



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Local Government and Communities Committee

Wednesday 10 January 2018

Session 5



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

1st Meeting 2018, Session 5

CONVENER

*Bob Doris (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Lab)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (SNP)

*Jenny Gilruth (Mid Fife and Glenrothes) (SNP)

*Graham Simpson (Central Scotland) (Con)

*Alexander Stewart (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con)

*Andy Wightman (Lothian) (Green)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Jane Williams

LOCATION

The James Clerk Maxwell Room (CR4)

Scottish Parliament

Local Government and Communities Committee

Wednesday 10 January 2018

[The Convener opened the meeting at 10:00]

Interests

The Convener (Bob Doris): Good morning, and welcome to the first meeting in 2018 of the Local Government and Communities Committee. I remind everyone to turn off their mobile phones. As meeting papers are provided in a digital format, members may use tablets during the meeting.

I wish everyone a happy new year, on our first day back. No apologies have been received—we have a full house, which is good to see.

Agenda item 1 is a declaration of interests. Members will note that Elaine Smith has left the committee to pursue a new role in her party. I wish her well in her new role and thank her for her vital contribution to the committee's work this session. This is my first time as the convener of a committee, so I have really appreciated her support, for which I give her my personal thanks.

That said, we are delighted that Monica Lennon has been appointed as the new member of the committee from the Labour Party. I welcome her and invite her to declare any interests that are relevant to the committee's work.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Lab): Thank you for that warm welcome, convener.

I refer the committee to my register of interests. Members will note that I am a chartered town planner. I am not practising, but I am still a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute. Also, until 4 May last year, I was an elected member of South Lanarkshire Council.

The Convener: That sounds like a pretty good track record for coming on to the committee.

Deputy Convener

10:01

The Convener: Agenda item 2 is to choose a deputy convener. Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Labour Party are eligible for nomination as deputy convener of the committee. That said, there is still a formal nomination process to go through. I invite nominations for the post.

Andy Wightman (Lothian) (Green): I nominate Monica Lennon.

The Convener: There are no other nominations.

Monica Lennon was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: Congratulations, Monica. It is good to have you on board.

Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (SNP): That was a rapid promotion. [*Laughter.*]

The Convener: After that fleeting visit to a public session, we move to agenda item 3, which is scrutiny of the draft budget for 2018-19 and which we agreed previously to take in private.

10:02

Meeting continued in private until 11:57.

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