

The David Hume Institute

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NEWS RELEASE

Spring Seminar Series 2008

6pm 19 February 2008

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh

"Scottish Councils; sinking or swimming?"

Principal speaker:

Professor John Baillie

Chair Accounts Commission for Scotland

Response from **Bernadette Malone**

Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council

Chair: **Lord Boyd of Duncansby**

Head of Public Law Dundas & Wilson

Sponsored by **Dundas & Wilson**



Jeremy Peat, Director of The David Hume Institute said: "We are delighted that Professor John Baillie has agreed to give this talk for us on the changing face of Scottish Councils and that Bernadette Malone has agreed to respond. We are very grateful to Dundas and Wilson for sponsoring this event.

Given the impact of voting system changes in Scottish local government in 2006 alongside other major pressures for change, this seminar will consider the evidence as to how well Scottish councils are coping so far with seismic change and the prospects for their future. "

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Lord Boyd said: "Scottish local government faces many opportunities and challenges in the coming years and we are pleased to have the opportunity to help encourage the current debate through this highly- relevant seminar. It will consider how Councils have responded to the changes over the past year and how well they are placed to go forward."

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Professor John Baillie Professor John Baillie is Chair of the Accounts Commission for Scotland and Chair of the Audit Scotland board. Audit Scotland's function is to carry out work for the Accounts Commission and Auditor General for Scotland. Audit Scotland is independent. John is a visiting Professor of Accountancy at the University of Glasgow and a member of the Reporting Panel of the Competition Commission. He was previously a member of the Local Government Finance Review Committee and is also a former partner of KPMG and Scott-Moncrieff.

For information: a link to the Government press release announcing his appointment as Chair of the Accounts Commission (John was previously a member of the Accounts Commission).
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/11/27121737>

Bernadette Malone - Bernadette took up the post of Chief Executive of Perth and Kinross Council on 1 May 2003.

During her employment in Perth and Kinross Council, she has been responsible for managing the Performance Planning and Management Service.

She began her local government career in 1990 when she joined Tayside Regional Council as a Community Planning Officer working in Whitfield in Dundee. Five years later she joined Clackmannan District Council as Strategic Planning Manager then in 1996 transferred to the new Perth and Kinross Council.

Bernadette has a Master of Arts Degree from Dundee University, a Teaching Certificate and a Diploma in Education. She also has a Master of Business Administration Degree.

She has been a guest lecturer on various undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses. She currently holds the Solace portfolio for Best Value and Performance.

Notes to Editors:

The views that will be expressed by the speakers are their own and do not commit the ¹Trustees or Officers of the Institute in any way.

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¹ Our Trustees and Honorary Trustees include: Mr. Robert Bertram WS, Ms Kyla Brand, Mr Jo Elliot, Professor Gavin Kennedy, Mr. Nick Kuenssberg, Dr Isabelle Low, Mr Ken Lyall, Miss Eileen Mackay CB (Chairman), Professor Hector MacQueen FRSE, Professor Donald MacRae, Professor John Murray QC, Mr Karl Snowden, Professor Joan Stringer CBE FRSE, Mrs. Catherine Blight, Sir Gerald Elliot FRSE, Lady Anne Mackenzie-Stuart, Professor Sir Alan Peacock FBA, FRSE, and Sir John Shaw CBE, FRSE.