

Subject:	Affiliations 2011/12		
Date of Meeting:	20 January 2011		
Report of:	Strategic Director, Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 29-1006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 The Council has previously affiliated to certain organisations on a corporate basis and a decision as to whether to continue with these affiliations is required.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet gives approval for the council to affiliate to the following organisations during 2011/12:
- (1) The Local Government Association (LGA)
 - (2) The South East Strategic Leaders (SESL)
 - (3) The United Nations Association
- 2.2 That in regard to the affiliations to the LGA and SESL, officers be requested to write to each organisation giving the Council's notice of its intention to cease affiliation to them with effect from their respective renewal dates in 2012.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Council is currently affiliated to the following:

(i) The Local Government Association (LGA)

The Local Government Association (LGA) was formed on 1 April 1997 and represents the local authorities of England and Wales by lobbying and campaigning for changes in policy, legislation and funding on their behalf and for the people and communities they serve. The LGA's 422 voluntary member authorities represent over 50 million people and spend around £113 billion pounds per annum.

The LGA works closely with member authorities to ensure that efforts are targeted on the issues that matter most. The LGA works with its members to deliver a shared vision of an independent and confident local government sector where local priorities drive public service improvement in every city, town and

village and every councillor acts as a champion for their ward and the people they represent.

The LGA also represents fire authorities, police authorities, national park authorities and passenger transport authorities.

The LGA Group Business Plan for 2011/12 is structured around five key priorities:

- Reputation - building and maintaining the national and local reputation of councils
- Innovation and value for money - supporting councils to achieve greater local efficiency and effectiveness
- Local democracy - ensuring councils are at the forefront of greater local decision-making on spending priorities and leading improvement work across the sector
- Economy - supporting councils to lead their communities to prosperity in the economic recovery
- Customer service - ensuring the LGA Group enhances the reputation of local government and delivers value for money.

3.2 The Council appoints 4 representatives to the LGA who attend the Annual Conference in June of each year. The current representatives are Councillors Mears, Oxley, Mitchell and Randall.

3.3 The LGA also seeks appointments to the Urban Commission and Rural Commission and these appointments are also made at each Annual Council Meeting. Councillors Vanessa Brown and Brian Oxley are the council's representatives on the Urban Commission and Carol Theobald is the council's representatives to the Rural Commission. The cost of their attendance at these bodies' conferences has been met from within the Democratic Services Budget.

The need for the Council to have a representative on the Rural Commission is one that could be reviewed, in view of the city's position.

3.4 The subscription for 2010/11 was £64,820 and the LGA have advised that the subscription for 2011/12 would be £55,584 (a 14.2% reduction) and this would be met by the Policy Team.

3.5 The benefits attributed to the cost of affiliation are being considered by officers, however a year's notice of the intention to not re-affiliate has to be given and therefore the 2011/12 affiliation will be met by the Policy Team.

3.6 **(ii) South East Strategic Leaders**

The South East Strategic Leaders (SESL) work together to deliver an ambitious programme of joint policy development and lobbying. The aim is to influence opinion formers at all levels – national, regional and local. Specifically, SESL aim to:

- SESL has historically used a mix of lobbying, policy development, peer support, commissioned research and formal and informal networking to achieve its goals.

- Joint submissions, representations and publications have frequently helped to shape public policy and inform consultations.
- The South East Strategic Leaders priority areas for work in 2010/11 include a focus on joint working between local government and the health service, taking forward a recently launched Memorandum of Understanding with the CBI, planning for future regional arrangements, responding to plans for adult social care and meeting personal care needs, and influencing changes to the local government financing system.
- The South East Strategic Leaders were originally drawn from county councils. More recently, unitary councils from across the South East have also been invited to join. This has expanded the membership, which now includes: Bracknell Forest, Brighton and Hove, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Portsmouth, Reading, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Southampton, Surrey, West Berkshire, West Sussex, Wokingham, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire.

3.7 The Council's subscription for 2009/10 was £8,000 and was met from the Culture, Recreation & Tourism Budget. SESL has advised that the subscription 2011/12 is to be considered at their next meeting on the 11th February; and is likely to remain at the level for the previous year. This will be met from the Strategic Director for Communities Budget and officers will review the benefits of affiliation and therefore it is proposed to give notice to this effect.

3.8 **(iii) United Nations Association of the UK.**

Founded in 1945 the UN was 'created to maintain world peace and security and to work for social progress. The UN Association of the UK (UNA-UK) is the UK's leading source of independent information and analysis on the United Nations, and a UK-wide grassroots movement.

UNA-UK is committed to a strong, credible and effective UN. We believe that a strengthened UN is in the UK's national interest. We advocate strong government support for the UN, and seek to demonstrate why the UN matters to people everywhere.

Councillor Oxley is the Council's current representative to the Association.

3.9 The Subscription for 2010/11 was £25 and was met from the Democratic Services budget. The Subscription for 2011/12 is anticipated to be £35 and will be met from the Democratic Services Budget.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 There has been no consultation as the matter is before the Cabinet.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The subscriptions and funding details for 2011/12 to each of the organisations are as set out in paragraph 3.1 to 3.9. These subscriptions will total £63,619 and are provided for within the existing budgets that are listed in the report. There is no requirement for additional funding.

Finance Officer consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 20/12/10

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are none. There are no adverse Human Rights Act Implications arising from this report.

Legal Officer consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis

Date: 20/12/10

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The organisations listed above work to promote the interests of a diverse range of communities.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.5 There are no risk implications and affiliating to the organisations will provide the council with opportunities to promote issues, influence policy development and gain support from other organisations.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 There are no corporate wide or city implications arising from this report.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The council has the choice not to affiliate to the organisations, and it is proposed that a review on the benefits is undertaken to determine whether these affiliations should continue. However, the required notice period means that the affiliations for 2011/12 have to be met and therefore it is recommended that the council should give notice of its intention to not renew the affiliations in 2012.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Cabinet's approval to affiliate to the organisations listed above is required.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

None