

Scrutiny Review of Membership of Outside Bodies

Appointed Member	Description/ Benefits	Meeting Frequency	Costs of Membership	Officer Comments	Member Comments
Local Government Association General Assembly					
<p>Leader</p> <p>Deputy Leader</p> <p>Cllr Patterson</p> <p>David Wilburn</p>	<p>Acts as the "Parliament" of local government. Every local authority in membership is entitled to representation on the General Assembly</p> <p>A membership organization, the LGA is made up of 415 Authorities. The Association is politically-led and cross-party working on behalf of councils to ensure local government has a voice with national government. The Association aim to influence and set the political agenda on the issues that matter to councils so they are able to deliver local solutions to national problems.</p> <p>Key benefits for members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •the opportunity to influence our work through membership of boards, panels, commissions, advisory groups or the Councillors' Forum •access to support and advice for councillors through our political group offices •access to up-to-the-minute news, briefings and daily news headlines on the LGA website through our suite of subscription e-bulletins •discounts on selected LGA services, including improvement support and leadership programmes •support on national media relations including in times of crisis •access to a wide range of free or discounted events •access to legal advice, opinions and guidance on complex issues •opportunities to join one of our many special interest groups, including the District Councils' Network, County Councils' Network or the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities •use of facilities at Local Government House, including free meeting room hire (unavailable from end of October 2016 – September 2017 as the LGA is moving office on 28 October 2016) •invitations to Royal Garden Parties •'first magazine' delivered bi-weekly direct to your home •Local Futures – free and discounted services provided by research and strategy consultancy specializing in geographically reviewing social and economic change. <p>LGA membership update for 2016/17 is attached at Appendix 1.</p>	<p>One meeting per annum, the Annual General Meeting which is held in July each year, takes place immediately before the start of the LG Group's Annual Conference</p>	<p>£35,779</p>	<p><u>Director of Children's Services:</u></p> <p>Children's Services have relatively little connection with the bodies listed. The exception to this is the LGA, as we are involved through the Leaders membership of the Children and Young People Committee which is helpful. We are also involved in the LGA peer review arrangements.</p> <p><u>Economic Growth and Development Services</u></p> <p>Our membership with the LGA within Housing Services is also valued.</p>	

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Sigoma (Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities)					
	<p>SIGOMA is one of the largest interest groups within the LGA (Local Government Association). They represent the interests of authorities and urban communities in the northern, midland and south-coast regions of England.</p> <p>SIGOMA represent the interests of their members within the Local Government Association channeling their views to Government and other appropriate bodies, providing a forum for discussion at the highest political level.</p> <p>The Group monitor and provide regular updates on areas of common concern to help ensure their members have fair and equitable access to the resources and freedoms they need to build strong, sustainable communities.</p>		£3,000		
North East Procurement Organization					
Cllr Cook	<p>Since 1976, NEPO has worked in partnership with North East local authorities on the strategic procurement of high value goods and services in order to deliver savings, maximize efficiencies and promote best practice. They also work closely with the region's supply base to boost competitive skills, signpost tendering opportunities and improve procurement processes.</p> <p>Stockton on Tees Borough Council Member Authority Report for 2015/16 is attached at Appendix 2.</p>		£76,259.24	<p><u>Economic Growth and Development Services</u></p> <p>Our membership with NEPO within Highways Transport and Design Services is valued</p> <p>We have as an authority received benefits in terms of financial saving from being in a collaboration co-ordinated by them especially recently being part of the Highway Maintenance NE Framework. In addition to the surfacing framework mentioned below, the wider Tees Valley has benefited from the use of NEPO on the collaborative procurement of Highways condition surveys (SCANNER, FNS etc.) and the Winter weather station maintenance/bureau service.</p> <p>The main benefits comes from NEPO's ability to pull together all 12 North East LA's thereby getting efficiencies (lower prices) through economies of scale (especially if the two big authorities of Northumberland and Durham are involved).</p> <p>Going forward NEPO are hopefully about to embark on a joint procurement exercise for winter weather forecasting which will also provide us with some</p>	

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				<p>benefits.</p> <p>The use of NEPO gives us access to procurement specialist who have a great deal of experience in bringing together clients in order to agree a common specification and outcome which would be a lot harder where one authority to try and do something similar utilising in house resources alone.</p> <p>We are also exploring the possibility of using NEPO in the future to replace some of our frameworks. If this was not available to us we would have to procure these frameworks ourselves.</p>	
North East Regional Employers Organization					
<p>Cllr Cook</p> <p>Cllr McCoy</p> <p>Cllr Woodhead</p>	<p>The North East Regional Employers' Organization is one of eleven regional bodies that support local authorities across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.</p> <p>NEREO's function is to support local authorities and partner organizations in the fields of Human Resources, Organizational Development and Employee Relations in all their complex and varied forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building capacity in the workforce • building skills through development opportunities for Officers and Members • advising on people matters, policy and employment law 	<p>Annual Meeting – Friday during July each year at 10am</p> <p>Half-Yearly Meeting – Friday during January each year at 10am</p> <p>Executive Committee – mid-week, March and October each year at 10am</p> <p>Additional Executive Committee meetings are held as and when required</p>	<p>£15,680</p>		<p><u>Cllr Woodhead:</u> Being a member of NEREO keeps me abreast of employment laws and relationships between Employers and Employees and an explanation of ever changing legislation re working condition and union views. NEREO represents the council as a collective body which gives the council more of a voice than it would as a single body in negotiations. Recent figures produced on cost proves that NEREO is a cost effective organization.</p> <p>Comments from Cllr Ann McCoy are attached at Appendix 3</p>

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Association of Public Service Excellence					
	<p>APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) is a not for profit local government body working with over 300 councils throughout the UK. Promoting excellence in public services, APSE is a specialist in local authority frontline services, hosting a network for frontline service providers in areas such as waste and refuse collection, parks and environmental services, cemeteries and crematorium, environmental health, leisure, school meals, cleaning, housing and building maintenance.</p> <p>APSE Energy is included within the Council's corporate APSE subscription:</p> <p>"APSE Energy was recently formed to reflect the changing dynamics of the energy market in the UK. Not so long ago, major utilities sat within local authority ownership and control, reflecting their role in public health issues, such as the supply of clean water and sanitation. This has now changed; as the global threats of climate change and energy shortages continue to grow, local authorities are increasingly looking at the developing prospects of municipal energy. APSE energy is designed to bring councils together to share information, ideas, resources, best practice, and to support local energy projects. Working together enables them to exchange knowledge on finance, law, and procurement. It also helps them to gain greater marketplace leverage.</p> <p>Our bespoke Local Authority Energy Collaboration is a partnership developed by member authorities that maximises the opportunities local authorities are currently offered by bringing councils together on a national scale to work on the green energy agenda. Currently, around 60 councils are members of APSE energy."</p>		£3,376	<p><u>Director of Community Services</u></p> <p>APSE has a plethora of membership resources that can be drawn on to support service development and improvement, including for example, professional networks, bespoke service advice and guidance, training and access to performance benchmarking across a wide range of frontline services. Specific examples of how Stockton have benefited from this include our attendance and participation in seminars sharing best practice on several topics and our involvement in the performance benchmarking networks to understand how we compare to other local authorities in specific service areas.</p> <p>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and our partners such as Tees Active have improved services directly as a result of these activities.</p> <p>We have been recognised for our continuous drive to deliver excellent services through the prestigious annual APSE Awards. In the past three years alone we have been recognised as having the best initiatives in the United Kingdom in the following important cross-cutting categories:</p> <p>2014: Best Housing and Regeneration Initiative for "Mandale: Celebrating 10 Years of Regeneration." 2015: Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative (including Community Safety) for "Psst...Positively Stockton-on-Tees." 2016: Best Health and Wellbeing Initiative for "The Multi-Disciplinary Service."</p> <p>In 2010, Stockton-on-Tees was named as "Overall Council of the Year" in the APSE Awards and has made the list of finalists for that coveted award for the last seven years consecutively, which is</p>	

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				<p>an unprecedented record of consistent excellence.</p> <p><u>Economic Growth and Development Services</u></p> <p>Our membership with APSE within Housing Services and Highways Transport and Design Services is valued</p> <p>Being a member ensures we get reduced rates to access their conferences/courses. We also get invites to free seminars, which we have attended in the past (and also presented) and these are good networking opportunities. In addition there is also a central portal where LA's can ask questions/queries re services and get feedback often on a national level, which is good for best practice etc. Also there are the awards which SBC have always done well in (inc Council of the Year) which is good for reputation and profile of the Council.</p> <p><u>Assistant Director of Adult Social Care:</u> Having won a APSE award, our Wellbeing team receives updates and invitations from APSE. Otherwise, adult social care doesn't have any specific involvement with the organizations listed.</p>	
LGIU (Local Government Information Unit)					
<p>The Council are not a member of the LGIU</p> <p>Information on benefits and membership costs is included as requested by the Committee</p>	<p>A membership organization with over 200 subscribing organizations</p> <p>Councillors, officer and academics receive regular briefings and news bulletins. Staff and councillors at member organizations also receive discounts on training events, invitations to exclusive networking events and other services. Members can also contribute to projects, get involved in governance, and directly influence our work</p> <p>A free trial flyer is attached at Appendix 4</p> <p>Locally new members include Durham, Redcar & Cleveland, Hartlepool, Hambleton, South Lakeland - and new triallists include Middlesbrough, Darlington.</p>		<p>As a unitary under 200k population, the set rate would be £9,995 pa, which would cover access to all benefits (including in-person visits by policy staff to talk through key issues)</p> <p>As a charity the organization would be prepared to negotiate in respect of the membership fee, and there are several discount possibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the subscription is pro-rata'd down if you join during the year - i.e. if you did go on to join after a 3 month trial (no obligation), the maximum cost for the rest of the year would be £4,995; 2. a Tees Valley deal, would achieve a 66% discount, i.e. cost to Stockton would be £3,333 (and the deal would get the TVCA free access too); 3. if we don't progress a TV deal then they would look at other discount options if needed. 		