

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council: 19 December 2007

Subject: Affiliations

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide the Council with the additional information requested in respect of the work of the organisations to which this Council is affiliated and to seek a decision as to the renewal of those affiliations on an annual basis.

2. Background

- 2.1** At its meeting on 29 August 2007, the Council agreed that the item on affiliations should be continued pending a full report on all of the affiliations and that the report should clearly state the annual fees for each organisation and include details of the organisations' work and input in the West Dunbartonshire Area.
- 2.2** The above information was sought from all of the organisations and their responses are detailed in the appendix to this report.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** It should also be noted that the list now includes the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA). However, the Council is asked to note that it has already agreed to affiliate to this organisation and has made a number of nominations to serve on various working groups, etc.
- 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). If so, 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. The Council is asked to note that the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (Scotland) did not provide any further information.
- 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. Recommendations

7.1 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: 10 December 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	Work/Input in the West Dunbartonshire Area	Annual Affiliation Fee
Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)	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.	<p>There are no projects involving West Dunbartonshire Council at present. However, the opportunity for collaborative projects involving CLGF member councils do arise in a number of areas which we could explore with your Council depending on your geographical area of interest. Some of the specific opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council partnership programmes under the CLGF Good Practice Scheme currently being undertaken in Ghana, India, Jamaica and South Africa, but likely to be expanded to other countries such as Pakistan and Sierra Leone in 2008. • Involvement in the CLGF programme to support the strengthening of local government. • CLGF – Malawi programme and possibilities for capacity building. <p>Apart from project related work which we have mentioned there is also a significant benefit for such areas as encouraging community cohesion and facilitating staff development.</p>	<p>£740 Renewal due in May 2008</p>

Name of Organisation	Summary of Purpose/Objectives	Work/Input in the West Dunbartonshire Area	Annual Affiliation Fee
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities	COSLA is the representative voice of Scottish local government and also acts as the employers' association on behalf of Scottish councils.	As COSLA is a representative body it does not carry out specific work or projects in any specific Council area. However, it does organise various events throughout the year which are of benefit to every local authority who participates, i.e. the Leaders' Meetings (8 per year); the Annual Conference; and the Excellence awards which showcases outstanding quality in service to the public by councils across Scotland.	£64,140 Renewal due in May 2008
National Association of Councillors (NAC)	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.	<p>As the NAC is a representative body it does not carry out any specific projects/work in the West Dunbartonshire area. The NAC is the only organisation whose agenda is to look after Councillors' interests. Our European counterparts are more acceptable to their governments than UK locally elected representatives appear to be. We are campaigning to restore the balance in local government by encouraging younger people, women and ethnic minorities to become Councillors. We have also appointed a National Equality and Diversity Officer to assist with this and other campaigns.</p> <p>Other services we offer are legal advice, education at a reasonable cost and advice to councillors on the facilities their councils provide, i.e. adequate insurance cover and in-house training.</p>	£543 Renewal due June 2008

Name of Organisation	Summary of Purpose/Objectives	Work/Input in the West Dunbartonshire Area	Annual Affiliation Fee
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.	This body did not respond to the request for additional information. However, given that it is a national representative body, it is unlikely that it provides any specific services or carries out specific projects in this area.	£1155 Renewal due May 2008
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.	As the SNFWB is an umbrella organisation comprised of representatives from the various local authorities, voluntary organisations, organisations of and for the Blind throughout Scotland, its work is not confined to any one area. Initiatives that the federation have been active in recently and which have benefited the Blind community throughout Scotland are – participation in the Scottish Governments Community Eye Care Review and the establishment of training package on visual awareness for use by local authorities and other agencies.	£93 Renewal due in May 2008.

Name of Organisation	Summary of Purpose/Objectives	Work/Input in the West Dunbartonshire Area	Annual Affiliation Fee
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.	Although the Forum has held meetings in West Dunbartonshire over the years, it does not run specific projects in the area. West Dunbartonshire Council has been a member of the forum for a considerable number of years which has allowed elected members and officers to participate in the work of the Forum. As well as enabling members and officers to become aware of good practice in other parts of the country it also provides opportunities for member authorities to engage with policy makers at both Westminster and Holyrood on a range of policy issues, for example: debt and debt recovery, fuel costs for low income households and various aspects of welfare reform.	£910 Renewal fee due in September 2008.
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.	<p>At present the Tree Council does not organise any specific projects in the West Dunbartonshire area. However it is happy to support the Council in generating ideas on how to organise successful events with and for the community. The Tree Council's Community Action Programme has great potential to promote the appreciation of trees of local communities, which provides benefits for Local Authorities.</p> <p>The Tree Council holds four main events throughout the planting year – National Tree Week, the Trees Love Care campaign, Walk in</p>	£215 Renewal due December 2007

The Tree Council (cont'd)		the Woods month and Seed Gathering Season. One membership benefit is that the Tree Council will provide free literature and promotional materials on these four initiatives and offer free publicity on its website.	
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