

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting3rd November 2011

1. Title of Item/Report

Future Membership of Local Government Association

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report relating to its membership of the Local Government Association (LGA).

Members were reminded that the LGA lobbied and campaigned for changes in policy, legislation and funding on behalf its member Councils. Whilst the membership costs had reduced since 2006/7 they were £42,870 for the financial year 2011/12. Withdrawal from this annual subscription required a 12 month notice period.

Cabinet was provided with background to the LGA and the benefits currently provided through the annual subscription.

To inform a decision about future membership, it was suggested that a Task and Finish Review, as part of the Scrutiny Work Programme, possibly through the Corporate, Adult Services and Social Inclusion Select Committee, consider the benefits, value for money, role and function of the LGA. It was noted that any decision to widen the remit of the review to possibly include other organisations the Council paid subscription to, would be subject to future consideration as part of the Scrutiny Work Programme discussions.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Council issues a 12 month notice to the LGA to withdraw subscription.
2. The Executive Scrutiny Committee be asked to consider including a Task and Finish review of the LGA benefits as part of the Scrutiny Work Programme.

3. Reasons for the Decision

A decision was required before April 2012 to determine if the Council was to serve 12 months notice, otherwise a further 24 months subscription would be required.

A thorough examination and understanding of the services currently received from the LGA and what would cease should the Council decide to withdraw its subscription, would better inform a decision on value for money and effectiveness of our LGA subscription.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Cllr Harrington and Mrs McCoy each declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of this item as a result of their role as a Council representative on the North East Purchasing Organisation and the North East Regional Employers Association, respectively.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday 11 November 2011

Proper Officer
07 August 2011