

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

West Dunbartonshire Council: 30 May 2007

Subject: Representation on COSLA

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report requests the Council to consider making nominations to the Convention of Local Authorities in Scotland (COSLA).

2. Background

- 2.1** Correspondence has been received from COSLA inviting this Council to nominate three delegates. The Council is asked to note that the first meeting of the Convention will be held on Friday 29 June 2007 and nominations are required to be submitted by 18 June 2007.
- 2.2** The Council has also been asked to consider if it wishes to make nominations in respect of the positions of President and 2 Vice-Presidents of COSLA (one the Vice-Presidents should not be a member of the political group or coalition which forms the majority in COSLA). Nominations for these positions must be submitted by 6 June 2007 and must be supported by one other Council.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** In previous years this Council has nominated three delegates from the Administration. However, COSLA has recommended that the Council's delegation should reflect the political balance of the Council and has provided advice on how this might be achieved (see Appendix). It should be noted that the Council does not need to follow this advice rigidly if it feels there are good reasons for not doing so.
- 3.2** The Council is also asked to note that in previous years, COSLA has formed a number of executive committees/groups to assist the decision making process. It is therefore likely that COSLA's decision making structures will be discussed at an early meeting of the Convention, with nominations being sought from local authorities at a later date.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** This Council is currently affiliated to COSLA at an annual cost of £64,140 which is included in the revenue budget for 2007/2008.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There is no apparent reason why the Council should not make nominations at this time and be represented at the meeting of COSLA on 29 June 2007.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1** The Council is recommended:-

- (a) to nominate three delegates to represent this Council on COSLA taking into account the advice provided by COSLA on political balance; and
- (b) to consider making nominations in respect of the President and 2 Vice Presidents of COSLA.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 18 May 2007

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Appendix: Advice on Party Balance on the Convention (COSLA).

Background Papers:

- (1) Letter from Rory Mair, Chief Executive, COSLA, on Appointment of Membership of the Convention dated 9 May 2007.
- (2) Letter from Rory Mair, Chief Executive, COSLA, on Nominations for COSLA President and Vice-Presidents dated 10 May 2007.

Wards Affected: All Wards.