

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 12 JUNE 2003

SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to consider the Councils affiliation to the Scottish Local Government Information Unit (SLGIU) for 2003/04

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Members received a report to this Committee on 28 November 2002 which confirmed that the "merger plus" option was the preferred option for the merger with CoSLA and the SLGIU. This option ensured that the SLGIU's aims and objectives would continue to be pursued by CoSLA and that three key positive features would be maintained:-

- The provision of information directly to all Elected Members;
- positive links with the trades unions; and
- the independent nature of SLGIUs work.

- 2.2** This Committee on 10 April 2003 considered a report on all affiliations to outside organisations and in respect of the SLGIU agreed to defer consideration of the affiliation fee for 2003/04 until various issues had been resolved in association with the merger with CoSLA

3. SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2003/04

- 3.1** CoSLA has written to the Scottish Councils advising that a number of the implications of the merger with SLGIU still require to be fully resolved.
- 3.2** It is assumed that the merger of the two organisations will deliver economies of scale and, therefore, financial savings as well as operational benefits. CoSLA have stated that the full impact of this will be worked through in the next few months in order that financial proposals for future years may be considered later this Calendar year. Pending the outcome of that exercise, for the financial year 2003/04 CoSLA have agreed to retain individual Council subscriptions at current cash levels i.e with no increase cover inflation etc.
- 3.3** Furthermore, four members of staff currently employed by SLGIU have resigned their posts and became CoSLA employees with effect from 24 April 2003. CoSLA has stated that it has no provision with its core budget to cover the consequent salary etc costs and to avoid financial difficulties CoSLA has stated that it is essential that Councils pay the subscription for this financial year.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of the affiliation fee for 2003/04 is £2610.00. This fee can be accommodated from within existing budgets.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Payment of any affiliation is made under section 89 of the Local Government Scotland Act 1973.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to consider the payment of the affiliation fee for 2003/04 to the SLGIU at a cost of £2610.00.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/
Director of Corporate Resources
JA/KC
26 May 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter dated 2 April 2003 from CoSLA

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Julie Armstrong, Principal Administrative Officer, on (01563) 576047. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administrative Manager, on (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Julie Armstrong, Assistant Administration Manager