Board
Ronnie Erskine, Tayside NHS Board
Pat Kilpatrick, Tayside NHS Board

1. FUTURE IJB MEETINGS

The next scheduled business meeting of the Integration Joint Board was due to take place on Wednesday 29 April 2020 and in light of the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, and following discussion between the Chair, Vice-Chair, Chief Officer, Chief Finance Officer and Clerk to the Board, it was proposed that this meeting be cancelled. In line with the Integration Scheme, the role of the IJB is to set the strategic direction of health and social care services in Perth and Kinross, and the Board recently agreed both the revised Strategic Plan and budget for 2020/21. Operational decisions are being taken by the Chief Officer, in consultation with both the Chief Executives of Perth and Kinross Council and NHS Tayside, in response to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis on a daily basis, and it is intended that board members will be provided with regular high level briefings for information, the frequency of which will be determined by available staff resources as the crisis develops. In terms of the remaining scheduled dates for board meetings, the above position would continue to be reviewed over the coming weeks.

R Erskine expressed his opinion that a full meeting of the Integrated Joint Board should be held as soon as possible after 29 April 2020 in order that the public could see that Board members are fully discharging their role and so as not to appear to be seen as trying to avoid public scrutiny.

Councillor Purves again expressed his strong disagreement to the interpretation of the standing orders that allow e-mail chains to meet the requirement to hold a meeting and did not agree that it was competent to take any form of decisions in this way and asked that his dissent be recorded in the minute to any decision that is reached.

Councillor McDade express similar concerns to Councillor Purves, stating that it was his belief that being provided with occasional briefings is not a substitute for meetings where Board members can perform their scrutiny and challenge function. He further stated that the public had a right to know about decisions being made on their behalf and private e-mail chains to make decisions were completely unacceptable and asked that his dissent also be recorded in the minute to any decision that is reached.

Councillor Drysdale further updated the Board that following a meeting with the Vice-Chair and Clerk he had received an update on the recent successful testing undertaken by Perth and Kinross Council ahead of their first scheduled virtual committee meeting taking place that week and advising that he was comfortable that a virtual meeting of the Integration Joint board could now be planned with a degree of confidence. He further stated he remains firmly of the view that meetings should be arranged to minimise the impact on officers' focus on operational matters at this time and it would be his intention therefore, that the timing of the meeting be prioritised to avoid any potential conflict with senior officers' other operational commitments.

He further commented that it was envisaged the agenda would contain a Chief Officer's Report, Finance Update, Covid-19 Update and a Mental Health Report and proposed there would be discussion on Governance and Communication Issues.

He proposed that the Clerk be instructed to make arrangements for scheduling the next meeting of the Perth and Kinross Integration Joint Board, by video conference, to discuss the above agenda items, as soon as practically possible in the month of May 2020 with the intention that the meeting, excluding any matters that may, following legal advice, require to be discussed in private be live-streamed (subject to technology allowing) via the Perth and Kinross Council website.

He asked all voting members to signify their agreement or otherwise to the above proposed resolution by return email by close of business on Friday 24 April 2020 to allow planning of this meeting to then commence.

P Drury, R Erskine, Councillors C Purves, J Duff and X McDade all confirmed their agreement to the above proposal.

Resolved:

The Clerk be instructed to make arrangements for scheduling the next meeting of the Perth and Kinross Integration Joint Board, by video conference, to discuss the above agenda items, as soon as practically possible in the month of May 2020 with the intention that the meeting, excluding any matters that may, following legal advice, require to be discussed in private be live-streamed (subject to technology allowing) via the Perth and Kinross Council website.