

Subject:	Affiliations 2008/09		
Date of Meeting:	12 June 2008		
Report of:	Director of Strategy & Governance		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 29-1006
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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 To consider which of the following organisations the Council should affiliate to during 2008/09:

- (1) The Local Government Association
- (2) The South East England Regional Assembly
- (3) The United Nations Association

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 – a total of just under 500 authorities. These local authorities represent over 50 million people and spend around £78 billion pounds per annum.

The LGA exists to promote better local government. It works with and for member authorities to realise a shared vision of local government that enables local people to shape a distinctive and better future for

their locality and its communities. The LGA aims to put local councils at the heart of the drive to improve public services and to work with government to ensure that the policy, legislative and financial context in which they operate, supports that objective.

The LGA is a voluntary lobbying organisation representing local government. The LGA also represents fire authorities, police authorities, national park authorities and passenger transport authorities.

The LGA Business Plan for 2005 is structured around five ambitious policy and lobbying programmes - freedom to improve, securing resources, setting the agenda, shared priorities and better services; and raising our sights.

The strategic objectives for 2007/08 were:

- Deepening and strengthening relationships with member councils;
- Deepening and strengthening relationships with our partners;
- Maintaining our capacity to influence government;
- Strengthening our capability to influence the public;
- Developing capacity to initiate policy and initiate debate about policy;
- Adopting an intelligent, proactive approach to generating news and interest in the sector and the organisation;
- Developing the LGA as an exemplar organisation providing value for money and high quality services to our customers.

The subscription for 2007/08 was £67,185.

The LGA have advised that the subscription for 2008/09 would be £67,857.05 and this would be met by the Policy Team.

(ii) South East England Regional Assembly

The Regional Assembly is the regional chamber for the South East, designated under the RDA Act 1998. The Assembly has 112 members, two thirds of whom are elected councillors nominated by all of the region's 74 local authorities (Councillor Mary Mears has been appointed as the Council's representative). As the representative voice of the region, the Assembly presses the South East's interests both in Westminster and in Brussels. The Assembly provides regional accountability for the South East England Development Agency, being the primary consultee on the Regional Economic Strategy and the Agency's Corporate Plan. The Assembly also has a lead role in preparing the South East's Development Framework, and

it is the Regional Planning Body, a role considerably strengthened under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. In this capacity, the Assembly has been preparing the new Regional Spatial Strategy, the South East Plan; this will set the framework for local authorities' local plans to 2026, and includes targets for housing supply, affordable housing, renewable energy and waste, as well as transport investment priorities.

The Council's subscription for 2007/08 was £22,284.57 and was met from the Economic Development and Regeneration Budget.

The Assembly has once more agreed to hold its local authority subscriptions and it is anticipated that the subscription for 2008/09 will remain at £22,284.57. This will be met from the Economic Development and Regeneration Budget.

(iii) United Nations Association.

Founded in 1945 the UN was 'created to maintain world peace and security and to work for social progress. The United Nations Association is a membership based, voluntary, non-governmental organisation, which campaigns to help turn the ideals of the UN into reality. The Association aims to promote awareness of, and support, the principles of the United Nations Charter, the world-wide work of the UN and its agencies. Councillor Cobb has been appointed as the Council's representative on the local United Nations Association Committee.

The Subscription for 2007/08 was £25.00 and was met from Democratic Services.

The Subscription for 2008/09 is anticipated to be £30.00 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 2008/09 to each of the organisations are as set out in paragraph 3.1. These subscriptions will total £91,132 and are provided for within the existing budgets that are listed in the report. There is no requirement for additional funding.

Finance Officer consulted: Patr

Date: 19/05/08

Legal Implications:

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

Legal Officer consulted: Abraham Ghebre –Ghirorghis Date: 19/05/08

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, however the benefits of affiliation are felt to be of greater value and therefore it is recommended that the council should affiliate to them.

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