

## Report to Partnership Meeting 3 June 2014

### PARTNERSHIP

#### Non Council Board Member – Health Sector Liaison

**PURPOSE OF REPORT** This Report sets out the outcome of the process recommended by the Partnership Board in respect to their aspiration to maintain a link with the health sector through Non Council Board Member Mr Okain MacLennan.

#### BACKGROUND

- 1 The membership of RTP's is outlined in the Regional Transport Partnerships (Establishment, Constitution and Membership) (Scotland) Order 2005. For HITRANS this constituted one member from each of the constituent authorities and 2-3 other non-council members. Following public advertisement and subsequent interviews HITRANS appointed 3 non-council members to the Partnership Board. In April 2008 the Partnership considered a Report giving consideration to having greater input from the health sector in the development of the Partnership where it was agreed to appoint a suitably experienced Permanent Advisor to the Board to represent the sector.
- 2 Following Mr Donald MacNeil's resignation in 2008 the Board considered appointing a non-council member to represent the health sector. The then Partnership Director discussed the proposal with NHS Highland and, following an agreement with the other Health Boards in the Highlands and Islands area, Mr Okain MacLennan was appointed as a non-council member. The letter from Dave Duthie to Mr Douglas Forson dated 11 March 2009 details the background to Mr MacLennan's appointment. This letter confirms that Mr MacLennan's appointment was on the basis of his knowledge of the health sector through his involvement with the NHS Highland Health Board. The letter indicated that NHS Highland would seek the agreement of the other NHS Board Chairs in the Highlands and Islands area for this nomination although the letter also makes it clear that Mr MacLennan would not be formally representing NHS Highland or any of the other four Health Boards.
- 3 The input of a non Council Board Member with knowledge and interest in health matters has proved valuable to the Partnership.
- 4 Mr MacLennan's term on the Board of NHS Highland ended in January 2014. This change in circumstances prompted consideration of how HITRANS could continue to engage at Board level with health sector interests. While the Partnership Board agreed that Mr MacLennan's change in circumstances (in terms of his dual Board roles at HITRANS and NHS Highland) had no bearing on his appointment with HITRANS as a Non Council Board Member it was agreed that it would be desirable to maintain, if possible the link Mr MacLennan's experience and contacts could offer with the health sector.

## HITRANS BOARD RECOMMENDATION

- 5 The following the recommendation was agreed by the HITRANS Partnership Board at their meeting of 7 February 2014, "to seek confirmation from NHS Highland that, with the formal agreement of the other Highlands and Islands Health Boards, they were happy for Mr MacLennan to continue to represent the health sector at Board meetings. It would be left to NHS Highland to seek confirmation from the other Highlands and Islands Health Boards on this course of action."
- 6 Following this recommendation the Partnership Chair wrote to Ms Elaine Mead, Chief Executive of NHS Highland asking that Ms Mead facilitate the Board recommendation through the NHS North of Scotland Planning Group.
- 7 NHS Highland followed up the request and responded to HITRANS in a letter dated 19 May 2014. This letter advised that it had not been possible to secure a consensus of support for Mr Okain MacLennan continuing to represent the health sector on HITRANS Board. The letter advised that one Board had not responded to the request.
- 8 The letter summarised the rationale for the failure to achieve support for HITRANS request as follows:
- i. Concern that as Mr MacLennan is no longer a NHS Board Member he will not be able to remain up to date with health issues and represent the NHS Boards
  - ii. There may be others in the North of Scotland Health Boards with relevant interests who would wish to be considered for the role
  - iii. Ensuring transparency of the process for selection for the health sector representation on the HITRANS Board (within HITRANS and the NHS Boards).
- 9 The Partnership Director and Chair responded to this letter by thanking NHS Highland for investigating the Board's recommendation. In terms of i. and ii. above this response stressed that as a Statutory body it was the responsibility of the HITRANS Board alone to make recommendations to Ministers in respect of their non Council Board Members. In terms of point iii. the reply reiterated that Mr MacLennan's position as a Non Council Board Member of HITRANS is not affected by his change in status with NHS Highland. His status as such was not the subject of the request.
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## RECOMMENDATION

- 11 Members are asked to Note the Report which confirms the Mr Okain MacLennan will not provide a link from the health sector to the HITRANS Board and his status will be entirely independent as a Non Council Board Member.

**Report by:** Ranald Robertson  
**Designation:** Partnership Director  
**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014