

Report

Report to:	Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee
Date of Meeting:	14 March 2011
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:-

- ◆ 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 2 further 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, 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 Shetland Council and Clackmannanshire Council as Associate Members 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 December 2010, Angus, Argyll and Bute and Dundee City Councils became Associate Members of the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Group. This brought the number of Associate Members to 12.

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. 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 continues to support and promote this aspect of the Project, and is keen that as many councils as possible should benefit from having access to the e-learning management system and associated modules which the Clyde Valley has procured with subsequent benefits of greater economies of scale in content development and delivery.
- 4.3 As a result, representatives from Shetland and Clackmannanshire have requested that their organisations be considered for Associate Membership.
- 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, both organisations were 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 both organisations, it demonstrates the Group's continuing commitment to this principle.

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.
- 6.2 The Clyde Valley e-Learning contract provides for a further discount of 2.5% should 14 councils sign up to the deal. The contract is reviewed annually and the number of councils signed up at this point in time dictates the discount for the coming year. 13 councils had bought into the contract as at 1 August 2010, therefore the discount that applies to all for year 2 of the contract remains 25%.

6.3 On the basis that the Joint Committee approves the above recommendation, 19 councils will now be purchasing from the contract. This means that the discount for year 3 will be a minimum of 27.5% for all councils. Should one more council join the contract before 1 August 2011, a maximum discount of 30% will be available to all councils in 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

23 February 2011

Previous References

Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Associate Membership – December 2010

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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