

Report

Report to:	Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 March 2010
Report by:	Chair of Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group

Subject:	Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Associate Membership
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ seek approval to introduce a further 2 Councils to the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project as Associate Members

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Joint Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that Aberdeen City Council and Midlothian Council become Associate Members of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Group.

3. Background

- 3.1. The terms of the grant provided to the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project by the National Board for Shared Services include the condition that the outcomes of the Project are made available to all other local authorities in Scotland.
- 3.2. The Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee's Minute of Agreement (approved on 1 September 2008) includes the provision that other local authorities may become Associate Members by agreement of the Joint Committee (clause 3.8). Associate Members may be permitted by the Joint Committee to utilise some or all of the services of the Project but will have no right to vote on the Joint Committee.
- 3.3. In December 2008, North and South Ayrshire Councils became the first, and to date, the only authorities to become Associate Members of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Group.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 The work of the Clyde Valley Group has been the subject of much interest from other local authorities in recent months. This has been largely attributed to the continuing interest in the development of Shared Services throughout the public sector. In particular, several councils have made enquiries in relation to the Clyde Valley Group's successful procurement of e-learning services for its Member and Associate Member Councils.

- 4.2 The Scottish Local Government Improvement Service has also expressed an interest in this aspect of the Project, and is keen that as many councils as possible should also benefit from having access to the e-learning management system and associated modules which the Clyde Valley has procured. Potentially this would lead to greater economies of scale in content development and delivery.
- 4.3 In order to promote this and other aspects of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project's work, the Improvement Service recently hosted a series of roadshows throughout Scotland encouraging councils to consider moving towards e-learning. During the roadshows it was made clear to each authority that becoming an Associate Member of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Group provided access to the discounts enjoyed by other Member Councils.
- 4.4 As a result, representatives from Aberdeen City Council and Midlothian Council have requested that their organisations be considered for Associate Membership. This is primarily driven by recognition of the benefits associated with the work currently being addressed by the E-Learning Sub Group, which is most closely aligned to current priorities for learning and development for both organisations.
- 4.5 One of the conditions of the original funding grant is that outcomes and learning from the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project should be shared nationally. By extending associate membership to Aberdeen City Council and Midlothian Council, the Project is continuing to take tangible steps toward meeting this condition.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The discount structure applied to the procurement of e-learning services is based on a sliding scale. The higher the number of councils participating in the procurement, the greater the discount shared across the Clyde Valley Members and Associate Members. Associate Members do not benefit directly from the original funding grant but indirectly through negotiated discounts for those services which Associate Member Councils purchase.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. None

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. The admission of additional Associate Members has been discussed and agreed by the Implementation Steering Group.

Gill Bhatti

Chair, Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group

23 February 2010

Previous References

Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Associate Membership – 1 December 2008

List of Background Papers

Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee Minute of Agreement

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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