



REPORT TO: THE MORAY COUNCIL ON 26 MARCH 2008

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE STRUCTURES POST THE SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT AND THE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PLANNING STRUCTURES

BY: CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 This report considers a structure for Service Committees post the Concordat between the Scottish Government and Local Government; the subsequent introduction of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) and the central role that Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) will be expected to play to create a new focus for all involved in the delivery of public services to the Moray area. It also addresses a prior commitment of the Administration to review the Committee Structure within one year of the May 2007 Local Government Elections and also an issue of political balance.

1.2 This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section II(10) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to changes in Committee structures and distributions of functions and responsibilities.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the Service Committee Structure described within the **APPENDIX 1** to this report and approves that the Administration Scheme and the Committee timetable be amended to reflect that structure.

2.2. It is suggested the issue of the timing of any change be considered in the light of Members' decisions regarding the Community Planning Structure (Item 23(b) above).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Since January 2007 when the Committee Structure was last reviewed (the Minute of Council dated 31 January 2007 refers) substantial changes have taken place in Scotland's Public Sector.

3.2 Most importantly the Scottish Government now has a clear purpose creating a more successful Country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increasing sustainable economic growth. This is supported by five strategic objectives; to be a wealthier and fairer, healthier, safer and stronger, smarter and greener and fifteen national outcomes. As Members are aware,

this is all set out in the Concordat between the Scottish Government and Local Government, as reported to the Special Meeting of Council in November 2007.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 The adoption of a national purpose, objectives and outcomes create a new focus for all involved in the delivery of public services.
- 4.2 This means that the contribution of all parts of the public sector to these outcomes and indicators can be agreed and measured and overall progress reported.
- 4.3 The shared objectives and outcomes are a key component of the new working relationship that has been established with Local Authorities. As the Concordat agreed between the Scottish Government and COSLA in November 2007 makes clear, it is a relationship based on mutual respect and partnership and which underpins the funding to be provided to Local Government over the period 2008/09 to 2010/11 (as reported to the Special Meeting of Council in February 2008).
- 4.4 The Single Outcome Agreement is one of the keys to simplifying and improving the delivery of public services as well as bolstering local decision making and accountability. As Members are aware, under the terms of the Concordat, each Council must set local outcomes and agree a Single Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government.
- 4.5 The introduction of SOAs combined with the adoption of a clear purpose for Scotland's Government and the reduction of ring fencing has therefore created an opportunity for CPPs. In Moray it is proposed that the Community Planning Partnership will sign off the agreement for 2008. The CPP will have therefore have a key role in the delivery of the SOA in Moray.
- 4.6 The options considered in this report recognises the need to create a Committee Structure which will ensure Members have the capacity to take advantage of this opportunity created for CPPs given the significant commitment which will be required from Members to make this new approach work. By entering into an Outcome Agreement with the Government the Council is signifying a commitment to partnership working. This point is vital. SOAs mean that partnership working is no longer an alternative method of delivering public services, it is a necessity if the needs of Moray's communities are to be addressed. The real test for public services is the difference they make to the lives of all the people who use them. CPPs will be measured by the improvements they make for the communities they serve.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The proposed structure will provide a better link between Committees and the Community Planning Structure.

- (b) Policy and Legal

The remits of Chairs will better link with the Scottish Governments five Strategic Objectives.

- (c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and property)

The proposed structure is within the constraints of the remuneration system introduced by the Local Governance Act 2004,

- (d) Consultations

This report has been prepared in consultation with the Convener and Depute Convener of the Council, the Chief Executive and members of CMT.

6. CONCLUSION

Members are asked to approve the proposals for a revised Service Committee Structure for the Council to work in a more cohesive and focused way and to make the necessary internal links to the Community Planning Partnership and through that to the Scottish Government's overall purpose, Strategic Objectives and Outcomes as set out in the Concordat and the Single Outcome Agreement.

Author of Report: Chief Legal Officer

Background Papers: 1. Single Outcome Agreement
2. Public Service Reform – The Future of Community Planning – Scottish Government Paper, February 2008.
3. Concordat between the Scottish Government and Local Government dated 14 November 2007
4. Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004
5. Local Government in Scotland Act 2003

Ref:

Signature:



Designation: Chief Legal Officer

Name: Roderick Burns

APPENDIX 1

**MORAY COUNCIL SERVICE COMMITTEE
STRUCTURES/REMITTS**

1. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

School education
Nurseries and child care
Gaelic
Children's services
Leisure
Libraries and Museums
Sport and the Arts
CLD
Life long learning
Youth justice
Child protection

2 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Community Care
Joint Futures
Health Improvement
Mental Health
Substance Misuse
Social Work
Criminal Justice
Vulnerable Adults

3. PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES

Planning
Building Standards
Local Plan
Environmental Health
Health and Safety
Smoking control
Contaminated land
Trading Standards
Environmental protection

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Economic Development
Transport policy and delivery
Flood protection

Waste Management
Direct Services

5. **POLICY AND RESOURCES**

Budget
Corporate Budget monitoring
Modernising Government
Communications
Performance reporting
Corporate policies
Grant requests

6. **COMMUNITIES**

Housing/HMOs
Housing regeneration
Homelessness
Social inclusion
Equalities
Community safety
Anti-social behaviour
Community liaison

MEMBERSHIP

13 (7+5+1)* exclusive of Statutory Members where relevant.