

Election of Vice Chair or Vice Chairs

Officers' Recommendation

That the Authority reverts to appointing one Vice Chair

Background

Section 4.1 and 4.2 of the Authority's Standing Orders sets out that;

4.1 At the first meeting held after the beginning of the financial year. Members will elect a maximum of two Vice-Chairs for the year beginning with the meeting at which they are elected and ending with the first meeting held after the beginning of the following financial year.

4.2 The Vice-Chairs may be any Members of the Authority.

The change to two Vice Chairs was proposed and agreed at the AGM held on 18th June 2015.

At the AGM held on 16th July 2021 nominations were sought to appoint Members to the two Vice Chair positions. Dr Pamela Buchan was nominated and accepted the role but no other nominations were received and the second Vice Chair position has been vacant for the last twelve months.

It is the Officers' understanding that D&S IFCA is the only IFCA to operate with two Vice Chairs.

Proposed Change to Standing Orders

There is some additional resilience built into the Authority structure by having two Vice Chairs but there have been no occasions when either the Chair or the Vice Chair has not been available to undertake the Chair of the Authority's work and responsibilities. In addition, the Authority appoints a separate Chair to the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee.

Having two Vice Chairs does create some additional administrative challenges in finding suitable times in all diaries for meetings and waiting for responses to emails.

Article 14(1) of the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 sets out;

14.—(1) *The Authority must appoint from among its members a person (the "vice-chair") who is to chair any meeting of the Authority which the chair is unable to chair (but see paragraphs (4) and (5)).*

(2) *If neither the chair nor the vice-chair is able to chair a meeting of the Authority, the members present at the meeting must appoint one of their number to chair the meeting*

It would seem that reverting to one Vice Chair would be aligned with the 2010 Order and provisions are made in the legislation if the Chair and Vice Chair are both unavailable at meetings.

If the Officers' recommendation to revert to having one Vice Chair position was supported by Members, the Authority's Standing Orders would be amended to reflect that decision

Background Papers/Links

[Authority meeting minutes – 18th June 2015](#)

[Authority meeting minutes – 16th July 2021](#)

[Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010](#)

End.