

**THE EXECUTIVE**

**10 MAY 2005**

**REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE STRATEGY**

<b>SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT AND NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>	
<p><i>Decisions relating to subscriptions to national bodies has traditionally been the role of the Executive.</i></p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>This report recommends that the Council seeks to disaffiliate from the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) as it is felt that this organisation does not represent value for money. It also recommends that the Council affiliates to the New Local Government Network (NLGN) as this organisation undertakes important local government research, is a key influence on central government policy around local government and holds a significant number of events in which the Council would want to participate.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Executive is asked to agree:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To give 6 months notice so that we can disaffiliate from the LGIU; and</li><li>2. To affiliate to NLGN from 2005/6</li></ol> <p><b>Reason</b></p> <p>The New Local Government Network (NLGN) is undertaking important Local Government research that will be more appropriate to the future direction of the Council.</p>		
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**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Council has been affiliated to the LGIU for a number of years. In the year 2000, following a review of affiliated organisations, it was agreed to give notice to withdraw from the LGIU as its services were being duplicated by other organisations, notably the ALG and the LGA. Following representations from the LGIU it was agreed to continue membership for a further period but to keep it under review. Officers are of the view that the organisation no longer represents value for money.

1.2 In recent years the New Local Government Network has grown in membership and influence. It conducts important research, not carried out elsewhere, and organises a range of valuable events. It is also clear that it has considerable influence with central Government Policy.

## **2. Financial Implications**

2.1 The annual subscription to LGIU is £12,000. In order to disaffiliate 6 months notice is required.

2.2 The annual subscription for the NLGN is £10,000. Switching affiliation will therefore save £2,000 in a full year. The Chief Executive is able to fund the net cost of approximately £4,000 in the current year of affiliating to the NLGN before the subscription to the LGIU ceases.

## **3. Consultation**

3.1 Lead Member and CMT

## **Background Papers**

None