

# CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT: CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR ARRANGEMENT

2 December 2021

***Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Board before taking effect.***

## RECOMMENDATION

### It is recommended that:

- (a) amended Constitution wording, so that the Chair and Vice-Chair positions are rotated every two years, be approved

### 1. Background

This paper recommends amending the Constitution with regard to the rotation of the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair positions, from the current one year period to a two year period.

With the operation of the Board and its members now better established, there is recognition that the one year term could limit the impact and value that the Chair and Vice-Chair are able to make. An extension to a two year period in office will allow more time to familiarise themselves with the roles and to offer more opportunity to provide meaningful contribution

### 2. Proposal

Paragraphs 8.1. to 8.3 of the Constitution of the Peninsula Transport Shadow Sub-National Transport Body sets out the current procedures for election and the role of Chair and Vice-Chair, including that each will be elected for a period of one municipal year on an agreed rotation basis among the constituent members.

The Constitution was adopted by the partner authorities prior to the inaugural meeting of the Board in November 2018, with the Chair and Vice-Chair formally confirmed at the inaugural meeting in line with the Constitution.

The first rotation of the Chair and Vice-Chair appointments did not take place at the meeting scheduled nearest to the 12-month anniversary. With the further impacts of Covid-19 and with the May 2021 local elections, it was agreed that the rotation of Chair and Vice-Chair was deferred until the meeting on 21 June 2021 with the Cabinet Member from Devon County Council becoming Chair and the Cabinet Member from Plymouth City Council becoming Vice-Chair in line with the Constitution.

It is now proposed that the text in paragraphs 8.1 to 8.3 of the Constitution be amended to allow for the Chair and Vice Chair to remain in office for a period of 2 years, while the rotation arrangements at the end of each 2 year period would remain the same:

#### **8 Election and role of Chair and Vice-Chair**

- 8.1** *The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected for a term of two municipal years from within the Local Transport Authority representation on the SWPSSTB Board.*

- 8.2 *The first election will take place at the inaugural meeting of the SWPSSTB Board and at the meeting scheduled nearest to the 24-month anniversary of the inaugural meeting, every 2 years thereafter.*
- 8.3 *The Chair and Vice-Chair appointments will rotate once every two years amongst the elected members of the SWPSSTB Board. The rotation will be defined alphabetically by Local Authority with no single organisation holding the chair for successive terms. The Vice-Chair will become the Chair in the subsequent term.*
- 8.4 *In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will Chair the meeting. In the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, the voting members present will appoint a Chair for the duration of the meeting from within the Constituent Authority elected member representation.*

### **3. Options/Alternatives**

The option to retain the Chair and Vice-Chair appointments on an annual basis was considered and discounted due to the limitations that the reduced time in office provides for the holders to become familiar with their roles and to have a meaningful impact.

### **4. Consultations**

The proposal has been discussed informally with the local authority partners prior to being considered formally by the Board. No public or community consultation is considered necessary regarding this procedural matter.

### **5. Financial Considerations**

There are no specific financial considerations associated with this paper.

### **6. Environmental Impact Considerations**

There are no specific environmental impact considerations associated with this paper.

### **7. Equality Considerations**

There are no specific equality considerations associated with this paper.

### **8. Legal Considerations**

There are no specific legal considerations associated with this paper.

### **9. Risk Management Considerations**

There are no specific risk management considerations associated with this paper.

### **10. Public Health Impact**

There are no specific public health impacts associated with this paper.

**11. Reasons for Recommendations**

It is recommended that the amendments to the Constitution are approved to enable the Chair and Vice-Chair to have an enhanced opportunity to provide a meaningful contribution in their roles and reflect the more established nature of Peninsula Transport since the Constitution was originally adopted.