Item No: 12

Meeting Date: **Wednesday 24th June 2026**

Glasgow City Integration Joint Board

Report By: **Craig Cowan, Head of Business Development / Standards Officer**

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Extension of Integration Joint Board Voting Rights

Purpose of Report:	To update on the Scottish Statutory Instrument to extend IJB voting rights to service user, unpaid carer and third sector representatives, and seek approval for the required approach to implementation of the changes taking effect in September.

Background/Engagement:	On 19 December 2025, the Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing laid before Scottish Parliament regulations that extend voting rights to service user, unpaid carer and third sector representatives on Integration Joint Boards. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 will come into force on 1 September 2026

Governance Route:	The matters contained within this paper have been previously considered by the following group(s) as part of its development. HSCP Senior Management Team ☐ Council Corporate Management Team ☐ Health Board Corporate Management Team ☐ Council Committee ☐ Update requested by IJB ☐ Other ☐ Not Applicable ☒

Recommendations:	The Integration Joint Board is asked to: a) Note the update on extension of IJB voting rights; b) Approve the proposal for implementation of the extension of voting rights as outlined at 4.6 and; c) Approve a review of arrangements within six months to allow time to consider longer term requirements and any updated guidance.

Relevance to Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan:

Relates to matters of governance.

Implications for Health and Social Care Partnership:

Reference to National Health & Wellbeing Outcome(s):	None. Relates to matters of governance.
Personnel:	None. Relates to matters of governance.
Carers:	The revised regulations will extend voting rights to service user and unpaid carer representatives on Integration Joint Boards.
Provider Organisations:	The revised regulations will extend voting rights to third sector representatives on Integration Joint Boards.
Equalities:	None.
Fairer Scotland Compliance:	None.
Financial:	None.
Legal:	The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 will come into force on 1 September 2026. This Order amends the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 so that third sector, unpaid carer and service user representative members have voting rights.
Economic Impact:	None.
Sustainability:	None.
Sustainable Procurement and Article 19:	None.
Risk Implications:	Failure to ensure appropriate Member representation on the IJB and its Committees would place the IJB in breach of its statutory duties and Standing Orders and risk the IJB not being able to conduct its business.

Implications for Glasgow City Council:	None.

Implications for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde:	None.

Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	
Direction to:	
1. No Direction Required	☒
2. Glasgow City Council	☐
3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	☐
4. Glasgow City Council and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	☐

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an update on the Scottish Statutory Instrument to extend IJB voting rights to service user, unpaid carer and third sector representatives. This paper also seeks to propose how the changes to voting rights will take effect from September 2026.

2. Background

2.1 On 19 December 2025, the Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing laid before Scottish Parliament regulations that extend voting rights to service user, unpaid carer and third sector representatives on Integration Joint Boards.

3. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025

3.1. In the membership update report brought to the IJB at its meeting on 21st January 2026, members were informed that the Scottish Government had laid before parliament a Statutory Instrument to amend the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 to extend IJB voting rights to service user, unpaid carer and third sector representatives.

3.2. The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee have concluded their scrutiny of the impact of the legislation, with no MSP submitting a motion to annul, therefore the Order comes into effect on 1 September 2026.

3.3. The Scottish Government established a working group to consider the practical implementation of the extension of voting rights, including recruitment, governance, codes of conduct and training and development.

3.4. Draft Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions have now been issued, however a number of the key matters relating to appointments, recruitment, renumeration, training etc., have been left for IJBs to determine and implement locally.

4. Glasgow City IJB Arrangements

4.1. The extension to voting rights automatically extends the voting member status to the five non-voting stakeholder representatives on the IJB representing users of services (two), carers (two) and the third sector (one). The Integration Scheme, reflecting statutory guidance, requires that at least one non-voting member per stakeholder group must be appointed to the IJB.

4.2. When GCIJB recruited to the positions of service user (x3) and unpaid carer members (x2) last year, a decision was taken to appoint into a 'pool' of representatives, rather than appoint designated members and substitutes. It was agreed therefore as a principle that the full complement of representatives would not all attend the meetings at the same time but would rather agree who should attend based on availability, areas of interest and expertise. This was intended to allow flexibility of attendance at meetings, whilst maintaining the agreed composition of Glasgow City IJB's membership which remains 2 service user members and 1 unpaid carer member. At that stage, the Scottish Government's intentions to extend voting rights were not known.

4.3. Contact has been made with the five stakeholder members currently representing service users and carers to request confirmation of their acceptance or otherwise of these rights and to clarify if they wish to remain on GCIJB when voting rights come into effect on 1 September 2026. One service user representative has decided to withdraw from their role when the voting rights come into force. This will leave two service user representatives and two carer representatives (in addition to the Third sector representative).

4.4. Further discussions will take place with those members who have chosen to remain involved as to how the new rights are implemented, in line with the guidance and FAQs. Work will be undertaken with all members who will have voting rights extended to them between now and September to ensure their readiness for the next IJB on 23 September 2026.

4.5. For clarification, whilst the new voting rights are automatically assigned to all appointed stakeholder representatives, those members are not required under the legislation to attend or to exercise their vote. Voting members can vote for, against or abstain from decisions/motions on the table, with the exception of decisions that are required by statutory provision (e.g. annual budget setting) when abstention is not permitted.

4.6 One option in relation to implementation of the new voting entitlement is for all five new voting members (2x service user, 2x carer and 1x third sector) to attend each meeting and exercise their right to vote as they see fit. This will increase the total number of voting members to 21 and for now does not assume replacement of the stakeholder member that has opted to disengage from IJB involvement, with a proposed quorum of 11. This will mean carers and service users will have two votes each for any decision, whilst the third sector will have one.

4.7 A further option is to retain the principle in operation with the non-voting stakeholder representatives whereby one member per group (service user, carer and third sector) is nominated as the substantive voting member with identified substitutes. This will result in 3 additional voting members on Glasgow City IJB attending each meeting, taking the total to 19 with a proposed quorum of 10, and would ensure parity in terms of the number of votes available to each stakeholder group. Agreement would be sought on who would adopt the position of substantive (voting) member and who will be the named substitute in each category.

4.8 Legal advice has been sought in relation to the option at 4.7 to establish whether it is permissible within the new requirements. It has been confirmed that this option would not be non-compliant with the draft guidance. However, it is the view of officers that this option could only be supported by an informal agreement with the new voting members and could not be enforced. This therefore creates the risk of confusion and challenge and effectively results in two voting members not being able to exercise their vote.

4.9 It is the recommendation of officers that for the September IJB all five stakeholder members in scope attend as voting members, increasing the voting membership to 21, with the quorum for the IJB increased to 11.

5. Next steps

5.1 Discussions are ongoing with the IJB stakeholder representatives representing the Third and Independent sectors to consider how the new voting entitlements could be implemented in relation to those sectors. An update will be provided at a subsequent IJB.

5.2 Consideration should be given to the longer term requirements of implementing the extension of voting rights. This should include consideration of; how many representatives should be appointed to the IJB for each stakeholder group; whether this requires a recruitment process; what support arrangements require to be in place for lived experience voting members; substitute arrangements; and any required updates to the remuneration policy approved by the IJB.

5.3 These longer term considerations should, as a minimum, take into account the views of Members, the current draft guidance and Frequently Asked Questions and any updates that are received from the Scottish Government prior to and post-implementation in September.

5.4 It is recommended that the position agreed is reviewed within an initial period of six months to reflect on any updated guidance and consider the views of IJB members to implement improvements where required.

5.5 The changes to voting rights on the IJB will be reflected in the updated Standing Orders and Integration Scheme. These updates may not be in place prior to September when the changes take effect. For the avoidance of doubt, where the IJB's governance documents are out of synch with legislative requirements, those requirements take precedence and officers will work to bring the governance arrangements in line as soon as possible.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

a) Note the update on extension of IJB voting rights;
b) Approve the proposal for implementation of the extension of voting rights as outlined at 4.6 and;
c) Approve a review of arrangements within six months to allow time to consider longer term requirements and any updated guidance.