

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 24 NOVEMBER 2008

REPORT ON: MEMBERSHIP OF THE IMPROVEMENT SERVICE

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 592-2008

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek the Committee's approval regarding membership of the Improvement Service.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council becomes a member of the Improvement Service.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct financial liability in becoming a member of the Improvement Service. The Improvement Service is currently funded directly from local authority block expenditure. It is proposed to continue this arrangement and should there be a requirement for further funds this would only come from members directly if all members agreed the amount and the method by which such finance is to be provided.

4. BACKGROUND

At the COSLA Convention in June, at the request of the Improvement Service board, it was agreed that all Councils should be invited and encouraged to become members of the members of the Improvement Service. To date, local government membership of the Improvement Service has been restricted to COSLA and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives.

Membership of the Improvement Service would allow the Council to:

- to approve the membership of the Improvement Service board
- attend AGMs and call EGMs
- input to the Business Plan of the Improvement Service

The aim is to make the Improvement Service more accountable to the Councils it serves. New company documents and a membership agreement have been drawn up for Councils to sign to formally become a member. In a letter from the Chief Executive of the Improvement Service it emphasises that there is no cost or liability associated with becoming a member.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no issues in this regard to report on.

6. CONSULTATIONS

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Letter from the Chief Executive of the Improvement Service, 14 August 2008.

Alex Stephen
Chief Executive

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18/11/2008

