

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 14 NOVEMBER 2006

SCOTTISH PROVOSTS' ASSOCIATION

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee of the formation of a Scottish Provosts' Association and requesting the Committee to determine East Ayrshire Council's membership of the Association.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Members' Services and Civic Ceremonial Sub-Committee, at a meeting held on 6 September 2006, considered a report on a request from Provost Cunningham, East Renfrewshire Council, Fundraiser and Charity Liaison Officer, Scottish Provosts' Association (SPA) asking the Council to participate in the Scottish Provosts' Association Charity Ball which was subsequently cancelled. The Sub-Committee also agreed that a report be submitted to this Committee in respect of determining East Ayrshire Council's membership of the Association.

- 2.2** The SPA exists to proactively pursue charitable activities, promote the image and dignity of Scottish Local Government Authorities and help evolve a more caring and a fairer society.

- 2.3** The objectives of the Association, as laid out in their Constitution are:-

- To allow past and present Provosts to pool their experiences;
- To provide Provosts with up-to-date local, regional and national developments;
- To liaise with CoSLA, Scottish Executive and other institutions;
- To co-ordinate and express to the voluntary and statutory agencies in Scotland, the views, hopes and aspirations of communities;
- How to deal with major manmade or natural emergencies or disasters;
- To ensure that all Councils and their Provosts shall be equal;
- To provide newly appointed Provost with support for their role; and
- To remain strictly non-partisan in politics and non-sectarian in religion.

- 2.4** Membership shall be open to all past - eligibility date from 1 January 2006 - and present Provosts.

- 2.5** The inaugural meeting of the Scottish Provosts' Association took place on 19 October 2005 at which 17 Councils were represented including East Ayrshire Council. Provosts from all 32 Local Authorities will be invited to attend each of

the meetings set up by the Scottish Provosts' Association which will be held between 3 and 6 monthly intervals.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1** There is no membership fee to join the SPA, however, in terms of the Constitution, members may make donations and the SPA may seek grants or funds from any non-contentious philanthropic source.

4. POLICY/LLEGAL/COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The Committee may consider that the principle aim of the Association sits well with relevant Community Planning themes, namely improving opportunities and eliminating poverty.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1** In terms of promoting a "more caring and fairer society" the Committee may wish to consider that the principle aims and objectives of the Association are adequately and effectively achieved through the various Aims and Aspirations identified within the Council's Community Plan and Action Plans. However, it may be of some mutual benefit in continuing membership of the Association to allow discussion and best practice to be shared.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1** The Committee is asked to:

- (i) determine whether East Ayrshire Council should be a member of the Association; and
- (ii) otherwise, note the contents of the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/
Executive Director of Corporate Support

CB/FM

23 October 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1.** Minutes of Meeting of Scottish Provosts' Association dated 19 October 2005.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer on Tel: (01563) 5761129. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager on Tel (01563) 576135.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: CHRISTINE BAILLIE, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER