

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council: 29 August 2007

Subject: Affiliations

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform the Council of those organisations to which the Council has been affiliated in previous years and to seek approval to renew the affiliations on an annual basis.

2. Background

- 2.1** In previous years, West Dunbartonshire Council has received correspondence from a number of organisations seeking affiliation. The Council is currently affiliated to a number of organisations and it is therefore appropriate that the list of affiliations be reviewed at this time.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** A list of those organisations to which the Council is affiliated together with a note of the annual affiliation fees is shown in the Appendix to this report. Members are asked to note that these fees normally increase by inflation on an annual basis. It should also be noted that the list does not refer to COSLA, as the Council has already agreed to affiliate to this organisation at a previous meeting. In addition, the list does not include any affiliations to professional bodies to which relevant professional services of the Council have affiliated and are therefore funded by departmental budgets, e.g. CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy).
- 3.2** The Council is also asked to consider whether it wishes to nominate an Elected Member to serve on the Executive Committee of the Scottish National Federation for the Welfare of the Blind and the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (Scotland). The Scottish National Federation for the Welfare of the Blind has confirmed that it would be acceptable for an officer to attend its meetings in place of an Elected Member.
- 3.3** It is likely that the Council will continue to receive further requests from external organisations seeking affiliation. In order to reduce the workload of the Council, it is suggested that all future affiliation requests should be referred to the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee for consideration.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The Council is currently affiliated to all of the organisations listed in the Appendix to the report and therefore provision has been made for this expenditure within the Council's revenue budgets.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There is no requirement to undertake a risk assessment in relation to the recommendations of this report.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** Given the change in political leadership of the Council, it is appropriate that the list of affiliations be reviewed at this time.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** The Council is asked:-
- (a) to consider whether it wishes to continue its affiliation to all of the organisations shown in the Appendix to this report and authorise officers to renew the annual membership fees, as and when required;
 - (b) to consider whether it wishes to nominate an Elected Member or an officer to serve on the Scottish National Federation for the Welfare of the Blind and an Elected Member to serve on the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (Scotland); and
 - (c) to agree that all future affiliation requests be referred to the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee for consideration.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 9 August 2007

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Appendix: List of Affiliations to External Organisations

Wards Affected: None affected.

APPENDIX**List of Affiliations to External Organisations**

Name of Organisation	Summary of Purpose/Objectives	Annual Affiliation Fee
Commonwealth Local Government Forum	To encourage the development of democracy at local level in the spirit of the commitment made by Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1991 and 1993 and to exchange experience among practitioners through sharing the practice of good governance with countries and institutions embarking on the path to democracy.	£740
National Association of Councillors	To represent and further the interests of members of Local Authorities in the UK and to provide a forum for elected members to discuss items of common interest and exchange information and ideas.	£543
Nuclear Free Local Authorities (Scotland)	To identify the impact of national nuclear policy on local communities; increase local accountability over national nuclear policy; and work to minimise nuclear hazards and increase public safety.	£1155
Scottish National Federation for the Welfare of the Blind	To support and facilitate its members and work alongside other relevant bodies to inform and promote matters affecting the education, employment and other areas of social inclusion which allow blind and partially sighted people throughout Scotland to lead an independent lifestyle.	£90
Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty	The Forum is a well established all-party coalition of local authorities which pursues a range of issues of concern to its membership and works to take forward its anti-poverty agenda in a number of ways.	£910
The Tree Council	To promote the planting and conservation of trees in town and countryside. It is an umbrella body of 150 organisations working together for trees. It is also a forum for tackling issues relating to trees and woods.	£198