
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	8 October 2009
Report By:	Corporate Director Improvement and Performance	Report No:	IC/02/09/PW
Contact Officer:	Paul Wallace	Contact No:	01475 712700
Subject:	Improvement Service Membership Agreement		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This Report advises members of the use of emergency powers to enable Councillor McCabe, as Leader of the Council, to sign a formal membership agreement for the Improvement Service on behalf of the Council at the CoSLA Convention on 26 June 2009.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Improvement Service was initially grant funded by the Scottish Executive and governed by a Board with representation from the Scottish Executive and local government - membership was restricted with COSLA and SOLACE representing the interests of local government.
- 2.2 Funding for the Improvement Service has since been transferred into the overall local government settlement and the Scottish Government has withdrawn from the Board.
- 2.3 The new Board, comprising representation from COSLA and SOLACE, are keen to expand the membership of the Improvement Service to all authorities to ensure it is responsive and accountable to the authorities it serves.
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- to approve the membership of the IS Board
 - attend AGMs and call EGMs
 - input to the Business Plan of the IS
- 2.5 CoSLA advised that a single copy of the Membership Agreement must be signed for legal reasons by all members and suggested that the formal signing take place at the Convention on 26 June 2009.
- 2.6 All authorities who wished to be members were invited to nominate a representative to Convention to be a signatory on their behalf.
- 2.7 The Council has a positive working relationship with the Improvement Service and has benefitted in recent years from advice, support and engagement on a wide range of issues.
- 2.8 A report was prepared seeking delegated authority for Councillor McCabe, as Leader of the Council, to sign the formal Membership Agreement for the Improvement Service on behalf of the Council at the CoSLA Convention on Friday 26 June 2009.
- 2.9 This report was subsequently signed by the Provost, Depute Provost, Councillor McCabe, Councillor Brooks and the acting Chief Executive.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that Council note the use of emergency powers to provide delegated authority for Councillor McCabe, as Leader of the Council, to sign the formal Membership Agreement for the Improvement Service on behalf of the Council at the CoSLA Convention on Friday 26 June 2009.

Paul Wallace
Corporate Director
Improvement and Performance

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Improvement Service was initially grant funded by the Scottish Executive and governed by a Board with representation from the Scottish Executive and local government - membership was restricted with COSLA and SOLACE representing the interests of local government.
- 4.2 Funding for the Improvement Service has since been transferred into the overall local government settlement and the Scottish Government has withdrawn from the Board.
- 4.3 The new Board, comprising representation from COSLA and SOLACE, are keen to expand the membership of the Improvement Service to all authorities to ensure it is responsive and accountable to the authorities it serves.
- 4.4 A Membership Agreement was drafted and circulated to all local authorities. There is no cost or liability associated with becoming a member, and membership will allow authorities:
 - to approve the membership of the IS Board
 - attend AGMs and call EGMs
 - input to the Business Plan of the IS
- 4.5 CoSLA advised that a single copy of the Membership Agreement must be signed for legal reasons by all members and suggested that the formal signing take place at the Convention on 26 June 2009.
- 4.6 All authorities who wished to be members were invited to nominate a representative to Convention to be a signatory on their behalf.
- 4.7 The Council has a positive working relationship with the Improvement Service and has benefitted in recent years from advice, support and engagement on a wide range of issues.
- 4.8 A report was prepared seeking delegated authority for Councillor McCabe, as Leader of the Council, to sign the formal Membership Agreement for the Improvement Service on behalf of the Council at the CoSLA Convention on Friday 26 June 2009.
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5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Provost, Depute Provost, Councillor McCabe, Councillor Brooks and the Chief Executive were consulted with regard to the emergency powers report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 *Finance*

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.2 *Human Resources*

There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

6.3 *Legal*

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6.4 *Equalities*

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.