



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Cabinet

21 MARCH 2011

LEADER

Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh

SUBSCRIPTIONS/AFFILIATIONS FOR EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS 2011/2012

**Wards:
All**

This report deals with the major corporate subscriptions/affiliations whose funding is included in the Finance and Corporate Services' estimates. Other departments carry out a similar exercise, reported separately to Committee or dealt with under delegated authority in the case of small subscriptions.

CONTRIBUTORS

DFCS
ADLDS

Recommendation:

That approval be given to the annual subscriptions, at a total cost of £227,363, as set out in Appendix A of the report.

**HAS A EIA BEEN COMPLETED?
N/A**

**HAS THE REPORT CONTENT BEEN RISK ASSESSED?
N/A**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. This report deals with the major corporate subscriptions/affiliations whose funding is included in the Finance and Corporate Services' estimates. Other departments carry out a similar exercise, reported separately to committee or dealt with under delegated authority in the case of small subscriptions.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 Approval is being sought for subscription renewal in 2011/12 to the organisations listed in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The attached Appendix B comments on the benefits of continuing membership of the three external organisations and includes a brief account of the nature of each organisation, the current level of subscription and recommendations for the 2011/12 year.

3. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 There are no business risks relating to the subject of this report.

4. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no equality implications in the subject area of this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

- 5.1 There is sufficient provision within the proposed 2011/12 Revenue Estimates to meet the cost of the corporate subscriptions as detailed in this report.
- 5.2 The reduction of £71k in the cost of the 2011-12 subscriptions will meet the MTFS efficiency target in this area.
- 5.3 A contribution of £5,000 will be made from the HRA towards the London Councils subscription. This is to reflect the housing work undertaken by London Councils.

6. COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES)

- 6.1. The Council has the necessary powers to subscribe to the organisations listed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	Subscriptions to organisations, correspondence	Pat Gough Ext. 2542	Finance and Corporate Services, HTH
2.			
CONTACT OFFICER:		NAME: Pat Gough EXT. 2542	

APPENDIX A

<u>ORGANISATION</u>		<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS</u>	<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS</u>
		<u>2010/2011</u>	<u>2011/2012</u>
1.	London Councils - for the joint committee core and associated functions	£228,600.00	£174,935
2	London Councils - Central bodies (IDeA/LGE Grant)	£3,763.00	£3,763.00
3.	Local Government Association (Includes a discount of £6,700)	£41,240.00	£32,165.00
4	Local Government Information Unit	£16,500.00	£16,500.00
5	Localis	£8,000.00	Not renewed
6	Town & Country Planning Association	529.45	Not renewed
	TOTAL	£298,632.45	£227,363.00

Subscriptions 1, 2 and 3 run from April to March. Twelve months notice of withdrawal is required for these subscriptions.

Subscription 4 runs from January to December. Notice of withdrawal is required by 30 June.

APPENDIX B

DETAILS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS / AFFILIATIONS

1. London Councils

London Councils is the local government association for London, bringing together representatives of the 32 London Boroughs and the Corporation of London. It develops policy, lobbies government and others, and runs a range of services including the Freedom Pass, the Taxicard Scheme, the London Lorry Control Scheme and the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service.

- a. The 2011-12 subscription is £174,935.00.
- b. This is a 20% decrease on the 2010/2011 subscription.

2. LONDON COUNCILS - IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYERS ORGANISATION (CENTRAL BODIES)

The IDeA is owned by the Local Government Association and is thus owned by local government. The IDeA works in partnership with all Councils in England and Wales to enhance performance. The IDeA also promotes the development of local government's management and workforce by advising Councils on improving customer service and value for money.

The Local Government Employers was created by the Local Government Association and works with local authorities, regional employers and other bodies to lead and create solutions on pay, pensions and the employment contract.

- a. The 2011-12 subscription is £3,763.00.
- b. There has been no increase in the 2011/2012 subscription.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (INCLUDES A DISCOUNT OF £6,700)

The Local Government Association (LGA) promotes the interests of English and Welsh local authorities.

The LGA exists to promote better local government and is a voluntary lobbying organisation.

In addition to representing various local government authorities it also represents fire authorities, police authorities, national park authorities and passenger transport authorities.

Explanation of the £6,700 rental/finance credit from the LGA - The annual LGA membership subscription of each former member of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities (AMA), which previously contributed to the purchase of the AMA's former offices at 35 Great Smith Street, is adjusted each year by a rental/finance credit of circa £6,000. Before the LGA moved to Local Government House in Smith Square, it used the offices at 35 Great Smith Street and the £6,000 (rental) credit represented an individual authority's share of the rent that was due to the AMA (Properties) Limited. The building was sold in 1999 and the proceeds of £6.2 million were invested in Local Government House in the form of a loan. Each (finance) credit of £6, 000 now represents interest payable on the loan. The credit is reviewed every five years and adjusted with the Retail Price Index (RPI). The amount is now £6,700.

- a. The 2011-12 subscription is £32,165.00
- b. This is a reduction of £9,075.00 on the 2010-11 subscription fee.

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT

The Local Government Information Unit is an independent research and information organisation representing the interests of local authorities. It provides practical, independent advice, resources and training as well as analysis and interpretation of national policy.

- a. The affiliation fee for 2011 for Standard Plus membership is £16,500.00.
- b. This is the third year in succession that the LGiU has held the Standard Plus affiliation fee at £16,500.00.