

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader's Portfolio meeting 31 March 2011
AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Corporate Manager, Community and Customer Services

REVIEW OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA)

Purpose and background

1. This report seeks a decision by the Leader in respect of the Council's ongoing membership of the Local Government Association following a decision in March 2010 to give one year's notice of SCDC's intention to cease membership.
2. In making the decision to give notice to quit, the Leader emphasised that the Council retained the right to rescind its notice to quit, if it was considered that the benefits of membership justified its continued subscription. This report provides an update in respect of representations made by the LGA during the course of the year.
3. This is not a key decision.

Recommendation

4. The Leader is invited to consider the Council's continuing LGA membership, and to resolve either:
 - (a) To rescind the notice given on 11 March 2010, thus confirming the Council's ongoing LGA membership;
 - (b) To issue a further year's notice of intention to quit, on a 'rolling forward' basis, or
 - (c) To confirm the Council's cessation of LGA membership in accordance with the notice previous given.

Considerations – Update on developments during 2010-11

5. The LGA has made representations during the year outlining the benefits of the Council's continuing membership and lobbying on specific issues on SCDC and other district councils' behalf. Detailed background regarding the history, stated aims and purpose of the LGA are given in the previous report to the Leader's Portfolio on 11 March 2010 (referred to in the Background Papers section below).
6. Claire Holloway, Corporate Programme Director attended the Leader's Portfolio in May 2010 to outline the benefits of LGA membership and commit to representing the Council's concerns in respect of its anticipated housing debt arising from the government's review of the negative subsidy system.
7. Further meetings have taken place with Cllr Gary Porter, Chair of the LGA's Housing and Environment Programme Board, and with LGA's Chief Executive John Ransford, in order to develop the LGA's relationship with the Council.

8. The Leader is invited to review his previous decision to issue notice to quit in light of these representations and additional information gathered during the notice period.

Implications

9. Financial	The annual subscription to the LGA for 2011-12 is £11,460, representing a reduction on the 2010-11 level of £12,850. Provision has been made within the 2011-12 estimates, therefore this payment can be made from within existing resources.
Legal	There is a legal requirement to provide one year's notice of any intention to cease membership. As such, should the Leader resolve to rescind the current notice and continue in membership for 2011-12, the earliest the Council could leave the LGA would be 1 April 2013.
Staffing	There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report and recommendation.
Risk Management	None specific
Equal Opportunities	The matter for resolution does not involve a function, policy or service; consequently there are no direct equal opportunities implications arising, and an Equalities Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

Consultations

10. Prior to the issue of notice to quit in March 2010, the Executive Management Team (EMT) was requested to provide details of the specific LGA services they made use of; the results of this consultation are set out in the report to the Leader's Portfolio meeting in March 2010 (see background papers below). Specific consultations with LGA representations have taken place as identified in paragraphs 5-8 above.

Effect on Strategic Aims

11. The support, guidance and best practice provided by the LGA has the potential to enhance the Council's capacity to deliver all its strategic aims, and those of the local community. This indirect benefit must be balanced against the opportunity cost of the annual subscription, savings from which could be reallocated towards support for front-line service provision.

Conclusions/Summary

12. The Leader is invited to make a decision on the Council's continued membership of the Local Government Association, from the options set out in paragraph 4 above.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

[Report to the Leader's Portfolio meeting, 11 March 2010](#)

'Your LGA – a Guide to LGA services 2009-10', from the LGA website:
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/1846877>

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