

Research into councillor workload

For discussion

1. At its meeting on 9 November, the Commission considered a draft foreword for the research report into the role and workload of a councillor. A revised draft foreword and the final report from the researchers is included at Appendix A and the Commission's final views are invited.
2. The researchers have also provided the Secretariat with a dataset in compliance with the contractual requirements. This has been forwarded to Professor Henderson and the Secretariat awaits authorisation to settle the final invoice from the researchers.
3. The Commission will need to agree arrangements for publication of the research. The Secretariat suggests that:
 - 3.1. It is published as soon as possible as there continue to be requests for sight of it. Publication before 13 April would avoid the Scottish Government pre-election restrictions in advance of the local government elections in May;
 - 3.2. That it is published online and comments are invited from interested parties;
 - 3.3. That in advance of publication a copy is sent to all Chief Executives, Cosla and Solace, inviting comments and in the case of Cosla offering a meeting to discuss next steps. This might tie in with discussion around the islands review and approach to the next round of electoral reviews.
4. The Commission may wish to consider any other research activity to follow on from publication, for example whether there are further issues that may point to commissioning of another research project.

Recommendation

5. The Secretariat invites the Commission to:
 - Agree the revised Foreword at Appendix A.
 - Authorise payment of the final invoice.
 - Agree arrangements for publication of the research.

Secretariat
March 2017