

Tom Aitchison : CV

Personal Details

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Qualifications

M.A.(Hons) University of Glasgow, 1973

M.Sc. Heriot Watt University, 1975

Career History

I joined Lothian Regional Council in June 1975 and between then and 1987 I held various policy and management posts within the Department of Policy Planning, the Chief Executive's Office and the Department of Management and Information Services. Between 1987 and 1996 I held the following positions within the Regional Council:

- 1987-91 Corporate Planning Manager (Assistant Director)
- 1991-94 Depute Chief Executive
- 1994-96 Chief Executive

Following local government reorganisation in Scotland I was appointed Chief Executive of the City of Edinburgh Council in May 1995, a position I held until I retired in December 2010. At that time the Council's revenue budget was approximately £1 billion, it had a capital budget (excluding tram) of around £150 million and employed around 20000 staff. The main duties relating to the post of Chief Executive were:

- Principal policy adviser to the Council on strategic direction.
- Preparing the Council's Corporate Plan and overseeing its implementation.
- Managing the political/managerial interface.
- Leadership of the organisation.
- Developing and overseeing organisational arrangements and service improvement programmes.
- Oversight of corporate governance arrangements.
- Developing and promoting effective external relations and stakeholder management (e.g. with COSLA, NHS Lothian, the business community and key city stakeholders).

Additional Appointments

From 1994/5 – 2010 I also held the following positions:

- Chief Executive – Lothian and Borders Police Board
- Chief Executive – Lothian and Borders Fire Board
- Chief Executive – Lothian Valuation Board
- Chief Executive – Forth Estuary Transport Authority (latterly this position was rotated with the Chief Executive of Fife Council on a two yearly basis).
- Honorary Secretary – Edinburgh Festival Society

- Returning Officer – for all local, Scottish, UK and European elections

Professional Positions

1996-1999	Member of Court, Napier University
2000-2002	Chairman (Scottish Branch), Society of Local Authority Chief Executives.
2007-2010	Chair of the Electoral Management Board (Scotland)
2007-2010	Chairman (Scottish Branch), Association of Local Authority Chief Executives.