

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING - 8 MARCH 2001

CoSLA LEVY 2001/2002 AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Report by Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To submit for consideration of Council a Motion from the Leaders' Meeting of CoSLA in connection with the funding of CoSLA for 2001/02 and its future activities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Council will be aware that the future of CoSLA has been the subject of some debate and at the Leaders' Meeting on 23 February 2001 the following motion was endorsed:

“Scottish Local Authorities are committed to the continuation of CoSLA as the representative body of Local Authorities in Scotland.

Scottish Local Authorities commit to pay one year's levy plus 3% by 1 April 2001 and that a Working Group be established to examine the fundamental duties and obligations of CoSLA and report back to the Convention meeting on 29 June 2001.”

3. CoSLA LEVY 2001/02

- 3.1** East Ayrshire Council's budget for 2001/02, approved at the special Council meeting on 15 February, includes the provision of £66,070 for the Council's subscription to CoSLA for 2001/02.
- 3.2** The motion detailed in paragraph 2, proposes that East Ayrshire Council pay one year's basic levy plus 3% which has been calculated, based on population statistics as at 1999, as totalling £59,860.48. When the nature of the reshaped CoSLA is clear following the review of the Working Party referred to in paragraph 4 below, the Leaders' Meeting has agreed that there will be a rebalancing of the levy.

4. CoSLA WORKING PARTY REVIEW GROUP

- 4.1** The proposed Working Party will be cross-Party and will begin its work as soon as possible. The Leaders' Meeting of 23 February has also agreed that the Group's deliberations will be open, transparent and shared with all Councils. It is intended that the outcome of the review and the financial implications for East Ayrshire Council will be reported to an appropriate meeting of the Council's Policy and Resources Committee in due course.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The requested CoSLA one year basic levy plus 3% totalling £59,860.48 for 2001/02, to be paid by 1 April 2001 can be met from the Council's CoSLA subscription budget for 2001/02 totalling £66,070.

- 6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS** - None arising from this report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** The Council is invited to consider supporting the motion that,

“East Ayrshire Council is committed to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities as the representative body of Local Authorities in Scotland.

East Ayrshire Council agrees to pay by 1 April 2001, one year's basic levy plus 3% currently set by CoSLA at £59,860.48 for 2001/02, and supports the establishment by CoSLA of a Working Group to examine the fundamental duties and obligations of CoSLA and report back to the Convention Meeting on 29 June 2001”.

- 7.2** That the Chief Executive submit a report to the next appropriate meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on the outcome of the review on the fundamental duties and obligations of CoSLA and any consequent financial implications for East Ayrshire Council.

David Montgomery
Chief Executive

2 March 2001

BW/FM

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1.** Letter dated 26 February 2001 from President of CoSLA to all Leaders of Council.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact David Montgomery, Chief Executive on 01563 576002. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact David Montgomery, Chief Executive on 01563 576002.

AGENDA