

# Report

Report to:	<b>Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>12 December 2011</b>
Report by:	<b>Chair of Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group</b>

Subject:	<b>Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project - Associate Membership</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise on action taken by the Chair of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group in terms of the Scheme of Delegation, to introduce 1 further Council to the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project as an Associate Member

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that, in view of the exceptional circumstances as set out in the report below, the action taken by the Chair of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group, in consultation with the Convener, in accepting Orkney Islands Council as an Associate Member of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project, be noted.

## 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 or similar bodies 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 March 2011, Shetland and Clackmannanshire Councils became Associate Members of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Group. This brought the number of Associate Members to 14 (12 local authorities and 2 other public bodies.)

## 4. Current Position

- 4.1 The work of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Group continues to be of much interest to other local authorities and public sector bodies with similar interests. In particular, the evident potential of e-learning to deliver efficient and effective

learning and development remains a high priority for many public sector organisations.

- 4.2 The Clyde Valley Group continues to receive frequent enquiries relating to the successful procurement of e-learning services for the Group's Member and Associate Member councils.
- 4.3 Most recently, a request to be considered for Associate Membership has been received from Orkney Islands Council.
- 4.4 The Scheme of Delegation makes provision for the Chair of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group to take measures in exceptional circumstances and report to the Joint Committee as soon as is practicable, subject to advising the Convener.
- 4.5 As with previous requests to join the Clyde Valley Group, this organisation was keen to be involved at the earliest possible stage, and thereby gain access to the Clyde Valley e-Learning contract. Therefore, the Chair of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group, in consultation with the Convener, granted Associate Membership under the Scheme of Delegation.
- 4.6 It remains a condition of the original funding grant that outcomes and learning from the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project should be shared nationally. By extending Associate Membership to this organisation, it demonstrates the Group's continuing commitment to this principle.

## **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. None.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. Although the discount structure applied to the procurement of e-learning services is based on a sliding scale, the annual discount is calculated each year on 1 August (this being the date that the first Clyde Valley Council went live). As the third year of the contract is already underway, the discount cannot now reach beyond 27.5%.
- 6.3 On the basis that the Joint Committee approves the above recommendation, 19 councils will now be purchasing from the contract.

## **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. The risks of membership are limited and identified in the Minute of Agreement.

## **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 and approved by the Chair of the Implementation Steering Group under delegated authority.

**Gill Bhatti**

**Chair, Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group**

21 November 2011

**Previous References**

Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Associate Membership – 14 March 2011

**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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